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The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

THE WORLD

FIRST VISIT IN SEVEN YEARS AS AUSTRALIA-CHINA TIES WARM

IN BEIJING, ALBANESE TO HIGHLIGHT TRADE

PM Anthony Albanese will highlight trade as an anchor for stabilising ties when he makes the first visit by an Australian leader to China in seven years, as strained relations come back to an even footing. Albanese, who arrives Saturday, will attend the opening of China's top imports fair in Shanghai. **REUTERS**

TOP OF THE WORLD

Emergency services work to extinguish a fire in Kharkiv. *Reuters*

UKRAINE

Russia launches biggest drone attack in weeks

Kyiv: Russia launched a massive drone attack early on Friday, hitting critical infrastructure in the west and south of Ukraine and destroying private houses and commercial buildings in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, officials said. The air force said it shot down 24 "Shahed" drones out of 40 launched by Russia, the biggest drone attack in weeks to target Kharkiv in the northeast, Odesa and Kherson in the south and region of Lviv on Ukraine's border with Poland in west. **REUTERS**

NEPAL

Top court annuls Presidential pardon to convict

Kathmandu: In an embarrassing development for Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel with some demanding his resignation, the police on Friday rearrested a murder convict six weeks after his release upon presidential pardon on Constitution Day. The convict Yog Raj Dhakal, aka Regal, was sent to jail in Banke district in West Nepal after an order by the district court a day after a Constitutional Bench of the top court declared the pardon unconstitutional. Dhakal, who was freed September 20, has affiliation with the Nepali Congress party. **ENS**

NEW ZEALAND

Poll results show National Party needs support

Wellington: Final results from New Zealand's October 14 polls released Friday show the centre-right National Party will need support of both ACT New Zealand and NZ First parties to form a government. Poll panel said the conservative National Party won 48 seats and right-wing ACT 11 seats, giving them 59 seats in the 122-seat parliament. New Zealand First's eight seats would give three parties a majority. The Commission said Labour New Zealand won 34 seats, the Green Party 15 seats and Te Pati Maori six seats. **REUTERS**

AUSTRALIA

Mushroom lunch case: Host faces murder charge

Sydney: Australian Erin Patterson appeared in court Friday charged with the murder of three elderly people, who police have said are suspected to have died after they ate poisonous mushrooms at a lunch hosted by her. Patterson, 49, is charged with three counts of murder and five of attempted murder, according to court documents. She did not seek bail, and the case will next be heard in May 2024. She has denied wrongdoing. Don Patterson, his wife, Gail, and her sister Heather Wilkinson became ill and died after the July 29 lunch in Leongatha. **REUTERS**

U.S. FLYING DRONES TO LOCATE HOSTAGES; Blinken to also meet Jordan Foreign Minister

UAE SAYS WORKING ON A CEASEFIRE; any pause should be temporary, localised: US

Hezbollah threatens escalation, Blinken returns to seek war pause

Pressing ahead with offensive, no ceasefire until return of hostages, says Netanyahu

AGENCIES
GAZA, JERUSALEM
NOVEMBER 3

THE UNITED States urged Israel on Friday to ensure more humanitarian aid gets into Gaza and to do more to protect Palestinian civilians, as Israel's prime minister said there would be no ceasefire in the nearly month-old war until Hamas releases hostages. The leader of the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group stoked fears that the conflict could widen by promising more attacks along the Lebanon border.

Israeli troops tightened their encirclement of Gaza City, the focus of their campaign to crush the enclave's ruling Hamas, who launched an attack on Israeli communities that started the war.

In his first public speech since the war began, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said his group had "entered the battle" with the past weeks' unprecedented cross-border fighting. "We will not be limited to this," he said, suggesting escalation was possible. Still, Nasrallah stopped short of announcing that Hezbollah is fully engaging in the war.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, on his third trip to Israel since the war began, reiterated US support for Israel in the war, saying it has the right to defend itself. But he said a "humanitarian pause" was needed to boost aid deliveries to Palestinian civilians amid growing alarm over the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

After meeting Blinken, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel "refuses a temporary ceasefire that doesn't include a return of our hostages," referring to some 240 people Hamas abducted during its attack. He said Israel was pressing ahead with its military offensive with "all of its power."

The White House said any pauses in fighting should be temporary and localised. It has dismissed calls from Arab and several other nations for a ceasefire in the war, now in its 28th day.

The United Arab Emirates, one of a handful of Arab states with diplomatic ties to Israel, said Friday it was working "relentlessly" for an immediate ceasefire, warning that the risk of regional spillover and escalation was real.

Blinken is due to meet Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi in Amman on Saturday.

Two US officials, speaking anonymously, said the US was flying drones over Gaza to help locate hostages.

A Palestinian boy is pulled out of the rubble of a building destroyed in an Israeli air strike in Bureij refugee camp, Gaza Strip. *AP*

DEATH, DESTRUCTION

	ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	1,400+	9,227
TOTAL INJURED	5,400+	20,000+

Thai politicians hold talks with Hamas to seek hostage release

PANU WONGCHA-UM
BANGKOK, NOVEMBER 3

POLITICIANS FROM Thailand's Muslim minority have held talks with Hamas in an effort to secure the release of around a dozen Thai hostages held by the Palestinian group in Israeli-besieged Gaza, a former lawmaker said on Friday.

At least 23 Thai nationals were among more than 240 people taken captive by Hamas militants when they burst out of Gaza on October 7 and went on a killing and kidnapping spree through southwestern Israeli communities. Israel responded by relentlessly bombarding the enclave, then invading it.

Areepen Uttarasin, a veteran Thai politician and former education minister, said he travelled to the Iranian capital Tehran and met senior Hamas officials there on October 26 for over two hours.

"They told me that the Thai hostages are living comfortably and are out of danger," Areepen said, declining to name the Hamas officials he met. "I told them that I am here not to negotiate but simply to ask for their release."

The 23 Thais form the largest group of captives in Gaza from any single foreign country.

Thailand's foreign ministry did not confirm the talks with Hamas but said it welcomed assistance from all parties as the government seeks the release. **REUTERS**

Israel sends Palestinian workers back to Gaza

NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI
GAZA, NOVEMBER 3

ISRAEL SENT thousands of Palestinians back to besieged Gaza Friday, pursuing a crackdown on workers and labourers from the territory who had previously been given permits to take jobs in Israel and the occupied West Bank.

Large numbers of workers returned through the Kerem Shalom crossing east of the Rafah crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, which has been hit by Israeli jets and tanks for weeks since the October 7 attack.

Israel previously issued more than 18,000 permits allowing Gazans to cross into Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank to take jobs in sectors like agriculture or construction that typically carried salaries up to 10 times what a worker could earn in the blockaded Gaza Strip.

However, the system has been scrapped as Israel has reversed its policy of offering economic incentives to stability and instead mounted an offensive to eradicate the Hamas that controls Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israel said it would proceed with a tax revenue transfer to Palestinian Authority (PA) in occupied West Bank but would withhold funds for Gaza, where the PA helps cover public sector wages and electricity.

After a debate over whether to make the transfer as Israel battles Hamas, the Israeli cabinet said it would also withhold money to offset stipends the PA pays to Palestinian militants and families.

There was no immediate comment from PA, which in the past refused to accept trimmed tax transfers. **REUTERS**

A Palestinian labourer arrives at the Rafah border on Friday after being sent back by Israel. *Reuters*

BRIEFLY

Alarming rise in Israeli ops in West Bank: UN

UNITED NATIONS rights office on Friday described "alarming" conditions in the occupied West Bank, saying Israeli forces were increasingly using military tactics and weapons in law enforcement operations there. "While much attention has been on attacks inside Israel and the escalation of hostilities in Gaza since October 7, the situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is alarming and urgent," said Liz Throssell, the spokesperson for Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). **REUTERS**

Russia denies Wagner plan to arm Hezbollah

THE KREMLIN on Friday dismissed a *Wall Street Journal* report that US intelligence believed Russia's Wagner mercenary group plans to provide Hezbollah with an air defence system, saying such talk was unfounded. "We have already said that, de-facto, such a group (Wagner) does not exist," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said, when asked about the report, which cited unidentified US officials as saying that US thinks Wagner plans such a transfer. **REUTERS**

Trucks loaded with goods are seen at the Torkham border as Afghan nationals head back to Afghanistan. *Reuters*

Pak opens more border centres to spur return of Afghan migrants

MUSHTAQ ALI & MOHD YUNUS YAWAR
PESHAWAR, NOVEMBER 3

PAKISTAN OPENED more border centres on Friday to speed up the return of tens of thousands of undocumented Afghans, an official said, two days after a deadline to leave or face expulsion expired and ignoring pleas to give the plan a rethink.

Pakistan has brushed off calls from the United Nations, rights groups and Western embassies to reconsider expelling more than a million of 4 million Afghans in the country, saying they had been involved in Islamist militant attacks and crimes that undermined the security of country. Afghanistan denies the accusations.

The UN refugee agency, the International Organisation for Migration and the UN Children's Fund Friday expressed concern for the safety of children and families affected by the expulsion, saying a humanitarian crisis was unfolding with winter on the way.

Mullah Hassan Akhund, prime minister in Afghanistan's Taliban-led administration, also expressed reservations.

In the exodus

147,949

Afghans in total have crossed the Torkham border crossing since the government announced the deadline.

"It is 100% against all principles, come and talk face to face," he said in a video statement.

Facilities at the main northwestern border crossing of Torkham have been increased three times to cater for the rising number of returnees, said Abdul Nasir Khan, deputy commissioner for Khyber district. "Everything is normal now as the returnees no longer need to wait in queues for hours," he told *Reuters*.

Those arriving in Afghanistan complained of hardships.

"We spent three days on border in Pakistan. We had very bad situation," said Mohammad Ismael Rafi, 55, who said he lived for 22 years in the southwestern Pakistani border town of Chaman where he had a retail business. **REUTERS**

Sam Bankman-Fried, the FTX founder, convicted of multi-billion fraud

LARRY NEUMEISTER
NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 3

FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried's rise and fall in the cryptocurrency industry — a journey that included his testimony before Congress, a Super Bowl advertisement and dreams of a future run for president — hit rock bottom Thursday when a New York jury convicted him of fraud for stealing at least $10 billion from customers and investors.

After the monthlong trial, jurors rejected Bankman-Fried's claim during testimony in Manhattan federal court that he never committed fraud or meant to cheat customers before FTX, once the world's second-largest crypto exchange, collapsed into bankruptcy a year ago.

"Mr. Bankman-Fried. Please rise and face the jury," Judge Lewis A. Kaplan commanded just before a jury forewoman responded "guilty" seven times to two counts of wire fraud, two counts of wire fraud conspiracy and three other conspiracy charges, which carry potential penalties adding up to 110 years in prison. Bankman-Fried is likely to face far less than the maximum at a sentencing set for March 28.

The jury rejected Bankman-Fried's insistence during three days of testimony that he never committed fraud or plotted to steal and didn't realize his companies were at least $10 billion in debt until October 2022. **AP**

He could face decades behind bars. *AP file*

THE FAB FOUR'S ONLY RECORDING OF 21ST CENTURY COMES 40 YRS AFTER LENNON'S MURDER, 20 YRS AFTER HARRISON'S DEATH

The Beatles release their final record — with a little help from AI

MARIA SHERMAN
LOS ANGELES, NOVEMBER 3

THE FINAL Beatles recording is here.

Titled "Now and Then," the almost impossible-to-believe track is four minutes and eight seconds of the first and only original Beatles recording of the 21st century. There's a countdown, then acoustic guitar strumming and piano bleed into the unmistakable vocal tone of John Lennon in the song's introduction: "I know it's true / It's all because of you / And if I make it through / It's all because of you."

More than four decades since Lennon's murder and two since George Harrison's death, the very last Beatles song has been released as a double A-side single with "Love Me Do," the band's 1962 debut single.

"Now and Then" comes from the same batch of unreleased demos written by Lennon in the 1970s, which were given to his former bandmates by Yoko Ono. They used the tape to construct the songs "Free As a Bird" and "Real Love," released in the mid-1990s. But there were technical limitations to finishing "Now and Then."

On Wednesday, a short film titled "The Beatles — Now And Then — The Last Beatles Song" was released, detailing the creation of the track.

> **"We're actually messing around with state-of-the-art technology, which is something the Beatles would've been very interested in.**
> **— PAUL McCARTNEY**

On the original tape, Lennon's voice was hidden; the piano was "hard to hear," as Paul McCartney describes it. "And in those days, of course, we didn't have the technology to do the separation."

That changed in 2022, when the band — now a duo — was able to utilise the same technical restoration methods that separated the Beatles' voices from background sounds during the making of director Peter Jackson's 2021 documentary series, "The Beatles: Get Back." And so, they were able to isolate Lennon's voice from the original cassette and complete "Now and Then" using machine learning.

When the song was first announced in June, McCartney described artificial intelligence (AI) technology as "kind of scary but exciting," adding: "We will just have to see where that leads."

McCartney and Starr built the track from Lennon's demo, adding guitar parts George Harrison wrote in the 1995 sessions and a slide guitar solo in his signature style. McCartney and Starr tracked their bass and drum contributions. A string arrangement was written with the help of Giles Martin, son of the late Beatles producer George Martin — a clever recall to the classic ambitiousness of "Strawberry Fields," or "Yesterday," or "I Am the Walrus." Those musicians couldn't be told they were contributing to the last ever Beatles track, so McCartney played it off like a solo endeavor.

"This is the last track, ever, that you'll get the four Beatles on the track. John, Paul, George, and Ringo," Ringo Starr said of Lennon's contributions to the track in September. **AP**

A new Beatles single titled 'Now and Then' on sale at a record store in London, Friday. *AP*

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DAYS AHEAD OF CHHATTISGARH POLLS

ED claims Baghel took Rs 508 cr from betting app group, he hits back

BJP taking help of Central agencies for polls, Cong will fight and win: CM

Cash courier sent from UAE paid Baghel: ED

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
NEW DELHI, NARAYANPUR, NOVEMBER 3

AFTER having earlier questioned the advisor and two Officers on Special Duty to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the Enforcement Directorate Friday alleged that the CM himself was paid Rs 508 crore by a cash courier sent from the United Arab Emirates by the promoters of Mahadev App, an online site that facilitates gambling and betting.

Just a day earlier, the agency claimed to have arrested Asim Das and seized Rs 5.39 crore cash from his residence and car. Following his questioning, it alleged that regular payments in the past totalling Rs 508 crore so far, were made by Mahadev App promoters to CM Baghel. "These are subject matter of investigation," the ED spokesperson said Friday.

The ED's allegations come three days ahead of the first phase of elections to the Legislative Assembly in Chhattisgarh on November 7.

Responding to the ED's press release, Baghel said the BJP wants to contest elections in Chhattisgarh with the help of agencies like ED, I-T, DRI and CBI. "Look how shrewd ED is — after accusing me of taking Rs 508 crore based on the statement of an unknown person, they have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 475 'VERY SEVERE'

The Capital gasps

Delhi pollution levels registered a steep climb Friday. *Praveen Khanna* FULL COVERAGE, PAGES 4, 9

Spike in Punjab fire count in last 8 days, average Delhi AQI worse than last year

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

INDIA's capital Delhi choked with 'severe' air quality for the second consecutive day on Friday, with the 24-hour average AQI (Air Quality Index) hitting a high of 475 at 11 am before falling marginally to 468 at 4 pm and further to 456 at 5 pm.

The forecast indicates air quality is likely to remain 'severe' at least till Monday, with the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) deciding to "watch the situation for a day or more, before invoking more stringent disruptive actions under Stage IV of GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan".

EXPLAINED

EXPERTS EXPLAIN
FIXING MUMBAI'S AIR: A PRESCRIPTION
PAGE 15

The CAQM, which is a commission constituted by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, had invoked measures under Stage-III or the 'severe' category of the GRAP on Thursday. It, however, decided against invoking Stage-IV or the 'severe plus' category of GRAP on Friday since the average AQI of Delhi is "already showing a declining trend since afternoon".

Further, the CAQM said "it's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Farm fires and weather behind choke; respite likely in 4 days

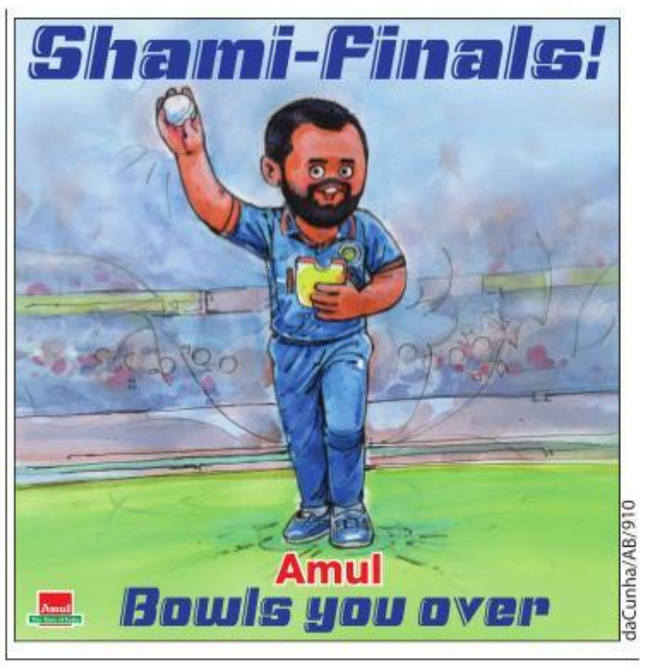
ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND & AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

WITH INCIDENTS of agricultural waste burning in Punjab showing a sharp rise, the smog and haze situation in Delhi is likely to remain grim for at least four days before an expected change in meteorological conditions hopefully results in an improvement.

EXPLAINED

The intensification in agricultural burning in Punjab, an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Work starts on shaping first national security strategy, long wait ends

Being stitched by NSC Secretariat in consultation with ministries, depts

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

INDIA HAS set the ball rolling to bring out a National Security Strategy after years of discourse and deliberations within the military and the strategic community on the need to have one, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) is putting in place a comprehensive National Security Strategy in consultation with several Central ministries and departments. A final Cabinet approval will then be sought for it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

EXPLAINED

Why it's needed

A National Security Strategy document outlines the country's security objectives, the ways to be adopted to achieve these. Updated periodically, it defines traditional, non-traditional threats and opportunities while introducing accountability of agencies tasked with implementation of responsibilities.

Caste census: Shah says BJP never opposed it, needs careful thought

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

'Appropriate decision after consulting everyone'

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah said Friday that the BJP was never opposed to the idea of caste census but it does not do "politics of votes" on the issue. He said such "decisions have to be taken after careful thought" and at an "appropriate time".

Speaking to the press at the launch of the BJP manifesto for the Chhattisgarh elections in Raipur, Shah, responding to a query on caste census, said, "We are a national political party and we don't do politics of votes on this issue. We will take an appropriate decision after consulting everyone and tell (you) about it. But contesting polls on its basis is not correct. The BJP has never opposed this (caste census), but decisions have to be taken after careful thought. We will let you know at the appropriate time."

The statement assumes significance in the backdrop of the demand from Opposition parties for a nationwide caste census. The Congress and regional

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY

Near the incident spot on the IIT-BHU campus. *Vishal Srivastav*

2 days before IIT-BHU molestation: Another student, similar ordeal

ASAD REHMAN
VARANASI, NOVEMBER 3

TWO DAYS before a woman student was forcibly disrobed and molested by three men on the IIT-BHU campus in Varanasi, another student faced a similar ordeal, *The Indian Express* has learnt. While the most recent incident happened late Wednesday night, the previous incident took place on Monday night, and the Proctor's office was informed about it.

The institute's Dean confirmed to *The Indian Express* that a complaint regarding the earlier incident was received by the Proctor's office and that action was being taken. Several members of the IIT-BHU Students' Parliament said "there was delay in taking action in the earlier incident". Both the incidents happened at a relatively isolated spot on the campus.

In connection with the incident on Wednesday that triggered widespread protests from the student community, the woman student had said that "three unidentified men kissed her forcibly, took her clothes off and recorded photos and videos". She had also said that she was with a male friend at the time, before she was forcibly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BJP leader's call to 'uproot' gurdwaras angers Sikhs, gets EC rap

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 3

BJP TIJARA candidate and sitting Alwar MP Balak Nath has said that a "paap (sin)" has been committed. BJP leader Sandeep Dayma has issued a video apology. And the Election Commission has sent a notice.

DECISION 2023 RAJASTHAN

The bitter contest for the Tijara constituency in Alwar district, which has taken on religious hues with the fielding of Hindu priest Balak Nath by the BJP, is set to get further polarised with the surfacing of a speech by Dayma saying gurdwaras were mushrooming in the area, were set to become a "nasoor (ulcer)" and that it was required of the BJP to "uproot" them.

A former BJP candidate from the seat, Dayma delivered the speech at a rally in Tijara on Wednesday, on the day of the nomination filing of Balak Nath, in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Balak Nath is seen as close to the Uttar Pradesh CM.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Told by SC to say sorry, AAP's Chadha says he has sought time with Dhankhar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

HOURS AFTER the Supreme Court suggested that he tender an unconditional apology to the Rajya Sabha Chairman, suspended AAP MP Raghav Chadha said Friday he had sought an appointment for an early meeting with the Upper House Chairman.

Chadha was suspended on August 11 after four Rajya Sabha MPs complained that their names had been included in an amendment he had moved, seeking referral of the NCT Bill to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Home away from home: Slowly but surely, Manipur refugees find a place in Mizoram

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

SUKRITA BARUAH
KOLASIB, NOVEMBER 3

AT 5 PM on a Monday, a bell chimed at the polytechnic college in Mizoram's Thingdawl village. It was a dinner call for the 67 Kuki-Zomi families from Manipur living in the complex. On the menu, like on all days for the past six months, was rice, yellow dal and potatoes.

From Manipur's Jiribam, Seimintang Singson moved into the Thingdawl shelter with family on May 28. *Express*

As the polling date for the Mizoram state legislative assembly elections pulls closer, these refugees and the situation in their state is a dominant talking point among political leaders, workers and the media. Through the course of the conflict in neighbouring Manipur, which started on May 3, more than 12,000 people from the Kuki-Zomi community — who share a common ethnicity with the Mizos — sought shelter in Mizoram.

DECISION 2023 MIZORAM

The relief camp at the Thingdawl polytechnic is located in Kolasib district, which shares a border with Assam's Cachar district and has sheltered the highest number of such displaced people — it peaked at 4,415 mid-June. Though central to the poll discourse, these people will not be voting. Instead, their focus is rebuilding their lives in an unknown place.

Seimintang Singson, who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

ED claims CM Baghel took Rs 508 crore

said in a short sentence that his statement is a subject of investigation. Issuing a press release without any investigation only reveals the ill intent of ED and the Central government," he said.

"Congress is ready. Every Congress worker is ready. The people of Chhattisgarh are with us to fight agencies like ED, I-T. We will fight and win," Baghel said.

Following the ED allegations, the BJP demanded that Baghel resign. State head of BJP Arun Sao said, "We have been saying continuously that (Mahadev) gambling has been operating under the protection of this government… They have broken and destroyed the dreams and future of youngsters and did huge corruption in this. If this government has any moral values left, then the Chief Minister must resign from his post."

The Mahadev App commenced its operations in 2017, and caught the fancy of people in 2020 during the pandemic. Sources in the ED claimed that the app's promoters — Sourabh Chandrakar, 28, and Ravi Uppal, 43, who hail from Bhilai — operated from Dubai and had amassed as much as Rs 5,000 crore.

"On November 2, ED received an intelligence input that large amounts of cash is being moved in Chhattisgarh by the promoters of Mahadev APP in relation to Assembly elections scheduled on November 7 and November 17. ED conducted searches at Hotel Triton (Raipur) and another location in Bhilai," the ED spokesperson said.

The agency said it intercepted the cash courier Das who was sent from UAE "to deliver large amounts of cash for electioneering expenses of the ruling Congress party". ED also discovered some benami bank accounts of Mahadev APP in which balance amounts of Rs 15.59 crore has been frozen, the spokesperson said.

So far, ED has arrested four persons and made seizures worth over Rs 450 crore in proceeds of crime. The agency has also filed a prosecution complaint against 14 accused persons.

Baghel questioned how such huge amounts of money are finding their way into Chhattisgarh when elections are due and the Election Commission is in charge, with CRPF men handling security along with the police. "Is there some collaboration between central agencies on this? Is this money being loaded in boxes and brought in aeroplanes along with officers of ED and security agencies?"

Former three-time Chief Minister Raman Singh said, "It is clear now that Rs 508 crore came to Baghel and Aseem Das has been arrested. Now things are becoming clear why he fears ED so much. First it was coal, liquor and rice scam were understood but nothing can be more shameful than this. He has no right to stay in that post."

ED has also questioned and arrested a police constable Bheem Yadav. "ED investigation has revealed that in the last three years, Yadav had unauthorisedly travelled to Dubai, admittedly met Ravi Uppal and Sourabh Chandrakar. He also participated in the gala functions of Mahadev App, and his travel expenses were borne by Rapid Travels of Ahuja Brothers — a money laundering and ticketing company of Mahadev App. He was the conduit to receive bribe money from Mahadev App promoters for the benefit of senior officers and politicians of Chhattisgarh," the spokesperson said.

Both the accused — Asim Das and Bheem Yadav — were produced before the concerned court in Raipur. ED has sought their custodial interrogation to independently corroborate their admissions and to trace evidence of money laundering. The court has remanded the two to ED custody for seven days.

• The Capital gasps

only reasonable to give time" for the impact of measures under GRAP Stage-III to reflect on the average AQI.

A forecast issued by the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, a project by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), said Friday that the air quality is "likely to improve marginally but remain in the 'severe' category from November 4 to 6".

The forecast for the subsequent six days said that the air quality is likely to remain in the 'severe' to 'very poor' category.

Suspended pollutants kept the visibility low both on Thursday and Friday. At 7 am Friday, visibility at the Safdarjung weather station, the city's base observatory, was 600 metres, while it was 500 metres at the airport at Palam.

The air quality was in the 'severe' category across parts of Haryana, UP and some parts of Rajasthan — Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Hisar, Jind, Noida, Greater Noida, Rohtak, Fatehabad, Bahadurgarh, Bhiwadi — as well on Friday. Greater Noida was the most polluted city with an AQI of 494 at 4 pm.

Calm conditions, with very slow winds, in Delhi, have been making it difficult for pollutants to disperse. But the wind speed picked up marginally Friday evening. "Calm conditions prevailed at the Safdarjung weather station on Friday. At Palam, a wind speed of 6-7 kmph was recorded in the evening, compared to lower wind speeds of around 3 kmph earlier in the day," said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist, India Meteorological Department (IMD).

"Till at least November 5, calm conditions are likely to prevail at Safdarjung, while Palam could see northwesterly winds," Srivastava said.

Northwesterly winds can carry stubble burning smoke from Punjab and Haryana into Delhi-NCR. The fire count in Punjab has been more than 1,000 over the past five days, and on Friday, it was as high as 1,551, according to data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). On October 27, it was 766.

Delhi's worsening air quality this time coincides with the peak stubble burning season. "The peak period for burning is usually from around October 27 to November 7-10," said V K Sehgal, Principal Scientist, IARI.

Data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) shows that the average AQI of 468 at 4 pm recorded on Friday is worse than what was recorded in November last year. When Delhi saw a 'severe' air spell in November last year, the worst AQI that was recorded was 450 on November 3. On that day, however, CAQM had directed implementation of all actions under GRAP Stage-IV since as per the forecast, the AQI was likely to be 'Severe/ Severe +' over the next couple of days.

• Farm fires and weather behind choke; respite likely in 4 days

annual practice now, usually lasts for about two weeks. This year, the spike was seen from October 31. With 35 per cent of the area under paddy cultivation in Punjab, amounting to about 10 lakh hectares, still remaining to be harvested, the burning events are likely to continue for some time.

The only hope for an improvement in air quality is a disruption in the prevailing meteorological conditions, which, as per their normal behaviour during this time of the year, actually worsens the situation by trapping the polluting particles in the lower layers of the atmosphere. A western disturbance event, expected around November 7, could change that.

"There is a subsidence in the air right now. During the winters, the atmospheric circulation over this region is usually anti-cyclonic in nature. This makes the air move downwards. In a cyclonic circulation, as during the monsoon season, the air tends to move up. But because the air tends to move downwards right now, it prevents the pollutant particles from escaping vertically, and keeps them near the surface. It is not that the weather is causing this pollution, but it is not doing anything right now to help matters," said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, IMD Director General.

The main culprit, clearly, is the spike in agriculture burning incidents in Punjab. Nearly 40 per cent of all burning events in the state, 5,140 out of a total of nearly 12,800 documented events since September 15, have happened in the first three days of this month.

"There are a few prime suspects causing this situation. Emissions in Punjab getting pushed into Delhi, along with meteorological factors may be playing a role. Winds appear to be sweeping through Pakistan and Punjab, crossing Haryana, and reaching Delhi. These winds have been pushing pollutants in from Punjab and Haryana into Delhi. Over the past three to four days, there has been an intensification of fire counts," said Sachchida Nand Tripathi, Professor at IIT Kanpur and Steering Committee member, National Clean Air Programme.

"The boundary layer (the layer of the troposphere in contact with the surface of the earth) has been lower. The boundary layer generally becomes shallower November onwards, suppressing the atmospheric ability to push pollutants upwards. It's like a ceiling. If the rooftop is brought lower, you will feel more suffocated. A deeper boundary layer will allow pollutants to move upwards, and where we are, our exposure will be lesser. As temperature falls further, the boundary layer falls further. The boundary layer was around 400 m on October 26, and dropped further to around 200 m this week," he said.

"The wind has changed direction from southeast to northwest. This is very adverse meteorology. The ventilation, which is the dispersion capacity of the atmosphere, and depends on boundary layer height and vertical wind velocity, is poor," Tripathi added.

Respite could come from better wind speed or rainfall, but both remain elusive. There is no rainfall on the IMD forecast for Delhi at least for the next six days. But the possibility of a western disturbance gives hope. This western disturbance event is expected to bring showers to J&K and parts of Himachal Pradesh but not in Delhi. "When the western disturbance comes in, sometimes it disturbs the prevailing atmospheric conditions. The anti-cyclonic circulation can, even temporarily, change into a cyclonic circulation, the direction of the winds flowing in from Punjab can also change," said Mohapatra.

• BJP leader's call

In the speech, Dayma said: *"Kis tarah se itni masjiden, kis tarah se gurdware yahan par banakar chhodh diye! Ye aage chalkar hamare liye nasoor ban jayega. Isiliye hamara sabka dharam bhi banta hai ki is nasoor ko yahan se ukhad kar faink denge, aur Baba Balak Nathji ko bhari maton se jeetayenge* (See how many mosques, gurdwaras have been built here! This will become an ulcer for us in the future. That is why it's our duty that this ulcer be uprooted and thrown out, and Baba Balak Nathji win by a huge majority)."

With the BJP making a sustained outreach to the Sikh community, led from the very top, the party acted quickly to contain the damage. With the Election Commission sending a notice to Dayma, Balak Nath spoke to reporters, saying the Sikh community "has always protected Sanatan Dharm and sanskriti" and hoped that "it will forgive if some mistake has been made by some kids".

"At times, unknowingly, some paap (sin) happens. In that context, I pray to Guru Gobind Singhji for forgiveness. I will also tell Sandeep Dayma to go to the door of Guru Gobind Singhji and do some *dharam punya ka karya* (religious activity), so that he can be dosh-mukt (sin free)," he added.

After Dayma's speech surfaced, protests had erupted, with the Sikh community, who number around 5,000 in Tijara, burning effigies of Dayma and shouting slogans against Balak Nath and Adityanath. On Thursday, Dayma released a video of apology, but at the same time, targeted Muslims, which make up the single largest group in Tijara. "... In place of masjid-madrasa, I mistakenly ended up using some wrong words about the Gurdwara Saheb. I seek apology with folded hands from the entire Sikh community, which has always protected Hinduism and Sanatan Dharma... I don't know how I committed the mistake. I will repent for this mistake by going to a gurdwara, I apologise to the entire Sikh community with folded hands. Sat Sri Akal!" he said in the video.

On Friday, Dayma posted another video, of him offering prayers at a gurdwara the day earlier.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee took note of the matter, and sharing the video apology issued by Dayma, posted on X Thursday that the BJP leader had compounded his mistake. "BJP leader Sandeep Dayma... says, 'I wanted to say Masjid-Madrasa, but somehow said Gurdwara'. He should be ashamed of this statement too, as speaking against religious places of Muslims is equally condemnable as Gurdwaras."

Tijara SDO and Returning Officer Anoop Singh told *The Indian Express* that a notice for violating the model code of conduct had been issued to Dayma.

A former chairman of the Bhiwadi Municipal Council, Dayma, who belongs to the Gujjar community, finished third in 2018 in his bid for the Tijara seat. BSP leader Sandeep Yadav who won shifted to the Congress later.

• Amit Shah on caste census

parties such as the JD(U) and RJD have been accusing the BJP of dragging its feet on the issue.

In the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Opposition is likely to make caste census a key election issue.

On Thursday, the BJP leadership held a meeting to discuss the "advantages and disadvantages" of the party's current position on not going for a caste count and decided to form a committee to frame OBC outreach programmes. BJP Chief Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers, state unit presidents and legislature party leaders from different states attended the meeting at the party headquarters in New Delhi.

During the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament, when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi raised the issue of there being only three OBC secretaries in the government, Shah chose to emphasise how his party had given adequate representation to OBCs. "This government run by the BJP has 85 OBC MPs… 29% of the total number of party MPs. Of the party's 1318 legislators across India, 365, who constitute 27 %, are OBC MLAs. Around 40% of the 163 BJP MLCs are OBCs… Your party never made an OBC the Prime Minister. The BJP has made an OBC the Prime Minister," he said.

While the BJP has never batted for caste census, it opposed it only on technical grounds. In August, in a short affidavit filed in the Bihar caste survey matter, the Centre said the Census Act "empowers only the Central Government to conduct Census under section 3 of the… Act".

While opposing the Bihar caste survey, it was careful to mention that it was filing the affidavit "only with a view to place the Constitutional and legal position for consideration" of the court.

The government said it was "committed to take all affirmative actions for upliftment of SCs/STs/SEBCs and OBCs in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and applicable law".

Following the release of the caste survey data by the Bihar government last month, BJP leader Sushil Modi told The Indian Express that it was actually the BJP's "baby" and had been approved when the party was part of the Nitish Kumar government.

In September 2021, however, the Centre had opposed the idea of caste census in the Supreme Court more vociferously. Ruling out a caste census, the Centre had told the Supreme Court that such an exercise "would not be feasible" and that "exclusion of information regarding any other caste", apart from SCs and STs, "from the purview of census is a conscious policy decision".

This was the key submission of the Ministry of Social Justice in an affidavit filed in the top court in response to a plea by the Maharashtra government seeking a direction to the Census Department to collect information on Backward Class of Citizens (BCC) in the 2021 enumeration.

The Centre told the court that "a caste-wise enumeration in the Census has been given up as a matter of policy from 1951 onwards and thus castes other than SCs and STs have not been enumerated in any of the Census since 1951 till today".

On July 20, 2021, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, MoS Home Nityanand Rai had said: "The Government of India has decided as a matter of policy not to enumerate caste-wise populations other than SCs and STs in the census." The government had then flagged difficulties such as Central and state lists having different castes as OBCs in their respective lists.

• 2 days before IIT-BHU incident

taken away by the accused. In Monday's case, too, the woman was with a male friend, who was allegedly assaulted.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Friday, Students' Parliament vice-president Pranav Kishore alleged, "Two days before the incident on Wednesday night, at 1.30 am at the same spot… the incident involved four people, who came in two vehicles. They beat up a male student and groped a female student from the rear... The woman didn't want to escalate matters as her parents would have raised questions. The male student who was beaten up, along with members of the Students' Parliament, lodged a written complaint with the Proctor's office on Tuesday."

Varanasi Police Commissioner Mutha Ashok Jain said he has no knowledge of the previous incident. "I was at IIT-BHU yesterday evening and held meetings with the authorities. They didn't tell me about this. I will have to ask. We will find out about it," he said.

Varanasi ACP (Bhelupur) Praveen Kumar Singh said, "We have gotten in touch with the Proctor's office regarding the earlier incident. They hadn't told us about it. We are looking into it and will take suitable action."

Asked about the investigation into Wednesday's incident, the ACP said, "We are moving ahead with the help of CCTV footage. We have questioned multiple people and three teams are working to trace the accused with help from electronic and manual surveillance. We should be able to arrest the accused very soon."

A woman member of the Students' Parliament, on condition of anonymity, said, "The earlier incident followed the same pattern. Some men in vehicles targeted a boy and a girl around 1 am at an isolated spot. A particular area here has become a picnic spot, where men come in black windowed SUVs, drink and misbehave with female students."

Asked about Monday's incident, IIT-BHU Deen (Research and Development) Vikas Kumar Dubey said, "See, it is difficult to say whether it was the same four people. But there is information of a small incident happening from the Proctor's office. Action was being taken in the matter. Work is already being done in coordination with the district administration. Officials of the district administration are already working to improve security arrangements at the campus. Our director is also working on issues regarding any shortcomings in the security of students."

"I can say that whatever the exact complaint was, the local police station was informed. I don't think it is right to narrate that incident… Our student had to face misbehaviour. What exactly happened is under investigation. The police will take action... Once the accused are arrested, things will become clear," he said.

CLARIFICATION

ON 03.11.2023, PAGE 12

IN THE editorial, 'Tricky terrain' it was incorrectly stated that the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) decided to "practically boycott" Congress MP Shashi Tharoor after the latter's comments on Hamas. It was the Mahal Empowerment Mission that did so.

The error is regretted.

Slowly but surely, Manipur refugees find a place in Mizoram

had fled his home in Manipur's Jiribam district, is now "in charge" of the relief camp set up in the Thingdawl polytechnic. He was a teacher in a private school in Jiribam. Now, like other men at the shelter, he does odd jobs in betel nut farms in neighbouring villages for Rs 500 a day, or labour for works commissioned by the PWD. He moved into the shelter on May 28 with his wife and six-year-old son, and the reason the family had to flee to another state — his three-month-old daughter Kimi.

"After violence broke out, we were taking shelter in Tamenglong district. But we were very worried there because my wife was pregnant. There were complications with our son's delivery, and we had to take her to Delhi for an operation at the time. The situation in Manipur is so bad that we were not sure we would have access to medical care. So we decided to leave for the child's birth. She was born in the Kolasib district hospital here," he said.

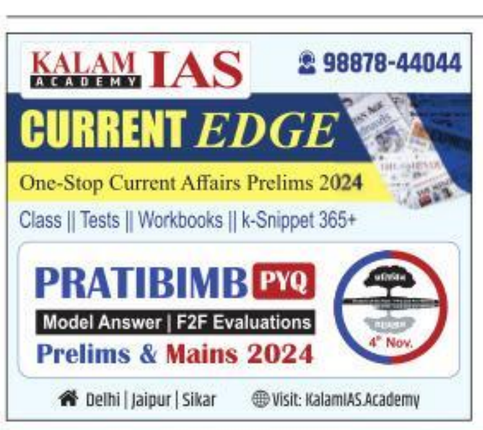
Kimi smiles, bundled up and tied to her mother's chest. She is one of three babies who have been born in this relief centre. Like other children here, her brother is attending classes at a "tuition centre" opened by the Laymen's Evangelical Fellowship from Andhra Pradesh for the displaced children.

Different stakeholders are supporting them during their stay here. This relief camp is the only one in the district being run by the district administration and the block development office. But here too, the administration is aided by stakeholders supporting the refugees elsewhere — civil society organisations, village councils and the church. At this relief camp itself, there are two local volunteers on any given day.

But Thomas Lalengliana, president of the district unit of the Young Mizo Association, which has been coordinating much of the relief work, said civil society's ability to continue supporting the displaced is drying up. In the early days, the unit had mobilised Rs 8.5 lakh, truckloads of blankets and clothes, rice, dal, sweet potatoes as relief material.

"We initially provided a lot of supplies but have stopped now. All the supplies had been collected from our members and locals and it's not possible to do this in the long run. But for those who continue to remain in the relief camps, we try to look after them in whatever way we can," he said.

Six months down the line, many of the refugees in the district are no longer in camps and are living among villagers, in what were empty houses, doing odd jobs.



Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service
(M): 9212665841, 9212008155

NOIDA POLICE ARRESTS 5; YADAV CLAIMS HE'S INNOCENT

'Snake venom at rave': Bigg Boss winner Elvish booked

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 3

THE GAUTAM Buddh Nagar police Friday arrested five people in connection with allegedly running an organised group that sells snake venom at rave parties in the NCR. Apart from the arrested men, another name figured in the FIR — reality TV show Bigg Boss OTT winner and YouTuber Elvish Yadav.

Police said the arrest was made from Chevron banquet hall in Noida's Sector 51 following a tip-off from People for Animals (PFA), an organisation that works for animal rights and is run by Sultanpur Lok Sabha BJP MP Maneka Gandhi.

The accused — Rahul, Teetunath, Jaikaran, Narayan, and Ravinath — are residents of Molarband village in Delhi's Badarpur. Police said 20 ml of snake venom, five cobras, a python, 2 two-headed snakes, and a rat snake were recovered from the accused.

Elvish, meanwhile, claimed he was innocent. In a 58-second video on X, he said, "... All allegations made against me are completely baseless... (and) fake... I am ready to cooperate with UP Police... I request police, administration, and UP CM Yogi Adityanath that if they find even 0.1% of my involvement in this, I'm ready to accept all charges..."

(Left) One of the snakes found at the banquet hall; YouTuber Elvish Yadav

Police said they were verifying details regarding allegations made against Yadav. "If found true, we will form a team to arrest Elvish Yadav or issue summons asking him to surrender. We have so far not found any criminal history of the accused from whose possession snakes were recovered," said DCP Ram Badan Singh.

On her part, Gandhi said her organisation has had an eye on Yadav for a long time. "He was using snakes frequently in his photos and videos. These pythons and cobras are endangered species. You must understand that cobras, when they lose their venom, die... if somebody uses these snakes, there is a punishment of seven years," she told reporters.

"To nab them, we set up a trap, called them, and told them we were partying. He (Yadav) used to supply in Gurgaon and Noida," she said.

Police acted on a complaint filed by the animal welfare officer of the PFA.

The FIR, filed on the complaint of Gaurav Gupta, the animal welfare officer, stated: "We received information that a YouTuber named Elvish Yadav shoots videos with snake venom and live snakes in farmhouses in Noida and NCR along with other gang members/YouTubers and organises rave parties illegally. On such occasions, foreign girls are regularly called and snake venom and intoxicants are consumed."

It added, "Acting on this information, one of our informers contacted Yadav and asked him to organise a rave party in Noida and make arrangements for snakes and cobra venom. When we talked to his agent with the reference of Elvish Yadav, he agreed. Then he agreed to come to the banquet hall in Sector 51. We informed DFO Noida... and further complained about it at the Sector 49 police station."

An FIR on criminal conspiracy and under sections of The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been registered, said police.

Meanwhile, around 20 family members of the accused protested their arrest outside the police station and denied their involvement in the case.

"We don't keep snakes at home. I challenge the police to come and see if they can find any. It is all being done at the behest of the NGO. They had called us to perform in a birthday function and play snake flutes (pungi)... and said that they need seven people," claimed Mahender Singh (65), brother of Jaikaran and uncle of Rahul.

"They had made a booking for Rs 21,000 and paid Rs 1,000 advance... the men police arrested are professional artists, two play the snake flute, one a *dholak* and the other a *tumba*. I demand a fair enquiry..., he added.

To implicate rival, man circulates 'morphed pics' of gods, arrested

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

UPSET THAT he had lost his licence to run a gaming website, a 21-year-old decided to take revenge on his competitor. His plan? To allegedly pose as his rival, circulate "obscene photos" of gods and goddess online, and file a complaint.

His jig was up after he was arrested by the Delhi Police's Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations Unit (IFSO) this week. Officers said the accused, Haridwar resident Adarsh Saini, circulated the images online under the name of Rahul Kumar.

DCP (IFSO) Hemant Tiwari said October 29, the Delhi Commission of Women forwarded a complaint by one Apurva Verma regarding a few obscene pictures of gods being circulated online. It stated that these "were deeply disturbing" and "promoting communal enmity".

DCW Chief Swati Maliwal also wrote to the IFSO unit to lodge a case. Police thereafter filed an FIR under IPC Section 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and Section 67A of the IT Act.

A team of cyber experts, under ACP Vijay Gahlawat, was formed, and the initial probe led them to Rahul. Officers said his bank account details were also shared to receive money from potential buyers of the offensive content.

Rahul was traced to Bihar's Darbhanga and he was questioned at length. But "on further probe, it was revealed that someone was in fact using his details to malign his image and implicate him in a false case," said the DCP.

"The accused utilised sophisticated techniques to conceal his identity by using various impersonated email accounts," said another officer. Eventually, the main culprit turned out to be the complainant Verma, who was none other than Saini.

Saini, a BBA graduate, was traced and arrested by police. During questioning, police found it was an elaborate revenge plot.

Police said Saini had been dealing in online gaming sites where he provided gaming IDs to customers and got money in return. "He used to earn around Rs 4-5 lakh from these platforms... he used to provide IDs to his customers and once the latter registered in the game through these IDs and say, got a premium top-up, Saini used to earn a certain commission from their total earnings," said an officer.

However, his business soon took a hit after Rahul entered the scene. "Rahul got more customers and profit from the same website and Saini's earnings reduced to Rs 1 lakh," police said.

Saini gave IDs for registration at a lesser profit but this was against the gaming platform's rules, said an officer. "One of the competitors lodged a complaint with the website in this regard and Saini lost his licence," the officer said.

Thinking Rahul lodged the complaint, police said Saini "hatched a conspiracy to implicate the former in a fake case and got his personal details". A laptop, two phones containing the incriminating content, and a WiFi router have been recovered from the accused.

Excise case: AAP's Sanjay Singh moves SC

New Delhi: Jailed Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh on Friday moved the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court order dismissing his plea against his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case related to the now-scrapped excise policy of the city government.

The HC had on October 20 refused to interfere with Singh's arrest in the case, saying it cannot impute political motive to a premier investigating agency in the absence of material on record.

Singh moved the SC through a plea filed by advocates Vivek Jain and Rajat Bhardwaj. **PTI**

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Found evidence of hawala payments to China: ED after raid on AAP MLA's home; he rejects claim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

A DAY after conducting searches at 13 places, including the premises of Delhi Cabinet Minister and AAP leader Raaj Kumar Anand, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Friday alleged evidence relating to unaccounted business investments and hawala payments sent to China in 2023 was recovered from key employees of his. This, according to the agency, was apart from Rs 74 lakh in cash along with various incriminating documents/digital records that were also recovered.

Anand (57), the AAP MLA from Patel Nagar and minister for social welfare in the AAP government, alleged the 20-hour search operation at his home was part of a political conspiracy.

An ED spokesperson said, "The ED conducted search operations on November 2 at 13 locations in Delhi-NCR, Kolkata, and Uttar Pradesh as part of its investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act against Anand and other connected persons/entities."

"The ED initiated investigation on the basis of a prosecution complaint filed by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence against Anand and other connected persons/entities for commission of offences under various sections of the Customs Act. As per the complaint, Anand made hawala payments to China and evaded customs duty amounting to about Rs 7 crore on various imports. The Hon'ble Court has taken cognizance of offence vide order on August 11," the spokesperson added.

Addressing a press conference Friday, Anand said: "... For a case from 2005, I received a 'showcause notice' in 2007. Following that, I appealed to the Supreme Court... As per SC's directive, I deposited the amount... This is merely a way to cause distress... We are a party that follows path of truth and practices politics of work, which is why we're being troubled. The BJP wants to silence parties that engage in politics of work... We will not be afraid of CBI or ED and will stand with our leader Arvind Kejriwal."

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Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Discipline (Roster - No. of Vacancies)
1.	Professor	CSE (UR-01), ECE (UR-01)
2.	Associate Professor	CSE (UR-02), ECE (OBC-01, UR-01)
3.	Assistant Professor	CSE (OBC-01, UR-02), ECE (SC-01, UR-02), Mathematics (OBC-01, UR-01), Physics (EWS-01, UR-01), English (OBC-01, UR-01)

Non-Faculty Positions (Advt. No.: 3/2/2023/NF1 Date 01.11.2023)

Sl. No.	Name of the post(s)	Roster / (No. of Post)
1	Technical Officer	UR (02)
2	Assistant Registrar	UR (01)
3	Assistant Security Officer	UR (01)
4	Junior Superintendent	UR (03), OBC (01)
5	Junior Assistant	UR (03), ST (01), OBC (01), EWS (01)
6	Junior Technician	UR (02), SC (01), OBC (01)
7	Driver	UR (01), OBC (01)
8	Attendant	UR (02), SC (01), OBC (01)

CSE- Computer Science & Engineering, ECE - Electronics and Communication Engineering, UR – Unreserved, SC – Scheduled Caste, ST – Scheduled Tribe, OBC – Other Backward Class, EWS – Economically Weaker Section, Reservation will be as per the Govt. of India norms

The detailed advertisement along with the information brochure and link to the online application are available in the website of Indian Institute of Information Technology Senapati at <www.iiitmanipur.ac.in> **Opening date for online application is 03.11.2023. Last Date for submission of online application is 15.12.2023.**

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NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
PALIKA KENDRA, SANSAD MARG, NEW DELHI - 110001 Website : www.ndmc.gov.in
"PUBLIC NOTICE"
Suvidha Camp for Electricity and Water Bills Grievances

New Delhi Municipal Council is pleased to announce a Suvidha Camp dedicated to addressing and resolving electricity and water billing-related issues. This event is aimed at providing a convenient platform for residents to seek assistance with their concerns and facilitate for resolution of electricity & water bill payments.

Scheduled for **November 4th, 2023**, the Suvidha Camp will take place at the **Convention Hall, NDMC, Sansad Marg, New Delhi from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**. It is open to all residents, RWA (Resident Welfare Association) members, and MTA (Market Traders Association) representatives.

The camp will feature a dedicated team of experts who will be available to assist attendees with a wide range of concerns, including the services:

Billing inquiries | Meter readings | Payment arrangements | Correction of bills if any

Residents are encouraged to bring any relevant documents, bills, or information that will help address their concerns more efficiently. The aim is to provide prompt and effective solutions to ensure the efficient delivery of essential electricity and water bill services.

"We understand the importance of these services in our community and want to make it as easy as possible for our residents to access assistance and resolve any issue."

This Suvidha Camp is a testament to our commitment to delivering the highest level of service to our community. We invite all residents to participate actively in this event to help enhance the quality of life for everyone.

Secretary,
New Delhi Municipal Council

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Unaudited (reviewed) Financial Results (standalone/consolidated) for The Quarter/Half Year Ended 30th September 2023

(₹ in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE					CONSOLIDATED				
		Quarter Ended 30.09.2023 (Reviewed)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2022 (Reviewed)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2023 (Reviewed)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2022 (Reviewed)	Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2023 (Reviewed)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2022 (Reviewed)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2023 (Reviewed)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2022 (Reviewed)	Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations (net)	586561	496484	1172255	876143	2015898	586561	496484	1172255	876143	2015898
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	63979	78401	98645	97712	290511	63979	78401	98645	97712	290511
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	63979	78401	98645	97712	290511	63979	78401	98645	97712	290511
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	40167	50452	62514	62813	186234	40354	49729	62847	61478	182628
5	Total Comprehensive income for the period (comprising Profit/Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)	Refer Note 2									
6	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	1195596	1195596	1195596	1195596	1195596	1195596	1195596	1195596	1195596	1195596
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves)	NA	NA	NA	NA	1100525	NA	NA	NA	NA	1084444
8	Securities Premium Account	362571	362571	362571	362571	362571	362571	362571	362571	362571	362571
9	Net Worth	1499770	1206383	1499770	1206383	1401505	1484022	1192572	1484022	1192572	1385424
10	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	0.06	0.13	0.06	0.13	0.07	0.06	0.13	0.06	0.13	0.07
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Debt Equity Ratio	1.24	0.80	1.24	0.80	0.80	1.25	0.81	1.25	0.81	0.80
13	Earning Per Share (of ₹10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)-										
	1. Basic :	0.34	0.42	0.52	0.53	1.56	0.34	0.42	0.53	0.51	1.53
	2. Diluted :	0.34	0.42	0.52	0.53	1.56	0.34	0.42	0.53	0.51	1.53
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable									
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio										

Notes : 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/ half-yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under regulation 33 and 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly/ half-yearly financial results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges (www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com) and Bank's Website (www.ucobank.com) 2. Information relating to total comprehensive income and other comprehensive income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to the bank.

For UCO Bank

Place : Kolkata
Dated :3rd November, 2023

Sd/- Vijaykumar Nivrutti Kamble, Executive Director
Sd/- Rajendra Kumar Saboo, Executive Director
Sd/- Ashwani Kumar, Managing Director & CEO

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RK PURAM	MAJOR DHYAN CHAND STADIUM	ITO	SIRIFORT
Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
491 AQI PM2.5 (0–500)	480 AQI PM2.5 (0–500)	426 AQI PM 2.5 (0–500)	497 AQI PM 2.5 (0–500)

At 5 pm

0-50 Good | 51-100 Satisfactory | 101-200 Moderate | 201-300 Poor | 301-400 Very Poor | 401-500 Severe

SKYWATCH

FORECAST: November 4
Mainly clear sky. Shallow fog in the morning.

MAX: 30 — 0.5° C below normal
MIN: 16 — 0.7° C above normal

L-G CHAIRS EMERGENCY POLLUTION MEET

Will Delhi see odd-even soon? Govt to wait & watch

DEATH BY BREATH

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

TERMING THE situation "extremely worrying", L-G VK Saxena went into a huddle over the capital's worsening air quality with environment minister Gopal Rai on Friday evening.

At a press conference earlier in the day, Rai had sounded an alarm over the spiking pollution levels across North India and said the coming 15 days were critical.

Following the meeting, Saxena said several interim measures would be taken including issuing advisories asking children and the elderly to take extra care and remain indoors as far as possible. An appeal, L-G House officials said, would also be made to people to remain indoors as far as possible, avoid unnecessary travel and if necessary, to use public transport.

Delhi, officials added, would also appeal to neighbouring states, especially Punjab which accounted for 1,921, or 71.57% of incidents of crop-residue burning out of a total of 2,684; Haryana which reported 99; Uttar Pradesh, 95; and Rajasthan 60 on November 1, to curtail these by incentivising farmers.

Rai said at the press conference, "... Those from BJP are saying pollution levels are increasing because of Arvind Kejriwal. In Ghaziabad and Noida, is pollution increasing because of Kejriwal?... I would like to request the Union Environment Minister to please be active at least at this time. All of North India is polluted. Haryana's Environment Minister is quiet. Nobody knows where the UP Environment Minister is. There is a need to take strict measures across NCR."

Asked about stubble burning, Rai said, "In Punjab, instances of burning have reduced. Now, the condition is such that the wind and activities close to Delhi and in the NCR are impacting Delhi."

On whether the odd-even road rationing scheme will kick in, he said: "Everything is being monitored. As things develop, we will take the opinion of experts and act."

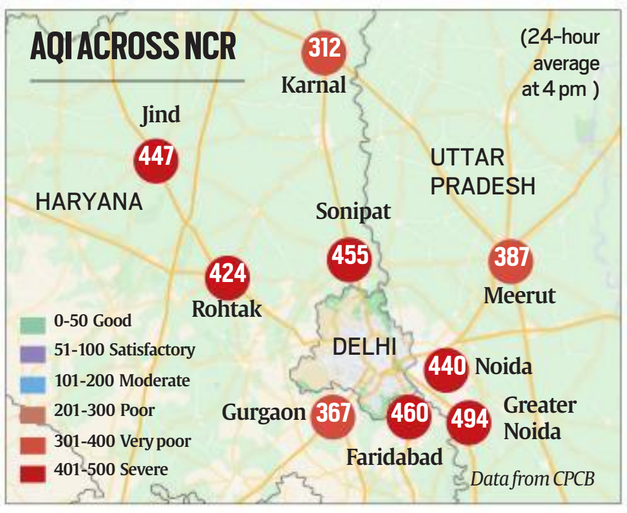
First introduced by the AAP government in 2016 to control vehicular pollution, the scheme is recommended under Stage IV or the 'severe plus' category of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), which has not yet kicked in in Delhi. As part of the scheme, private vehicles with registration plates ending in odd numbers could run on odd dates, and even numbers on even dates.

As part of measures under GRAP Stage III invoked on Thursday, Rai said mechanical road sweeping and water sprinkling machines will now run for 12 hours instead of 8. Mobile anti-smog guns will be deployed in areas where congestion is high.

"Bus services are being increased by 2,400 trips... the metro has increased the number of trips by 60, but officials have said ridership has not gone up. I would like to request the people of Delhi to use public transport...," he said.

Contribution of the transport sector to PM 2.5 levels in Delhi was 14%, as per the Decision Support System of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. The contribution of biomass burning was 25.232%, while that from Gautam Buddh Nagar was found to be 4.103%, and that from Sonipat was 4.506%.

AT 7 AM, FRIDAY: Siganture Bridge hidden behind a dense layer of smog. *Praveen Khanna*



CURBING POLLUTION

A look at measures in place under the Graded Response Action Plan. Stages 1-3 are in force in Delhi-NCR at the moment

STAGE 1
AQI 'POOR' - 201 TO 300

STOPPING ALL construction and demolition activities with plot size of 500 sqm or more which have not been registered on dust-mitigation monitoring portals

- Mechanised sweeping and water sprinkling on roads
- Enforcing guidelines on use of anti-smog guns at construction sites
- Enforcing ban on open burning of waste and PUC (pollution under control norms) for vehicles
- DISCOMs to minimise power supply interruptions in NCR, ensure diesel generator sets are not used as regular source of power supply
- Encourage offices to start unified commute for employees to reduce traffic
- Enforce complete ban on coal/firewood in tandoors in restaurants/open eateries

STAGE 2
AQI 'VERY POOR' - 301-400

DISCOURAGE USE of diesel generator sets except for essential and emergency services

- Enhance parking fees to discourage private transport
- Augment CNG/ electric bus and Metro services by procuring additional fleet and increasing the frequency of service

STAGE 3
AQI 'SEVERE' - 401-450

BAN ON construction and demolition activities in NCR except essential work

- Govts in NCR to impose strict curbs on BS III petrol, BS IV diesel four-wheelers
- State govts may decide to discontinue physical classes in schools for children up to Class 5, move classes online
- Intensify dust-control measures, public transport

STAGE 4
AQI 'SEVERE +' - MORE THAN 450

STOP ENTRY of truck traffic into Delhi (except for essentials, CNG and e-trucks)

- Ban on plying of Delhi-registered diesel medium and heavy goods vehicles in Delhi, except for essentials
- State govts may consider additional emergency measures like closure of schools, plying of vehicles on odd-even basis
- NCR states to decide on allowing public, municipal and private offices to work on 50% strength and the rest to work from home
- Ban C&D activities in linear public projects such as highways, roads

Perilous rise in AQI... warrants state of emergency: Jewar MLA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 3

CITING THE rise in the pollution levels across the NCR, Dhirendra Singh, BJP MLA of the Jewar constituency in Gautam Buddh Nagar, has written to the Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary to declare an environmental emergency in the affected areas.

"I am writing to you as a deeply concerned resident of Noida regarding the perilous rise in Air Quality Index (AQI) levels across Noida, Greater Noida, and the entire NCR...," said Singh Friday in his letter to chief secretary DS Mishra.

He further said that when the AQI surpasses 300, it warrants a state of emergency, necessitating a halt in daily activities due to the risk of severe lung damage. "The air quality in Delhi-NCR has deteriorated to levels that have far exceeded the upper limit of 500... The AQI in Noida has soared beyond the 1,000 ppm mark," added the MLA.

BJP MLA from Jewar Dhirendra Singh

Singh further said the persistent smog and poor air quality are leading to an alarming increase in respiratory illnesses and posing a significant health risk, especially to the elderly, children, and those with pre-existing health conditions.

"Temporarily halt all industrial activities contributing to emissions. Restrict vehicular traffic, possibly introducing an odd-even rule or promoting work from home, to reduce congestion and pollution. Fast-track the implementation of pollution-control measures and the adoption of cleaner technologies," said Singh to the chief secretary.

He also raised a demand to conduct an emergency audit of all construction sites, enforcing strict dust-control measures.

As AQI dips, political blame game begins

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

THE AAP, BJP and Congress traded barbs over the capital's deteriorating air quality Friday with each pointing fingers at the other for the alarming state of its current situation.

AAP national spokesperson Reena Gupta said the party's governments in Delhi and Punjab were taking continuous action against air pollution, but the BJP-ruled Centre, and Haryana and Uttar Pradesh governments were inactive.

On his part, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia blamed what he termed was Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's "carelessness" regarding the issue. He said, "On November 3, 2022, there was similar pollution. The Centre was providing full assistance to the governments of Punjab and Delhi to take concrete steps to control it but the Kejriwal and Punjab governments did nothing."

Meanwhile, Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely sought to hold both the BJP and AAP governments responsible for the "life-threatening air pollution". He also demanded a criminal case against those responsible for the severe air pollution resulting out of "gross negligence".

"The city is confronting an explosive situation due to air pollution... Children and old people suffering serious respiratory illness while the BJP and Delhi governments indulge in blame-games without taking urgent steps," he alleged.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva took aim at Lovely for acting like the "B Team" of the AAP government.

Children with chronic lung issues worst hit by pollution, say doctors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

CHILDREN SUFFERING from chronic lung-related issues are facing a tough time as pollution levels spike in Delhi. Hospitals across the city are reporting a spike in such cases at their outpatient and in-patient departments and emergency.

At Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, which comes under Lady Hardinge Medical College, there has been a 25% spike in patient load of children with chronic health issues. Dr Subash Giri, Director, LHMC, said, "Children are coming in with sore throat, cold, cough, lower lung infection, bronchiolitis..." He added that the numbers have increased in the last four days.

"These are children who are already suffering from existing allergic disorders, upper respiratory tract infections, lower tract infections including pneumonia... they also include patients of bronchiolitis and bronchial asthma," he said.

According to Dr SK Kabra, Pediatric Department Head at AIIMS Delhi, the most affected are kids below five years of age. Such young children also face difficulty in wearing masks.

He said there has been an increase in the number of children coming to the OPD with respiratory complaints and it is more severe in children with underlying chronic lung disease like asthma or bronchiolitis, cystic fibrosis etc.

Dr Kabra said there is also a general increase in the number of children coming with respiratory issues even without any earlier problem. "We do not have data on the numbers but it's an observation and a subjective impression," he said.

Dr Nameet Jerath, senior consultant (paediatric pulmonology and critical care), Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, advised that parents should be careful and not let their children step out when there is heavy pollution.

What can help improve air quality? Wind, warm weather & some rain

At Lok Nayak Hospital, Friday. *Praveen Khanna*

MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

EXPLAINED

WHAT WILL help Delhi's air improve in the coming few days? Strong wind, higher temperatures and a dash of rain. While the input of pollutants — vehicular fumes, biomass burning, dust and smoke — is important, whether they will accumulate and hang in the air is determined by meteorological factors and geography.

Here's how each of these three things affect AQI:

WIND: One of the most crucial factors, higher wind speed can help disperse particulate matter, which is the primary pollutant in winter, quickly. This was also demonstrated on Friday, when a slight increase in wind speed led to an improvement in AQI. At Anand Vihar, for example, the concentration at 1 pm was 371 µg/m3 (against an acceptable limit of 60 µg/m3) and the wind speed was a little over 1 kilometre per hour. By 3 pm, PM 2.5 was at 144 µg/m3, as the wind speed rose to 2.8 kilometres per hour.

According to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, an average wind speed of less than 10 km per hour is unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants. However, even a small increase brings relative improvement.

Forecast: According to the IMD, wind speed is expected to be between 4 and 6 km per hour till Monday. Some relief is expected after that as the wind speed during the day is expected to be between 10 and 12 km per hour.

TEMPERATURE: A dip in temperature, especially when the sky is clear at night, leads to a phenomenon called temperature inversion. In winter, when the atmospheric pressure is higher, a clear sky means that the ground loses heat quickly and the air around it cools down. Above it is a layer of warmer air, which acts like a lid, trapping the cold air. Along with the cold air, pollutants from vehicles and dust also get trapped. This inversion determines mixing height, which is the area available for pollutants to disperse. The higher the mixing height, the better it is.

Forecast: The temperature is expected to be between 29 and 14 degrees Celsius over the next seven days. According to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the mixing height is expected to be around 2,450 m on Saturday, and will improve further to 2,700 m on Sunday but will dip to 1,850 on Monday.

RAIN: One of the reasons this October was the most polluted since 2020 was the dry weather. Rain helps the particulate matter and dust in the air settle, improving AQI. Delhi saw only one rainy day this October as opposed to 7 and 6 days in previous years.

Forecast: Over the next seven days, no rain is expected.

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• Told to say sorry, Chadha seeks time with Dhankhar

a Select Committee, without their consent.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar had referred the matter to the Privileges Committee for investigation. Chadha was to remain suspended until the committee submitted its report.

On Friday, the Supreme Court said it hoped that Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Rajya Sabha Chairman, would take an objective and sympathetic view of the matter. Chadha had moved the court against his suspension.

"Last time we said that if he was tendering an apology, the Chairperson, who is a very distinguished person and a senior Constitutional functionary, perhaps he may take an objective view," Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, presiding over a three-judge bench, said.

The bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, asked Chadha's counsel Advocate Shadan Farasat, "You have already apologised six times. But would you be willing to seek an appointment with the Honourable Chairperson and meet the Chairperson and tender an apology?"

Farasat replied in the affirmative and said Chadha "is the youngest member in the House of Elders. Of course, he doesn't mind tendering an apology. Even in my letter to the Privileges Committee, I had said my personal apology to the Chairperson." With AG R Venkataramani and SG Tushar Mehta also agreeing to the suggestion, the bench recorded the statement of Chadha's counsel.

The Privileges Committee also met Friday and sought a report from Chadha by November 7.

• National security strategy

This is the first time that India will come out with a national security strategy. Countries such as the US and UK have published national security strategies which are updated periodically. The document is aimed at putting together India's national security objectives and the ways to be adopted to achieve them.

Over the last few months, several ministries have provided inputs for the document on the entire gamut of challenges and threats facing India, including non-traditional ones such as financial and economic security, food and energy security, information warfare, vulnerabilities in India's critical information infrastructure, and those associated with supply chains and environment. Ministers are also involved in the process.

An official privy to the development said that given the complex nature of the various traditional and non-traditional threats, especially when rising geopolitical tensions have given way to uncertainties, it was felt that there was an urgent need to draft a national security strategy. This, the official said, would draw in from the comprehensive national power of the country.

"This needs a whole-of-government approach. Several Central ministries and other stakeholders have their roles cut out for the various facets of national security, the vulnerabilities and threats and the ways to plug them," the official said, without divulging the timeline on when it would be ready or providing details on the exact contours of the strategy given the confidential nature of certain aspects that would be part of the draft.

The official document, once ready, will be made public. The official said it would be updated regularly, based on emerging situations and newer threat assessments.

Another official said the strategy may include other stakeholders to tackle the many non-traditional threats and vulnerabilities identified across domains such as civil society organisations, academia, media, think tanks and other institutions.

Speaking at an event a week ago, former NSA Shivshankar Menon said India needs a national security strategy and, in the interim, a white paper on defence detailing its thinking on important issues. In the past, three attempts were made to come out with a national security strategy but there was hesitation at the political level, he said, adding that he sensed it could have been because of the accountability it would bring in defence management.

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DIRECTORATE OF HORTICULTURE, MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG
Email: hori-meg@nic.in

No. HORT/D-1147/SMO 2.0 /2023-24/42
Dated Shillong the 3rd November, 2023.

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Dated: 3.11.23

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

No. GMA/School/G/152(Contractual)Pt.III Date: 30/10/2023.
In supersession of earlier Notification No. GMA/School/G/152 (Contractual) Pt.III Date: 29/09/2023, this modified notification is issued for engagement on contractual teachers in railway schools, CLW/ Chittaranjan through Walk-in-Interview purely on contractual basis with fixed remuneration against the following subject. **Sl. No.; Category; Post wise Date of Walk-in-Interview** are as follows:- (1); PGT (Physics); **23.11.2023**. (2); PGT (Bengali); **22.11.2023**. (3); PGT (Pol. Science.); **24.11.2023**. (4); PGT (English); **22.11.2023**. (5); PGT (Hindi); **24.11.2023**. (6); PGT (History); **22.11.2023**. (7); PGT (Mathematics); **23.11.2023**. (8); PGT (Economics); **23.11.2023**. (9); PGT (Commerce); **23.11.2023**. (10); PGT (Physical Education); **24.11.2023**. (11); PRT (Computer Education); **24.11.2023**. **Venue of Interview:-** Administrative Meeting Room GM's office CLW/ Chittaranjan. **Time:-** 11:00 hrs. (Candidate should report to APO (Admn.) at 9:00 hrs. on the date of Walk-in-Interview for documents verification). **N.B.:-** For details information i.e.- Medium of instruction, Reservation & Roster Points (UR,SC,ST,OBC, EWS), Total, Age, Eligibility, Consolidated Monthly Remuneration, Terms and Conditions, Application Form for Engagement on Contract Basis etc. please refer CLW/CRJ's Website **www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in** [under the link - News & Recruitments → Recruitments → Walk in interview for engagement of Contract teachers for Railway Schools. Notification No. GMA/School/G/ 152 (Contractual) Pt. III Dated 30.10.2023 → Download.]. **NB:-** The Notification No. GMA/School/G/152(Contractual)Pt.III Dated: 29.09.23 is hereby withdrawn.

PR5-221 **Asstt. Personnel Officer (Admn)/CLW/Chittaranjan**

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- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

ELECTION IN NUMBERS

154

The lowest win margin in Rajasthan in 2018, when BJP's Jabbar Singh Sankhala defeated Manish Mewara of Congress in Asind

TILL TWO DAYS AGO, BJP CALLED THE SAME FREEBIES: CM BHUPESH BAGHEL

Paddy, housing, farmers: In Raipur race, BJP goes toe to toe with Cong

Loan waiver, free education... few promises now separate the two

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
NARAYANPUR, NOVEMBER 3

Amit Shah, ex-CM Raman Singh and BJP Chhattisgarh chief Arun Sao release the manifesto in Raipur on Friday. *PTI*

FOUR DAYS before Chhattisgarh votes in the first phase of the Assembly elections, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday announced the BJP's election manifesto. Barring a few promises that are exclusive to the Congress — such as a loan waiver for farmers and free education from kindergarten to post-graduation — the BJP manifesto matches several promises of the ruling party and goes above and beyond on several others.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel targeted the BJP, posting on X, "Till two days ago, the BJP was terming as freebies whoever promised the same things. They have made some of the promises made by us."

The 10 takeaways:

1 The BJP has gone a step further than the Congress by offering 21 quintals of paddy per acre at Rs 3,100 in a single instalment, unlike the ruling party which gives it in four instalments. The Congress has offered to procure 20 quintals at Rs 3,000. However, it is still ahead of BJP as it has promised a loan waiver like the last time.

2 An annual amount of Rs 12,000 for married women. The move is significant as the number of women who voted in the 2018 elections was almost equal to the number of men.

3 The party has promised to "expedite" the work of filling one lakh vacant posts in government. Though the manifesto does not provide a timeframe, Union Home Minister Amit Shah in his speech said two years.

4 A total of 18 lakh poor people will get Awas Yojna (housing scheme) benefits. The Congress recently announced 17.5 lakh people will get it.Another ambitious announcement is the promise to provide tap water in every house within two years.

5 Tendu leaves will be bought for Rs 5,500 per sack, which is a thousand rupees more than the present rate.. While Congress has announced Rs 4,000 bonus per year to families selling tendu leaves, BJP announced Rs 4,500 bonus. Tendu patta seen as "green gold" is a big voting factor for many tribes for whom there are 29 reserved seats.

6 Rs 10,000 to landless farmers, similar an announcement made by Rahul Gandhi at a rally in Kawardha on October 29.

7 A promise of free health service up to Rs 10 lakh and 500 more centres for subsidised medicines. The Congress too made an almost identical announcement recently.

8 The BJP has announced it will probe the alleged Public Service Commission (PSC) scam. Another promise is to change the examination to a UPSC format. Baghel made a similar statement in an interview to *The Indian Express* recently.

9 To help youngsters run new businesses, a 50% subsidy will be provided along with an interest-free loan.

10 Gas cylinder for Rs 500.

Among other promises are developing four cities on the lines of Delhi-NCR, Rs 1.5 lakh to newborn girls from poor families etc.

Ex-Cong state chief faces tribal anger, divisions within party

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
KONDAGAON, NOVEMBER 3

MONTHS AFTER he was removed as Chhattisgarh Congress chief, Mohan Markam is looking at a stiff contest in Kondagaon (ST-reserved), as much due to differences with other party leaders as for the tribal anger that has turned against the state government.

Made Minister for School Education, Development of SCs, Scheduled Tribes STs, OBCs and minorities when he was divested of the PCC chief's post, Markam, 56, is facing stiff competition from former BJP minister Lata Usendi from Kondagaon, which falls in the Bastar region and will vote on November 7. While Markam defeated Usendi in 2018, it had been by a margin of only 1,796 votes. In third place were NOTA votes.

Speculation had been rife that Markam's removal as Congress state chief in July was owing to differences with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Markam had taken over as PCC chief from Baghel in 2019. However, the official reason the Congress gave was the end of Markam's term.

Usendi, 49, is a two-time MLA, whose father was also a BJP legislator. She had defeated Markam in 2008, before losing to him in 2013 and 2018.

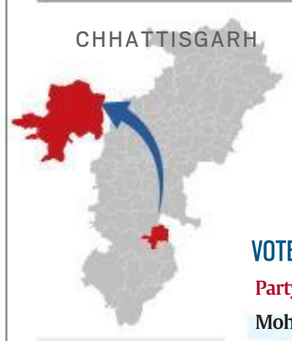
While like last time, there are several candidates in the fray, queering the pitch for Markam, the bigger trouble he faces is because of two factors — of them the biggest is a possible loss of tribal vote in an area where over 60% of the voters are STs.

Christian tribals have faced several incidents of violence, allegedly at the hands of their Hindu counterparts, in recent years and have come together with tribals who do not identify with any established religion.

Apart from tribal anger, Markam is expected to face resistance from within, with talk that a senior Congress leader with whom he has an old dispute is discretely campaigning against him. Markam says he is not worried. "People are smart. They vote for whoever they want to... I know the local issues and have defeated Usendi twice." On the tribal vote, Markam says they "won't split".

Usendi is equally confident. "Markam has failed to keep his promises. There is no road in a village in his own backyard. People are angry as he hasn't done any development work.

KONDAGAON IN NUMBERS



6 lakh Population	4,33,639 Electorate
53% Women voters	4,33,639 Voter turnout in 2018

216 Naxal-sensitive booths

588 Total booths | 38 New booths

VOTE SHARES IN PAST POLLS (%)

Party	2013	2018
Mohan Markam, Cong	44.6	43.24
Lata Usendi, BJP	43.3	39.15
NOTA	3.73	5.39

Source: Election Commission

Vasundhara Raje in Jhalawar Friday. She also went on to look back at her long innings in the district. *Facebook*

Raje admires son's progress: 'I feel I can retire now'

Ex-CM thanks people of Jhalawar, her turf, for 'teaching' Dushyant well

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 3

SENIOR BJP leader and former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje Friday said that she feels she can retire now, and that her MP son Dushyant Singh had learnt the ropes.

Addressing a rally in Jhalawar district, from where she is an MLA and is contesting again, soon after Dushyant had spoken, Raje said: "*Mujhe lag raha hai ke ab mein retire ho ja sakti hoon* (I feel I can retire now). After listening to the *sansad saheb*, I felt that you have taught him well – *kuch pyaar sey, kuch aankh dikha ke* (sometimes with love, other times with admonishment)... You (the people) have set him on such a path that I will not have to get after him."

Raje went on to look back at her long innings in Jhalawar, first as a Jhalawar MP and then as an MLA from Jhalrapatan, the constituency she holds and is contesting from again.

Her remarks come at a time when her future in the state BJP remains a matter of conjecture, with the central leadership that has been at odds with her resisting the demand to project her as the party's CM face.

In her speech, Raje went on to praise the party district president and local MLAs. Currently, all four Assembly seats in Jhalawar — Dag, Jhalrapatan, Khanpur and Manohar Thana — are held by BJP MLAs.

The former CM said that most candidates are tied down to their constituencies after filing their nomination. "But how fortunate are we that after filing nominations, there is no need (for me to campaign locally), and you just call me for a day or two," Raje said, adding that this had been the case every time.

She had shared the joys and sorrows and ups and downs with the people of the region, Raje said. "The biggest thing is that you never left my side," she said, going on to mention momentous events from her life such as Dushyant's wedding, her mother 'Rajmata' Vijaya Raje Scindia and brother Madhavrao Scindia's deaths, and the birth of her grandchildren.

She also thanked the people for supporting her through the Covid pandemic, and the entire last five years.

While the BJP may not be projecting her, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot continues to consistently attack Raje. On Friday, he challenged her to a debate on the Congress party's seven guarantees.

This came a day after Raje said: "*Jiski khud ki warranty nahin hai, woh kahe ki guarantee hum logon ko dene ka kaam kar raha hai? Iske baare mein kabhi sochne ki zarurat hai* (The one who doesn't have any warranty of his own, why is he trying to give guarantees to us? There is a need to think about it)."

Gehlot has announced that if the Congress returns to power, it will guarantee Rs 10,000 annually to women heads of families; extend the subsidised cylinder scheme to 1.05 crore families; purchase cattle dung at Rs 2 per kg; provide English-medium education to every student; ensure laptop or tablet for first-year government college students; get legal backing for the Old Pension Scheme; and extend the Chiranjeevi Aapda Bima Guarantee with insurance up to Rs 15 lakh.

'When we say Shivraj is most popular... does Cong object? No talk of change in leadership'

DIVYA A & LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW

WITH PRAHLAD PATEL
UNION MINISTER FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

PRAHLAD PATEL is one of the three Union ministers the BJP has fielded in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections apart from Narendra Singh Tomar and Faggan Singh Kulaste. This is seen as a move that has blown the field wide open for the choice of chief minister if the BJP returns to power.

In a wide-ranging interview, Patel discusses the BJP's chances in the elections and the Congress. Excerpts:

You say you are 100% sure the BJP will form the government.

We have corrected the mistakes we made in the last elections (2018). This time, we have introduced several welfare programmes for the poor and other sections of society. The Central government has even completed 70% of the Jal Jeevan Mission programmes. People compare us with the Kamal Nath government. Despite the money that came, his government used just 2.5% of it to implement projects.

People say Kamal Nath did not get enough time...

You can't say that for a (seasoned) politician like Kamal Nath. He has been in politics for a long time. He was a Cabinet minister. How much time does he need to understand the system? We say Kamal Nath is a *thaka hua neta* (exhausted leader).

Ground reports suggest there is a craving for change. How do you overcome that?

The Congress tried to create a perception that there is a desire for change or that there is fatigue with the CM. There are deepening conflicts between leaders as Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh are unable to stand united.

Is the party considering any leadership changes?

When we claim that Shivraj Singh Chouhan is today the most popular minister in Madhya Pradesh, do you see the Congress disputing that? So, there is no discussion about leadership change.

How did Ram Mandir become a poll issue?

This has come from the Congress side. Kamal Nath ji tried to create a controversy when PM Modi tweeted about attending the Ram Mandir consecration ceremony. When Kamal Nath ji says that his party's PM (Rajiv Gandhi) opened the doors to the temple, he doesn't mention that his party also gave an affidavit in court that Lord Ram is a myth. They did that on the Ram Janambhoomi and Ram Setu issues.

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

LADLI REHNA

Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Tikamgarh district's Khargapur on Friday. *PTI*

I HEREBY DECLARE

BHUPESH BAGHEL, 63
Congress's Chhattisgarh CM, contesting from Patan

MOVABLE ASSETS (including of spouse)
₹4.21 CRORE
(Rs 1.47 crore in 2018)

IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹21.18 CRORE
including agricultural, commercial & residential properties (₹21.59 crore in 2018)

LIABILITIES
₹28.83 LAKH

CRIMINAL CASES
Two 2017 cases investigated and charge-sheeted by CBI for offences under IPC and IT Act; no conviction yet

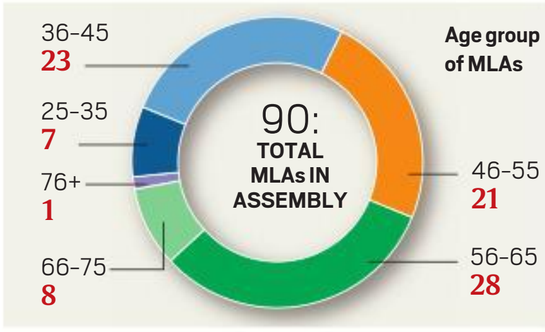
SOURCE OF INCOME
Salary, agriculture, interest

EDUCATION
Graduation and PG from P Ravishanker Shukla University, Raipur

NUMBER SPEAK

CHHATTISGARH'S SITTING LEGISLATORS: MAXIMUM IN 55-65 AGE GROUP

Party	25-35	35-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	76+
INC	5	22	17	22	4	1
BJP	1	1	3	6	3	0
BSP	1	0	1	0	0	0
JCC	0	0	0	0	1	0



Source: ADR, Election Commission

STAR PLAYER

Azhar pads up for seat Congress lost last two times

MANOJ C G & SREENIVAS JANYALA
NEW DELHI, HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 3

A TICKET from the Jubilee Hills Assembly seat for the coming Telangana elections marks a return to active politics for former star batsman and India team captain Mohammed Azharuddin. It's been a string of ups and downs for the 60-year-old, much like in his fabled cricketing career.

After his playing days were cut short by match-fixing allegations in 2000, Azharuddin had taken a plunge into politics by joining the Congress on the eve of the 2009 Lok Sabha elections. The party fielded him from the Moradabad seat in Uttar Pradesh, which he won by a huge margin of nearly 50,000 votes.

That was the last big performance by the party in the state, when it won a total of 21 seats, in an election that returned the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government back to power. Its nadir was the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, when the Congress lost even its stronghold Amethi, with Rahul Gandhi as candidate.

As an MP though, Azharuddin's performance was abysmal. In five years, he took part in only two debates, in comparison to the national participation average of 37.9% for MPs, and the average of 43.9% for Uttar Pradesh MPs.

Former India cricketer Mohammed Azharuddin at a recent campaign event. He is in the fray from Jubilee Hills. *Facebook*

In 2014, the Congress reposed faith in him again, this time fielding him from the Tonk-Sawai Madhopur constituency in Rajasthan. However, Azharuddin could not withstand the Narendra Modi wave. In fact, all the 25 seats in Rajasthan were won by the BJP in both 2014 and (with its ally) in 2019.

Despite retreating from politics after the 2014 loss, Azharuddin was keen on a ticket in 2019 too. However, he could not get the ticket from Secunderabad in Telangana, as he wanted. It was said at the time that former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav, who was then the president of the Greater Hyderabad Congress Committee, was opposed to his nomination.

Azharuddin, though, retained his place with the central Congress leadership, and in 2021, was appointed as one of the five working presidents of the Telangana party unit.

Now, for the first time, the former cricketer will be taking the field from his home ground, Telangana. Party sources said that Azharuddin has been taking interest in Hyderabad politics since last year; and has got at least partly what he wanted, as Jubilee Hills falls in the Secunderabad Lok Sabha segment.

The Telangana Congress believes Azharuddin has a good chance from Jubilee Hills, which is currently represented by Maganti Gopinath of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). The Congress last won the seat in 2009.

The ticket to Azharuddin, however, has resulted in the defection of P Vishnuvardhan Reddy, the Congress winner from the seat in 2004 and 2009, to the BRS. Reddy lost the last two times from the seat to Gopinath.

FOR MORE LOG ON TO INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS

• DATA PACK

IN RAJASTHAN, INCUMBENT CURSE APPLIES TO BJP TOO

DECODING POLITICS: THE WAY TO VOTERS' HEARTS VIA RAM PATH

Gyanvapi: SC rejects plea against withdrawal of case from single-judge bench

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

THE SUPREME Court on Friday dismissed a plea by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee challenging Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker's order withdrawing the Gyanvapi mosque case from a single-judge bench before which it was pending. The committee manages the mosque in the Gyanvapi complex in Varanasi.

"There are grounds by the Chief Justice. We will leave it at that," Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, presiding over a three-judge bench, said while refusing to interfere with the August 28 High Court order.

Chief Justice Diwaker had withdrawn the case from the single bench of Justice Prakash Padia, acting on a complaint filed by the counsel for one of the parties on July 27, 2023.

Appearing for the mosque committee, senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi said the matter in which the committee had challenged the maintainability of suits filed by Hindu worshippers seeking the right of worship in the mosque was withdrawn from the bench of Justice Padia citing procedural reasons, after he had reserved the judgment on August 25.

As per Chief Justice Diwaker's order, Justice Padia had heard the matter first in 2021 and reserved it for judgment on March 15, 2021, but the judgment was never delivered. Thereafter, it was re-heard by Justice Padia in 2022. He took up the matter again on August 25, 2023, and reserved the judgment.

The Chief Justice's order noted that after 2021, "the cases...continued to be listed before" Justice Padia, though he had "ceased to have jurisdiction in the matter as per roster". It pointed out that as per an administrative order of the Chief Justice, dated December 16, 2013, the appropriate course of action in such a situation was to place the matter before the Chief Justice, who would take a call, but this was not done.

On Friday, Ahmadi told the Supreme Court that "it is very, very unfair to the learned judge". He contended that all parties appeared before the judge for 75 postings without raising any semblance of an objection on the point of jurisdiction. "The so-called impropriety that is being pointed out is the judge hearing the matter with consent of parties, all through 2022," the senior counsel argued.

Ahmadi said the timing of the complaint was also significant. "Only after it has been heard and you see the way the wind is blowing. This is directly a perversion in the administration of justice," he contended.

CJI Chandrachud, however, pointed out that the High Court Chief Justice "has indicated reasons" in his August 28 order. Referring to the 2013 administrative direction, the CJI said the parties had the option to go before the Chief Justice and say this has been heard very substantially and the Chief Justice would have allowed them to go back to the same judge.

The CJI added that what was said by the High Court Chief Justice in para 11 and 12 of his order "puts a sort of disquiet in our mind. What the CJ has said in those two paras is enough for us to affirm the order".

The High Court, in para 11 and 12, said that as per a report of the registry, "the records of these cases were never sent to the parent section in the registry for the procedures to be followed for listing of the cases in terms of the applicable orders, both on the administrative side and the judicial side" but "remained in the chambers of the learned Judge and the cases were listed on the instructions of Bench Secretary and the officials attached to His Lordship's chambers".

"Extraordinary. Never happens. Records are always sent back to the Registry. Never kept in the chamber of the judge," the CJI said while dismissing the plea.

Stalin aide and TN Minister E V Velu's premises searched by I-T

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 3

THE INCOME Tax Department has conducted extensive searches at premises linked to key political figures in Tamil Nadu, including the state's Minister for Public Works Department, Highways and Minor Ports, E V Velu. The crackdown began early on Friday, covering 37 locations across the state.

The searches started at 6.30 am, focusing on Tiruvannamalai, including the house of Velu in Kilnachipattu village, and various educational institutions such as medical and engineering colleges associated with his family members. The Income Tax officials were escorted by personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force.

A senior I-T official said there were 13 locations searched in Chennai besides many in Coimbatore, Tiruvannamalai and Karur. The searches were in progress until late Friday evening.

As news of the raids spread, a significant number of DMK cadres and supporters of Velu, 72, gathered outside his residence in support of him.

The ED previously targeted close aides of Tamil Nadu Minister Senthil Balaji in September as part of an alleged cash-for-jobs scam, resulting in the minister's arrest on June 14. October also saw raids on properties associated with DMK MP S Jagathrakshakan.

Velu was previously searched in March 2021, before the state elections, over alleged complaints of significant cash movement during the campaigns.

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E- Auction Sale Notice

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E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

S. No.	Name of the branch Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantors	Location & details of the property	Date of Notice u/s 13(2) - Date of Notice u/s 13(4) Symbolic/Physical Possession	Reserved Price	EMD	Date and time of E-Auction
1.	**M/s SHREE KALU COLD STORAGE LTD.** 1. AMAR CHAND BAID 2. MULTAN MAL BAID 3. ABHAY KUMAR BAID 4. NEERAJ BAID **1. Add :** TEXTILE MILL AGENCIES, KHUSKI BAGH, PURNEA,BIHAR - PURNEA , BIHAR - 854305 **2. Add : PLOT NO. 69(A)** MARANGA INDUSTRIALAREA, PURNEA, BIHAR **BO :** Purnea (005120).	EQUITABLE MORTGAGE OF LAND AND BUILDING WITH HYPOTHECATION OF PLANT & MACHINERIES AND OTHER ASSETS OF THE UNIT STANDING IN THE NAME OF M/S SHREE KALU COLD STORAGE PVT. LTD., MOUZA – MARANGA, THANA NO.110 K.HAT, PARGANA – HAWELI, DISTT – PURNEA, DEED NO. 4469 OF 2011, INDUSTRIAL PLOT NO.69 (A), SURVEY – 4594(P), 4595(P), 4596, 4597(P), 4599(P), 4592(P), AREA 70,000 SQ.FT. BOUNDARIES: NORTH – M/S PUNDRA HARBALS, SOUTH – INDUSTRIAL PLOT NO. 70, EAST – INDUSTRIAL ROAD, 60'-0", WEST – INDUSTRIAL PLOT NO.70. **2.** Hypothecation of all Plant & Machinery, Furniture & Fixture	**Rs. 50936352.00 13(2)- 13.11.2014 13(4) - 03.02.2015** with further interest costs and others charges and expenses thereon. Physical Possession NEC Staus Not Known.	1. Rs. 530.73 Lakh (I.P). 2. Rs. 36.73 Lakh (HYPO).	1. Rs. 53.08 Lakh (I.P). 2. Rs. 3.67 Lakh (HYPO).	**Email** – cs8261@pnb.co.in **Date / Time of E-Auction :** 23.11.2023, 10.30 AM TO 04.00 PM. **EMD AC :** 0051203171160 **IFS :** PUNB0005120
2.	**M/s NAINCY AUTO SPARE & TYRES.** Sri Kamal Kishor Saha s/o Late Dulli Chand Saha (Prop.) Smt. Nita Sah w/o Sri Kamal Kishor Sah (Guarantor) **1. Add :** A-Block, Ambedkar Market Bus Stand, Purnea – 854301 **BO: Purnea Manju Complex (293100)**	Residential land and building standing in the name of Smt. Nita Sah w/o Sri Kamal Kishore Sah as deed No. 16857 dated 28.12.2002, Khata No. 1447, Khesra No. 1638, Mouza – Maranga, Thana No. 110, P.S- K. Hat, Distt.- Purnea, Measuring an area – 2 Katha.	**Rs. 6382113.00 13(2)- 25.10.2017 13(4) –26.12.2017** with further interest costs and others charges and expenses thereon. **Symbolic Possession NEC Staus Not Known.**	**Rs. 54.54 Lakh**	**Rs. 5.45 Lakh**	**Email** – cs8261@pnb.co.in **Date/Time of E-Auction :** 23.11.2023, 10.30 AM TO 04.00 PM. **EMD AC :** 2931003171160 **IFS :** PUNB0293100

1. On receipt of the earnest money, the user ID/password (mandatory for e-auction) of the tenderer will be received on his valid email ID.
2. Tender sale will be online through website: **www.ibapi.in** and E-mail is **cs8261@pnb.co.in**
3. The sealed tender will be deposited with the above authorized officer, **Punjab National Bank, Purnea** Latest by **20.11.2023 at 5 PM** with demand draft for the earnest money, payable in favor of the authorized officer, **Punjab National Bank, Purnea.** Earnest money can also be deposited by NEFT/RTGS in E-auction under SARFAESI account.
4. Tenders received late for any reason will be considered cancelled and they will not be allowed to participate in the auction process. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to cancel/ accept/postponed/reject any tender and amend the terms and conditions of sale without assigning any reason. The bank reserves the right to participate in this auction. For information related to the property, manager/Senior Manager of Above mention, branchs can be contacted on any banking working day, as well as inspection of the property can be done on any banking working day.
5. Increase of minimum bid will be Rs. 10000/- A mutual bid will be conducted between the tenderers, if necessary on the discretion of the authorized officer. For any other information, concerned branch manager can be contacted.
6. After acceptance of the offer, 25% of the sale amount (other than the earnest money) will have to be deposited immediately and the outstanding amount will have to be deposited within 15 days from the date of acceptance. Failure to adhere the above mentioned time period, deposited amount will be for feitured by the bank.
7. The successful tenderer will have to deposit the remaining 75% of the money within 15 days after ensuring the sale of the property, otherwise deposited amount will be forfeited.
8. If the outstanding amount with all expenses will be deposited in bank by the borrower or guarantors, the bank may cancel the auction on or before the day of the bidding.
9. Successful tenderers will have to bear all the stamp and registration fees and other expenses themselves for getting the property registered. The bank is not under any obligation for any dues of government, non-government, society, etc. on the property.
10. Sale certificate related to sale of property will be issued in the name of the tenderer.
11. All statutory dues/ attendant charges/ other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes, statutory liability,arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser.
12. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, **www.mstcecommerce.com, https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app & www.pnbindia.in**

Date : 04.11.2023
Place : Purnea

For other conditions, information can be had from the website of bank www.ibapi.in.

Authorized Officer
Sastra Head, Purnea

Religious places cannot burst crackers at odd hours: Kerala HC

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 3

OBSERVING THAT prima facie, there is no commandment in any holy book to burst crackers for pleasing god, the Kerala High Court Friday directed all district collectors in the state to issue instructions to ensure that "henceforth, no crackers shall be burst in religious places at odd time .

The bench of Justice Amit Rawal, in an interim order, stated: "I thus direct the Deputy Collector, with the Assistance of the Commissioner of Police, Cochin and other districts, to conduct raids in all religious places and take into possession crackers illegally stored in all religious places and issue instructions that henceforth, no crackers shall be burst in religious places at odd time as prima facie, there is no commandment in any of the holy books to burst crackers for pleasing the God."

The court was hearing a plea to refrain from granting permit to the Marattil Kottaram Bhagavathy Temple at Maradu from carrying out fireworks at the temple in connection with a festival.

The court asked all District Collectors to comply with the order. "It is made clear that in case after today's order, if (there is) bursting of crackers, the court may be compelled to initiate contempt proceedings," the court said.

MARATHA QUOTA STIR

Patil: Gave govt time till December 24, not Jan 2

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, NOVEMBER 3

The activist ended his fast on Thursday

A DAY after he ended his nine-day fast following a discussion with a government delegation, Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil Friday clarified that he has set a December 24 deadline for the government to provide Kunbi caste certificates to all Marathas, and not January 2.

"The deadline given to the government is December 24. This is in writing. We have given them a time-bound deadline. Since the government delegation was demanding two months' time, they must have assumed the deadline to be January 2," Patil told reporters at a hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar where he was admitted after his fast ended.

Doctors at the hospital said there was swelling in his kidney and liver and it would take a few days for him to recover.

Patil added that he has specifically said that December 24 is the deadline by which the Shinde Committee on reservation should complete its work.

"We were actually not ready to even give December 24 as the deadline. But I don't think 7-8 days will make much of a difference. Now that the government has said that it will give reservation to all Marathas, all poor Marathas will benefit," he said.

On Friday, the activist from Jalna said, "We have faith in the government but if the government does not keep its word, then it will find it difficult to tackle our future agitations. If the situation develops, we will go to Mumbai…It will be a peaceful agitation but with full force. We will choke Mumbai."

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said the state government sought time till January 2 because it knows that it will not last till then.

"Jarange Patil set a deadline of December 24 but the government sought time till January 2. But by December 31, the state government will fall, which only shows the government is not ready to take responsibility. Jarange Patil knows this unconstitutional government will not survive and therefore he gave the December 24 deadline. The government also knows by December 31, it will have to shut its shop."

The Supreme Court has directed Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar to decide by December 31 the disqualification petitions filed following the rebellion and the subsequent split in the Shiv Sena camp, last year.

RATION DISTRIBUTION SCAM

Victim of BJP conspiracy... Mamata aware: Arrested Bengal minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 3

Mallick's remarks came after the West Bengal CM backed him

BENGAL FOREST Minister Jyotipriya Mallick, who has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with an alleged ration scam, said on Friday while being taken for a medical check-up that he is a "victim of BJP's conspiracy" and that TMC chief Mamata Banerjee and party leader Abhishek Banerjee are "aware of what is going on".

Mallick's remarks came after the Chief Minister held a press conference in Nabanna, the state secretariat, backing her minister and targeting the BJP for using central agencies to harass her party leaders.

Mallick was arrested by ED in the early hours of October 27 and sent to 10-day custody. After a brief stay in a private hospital, he is now being interrogated at the ED office at CGO complex, Salt Lake.

"I am innocent. The BJP has conspired. I am with my party. I am with Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee. They know everything. Within two days, the truth will come out," said Mallick while he was taken out of CGO complex by ED officers for a routine health check-up.

When Banerjee was asked about his arrest during a press conference on Wednesday, she said, "This is a political question. This is not the appropriate platform to answer. My party will answer. Of course, he is our minister. Do you know how we worked for digital ration cards? How we cancelled one crore false ration cards? For other legal questions, I will not answer. They will defend themselves… Arvind (Kejriwal) ko bhi notice bheja… Five to six MPs are saying that their phones have been hacked…" The state opposition meanwhile took a dig at the CM following Mallick's remarks.

"There is such a huge ration scam which is being unearthed. Huge unaccounted money and properties are being found. Still he is talking big. However, one thing he said is right – that Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee know everything. BJP has nothing to do with it. The probe is being done under directions of the court," said Rahul Sinha, BJP state leader.

On October 27, the ED had conducted search operations at Jyotipriya Mallick's residence and seven other locations in connection with a case related to alleged corruption in ration distribution. Mallick served as the Food Supplies Minister from 2011 to 2021, a period during which the alleged irregularities in ration distribution reportedly occurred.

On October 31st, ED officials began questioning Mallick, a day after he was discharged from a private hospital in Kolkata.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

SHOW OF SOLIDARITY

AFTER A video of Congress's Madhya Pradesh unit chief Kamal Nath suggesting that party workers angry over not getting Assembly poll tickets should tear party leader Digvijaya Singh's clothes went viral, there seems to be a concerted effort to portray an image of unity in the state Congress. Singh is regularly seen sitting in Nath's office for party work. When a local Hindi daily reporter asked Nath about any acrimony between the two leaders, the latter walked out of the room and returned with Singh in a minute. He told the reporter to ask Singh the same question. Both the leaders laughed over the question, putting up a united, happy front for the media.

FIRST HURDLE

DELHI POLICE'S proposal to build a new headquarters for its Special Cell unit in Lodhi Colony, after demolishing the existing office there, hit a roadblock recently when the Ministry of Home Affairs asked the force to send a revised estimate of its budget of around Rs 368 crore. Delhi Police, which was expecting the MHA to forward its proposal to the finance ministry for the final approval as the Cabinet Committee on Security chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved the proposal, is now back to the drawing board to get MHA's clearance.

RIFT BETWEEN INDIA BLOC ALLIES OVER SEAT-SHARING IN MP

Days after hinting at truce, Akhilesh again targets Congress: 'Same as BJP'

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

A DAY after Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar indicated unease over the slow progress in the INDIA alliance and accused the Congress of failure to "keep up the momentum" on it, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday made a scathing attack on Congress as he said that there was no difference in the principles and programmes of Congress and BJP.

Addressing a rally in SC-reserved Chandla Assembly constituency in Madhya Pradesh in support of SP candidate Pushpendra Ahirwar, Akhilesh said: "BJP, Congress both have had same principles. Those who were in the Congress at any time, they too reached the BJP... and BJP people reached Congress."

In MP, where BJP and Congress have largely ruled in the past, Yadav said that nothing has changed in the state. "Hence I have come to appeal to you for change and for a new path," he said. "If you look in depth, there is no difference between Congress and BJP, or their programmes and principles."

Continuing his attack on Congress, Yadav said discussions were held with the Congress for an alliance in the MP Assembly elections and that an alliance was expected. "But it is good that Congress betrayed early. If they had betrayed later, SP could not have contested the elections in Madhya Pradesh," Yadav said according to a release issued by the party. SP has announced candidates for 72 seats in MP.

Akhilesh Yadav in Chandli, Madhya Pradesh. *@samajwadiparty*

Yadav also attacked Congress state president and former CM Kamal Nath for failure on alliance discussions. "What can be expected from someone who has 'Kamal' in his name. If he will not speak like the BJP, then what else he will do?" Yadav said.

Last month, the war of words between SP and the UP Congress had intensified over the alliance in MP. However, Akhilesh later hinted that tensions with the Congress might see a resolution and said he had "received a message from the topmost Congress leader, and will have to accept it". He also suggested the SP would always stand with the Congress.

When asked about a fresh attack on Congress by Akhilesh, SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said, "No change had happened after the talks (between Akhilesh and top Congress leaders). Congress did not agree to give us even 2-3 seats in MP."

Modi, Sunak discuss Gaza, FTA progress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

PM Narendra Modi, his UK counterpart Rishi Sunak. *File*

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Rishi Sunak had a telephonic conversation on Friday as they discussed development in West Asia and conflict between Israel and Hamas, and expressed deep concern on terrorism, worsening security situation and the loss of civilian lives.

"Both leaders expressed deep concern at terrorism, worsening security situation and the loss of civilian lives. They agreed on the need for regional peace, security, stability and continued humanitarian assistance," the PMO said in a statement.

Modi congratulated Sunak on the successful completion of one year in office and they welcomed progress being made for an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement, according to the statement.

In a post on X, Modi said, "Earlier this evening, spoke to UK PM Rishi Sunak. Discussed means to strengthen bilateral relations and exchanged views on the situation in West Asia. We agree that there is no place for terror and violence." He added, "Death of civilians is a serious concern. Need to work towards regional peace, security, stability and continued humanitarian assistance." The statement said the two leaders reiterated their commitment to continuing to strengthen bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership, including in the areas of trade, investment, emerging technology, defence, security, health and others, officials said.

The leaders agreed to remain in touch and exchanged greetings for Diwali, it added.

The PM also spoke to UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed. The two leaders discussed the security scenario and the loss of civilian lives in the region. "We agree on the need for early resolution of the security and humanitarian situation and that a durable regional peace, security and stability is in everyone's interest," Modi posted on X.

SC relief for two authors of Adani write-up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

THE SUPREME Court on Friday granted protection from arrest to two authors of a write-up in the wake of the Adani-Hindenburg issue on the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) portal which claims to provide "news on corruption and organised crime".

The duo — Ravi Nair and Anand Mangnale — had been summoned by Gujarat Police in connection with the write-up to appear for a preliminary inquiry.

Granting them interim relief, a bench of Justices B R Gavai and P K Mishra also sought the response of the Gujarat police.

Initially, the bench sought to know why they had directly approached the SC. Senior Advocate Indira Jaising who appeared for the authors contended that the question is under what authority of law were the notices issued by the police.

"The notice is completely without jurisdiction. They cannot be driven to go to that place," she said.

Jaisingh said the notices were issued "on the basis of an investor's application" but the applicants had not been provided with a copy of it.

Yechury: With INDIA to fight BJP nationally, no TMC tie-up in Bengal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 3

CPI(M) gen secy was speaking at a party meet in Howrah

CPI(M) GENERAL secretary Sitaram Yechury on Friday said they would continue their fight against the BJP at the national level under the banner of Opposition INDIA alliance but a tie-up with the TMC in West Bengal was out of question.

Addressing the inaugural session of the party's West Bengal committee meeting in Howrah, Yechury said, "Today, our political and ideological project is to save the secular and democratic fabric of the republic for a better future. All non-BJP parties must come together to do this."

On the CPI(M) members questioning the presence of Mamata Banerjee-led party in the INDIA bloc, Yechury said the CPI(M) leadership has always maintained that the TMC cannot be an alternative to the BJP. "If we have to save India and its people, we have to separate the BJP from controlling government power and state power," he said.

The TMC compromises with the BJP-led NDA if such a situation arises, he alleged.

"If we have to save India and its people, we have to separate the BJP from controlling the government and state power. You enlist the support of whoever is willing at this moment, being fully aware that it will not be consistent, there can also be betrayals on the way," Yechury said.

Hitting out at the BJP and the RSS, Yechury said, "You assault reason and rationality... Blind faith and belief are exactly what they want for their fascistic project to advance. They resort to gimmickery to divert the attention of people."

6.4 magnitude quake hits western Nepal, tremors felt in northern India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

AN EARTHQUAKE of magnitude 6.4 in western Nepal triggered strong tremors in Delhi and northern India, sending people rushing out of their homes late at night on Friday.

The earthquake, which was centred near the western temple town of Jumla in Nepal, struck around 11:32 pm, India's National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said. The impact of the earthquake in Nepal was not immediately known.

This was the second earthquake measuring more than 6 in Nepal in the last one month. On October 2, a quake of magnitude 6.2 had hit the country.

Friday's earthquake was the strongest in Nepal in more than eight years. The April 2015 earthquake had killed close to 10,000 people.

Like the previous month's incident, the latest quake too was quite shallow, originating about 10 km below the earth's surface, the NCS said. Earthquakes originating at smaller depths are usually more powerful and have more destructive power.

The October 3 earthquake had not caused any major damage. A Reuters report at the time had said 17 people were injured, and homes damaged. It had also triggered a landslide that blocked a highway, the report had said.

Women's quota only after Census: Plea for dropping time frame, SC says very difficult

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

THE SUPREME Court on Friday said it would be "very difficult" for it to strike down a part of the women's reservation law that says it will come into effect after the Census.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S V N Bhatti, which refused to issue a notice on a plea moved by Congress leader Jaya Thakur, that has sought immediate implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which seeks to reserve one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women, before next year's general election.

Passed by Parliament, the Bill was signed into law by President Droupadi Murmu in September.

The bench said there is a petition pending before the top court on the issue and it will take up Thakur's plea along with that on November 22. "This is a step taken, which is a very good step," the bench said, as it refused to accept the argument of senior advocate Vikas Singh, who appeared on behalf of Thakur.

The lawyer had said it is understandable that for the grant of reservation to backward classes, a census is required for data collection but wondered where does the question of a census arise in the case of women's reservation. Singh said the part of the law that says it will be implemented after the Census is arbitrary and must be struck down.

"It will be very difficult for the court to do that," the bench said.

"We have understood your argument. You are saying the census is not required (for women's reservation). But there are a whole lot of issues. Seats will have to be first reserved..." it said. Singh then asked for a notice to be issued and that the plea be listed with the other matter.

The court said it is not dismissing the plea but also not issuing a notice and only tagging it with the pending matter.

Army's approach of denying women officers empanelment as colonel arbitrary: Top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

ORDERING A fresh exercise in two weeks, the Supreme Court on Friday took exception to the manner in which the Army authorities assessed the Confidential Records of women officers for their empanelment as colonels.

A three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud made evident its displeasure at what it called was the "arbitrary" attitude of the force towards promotion of women officers who have been granted permanent commission following the March 25, 2021 SC ruling in Lieutenant Colonel Nitisha's case and subsequent orders.

The court was hearing petitions by women officers who contended that though the Nitisha ruling had said that their entire profile should be considered, a large portion of their Confidential Records has been excluded from consideration, apparently on the ground of parity with male officers.

As Attorney General R Venkataramani and Senior Advocate Col R Balasubramanium tried to defend the process, the SC said, "In our view, the manner in which the cut-off has been applied for reckoning the CRs for women officers for empanelment as colonels is arbitrary because it is contrary to principles laid down in Nitisha and contrary to policy framework by Indian Army".

The apex court said the policy framework set out makes it clear that all Confidential Reports (CR) after nine years of service were required to be taken into consideration. It said a cut-off was applied arbitrarily in the present case to equate the women officers with their male counterparts.

The SC also said, "It is important to note that the court recorded in its November 21, 2022 order the statement of army authorities that 150 vacancies were to be made available pursuant to our judgement. 108 vacancies have been filled. The ground of unavailability of vacancies will therefore not be available," it said, directed that the Special Selection Board (SSB) be reconvened within a fortnight to consider their empanelment.

TRAI to SC: Deactivated mobile numbers not allocated for 3 mths

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

THE TELECOM Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has told the Supreme Court that a mobile number deactivated due to disuse or disconnected on the subscriber's request is not allocated to a new subscriber for 90 days.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S V N Bhatti was hearing a plea, by a lawyer from Tamil Nadu, which flagged the potential for misuse of WhatsApp data after the number using it is deactivated due to disuse. The petition urged the court to direct TRAI to stop recycling old or deactivated mobile numbers.

TRAI told the court that a user can prevent misuse of WhatsApp data by deleting the WhatsApp account linked to the phone number that the subscriber is giving up.

The bench noted that the previous subscriber of the number has to do due diligence to ensure their privacy is not breached, and disposed of the petition.

No *tareekh pe tareekh* court: CJI reiterates views against repeated case adjournments

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

Tells Bar members not to file adjournment slips unless necessary

REITERATING HIS call not to make the Supreme Court a "*tareekh pe tareekh court*", CJI D Y Chandrachud Friday asked lawyers "to not seek adjournments unless really really necessary".

"On the one hand matters are listed on expedited basis, on the other hand, they are mentioned (for urgent hearing), then they get listed and then they are adjourned… I request the members of the Bar not to file adjournment slips unless it is really really necessary. I don't want this court to become a '*tareekh pe tareekh*' court... It doesn't send a good image of our court," said the CJI who was presiding over a three-judge bench. "It's perhaps for the Bar to... take corrective measures."

"*Tareekh pe tareekh*" (repeated adjournments) is a famous dialogue by actor Sunny Deol from Hindi film Damini in which the actor plays an advocate.

Citing statistics, the CJI said "there are 178 adjournment slips today" and in the last two months — September and October — there were a total of 3,688 adjournment requests. "On the contrary, I find 2,361 matters have been mentioned since September 2023, which comprise 15-20% of the freshly adjourned matters. Per day, from September 1 to November 3, on an average, 59 matters are mentioned every day and ironically three times the matters mentioned are adjourned by circulating adjournment slips. They are mentioned three times and get adjourned the moment the matter comes up for hearing," the CJI highlighted the problem.

"On the one hand, matters are listed at an expedited rate. Matters are mentioned to be listed on short dates and on the contrary, adjournments are sought. So everybody's pressing for listing matters on an expedited basis, they come on board, they are mentioned and then they are getting adjourned," he said.

This is not the first time the CJI has spoken against pleas for repeated adjournments. In September 2022, Justice Chandrachud, while presiding over a two-judge bench, had refused to adjourn a matter saying, "We don't want the Supreme Court to be a 'tareekh pe tareekh' court. We want to change this perception."

In July 2021, he told a counsel who sought adjournment, "We are not a tareekh pe tareekh court. We are a hearing court. So please argue."

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD
(BUILDING), ASSAM CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3.

No. CE/TB-IV/48/2023/01

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings), Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for the work detailed in the table below, from contractors having experience in similar nature of work. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e., **www.assamtenders.gov.in**
The bidders must be enrolled in **www.assamtenders.gov.in**
Nine

SI. No.	Name of Work	Value of Work	Completion Period	Bid Security	Cost of Bid Document
1	Redevelopment of Secretariat Complex at Dispur, Guwahati-06 (Package-3-Construction of Two Parks, a water body, Approach Road along with Entrance Gate, Pass Office and Guard Room)	Rs. 10,20,35,391.00	12 (Twelve) Months	2% of value of work for General and 1% of value of work for Reserved category	Rs. 20,000/-

N.B **(i)** Value of work may vary at the time of uploading the detail NIT for which no claim will be entertained.
(ii) The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Document.
(iii) Work order will be issued only after Issue of A/A.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, PWD (Bldg.)
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

JANASANYOG/C/11737/23/04-NOV-23

O-1431

Government of Odisha
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur
E-Mail Id serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

Bid Identification No. Building Tender Online RWCSBP-40/2023-24 No: 3223 Dated: 2.11.23

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate Bid from experienced & eligible bidders for 03 (Three) nos of Building work for the year 2023-24.

1 **Name of work** : Construction of Multi purpose Hall (MPH) in different ULBs of the State.
2 **No of work** : 03 (Three) nos of Building work Details as per DTCN.
3 **Estimated cost** : Approximately cost Rs. 179.45 lakhs to Rs. 249.02 lakh
4 **Cassof Contractor.** : 'B' & 'A' Class
5 **Cost of tender paper and mode of deposit.** : Rs. 10,000/- per set. (to be deposited On-line) in favour concerned Executive Engineer.
6 **Mode of submission of tender** : Tender should be submitted only On line in website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)
7 **EMD and mode of deposit** : 1% of estimated cost of the work to be remitted online as mentioned in DTCN.
8 Summary of key dates are provided below :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last date & time for seeking clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur	Building Tender Online RWCSBP-40/ 2023-24	09.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	23.11.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	22.10.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	24.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated later

*Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)
* Subsequent modification/ corrigendum/ Addendum if required shall appear in website only.
* The amount put to bid is exclusive of GST.
* Bidder should inspect the road before bidding and quote his rate accordingly.

Sd/- **Chief Construction Engineer,**
Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur

OIPR-25091/11/0060/2324

Petronet LNG Limited

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT FOR PROVIDING FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS AT PETRONET LNG LIMITED, DAHEJ

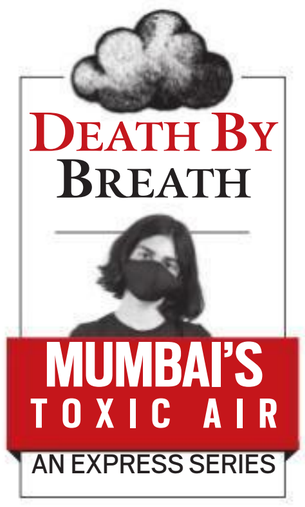
Interested parties are requested to visit our website **www.petronetlng.in** for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of Tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and / or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification shall be issued in press. Bidders are requested to visit the website regularly to keep themselves updated.

Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
GIDC Industrial Estate, Plot No. 7/A, Dahej, Taluka Vagra,
Distt. Bharuch - 392130, Dahej, Gujarat, Tel No: 02641-670232/233/235/231
E-mail id:- cnpdahej@petronetlng.in, sumitkumar@petronetlng.in

Flouting air pollution norms: CEAT Tyres, JSW Green Cement plants in Mumbai slapped 'closure notices'

PRATIP ACHARYA
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 3



IN A major crackdown on industrial sources of air pollution in Mumbai, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) issued 'closure notices' to city-based units of CEAT Tyres and a Deonar-based ready-mix cement (RMC) plant of JSW Green Cement for flouting air pollution norms prescribed by the pollution control body.

Confirming the development, V M Motghare, joint director, MPCB, told *The Indian Express* that notice has been served to CEAT's Bhandup plant on November 2, and a notice to JSW Green Cement's plant was served on November 1.

"After a thorough inspection, notices were sent to the industrial units of Ceat Tyres and JSW Green Cement in the city. During our visit, we found out the workshops of CEAT Tyres weren't adhering to the pollution control norms and thick black smoke was seen coming out from the scrubbers, which was in violation of the prescribed norms. Similarly, the dust mitigation norms at JSW's plant were not found to be satisfactory and we could see dust particles flying around. Also, they (JSW) were operating the plant during the night which is prohibited as per MPCB guidelines," Motghare added.

Motghare said that besides asking the industries to stop their production, MPCB has also asked the planning authorities to stop supply of electricity and water to these units.

The notices were sent by MPCB under Section 31A of the Air (Pollution and Control of Prevention) Act, 1981 — according to this section, the authorities can issue notices pertaining to closure of operation of any entity or industry and can also order discontinuation of supply of electricity and water to them in case they are found to be flouting air pollution and dust mitigation rules.

When contacted, the spokesperson with CEAT Tyres declined to comment. E-mails and messages sent to the spokesperson of JSW Green Cement did not elicit any response.

Besides taking action against these two plants, MPCB has also issued guidelines to various other units including that of Rashtriya Chemical Fertilizers, Hindustan Petroleum, Tata Power's thermal station, Agis Logistics and Sealord Containers. It has directed the units of these firms to follow the environmental norms. It has further directed Agis and Sealord to curtail their production by 50 per cent and also forfeited their bank guarantee (submitted to MPCB) by a significant margin.

The MPCB official said they have formed nine teams in Mumbai that are currently taking actions against violators. Motghare said they are closely monitoring nearly 100 RMC plants operational across the city. "We have inspected 40 such plants and are issuing warning letters to those not complying with the norms," Motghare said.

Meanwhile, on Friday, Mumbai registered an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 168.

Smoke rises from Punjab: In 3 days, 150% jump in farm fires

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
JALANDHAR, NOVEMBER 3

PUNJAB ON Friday reported 1,551 stubble burning incidents taking the total number to 5,140 in just three days, making for 40% of the total farm fires recorded this harvesting season. It was also the third consecutive day, beginning November 1 when state reported over 1,500 farm fires in a single day pushing the total this year to 12,813 — a massive 150 % jump from 7,673 recorded from September 15 to October 31.

Punjab recorded 1,921, 1,668, and 1,551 farm fires on November 1, 2, and 3 respectively this year, compared to 1,842, 3634, and 2,666 incidents on the corresponding dates last year.

The state is likely to see a spurt in stubble burning incidents as paddy in around 10 lakh hectares is yet to be harvested. This year, farmers in Punjab had sown paddy on 31.93 lakh hectares—the highest-ever.

A commuter rides amid smog, on the outskirts of Jalandhar, in Punjab on Friday. *PTI*

Following floods in July, farmers had replanted saplings in 85,000 hectares. This combined with inclement weather in October delayed the harvesting, which is likely to pick up pace in the coming days. Also, with not much time left to prepare farms for wheat, farmers are likely to take the easy way out and put stubble to fire instead of managing it.

The recent spike in farm fires pushed the AQI in some cities of Punjab to 'very poor', a notch down from Thursday's 'poor' even as the air quality in Delhi and some cities in neighbouring Haryana remained 'severe' for the second day. According to CPCB, Bathinda saw the worst air in Punjab Friday with AQI of 338 (very poor), followed by Mandi Gobindgarh at 277, Jalandhar at 268, Khanna at 249, Amritsar at 248, Patiala at 243, and Ludhiana at 228 (all in poor category).

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

MEITEI GROUP CHIEF SHOT AT

Tribal MLAs seek 'neutral central forces' in Moreh

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 3

THE DEMAND that state police forces be removed from the border town of Moreh grew louder from Manipur's Kuki-Zomi community on Friday, after two days of intensive search and combing operations in the town amidst high tensions.

While Moreh is on edge, Pramot Singh, the chief of radical Meitei group Meitei Leepun, came under attack by unknown assailants in Imphal on Friday morning. Six bullets reportedly hit a vehicle in which he was travelling in Langol in Imphal. However, he was not injured.

The incident comes two days after one INSAS, four AKs and two Ghatak rifles along with ammunition, tear gas guns and eight police vehicles were looted by mobs from various security personnel and establishments in Imphal Wednesday night. According to an internal report on arms looted that night, a mob of around 700 tried to storm the 1st Batallion of the Manipur Rifles campus Tuesday. Even though the mob was pushed back before they could reach the armouries, they managed to snatch weapons from deployed personnel and armed security of Manipur Central Jail and three CRPF personnel were injured.

The 10 Kuki-Zomi MLAs in Manipur on Friday appealed to the MHA to remove all Manipur police commandos deployed in Moreh and replace them with "neutral central forces". They alleged that in the operations launched after the killing of Meitei police officer Chingtham Anand Kumar in the town, the police "resorted to arson, indiscriminate firing, looting of civilian properties, vehicles, household items… and unprovoked brutality forcing common people, including women and children to flee into the nearby jungle."

Large numbers of women and children from the Kuki-Zomi community in Moreh spent the intervening night of Thursday and Friday camping outside Assam Rifles operation bases in the town and on Friday evening prepared to spend another night there. They claimed reports that a 15-year-old girl was hit and groped by police personnel during a raid at her house had triggered fear and panic. As they continued to camp outside Assam Rifles bases, they stepped up pressure for the removal of the police forces.

A woman holds a placard during a protest against Manipur violence at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Friday. *PTI*

Regina, a resident of the town, spent the night outside one such base with other women from her family. They set up mats and blankets after their arrival there on Thursday afternoon.

"We understand this is a combing operation but in the name of that, they are harassing, looting and destroying property. My house is in the middle of the town and they have not come there yet, they have done raids in areas right by the border... We will go back only when there is an assurance we will be safe in our homes. Our demand is that they be completely removed from the town," she said. According to an Assam Rifles official, the operation bases do not have the capacity or facilities to shelter locals. "They had been advised to go to the main Assam Rifles battalion building where there are proper facilities and capacity for 2,500 people," an official said.

Day after protests, IIT-BHU gets new gates, streetlights

ASAD REHMAN
VARANASI, NOVEMBER 3

NEW STREETLIGHTS were installed on Friday on the stretch near the Karman Baba temple on the IIT BHU Varanasi campus, where a girl student was allegedly molested and disrobed by some men late Wednesday night. The incident sparked protests on the campus on Thursday.

Around 8 pm on Friday, security personnel were seen standing guard every 300 m. While some students were seen walking in groups, some preferred to take a walk or cycle alone.

The girl student had gone for a walk with a friend from the New Girls Hostel and was assaulted at an isolated spot barely 500 m away. The spot used to be pitch dark till last night, some students maintained. Also, new gates were installed on the campus.

A student said, "I don't blame these guards. They do their best but don't have any authority. They can't distinguish between students and outsiders."

A female student said that men in cars with tinted windows come to the campus throug the day. "They come, misbehave with girls, and nothing is done. Every second day, you hear about drunk driving and eveteasing by outsiders," says the student pursuing an integrated dual degree in mathematics. Another student, pursuing PhD, said, "The IIT campus has become a picnic spot for anti-social elements. We are not saying students from the main BHU campus are behind this. It is the outsiders who do such things. We see such people drinking and cutting birthday cakes."

A student, who participated in Thursday's protests, said, "There are at least seven gates to the campus, and most of them are open for everyone." An official at IIT-BHU claimed that it was difficult to stop outsiders from entering the campus since there are several temples and a government-run hospital there.

Following the protests, the IIT-BHU administration said the IIT campus will be closed from 10 pm to 5 am for outsiders and that a boundary wall will be erected there. While the announcement to build the boundary wall was received well by IIT-BHU students, it triggered protests among students on the main campus, who blocked important intersections on Friday evening.

On the IIT-BHU campus. *Vishal Srivastav*

TORTURED BY HOSTEL STAFF BASED ON CASTE: IIT-MANDI ALUMNUS

Mandi: An IIT-Mandi alumnus belonging to the Dalit community has levelled allegations of caste-based harassment against the hostel staff, police said on Friday. The Gurugram native victim, in his complaint, alleged that during his stay in the IIT hostel, he was tortured and harassed based on caste by the catering staff and hostel warden, they said. A case was registered by the police against five under the SC and ST Act, 1989 at Paddhar Police station on Friday, they said. **PTI**

BHUTAN KING IN ASSAM

Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck offers prayers at Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati on Friday. He is on a week-long India visit, which began from Assam. *PTI*

World Cup match tickets sold in 'black': CAB chief called by police

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 3

THE KOLKATA Police have summoned Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) president Snehashis Ganguly in connection with their investigation into alleged black marketing of tickets for the upcoming India-South Africa World Cup match to be held at the Eden Gardens on Sunday.

Snehashis, brother of BCCI ex-president Sourav Ganguly, was asked to appear within 24 hours, it is learnt. The police have arrested 16 people in seven cases initiated since October 31 over the sale of match tickets at exorbitant prices. Tickets worth Rs 900 were sold at a price of Rs 8,000 a piece, the police said. On Friday, they interrogated officials of the online booking portal BookMyShow at the Maidan police station.

Central nodal officers to take action against piracy on digital platforms

DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

IN A stringent measure aimed at checking film piracy, the government has appointed nodal officers to order taking down pirated content from digital platforms. The decision – coming in the wake of the Cinematograph Amendment Bill 2023, which was passed in Parliament – was announced by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Friday.

Presently, there is no institutional framework in place to directly take action on pirated film content other than legal action under the Copyright Act and the IPC. Union Minister Anurag Thakur said, "The content creator spends a lot of time and energy making good content; people who are involved in piracy take away that content and exhibit it in halls and on online platforms. The annual loss to the industry is Rs 20,000 crore."

"We have appointed 12 nodal officers in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the CBFC with whom complaints related to film piracy can be lodged and action will be taken within 48 hours," he said. He also explained that those indulging in piracy could now be fined from Rs 3 lakh to 5 % of the gross audited value of production.

Officials say that an original copyright holder or anybody authorised by them for this purpose can apply to a nodal officer to have pirated content removed. If a complaint is filed by someone who does not have the copyright or is not authorised by the copyright holder, the Nodal Officer may hold hearings to determine the complaint's validity before giving directives. A statement by the I&B Ministry Friday said digital platforms–such as YouTube, Telegram channels, websites or other online platforms–will be required by law to remove internet links with pirated content within 48 hours of obtaining instructions from the nodal officer.

Speaking about the Bill in Parliament, Thakur had stated that the Act aimed to curb film piracy, a measure which has been a long-standing demand of the film industry. The Act was amended after 40 years to incorporate provisions against film piracy, including digital piracy after the last significant amendments were made in 1984. "Piracy is a big menace not only for the film industry, but for the entire world. Now, action against it is just a complaint away," Thakur said.

Ex-MLA in UP found guilty of raping singer

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 3

A BHADOHI court on Friday held jailed former MLA Vijay Mishra guilty of repeatedly raping a 28-year-old singer and will pronounce the quantum of punishment on Saturday. Mishra, a four-time MLA from Gyanpur, is currently lodged in an Agra jail.

"Vijay Mishra is held guilty under IPC section 376 -2(N) (commits rape repeatedly on the same woman). The court has, however, acquitted Mishra's son Vishnu and his nephew Jyoti, giving them the benefit of the doubt and fixed Saturday for the pronouncement of sentence," said Bhadohi District Government Counsel Dinesh Pandey.

Manipur remark: Catholic Church in Thrissur hits back at BJP's Suresh Gopi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 3

THE CATHOLIC Church in Kerala's Thrissur, where the BJP plans to actor-turned politician Suresh Gopi in the next Lok Sabha elections, has blasted the party saying the Church would not forget "Manipur." In the November edition of its mouthpiece "Catholica Sabha", the Catholic arch-diocese of Thrissur said there was an attempt to cover up the Manipur riots as elections approach. It said the party looking to retain power at the Centre was behind the move.

During the recent riots in Manipur, several Christian churches were attacked in the state. The Catholic Bishops Council had raised its concern over the continuing violence in Manipur.

Quoting former BJP Rajya Sabha member Suresh Gopi's recent comment, "Don't look to Manipur and Uttar Pradesh, there are strong men in those states to look after", the lead article in the publication said, "People are asking whether (Gopi) has the guts to ask the PM or the BJP central leadership what these strong men were doing when Manipur was burning? 'We will repeat Manipur, you vote for us here (in Kerala) also. If we get power, we would convert Kerala into another Manipur'… is it the aim, people have started asking," said the article in the diocese mouthpiece.

"The government's ineptness in Manipur turned out to be a license for rioters. No democratically thinking person can forget it. People are aware of the bid to solicit votes, hiding the Manipur violence. Suresh Gopi's statement was deplorable. Voters in Kerala have the prudence to recognise religious extremists. Supporting religious extremism would only lead to disaster," it said.

AAP MLA 'untraceable' after threatening official

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, NOVEMBER 3

AAM AADMI Party (AAP) MLA and the party's working president in Gujarat, Chaitar Vasava, was booked on Thursday after he allegedly threatened forest department officials and fired one round in the air with a weapon at his residence at Dediapada in Narmada district on October 30. His wife, his personal assistant and one more person were arrested in connection with the incident on Friday.

Chaitar, MLA from Dediapada, is untraceable, Narmada SP Prashant Sumbe said.

He added that the FIR – which has been classified as "sensitive" – was lodged on November 2 under IPC sections for rioting, extortion and assault and threatening a public servant in discharge of his duty as well as under provisions of the Arms Act.

The three persons arrested are the MLA's wife Shakuntala Vasava; Chaitar's personal assistant Jitendra and a villager Ramesh Vasava, who was allegedly instructed by forest officials to clear his "farm", as it was an "enroachment on forest land".

Police said that forest officials had asked Ramesh and other villagers to clear encroachment from forest land on October 29.

17 families evicted from Kabul House

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 3

THE UTTARAKHAND government sent teams to vacate the Kabul House in Dehradun Thursday and 17 families were evicted.

This comes two weeks after the Dehradun District Magistrate court issued orders that the Kabul House, worth Rs 400 crore and designated as "enemy property" since the Partition, be vacated in 15 days.

For over four decades, the grand edifice was entangled in court disputes. It is said that Afghanistan's ruler Mohammad Yakub Khan was the owner of Kabul House located in a posh area of EC Road in Dehradun. After the Partition, Afghan royal family members left the country and settled in Pakistan. However, some families have been residing in this house spread over 19 bighas. The families had strongly opposed the court order.

Kabul House, also known as the Kapyong House, was the residence of Mohammad Yaqub Khan. After the Second Anglo-Afghan War in 1879, Khan was dethroned and exiled by the British and sent to Dehradun, which was then part of British India, and he stayed in Kabul House from 1879 until his death in 1923. During his time in Dehradun, Khan received a pension from the British government. Dehradun City Magistrate Pratyush Singh clarified that the eviction was carried out in accordance with a district court order, and the occupants were given prior notice to vacate the premises.

Earlier, the court in its order said it is clear from the documents that the land was occupied illegally, and the people residing have not yet submitted any documents related to rent or ownership rights to the government.

The DM has also ordered an assessment of the outstanding amount against the occupants for occupying the place for such a long time and to act against those presenting fake ownership documents.

India's outlook focuses on respect for sovereignty of all nations: Army Chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

OUR OUTLOOK emphasises respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, equality of all, peaceful resolution of disputes, avoidance of use of force and adherence to international laws, rules and regulations, Army Chief General Manoj Pande said Friday amid the ongoing military standoff with China at eastern Ladakh.

At the Chanakya Defence Dialogue, General Pande said that India is establishing defence wings in new locations around the world to give a fillip to defence cooperation outreach, adding that the Army is looking to enhance the scope and scale of joint military training and exercises with friendly foreign nations.

He said there is a need to take note of the growing salience of 'National Security' in international affairs and the renewed currency of hard power.

"The pandemic, which began as the health crisis and ended up as a national security event, closed on the heels of the cataclysm in Ukraine. We are now faced with an escalating conflict in West Asia," he said.

"These instabilities and challenges are compounded by notable economic turbulence and the weaponization of a multitude of attributes and domains from information to supply chains. Issues like radicalisation, terrorism, piracy, illegal migration, refugees, and climate change, add to the bouquet of global concerns," he added.

He said technology is driving geopolitics like never before and is transforming strategic competition as well as war. He also said India remains the "bright spot" amid such despondency. "The nation's resolve, resilience and diverse capacities were put through a severe test during the pandemic. Not only did we ride the storm well, 'Vaccine Maitri' won universal acclaim," he said.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

I DURST NOT LAUGH, FOR FEAR OF OPENING MY LIPS AND RECEIVING THE BAD AIR. — WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

JOIN THE DOTS

For a government whose calling card is welfare, AAP's failure to clean Delhi's air is unfortunate. It must make amends

BAD AIR HAS kept its date with the capital. Last month, the Delhi government began implementing the Graded Action Plan — a combination of punitive and preventive measures. Echoing its claims of the past few years, it talked of a plan to take care of an emergency. Now that the emergency is at hand, the Delhi government appears at sea. It has asked primary schools to remain shut till Monday and enforced a ban on construction activity. The Delhi government has also done the right thing by reinforcing the city's public transport. Even so, it appears to be betraying an all too familiar lack of control over the city's air quality. The IMD has forecast unfavourable weather conditions — low wind speed, non-conducive wind direction and lack of rain – for another three days and medical experts have flagged public health concerns. In response, Delhi's environment minister Gopal Rai has reportedly raised the bogey of polluted air entering Delhi from neighbouring states. "Sources outside Delhi cause twice the amount of pollution," he said.

Pollution levels have indeed crossed the CPCB's "severe" category — or are close to it — in several cities in the capital's neighbourhood. There is a sense of deja vu even in that. It's high time, therefore, that a coordination mechanism between Delhi and neighbouring states is put in place to clean up the region's air. Before 2022, Delhi's Aam Admi Party (AAP) government would blame the fumes from stubble burning in neighbouring Haryana and Punjab for the capital's annual misery. AAP's assumption of office in Punjab, last year, raised hopes of an arrangement to wean farmers off the environmentally-harmful practice. Data does show an appreciable reduction in stubble burning in Haryana. However, farm fires from Punjab continue to add to Delhi's pollution load. According to Indian Agriculture Research Institute Data, Punjab saw more than 1,900 instances of stubble burning on Wednesday — the fourth consecutive day when the count was more than 1,000. The intense burning season has just begun and experts fear a further deterioration of air quality.

In recent years, several studies have joined the dots between pollution and public health. Last year, a Lancet study estimated that India lost 1.67 million people in 2019 to diseases caused by inhaling hazardous amounts of PM 2.5. In September, an Air Quality Life Index prepared by the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institution reckoned that pollution by these fine particles reduces the average Indian's life expectancy by more than five years. Researchers who worked on the study estimated that people in Delhi lose close to 12 years because of the poor air they breathe. The AAP has rightly made people's welfare its credo. Health and education have a prominent place in the party's governments in Delhi and Punjab. Unfortunately, however, the pollution-health connection continues to elude the two governments.

HIGHER FOR LONGER

Interest rates will remain high in developed countries. Indian policymakers must ensure macroeconomic stability

IN THEIR RECENT meetings, central banks across much of the developed world have chosen to keep interest rates unchanged. Last week, the European Central Bank chose to hold rates steady after 10 consecutive rate hikes. On Wednesday, the US Federal Reserve voted to maintain the status quo, and on Thursday, the Bank of England chose to keep interest rates unchanged. While the underlying dynamics of these economies do vary, the commentary from these central banks does seem to affirm the widely-held view that interest rates are likely to remain higher for longer as inflation is expected to remain above target for some time.

In the US, the economic momentum has been quite strong. In the third quarter, GDP grew at a seasonally adjusted 4.9 per cent annualised rate, surpassing expectations. The labour market remains tight. Non-farm payrolls in September were above expectations. And consumer spending has been healthy. While inflation has fallen, it remains well above the Fed's target of 2 per cent. Core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and fuel components, is at 3.7 per cent on an annual basis. In comparison, the Bank of England is rather pessimistic about the prospects of the UK economy. The central bank now expects growth to be "flat" in the third quarter, which is weaker than what it had previously projected. For the fourth quarter, it projects a growth of only 0.1 per cent. Over the medium term, growth is expected to "remain well below historical averages". Inflation also appears to be more entrenched. In September, it stood at 6.7 per cent. The bank expects it to fall to 4.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2024, and then to 3.1 per cent in the last quarter of 2024. Inflation is expected to be around the target only by the end of 2025. The situation is similar in the Euro Zone. The ECB has projected inflation at 5.6 per cent this year, declining thereafter to 3.2 per cent by next year. Inflation is expected to trend towards the 2 per cent target by 2025. The central bank also expects growth in the Euro Zone to be subdued at 0.7 per cent this year, rising marginally thereafter to 1 per cent in 2024.

Tighter monetary policy in these economies will have consequences for emerging markets like India. It will impact capital flows, currency, and exports. During this period of considerable economic and geopolitical uncertainty, policymakers in India must be guided by the objective of ensuring macroeconomic stability.

PACER WITH A BIG HEART

Mohammed Shami's career shows that the classical form of pace bowling is relevant in tests, T20s and ODIs

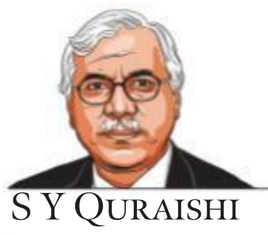
THERE'S BEAUTY IN simplicity and Mohammed Shami keeps it simple. In ODIs and T20s, India's premier pacer does what he has been doing in Tests for a decade — hitting the seam at good speed, moving the ball both ways and challenging both edges of the bat. Shami assures us that the classical form of pace bowling is format-agnostic. At 33, the bowler from Amroha, who trains on his farmland when at home, has become a Hall of Famer. In the ongoing World Cup, the show-stoppers of India's imperious march have been Shami, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Siraj. While he blew away the hapless Sri Lankan batsmen at the Wankhede Stadium, Shami became India's highest World Cup wicket-taker.

It has not been an easy ride for the pacer. From UP, he had to shift base to West Bengal in search of a break. He made it to the Indian team after a hard grind in domestic matches. Some years ago, the selectors lost faith in his white-ball skills. Once back in the team, he faced abuse of a communal nature after an off-day in a game against Pakistan. The then-captain Virat Kohli stood by him. Even at this World Cup, Shami wasn't the first choice in the playing eleven. Hardik Pandya's injury created space for him. Like those Shami special in-cutters that sneak in the tiny gap between bat and pad, the small window was enough for the pacer with a big heart.

Batsmen and spinners have been the celebrated over the decades. They have been pulling their weight in the current campaign as well. But the pace-bowling trio of Shami, Bumrah and Siraj has put their contribution in the shade. With seven wins in seven matches, India has sealed a place in the semifinal. It has been driven by the once-in-a-generation fast-bowling attack — Shami has been at the front and centre of it.

Transparency at stake

On electoral bonds, SC must reinforce its landmark verdicts that upheld peoples' right to information



S Y QURAISHI

AFTER YEARS OF questionable deferral, the Supreme Court has finally taken up the electoral bonds case. A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, on November 2, reserved its judgment on petitions challenging the validity of the electoral bonds scheme. The proceedings focused on arguments pertaining to the voters' right to information vis-a-vis the right to confidentiality of donors.

The issue at hand dates back to February 2017 when Finance Minister Arun Jaitley highlighted two critical points during his budget speech. He emphasised that free and fair elections were impossible without transparency in political funding, and he lamented the lack of progress in achieving this transparency over seven decades. This set the stage for what one might have hoped would be a resolution to this issue, but instead, the result was quite the opposite.

What emerged from this situation were electoral bonds, which, rather than promoting transparency, contributed to its demise. Before their introduction, any transaction exceeding Rs 20,000 related to elections was required to be reported to the Election Commission without which no IT rebate could be extended. However, electoral bonds permitted donations of Rs 20 crore or even Rs 200 crore to be made anonymously. The rationale provided was that donors desired secrecy.

But why would donors seek anonymity? It is reasonable to question whether this was truly about protecting donors' identities. Could it be that they wanted to conceal potential quid pro quo? For decades, corporations have made donations to Indian political parties, and often, the same donors have funded rival parties. Yet, has any ruling party ever targeted a donor who contributed to its political opponents? Did the current ruling party engage in such actions? If not, the argument that donors seek secrecy seems spurious. Perhaps it's the government that wants secrecy.

Crucially, in the past, both the Reserve Bank of India and the Election Commission of India (ECI) voiced strong objections to the electoral bonds scheme in accordance with their mandates. The ECI, in a letter to the Ministry of Law and Justice, warned that electoral bonds, coupled with the preceding legislative changes, could lead to the proliferation of shell companies to channel black money into the political system via these bearer bonds. However, by April 2021, the ECI counsel had seemingly reversed its position, stating support for electoral bonds, echoing the government's stance. This U-turn is unfathomable.

> Crucially, in the past, both the Reserve Bank of India and the Election Commission of India voiced strong objections to the electoral bonds scheme in accordance with their mandates. The ECI, in a letter to the Ministry of Law and Justice, warned that electoral bonds, coupled with preceding legislative changes, could lead to proliferation of shell companies to channel black money into the political system via these bearer bonds. However, by April 2021, the ECI counsel had seemingly reversed its position, stating support for electoral bonds, echoing the government's stance. This U turn is unfathomable.

The introduction of electoral bonds was not an isolated action. The Finance Act of 2017 introduced amendments to several laws, including the Reserve Bank of India Act, Companies Act, Income Tax Act 1961, Representation of the People Act, and Foreign Contribution Regulations Act, all to pave the way for electoral bonds. Three significant changes occurred that did not receive adequate attention. First, the limit of 7.5 per cent of profits that a company could donate was not just raised but eliminated, allowing a company to donate 100 per cent of its profits to a political party. Even loss-making companies could now make political donations, potentially legitimising crony capitalism.

Moreover, Section 29B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, prohibits political parties from accepting contributions from foreign sources, and Section 3 of the 2010 Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act restricts foreign contributions to candidates, legislative members, political parties and party office holders. When, in 2014, the Delhi High Court found that Congress and the BJP had accepted foreign funds in violation of the FCRA 1976, the BJP government passed a retroactive amendment via a 2016 finance bill, replacing the 1976 Act with the modified 2010 statute. This move effectively shields any foreign financing of Indian elections from scrutiny. This is a matter of great national concern.

Even if the government is hellbent on retaining electoral bonds in the name of eliminating cash transactions, a simple solution would be to disclose the identities of donors and recipients. This simple change could be swiftly implemented by the government, suo motu, or on the order of the SC which the Lordships may consider.

It was disturbing to hear the argument of the SG that citizens have no right to know the donors/recipients' identities. This statement would behove a banana republic, not the world's largest democracy aspiring to be a vishwaguru.

It is important to remember that the citizens' right to know was settled by the apex court in 2003 when it mandated candidates to declare their financial dealings and criminal cases while filing nominations.

In the 2003 ruling in *People's Union for Civil Liberties v Union of India* and the 2002 judgment in *Union of India v Association for Democratic Reforms*, the Supreme Court mandated the ECI to obtain and disclose to the public background information relating to candidates running for office, including information on their assets, criminal records, and educational background. The Court ruled that the right to know about public officials is derived from the constitutional right to freedom of expression. The Attorney General has told the Supreme Court, in his written submissions, that the "citizens' right to know is subject to reasonable restrictions". He should not forget the keyword "reasonable". Is keeping potential quid pro quo between the donors and the government a secret from the public a "reasonable" restriction?

In this worrying context, the highest Court must hold onto its legacy of being the last refuge in a troubled democracy. One option worth considering is to eliminate private funding and introduce public funding for political parties. This might not exceed Rs 10,000 crore every five years, based on cumulative party collections as declared. It's a small investment for the preservation of democracy. Another option to do away with the "need" for secrecy would be to establish a National Election Fund to which all donors could contribute. The funds could be allocated to parties based on their electoral performance. This would eliminate the so-called concern about donors' reprisals.

Let's recall the 2017 Budget speech in which the Finance Minister stressed that "without transparency of political funding, free and fair elections are not possible". Free and fair elections and the integrity of our electoral process have been repeatedly declared by the apex court as a part of the basic structure of the constitution. Let's hope the court reinforces the landmark judgments of its illustrious predecessors.

Quraishi is former Chief Election Commissioner of India and the author of India's Experiment with Democracy — the Life of a Nation through its Elections

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE HOURS

Narayana Murthy's comment shifts burden of nation-building on the less privileged

RUCHI GUPTA

INFOSYS FOUNDER NARAYANA Murthy touched off a debate when he advocated longer work hours for India's youth. He argued that "India's work productivity is one of the lowest in the world [...] so therefore, my request is that our youngsters must say, 'This is my country. I'd like to work 70 hours a week'." Ownership of and commitment to one's country is indeed a sentiment worth inculcating in our young and old alike. However, have we done enough to facilitate the sense of shared destiny required to inculcate this ownership? And, what does it mean for a young person to contribute to nation-building?

On the first question, we are arguably falling short. The top 10 per cent dominate our popular culture but the lived reality for a vast number of young people diverges at birth from these aspirational narratives. Segregation based on class and other markers of social capital are rigidly maintained and we lack egalitarian spaces where people mingle as relative equals across these divides. There's also no readily available path to socio-economic mobility.

As per the 'State of Working India 2023' report, over 40 per cent of graduates under 25 are unemployed while incomes among the salaried have stagnated. The inability to productively employ educated youth is a top-down failure because of subpar mass education and lack of jobs. There is, thus, a case to be made to absorb more people in employment instead of artificially reducing open positions by extracting overtime from the employed. Consider too, the nature of work we are creating for our youth. The most visible avenue of employment for our youth is gig work — driving a taxi or delivering packages. Even aside from the issue of fair compensation, these jobs lack learning potential and growth prospects. Instead, the defining characteristics of tech platform-driven gig economy jobs are their fungibility, repeatability and atomisation, making it impossible for anyone performing these roles to rise in the organisation, irrespective of performance or capability.

> It is rhetorical to exhort our youth to contribute to nation-building if we don't empower them. The Indian elite has benefited enormously from India's growth but there's a sense of smug satisfaction that their success is itself their outsized contribution to India, thus earning them the right to advise and admonish those less fortunate.

Yet, a small segment of India is booming. Our rich and successful are part of the global elite. Reports show how the benefits of growth are being cornered by the top 10 per cent resulting in the rich getting richer and the poor poorer. In this context, an ordinary young person may not feel like an equal participant and stakeholder in national progress. Thus, the onus is on those of us with power and platform to make a tangible effort to ensure equitable growth before we exhort our young to work harder in the name of nation-building.

The second question about what it means to contribute to nation-building as a young person also needs answering. Nation-building is an act of citizenship, and "productivity" measured narrowly in economic terms cannot be a constitutive element of citizenship. This logic will render some citizens more valuable than others. Instead, we should facilitate our youth to engage in their community and develop skills required to navigate the diversity and complexity of our country. These are real acts of citizenship and nation-building.

Murthy is correct: "Youngsters form a significant majority of our population and they are the ones who can build our country". However, he errs in putting the onus solely them without talking about the responsibility of those who have power and privilege to give back to their country. It is rhetorical to exhort our youth to contribute to nation-building if we don't empower them. The Indian elite has benefited enormously from India's growth but there's a sense of smug satisfaction that their success is itself their outsized contribution to India, thus earning them the right to advise and admonish those less fortunate. Yes, India needs to improve its productivity and there must be a cultural shift towards discipline. But equally, we need corporate India to have a sharper sense of its responsibility beyond tax monies and CSR projects. What is required is to foster a sense of national purpose and a visible attempt by our top 10 per cent to give to our country and move everyone forward.

The writer is Executive Director, Future of India Foundation

NOVEMBER 4, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

INDIAN EXPRESS

Bonus for Govt staff

BONUS FOR STAFF

DESPITE SEVERE BUDGET constraints, the Union Cabinet decided to pay 15 days ad hoc bonus in the current year to all its employees with emoluments below Rs 1,600 a month. The measure is estimated to cost the exchequer Rs 44 crore.

LEBANON ATTACK

THIRTY-FOUR PERSONS are reported to have been killed and over 119 injured in a major attack launched by anti-Arafat Palestinians on his military positions around the Palestinian refugee camps in northern Lebanon, near the city of Tripoli. Oil storage tanks of Tripoli refinery have been hit by shells, with some set ablaze.

NO CONSENSUS ON TAX

THE CONFERENCE OF chief ministers could not reach an agreement on the replacement of sales tax by additional excise duties on selected commodities. The proposal has practically been shelved as some of the chief ministers did not agree even to a committee to go further into the matter. A resolution adopted incorporated the differences on the issue but in vague terms called for further efforts to allay the apprehensions expressed by state governments.

A NEW CONSTITUTION

WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS have voted by an overwhelming majority to approve a controversial new constitution giving some non-whites a share of power for the first time. The final tally from the referendum showed 1.36 million voting in favour of a new constitution with 691,577 opposed. About 76 per cent of the 2.7 million eligible white voters cast votes. The result was a stunning political victory for Prime Minister P W Botha, who had told white South Africans that it was imperative to accept some type of reform.

THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"What Southeast Asian countries need and expect has always been clear. Any actions that provoke regional tensions under the guise of 'security' are unwelcome, and Japan, which desires to become a 'normal country,' will only become more abnormal due to these moves."

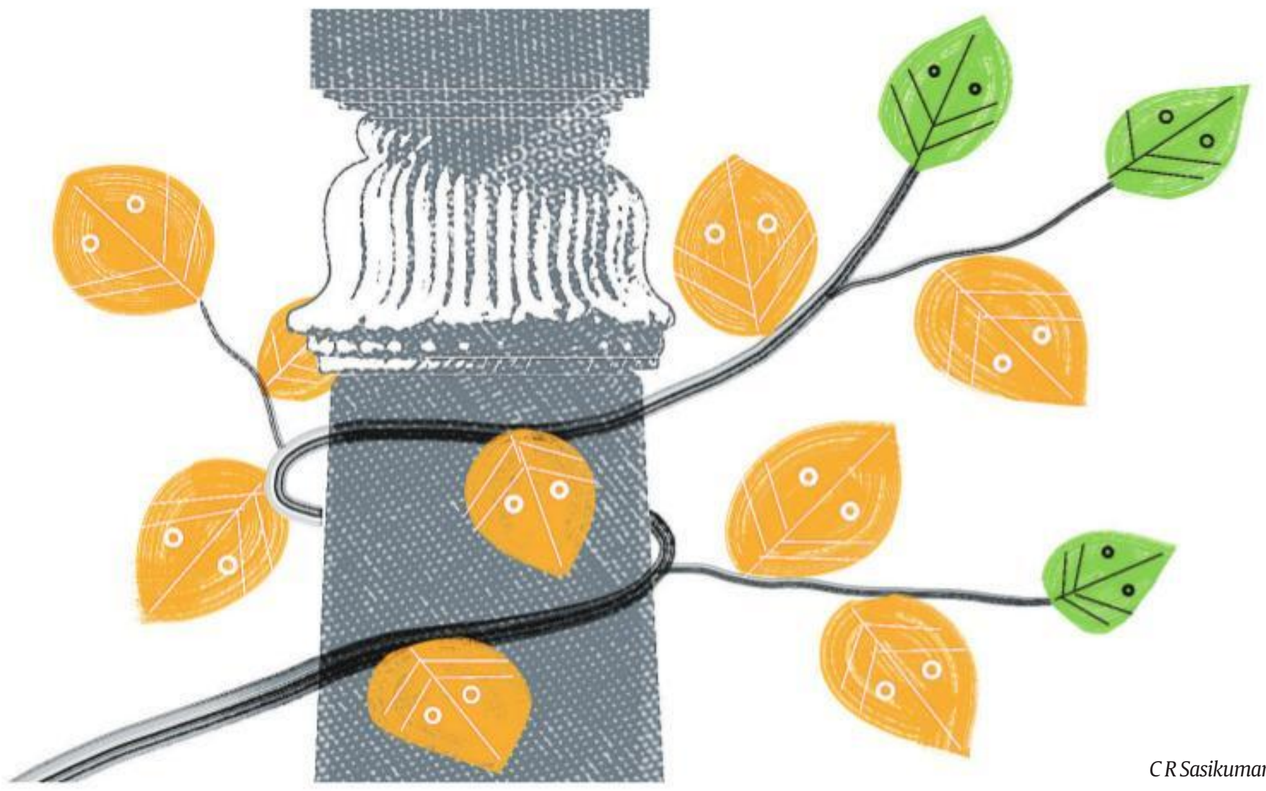
—GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

A matter of greying

By the turn of the century, not only will India's population have substantially declined, it will also be much older. Are we prepared for this demographic shift?

OPENING ARUGUMENT

BY MENAKA GURUSWAMY



C R Sasikumar

WHAT IS THE future of humanity? Will we grow, will we thrive or will we slowly perish? Are we expanding or contracting as a species? And what is the future of India? How many Indians will there be?

In a 2019 report, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) noted that by 2027 India will have the highest population increase, overtaking China as the world's most populous country. India did, in fact, overtake China as the most populous country this year. The report predicts that between now and 2050, India, along with Nigeria, Pakistan, Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Indonesia, Egypt and the United States, will show the highest increase in population and will make up over half the world's population. Further, the population of Sub-Saharan Africa will double by 2050. But, the rest of the world presents a very different picture.

The world is greying faster than ever (as am I). David Bloom, writing for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2020, observed, "greying" is the dominant trend in the 21st century. According to him, "this is a cumulative result of increasing longevity, declining fertility and the progression of larger cohorts to older ages." For instance, over 28 per cent of Japan's population is aged 65 years and above. Three decades ago, in the 1970s, "the world was populated by more than three times as many adolescents and young adults (15 to 24-year-olds) than older people." By 2050, these age groups will be "on par".

Is this true for India as well? The UNFPA recently released the India Aging Report, 2023. It declares that "globally, there are 1.1 billion persons aged 60 years and above in 2022, comprising 13.9 per cent of the total population of 7.9 billion. Over the next three decades, the number of older persons worldwide is expected to double to 2.1 billion by 2050, with the share rising to 22 per cent of the total population. In 2022, there were 149 million persons aged 60 years and above in India, comprising about 10.5 per cent of the country's population. By 2050, the share of older persons will double to 20.8 per cent, with the absolute number at 347 million." The report points out that "the unprecedented rise in the ageing population will have significant implications for health, economy and society in India".

The UNFPA sets out the challenge of declining fertility rates that developed and developing countries will experience at different points in time. And it situates India within this context. The report points out that developing countries are presently witnessing a significant drop in fertility levels far sooner in their development journey than developed countries did. "Most of the developed world had much higher per capita income levels when their populations began to age, which made it easier for them to handle the economic pressures caused by ageing populations. Developed countries, in other words, had a far bigger economic pie that they could use to sustain their elderly people when their populations began to age rapidly. Countries like India do not enjoy that luxury."

The UNFPA sets out, through an array of statistics, that in some developing countries the old age dependency ratio could "more than double in 50 years, while it took about 150 to 200 years for the same thing to happen in the developed world." The report has estimated that India's elderly population (people over 60 years) will grow at a rapid 41 per cent between 2021 and 2031. It further notes that the number of elderly people will be larger than the number of children (those below 15 years) by 2046. Ageing populations mean fewer workers, fewer taxpayers and hence, a reduction in a country's ability to generate wealth. It also means enhanced burdens on healthcare systems.

The greying of countries is a global phenomenon. In India, by 2050, the elderly will constitute 20 per cent of our population. This is unsurprising because the National Family Health Survey 2022 showed that except for Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (amongst the larger states) fertility levels elsewhere have dropped below the replacement level of 2.1. Importantly, in urban India, the fertility rate is at 1.6, which is comparable to that of the developed world. This is below replacement level, and combined with increased longevity, will ensure that the elderly constitute a significant segment of our population.

A study on the population decline, published in *Lancet* in 2020, throws up some important findings about how population is intertwined with politics. China is expected to replace the United States by 2035 in terms of the largest total gross domestic product (GDP). However, the rapid decline in China's population means that the United States will reclaim the top position soon since its population will grow consistently if sustained by liberal immigration policies.

Richard Horton, editor-in-chief of *Lancet*, makes two important points based on his research. First, that "by the end of this century, the world will be multipolar, with India, Nigeria, China and the US as the dominant powers," buttressed in great part by their working age populations. Second, that "immigration and strong reproductive and sexual rights for women will be key as the world will undergo radical shifts in geopolitical power." He argues that soon the influence of both Europe and Asia will decline. By 2100, most of the fastest shrinking populations will be in Asia and Europe. For instance, China will decline from 1.4 billion in 2017 to 732 million people in 2100, Thailand from 71 million to 35 million, Italy from 61 million to 31 million and Japan from 128 million to 60 million.

The greying of countries is a global phenomenon. In India, by 2050, the elderly will constitute 20 per cent of our population. This is unsurprising because the National Family Health Survey 2022 showed that except for Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (amongst the larger states) fertility levels elsewhere have dropped below the replacement level of 2.1. Importantly, in urban India, the fertility rate is at 1.6, which is comparable to that seen in the developed world. This is below replacement level, and combined with increased longevity, will ensure that the elderly constitute a significant segment of our population.

Ill-advisedly, and contrary to what *Lancet* has suggested, China, led by Xi Jinping, is trying to reverse its population decline by suggesting that women stay home from work and have babies. At the opening of the National Women's Congress in Shanghai, Xi lectured women delegates that "we should actively foster a new type of marriage and child bearing culture," and suggested their focus be on the "home". However, it is a combination of reproductive choice, good healthcare and work-life balance with sufficient childcare and maternity leave and educating male partners about sharing in household tasks that will persuade women who have joined the formal work force to have children.

Some very specific trends have been identified by respected institutions in the context of the population of our species. One, that as a species we are getting older. Second, that we will diminish in number. By the turn of the century, India herself will have declined in numbers and will have a substantial senior citizen composition. Finally, that change in population will result in a geopolitical reorganisation of the order of nations. The question is whether India is prepared for this change in her demographics?

The writer is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court

No compromise with terror

India stands by the people of Palestine in their time of suffering. But it cannot support Hamas

RAM RAJYA

BY RAM MADHAV

INDIA'S ABSTENTION AT the UN over the Gaza-related resolution raised some eyebrows especially since it despatched humanitarian aid to the region around the same time. An Indian Air Force C-17 transport aircraft took off for El-Arish International Airport in Egypt with humanitarian relief materials of "nearly 6.5 tons of medical aid and 32 tons of disaster relief material" that included life-saving medicines, surgical items, tents, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, sanitary utilities, water purification tablets and other items of daily need.

Some were surprised that a resolution with a similar objective was not supported by India. India decided to abstain from voting when the resolution, moved by Jordan and dozens of other Arab nations, was put to vote last Friday. The resolution secured 121 votes in favour and 14 against, while 44 countries abstained. Although India continues to stand by the two-state solution for the Israel-Palestine conflict and is actively extending humanitarian aid to Gaza, its decision to abstain was based on certain core principles that included its zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism.

Yojana Patel, India's deputy representative at the UN, told the General Assembly in her Explanation of Vote (EoV) address that the terror attacks in Israel on October 7 were "shocking and deserve condemnation". She also called for "immediate and unconditional release" of hostages. "Let us keep aside differences, unite and adopt a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism," Patel appealed to the Assembly. Expressing concern over the ongoing conflict in Gaza in which civilians, "especially women and children", are paying with their lives, she welcomed the de-escalation efforts and humanitarian assistance by the international community and underscored that "India too has contributed to this effort".

Unfortunately, the UN resolution doesn't have any categorical reference to the terror attack of Hamas and Islamic Jihad on Israeli soil that resulted in more than 1,400 civilian deaths and the abduction of more than 200 Israelis as hostages.

During the debate, a sentence condemning "acts of terrorism and indiscriminate attacks" was added without mentioning Hamas or Islamic Jihad by name. Canada moved an amendment calling the resolution to "unequivocally reject and condemn the terrorist attacks by Hamas that took place in Israel starting on 7 October 2023 and the taking of hostages". It also demanded the "safety, well-being, and humane treatment of the hostages." India supported that amendment. However, it received only 88 votes in favour and 55 against, with 23 abstentions. It failed to breach the two-thirds bar.

Earlier, the US moved a draft resolution at the Security Council meeting that could have secured the support of countries like India. It unequivocally condemned the heinous terrorist attack by Hamas and other terrorist groups and reaffirmed the inherent right of all States to "individual and collective self-defence". It also insisted that in responding to terrorist attacks, member states must fully comply with all their obligations under international law. That meant Israel's obligation to ensure the safety of civilians in Gaza and the responsibility of the other member countries to work towards the immediate and unconditional release of all remaining hostages and taking all measures "to allow the full, rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access". However, the resolution was vetoed by China and Russia and never reached the UNGA.

The UN resolution's silence on Hamas and its description of Israel as an "occupying power" and demand that Israel should rescind its order asking civilians in North Gaza to move to the South is baffling. It is well-known that Hamas operates out of civilian areas and uses civilians as human shields. It refuses to recognise the right of Israel to exist as a nation.

The Hamas Covenant or Charter issued in August 1988 categorically states its mission as establishing an Islamic caliphate in the entire Palestine. It declared in 2017 in an amended charter that there is no alternative to "full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea." It makes sweeping allegations against the Jews insisting that they were behind everything that happened in the last century.

"They were behind World War I, when they were able to destroy the Islamic Caliphate, making financial gains and controlling resources. They obtained the Balfour Declaration, formed the League of Nations through which they could rule the world. They were behind World War II, through which they made huge financial gains by trading in armaments and paved the way for the establishment of their state. It was they who instigated the replacement of the League of Nations with the United Nations and the Security Council to enable them to rule the world through them. There is no war going on anywhere, without having their finger in it," Article 22 of the Hamas Charter insinuates.

Its ultimate threat was that "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam invalidates it, just as it invalidated others before it".

It is this enemy that Israel is fighting against. It is a battle for survival as far as Israel is concerned. One may not forget that Israel has a 21 per cent Arab population on its territory and some of those fell victim to Hamas terror attack on October 7.

Hamas is no friend of peace-loving Palestinians either. It constantly undermined the authority of Mohammad Abbas and the Palestinian Authority, which used to control both the West Bank and Gaza Strip until 2005. Hamas used its brute force to capture power in Gaza municipal body elections in 2005 and took full control of the Strip a year later in 2006. Since then, there have been no elections in Gaza and the people live under the draconian oppression of Hamas.

India has been a victim of terrorism for decades. It understands the tactics of terror outfits like Hamas and the intricacies of urban warfare, especially the war on terrorists who make populations their shields. Hence, our warning at the UN that the world "should not buy into any justification of terror acts" since terrorism is a "malignancy and knows no borders, nationality, or race".

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

Nawaz like Imran

In recalling his troubles with army, Nawaz Sharif is following an old playbook

ANJU GUPTA

FOLLOWING THE OUSTER of the Imran Khan-led government in April 2022 through a no-confidence motion engineered by the army and the Opposition, PML-N leader and Nawaz Sharif's loyal brother Shehbaz Sharif took over as the Prime Minister to lead the coalition government of the Pakistan Democratic Movement. Since then, scores of cases have been registered against Imran Khan and his cadres. He was initially arrested in the Toshakhana case on August 5 and subsequently, in the cypher case. Khan and most of his key leaders are still in jail. Shehbaz stepped down on August 9 to make way for a caretaker government to oversee the next elections.

Subsequent events reveal the path of Nawaz's return to Pakistan. On September 12, Shehbaz, flanked by Nawaz in London, announced his return to Pakistan on October 21. On September 18, while addressing his party on video, Nawaz claimed that former Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and former ISI Chief General Faiz Hameed had conspired with two judges to remove him from office. On September 21, the Election Commission of Pakistan announced that the elections would be held in January 2024. On September 30, the Federal Investigation Agency filed a chargesheet in a special court against Khan in the cypher case and the court indicted him on October 23.

The three-time Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz, returned from a four-year self-imposed exile on October 21, after making "peace" with the Army. Nawaz had to step down as PM in 2017 following his conviction by the Supreme Court in the Panama Papers case. Subsequently, he was convicted in two more graft cases, imprisoned and banned from holding any public office. The Court granted him bail on health grounds in early 2019 and by November, Khan's government allowed him to go to London for treatment.

Before moving to London, Nawaz had served only half of his seven-year sentence in the Al-Azizia corruption case. Over the last four years, he was declared a proclaimed offender in Al-Azizia and Avenfield corruption cases for his absence from the courts. On October 19, the Islamabad High Court granted him protective bail in both cases until October 24, as the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) prosecutor did not oppose his bail petitions. The bail has been extended unopposed. NAB granting bail to Nawaz upon his personal appearance in another case, postponed the hearing to November 20. Television channels have covered welcome celebrations and public rallies of Nawaz in Lahore. The army seems to be helping him with legal battles and rebuilding his public image.

The current scenario raises complex questions about the objectives of Nawaz's return at this stage, given his ongoing legal battles and ban on holding public office. Has he surrendered to the army and agreed to run, what Pakistani media describes as a hybrid government, with the army wielding real power behind a democratically elected government? Or does he only wish to have himself and his family exonerated in all legal cases and hand over the baton to his heir, Maryam Nawaz? Would it be easier or difficult for Nawaz and his family to get legal reprieve, given that the judiciary-army link has weakened since he was ousted? Did he also factor in the much weaker position of the army, domestically and externally? Did he weigh the onerous task of reviving the economy which may take years? Also, did he consider that the army may not give the next government a free hand vis-a-vis both neighbours — India and Afghanistan?

At this age, an experienced Nawaz Sharif is not expected to have made a truce with the army without delving deep into such questions. While the coming weeks and months will reveal more, his speech at his first public rally in Lahore partially answers some of these questions. Acutely aware that staying out of touch from public meetings for six long years could make a politician irrelevant, PML-N made an "unusual" effort of mustering big crowds on its home turf — also an attempt to match Khan's impressive record of holding mega rallies. Nawaz used a mix of stories of personal sacrifices and successes of his Prime Ministerships. Seeped in rhetoric, his repeated reference to Maryam's sacrifices, including imprisonment, stood out as an informal announcement of her as the heir, in case he doesn't or is unable to contest elections. Understandably, Nawaz avoided any mention of the grim security situation and the issue of the Taliban supporting the TTP against the Pakistan army. He made no mention of the May 9 events either.

However, in his speech, Nawaz tried to match Khan's appeal of standing up to big powers, elaborating on how he stood up to US President Bill Clinton by ordering nuclear tests in response to the Pokhran tests by India in 1999. As a shrewd politician, Nawaz spoke of solving the Kashmir issue, but at the same time pointedly hailed people from "Azad" Kashmir in his rally and saluted their flag. This too looked like an effort to match Khan's stance.

By openly criticising former Generals just as he was preparing to return to Pakistan, Nawaz had already equated his sacking with that of Khan. At the rally, he reminded supporters how he had also served prison terms before his exile. It remains to be seen how much of these efforts would cut into Khan's popularity. It appears quite clear that Nawaz's return has been supported by the army, which wants to pit a strong opponent against Khan's cult-like status in the public, even if Khan himself is not allowed to contest. One additional factor that may have played in favour of Nawaz's return is his deep bond with China, something the army is most likely more concerned about given that it is a critical resource for investment and bailouts.

The writer is an IPS officer. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MARATHA STIR

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Moment of reckoning' (IE, November 3). The issue of Maratha reservation has to be sorted by the end of the year, and the ball is in the government's court. The demand for reservation in education and jobs by agrarian communities and recent agitation for reservation by the Maratha community can be attributed to various factors like fragmented landholding, increased productivity cost and reduced benefits, lack of skilled education, increased cost of education, etc. But quotas are most effective when implemented in conjunction with other measures, such as educational and economic empowerment programmes, infrastructure development, and financial support for businesses. The government needs to focus on these issues.

Dattatray S Giri, *Thane*

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Moment of reckoning' (IE, November 3). The quota stir has once again brought into focus the need for a comprehensive caste census to ensure social justice by fine-tuning affirmative action programmes in sync with the level of backwardness of various communities. While the Bombay HC upheld the quota move in the past, the Supreme Court, in a key judgment in 2021, scrapped the Maratha reservation. The five-judge constitution bench found that there were no "exceptional circumstances" in Maharashtra which required the government to break the 50 per cent reservation ceiling limit.

Khokan Das, *Kolkata*

UNITE FOR PEACE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Nowhere to hide' (IE, November 3). The current situation faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip is abhorrent. Anecdotal evidence of the unspeakable afflictions and deprivations to which more than two million people — a significant number of them children — have been subjected is largely unavailable, leaving one with only a hazy notion of their real tragedy. Israel has not only ordered them to move to the south in order to avoid its airstrikes, but it has also blocked the vital supplies of food, medicine and power, further exacerbating their plight. It is sad that even on a ceasefire, the world is deeply divided. If the required amount of essentials and other humanitarian aid do not reach them, the fate of Gazans is going to be dark, which would have far-reaching ramifications for world peace.

Kamal Laddha, *Bangalore*

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, Savi D/o Devi Dayal R/o Barsana, Kaithal Haryana-136026, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as Mamta in my Class 10th Certificate and Marksheet. The actual name of my mother is Mamta Rani, which may be amended accordingly. 0070872109-1

It is for general information that I, Mamta Rani W/o Devi Dayal, R/o Barsana, Kaithal Haryana-136026, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Mamta in my minor son's Anish aged 17 years in his 10th Class School Cetificate cum marksheet. The actual name of mine is Mamta Rani, which may be amended accordingly. 0070872106-1

It is for general information that I, KANHAIYALAL SAXENA S/O TOTARAM R/O 486, DDA JANTA FLAT, HASTSAL,WEST DELHI-110059 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as KANHAIYALAL in my 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is KANHAIYALAL SAXENA which may be amended accordingly. 0040696829-1

I,hitherto known as MERCY NIRMALA RATNAM alias NIRMALA RATNAM,wife of,EUGENE RATNAM,residing at,13D,MIG DDA-Flats-Motia Khan,Paharganj,New Delhi-110055,have changed my name and shall hereinafter be known as MERCY NIRMALA RATNAM. 0040696901-4

I,hitherto known as KRISHAN CHANDER MALIK alias K. C. MALIK alias KRISHAN,SON OF,SHRI LATE SHRI DIWAN SINGH MALIK,RESIDENT OF,H.NO.KH.NO. 39/20,PRINCE PUBLIC SCHOOL,TIKRI KALAN,DELHI-110041,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KRISHAN. 0040696832-7

I,Vijender Singh,S/o Late Pohap Singh Yadav,resident of VPO-Zainabad,Dist-Rewari,Haryana-123411,have changed my Name,from Vijender Singh to Vijender Singh Yadav,vide-Affidavit dated-03-Nov-23. 0040696901-9

I,Vijay Kumar Jindal,S/o Prem Chand Jindal R/o-H.NO-14,Sharda,Niketan,Pitampura Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Vijay Jindal. 0040696900-4

I,Sunita alias Kamalpreet Kaur D/o,Bantoo Ram,W/o,Palvinder Singh R/o,E-244,Tagore-Garden,New Delhi-110027,have changed my-name to Kamalpreet Kaur. I have changed my-name not religion. 0040696906-1

I,Shutanshu,S/o Rajesh Kumar Goyal, 3A/30, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001, (Uttar Pradesh),Have changed my name to Shutanshu Goel. 0040696901-1

I,Shahanaz,W/O Rahisuddin H.No-728, Pocket-5,Sector-A/6, Punarwas Colony Narela,Delhi-110040,have changed my name to Shahnaz. 0040696832-1

I,Savita Rani,W/o-Jasbir khatri,Address- H.no.-137,Near Bhoka Chopal,Gijji, Rohtak(124501),Haryana,have change my name to Savita Devi,For All Purpose. 0040696901-5

I,Sunita Kumari alias Sunita,W/o Brij Kishore,R/o-133-134,2nd floor,Pocket-8, Sector-24,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Sunita Rai. 0040696903-3

I,Sanmeet Singh S/O Virender Singh,R/O.C-24,Sushant Lok Phase-1,Gurgaon,Haryana-122009,have changed my-minor Daughter's name Khushi Kaur Bhasin to Khushi Bhasin. 0040696832-2

I,SUVEEN S/O MOHAMMAD IDRISH,R/O G-76B, KHNO.73/22,LAXMI-PARK,NIHAL-VIHAR,MADINA-MASJID,NANGLOI,DELHI-110041.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUVEEN AHMED KHAN. 0040696901-7

I,SONAL GOGNA,W/O NAMAN AHUJA, R/O.501,MENKA-1,AMRAPALI ROYAL,INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD,UTTAR PRADESH-201014,changed my name to SONAL AHUJA,for all purposes. 0040696832-9

I,SHANTI LAL PATAWARI,S/O MOHAN LAL JAIN,R/O C-304, PHASE-1,VIVEK VIHAR,EAST-DELHI,DELHI-110095,changed my name to SHANTI LAL JAIN. 0040696832-8

I,SATISH GUPTA,S/O-RAM CHANDER GUPTA,R/O 48,GROUND-FLOOR,BHERA-ENCLAVE,BEHIND-COORPORATION BANK,SUNDER-VIHAR,DELHI-110087.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SATISH KUMAR GUPTA. 0040696901-6

I,SARANJEET KAUR W/o Sh.Amandeep Singh,R/o H-63,1st-Floor,Sant-Nagar Extn., New Delhi-110018,have changed my name to SHARANJEET KAUR. 0040696832-4

I Triveni Agrawal Alias Arti Agrawal W/o Brijwasi Agrawal R/o Ward No-15, Azaad Chowk, Dhanpuri, Distt Shahdol, Dhanpuri, Shahdol, Dhanpuri, Madhya Pradesh-484114, have changed my name to Triveni Agrawal 0070872104-1

I,Ravi Verma,S/o Krishan,R/o-H.No.117,Gali No.7,Gautam Colony,Narela, Delhi-110040, have changed my minor,daughter's name,from Palak,to Palak Verma,for all future purposes. 0040696903-1

I,RAJINDER,S/O.LAL SINGH R/O-POWER HOUSE-ROAD SHAPRUN (653)SAPROON SOLAN HIMACHAL PRADESH-173211,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJENDER SINGH. 0040696900-1

I,Parveen Kumar,S/o Mangha Ram,R/o H.No-1791,Sector-10A,Gurgaon(Haryana) -122001,have changed my name to Parveen Kumar Dudeja. 0040696903-5

I,POOJA VERMA,W/O-SAURABH KUMAR R/O,J-18,2ND-FLOOR,NEAR-SANATAN DHARAM-MANDIR,LAJPAT-NAGAR-3,SOUTH,DELHI,DELHI-110024,changed my name to POOJA,for all purposes. 0040696914-1

I,PARICHEN MEHTO,S/O-SAHA VEER MEHTO,H.NO-107,MANGOLPUR KHURD NORTH WEST-DELHI-110083,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PARICHHEN MEHTO. 0040696901-3

I,Nisha Drall,R/o 19,Pana Kailan,Tikri Kalan,Delhi-110041,inform that my-father name is Vijay Pal Drall and Vijay Pal,both are same person and his correct name is Vijay Pal Drall. 0040696900-5

I,Naina Nandra alias Naina Nandra Puri,W/o Deepannker Purii,R/o 31/17,East-Patel Nagar,Delhi-8,have changed my name to Nainna Deepannker Puri, Permanently 0040696914-2

I,NAKULACHARAN PANDA,S/O BABAN CHARAN PANDA,R/O.K-2,327,SANGAM VIHAR,PUSHPA BHAWAN,KHANPUR, DELHI-110062,have changed my name to NAKUL CHARAN PANDA. 0040696900-2

I,Mohd Mustaqeem S/o islamuddin r/o-632 chandni mahal darya-ganj delhi-2,have changed my name to Mustaqeem 0040696903-2

I,Hardip Kaur,W/o-Satgurdayal Singh, Add-WZ-132A, Gali.no.13,Krishna park,Tilak Nagar West-Delhi-110018, changed my name to Hardeep Kaur. 0040696832-3

I,Gagan Mohan Chugh S/o. Shri Mohan Lal R/o. 33/7, 2nd Floor,East Patel Nagar,New Delhi-110008 do hereby declare that in my Passport, my name is written Gagan Mohan Chugh.I change my name from Gagan Mohan Chugh to Gagan Chugh for all future purposes. 0040696820-1

I,Firdous W/o Mohd Javed R/o H.No.R-298/A, R-Block, Ramesh-Park, Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Firdous Javed. 0040696906-2

I,EDRISH S/O AHMAD ALI, R/O,A-147,J.J.COLONY, RAGHUBIR NAGAR,TAGORE-GARDEN,DELHI-110027.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHAMMAD IDRISH. 0040696901-8

I,Dimpal Rani W/O Surender Kumar,R/O. 226-227,2nd-Floor Pocket-29,Block-G, Sector-3,Rohini Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Dimple Bansal. 0040696914-5

I,DRISHTI VIVEKANAND PALWANKAR,D/O VIVEK MURALIDHAR PALWANKAR,residing at,G-1104,MAPLE HEIGHTS, SUSHANT LOK-C, GURGAON,HARYANA-122009,have Change my name to DRISHTI PALWANKAR,for all,future purpose. 0040696903-6

I,DINESH KUMAR,Son of Sh.Kanhiya Lal,Residing at,C-2/316,Yamuna vihar,Delhi-110053,have changed the name of my-minor daughter Srishti age-16-years and she shall hereafter be known as Srishti verma. 0040696900-7

I,DHULAM JEEVAN KUMAR,S/O DULAM YADA GIRI BABU,R/O-B2,STAFF,QUARTERS, JASWANT SINGH LANE,ANDHRA-PRADESH BHAVAN,NEW-DELHI-110001,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DULAM JEEVAN KUMAR,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSE. 0040696832-6

I,Chandan,S/O- Ram Bali,Address-P-266/2/16 Gharwal colony ward.no-2 Mehrauli Delhi-110030, changed my name to Chandan Kumar. 0040696900-6

I,CHAINIKA SUKHIJA,W/O-ASHISH SUKHIJA, R/O, H.No.1270,SECTOR-15,SONIPAT, HARYANA-131001,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM CHANIKA GANDHI TO CHAINIKA SUKHIJA,FOR ALL,PURPOSES. 0040696901-2

I,BRIJ BHUSHAN,S/O-JAGDISH PRASAD,R/O-RZ-224/6,GALI.NO.4,J-BLOCK WEST SAGARPUR DELHI 110046,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME BRIJ BHUSHAN TO BIRJU. 0040696914-4

I,BHAGAT DARSHAN SINGH RAWAT,S/O KALYAN SINGH RAWAT,R/o-B-311,High End Paradise Society,Rajnagar-Extension, Ghaziabad(UP)-201017,have changed my name to BHAGAT DARSHAN SINGH,for all,future purposes. 0040696900-3

I, PANKAJ SHARMA, S/O NARESH SHARMA, R/O E-60, OM-VIHAR PHASE-5 UTTAM-NAGAR, DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PANKAJ GAUR 0040696914-7

I,AJAY GOEL,S/O-AJAY GOEL, HOUSE.NO.26, WARD-19, SHIV-COLONY, SOHNA,GURGAON,HARYANA,122103, changed my name to ANIL GOEL. 0040696832-5

I, hitherto known as SONU RAWAT S/o BHAG SINGH RAWAT, R/o-150, Priyadarshani-Enclave, GMS-Road Kanwali, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248001,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SOHAN SINGH RAWAT. 0040696834-1

I, Vinod Kumar S/o Baljit R/o Basi, Bassi, Baghpat, UP-250101, have changed my name to Vinod Panwar for all future Purposes. 0070872050-1

I, Sunny Jain, S/o Shyam Lal Jain, R/o 27 Maheshwari Apartment, Sector 14, Rohini, Delhi-110085, Have Changed my Name from Sunny to Sunny Jain for all Future Purposes. 0040696847-1

I, SUNIL TIWARI, S/O SHRI RAM TIWARI,R/O FLAT.NO-1305,TOWER-09, PURVANCHAL ROYAL-PARK, SECTOR-137, NOIDA,NSEZ, BLOCK-A, GAUTAMBUDH-NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201305, changed my name to SUNIL KUMAR TIWARI. 0040696914-8

I,Deepak Kumar S/o Shri V.K. Sahni R/o E-46, Ashok Vihar,Phase-1,Delhi-110052 changed my name to Deepak Sahni. 0040696903-4

I, S Ramachandran S/O Gopalan Sundara Rajan, R/o H No-622, DDA Flat, NTPC, Badarpur, South Delhi-110044, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Andrew Aiden. I have changed only my name not my religion. 0070872005-1

I, Raghubir Singh Gosain S/o Gopi Singh Gosain R/o A-30A, Second Floor, Block-A, Shivaji Vihar, Janta Colony, New Delhi-110027 affirms that both Raghubir Singh S/o Gopi Singh and Raghubir Singh Gosain S/o Gopi Singh Gosain are one & the same person. 0040696837-1

I, Pinki Devi W/o Dinesh Kumar R/o,House-No.1035, Street-No.4, Dev-Nagar Near ITI, Bahadurgarh, Distt-Jhajjar, Haryana-124507,have changed my name to Pinki Gaur. 0040696906-3

I, Monika W/o Twinkle Kumar Sachchan R/o.E-18, Third Floor, Kalkaji,New Delhi-110019 have changed my name to Monika Singh after marriage for all purposes. 0040696830-1

I, Mohd Mustakim S/o Harish R/o C-66, Block-C-Extn, New Ashok Nagar, East Delhi-110096 have changed my name to Mustakim Shekh for all future purposes. 0040696880-1

I, Manwer Singh Rawat S/o Kundan Singh R/o F123, Dilshad Colony, Delhi have changed my name to Manwar Singh. 0070872053-1

I, Laxmi Devi W/o Pravendra Kumar R/o House No. 107 , Sector-3, Ballabgarh Distt.Faridabad, Haryana (121004) have changed my name from Laxmi Kumaree to Laxmi Devi for all future purposes. 0070871991-1

I, ISHIKA,D/O RAJESH KAUSHIK,R/O.451, MALIYAN PANA, VILLAGE DICHAON KALAN,NAJAF GARH-110043, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME ISHIKA TO ISHIKA KAUSHIK. 0040696914-3

I, Gurdip Kaur W/o Roshan Singh holder of Indian Passport No-L8095164 R/o Vpo-Masti Pal Kot Teh-Dasuya distt-Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name Gurdip Kaur and surname Gurdip Kaur. All concerned please note. 0040696821-1

I, DINESH KUMAR SETIA, S/O SOMNATH SETIA, R/O H.NO.V-17/21, DLF PHASE-3, NATHUPUR(67), GURGAON, HARYANA-122002. Have changed my name to DINESH SETIA For all future purposes. 0070872102-1

I, Ashok Gurung S/o Late Mohan Lal R/o C-344B, Sector-19, Noida, Distt.-G.B. Nagar, U.P.-201301 have changed my name to Ashok for all future purposes. 0040696898-1

I, Anup Kumar Pandey S/O Amar Nath Pandey, R/o GC 61, IFFCO Township, Ghiyanagar, Sarai Abdul Malik, Ajehara, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-212404, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Anup Pandey. 0070872020-1

I, Anamika Kundu W/O Dinesh Kundu R/O Flat No. 0012, Tower A2, Supertech Eco Village 1, plot no 8, Sector-1, Greater Noida West, Bishrakh Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201306. have changed my name from Anamika Kundu to Anamika Dey for all future purpose. 0070872113-1

I, Amit kumar S/o Baljit Singh R/o , House No- R Z10 B Chandan Coloni, Post office Mehrouli, Saidulajab, South delhi 110030 have changed my name to Amit dulgach 0040696825-1

I Princess Matta D/o Davinder Kumar Matta R/o House No-74, First Floor, Pocket-16, Sector-20, Rohini, Begumpur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Priyanka Matta 0070872111-1

I, Khushal Singh S/O Shri Bhopal Singh R/O D-16, Divine Park View, Abhay Khand-3, Indirapuram, Shipra Sun City, Ghaziabad-201014, have changed my name to Khushal Singh Negi for all future purposes. 0040696696-5

LOST & FOUND

I,Muni Mahajan S/o Late Shri Yog Raj Mahajan, have Lost Original Provisional-Allotment-Letter No.36756/366846/KRH0192002 dated-21.11.2012 for Aparment No.KRH0192002 in Krescent Homes at Jaypee Greens, Noida. Customer-ID:-JGNKRH192002. Finder Call:-9811116117. 0040696832-10

Lost Original Possession Slip No.M041(1265) 99DW/AY/364 Dated-01-03-2000 Ramji Lal S/o Lekh Raj Flat No.330 Ground Floor Rosewood Apartment, Pocket-A Sector-13, Dwarka, Delhi#9899510770. 0040696900-10

RECRUITMENT

SITUATION VACANT

OTHERS

U S based MNC expanding offering Work From Home opportunity training provided whatsapp name city background on 9820925521 0050229699-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that Sachin Garg had booked a residential flat in the project being developed by M/s Prateek Grand (hereinafter referred to as "the company") with the name of Grand Carnecia at Plot 4/BS-01, Tower-3, Siddharth Vihar, Ghaziabad (U.P) that Sachin Garg has unfortunately expired on 18.04.2021 and Mr. Brij Mohan Garg S/o Late Babu Ram Garg R/o III-E/116, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabd, Ms. Pushpa Garg W/o Brij Mohan Garg R/o III-E/116, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabd have approached and applied to the company being the legal heirs of Late Sachin Garg. In case there is/are any other legal heir of Sachin Garg the said person is required to approach the company along with relevant documents within 15 days from the publication of this notice. In case no name(s) is/are received by the company, Mr. Brij Mohan Garg S/o Late Babu Ram Garg R/o III-E/116, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabd, Ms. Pushpa Garg W/o Brij Mohan Garg R/o III-E/116, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabd will be registered as legal heirs of Late Sachin Garg and no objection would be accepted thereafter.

Sd./-
Rajesh Kumar Pathak
(Advocate)
En.No.:D-4223/2021
Mob.: 9319155342

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Vinita Vermani W/o Krishan Vermani and Abhishek Vermani s/o Krishan Vermani both R/o B-504 Lake View Apt.Sunder Vihar Paschim Vihar, New Delhi -110087 has lost:- Possession Intimation letter and NOC for electric and water connection issued by DDA in favour of Mr Amarjit Saini.
ATS, Affidavit and receipt executed by:-
1) Mr.Amarjit Saini in favour of Mr Kailash Chander dated 26-09-1989
2) Kailash Chander in favour of Harbinder Singh dated 17-09-1990
3) Harbinder Singh in favour of Harjeet Kumar Trehan dated 02-04-1997 of GG3/77, GF, Vikaspuri, New Delhi - 18

PUBLIC NOTICE

Let it be known to the public at large that my clientess **Afreen Rahat** D/o **Dr. Rahat Ali Khan** R/o 852, First Floor, Flat No.3, Chandni Mahal, Darya Ganj, Delhi 110002 on 20th October 2023 according to customs cum traditions under the ambit of Muslim Personal Law have performed **Nikaah with Ukasha Saleem**, S/o **Syed Saleem Saeed** R/o 135, Pratapkhand Jhilmil Colony, Delhi-110095. **Said Nikaah ceremony had been done out of mutual love, affection, commitment, under sweet heartfelt desires voluntarily, sweet will, of Ukasha & Afreen & not under any coercion or any pressure and without any undue influence**. That Afreen Rahat and Ukasha Saleem had a love affair since past 8 years and finally they tied the martial bonds.

A.N. Sharma
524, Lawyers Chambers
New Delhi Courts, Patiala House,N.D.-01

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my clients Sh. Gurmeet Singh and Sh. Sukhvinder Singh Arora have entered into agreement to sell with M/S NAVKIRAN REAL ESTATE LLP and they have to purchase the property bearing no. B-5, 2nd Floor with out roof/ terrace rights area 425.5 Sq. Yards i.e. 355.58 Sq. Mtrs. Part of Rect. No. 9, Killa No. 3/2 & 4 situated in the area of village-Possingpur, Colony known as Shankar Garden, Vikaspuri, New Delhi. They have already given the advance money to its seller.

By this notice all are informed that if anyone has any objection or claim regarding the sell/transfer of above stated property then he/ she can approach to my clients within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which no one's objection/claim will be entertained and after execution of necessary sale papers, property will be in the absolute ownership of my clients.

SUNDARAM (Advocate)
ENRL No.D-976-97(R.)
Chamber-454, Dwarka
Court, Sector-10, Dwarka,
New Delhi-110075
Mob: 9811254899

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that Freehold DDA built up MIG Flat No. 194 H, Third Floor, Rajouri Garden, Delhi, duly owned and possessed by Shri Rakesh Kapoor son of Late Shri Prem Chand Kapoor by virtue of Relinquishment Deed duly registered vide Regd. No. 16632, dated 10.11.2015 is proposed to be offered as Security with State Bank of India, RACPC, Naraina, New Delhi, and as per present owner(s) version the said property is/are free from all sorts of encumbrance. The Legal heir (Surviving Member) Certificate of Late Shri Prem Chand Kapoor is not available.

It is hereby notified that any person and/ or Bank,financial institution having any claim, any charge, or lien or claim and/or objection to thereof, he/ she/ they may lodge/ notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof/ court judgment within 15 days from the day of publication of this public notice, failing which any further/future claim/ objection(s) shall be rejected and my client/prospective buyer(s) as a bona-fide purchaser conclude the title/Sale Deed proposed to be executed in favor of my client or in the name of his/her/ their nominees shall be deemed to be clear and marketable without any defect, encumbrance, flaw and impediment.

SATYENDER YADAV (ADVOCATE)
Chamber no. 561, 5th Floor, Saket Courts, New Delhi; Mob.: 9711212421

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे मुवक्किल श्री रजिंदर कुमार (7683098819) व उनकी पत्नी श्रीमती कमलेश, निवासी म० सं० 1735/5, गली नं- 5, गोविंद पुरी EXTN, कालकाजी, दक्षिण दिल्ली-110019 एवं B-122, नारायणा विहार, दक्षिण - पश्चिम दिल्ली 110028, अपने पुत्र अमनदीप के व्यवहार ठीक नहीं होने एवं नियंत्रण से बाहर होने के कारण अपनी समस्त चल-अचल सम्पत्ति से बेदखल कर दिया है, तथा सभी प्रकार का संबंध समाप्त कर लिया है। यदि किसी प्रकार का कोई लेन-देन या कानूनी लड़ाई-झगड़ा करते हैं तो उसके लिए वे स्वयं जिम्मेदार होंगे। मेरे मुवक्किलों का इससे कोई वास्ता - सरोकार एवं जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी

डॉ. अपर्णा शर्मा (एडवोकेट)
चै. नं0-546, पटियाला हाउस कोर्ट, नई दिल्ली-01
9871436397

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per borrower/ mortgagor the original Sale Deed registered as document No. 5287, In Addl. Book No.l, Volume No.1759, on pages 116 to 124, dated 29.04.2008, registered in the office of SR-VIA, Pitampura, Delhi in respect of Commercial Unit bearing No.310, on Third Floor, without roof/terrace rights, having a covered area of approX. 150 sq. ft. or 13.93 sq. mtrs., a part of Freehold Commercial Building, built on Plot No. C-33, Shopping Centre Lawrence Road, Delhi has been submitted to Bank, however no record shows that the original registered sale deed has been submitted before Bank and on statement of borrower/mortgagor the bank tried its best to search the original sale deed dated 29.04.2008 and the sale deed dated 29.04.2008 is not traceable.

Sd/-
Anil Kumar Singh
Advocate
E. No. D-1018/01
Ch. No. 190, Civil Wing,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that the property Bearing Municipal No. 15-A, Sanjay Nagar, Gulabi Bagh, Delhi-110007, owned and possessed by my clientess Nalini Gupta, W/o Nikhil Gupta, R/o 28/15, First Floor, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007, is free from all encumbrances on account of automatic cancellation / revocation of the Agreement to Sell dated 14.05.2012 by the supplementary Agreement dated 01.09.2012 entered earlier in favour of Atin Singh, S/o Kul Mohan Singh, R/o H-8, Part-III, Model Town, Delhi-110009.

Sd/-
JAYKANT PRASAD
Advocate
A-2/248, Sector-8,
Rohini, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed on behalf of my client my client **Smt. Neelam Sharma,** widow of late Shri Ajay Sharma, C- 8/16, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, that my client has disinherited and debarred her son namely **Shri Anmol Sharma** and his wife **Smt. Sonam Sharma** from the inheritance of all their movable and immovable properties on account of their non cooperative attitude and behaviour qua my client, who have made the life of my client miserable and under compelling circumstances, my client has severed up all her relations and connections with them. In case any one deal with the said son and daughter in law of my client in future, he or she shall be doing so at his/her own risk and responsibility and my client shall not be held liable and responsible for the same.

Sd/-
Sahil Jain (Advocate)
Chamber No.707, First Floor, Western Wing,
Tis Hazari Courts Delhi-110 054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed on behalf of my client my client Smt. Urmila Sharma, widow of late Shri J.P. Sharma, C-8/16, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, that my client has disinherited and debarred her grand son namely Shri Anmol Sharma and his wife Smt. Sonam Sharma from the inheritance of all their movable and immovable properties on account of their non cooperative attitude and behaviour qua my client, who have made the life of my client miserable and under compelling circumstances, my client has severed up all her relations and connections with them. In case any one deal with the said grand son and grand daughter in law of my client in future, he or she shall be doing so at his/her own risk and responsibility and my client shall not be held liable and responsible for the same.

Sd/- **(Sahil Jain)** Advocate
Chamber No. 707, First Floor, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts Delhi-110 054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client ICICI Bank Ltd., DCM Building, New Delhi, is in the process of advancing a loan to Mr. Murari Lal for purchase of Third Floor with roof rights, Plot No. 39, (150 Sq. Yds.), Block-G, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110052 from (1) Mrs. Prem Nanda, (2) Mrs. Swatantra Nanda & (3) Mrs. Vijay Khera who have represented that they are the absolute owners of said property, which they have inherited, as only class- I legal heirs of their late father Mr. Ved Parkash Kapoor, the lawful owner by virtue of Conveyance Deed dated 12.01.2001 (Doc. No. 816). If anybody, person, body corporate has any right, lien or claim whatsoever on the said Property, then he/she/it may contact the undersigned with documentary proof of claim within 15 days of publication of this notice, otherwise it shall be deemed that either there are no claims or the same have been waived off. No claim or objection shall be entertained thereafter and my client shall proceed to advance the loan by mortgaging the said property.

Vishal Chopra, Advocate
GNA & Associates
D-28, Jangpura Extension,
New Delhi-110014.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my client(s) is/are Owner of Free hold Ground Floor Without Roof Of Property Bearing No-53, PKT-28, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi, Owned by Sh. Anand Kumar & Smt. Kiran Bala by virtue of Sale Deed, Dated-07.01.2016, Registration No-46,SR-VI-D, Delhi, and as per owner version the said property/ Flat/ Floor/ Apartment is/are free from all sorts of encumbrances. Link documents are missing and duly informed Vide LR No-1101067/2023, Dt.03.11.2023, with SHO Crime Branch, Delhi.

It is hereby notified that any person or entity, firm/company, Bank, HUF/ member of HUF, financial institution having any claim, any charge, interest or lien or claim in the about said property the basis of documents and / or objection to thereof, he/she/ they may lodge/ notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof /court judgment within 15 days from the day of publication of this public notice, failing which any further/future claim/ objection(s) shall be rejected & marketable without any defect, encumbrance, flaw & impediment.

Mithilesh Kumar (Advocate) Ch.No.717, District Courts Rohini, Delhi-85 # 9810593106

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Dinesh Kumar Sharma is the owner of Property bearing No. 1/10413 (New No.) & (Old Property No.1501-D/2 and Old Plot No.2) area measuring 100 Sq. Yds. out of Khasra No.388, Situated in the area of Village Uldhanpur, in the abadi of Mohan Park, Navin Shahdara, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110032, vide a Relinquishment Deed dated 31.1.2010, Doc. No.5819. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain a home loan from our client for purchase the said property. If anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said property, its sale/mortgage/litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the under-signed in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 2nd Flr., 23 Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N.Delhi-15
legal@knalegal.com Ph: 011-41112527-28

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR
(NEAR MAHIPALPUR) DELHI CANTT-10
TELE NO – 011- 26153558/9

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

EOI is solicited from suitable vendor for construction of car parking shed for school vehicles. (Size 32x25x12) as per specification mentioned in EOI form at Army Public School, Shankar Vihar. Site visit is mandatory before quoting the rate. Details for the above and EOI form are available at school counter against DD/POS machine/UPI of ₹1000/-. Forms duly filled be submitted by 16 Nov 2023.

Chairman

Central Coalfields Limited
"A Miniratna Company"
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, **www.centralcoalfields.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**

"IMPORTANT"

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that my client (1) Smt. Anita Gupta W/o Shri Rahul Gupta, R/O WZ-3559-B, Raja Park, Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034 (9999390227) & (2) Smt. Rama Garg W/o Shri Sunil Garg, R/o A-47, A-Block, Krishan Vihar, Delhi-110086 (9289269029), are the owners of DDA Freehold Shop No. 5, on Ground Floor CSC at UP Samaj Deepali, Gate No. 1, Pitampura, Delhi, and they have misplaced/lost the original Sale Deed in respect of the said shop in their own name. FIR/NCR has been lodged, vide LR No. 935817/2023, Dated 25.09.2023, with Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi. If anybody find the said Sale Deed, please contact to my Client or me Vishal Singh (Advocate) 1224, 12th Floor, Lawyers Chamber Block, Rohini Court Complex, Rohini, Delhi, Mobile No. 9811242783, 9213600595.

VISHAL SINGH
Advocate
Enrl.No.D/749/2014

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC is given on behalf of my clients, Ms. Sadhika Sud (aged 31 years) and Himanya Sud (aged 25 years), both unmarried single Daughters of Mr. Shalin Sud and Mrs. Vimmi Sud. That our father, Mr. Shalin Sud abandoned our family and has been missing since April 2018 when we were still students. Thereafter we came to learn that he has several civil and criminal proceedings initiated against him. Our mother, Ms. Vimmi Sud also abandoned us in May 2023. We hereby bring to public notice of all that we are living separately from our parents and we have no connection with them emotionally or financially, and we are not in agreement with any of their actions, nor have we ever consented with any of their actions since we were minors/students. We have no share in their properties and we have no rights or liabilities arising out of the same. We are putting public at large to notice that we have no connection whatsoever with our parents, Mr. Shalin Sud and Ms. Vimmi Sud, and we are conducting our lives separately, honestly, respectfully, and truthfully.

Sd/-
Praveen Gaur
Advocate
First Floor, B-10, Green Park Main,
New Delhi-110016

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सहारनपुर वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0, सहारनपुर

अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सूचना

संख्या– 7231/94एम0एस0–एस0वृत्त/2023 दिनांक– 20.10.2023

महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सहारनपुर वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0, सहारनपुर द्वारा प्रतिशत दर पर उत्तर प्रदेश लोक निर्माण विभाग में रजिस्टर्ड श्रेणी ए एवं बी सेतु कार्य हेतु अर्ह ठेकेदारों से ई–टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदादाता को सलाह दी जाती है कि वह न्यूनतम अर्हता के सम्बन्ध में निविदादाता निर्देश पुस्तिका में वर्णित ठेका प्राप्त करने नियमों से अवगत हो लें।

क्र0 सं0	जनपद का नाम	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख रू0 में)	धरोहर धनराशि (लाख रू0 में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रूपये में)	कार्य को पूर्ण करने की अवधि	अधिशासी अभियन्ता का पता	अधीक्षण अभियन्ता का पता	मुख्य अभियन्ता का पता
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7	8	9
1		जनपद सहारनपुर में सहारनपुर नकुड़ गंगोह धानागमन मार्ग (प्र0जि0मा0) के कि0मी0 4 में 4/1 संकरे सेतु के स्थान पर नये सेतु का निर्माण कार्य।	372.00	20.60	रू0 2714.00 (टेण्डर कॉस्ट + ईटेण्डरिंग चार्जेस + जीएसटी)	06 माह	कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, प्रान्तीय खण्ड, लो0नि0वि0 सहारनपुर	कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सहारनपुर वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0, सहारनपुर	कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता, सहा0क्षे0, लो0नि0वि0, सहारनपुर
2		जनपद सहारनपुर में दिल्ली यमुनोत्री मार्ग (राज्य मार्ग–57) के कि0मी0 185 में पूर्वी यमुना नहर पुल पर अधूरे सेतु का निर्माण कार्य।	409.00	22.45		06 माह			
3		जनपद सहारनपुर में दिल्ली यमुनोत्री मार्ग (राज्य मार्ग–57) के कि0मी0 209/1 में स्थित संकरे सेतु के स्थान पर लघु सेतु का निर्माण कार्य।	110.00	7.50		06 माह			
4		जनपद सहारनपुर में दिल्ली यमुनोत्री मार्ग (राज्य मार्ग) के कि0मी0 209/2 में स्थित संकरे सेतु के स्थान पर लघु सेतु का निर्माण कार्य।	106.00	7.30		06 माह			
5		जनपद सहारनपुर में दिल्ली यमुनोत्री मार्ग (राज्य मार्ग) के कि0मी0 210/1 में स्थित संकरे सेतु के स्थान पर लघु सेतु का निर्माण कार्य।	107.00	7.35		06 माह			
6		जनपद सहारनपुर में दिल्ली यमुनोत्री मार्ग (राज्य मार्ग) के कि0मी0 214/1 में स्थित संकरे सेतु के स्थान पर लघु सेतु का निर्माण कार्य।	113.00	7.65		06 माह			
7		जनपद सहारनपुर में दिल्ली यमुनोत्री मार्ग (राज्य मार्ग) के कि0मी0 215/1 में स्थित संकरे सेतु के स्थान पर लघु सेतु का निर्माण कार्य।	86.00	6.30		06 माह			
8		जनपद सहारनपुर में दिल्ली यमुनोत्री मार्ग (राज्य मार्ग) के कि0मी0 215/3 में स्थित संकरे सेतु के स्थान पर लघु सेतु का निर्माण कार्य।	149.00	9.45		06 माह			
9		जनपद सहारनपुर में दिल्ली यमुनोत्री मार्ग (राज्य मार्ग) के कि0मी0 216/1 में स्थित संकरे सेतु के स्थान पर लघु सेतु का निर्माण कार्य।	106.00	7.30		06 माह			
10		जनपद सहारनपुर में दिल्ली यमुनोत्री मार्ग (राज्य मार्ग) के कि0मी0 216/2 में स्थित संकरे सेतु के स्थान पर लघु सेतु का निर्माण कार्य।	102.00	7.10		06 माह			

- बिल ऑफ क्वान्टिटी में लगायी गयी दरें सभी करों को जोड़ते हुए तथा जी0एस0टी0 करों को छोड़ते हुए लगायी गयी है।
- शासनादेश संख्या–14/2020/879/23–7–2020–176(सा)/06 लोक निर्माण अनुभाग–7 लखनऊ दिनांक 25.08.2020 में निहित प्राविधानानुसार प्रहरी एप्लीकेशन पर वांछित प्रपत्र अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा।

निविदा ऑन लाईन दिनांक 08.11.2023 से 16.11.2023 की दोपहर 2.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है। उक्त निविदा की तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 16.11.2023 को दोपहर 02:30 बजे खोली जायेगी तथा अर्ह निविदादाताओं की वित्तीय बिडें कार्यालय आदेशानुसार निर्धारित समय, दिनांक एवं स्थान पर खोली जायेगी। शासनादेश संख्या 1/2018/ 3070/78–2–2018/42 आई0टी0/ 2017(22) दिनांक 03.01.2018 में निहित व्यवस्थानुसार निविदा की तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय बिड खोले जाने के उपरान्त निविदादाता द्वारा मूल अभिलेख व्यक्तिगत रूप से विभाग/कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत किये जाने है। निविदादाता द्वारा मूल अभिलेख प्रस्तुत न किये जाने की दशा में शासनादेश में निहित प्राविधानों के अनुरूप कार्यवाही की जायेगी।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित अधिक जानकारी वैब साईट http://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

UPID-196902 Date-31/10/2023
www.upgov.nic.in

अधिशासी अभियन्ता
प्रान्तीय खण्ड, लो0नि0वि0,
सहारनपुर

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सहारनपुर वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0
सहारनपुर

Superintending Engineer
Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr

No:- 7756 /96M/E-TENDER/BSR CIRCLE/2023-24 **Dated 21.10.2023**

E-Procurement-Inviting Tenders

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through **http://etender.up.nic.in** from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per column no. 9 below Road work Category as applied from Date 06.11.2023 10:00 A.M. to 11.11.2023 upto 12:00 Noon as per the prescribed T-2 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 11.11.2023 at 12:30 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time any validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security Rs. in Lakh)	Time of Completion work including rainy season	Tender document fee including GST (In Rs.)	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superint-ending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1-	Special Repair Work of Sanota Rajwaha to Baral Link Road	73.71	5.69	02 Month	Tender Cost Rs 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T.Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Enginner Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahar Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A & B Road Work
2-	Special Repair Work of Rajarampur to Kishanpur Via Vishanpur Link Road	42.84	4.14	02 Month	Tender Cost Rs 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T.Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Enginner Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahar Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A, B & C Road Work
3-	Special Repair Work of Chandpura Ashifabad Road to Mohali Link Road	63.93	5.20	02 Month	Tender Cost Rs 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T.Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Enginner Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A & B Road Work
4-	Special Repair Work of Bulandshahr-Jhanjhar Road to Kadarpur Khanpur Link Road	41.36	4.07	02 Month	Tender Cost Rs 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T.Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Enginner Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A, B & C Road Work
5-	Special Repair Work of N.H.-91 Dariyapur to Sanota Via Navada Veerkheda, Nagla Kala Link Road	84.64	6.23	02 Month	Tender Cost Rs 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T.Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Enginner Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A & B Road Work
6-	Special Repair Work of N.H.-509 to Karansinghpur Link Road	65.81	5.29	02 Month	Tender Cost Rs 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T.Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Enginner Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A & B Road Work
7-	Special Repair Work of Bhadoi Ashrafpur Link Road	37.32	3.73	02 Month	Tender Cost Rs 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T.Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Enginner Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A, B, C Road Work
8-	Special Repair Work of Bugrasi-Daulatpur to Bharana Link Road	40.24	4.01	02 Month	Tender Cost Rs 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T.Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Enginner Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A, B, C Road Work

1. Time allowed for completion of Whole work is mention in col. No. 4 with including rainy season.
2. The Tender Document fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only.
3. All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 years and details of maximum cost of work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender.
4. Details of e-tender uploaded on **http://etender.up.nic.in** shall also be uploaded on UP PWD Chanakya software, before last date & time of submission of bid.
5. Terms & other conditions related to bid are available on **http://etender.up.nic.in**
6. In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahari Software URL for Prahari is **http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari/**.

(Partap Singh)
Executive Engineer
C.D.-2, PWD, Bulandshahr

UPID-197002 DATE 02.11.2023
WWW.UPGOV.NIC.IN

(S.K. Gautam)
Superintending Engineer
Bulandshahr circle, PWD
Bulandshahr

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS)
ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-03

No. CE/CW/28/2023-24/01

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Roads), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for one work, under SOPD (G) for the year 2023-24 in Kamrup (Metropolitan) district of Assam.

Scheme is not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the scheme, bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders

Details may be seen at website- **assamtenders.gov.in** and also at the office of the undersigned in the **"City Works Cell"**, from **06.11.2023** during office hours.

Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads),
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

JANASANYOG/CF/3388/23/04-NOV-23

HIMACHAL PRADESH
JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
SHORT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online bids on items rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Nohradhar on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in **two covers** for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Sr. No	Description	E/ Cost	E/Money	Time	Cost of Form
1.	Providing irrigation facility to various village of Renuka ji Constituency under I & PH Sub-Division Sangarh by constructing rain water harvesting structure/water bodies. (SH:- C/O RCC Dam at village Sangna & Satahan, Barbed wire fencing, wire crate work, Head weir, J.E. Qtr for section Rajana, providing, laying & jointing of MSERW scour pipe and laying & jointing of GMS pipe line in distribution system for village Satahan, Sangna, Gatta Mandwatch & Kolwa).Job-3.	2,00;45,305/-	2,33,000/-	4 Months	2500/-

1. Tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal **http://hptenders.gov.in**by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.
2. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate **(DSC)** from suitable venders or from any authorized agency at the earliest.
3. **Key dates will be as under:-**

1	Date of Online publication	02/11/2023 AT 5:00 PM
2	Downloading of e-tender Documents	From 03.11.2023 at 10:00 AM to 14.11.2023 at 11:00 AM
3	Date of submission of e-tendering	From 03.11.2023 at 11:00 AM to 14.11.2023 at 11:30 AM
4	Physical/Online submission of earnest money deposit and cost of tender documents	Up-to 11:30 AM on 14.11.2023
5	Date of opening of Cover-1 (Eligibility criteria)	**14.11.2023 at 12:30 PM**
6	Site Visit	From 06.11.2023 at 11:00 AM to 07.11.2023 at 5:00 PM along with the Assistant Engineer/Concerned Junior Engineer, Jal Shakti Sub-Division Sangrah.
7	Date of Opening of Financial Bids Cover-2	Shall be intimated separately.

The Terms and Conditions may be read online in E-Procurement

--JAN SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAPARK--

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Division Nohradhar

3657/HP

Office of the Resident Commissioner, Jharkhand Bhawan Government of Jharkhand Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057

No. ..... **RE-TENDER NOTICE** Dated : .....

Sealed tender is invited from firms/individuals for sale (as is where basis is) of the below mentioned used Government Vehicles as per the following terms and conditions.

S.No.	Type of Vehicle	Registration No.	Model	Reserve Price
01	Honda (Civic)	DL7CF 7953	2009	60,000/-
02	Honda (Civic)	DL7CF 7954	2009	60,000/-

Terms and Conditions

1. PR No.-309536 Cabinet (23-24) D dated 20.10.2023 is hereby cancelled due to insufficient number of bidders. **In the light of the above,** sealed tenders are again invited for the same.
2. Tenders will be received in the office of the Resident Commissioner, Government of Jharkhand, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi 110057 on or before Date 29.11.2023 upto 05:00 P.M. The sealed tender alongwith earnest money deposit of Rs.5000.00 in the form the Demand Draft in favour of **Resident Commissioner, Jharkhand Bhawan, New Delhi,** failing which the tender will be summarily rejected. Detailed information along with Proforma for offering rates for disposal of used vehicles may be obtained from the O/o Resident Commissioner, Jharkhand Bhawan, New Delhi on any working day.
3. **The Resident Commissioner, Jharkhand Bhawan, New Delhi** reserved the rights to accept/reject any or all the tender/tenders without assigning any reason.
4. The bidders who have previously submitted tender documents at Jharkhand Bhawan, New Delhi may get their sealed envelopes (as submitted) on any working day from Jharkhand Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Firms/Bidders may inspect the vehicle at Jharkhand Bhawan, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. (Contact Person Mr. Tarun Kumar, Protocol Assistant, Mob. No. 9868100813 & Mr. Rajesh Xalxo, Protocol Assistant, Mob. No. 9599310359)

Approved by Principal Resident Commissioner

Chief Administrative Officer
Government of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Bhawan, New Delhi

PR 310527 Cabinet(23-24)#D

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS, NEW DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER NATIONAL HIGHWAYS DIVISION,Dhanbad.

E-mail:eenhdivisiondhanbad@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Bid

Bid/ Package no.- **NH/Dhanbad/02/2023-24 (4th Call)** Dated- **02.11.2023**

RFP for **Construction of ROB at Km-209 of NH-114A near Jagdishpur (LC No. 5 /B/E) in the State of Jharkhand on EPC mode. (JOB NO-NH-114A-JHR-2020-21-297).** The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through **Chief Engineer, National Highway Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi** is engaged in the development of National Highways and as part of this endeavour, it has been decided to undertake **Construction of ROB at Km-209 of NH-114A near Jagdishpur (LC No. 5 /B/E) in the State of Jharkhand on EPC mode.(JOB NO-NH-114A-JHR-2020-21-297)].** through an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract. [The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways/ ~~National Highways Authority of India~~ / State Public Works Department/ ~~Border Road Organisation~~ represented by its DG(RD)&SS / ~~Chairman~~ / CE (NH) PWD State ~~/ DGBR~~] now invites bids from eligible contractors for the following project:

State	NH No.	ICB No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs. Cr.)	Completion Period	Maintenance Period
Jharkhand	114A		**Construction of ROB at Km-209 of NH-114A near Jagdishpur (LC No. 5 /B/E) in the State of Jharkhand on EPC mode.(JOB NO-NH-114A-JHR-2020-21-297).**	23.862 (including GST, LC & Utility Shifting)	18 (Eighteen Months)	10 (Ten years) after Completion

The complete BID document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of the CPPP website https:// eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app from 17.11.2023 to 02.01.2024 (upto 17:00 Hrs. IST). Bidder must submit its Financial bid and Technical Bid at https:// eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app on or before 02.11.2024 (upto 17:00 Hrs). Bids received online shall be opened on 11.01.2024 (after 17:00 hours IST).

Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, E-Bank Guarantee/ Insurance surety Bond , receipt of document fee, Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder within 7 days from the bid due date. In case of Original BGs in confirmation of scanned copies are not submitted within this period by the bidder, the bidder will be debarred for one year from bidding for National Highways/other Centrally Sponsored works of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and its implementing agencies. Please note that the Ministry/Authority/ Executing Agency reserve the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Executive Engineer
National Highway Division, Dhanbad

PR 310604 (Road)23-24*D

Office Of Superintending Engineer Civil Circle, P.W.D., Devpura Haridwar

Website- http://pwd.uk.gov.in E-mail: sepharpwduk@gmail.com

Letter No. 2595/06C-Civil Circle/23 **Dated : 03/11/2023**

National Competitive Bidding (E-Tendering)

On the behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand", Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar invites item rate bid through E-tendering under Two Bid system. All information related to tender will be available from **17.11.2023** and onwards on website **http://www.uktenders.gov.in**.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender (Rs.)	Time of Completion of work (Months)	Validity of Tender (Days)	Category of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Widening and strengthening work of Rohalki-Sahdevpur-Bodahedi road in Vidhansabha Jwalapur of Haridwar district (from km 5.50 to 8.50) Under the state plan year 2023-24.	5.83	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	12 Months	120 Days	Registered in category 'B' or above for Road work in any of the Govt. department /Govt. undertaking of Uttarakhand state or registered in category 'B' or above for Road work in any other State Govt./ Central Govt. department/ Govt. undertaking.
2	Work of strengthening by DBM and BC of the missing part of the old National Highway-58 under Bahadarabad town in relation to Bahadarabad bypass in Vidhansabha Jwalapur of Haridwar district under deposit.	5.84	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	12 Months	120 Days	Registered in category 'B' or above for Road work in any of the Govt. department /Govt. undertaking of Uttarakhand state or registered in category 'B' or above for Road work in any other State Govt./ Central Govt. department/ Govt. undertaking.

Note:-Submission of following documents in original is essential in office of undersigned on/before the last date and time of uploading tender by the bidders.

1. Cost of tender document Rs. 5000.00+G.S.T. as applicable only in the form of demand draft in the name of Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD, Haridwar, Bank Draft for Rs. 5000.00 & GST Rs. 900.00 to be submitted separately.
2. Rs 100.00 Non Judicial stamp affixed with duly signed Rs. 1.00 Revenue stamp for the validity of the Tender including certificate for validity up to 120 days and the name of work/Tender ID.
3. Earnest Money to be pledged in the name of Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar.
4. Attach Copy of Registration.

Sd/- **(S.K. Garg)**
Superintending Engineer
Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Praveen Chandra

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely:** Praveen Chandra, **S/o:** Ramesh Chand Awasthi, **R/o:** Khasra No. 17/44, Gali No. 10-B, Swatantra Nagar, Narela, Delhi, **Age:** 30 Years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Check Shirt, Blue Colour Pant and Hawai Chappal in Feet, has been missing Since 02.10.2023 from his house. In this regard **DD No. 120A, Dated: 27.10.2023** has been registered at **P.S.: Narela, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing person. Please inform to the following.

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Website : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/12509/ON/2023

SHO
P.S.: Narela, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27282350, 9315259395, 9968620966

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

Gulab

General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Gulab** S/o Late Ram Asare R/o N-14/411 Munshi Ram Dairy, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi. Age 39 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Wheatish, Built Normal, Face Long, Black & White Beard wearing Yellow T-Shirts Black Pant, & White Sleeper in feet has been missing since 01.08.2023 from his house. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this person but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 70-A dated 15.10.2023 has been lodged at PS Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218
DP/11690/NW/2023

SHO
PS Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 8750870231, 9968537861
E-mail: sho.mukherjingr@delhipolice.gov.in

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that accused **Subhash S/o Sh. Om Prakash, R/o- H No. A-10/16, Chetram Gali, Maujpur, New Seelampur, Delhi** has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **E-FIR No. 00261/2020 U/s 379 IPC P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Subhash** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Subhash** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Subhash** of case **E-FIR No. 00261/2020 U/s 379 IPC P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **06.12.2023**

By Order
Sh. Vinod Kumar
Metropolitan Magistrate-03
Central District, Room No. 150
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/12441/CD/2023 (Court Matter)

Office of the Executive Engineer

Road Construction Department, Road Division, Garhwa

e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding
(Short Term Tender)

e-Tender Reference No. : RCD/GARHWA/1123/2023-24 **Date:-** 03.11.2023

1.	Name of the work	**Improvement of Riding Quality work of Tildag More to Atola More road (Total Length-23.425 km.) under Road Division, Garhwa**
2a.	Approximate Value of Work	Rs. **10,65,20,332.00** (Rupees Ten crore Sixty Five Lac Twenty thousand Three hundred Thirty Two) only.
b.	Bid Security*	Rs. **10,66,000.00** (Rupees Ten Lac Sixty Six Thousand) only.
3.	Time of Completion	05 (Five) Months.
4.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	22-11-2023, 12.00 Noon
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	09-11-2023, 10.30 A.M.
6.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Garhwa Pin Code - 822114
7.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	**06561-295161**
8.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	**0651-2401010**

Note :- The Bid Amount & Bid security will be decrease or increase.
Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
UCAN registration is mandatory for the bidders who are already registered in appropriate class with road construction department Govt. of Jharkhand.

Executive Engineer,
Road Construction Department
Road Division, Garhwa

PR 310564 Road (23-24)_D

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Notice E-Auction

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Lucknow invites E-tendering system on behalf of President of India on **www.ireps.gov.in** (E AUCTION MODULE) for the Auction of Originating train from lucknow division for Leasing of Mail express train on VPU for the period of 02 years, Details of auction notice no ,Trains no Details are as under-

S. no.	E-Auction LOT NO.	Train No.	From	to	Train frequency (in a week)	Date and Time of Close of Auction
1	15048-15047-VP-1-GKP-KOAA-23-3 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	15048-15047	Gorakhpur	Kolkata	1 Day (Friday)	16.11.23 at 13.30
2	15078-15077-VP-1-GTNR-KYQ-22-2 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	15078-15077	Gomti Nagar	Kamakhya	1 Day (Monday)	16.11.23 at 13.40
3	15048-15047-VP-1-GKP-KOAA-23-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	15048-15047	Gorakhpur	Kolkata	1 Day (Monday)	16.11.23 at 13.50
4	15009-15010-VP-1-GKP-MLN-22-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	15009-15010	Gorakhpur	Mailani	Daily	16.11.23 at 14.00
5	15052-15051-VP-1-GKP-KOAA-22-2 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	15052-15051	Gorakhpur	Kolkata	1 Day (Thursday)	16.11.23 at 14.10
6	12589-12590-VP-1-GKP-SC-23-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	12589-12590	Gorakhpur	Secunderabad	01 Day in a Week Wednesday	16.11.23 at 14.20
7	12533-12534-VP-1-LJN-CSMT-23-2 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	12533-12534	Lucknow	Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus	1 Day (Thursday)	16.11.23 at 14.30
8	15048-15047-VP-1-GKP-KOAA-23-2 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	15048-15047	Gorakhpur	Kolkata	1 Day (Tuesday)	16.11.23 at 14.40
9	12533-12534-VP-1-LJN-CSMT-23-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	12533-12534	Lucknow	Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus	1 Day (Monday)	16.11.23 at 14.50
10	12533-12534-VP-1-LJN-CSMT-23-3 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	12533-12534	Lucknow	Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus	1 Day (Saturday)	16.11.23 at 15.00
11	15050-15049-VP-1-GKP-KOAA-22-4 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	15050-15049	Gorakhpur	Kolkata	1 Day (Saturday)	16.11.23 at 15.10

Period of contract: 02 years, **Date and Time of Auction Start (all lots):** Date-16-11-2023 at 13-00 hrs, **Web Site address:** www.ireps.gov.in (E AUCTION MODULE)

CPRO/Vanijya-162 **Divisional Railway Manager(Comm.) Lucknow**

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

A tribute to Brave hearts
04th November 2012

HC/GD P N CHATTERJEE BIOM BACHELI

CT/GD K R ARJUN BIOM BACHELI

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with the LWE outfits at BIOM Bacheli. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deed.

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Notice No: 17/2023-24/SE(WS&S)/EE-II(WSM)/DB, Dt: 03-11-2023
Number of works-3 Works, Value of works (ECV): Rs.455.57 Lakhs
Tender downloading Starting Dt: 04-11-2023; Closing Dt: 20-11-2023.
Note: Further details at http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
EE-II (WSM) Cell No.99480 78503
SE (WS&S) Cell No.99480 95519
Sd/- Commissioner, GVMC, Visakhapatnam

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PUNE

(An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune-411008. Website: www.iiserpune.ac.in

Global Tender Notice (E-Procurement Mode)

IISER Pune invites bids from Original Equipment Manufacturers, Foreign Principals and Indian Agents of Foreign Principals, Authorized Distributors of Original Equipment Manufacturer for procurement and installation for the Laser Scanning Confocal Microscope. Tender documents are published on :
https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and
https://www.iiserpune.ac.in/tenders
Advt. No: IISER/S&P/11/23-24 Dated 01/11/2023 **Director**

NPCL NOIDA POWER COMPANY LIMITED

CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506

Notice Inviting Bids for Procurement of Solar Renewable Power on Short Term basis

Bids are invited by **"Noida Power Company Limited having its registered office at Electric Sub-station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida – 201310 (U.P.)"** for procurement of 100 MW solar renewable power during 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025 as per the Guidelines of Ministry of Power, GoI dated 30.03.2016. Bid Document is available on www.mstcecommerce.com.

The Company reserves the right to reject all or any of the Bids or cancel the bidding process at any stage without assigning any reasons whatsoever and without any liability.

For any clarification, contact at e-mail id powertrading@noidapower.com or mobile no. 9718804966.

Head (Power Purchase)

fincare Small Finance Bank

Registered Office: 301-306, 3rd Floor, ABHIJEET -V, Opp. Mayor's Bungalow, Law Garden Road, Mithakhali, Ahmedabad - 380006, Gujarat. **www.fincarebank.com**

LOAN AGAINST GOLD - AUCTION NOTICE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS

The below mentioned borrower/s have been issued notices to pay their outstanding amounts towards the loan against gold facilities availed from Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd ("Bank"). Since the borrower/s has/have failed to repay his/their dues, we are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold items/articles on **10 November 2023 between 11:00 AM - 03:00 PM (Time)** at below mentioned branches according to the mode specified therein. In case of deceased borrowers, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs. Please note that in the event of failure of the above auction, the bank reserves its right to conduct another auction without prior intimation.

E-Auction Branch Details (E-auction will be conducted by using Weblink https://gold.samil.in)

DEHRADUN - 23660000061193 23660000093733 23660000297959 23660000335419 23660000466742 23660000554496

Note: The auction is subject to certain terms and conditions mentioned in the bid form, which is made available before the commencement of auction.

Sd/-
Manager
Fincare Small Finance Bank

NMDC Limited

एनएमडीसी NMDC

(A Government of India Enterprise)
Bailadila Iron Ore Mine (BIOM), Kirandul Complex, CG - 494 556
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - L13100TG1958GOI001674

NMDC WORKS KIRANDUL
e-tender notification

Tender Enquiry No: Works-Kirandul/SP-III/Sand Supply/2023/124/02, Date:04.11.2023
MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC / KDL/195/23-24/ET/552
Estimated cost including GST is Rs 739.20 Lakhs

NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites **online bids** from prospective bidders for the work of **"Supply of River Sand at SP-III Project, Kirandul"**.

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and / or downloaded from **04.11.2023 to 18.11.2023/15:00hrs from following website links;**

1. NMDC website – **https://www.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender/default.aspx**
2. Central Public Procurement Portal – **https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app** and search tender through tender enquiry number
3. MSTC portal - **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp** For further help refer to 'vendor guide' given in MSTC website.

The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Limited website. The details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT. The Bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website / CPP Portal / MSTC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted –

CPM -III, NMDC Works Kirandul, NMDC Limited, behind BIOP School, BIOM Kirandul Complex, Kirandul. PIN-494 556 email: **gnaresh@nmdc.co.in**

For and on behalf of NMDC Ltd
HOP, NMDC WORKS KIRANDUL

हर एक काम देश के नाम इस्पाती इरादा

PROVISION OF ONLINE MONITORING & CONTROL OF ELECTRICAL ASSETS

Tender Notice No.: TSK/Elect/145, Dated: 02-11-2023; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Tender No.:** LV-T-14-TSK-865; **Brief Description of Item :** Tinsukia Division:- Provision of online Monitoring and control of Electrical Assets. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,61,39,894/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,30,700/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **13:00** hrs. and **opening** at **15:00** hrs. on **23-11-2023**. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to **13:00** hrs. on **23-11-2023** in the website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

DRM (Elect), Tinsukia
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION (E/M), U.P. JAL NIGAM (NAGARIYA), STP CAMPUS, MALHIPUR ROAD, SAHARANPUR

Letter No. 701/Nivida/31
Date- 01-11-2023
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-bids are invited on the behalf of Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam for **"Construction of 1 no. Rebore Tubewell by D.C./R.C. Rig Machine and its other associated works complete in Saharanpur city under Deposit Work (15th Finance Commission) , Distt-Saharanpur at Ward No. 17 Garhi Maluk Tikona Park."** from eligible, reputed and experienced bidders. Detailed bid document will be available for download from **08/11/2023 at 01:00 P.M.** on Uttar Pradesh Government's e-procurement portal ***https://etender.up.nic.in*** and maybe submitted online upto **18.11.2023 at 03:00 P.M.** E-tender Cost is Rs.3000+18% GST. Tenders will be opened on **18.11.2023 at 03:30 P.M.,** in this office.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE/TRD & GSU/JP, acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for following works. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sr.No. 1. NIT No.:** GSU-JP-EL-ABSS-23-24-16 **Name of work:** TRD Work in connection with proposed. FOB (Foot over-bridge) and/or High-level platforms at RE, KRH & AWR stations over Jaipur Division, Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. **NIT cost (Rs.):** 93,86,910.50 **Bid Security (Rs.):** 1,87,700.00 **Tender opening date:** 29.11.2023 **Sr.No. 2. NIT No.:** GSU-JP-EL-ABSS- 23-24-17 **Name of work:** TRD Work in connection with proposed FOB (Foot over-bridge) and/or High-level platforms at RHG, BKI & DO stations over Jaipur Division, Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. **NIT cost (Rs.):** 68,24,284.45 **Bid Security (Rs.):** 1,36,500.00 **Tender opening date:** 29.11.2023 **Note: Date & time of closing e-tenders:** On tender opening date Upto 15.00 hrs. **Date & time of opening e-tenders:** On tender opening date after 15.00 hrs **Complete details of tender can be seen on website:** http://www.ireps.gov.in 1151-AC/23

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दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण नि0 लि0

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
विद्युत जनपद मण्डल (वितरण)
64 - खम्बा, बाईपास रोड, सिकन्दरा, आगरा

अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (ई -निविदा)

अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा दो भागों में प्रतिष्ठित एवं योग्य कार्यदायी संस्थाओ / आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से निम्न कार्य हेतु निविदा शुल्क / धरोहर धनराशि एवं ई-निविदा दिनांक 21/11/2023 को अपराह्न 1:00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन पोर्टल पर प्राप्त की जायेगी एवं ई-निविदा दिनांक 22/11/2023 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे से खोली जायेगी। **(1) नि0वि0सं0 115 / ECC(D) Ag/2023-24 :-** 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र सिकन्दरा, आगरा स्थित प्रबन्ध निदेशक, आगरा कार्यालय परिसर में बाह्य एजेन्सी के माध्यम से वार्षिक लॉन / पार्क मैन्टेनेन्स एवं प्लान्टेशन के कार्य। **(2) नि0वि0सं0 116/ECC(D)Ag/2023-24 :-** 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र सिकन्दरा, आगरा स्थित टाईप पंचम अधिकारी आवासीय कॉलोनी में बाह्य एजेन्सी के माध्यम से वार्षिक लॉन / पार्क मैन्टेनेन्स के कार्य। **(3) नि0वि0सं0 117 /ECC (D) Ag/2023-24:-** 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र सिकन्दरा आगरा पर स्थित प्रबन्ध निदेशक कार्यालय (ज्योति भवन / मीटिंग हॉल) में अधिकारियों / कर्मचारियों एवं आगुन्तकों हेतु उपलब्ध फर्नीचर की मरम्मत का कार्य। (कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये www.dvvnl.org एवं https://etender.up.nic.in पर देखें।

पत्र संख्या- 1142 / वि0अ0मं0(वि0)अ0 (आर0 पी0 सिंह) टी-2, दिनांक 02/11/2023 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (जानपद)

"सुनहरा भविष्य बनायें, राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाएं"

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE DHARUHERA REWARI	CONST. OF GREEN BELT FROM H NO. 872 P TO H NO. 1794 P IN WARD NO. 1, SECTOR-6 IN MC DHARUHERA. + 8 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 07.11.2023	83.16 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7042342281 SECY.MC.DHARUHERA@GMAIL.COM

22425 **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, ROHTAK	ESTIMATE FOR UPGRADATION OF SUGAR MILL PARK 1, SUGAR MILL PARK 2 AND RAJGURU PARK IN SUGAR MILL COLONY WARD NO 21, M.C, ROHTAK.	31.10.2023 15.11.2023	32.62 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenmcrohtak@gmail.com

22414 **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in**

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS) ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-03

No. CE/CW/29/2023-24/01

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

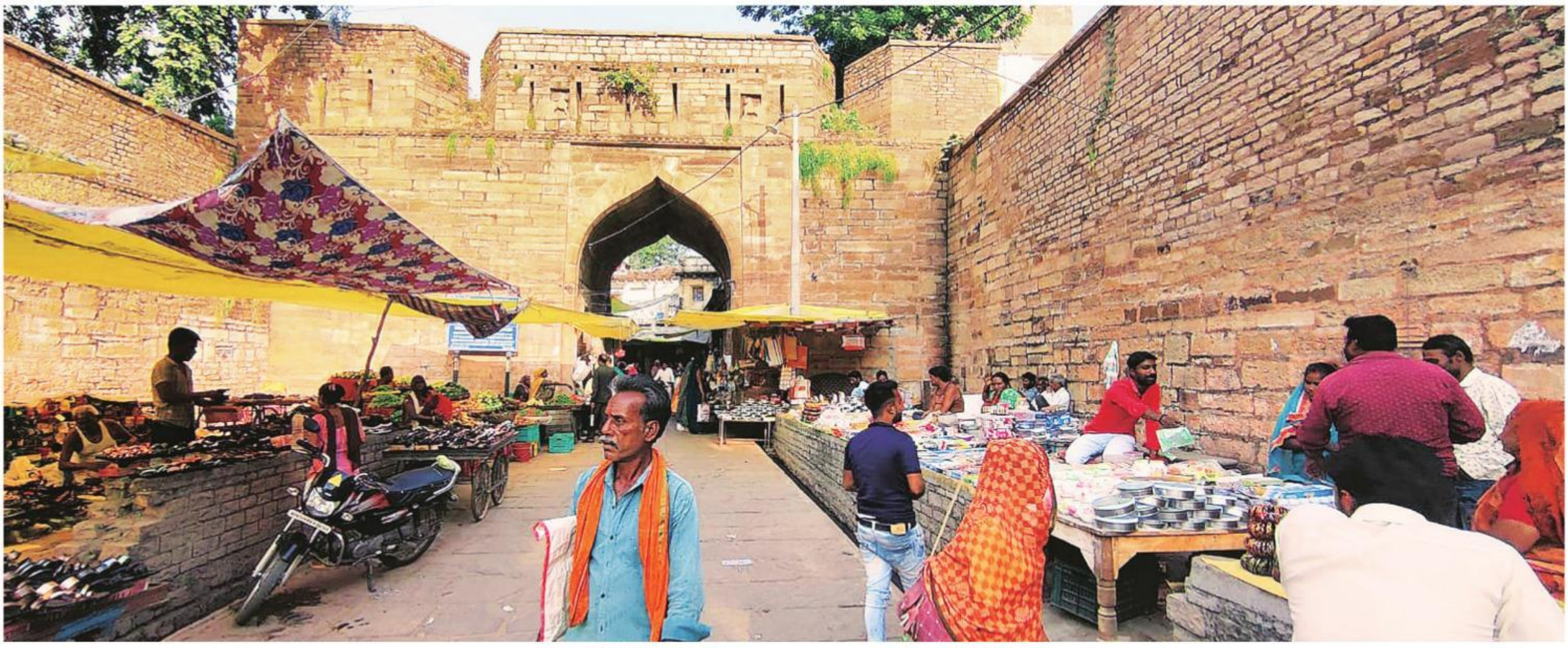
The Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Roads), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for one work amounting to Rs. 677.62 Lakh (Approx.) under SOPD (G) for the year 2023-24 in Kamrup (Metropolitan) district of Assam.

Scheme is not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non- sanction of the scheme, bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders

Details may be seen at website- **assamtenders.gov.in** and also at the office of the undersigned in the "**City Works Cell**", from **04.11.2023** during office hours.

Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads),
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog/CF/3367/23/04-NOV-23



Battleground MP

This way to power

To get a sense of the vote ahead of the November 17 elections in Madhya Pradesh, ANAND MOHAN J travels across nine districts: from the Scindia bastion of Gwalior-Chambal through arid Bundelkhand and tribal Mahakoshal to end at Kamal Nath's Chhindwara

THE 'Maharaja of Gwalior' rallied his troops for war. "*Mera senapati apne qila ka hifazat karega* (My commanders will protect the fort)," Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, the 52-year-old scion of Gwalior's erstwhile royal family, said as he addressed BJP workers at Piprai village in Madhya Pradesh's Ashok Nagar district on October 29. Scindia spots a party worker in the crowd sipping water and addresses him directly, "My commander, you can drink water later; now is the time for war."

Around 250 km away, atop a hill, lies the Raghogarh fort, where the traditional opponents of the Gwalior royal family have set in motion a plan to unseat Scindia and the ruling BJP from the Gwalior-Chambal region.

Clutching a walkie-talkie in his hand, Jaivardhan Singh, 37, the son of former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijay Singh and heir to the erstwhile Raghogarh princely state of the Gwalior Residency, is busy surveying the seats where rebel candidates of the Congress might damage the party's prospects.

"There is an undercurrent in this election," says Jaivardhan as he turns off his walkie-talkie to talk to *The Indian Express*. "Our main strategy is to take the message to every home in Gwalior-Chambal that Scindia backstabbed the people's mandate, which is the biggest sin."

Ahead of the November 17 elections in Madhya Pradesh, *The Indian Express* travelled over 790 km, starting from the Gwalior-Chambal region, where this battle of royals is playing out, and ending at Chhindwara, the home base of Kamal Nath, the ageing yet most effective combatant in the Congress's ranks who is still smarting from Scindia's 'betrayal' of 2020 and is patiently waiting to reclaim his seat.

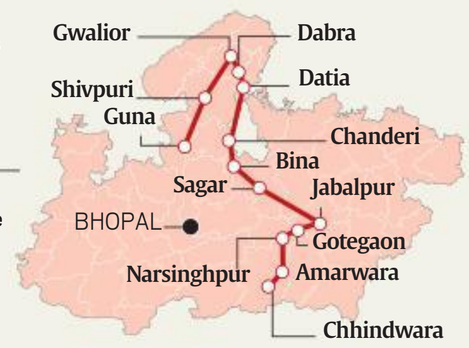
In the last elections, in 2018, the Congress rode to power, bagging 114 of the 230 seats, while the BJP, after three terms in power under Shivraj Singh Chouhan, had ended up with 109. But the tables soon turned, with the Congress's leaders in Gwalior-Chambal, led by Scindia, walking over to the BJP camp and bringing the party back to power. Now, three years later, the Congress's former CMs, Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh, who have portrayed themselves as 'Jai' and 'Veeru' from the 1975 classic Sholay, are out to exact 'revenge'. The BJP under Union Home Minister Amit Shah has spared no effort and unleashed its heavyweights, including three Union ministers, four MPs and one national general secretary to defend its fort.

This election, it's an all-out war in Madhya Pradesh — and in the style of the many princely battles this region has witnessed, there is the right dose of intrigue, betrayal and revenge.

ON THE POLL TRAIL IN MADHYA PRADESH

Total seats in state Assembly **230**

Total state seats in the Lok Sabha **29**



2013 Assembly Elections			2018 Assembly Elections			2019 Lok Sabha Elections	
BJP	INC	Others	INC	BJP	Others	BJP	INC
165	58	7	114	109	7	28	1

Source: Election Commission of India

This poll, it's an all-out war in Madhya Pradesh. (*Clockwise from the top*) Chanderi fort; women at a social function near Chanderi; bangle sellers at the fort; a village in Chambal. *Anand Mohan J*

Gwalior-Chambal belt

34 seats: Scindia to be tested

On September 4, CM Chouhan rushed to Ujjain's Mahakal temple, alarmed over a drought looming across the state. The CM made a desperate appeal to the public to conserve electricity and pray for good rains.

The Regional Meteorological Centre stated that around 20 of the state's 52 districts had received deficit rainfall in August and that this had taken a toll on the crops.

Coming as it did in an election year, the drought is bad news for the ruling BJP, with the pain acute in the agrarian Gwalior-Chambal belt. The BJP has traditionally performed well in the region — it won 16 of the 34 seats here in 2008 and 20 in 2013 — but faced a setback in the 2018 polls. That election, the Congress, riding on its promise of farm loan waivers and people's expectation that Scindia would become CM, walked away with 26 seats. But as Scindia crossed over in 2020 with some of his supporters, including 22 MLAs, the BJP improved its tally to 16 seats, marking its return to power.

This election will see Scindia, who has had to fight for political space in the BJP, fend off a rejuvenated Congress, which fancies its chances and hopes to exact its 'revenge'.

BJP leaders say they are confident of making a comeback in this region. "All the top leaders are now with the BJP and the Congress will have to rebuild its organisation," said a senior BJP leader from the region.

But party leaders admit that beyond these calculations, there could be other factors — the drought, for instance.

At a buffalo market in Guna, picking up a new-born calf and bringing it closer to its mother, Phool Singh, 32, a cattle trader, says, "We have been voting for the BJP since we were young. But now we need change. Young blood should be given a chance, that is life."

The drought has meant that several farmers from villages in the nearby districts of Picchore, Guna, Raghogarh and Shivpuri — all part of Scindia's stronghold — have had to sell their buffaloes and use that money to set up their own tubewell connections.

> 'We have been voting for the BJP since we were young. But now we need change. Young blood should be given a chance, that is life'
>
> **PHOOL SINGH**
> CATTLE TRADER

They air their grievances against the sitting MLAs in the larger region — both BJP and Congress — over the "punishing power outages and lack of water" to irrigate their fields. Daulat Ram, 35, a farmer who has sold a buffalo and its calf for over Rs 30,000, says, "Water is the most precious resource here. You can't depend on politicians and kings who have now come begging to our doorstep."

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Jyotiraditya Scindia had lost from the Guna parliamentary constituency to his former loyalist K P Yadav by a huge margin of 1,25,549 votes.

State BJP secretary Rajneesh Aggarwal dismisses fears of the drought playing spoilsport for the party. "The farmers get a stipend of Rs 12,000 a month (Rs 6,000 stipends each from the CM and PM), and we have worked hard to expand the irrigation system. Farmer distress is a momentary issue."

Over a hundred km away is Piparsama, bordering Shivpuri district. It's part of the contiguous Scindia turf — with nephew Jyotiraditya's Guna making way for aunt Yashodhara Raje Scindia's constituency, where the broken mud roads, piled-up bricks and empty buildings have left the area's farmers fuming. With Yashodhara, the sports minister in Chouhan's Cabinet, recently announcing that she would not contest this year's election, the BJP has given the ticket to Devendra Jain, who has been moved from Kolaras seat in the region.

Though some among the villagers acknowledge that Raje did her bit by building an *anaaj mandi*, there is still anger over the water and power crises. "Raje ji would have lost if she contested… so would Scindiaji if he stood for election here. The cow sheds are empty, the *anaaj mandi* is not fully operational, we still live in mud brick homes, there are 250 homes and not even 50 toilets," says Suresh Dhakad, 30, a tomato farmer.

From Shivpuri, it's 116 km away to Gwalior, the headquarters of the Scindia royalty.

The BJP government has lavished much attention on Gwalior — from a new airport to an elevated road, a 1,000-bed hospital, schools and colleges. But the abandoned building of the NRI College of Engineering and Management is a bit of a sore thumb.

The Congress has been targeting the BJP over corruption after the recruitment test for patwaris (revenue officers) conducted here was mired in controversy as seven of the 10 toppers emerged from this centre. The row forced the government to shelve the patwari recruitments, setting off protests across the state. Rachna Tomar, a 25-year-old, is among those who are angry and upset.

"This is how it is in this state. We spend years studying, give exams, there is some scam, the recruitments are put on hold and we grow old waiting for jobs," she says.

Bundelkhand region

26 seats: Caste in the mix

The dusty ravines of the Guna-Chambal belt give way to the rocky hills and highlands of Chanderi, a town in Ashoknagar district.

Here, the incumbent two-time Congress MLA, Gopal Singh Chouhan alias 'Daggi Raja', who traces his lineage to a feudal family of Bundelkhand, is facing an uphill battle.

Chouhan was recently seen in a video, spreading his kurta out as if to seek alms and pleading that "nothing should go wrong" with the elections. "My honour is at stake, I am begging you," Chouhan said. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, the MLA put on a brave front. "I went to speak to the Rajput community and pleaded with them. I may be a *jagir* (feudal lord), but I am a servant. There is no anti-incumbency; I will win with a record margin."

> 'We spend years studying, give exams, there is some scam, the recruitments are put on hold and we grow old waiting for jobs'
>
> **RACHNA TOMAR**
> GOVT JOB ASPIRANT

But Chouhan has reasons to worry. The larger farmer distress in the state has had its impact on Chanderi's sari and bangle traders, who have reported dipping sales. "Sales are half this year. Most businessmen have sustained massive losses. Daggi Raja is inaccessible and has never shared our pain," says Abhinav Pateria, 47, a Chanderi sari salesman.

The Bundelkhand region grapples with a punishing paradox. While it is rich in precious minerals and is home to a diamond mine (in Panna), it is one of the most impoverished and drought-prone regions of the state.

The region has 26 Assembly constituencies, including six reserved for Scheduled Castes. Considered a BJP stronghold, the party holds 18 seats compared to the Congress's seven.

But this election, the Congress has stirred the pot with its promise of carrying out a caste census if voted to power. In his rallies across the state, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi too has been promising a caste census — seen by many as the party's attempt to get the OBCs on its side as it counters the BJP's aggressive Hindutva politics.

OBCs make up 50 per cent of the population in the state and are considered to be the BJP's core strength. Three of its former CMs — Uma Bharti, Babu Lal Gaur and Shivraj Singh Chouhan — are OBCs, with Bharti hailing from Bundelkhand. "We hope this doesn't gain traction among voters. It might cause us serious damage if that happens," admits a BJP worker in Sagar.

The BJP is banking on its development projects in this region, including the clearance granted to the Rs 44,605-crore Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP). On September 14, PM Modi inaugurated industrial projects worth Rs 50,700 crore in Bina city, including a Rs 49,000 crore petrochemical complex.

The BJP was on the mark much before the poll season kicked off, with Prime Minister Modi laying the foundation for the Rs 100-crore Sant Ravidas temple at Badtuma village in August. At the site of the temple, friends Roshan Ahirwar and Ajay Ahirwar, both graduates in their early 20s and both unemployed, are happy with the "progress" they have seen under the local BJP MLA.

At 11 pm, as they stand outside their homes under a street lamp, they agree "this would have been impossible" just two years ago.

"Our parents would have never had the courage to stand outside our homes at night. Upper-caste men would hurl abuses if we did that. The BJP MLA has done a lot of work here, including putting up this street light," says Roshan, before adding, "But unemployment is a massive issue. There is a strong undercurrent here… every young man from my area will vote the BJP out."

Mahakoshal region

38 seats: Tribal votes are key

The arid backdrop of Bundelkhand gives way to the relative prosperity of the Mahakoshal region, marked by its fertile black soil and sugarcane fields.

It was in Jabalpur in the Mahakoshal region, which serves as the state's cultural nerve centre, that the CM released the first instalment of the Ladli Behana Yojana, which provides a monthly stipend of Rs 1,250 to women voters between 21 and 60 years of age. The political calculation behind the move was not missed.

Jabalpur is the gateway to tribal seats in the Mahakoshal region, which has become a key battle ground this poll season. Tribals account for over 21 per cent of the state's population, with 47 Assembly seats reserved for STs. With 38 Assembly seats, including seven in Kamal Nath's bastion of Chhindwara, the Mahakoshal region will witness a high-stakes fight given that it is prone to swing every election.

In 2018, the Congress's performance in this region had proved crucial for the party as it won 24 seats here compared to the BJP's 13. In 2013, the script was the reverse — the BJP had won 24 seats while the Congress was limited to 13. The mood in the region's Narsinghpur Assembly constituency, the base of Union minister Prahlad Patel, is upbeat. Patel has been brought in from Delhi to replace his brother and sitting MLA Jalam Patel.

The district has a surplus grain production and its farmers are comparatively richer than their counterparts in the Gwalior-Chambal and Bundelkhand regions.

At a sugarcane field in Bhaisa village, Pramod Yadav, 32, has few complaints. As harvest season approaches, he expects to earn over Rs 1 lakh around Diwali. "Farmers here are better off and more educated. We also have more economic support, so there is not much anger against politicians here," he says.

As the BJP targets the tribal vote, it has a fight on its hands in Amarwara, where two-time Congress MLA Kamlesh Shah, from the Harrai tribal royal family, is up against the party's Monika Batti, daughter of the late Manmohan Shah Batti, who was president of the Akhil Bhartiya Gondwana Party (ABGP).

Men hanging dangerously from speeding trucks filled with water pipes is a common sight in Amarwara. "There are no irrigation facilities. We have to arrange for water supply on our own. The government has done nothing," said Dara Ram Kumbre, 35, a tribal farmer, who spent Rs 11,000 to buy over a thousand water pipes to irrigate his wheat fields.

Over a 100 km from Narsinghpur is Chhindwara, Kamal Nath's home turf, where a 101-foot-tall Hanuman statue dominates the landscape. The statue — and the symbolism surrounding it — are key weapons for Nath this poll season.

Since losing power, Nath has portrayed himself as a Hanuman devotee, organised several religious events, held a Hanuman Chalisa *paath* (recitation) at his home in Bhopal, and overseen the merger of a Hindutva outfit called the Bajrang Sena with the Congress.

Nath's image is imprinted across Chhindwara, with its mostly tribal population unflinchingly faithful to Nath, who has won every election from here since 1980. Located atop a plateau nestled among dense forests, this is among the most developed districts in the tribal belt with rail connectivity, smooth roads, a series of skill development institutes, and factories, including Raymond and Unilever.

At Lal Duan village, several tribal women wait for a pick-up truck to take them to a construction site where they work as labourers. Three of them are doing their BA courses, hoping to be the first women from their village to graduate. "The roads to our village are broken, we don't have farms to work on so it's difficult to survive. The monthly stipend by the Chief Minister helps our families, but under Kamal Nath, we never had power cuts or water shortages," says Anjana Uike, 18.

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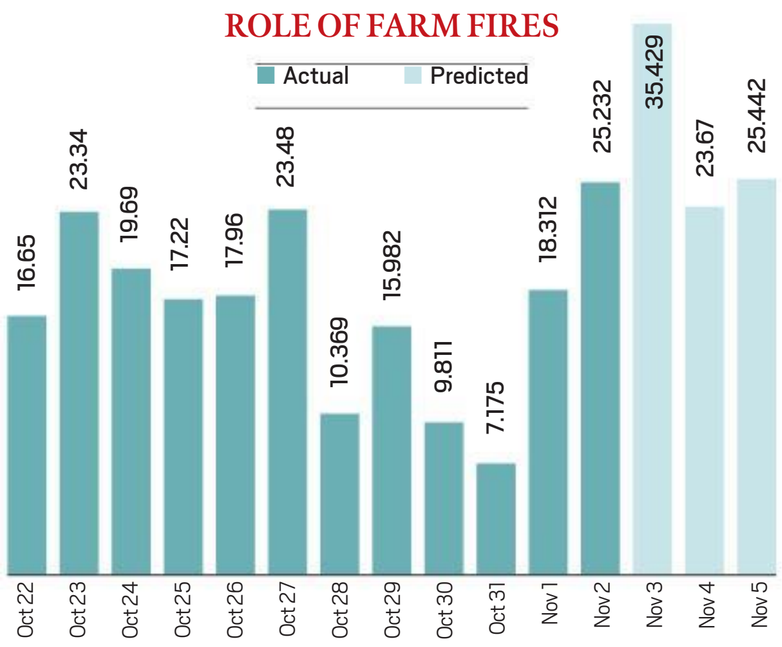
Delhi's polluting haze

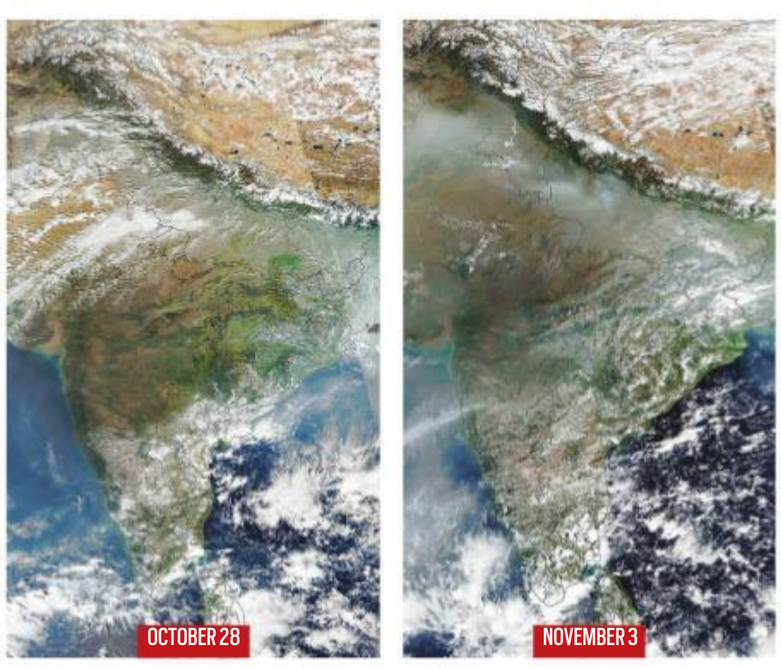


Source: Decision Support System for Air Quality Management in Delhi, created by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune. Numbers are in per cent.

THE CHART shows daily mean contribution of biomass burning — mainly farm fires in the neighbourhood — to the PM2.5 concentration over Delhi. Data till November 2 are from actual observations; those after November 2 are projections based on satellite data on active cases of agricultural burning, climatological data, and emissions from other sources.

There has been a sharp rise in the number of agriculture burning incidents in the northwestern neighbourhood of Delhi, mainly Punjab, from October 31. This happens every year around this time, as farmers burn their agricultural waste to prepare their fields for the winter crop. The prevailing wind systems at this time of the year, directed from Punjab towards Delhi and further into the Gangetic plains, carries the smog with it.

The atmospheric circulation during winter is usually anti-cyclonic in nature, directed downward, which does not allow the pollutant particles to escape vertically, and traps them near the surface, resulting in smog and haze, and reducing visibility.



AIR ABOVE DELHI: 2 SNAPSHOTS

THESE TWO maps, from NASA Worldview, an interactive earth-observation satellite imagery interface, shows the situation over North India on October 28 and November 3.

THE NOVEMBER 3 image shows a thick haze over Delhi and surrounding areas, which are attributed mainly to the sudden spurt in agriculture burning in Punjab. The October 28 image is relatively clear, though cloudy.

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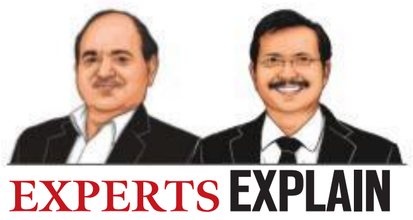
Fixing Mumbai's air: A PRESCRIPTION

In interviews with PRATIP ACHARYA, two of India's most eminent atmospheric and environmental scientists suggest some practical solutions to address the problem of deteriorating AQI in Mumbai



EXPERTS EXPLAIN

GUFRAN BEIG & SACHCHIDA NAND TRIPATHI

BETWEEN OCTOBER 1 and 30, 66 instances of poor air quality index (AQI) were recorded in 16 pockets across Mumbai. Sion had bad air for 10 days, followed by nine days each in Andheri and Mazagaon. On some days, the city's overall AQI readings were worse than Delhi's.

Last winter, in the 92 days from November 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023, the AQI in Mumbai was poor or worse on 66 days.

Why has air pollution become a problem in Mumbai?

Mumbai is surrounded by the sea on three sides. Coastal cities see strong winds, which sweep away suspended pollutants in the air. Despite this geographical advantage, a combination of natural and man-made factors are driving down the city's AQI.

■ According to Prof Beig, due to a change in climatic conditions, the pattern of wind reversal (the alternating movement of winds from land to sea and sea to land, which takes place every 3-4 days at this time of year) is taking longer than usual, as a result of which winds have also become weaker.

After the southwest monsoon retreated on October 10, Mumbai has been experiencing relatively calm air, which has contributed to the delayed wind reversal.

■ "Mumbai had an unusually hot October. A steep temperature gradient between the city and nearby hilly regions resulted in winds from these areas moving towards Mumbai, picking up dust from major construction projects in Navi Mumbai and surrounding areas," Beig said.

■ He flagged ongoing construction works as a major factor for the poor air. "The past three years have seen frenetic construction in Mumbai. These are resulting in a huge displacement of dust, and the prevalent climatic conditions are making dust particles linger in the lower atmosphere for longer," Beig said.

■ "Refineries, industries, and garbage-burning are adding to the problem," he added.

Beig, however, said he believes the current problem is temporary. "So many construction works have been taken up in a short span of time, without adequate planning for dust mitigation measures. The AQI will get better once the projects are completed," he said.

What steps can government and civic authorities take?

■ It is important to first increase AQI monitoring in the city, Prof Tripathi said. Mumbai has 21 AQI monitoring stations, which is less than a third of the National Clean Air Programme's (NCAP) recommended number.

"When you are trying to evaluate the air, you need to first identify the sources that contribute to the factors that determine the AQI. For example, if garbage burning is taking place somewhere in the eastern suburbs, it may impact only those who live close by," Tripathi said.

All 21 monitoring stations in Mumbai use Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems (CAAQMS), which compute the air quality by trapping dust particles in the inlet. Each station costs between Rs 1.3 crore and Rs 1.5 crore.

Authorities should also consider setting up sensor-based AQI monitoring units that give hyperlocal data, Tripathi said. Each of these units costs around Rs 50,000.

■ According to Tripathi, it is also important to integrate the AQI monitoring system with the existing command and control system of the administration.

"This will not only give us the advantage of denser monitoring but will also empower the authorities to take immediate preemptive action, because you can take action only when you have adequate information.

"For example, if it is found that construction is taking place in a certain pocket without following norms, the authorities can identify the location and immediately penalise the violators," Tripathi said.

■ Also, according to Tripathi, Mumbai should adopt a commission for air quality management. In the same way as sources of pollution in Punjab, Haryana (such as stubble burning) and UP impact Delhi, the air in Mumbai is affected by activities that take place in Thane, Navi Mumbai, Bhiwandi, etc., he said.

"The wind does not obey jurisdictions but the bureaucracy has to, so the municipal commissioner of Mumbai would not be able to take action against garbage burning in Thane or Navi Mumbai, even if the pollution from the site affects Mumbai's AQI," Tripathi said.

"To address this issue, one needs to set up an independent commission for management of AQI. This commission should empower members to take action against any violator irrespective of geographical borders. This system has done fairly well in Delhi; the authorities have taken action in Haryana, UP, and Rajasthan for activities that would affect the city's air."

■ It is also important that alongside upgrading the technical infrastructure, urban local bodies and pollution control boards have trained manpower available in the system.

"The administration needs to rope in an adequate number of engineers, scientists, health experts, and legal advisers. If you look at Delhi or London, so many solutions have been chalked out based on long term research carried out by scientists and experts. In Mumbai, academic institutions are hardly involved and I believe that including them in the search for solutions will bring better results," Tripathi said.

■ According to Beig, Mumbai also needs to carry out an emissions-based study to frame and implement policies relating to vehicular pollution.

"There are several bottlenecks in Mumbai that see huge traffic congestion. An emissions study needs to be done for these junctions and, based on the findings, an emissions-based policy needs to be chalked out and implemented immediately on the ground," Beig said.

■ Also, Beig underlined, monitoring and implementation are key. "Policies on paper are of no use unless they are implemented rigorously on the ground. The civic body and the state government need to ensure that all policies are followed," he said.

How can citizens contribute to efforts to combat air pollution?

■ The authorities must carry out widespread campaigns to raise awareness among the public on the need to cut vehicular emissions, Tripathi said. "Citizens can use bicycles and perhaps walk more, which can reduce overall tailpipe emissions to some extent," he said.

■ "The administration may also include citizen's participation in their command-and-control system, so that they can complain by sending photographs whenever unauthorised construction or activities like garbage burning take place," Tripathi added.

■ The administration should also implement policies to encourage citizens to switch to piped natural gas from unclean combustion methods such as *chullahs* and stoves, he said.

What can Mumbai learn from the experience of other cities?

■ Mumbai can learn the adaptability methodologies that cities like Delhi and London have embraced in the past few decades, Tripathi said. He reiterated that Mumbai hasn't had a new AQI monitoring station after 2021, whereas Delhi had 25 stations in 2018 itself. This number had risen to 35 in 2020, and the capital now has 40 operational AQI monitoring stations.

"One can see how Delhi augmented the number of stations to get a vast network of data. Research institutions too, have been roped in to carry out regular studies," he said.

London, Tripathi said, has as many as 110 monitoring stations, apart from sensor-based monitors. Considering the geography of Mumbai, it too, should have a similar number of monitoring stations, he said.

Over the past few years, 530 sensor-based AQI monitoring stations have been set up in 38 districts in Bihar, and 840 such sensors are being set up across 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh, he said.

"Earlier there used to be only 35 monitors in all of Bihar which allowed us to get a data point only every 5,000 sq km. Today, we have a sensor for every 300 sq km, and this is helping us get micro air shades of the state," Tripathi added.

■ "Also, in London, private vehicles are not allowed in certain places that are well connected by public transport. Mumbai too can look into this, now that the Metro network is becoming operational in a phased manner," he said.

__Dr Gufran Beig__ is Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee Chair Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and founder director of India's System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).
__Dr Sachchida Nand Tripathi__ is Professor at IIT-Kanpur and Member of the Steering and Monitoring Committee of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
Dr Beig and Dr Tripathi, both winners of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, are India's foremost air pollution experts.

A haze hangs above Juhu beach on Thursday afternoon. *Amit Chakravarty*

WHAT GOVERNMENT, CIVIC BODY & CITIZENS CAN DO

INCREASE AQI MONITORING, set up more units/stations to identify sources of the problem and trends at a micro level.

SET UP an independent commission for air quality management for Mumbai like in Delhi-NCR.

UPGRADE technical infrastructure and get trained manpower — engineers, scientists, health experts, and legal advisers — in urban local bodies and pollution control boards.

CARRY OUT an emissions-based study to frame and implement policies relating to vehicular pollution.

ENSURE continuous monitoring of policies and their effective implementation. Policies that remain on paper are of no use.

CITIZENS can use bicycles to the extent possible, and perhaps walk more, which can reduce overall tailpipe emissions to some degree.

ADMINISTRATION can get citizens involved in the command-and-control system, so that they can be effective stakeholders.

How air pollution impacts economic growth: The evidence in research

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM tends to dismiss air pollution as an unavoidable by-product of economic growth — which tends to limit the urgency for formulating a policy response to the problem.

A lot of new research, however, points to the opposite: that air pollution has a direct, debilitating impact on GDP growth and per-capita income levels by reducing worker outputs, lowering consumer footfall in consumption-led services, hampering asset productivity, and triggering a surge in health expenses and welfare allocations, especially in the productive age groups.

This is particularly worrying for a country like India, where key economic hubs are impacted. Delhi NCR now faces a recurrent phase of high pollution at the beginning of every winter, and Mumbai has been struggling to cope with a polluting haze after the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon, as *The Indian Express* has been reporting.

The extent of impact

The RBI's Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR) said in its latest report on Currency & Finance 2022-23 that up to 4.5% of India's GDP could be at risk by 2030 due to lost labour hours from climate change issues, including extreme heat and humidity.

If the impact of the annual cycles of pollution in key manufacturing and services hubs is added to that estimate, the drain on economic productivity would be much more.

A June 2023 World Bank paper pointed to evidence that micro-level impacts of air pollution on health, productivity, labour supply, and other economically relevant outcomes aggregate to "macro level effects that can be observed in year-to-year changes in GDP". The analysis was based on data from about 550 districts in some 25 states and Union Territories that contribute, the report said, to 90% of India's real GDP. ('Air Pollution Reduces Economic Activity: Evidence from India'; A Patrick Behrer, Rishabh Choudhary, Dhruv Sharma)

A 2021 paper in *The Lancet Planetary Health*, which studied the direct impacts of air pollution in India on mortality and morbidity, found large inter-state variations in economic loss as a proportion of the state GDP — from 0.67% to 2.15% — with the biggest losses in the low per-capita GDP states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. ('Health and economic impact of air pollution in the states of India: The Global Burden of Disease Study 2019')

This is relevant since RBI data suggest that 50% of India's GDP comes from sectors that are exposed to heat, which is a rough approximation for the share of GDP generated by outdoor work. In comparison, less than 25% of European GDP is generated by the same sectors, European Central Bank data show.

A first-of-its-kind report from Dalberg Advisors, in partnership with Clean Air Fund, Blue Sky Analytics, and the Confederation of Indian Industry, had estimated that air pollution entailed costs of about $95 billion annually for Indian businesses, which is about 3% of India's GDP.

The study, published in September 2021, collated anecdotal evidence from across India: (i) footfall in Mumbai's Linking Road shopping district dropped by 5% during the highly polluted period between November and January; (ii) a rooftop solar company reported a 13% decrease in the productivity of its solar panels on high pollution days, thereby reducing economic viability for solar in India; and (iii) employees at Bengaluru's tech hub, Whitefield Corporate Zone, reported an 8-10% reduction in productivity at work.

The costs of poor air quality, the study said, was manifested in six distinct ways: (i) lower labour productivity, (ii) lower consumer footfall, (iii) lower asset productivity, (iv) increased health expenses, (v) welfare losses, and (vi) premature mortality.

The challenge for India

More than 20 of the world's 30 cities with the worst air pollution are in India. Delhi has the poorest air quality among cities globally, with PM2.5 concentration levels at nearly 10 times the WHO target. A paper in *The Lancet* had listed Delhi as the city with the highest level of per-capita economic loss due to pollution among major Indian cities.

RBI has flagged the heightened concern for India where employment generation is still largely linked to economic activities involving the outdoors — agriculture, construction, delivery services, security agency work, etc. However, air pollution takes a toll on productivity even in indoor jobs such as those in call centres.

A January 2019 paper measured data on the daily productivity of 5,000 workers at the Shanghai and Nantong call centres of Ctrip, China's largest travel agency in 2016, against the government-reported daily air pollution index (API) for each city.

The study found that for each 10-unit increase in the API, worker productivity, measured by the number of calls handled, fell by 0.35%. While the average duration of individual calls was not impacted by pollution levels, the time workers spent on break went up.

Also, poor air quality impeded the performance of otherwise highly productive employees as much as it did of less productive workers. ('The Effect of Pollution on Worker Productivity: Evidence from Call Center Workers in China', Tom Chang and others, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*)

The findings of this study are of particular relevance to India, where the services sector accounts for more than 50% of GDP.

FOUR AREAS OF IMPACT

Productivity costs beyond absenteeism: Employees may tend to overwork to compensate for lost time, resulting in burnouts, attrition, difficulty in attracting talent. Sectors that rely on mental output, like investment banking and software development, are extra vulnerable.

Decline in consumption economy: When the air is bad, people tend to stay indoors. In 2019, consumer-facing businesses could have gained $22 billion in revenue if pollution levels were improved. Clothing buys and eating out take the biggest hit.

Reduced lifespan for business assets: Sulphur dioxide and other pollutants quicken the degradation of electronic circuitry, which hits IT assets. Airborne pollutants cause a 5-12% loss in agricultural yields.

Economic toll from premature deaths: Air pollution was responsible for 18% of all deaths in India in 2019, translating to a loss of 3.8 million workdays.

Dalberg Advisors-CII report, 2019

STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI

CLÉO FROM 5 TO 7
MUBI
While she waits for the results of a medical test, French singer Cléo Victoire spends a couple of hours wandering through the streets of Paris. Along the way, she meets up with her lover, goes shopping, visits her model friend Dorothee, and has a brief affair with a passing soldier. Directed by Agnès Varda, this 1962 movie featuring Corinne Marchand in the lead role is a prominent title of the French New Wave.

GOLDA
LIONSGATE PLAY
Golda, a biographical drama film directed by Guy Nattiv and written by Nicholas Martin, follows the intensely dramatic events, high-stake responsibilities, and controversial decisions that Golda Meir — the fourth Prime Minister of Israel — faced during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Her actions, in impossible circumstances, would ultimately decide the fate of millions of lives. The film features Helen Mirren, Zed Josef, Claudette Williams, and Henry Goodman.

JAWAN
NETFLIX
The highest-grossing Hindi movie of the year once again establishes the pull of a social drama packaged as a masala entertainer. In this Atlee-directed movie, a prison warden recruits female inmates to commit outrageous crimes that shed light on corruption and injustice — and that lead him to an unexpected reunion. The cast features Shah Rukh Khan, Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi and Deepika Padukone.

PEBBLES
SONYLIV
An abusive, alcoholic father drags his naive son out of school and embarks on a journey to bring back his wife who left him. As the furious father pledges to kill when he sees his mother, the young son must try to protect her. The movie, directed by debutant PS Vinothraj, has received much appreciation during festival screenings and was selected as India's official entry in the international feature film category for the Academy Awards 2022.

The Remembrance of Loss

SHUBHRA GUPTA

WE ARE made up of our memories. When they begin to fade, what's left? Do we vanish alongside? Does the residue matter?

Avinash Arun's *Three Of Us* is an evocative, moving testament to the power of remembrance, and the act of forgetting, both of which work in tandem.

Three people are at the heart of this film: long-married, Mumbai-based couple Shailaja and Dipankar Patankar (Shah and Kirkire), and the former's childhood friend-who-could-have-been-more Pradeep Kamat (Ahlawat). On a visit to the small Konkan town where she spent a few formative years, Shailaja seeks out Pradeep, and as they retrace their steps — in the home where she lived with her parents and a sister, in the school where she was one of the bright sparks, in the temple where she learned Bharatanatyam, and a mystical grove — old wounds, buried deep, rise to the surface. Some details in this three-hander will invariably remind you of Celine Song's *Past Lives*, but this ode to memory and remembrance made me feel more.

Each of these forays, in which the trio traverse lanes and bends of the lush, green landscape (a fort reminding you of *Killa*, Arun's lovely debut) are like maps that reveal even as they conceal — the familiar pattern spouses fall into, with the old 'friend' and the wistful what-might-have-been question, coming into focus in one aching, climactic stretch.

On the one hand, there is the understandable discomfort of a spouse encountering a stranger who knew his wife before he did, someone she has never mentioned before, but someone she has quite evidently never forgotten, even as she is on the cusp of losing all her memories; on the other is that same man, the one who was left behind, who has made a life with a loving woman (Kadam, effective), and two daughters. Ahlawat doesn't put a foot wrong, even if he is a bit of a stretch as a man from the Konkan region: this is his second pitch-perfect performance after *Jaane Jaan*. Kirkire is spot-on too, as a man who sells life insurance, while being fully aware of the vagaries of that very same '*zindagi*'.

Shefali Shah, the centre of this triangle, treads the fine balance between underlining her part, and managing the delicate touches which her character requires, and mostly manages to pull it off. There are some places in which you can see her calling attention to what she is doing, but the overall writing overrides these bits, and you are left with a story that is from the heart and nestles in our hearts.

Memories are wonderful. Some things you are better off forgetting.

THREE OF US
★★★
Directors: Avinash Arun Dhaware
Cast: Shefali Shah, Jaideep Ahlawat, Swanand Kirkire, Kadambari Kadam

Reading Between the Lines

CHHOTOLOK
Director: Indranil Roychowdhury
Cast: Daminee Benny Basu, Priyanka Sarkar, Ushashi Ray, Gaurav Chakraborty, Indrani Halder

PREMANKUR BISWAS

DIRECTOR INDRANIL Roychowdhury's new show, *Chhotolok*, is a layered thriller headlined by a lower-caste woman protagonist (the deliciously good Daminee Benny Basu), whose world-weariness shows in every crinkle of her forehead. It's not surprising that caste is almost invisiblised in *bhodrolok* Bengali drawing rooms, but boundaries are drawn nonetheless. Indranil seems to be acutely aware of that. Which is why, you don't get ham-fisted *Dahaad* moments in *Chhotolok*. Here, sub inspector Sabitri Mondol (Basu) is subjected to a more subtle kind of bigotry, the genteel Bengali way of saying you are not good enough to breathe in the same air.

The title of the show, *Chhotolok*, itself is a blanket term used by the *bhodrolok* to define the disadvantaged class or people from the fringes. In a lot of ways, the thriller explores the clash between the two worlds. The setting is defiantly unglossy, unsepiatoned Kolkata. It's a city testing its limits. Residential flats with wafer-thin walls line its ever-expanding borders.

The opening shot is that of a murder scene. One such flat is where an upcoming model named Rupsa, also a part-time escort from the suburbs, lived amid middle-class Bengali households. She is the murder victim. A *chhotolok* among *bhodrolok*. After the body is discovered, the girl's flat becomes a selfie point. Women (and men) from the neighbourhood descend upon the flat to explore her walk-in cupboard, comment on her shoe rack (lined with stilettos) and casually go through her laundry basket, caressing the lacy underwear. Until Sabitri Mondol, fresh from her morning prayer rituals, interrupts the melee. Mondol is in charge of the case and is ably supported by a junior inspector, Jamil (Pratik Dutta). A lower-caste woman and a Muslim man surrounded by *bhodroloks*.

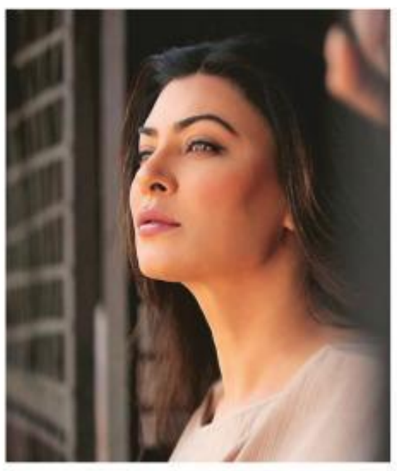
Soon, we are introduced to the main suspects of the murder — Raja Bhattacharya (Gaurav Chakraborty), the son of a powerful politician Mohor Bhattacharya (Indrani Halder). Raja was in an unhappy marriage with Mallika Das (Priyanka Sarkar) and was one of Rupsa's clients. Then there is a shady boyfriend and a powerful dealer. We witness how these characters interact with each other and are gently nudged to observe the undercurrents of their equation.

In a revealing flashback scene, Mohor, the powerful woman politician who had to overcome an abusive relationship to embrace her political career, is introduced to her prospective daughter-in-law, Mallika. "What is your surname," she asks. "Das," Mallika answers. "What kind of Das?", Mohor asks. "Not the Kayastha Das," Mallika answers. Which means she is not the right kind of Das for Mohor, a Bhattacharya, a Brahmin.

Sabitri, whose supportive husband, Rudra, is again not a stereotype of a supportive husband, is given his moments of doubts and exasperated meanness. Sabitri is cloyingly subservient with her boss, always politely navigating the conversation to her advantage. She knows her place in the equation and knows how to play it well. As you delve deeper, it becomes clear that the show is much more important than the mystery that is unravelling. It's a show that reminds you, yet again, that it's our society that creates (and nurtures) the most vicious of monsters; it is the society that chooses to witch-hunt them.

AARYA SEASON 3: PART ONE
Director: Ram Madhvani
Cast: Sushmita Sen, Vikas Kumar, Vishwajeet Pradhan, Viren Vazirani, Geetanjali Kulkarni **Streaming on:** Disney Hotstar

Packs a Punch



BY NOW, those who have followed the tumultuous story of Aarya Sareen, she who is fit enough to do a headstand in the air, are familiar with the twin elements that define her: a mother intent upon protecting her children till her dying breath, and a drug baroness running her business with the help of a few loyal men. This time around, in Season 3, she is about to find that being in bed with bad Russian mobsters — as if there are any other kind — is not as easy as she thought it would be, even as she is up against dangers closer home.

Season 2, which came out two years back, ended with Sushmita Sen's Aarya bathed in vivid splashes of crimson, the colours of the Holi party she is attending. It is also the colour of blood, something that flows generously in this series, created and directed by Ram Madhvani, and based on the Dutch series *Penoza*.

As a large drug consignment is about to be shipped to the waiting Russians under the eagle eye of Aarya's right-hand man (Vishwajeet Pradhan), the clutch of law enforcement officers, led by the dogged Vikas Kumar, who in turn is being tagged by his dodgy colleague (Geetanjali Kulkarni), is on high alert; Aarya's teenaged son's (Viren Vazirani) girlfriend is being targeted by a man (Indraneil Sengupta) who can't get over the killing of his wife; her artist friend (Maya Sarao) is trapped in a terrible situation; her former faithful lieutenant (Sikander Kher) is adrift. And as if all these messes were not enough, a formidable new foe (Ila Arun) is snapping at her well-shod heels: what will Aarya do now?

The familiar nagging feeling at the way Sen delivers her lines — meant to be calm and controlled even when things are going south but come off practiced — is back. I guess that will never go, because the actor playing the eponymous Aarya is the same, her get-up as immaculate as ever, accompanied by designer attire, and those large handbags she wears on her arm. But, as ever, Sen manages to stay on top of everything, because the plot privileges her, and her doings. We know that Aarya will never let up, even when she is forced into letting down those closest to her, because she wants to keep them safe.

There's no let up in the blood and gore either, with characters happily smashing bones and snapping off fingers, and shooting their way out of tight spots. This is a series that doesn't pull its punches when it comes to bumping off its characters, so those with delicate sensibilities need to be careful. Only four episodes are out, the makers strategically wanting to make us wait; at the halfway mark, we are left with the striking image of Aarya turning into a snarling sword-waggler, very *Kill Bill* type. How will it go from here? Stay tuned. **SG**

Hard to Swallow

UT 69 ★½
Director: Shanawaz Ali **Cast:** Raj Kundra

UNDERTRIAL 69 aka UT 69 is the risque label handed out to beleaguered billionaire Raj Kundra playing himself, in a film based on the recent events in his life. Confused? Don't be. If the central role in the bio-pic can be played by the person on whom it is based, and that person happens to be an actor (a detail you can gather from his Wiki page), well, why not?

The trouble with this two-hour-long tale is that instead of digging into details of the accusation — producing pornographic material -- that lands Kundra in Mumbai's Arthur Jail, where he has to stay for 63 days without bail, is that it is just one long litany of woes. From the time the clean-cut Kundra enters a large, empty quarantine cell where he is the only inmate, to an inhumanly crowded pen where hundreds of undertrials are forced to live in terrible, unsanitary, unhygienic conditions, and undergoes everything in between — filthy toilets, barely edible food, regimented days and nights — all we see is the despair and moroseness which besets our man.

The only break he gets is the occasional phone call to his wife, the actor Shilpa Shetty, who is present as a disembodied voice on the phone, or swaying seductively on the TV screen. That's when he breaks into a smile. That, and the rare chance when the undertrials are 'allowed' to celebrate (Ganapati time) when they can sing and dance, or the sequences when they swap life stories, or the warm moment when a birthday is celebrated with a makeshift sonpapdi cake.

Ultimately, there's nothing new in any of it, other than the fact that despite the griminess and the grimness, all of it appears quite sanitised, the coarse brutality and the sexual exploitation reportedly rampant in prisons, barely hinted at.

The only surprise is that Kundra himself appears quite relaxed on screen. Perhaps he does have a future in the movies. **SG**

Remains of the Day

THE MARSH KING'S DAUGHTER ★★½
Director: Neil Burger **Cast:** Daisey Ridley, Ben Mendelsohn, Brooklyn Prince, Gil Birmingham

SHALINI LENGER

THERE IS a quiet disquiet about *The Marsh King's Daughter*, a sense of creeping dread that serves its wafer-thin story well.

As the daughter and father caught in the hazy glow of a relationship that ended abruptly 20 years ago — made hazier and more aglow by the distance — Prince and Ridley as the young and older Helena, and Mendelsohn as the father Jacob, are excellent.

The film is also an accomplishment in brevity of language, keeping the talk simple and short, the silences capturing the unsaid more than words sometimes can.

Still, *The Marsh King's Daughter*, based on a bestseller book by the same name, seems unfulfilling. Having got just right the marsh, the mood, and the mesmerising hold of menace, the film pulls in too many directions, spending far too long in some parts, leaving it very little time for its finale.

We meet Jacob and a 10-year-old Helena in the midst of one of their usual days through the marshes. Watched over by him, she learns the secrets of the woods including how to read its smells, sights and tracks, as well as to hunt. From the point of view of Helena, Jacob is a hero who looms large, a 'protector' who wears multiple tattoos as the marks of his bravery. He also etches them on her too to mark her 'accomplishments'.

The spoiler in this idyll is Helana's mother,

a sad creature who ineffectually tries to keep her away from these hunting trips with Jacob. Then one fine day, with no warning at all, the mother takes things in her own hands and Helena's world turns upside down. Is what she has relied on, all this while, entirely built on lies?

We meet her 20 years later, by when Helena is a mother herself, living a suburban life as removed from the jungle as it gets, in a job that involves meaningless numbers. She has learned to hide her tattoos well, though the wonder she remembers of her childhood days keeps creeping up on her. Ridley conveys this dilemma of what she was, what she thought she would be, and what she is, very well. As she does the sheer fears that Helena bears as a mother, with a 'family to protect' now — her father once taught her that it was the first rule of the jungle.

It is around then that Jacob comes back into her life. How he does, where he does, is another sleight of economy on the part of director Burger (*Divergent*).

Birmingham is in a rather walk-on role as the father figure in Helena's life, who is anyway cruelly dispensable in the end.

The Marsh King's Daughter would have been much better served focusing on the relationship in the title. Even without being kings of marshes, fathers are heroes for their little girls, hard to let go of.

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹61,900	₹83.28	$87.33	₹74,300

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of November 2

SENSEX: 64,363.78 ▲ 282.88 (0.44%) **NIFTY:** 19,230.60 ▲ 97.35 (0.51%) **NIKKEI:** 31,949.89 ▲ 348.24 **HANG SENG:** 17,664.12 ▲ 433.53 **FTSE:** 7,425.20 ▼ 21.33 **DAX:** 15,230.45 ▲ 86.85

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
MARKET

Direct listing on foreign exchanges: What does it mean for Indian cos?

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 3

THE GOVERNMENT recently permitted certain Indian companies to directly list on select foreign stock exchanges, a move which will allow these companies to access global capital and boost capital outflows.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), in a notification earlier this week, said the provision, which was announced in the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020, comes into effect from October 30.

In July this year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the government has decided to enable listed and unlisted domestic companies to directly list their equity shares on the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), Ahmedabad.

What does the MCA notification say?

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the finance minister in 2020. The Bill empowered the central government to allow certain classes of public companies to list classes of securities (as may be prescribed) in foreign jurisdictions.

The MCA in a notification issued on October 30 said, "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2020 (29 of 2020), the Central Government hereby appoints the 30th day of October 2023 as the date on which the provisions of section 5 of the said Act shall come into force."

This essentially means that certain classes of domestic public companies are permitted to get listed on prescribed foreign stock exchanges, including GIFT IFSC, Ahmedabad.

What is Section 5 of the Companies Act, 2020?

Section 5 of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2020 allows certain classes of public companies to issue a category of securities for the purposes of listing on permitted stock exchanges in permissible foreign jurisdictions or such other jurisdictions, as may be prescribed.

This section will help the regulator to kick start work on the rules and regulations to implement the same.

Section 5 also allows the government to exempt the application of certain procedural requirements (such as prospectus, share capital, beneficial ownership requirements, failure to distribute dividend) to such listing which otherwise are applicable, according to Manendra Singh, Partner, Economic Laws Practice.

How do companies currently list on foreign bourses?

At present, domestic listed companies are using depository receipts – American Depository Receipts (GDR) or Global Depository Receipts (GDR) – for listing in the overseas market.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

SUBDUED DEMAND AMID INFLATIONARY SURGE AMONG REASONS

Services sector PMI grows at slowest pace in 7 months

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 3

INDIA'S SERVICES sector accelerated at its slowest pace in seven months in October as output and new business expansion remained soft due to inflationary pressure, a survey said on Friday.

At 58.4 in October, the seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index indicated a slowdown in expansion against 61 in September, signalling the slowest growth rate since March. However, a slight tapering in demand led to sluggish job creation, but underlying activity remained solid, and exports continued to rise healthily, the survey added.

"Several companies managed to secure new contracts, but some mentioned subdued demand for their services and competitive conditions," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence. Despite reduction in value from September, service sector growth in October was led by export and business gains from Asia, Europe and the US.

"Export was an area of particular strength in October, with new business gains from Asia, Europe and the US boosting growth to its second-highest in the series over its nine-year history," Lima said.

On the price front, services companies in India reported an increase in their expenses in October, which they attributed to higher food, fuel and staff costs.

"Although India continued to post substantial growth of aggregate business activity, the upturn lost strength in October amid slower increases in manufacturing production and services activity," the survey said.

"Inflationary forces in the Indian service sector intensified, primarily as a result of surging food, fuel and staff costs. Although survey participants passed these additional cost burdens on to clients, permitted by demand strength, the rise in charges could have been the trigger of the deceleration in sales growth.

Moreover, a pick-up in inflation expectations in October dampened business confidence," De Lima said.

The survey said there is fierce competition and subdued demand for certain types of services, which has negatively affected the business's prospects for the next year. This was reflected by a drop in the future activity sub-index from its nine-year high in September to 63.5. Additionally, employment growth decreased to its lowest level in three months.

However, it did not stop firms passing on higher input costs to customers with both input prices and prices charged rising faster than in the previous month because of inflating food, fuel and staff costs.

"Although survey participants passed these additional cost burdens on to clients, permitted by demand strength, the rise in charges could have been the trigger of the deceleration in sales growth," De Lima said.

On the price front, services companies in India reported an increase in their expenses in October. *File*

Demand letters for ₹1,974 crore issued to higher pension applicants under EPS

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

A TOTAL of 32,591 demand letters have been issued with the cumulative demand raised of Rs 1,974 crore till October 12 from the applicants who opted for higher pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS). The progress of applications for higher pension, which have totalled to around 17.49 lakh, was discussed in the latest meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) held on October 31.

Out of the total 32,591 demand letters, 19,957 are for subscribers from exempted establishments and 12,634 from un-exempted establishments, as per the data shared in the CBT meeting. Around 11.51 lakh forms have been submitted by employers to the field offices of the EPFO, while 5.97 lakh forms are pending with employers.

"...demand letters for a total demand of Rs 1,974 crore have been raised from the applicants for deposit/diversion. Upon deposit/diversion, the applicants shall become eligible for pension on higher wages," an official said, adding that almost 52 per cent of the workload for pension linked to higher wages pertains to exempted establishments.

If the applicants for higher pension under EPS have the due amount available in their provident fund accounts maintained with the EPFO, then only a diversion would be required. In cases where the due amount is not available with the EPFO, then it will have to be deposited by the member directly or through the employer, officials said, adding that the option for higher pension will become valid only when the amounts due to the pension fund have been received for that particular individual.

The EPFO is considering completing the actuarial analysis only after all the applications for validation of joint option are disposed of. So far, data of 13,059 cases wherein demand letters were issued by field offices mid-August have been shared with the consultant actuary.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

FM'sVisit To Sri Lanka

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman visits Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil in Jaffna during her three-day official visit to Sri Lanka. *@nsitharamanoffc*

India's forex reserves rise by $ 2.57 bn

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 3

DESPITE WITHDRAWAL by foreign investors from the market, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by $2.579 billion to $586.111 billion during the week ended on October 27, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday.

A $5 billion dollar-rupee swap conducted by the RBI last year, where it sold dollars and bought rupees, matured on October 23, leading to a reversal of the trade. The reserves data for the week reflects the impact of this maturity.

As the $5 billion forex swap matured on Monday, banks delivered the entire amount to the RBI in one go, market participants said.

"The delivery (of $5 billion forex swap) happened without any issue. The entire $5 billion has gone from the banking system to the RBI. It was a contract undertaken by the RBI with the various banks one-and-a-half years back, so automatically the dollars went from the banks' account to the RBI's account," said a treasury official at a public sector bank.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, नागपुर
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur
Plot No. 2, Sector - 20, MIHAN, Nagpur, Pin: 441108,
https://aiimsnagpur.edu.in

No. AIIMS/NGP/Admin/Rect./Deputation/2023/04 Date: 04/11/2023

Applications are invited from Indian nationals for the following Group 'A' & 'B' post on deputation basis at AIIMS Nagpur:

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Group	Pay Scale	Upper Age Limit	No. of Vacancies
1.	Registrar	A	Level - 12 (₹ 78,800 – ₹ 2,09,200)	Upto 56 years	01
2.	Nursing Superintendent	A	Level - 11 (₹ 67,700 – ₹ 2,08,700)	Upto 56 years	02
3.	Administrative Officer	A	Level - 10 (₹ 56,100 – ₹ 1,77,500)	Upto 56 years	01
4.	Office Superintendent	B	Level - 06 (₹ 35,400 –₹ 1,12,400)	Upto 56 years	01
5.	Assistant	B	Level - 06 (₹ 35,400 –₹ 1,12,400)	Upto 56 years	01
6.	Technicians (Laboratory)	B	Level - 06 (₹ 35,400 – ₹ 1,12,400)	Upto 56 years	04
	Grand Total				10

The Format of application, eligibility criteria and other details are available on the https://aiimsnagpur.edu.in application complete in all respect should reach AIIMS Nagpur, MIHAN campus within 30 days from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News.

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS, Nagpur

BRIEFLY

Canara Bank organises walkathon

New Delhi: Canara Bank on Wednesday organised a walkathon in Bengaluru as a follow-up event of the Vigilance Awareness Week 2023. It was flagged off by the MD & CEO, K Satyanarayana Raju. Around 200 bank officials participated in the event to disseminate the message on the need to fight against corruption. **ENS**

Joyalukkas chairman to unveil autobiography

New Delhi: Joyalukkas Group chairman Joy Alukkas will release autobiography titled, 'Spreading Joy – How Joyalukkas Became the World's Favorite Jeweller' on November 5 at the Sharjah International Book Fair. The book is published by HarperCollins and offers insights into leadership and brand-building. **ENS**

Air purifier sales surge as air quality worsens

New Delhi: Air purifier makers are witnessing a sudden spike in sales and customer enquiries amid air quality worsening in the national capital and adjoining areas. The makers said they are receiving queries from Mumbai and some eastern parts of the country, alongside the New Delhi-National Capital Region, where air quality levels have also gone down substantially. **PTI**

Lot of headroom for Apple to grow in India: Tim Cook

JATIN GROVER
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

APPLE CEO Tim Cook sees a lot of headroom for the company to grow the marketshare of iPhones in India. "We had an all-time revenue record in India. We saw strong double-digit growth here. It's an incredibly exciting market and a major focus area for us," Cook said, addressing analysts after the company declared its global earnings for the fourth quarter.

Apple has recorded double digit growth in the India market for the sixth quarter on the back of strong iPhone sales. "We see an extraordinary market . a lot of people moving into the middle class, distribution is getting better, lots of positives," Cook added. **FE**

FinMin launches amnesty scheme for filing appeals against GST demand orders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

THE FINANCE ministry has come out with an amnesty scheme for filing appeals against Goods and Services Tax (GST) demand orders.

The scheme, which will be open till January 31, 2024, will be available for entities that were unable to submit their appeals against orders issued by the tax officer on or before March 31, 2023, according to the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The CBIC issued a notification with respect to the scheme on Thursday.

So far, the GST law allowed an assessee to file an appeal against an assessment order seeking taxes within three months of the tax officer passing such a demand order. This can be extended by one more month.

The entities willing to avail of the scheme will have to pre-deposit 12.5 per cent of the tax demand. *File*

In its last meeting on October 7, the GST Council had approved this amnesty scheme for filing appeals. The entities willing to avail of the scheme will have to pre-deposit 12.5 per cent of the tax demand, against 10 per cent currently.

The move will facilitate a large number of taxpayers, who could not file an appeal in the past within the specified time period.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said the scheme would be a lifeline for those who might have missed the appeal deadline due to administrative errors or unforeseen circumstances. This initiative can also promote enhanced compliance among taxpayers.

By offering a fair and lenient approach to appeal filing, it encourages better cooperation with tax authorities and a willingness to resolve disputes or clarify tax matters.

"Additionally, by allowing disputes to be resolved more efficiently, the scheme may reduce the burden on the legal system. This benefits both taxpayers and the tax administration by streamlining the appeal process and potentially reducing the need for prolonged litigation," Mohan added.

P&W engine issues will cause more aircraft grounding in Mar qtr: IndiGo

New Delhi: The country's largest airline IndiGo on Friday said there will be more grounding of aircraft due to the Pratt & Whitney engine issues in the fourth quarter and is taking a range of mitigating measures.

Currently, around 40 planes of the airline are grounded due to the engine issues, according to a senior airline official.

IndiGo, which had a fleet of 334 aircraft at the end of September, is taking various measures, including taking planes on wet lease, retaining ceo aircraft and also leasing additional ceo planes from the secondary market. **PTI**

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, नागपुर
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur
Plot No. 2, Sector - 20, MIHAN, Nagpur, Pin: 441108,
https://aiimsnagpur.edu.in

No. AIIMS/NGP/REC/Direct/Nonfaculty/2023/03 Date: 04/11/2023

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up various non-faculty posts on Direct Recruitment Basis at AIIMS Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Group	Pay Scale	Upper Age Limit	No. of Vacancies
1.	Embryologist	B	Level-06	Between 21-35 years of age	01
2.	Technician(OT)	B	Level-06	Between 18-35 years of age.	05
3.	Medical Social Service Officer Grade-II	B	Level-06	Age not exceeding 35 years	02
4.	Perfusionist	B	Level-06	Between 18-30 years of age	01
5.	Technician(Prosthetics & Orthotics)	B	Level-06	Between 21-30 years of age	02
6.	Assistant Dietician	B	Level-06	Age not exceeding 35 years	02
7.	Technician(Radiotherapy)	B	Level-06	Age not exceeding 30 years	02
8.	Dental Technician (Hygienist)	C	Level-05	Between 21-35 years of age	01
9.	Dental Technician (Mechanic)	C	Level-05	Between 21-35 years of age	01
10.	Nuclear Medicine Technologist	C	Level-05	Age not exceeding 30 years	01
11.	Junior Hindi Translator	C	Level-04	Age upto 30 years	01
12.	Mortuary Attendant	C	Level-01	Between 18-30 years of age	02
	Grand Total				21

1. The Crucial date for determining the age limit shall be the closing date for submission of online application.
2. The Candidates willing to apply for the above posts are advised to visit Institute Website https://aiimsnagpur.edu.in. The detailed advertisement along with Instructions and additional Information to candidates for recruitment by selection has been displayed on Institute Website https://aiimsnagpur.edu.in.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin)
AIIMS, Nagpur

SML ISUZU LIMITED
Regd. Office : Village Asron, Distt. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Nawanshahr) - 144 533, Punjab. CIN : L50101PB1983PLC005516,
Website: www.smlisuzu.com, Email id : investors@smlisuzu.com, T : 91 1881 270255, F: 91 1881 270223

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Rs. Crores, except per equity share data

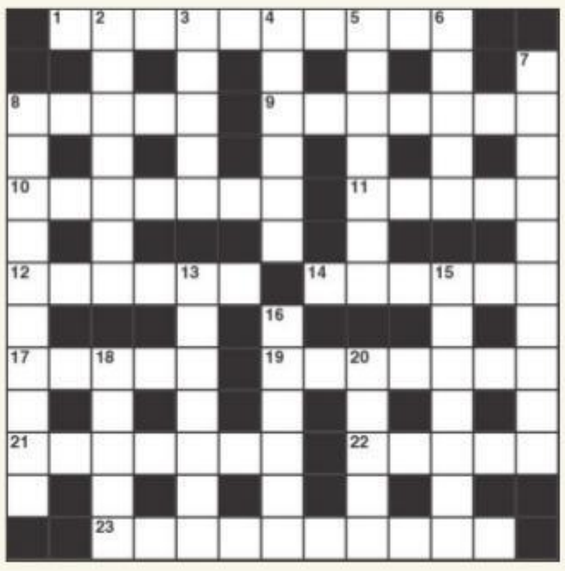
Particulars	Quarter Ended			Half Year Ended		Year Ended
	30.09.2023	30.06.2023	30.09.2022	30.09.2023	30.09.2022	31.03.2023
	Unaudited					Audited
Total income	498.81	633.81	410.84	1,132.62	911.50	1,824.71
Net profit / (loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	21.15	32.05	(9.17)	53.20	(6.83)	17.28
Net profit/(loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	21.15	32.05	(9.17)	53.20	(6.83)	17.28
Net profit/(loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	21.09	31.79	(9.17)	52.88	(6.83)	19.83
Total comprehensive income / (loss) for the period [comprising Profit / (loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	20.90	31.01	(9.45)	51.91	(7.34)	16.46
Equity Share Capital	14.48	14.48	14.48	14.48	14.48	14.48
Other equity (excluding revaluation reserves)	-	-	-	-	-	163.47
Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -						
1. Basic (Rs.) :	14.57	21.97	(6.34)	36.54	(4.72)	13.71
2. Diluted (Rs.) :	14.57	21.97	(6.34)	36.54	(4.72)	13.71

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Annual/Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Annual/Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of Stock Exchange(s) (www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.smlisuzu.com).

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
(Junya Yamanishi)
Managing Director & CEO
DIN: 09174162

Place: New Delhi
Date : 3 November 2023

CROSSWORD 5200



ACROSS

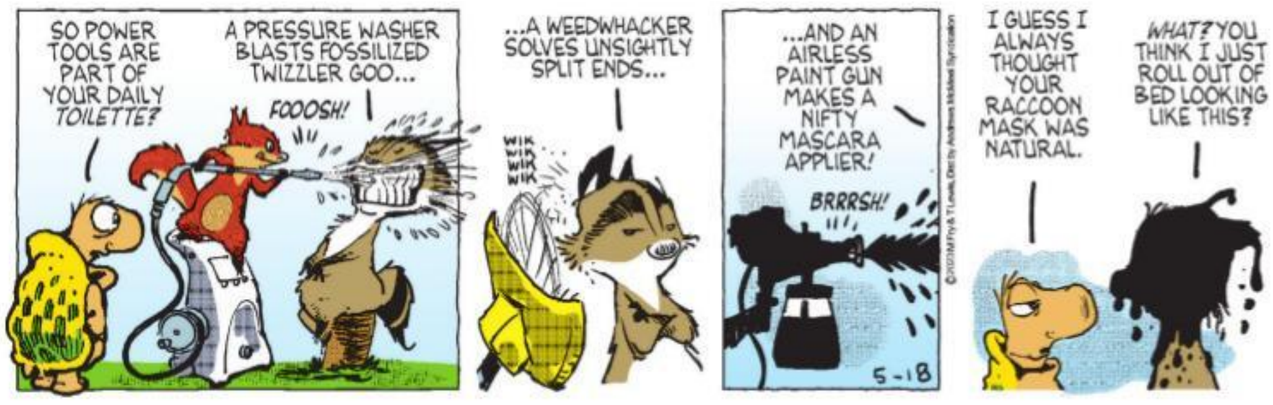
1 Bumper sale is likely to be arranged (10)
8 Do well getting about ninety fish (5)
9 A game to the French to be played soundly (7)
10 When there's a change of plea men select a jury (7)
11 A minor grant (5)
12 Makes you French look Italian (6)
14 Tenant the French understand (6)
17 Peruse English novelist (5)
19 Hill split by flood (7)
21 Ends interim arrangement (7)
22 Eccentric when out and about (5)
23 They saw where a fish comes in (10)

DOWN

2 About one hundred mince pies - made from these? (7)
3 Fresh loans required for a hairdressing business (5)
4 Kipling hero who led a wild life as a youngster (6)
5 A bridge may be built by this military unit (7)
6 More to come in the next race (5)
7 Exactly the place where a crank is powerless (4,6)
8 Choose to speak to the voters (10)
13 A row about the Spanish drawing room (7)
15 Lets her move out into lodgings perhaps (7)
16 One way to travel is to walk (6)
18 Maurice has a heart of gold (5)
20 Twisted roots used for a perch (5)

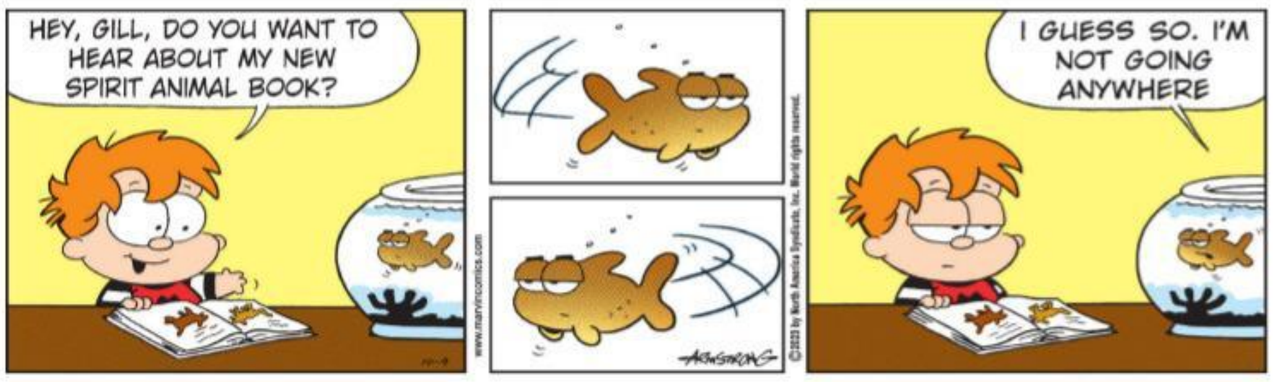
Solutions Crossword 5199 Across: 1 Column, 4 Useful, 9 Titania, 10 Throw, 11 Liszt, 12 Dismiss, 13 Astronomers, 18 Cast off, 20 Nepal, 22 Raise, 23 Swifter, 24 Sanity, 25 Adonis **Down:** 1 Cattle, 2 Lotus, 3 Monitor, 5 Sites, 6 Furrier, 7 Lowest, 8 Hard and fast, 14 Session, 15 Mankind, 16 Scores, 17 Glares, 19 Overt, 21 Putin

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson

MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
In the past, you hesitated in the face of seductive proposals, but you may now feel free to accept fresh offers of a social or romantic nature. Take heart from the fact that Venus' changing position in your solar horoscope is about to bring new and attractive people into your life.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
You can now afford to relax a little. Six planets are acting in your defence, not a bad total considering recent stresses and strains. Your social life is liable to revolve around hobbies and joint interests, and activities which are generally worthwhile and life-improving.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Mars' approaching relationship with Neptune obliges you to look around for fresh inspiration. Romantic influences are stronger than usual, though in a much broader sense than the purely emotional. Artistic and imaginative types are bound to feel the real benefits of recent initiatives.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Moon is rapidly heading towards lively, energetic spaces. Enjoy to the full the next couple of days, while the accent remains on friendships and welcome domestic experiences. You must stress the value of a pleasant environment for your future happiness.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Your stars just don't seem to be able to take their gaze away from your money. Before the next phase or cycle in your affairs, you must get your finances sorted out. There will be much to say about your cash situation, your incomings and outgoings, over the next month or so.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
These are energetic times. Whether working, relaxing or pressing on with routine chores, you should push yourself as hard as you can. But don't expect other, more lethargic people to keep up. Don't worry about delays, they're part of the pattern.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Much of what is said or implied over the current period is likely to be based on unfounded rumour or conjecture, and should therefore be disregarded. On the other hand, this evening you will be forced to listen to other people, like it or not.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
You must be on the mend now, and a professional hiccup should be coming into perspective. You are set up to spend a pleasant weekend, and the closer you feel to a particular person, the greater you will appreciate their sensitivity and discretion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
Society has set the weekend aside as the time to relax. It is therefore rather fortuitous that the pleasurable fifth house of your solar chart is so well aspected. You are well primed for an enjoyable day, with an increasing chance of an extravagant outburst.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
You might want to pause for a long, deep breath. Recent events may have left you poorer than you were before, yet undoubtedly wiser. Such fluctuations in fortune are part and parcel of astrology's cyclical nature, and the next phase will be one of prosperity.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
What took place last week seems to have upset a number of personal arrangements. However, as one awkward planetary influence has subsided, so another, more favourable, one has emerged to take its place. Socially the future is bright, so get out and enjoy yourself.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You do feel that you have been misled or misinformed. However, such feelings may be based less on real events than on your perpetual tendency to grab the wrong end of the stick as far as other people are concerned. Try focusing on the facts for a change.

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.

There is only one___ of literature — that of ___. - Vladimir Nabokov (6,,6)

BDAEO

NYOST

ABOLLT

AHUCHN

SOLUTION: ADOBE/ABODE, STONY, BALOT, HAUNCH
Answer: There is only one **school** of literature — that of **talent**.
- Vladimir Nabokov

SUDOKU 5371

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard;
6s = Genius

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5370

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

Office of The Superintending Engineer
Central Equipment & Stores Procurement Circle-II,
Irrigation Department, Uttar Pradesh,
Ganga Sinchai Bhawan, Telibagh,
LUCKNOW-226025
Short Terms e - Tender Notice

Online e-bids on prescribed bid forms in three parts namely (i) Earnest Money Bid (ii) Technical bid (iii) Price bid are invited simultaneously by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh only from ISO: 9001-2015 certified Original Manufacturers, registered with Director of Industries of the State / N.S.I.C./ Ministry of Industries, Government of India as original manufacturers for SUBMERSIBLE PUMPSETS 1.0 Cusec (102 m3/hr.) discharge capacity from 15Mtr. to 54 Mtr. Head, on firm & fixed price up to **11.00 Hours on 20.11.2023.** The details of eligibility, qualification and procedure for submission of e-bids etc. are available in the bid document uploaded on the U.P.Govt. E-procurement website: http://etender.up.nic.in. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-bids/ annul the bidding process without assigning any reason. In case of any variation in English and Hindi version of this tender notice, English version shall prevail. Items mentioned below are for irrigation purpose only. Details of different activities are as follows:-

Sl. No.	e - Tender Notice No.	TE-980/2023-24
(a)	**Date & time for Availability of the bid document on website.**	05.11.2023 From 10.00 Hours onwards
(b)	**Period for online Bid submission & Online opening date & time of Part "A" i.e. Earnest Money Bid.**	05.11.2023 from 11.00 Hours 20.11.2023 up to 11.00 Hours & 21.11.2023 at 11.30 Hours.
(c)	**Bid document fee.**	Rs. 29,500.00 (Rs. Twenty Nine Thousand Five hundred only)

Note:-
1) This Notice is also available on Information & Public Relation Department website (**http://information.up.nic.in**) and Irrigation & Water Resources Department website (**http://idup.gov.in**).
2) Amendments, if any, regarding this notice shall only be available at U P government se-procurement website **http://etender.up.nic.in**
3) In case the date of opening of bids is declared a holiday then the e-bids shall be opened on the next working day at the same time.

UPID-197100 Dt. 02.11.2023
www.up.gov.nic.in

Superintending Engineer
Central Equipment & Stores Procurement Circle-II,
Irrigation Department, U.P., Lucknow

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender notice no.: CRW-HRT-M-ANTIGRAFFITI Date: 31.10.2023

For and on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut invites open e-tender for the following works as detailed:-

1. Name of work with its location : "Anti Graffiti coating to sustain external aesthetics in coaches". **2. Apprx. cost of the work :** Rs. 2,82,44,601.00 (Rupees Two Crore Eighty Two Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Six Hundred One only). **3. Cost of Tender Form :** Nil, **4. Earnest Money to be deposited :** Rs. 2,91,200.00 (Rupees Two Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Two Hundred Only). **5. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender :** The tender have to be submitted online on **https://www.ireps.gov.in** website up to 11:00 hrs. on 22.11.2023 and will be opened on the same day at 11:15 hrs., **6. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. :** Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: **https://www.ireps.gov.in** & full details of notice can be seen on notice board in the office of Chief Workshop Manager, Administrative Building, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut, Nalanda, Bihar - 803110. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required.

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer
Carriage Repair Workshop/Harnaut
PR/01543/HRT/2/T/23-24/44

Govt. of Bihar

Bihar State Electronic Development Corporation Limited
BELTRON Bhawan, Shastri Nagar,
Patna - 800 0023, Bihar
Phone:- 0612-228 1856/228 1857 Fax:- 0612-228 1857
Email ID- mahendrakumar@bihar.gov.in

Tender/NIT No. : 9486/2023

e-Tender Notice

"Empanelment of Supplier for Supply of Class III DIGITAL SINGATURE CERTIFICATES (Signing + Encryption) along with USB e-TOKENS and supply and installation of PDF signing utility"

e-Tenders are invited by Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd. from eligible bidders for Empanelment/Rate contract for Supply, Delivery and Support of Digital Signature Certificate for users of Government Departments and Corporations. The details of the tender document are available on the website:-www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in.

Last date for submission of Tender (Only through e-Tendering): **17/11/2023 till 04:00PM**. The submission of tender will only be allowed after amendments if any, as a result of Pre-bid meeting.

This information is available on **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also**

PR. No. 011287 (Ni.Ni) 2023-24

Managing Director

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

"IMPORTANT"

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender Notice No: - S N T-JU-12-2023-24 Open E-tender is invited by DRM (S&T), Jodhpur for and on behalf of the President of India for S&T work. Details as below. **1. Name of Work:** Provision of Safety point reversal alarm unit through interfacing with existing datalogger system installed at various stations of Jodhpur division of NW Railway. **2. Estimated cost of the work:** Rs. 7515079/- (R/O) **3. Address of the NIT Issuing office:** Sr.DSTE/JU NWR, DRM Office Harish Joshi Marg Jodhpur. **4. Bid security to be deposited:** Rs. 150300/- **5. Last Date & time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender:** 23/11/2023 Upto 11:00 Hrs. through E-tendering online submission on IREPS, Tender will be opened at 11:00 Hrs. **6. Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen and participated: www.ireps.gov.in Note:** This is a E-Tender, so tenderer can participate through e-tendering process only on mentioned website **1150-AC/23**

Follow us on /NWRailways /NWRailways_

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
E_Mail ID: serw_balasore@yahoo.in
Ph-No-06782/260318
O-1438

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 51 of 2023-24
Letter No. 5151 Date. 27.10.2023

1.	**Name of the work**	:-	Road Works under **Connecting Missing Road Links (CMRL)**
2.	Total No. of work	:-	**4Nos. of work.**
3.	Estimated Cost	:-	From **Rs.253.60** lakhs to **Rs. 497.44** lakhs (Approximately)
4.	Eligible Class of Contractor	:-	As per annexure.
5.	Period of Completion	:-	As per annexure.
6.	Other details	:-	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on line for bidding		Last date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	NCB No.- 51 of 2023-24	04.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M	15.11.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	14.11.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	16.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	**Will be intimated later**

● Further details can be seen from the website: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W. Circle, Balasore.
OIPR- 25105/11/0065/2324

Bakhtiyarpur College of Engineering
Govt. of Bihar
Champapur, Dedaur, Bakhtiyarpur-803212
(Under Department of Science, Technology and Technical Education Patna, Govt. of Bihar)
Email-Id-bcebakhtiyarpur@gmail.com
Website-bcebakhtiyarpur.org

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR GUEST ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Advt. No.- BCE/FT/2023-24/07

Bakhtiyarpur College of Engineering, Bakhtiyarpur is going to conduct a walk-in-interview for the empanelment of GUEST ASSISTANT PROFESSOR in FIRE TECHNOLOGY & SAFETY for the current academic session. Interested and eligible candidates may appear for the walk-in-interview with all their original academic certificates, Category Certificate, Residential Certificate, Hard copy of CV, 02 sets of photo copies of original documents/certificates, and 02 recent passport size photographs per the following schedule:

Sr. No.	Post	Subject/ Department	Academic qualification and Experience	Date and time of Interview	Venue
1.	**Guest Assistant Professor**	FIRE TECHNOLOGY & SAFETY	As per AICTE/DSTTE Notification No.-565, Dated-13.02.2020	25-11-2023 AT 11:00 AM	Bakhtiyarpur College of Engineering, Champapur, Dedaur, Bakhtiyarpur -803212

Important Instruction: -
1. Essential qualifications are as per AICTE/DSTTE Norms.
2. Ph.D/NET qualified candidates will be preferred.
3. Retired Professor will get preference.
4. This engagement will be purely temporary and remuneration-based.
5. Remuneration for Guest Assistant Professor will be as per existing rules and directives of DSTTE, Government of Bihar.
6. The Institute reserves the right to withdraw the partial or full advertisement/ notification w.r.t walk-in-interview without assigning any reason.
7. The services of Guest Assistant Professor will be terminated without notice if found unsatisfactory. No claim will be entertained in this regard.
8. No TA/DA will be paid for attending the Interview.
9. Reservation as per existing state government rules and departmental letter no-897, Date-31.03.2022
10. The advertisement is based on the departmental Sankalp no. 3016/Patna dated 02.12.2021

For further details please visit website **www.bcebakhtiyarpur.org**

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**
PR- 011272 (Sci. and Tech.) 2023-24

Principal
Bakhtiyarpur, College of Engineering
Bakhtiyarpur

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

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORK (TRIBAL) DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR TENDER
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 30 YEAR 2023-2024

Sr.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost
1	Construction of Government Tribal Boys Hostel Building at Satana, Tal. Satana, Dist. Nashik (Capacity 250).	7,23,79,613/-

Date of E-Tender Downloading **Date 06.11.2023 Time 10.00 to Date 30.11.2023 Time 17.55** Date of E-Tender Opening **01.12.2023 Time 11.00 (if possible).**

1. Tender form Condition of Contract Specification and Contract Drawing can be download from e-tendering portal of Public Work Department of Maharashtra i.e. **https://mahatenders.gov.in**
2. Tender Notice can be seen also on web site **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

No. AB/TC/ /2023
Office of the Executive Engineer,
P.W. (Tribal) Division, Nashik.
Date :

Sd/-
(S. S. Sangale)
Executive Engineer
P. W. (Tribal) Division, Nashik
DGIPR/2023-2024/4660

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE SAMBALPUR
Mail ID:- sepwdsbp@rediffmail.com
B-1182

e-Procurement
BID IDENTIFICATION No CCENC (R AND B)/21/2023-24
No. 5723 Dtd. 30.10.2023

1. The **Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **Percentage Rate** bids in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for the construction of **Road works and Building works** as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
2. No of works = **03 NOS (THREE) (ROAD WORK AND BUILDING WORKS)**
3. Tender Cost: **Rs. 10,000/-**
4. Class of contractor: **"B' Class, "A" Class and "Special".**
5. Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids From **04.11.2023** to **17.00 Hours** of **18.11.2023**.
6. Date of opening of Technical Bid **18.11.2023** at **18.00 Hours**.
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.
8. Any corrigendum/ Addendum will be displayed in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur
OIPR- 34035/11/0024/2324

TODAY'S MATCHES

New Zealand vs Pakistan, 10:30 am
Australia vs England, 2 pm
Live on Star Sports network

GHGHGHGHGH

Bangladesh cancel practice because of air quality in Delhi

New Delhi: The Bangladesh cricket team cancelled their scheduled training session in Delhi due to rising air pollution ahead of their World Cup game against Sri Lanka. The Bangladesh versus Sri Lanka match to be played on Monday is the last game in Delhi.

Bangladesh, out of the semifinal race, arrived in the national capital on Wednesday after the loss against Pakistan in Kolkata. The team was to train between 6 pm and 9 pm on Friday evening but then cancelled the practice session.

"We actually had a training session today, but due to worsening conditions, we didn't take the chance. We have two more training days. Some of us developed coughing, so there's a risk factor. We don't want to get sick. We don't know if things will improve, but we have training tomorrow. We want all the players to be fit for the important game coming up on November 6," Bangladesh team director Khaled Mahmud was quoted as saying by *espncricinfo.com*. Delhi's air quality dipped to the "severe plus" category on Friday.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PCB set to rope in Afridi for 'betterment of cricket'

Lahore: Just days after Shahid Afridi had slammed Chairman of the PCB Management Committee Zaka Ashraf and asked him to focus on his job, the former Pakistan captain met Ashraf at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. The meeting comes a day after Afridi met with Pakistan's interim Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar. "I received a call from the Prime Minister's Office and had to rush to Islamabad to meet the PM. It was really a pleasure talking to the PM on cricketing issues. He looked keen on the proper training of youth and grooming them in a systematic way so that they could go on to make a name for themselves and for the country," Afridi was quoted as saying by *Geo Super*. A PCB press release did not disclose what was discussed between Ashraf and Afridi, but noted: "We would love to have your experience for betterment of Pakistan cricket."' ENS

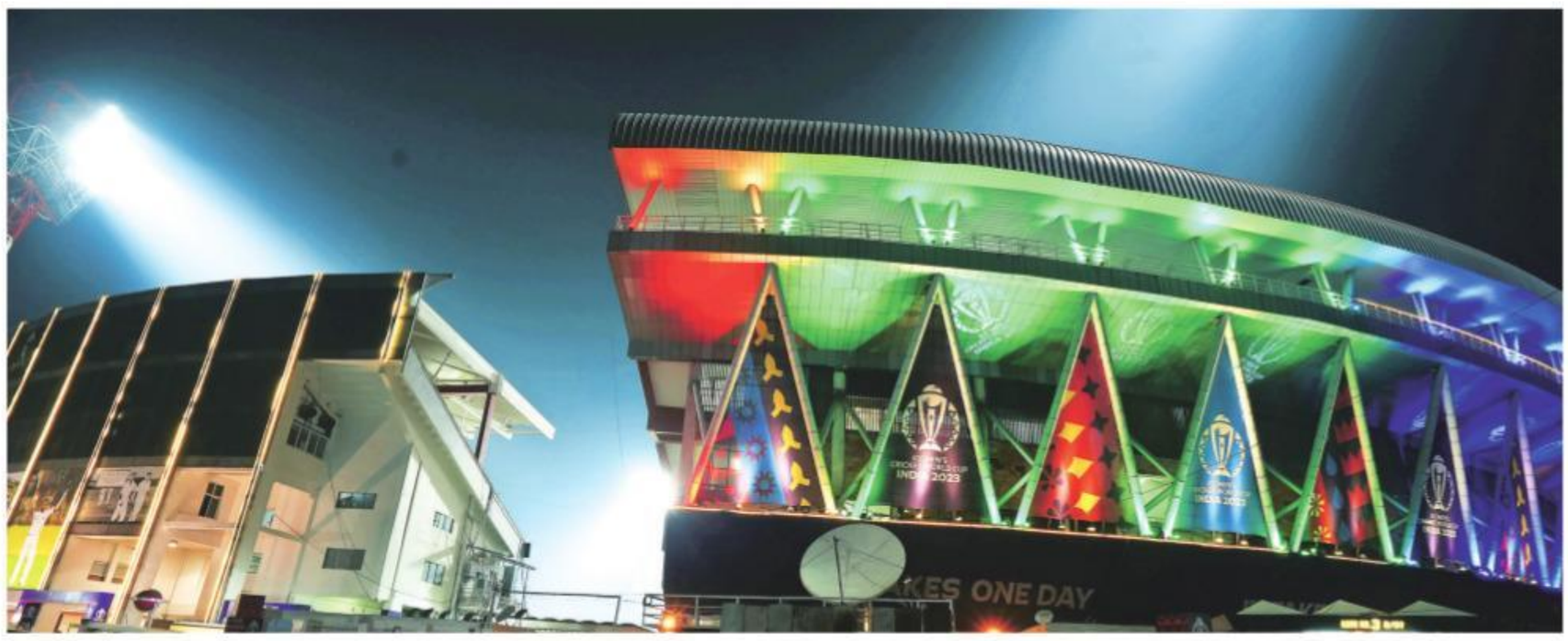
Cummins calls for bigger squad strength

Ahmedabad: With just 13 members available out of the 15-man squad for their World Cup match against England, Australian captain Pat Cummins on Friday said teams should be allowed to travel with larger squads considering the tournament's duration. Australia will miss the services of star players Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh in Saturday's contest against their traditional rivals. "Yeah, to be honest," Cummins said when asked if he is in favour of bringing in regulations allowing teams to pick larger squads for long tournaments like the World Cup. Teams can have just 15 member squads. "I mean, it's a two-month tournament. You wouldn't want to be in a position where, say, a team like New Zealand have had some injuries and luckily, they've been able to hold someone like Kane in the squad." ENS

Eden & South Africa: A perfect match

Mohammed Shami jerseys sold out around Eden Gardens stadium where South Africa's Clive Rice once felt like Neil Armstrong

SANDIP G
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 3



The Eden Gardens is all decked up ahead of the India versus South Africa game on Sunday.

ADJOINING THE sprawling maidan and the Eden Gardens is what the locals call — the largest sports goods market in Asia. Whether it's a brag or the truth, the half a kilometer-stretch is the first stop of every aspiring sportsman of the city.

Badminton racquets dangle from creaking ceilings, cricket bats of all sizes, shapes, wood and football boots are a nudge away from falling off the glassed showcases. There are also imitation-gold plated trophies shinning garishly under the glare of tube-lights.

"The journey of every sportsman starts here, and not the maidan," says Rahman Ali, who owns Palace Sports. "Established 1965," he asserts.

Ali's grandfather, like most shop-owners had migrated from East Pakistan after the partition. "Back in the 70s, Abbas Ali Baig tore his shoes one day and bought a pair from us. My grandfather didn't take any money from him. Dhoni too bought a pair of gloves from here once. And of course, we have spotted Shami bhai a lot of times here (before Mohammed Shami got into the Indian team). Now, of course, he can't. He would be using foreign goods."

Shami's jerseys, though, are out of stock. Ali reasons: "Usually, we stock more jerseys of Rohit and Virat. But we didn't know our bowlers would become such a hit. But no worries, the load will arrive tomorrow, in time for the match," he says.

Every replica jersey costs around Rs 450, which in normal time is sold for Rs 250-300. "The pandemic struck us badly, we were running on heavy losses. So we have to cash in during the World Cup," says Armaan, who quips: "We look forward to the sports season more than the sportsmen."

The three-week window is their equivalent of the harvest season. These days, they sell around 200-300 jerseys a day, and on match-days even more. Match-days are the busiest days, and therein lies their biggest pang. "The stadium is so near, yet we can't leave the shop and watch the match," he says.

The jersey-hunters are swelling by the minute and the narrow passageways have become narrower. Some stop by and chat about Shami's demolition of Sri Lanka, or whether Virat Kohli would equal Sachin Tendulkar at the Eden. The proximity of the bus station that is ferrying thousands of cricket pilgrims from different corners of the state and the line of hotels in the neighboring New Market Area has made an already crowded part of the city seaming at its bursts.

Some of them wander into the Eden Gardens, across the Maidan with its kite-fliers. These marching cadet scouts go past the hundreds of sports clubs and the Lesilie Claudius Sarai named after the city's most famous hockey star, in search for a selfie or to merely soak in the atmosphere.

"You should come after six," a policeman tells a pair of inquisitive tourists." That is when the facade of the storied stadium glows. A fleet of police cars screeched past the stadium, tired policemen could be spotted leaning against the walls or resting on the cane fence near the stadium.

There is a buzz crackling in the humid air of the city. When the list of games were announced, the city was dejected that it would not host any of India's marquee games. It's hosting a semifinal—but it was accustomed to hosting bigger games, the finals (1987 World Cup and 2016 T20 WC). And wallowing about its glorious past is ingrained in the city's psyche.

SA's piece of history

Political subplots were read into it. But the sleight of destiny ensured that the city got the most competitive game of the tournament, India versus South Africa. Few considered South Africa contenders, but they are now the second favourites. England's Ben Stokes has picked South Africa over India: "They are looking good," he said.

Two days cannot fly faster is the common refrain in Kolkata. Some fans loitered around the stadium, assuming that the team would practise in the stadium on Friday. A policeman, tired of shooing a pack of youngsters away, now starts shouting expletives and waving the cane lathi. They flee. The new batch arrives, and the policeman is at his wits' end.

Mohammed Shami jerseys are out of stock at the sports goods market near Eden Gardens. *Sandip G*

Among those hoping to watch the game at Eden Gardens is Ebrahim, from Durban. He landed on Thursday, but has no ticket. Draped in a South Africa flag, he says: "Maybe, I can buy one in the black market, or one of the South African supporters here can manage one. I was so thrilled to watch this World Cup that I didn't bother about the ticket. I called a friend of mine from Cape Town last week and decided to travel just like that," he says.

He says it was destiny that has brought him to Kolkata. "We played our first game after reintroduction here, we won our first Test match in India here. Hopefully, we will watch something special here too," he says.

There is another connect—the administrator credited with bringing South Africa back into the cricket fold, Jagmohan Dalmiya, too was from the city. The series was organised in a week's time, thanks to a meeting between then West Bengal CM Jyoti Basu and South Africa cricket board administrator Ali Bacher.

A batch of nervous cricketers in a chartered flight landed to a raucous welcome. In the post-match interview, captain Clive Rice would emotionally say: "I know how Neil Armstrong felt when he stood on the moon." There is a picture of him and his teammates bowing down with folded hands and thanking the crowd after the game. "The most historic match in the history of South African cricket," he would say.

A sense of history is lurking around the Eden Gardens this week too, as two of the strongest teams in the World Cup encounter on Sunday. And there is a whole ecosystem around it, literally and symbolically, waiting for the match and their catch.

Why SA should order Chinese takeaway before the India game

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

IN THE final moments of the South Africa vs Pakistan match — easily this World Cup's most riveting duel — the world saw some unusual cricketing sights. Pakistan were cornered, they did play like tigers but ended up being caged. South Africa kept their nerves, didn't panic and won a close World Cup game.

There was one more significant sight that would give South Africa hope of ending their agonising wait for the long-suffering nation. The two last men standing - Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi - constantly spoke to each other during that tense heart-stopping match-winning 11-run stand. Like always, South Africa is a team of sparkling talent but this time Temba Bavuma's men are also talking.

Don't they talk in tense situations? Is minding one's own business a debilitating frailty in team sports? Yes, according to an interesting inquest of South African cricket by writer Luke Alfred in his well-researched book 'Art of Losing - Why the Proteas choke at the cricket World Cup'.

The book has a telling quote by Clinton Gahwiler, a psychologist with South Africa's 2003 World Cup squad, that attempts to answer world cricket's most asked questions. "I've always sensed in general that South African sporting teams don't talk enough, especially with that kind of macho culture that's so prevalent in our sport,' he says.

As can be expected, the book puts on stand Lance Klusener and Allan Donald, the men on the central square during South Africa's most-famous World Cup meltdown - the final ball heart-break in 1999 when South Africa dramatically snatched defeat from the tightly clenched jaws of victory against Australia.

Writer Alfred recommends to re-run the tapes to watch the limited exchanges between Klusener and Donald. "The two batsmen had spoken when Donald walked to the wicket ... But they failed to have that calming, necessary chat when it was most needed ... Klusener was so locked into the idea of winning the match that he was unable to step out of himself ... Such was his desire ... that Donald was, for all intents and purposes, invisible, a bit player in Klusener's drama in which he was the hero rather than a teammate or colleague."

In the years to come, Edgbaston would become a taboo subject in South Africa. No one spoke about it. The 1999 coach and captain - Bob Woolmer and Hansie Cronje - were not asked to prepare a report. There was no diagnosis of a mysterious panic attack. In the subsequent World Cups worse was to follow.

Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi after their 11-run match-winning partnership against Pakistan. *PTI*

2003: SA chase D/L target. Mark Boucher gets confused. He didn't know they needed to go past that target, score that extra run. The dressing room fails to convey the message. 12th man Nicky Boje tries to enter the field in the dying minutes, umpire Steve Bucknor shoos him away. Game tied, South Africa eliminated at home.

2011: Chasing 222, SA were 108/2. 40 minutes of madness follows. They were 172 all out. Skipper Graeme Smith said, "If we'd just hung in there until that change of ball ... we'd have got over the line." Was it conveyed? Coach Van Zyl would later say, "I blame myself for being too passive."

2015: This time the blame was on the colour-based quota system, a subject that's spoken in hushed tones in post-apartheid South Africa. In the semi-final, white cricketer Kyle Abbott, the team's best bowler at the tournament, is left out. In comes the reluctant coloured cricketer Vernon Philander. "They were clearly not open and honest with me and Kyle. There were things happening behind closed doors," Philander would tell an Afrikaans weekly. SA lost a tight game where Kiwi batsman Grant Elliott played the knock of his life. Abbot was sorely missed.

Once again it was the case of the team that doesn't talk, doesn't win. Over the years, World Cups for South Africa have been about adding monkeys on their back and albatrosses around their neck. This time it looks different.

There is an audible chatter around Bavuma's team. Before the World Cup, the Proteas have had four to five camps. The effervescent and ever-smiling Shamsi, speaking to Cricbuzz, joked that the dark circles around his eyes were not natural but were signs of the hard work put in and lack of sleep.

Communication too has been on the agenda. "Everyone is open to be themselves. Over the last week or so we've got to interact with the new guys, and they've opened up and they feel comfortable," he would say.

Long and casual conversations was what made Clive Lloyd's team The Greatest. After the day's play, the team would often order Chinese takeaways, something that the entire team loved. In his autobiography, Lloyd would paint a picture that is certain to get romantics of the game teary-eyed with nostalgia. "I would get a meal for 17 people and there'd be a hundred cartons on the table because they liked their food so much. We ate, laughed and spent the whole night talking cricket," he wrote.

Tough conversations

Bavuma isn't Lloyd, nor is South Africa the West Indies of yore. But there is hope. The present SA captain isn't afraid of tough conversations. The first-ever full-time South African black captain, might not have a booming voice but his words have substance. During the T20 World Cup in 2021 when his old mate and team's senior star Quinton de Kock didn't take a knee and didn't publicly show his solidarity to the BLM movement, outrage would rain down on the team and Bavuma. But he didn't flinch or skirt the issue.

He would make a statement that would have made the founding fathers of new South Africa proud. "My beliefs are shaped by my own experience and so is the other person's. If there is a disagreement in terms of beliefs, in terms of views, that's why we have those hard conversations. Through those conversations, we will be able to get the comfort to accept the other person's decision. I can't force anyone to see things the way I do, neither can they force me to."

But on the field, South Africans need to refine their conversations. In that very game that Shamsi and Maharaj talked the walk and walked the talk, South Africa almost blew it, like in the past. Needing 21 runs in about 10 overs, Aiden Markram was out trying to slog the leggie Usama Mir. There were shades of Klusener in him as at the non-striker's end was "a bit player in a drama in which he was the hero rather than a teammate or colleague."

Kolkata has lots of options, Bavuma needs to order takeaway Chinese for his team before the India game.

RISING TO THE TOP

Siraj's journey: Belief in *naseeb*, CR7-like work ethic, and lots of waiting

RAHUL PANDEY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

KUSAL MENDIS had heard the sound of stumps rattling and some 30,000 people at the Wankhede going berserk, but he just had to make sure he had been cleaned up.

So, he looked behind. Perhaps hoping for a split second that his ears had deceived him. They hadn't.

Mohammed Siraj had run through him and Sri Lanka once again. Siraj bagged three wickets within his first two overs as the Indian bowlers, riding on an inspired five-wicket haul by Mohammed Shami, pierced through the Sri Lankan batting line up.

In Mumbai on Thursday they were bowled out for just 55. In mid-September, for 50 in the final of the Asia Cup. Siraj had a major role to play in that famous win too, which set the tone for India's unbeaten charge at the World Cup.

After his 6/21 in that final though, he looked back at another ODI against Sri Lanka – in January. "Last time, I did the same against them at Trivandrum. Got four wickets early, couldn't get the five-for. Jitna naseeb mein hota hai wahi milta hai, aaj mera naseeb tha (You only get what's in your fate. Today, a six-fer was in my fate)," he said.

Fate and faith have been the bedrock of Siraj's phenomenal rise as a leading fast bowler. Former India fielding coach R Sridhar seconds. "God has been kind to him and with his father's blessings, he's had the right people at the right place at the right time," he tells The Indian Express before adding how Siraj has forged his own naseeb.

By being a receptive player, that's the first observation Sridhar has of him. "Siraj is very naive, like a clean slate. Very coachable, no baggage. Always seeking out and open to ideas."

Then comes an inspiring trait from the man whose celebration Siraj has now imported from football to cricket. Like Cristiano Ronaldo, the 29-year-old is a workhorse. It was on display in Mumbai the other night. As it was during his four-wicket-over in the Asia Cup Final in September. Steaming in at full throttle and having struck thrice in the over already, Siraj sprinted all the way down to long on to avoid a boundary off his own bowling.

It would leave Virat Kohli in splits at the slip cordon. Sridhar admits to having a laugh while watching it unfold live. "He could've even stopped it," he chuckles before the conversation veers to the man who stood in the cordon. "Siraj doesn't have to look too far for inspiration. Him being close quarters to Virat round the year, changing franchise and going to RCB, heading the bowling attack there under Virat has really helped him."

Debut story

Sridhar flips the pages back to Siraj's Test debut in Melbourne three years ago.

"He didn't bowl till lunch, and then didn't have a great first spell. Four overs, 30 runs something," he recalls. "Then he came back and the dressing room chat was, 'Think the ball will start doing a little extra now. You can make the ball talk.' Because the wicket was drier and getting quicker. We thought he can come in more useful when the ball gets older and starts swinging."

Mohammed Siraj with a Cristiano Ronaldo like celebration.

And swing he did. Thrice away from Cameron Green before bringing one in trap him LBW.

Keeping it full and on the stumps for Labuschagne until one strayed down the leg and was nicked to the leg slip. Three more wickets in the second innings and by the end of the match, the then India fielding coach had a one liner for the debutant you can re-watch on bcci.tv. "*Maut daal diye Miyan!* (You killed it!)."

What makes the debut even more memorable are the tragic circumstances which unraveled during the tour. Sridhar remembers it like yesterday.

"We landed in Sydney and on the second day unfortunately, he lost his father. He couldn't have gone back and come back in time to play the series as per Covid protocols. Ravi Shastri spoke to his brother and everyone involved, and he took the decision that Siraj will have to stay back. Important conversation happened there with Ravi, Arun, myself and Siraj, on channelising his energy. It was what his father would've wanted. His dream was for Siraj to get a Test cap. Two tests later, he was leading the Indian bowling attack. Would you have imagined that happening? Felt like somebody up there was playing the cards."

Sridhar, who saw Siraj make his first appearance for India across all three formats during his tenure with the national team, believes that after meager returns on his T20I and ODI starts, a strong first Test series in Australia and his red-ball career since have upped the quick's white ball credentials.

Now a mainstay in India's white-ball team, he was then overlooked for three ODIs and as many T20Is that preceded the Tests in Australia.

"In hindsight, it was good that he didn't play those games. Gave him a lot of time to work on his red ball skills. Not just his bowling but also his fitness," Sridhar says. "It took a while for him to learn the nuances of international cricket but I think once he made his Test debut, his white ball performances started getting better."

Dutch run themselves out of WC

Afghanistan remain in contention for a place in semis with a win over Netherlands, who lose 4 of their top 5 batsmen to run-outs

PRATYUSH RAJ
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 4

ON THE eve of the match, Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi had told The Indian Express how a change in mindset had given his team confidence that they can qualify for the semifinals, and it was fitting that he hit the winning boundary. On Friday, in front of largely filled stands, the Afghans showed their mettle. After three wins on the bounce, they have thrown their hats in the ring for a place in the semis. Afghanistan defeated the Netherlands by seven wickets to jump ahead of Pakistan in the points tally. With eight points, they are now placed fifth.

All through their campaign, Afghanistan seem to have been following the template put in place by Steve Waugh's 1999 World Cup-winning team. The bowlers restrict the opposition to a below-par total, and then their batsmen chase it down with ease. Afghanistan were also helped by Netherlands' poor running between the wickets, which resulted in four run-outs.

After opting to bat, the Netherlands were 63/1 after the end of the first powerplay. Rashid Khan had walked out of the field due to a side strain. Fazalhaq Farooqi, their player of the match in Pune was leaking runs. They looked lacklustre in the field as well. Rashid returned after the powerplay, brought the team in a huddle, gave them a pep talk and things changed immediately for the Afghans.

Afghanistan restricted the Netherlands to 179, and then their middle-order trio of Rahmat Shah (52), skipper Hasmatullah (56 not out) and Azmatullah Omarzai (31 not out) made sure that they win it in a convincing way.

Chasing a modest total, Afghanistan lost their in-form openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran early. But their sheet anchors Rahmat and Hasmatullah put on a 74-run stand for the third wicket and made sure that they don't implode on a tricky surface. It was Rahmat's third consecutive half-century, while their skipper hit his third of the tournament. Omarzai, who coach Jonathan Trott considers one of the cleanest strikers of the ball, with his brisk knock, made sure that they win with 18.3 overs to spare.

Hara-kiri

A couple of weeks ago Sachin Tendulkar compared Azmatullah Omarzai's wrist position to his former India seamers Praveen Kumar and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, but on Friday, it was the Afghanistan all-rounder's rocket arm which came in handy for the Afghans in Lucknow. At 73/1, Netherlands were cruising and looked set to put big runs on the board. However, they slipped and were bowled out for 179. Opener Max O'Dowd, who was looking imperious and had hit eight boundaries in the powerplay, tried to take a two after paddle-sweeping Nabi.

Afghanistan's Hashmatullah Shahidi celebrates beating the Netherlands in their World Cup match in Lucknow on Friday. *PTI*

Omarzai, patrolling at square leg, ran almost 30 yards to his right, picked the ball and hit bull's eye with his one-handed pick-up throw. O'Dowd looked rattled after the big screen showed that he had missed it by a whisker. He couldn't believe his luck, and neither did Omarzai until his teammates mobbed him.

The run out was the spark Afghanistan needed at that moment of the match and it opened the floodgates. Four of Netherlands' top five batsmen were run out.

Colin Ackermann's (29) ball-watching saw him getting run out. On the next ball, Dutch skipper Scott Edwards was out for a duck. Edwards may consider himself unlucky.

While playing his trademark sweep shot, he lost his balance and slipped out of the crease, and Afghanistan wicketkeeper Ikram Alikhil whipped the bails in a fraction of a second. Ikram, who had hurt his finger against Sri Lanka, was involved in six dismissals in the Netherlands innings.

The Dutch were not done with the hara-kiri in the middle. Engelbrecht scored a patient 58, his second fifty of the tournament and was the fourth from his team who got run out. Roelf van der Merwe called for a tight single after hitting one to mid-wicket and was off straight away. The throw from Nabi was not good, but Ikram collected it beautifully and did the rest.

The spin trap

Afghanistan picked a four-pronged spin attack for this match and it was the old fox Mohammad Nabi, who was the pick of the bowlers. It was Mujeeb, who set the tone by pinning Wesley Barresi in the first over, but it was Nabi, Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad, who tightened the screws after the first powerplay.

Nabi foxed Edwards which resulted in the Dutch skipper's departure. Bas de Leede nicked one, and Ikram completed a sharp catch. Logan van Beek was undone with the flight. It was a beautiful set-up by Nabi. The ball before he was beaten by a tossed-up delivery, was bowled to fourth stump line. Nabi premeditated that Van Beek would use his feet and he bowled slightly wider to the previous delivery, Van Beek fell in the trap, danced down the track and Ikram completed the stumping.

At the post-match presentation, Nabi said while bowling he always wants to keep things simple. He told the broadcasters: "Sometimes the batsmen rush because the ball is too easy but I focus on my line and length and my variations. I always stick to my plans. I try to use my angles which is easy for me. Variations are also valuable for me on some pitches. Sometimes I get wickets due to it. I always focus on dot balls."

Rashid didn't get any wickets, but his mirror image Noor was unplayable. One can't blame the Netherlands batsmen after what Noor did to Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan in Bengaluru. Saqib Zulfiqar, playing his first match of the World Cup, had no clue about Noor's bowling. A faint edge behind the stump ended his fifteen-ball misery at the crease. Noor picked up two wickets.

We feel their pain: Captain Shahidi dedicates the win to Afghan refugees in Pakistan

Lucknow: Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi has dedicated their seven-wicket win over the Netherlands to the struggle Afghan refugees are facing in Pakistan.

Pakistan is home to over four million Afghan migrants and refugees, and about 1.7 million undocumented Afghans refugees have been ordered to leave the country by Wednesday.

"There are a lot of our refugee people in struggle; we all are watching their videos and we feel their pain. I dedicate this win to them," Hashmatullah said at the post-match presentation.

"We all are very united, we all are enjoying the wins and all of them are thinking about the team. We are trying our best to make it to the semi-finals. If we make it, it would be a big achievement for us. I lost my mother three months back, so my family is in pain, so it will be a big achievement for our country first and then for me also," said the Afghan skipper. There were around 50 Afghanistan fans in Lucknow, celebrating for their country.

PRATYUSH RAJ

SCORECARD

NETHERLANDS vs AFGHANISTAN
BRSABV EKANA STADIUM, LUCKNOW
Toss: Netherlands, elected to bat

NETHERLANDS

W Barresi lbw b Mujeeb Ur Rahman	**1** (4b),
M O'Dowd run out (Omarzai)	**42** (40b, 9x4)
C Ackermann run out (Rashid/Alikhil)	**29** (35b, 4x4)
S Engelbrecht run out (Nabi/Alikhil)	**58** (86b, 6x4)
S Edwards run out (Alikhil)	**0** (1b)
B de Leede c Alikhil b Nabi	**3** (6b)
S Zulfiqar c Alikhil b Ahmad	**3** (15b)
L van Beek st Alikhil b Nabi	**2** (13b)
R van der Merwe c Zadran b Ahmad	**11** (33b)
A Dutt not out	**10** (22b)
P van Meekeren lbw b Nabi	**4** (24b)
■ **Extras** (lb 2, w 14)	**16**
■ **Total** 46.3 Ov (RR: 3.84)	**179**

■ **FoW:** 1-3 (Wesley Barresi, 0.5 ov), 2-73 (Max O'Dowd, 11.3 ov), 3-92 (Colin Ackermann, 18.3 ov), 4-92 (Scott Edwards, 18.4 ov), 5-97 (Bas de Leede, 20.2 ov), 6-113 (Saqib Zulfiqar, 25.3 ov), 7-134 (Logan van Beek, 30.6 ov), 8-152 (Sybrand Engelbrecht, 34.4 ov), 9-169 (Roelof van der Merwe, 41.1 ov), 10-179 (Paul van Meekeren, 46.3 ov)

■ **Bowling:** Mujeeb Ur Rahman 10-0-40-1, Fazalhaq Farooqi 5-0-36-0, Azmatullah Omarzai 3-0-11-0, Mohammad Nabi 9.3-1-28-3, Rashid Khan 10-0-31-0, Noor Ahmad 9-0-31-2

AFGHANISTAN

R Gurbaz c Edwards b van Beek	**10** (11b, 2x4)
I Zadran b van der Merwe	**20** (34b, 2x4)
R Shah c & b Zulfiqar	**52** (54b, 8x4)
H Shahidi not out	**56** (64b, 6x4)
A Omarzai not out	**31** (28b, 3x4)
■ **Extras** (lb 3, nb 2, w 7)	**12**
■ **Total** 31.3 Ov (RR: 5.74)	**181/3**

■ **FoW:** 1-27 (Rahmanullah Gurbaz, 5.3 ov), 2-55 (Ibrahim Zadran, 10.1 ov), 3-129 (Rahmat Shah, 22.4 ov)

■ **Bowling:** Aryan Dutt 8.3-0-49-0, Logan van Beek 7-0-30-1, Paul van Meekeren 5-0-35-0, Roelof van der Merwe 5-0-27-1, Saqib Zulfiqar 3-0-25-1, Colin Ackermann 3-0-12-0

SCENARIOS

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	Pts	NRR
Ind (Q)	7	7	0	0	14	+2.102
SA	7	6	1	0	12	+2.290
Aus	6	4	2	0	8	+0.970
NZ	7	4	3	0	8	+0.484
Afg	7	4	3	0	8	-0.330
Pak	7	3	4	0	6	-0.024
SL	7	2	5	0	4	-1.162
Ned	7	2	5	0	4	-1.398
Ban	7	1	6	0	2	-1.446
Eng	6	1	5	0	2	-1.652

Why Afghan win makes NZ-Pak game more significant

Afghanistan's facile win over the Netherlands gave another boost to their dreams of making the semifinals. They now sit in fifth spot on the points table, and are out of the top four for now just on the basis of net run rate (NRR). Their fate is in their own hands, though their remaining two games are against Australia and South Africa, who are in the top three at the moment.

The Dutch remain on four points with games against England and India to come. Even if they win both their games and Afghanistan lose their last two fixtures, the wide disparity in NRR may be too much to overcome, especially as there are several other teams better placed on the points table than them.

Afghanistan's win makes Saturday's day game between New Zealand and Pakistan all the more significant, especially for the latter who now find themselves below Afghanistan. A win for the Kiwis will not only end a three-game losing streak, but also give a big fillip to their semifinal hopes, putting the onus on Afghanistan to win at least one of their two matches coming up.

If Babar Azam's men don't get a positive result in Bengaluru, their fate may be sealed even before their final league fixture against England in Kolkata, if Australia get the better of the defending champions in the day-night fixture in Ahmedabad on Saturday. In that case, both Australia and New Zealand will get to 10 points, a mark Pakistan won't be able to reach. That will also, finally, mathematically eliminate the holders from contention.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

DOUBLE HEADER

'We have been crap': Have Eng hit rock bottom?

SRIRAM VEERA
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 3

BEN STOKES sat speechless for ten seconds. It was relatively a lighthearted icebreaker question: 'Has there been any happy or funny moment on this tour'. The seconds ticked, before he muttered, "Sorry, I didn't expect that question". Five more seconds went by before he added with a smile, "Ask me tomorrow again!"

A short while back, on the eve of the clash against Australia, he had summed up the hellish ride that England have endured in this World Cup. "We have been crap … not having an answer and being able to understand as to why it's gone wrong is very simple. That's the answer. Because if we knew what had gone wrong, we would have been able to fix it. But unfortunately, we don't. It's just been one of those tournaments where, yeah, it's just been a disaster. And there's no point sugarcoating it … the problem is that we've been crap," Stokes had said.

It's been that kind of a tour. A total "crap". Where even someone like Ben Stokes can't think of a single happy moment. Watching England play has been a bizarre experience; imagine how the players feel. They just don't seem to know what has hit them. It's one thing to be part of a series where the problems are obvious, known, and the slide into the abyss can be tough but understandable hell - players generally tend to mentally check out of such tours and look to getting back home.

But here in India, they have been ambushed by an invisible enemy. Or so they feel. There have been murmurs from beyond the boundary, first from Eoin Morgan, the former captain who turned around England's ODI history, who hinted at team morale and the coach Matthew Mott's mixed messaging to the team and his tactics in selections. Then Michael Vaughan too piped up with issues relating to contracts - The players have been in negotiations with the board over the contract monies. But the players aren't buying all that argument. But something has indeed gone horribly wrong.

It probably showcases how brittle sporting success is. Mercurial sporting gods bestow greatness and then seemingly on a whim, take it away. If a team doesn't nurture it, be careful with it, it can just vanish.

England will hope to beat Australia in their World Cup match on Saturday and get back in contention for a place in the 2025 Champions Trophy. *Nirmal Harindran*

The other day Joe Root was on a BBC radio podcast, trying to explain the unexplainable.

"I have been around for a long time and experienced lots of times where things don't go to plan, but this (World Cup experience) doesn't remind me of any previous experience. It's very much unique. I haven't gone, 'here we go again'. It's been unique."

A day earlier, the pacer Mark Wood, who has been below-par this tournament, was put on the hot seat on BBC again. "Does the coach have the support of the team?" Wood, usually a very jovial chap, stiffened up. "For a World Cup-winning coach? Support for a World Cup-winning coach? Absolutely."

Wood then tried to detail the bizarre situation: "We the players get every support we need. Nutritionist, strength-conditioning coach, physics, local Indian coaches helping out, we get the tactics, we got the analysts … We players have to take up the responsibility. I haven't performed; I am frustrated and hurt. You can't just pin it all on the captain or coach."

Some have also talked about the effect of Bazball. But if anything, this team has been timid with the bat. Take the chase against Afghanistan for example; if a more timid English batting had to be seen, a rewind to any 90s England game in this region would do. Just the faces changed, and the approach was similar.

Perhaps it's just a combination of things: tactical (some toss decisions like the decision to chase against Afghanistan and South Africa in humid Mumbai were puzzling), selection (not deploying Jason Roy at all), misplaced confidence in composition (Mooen Ali averages over 100 as a bowler in ODIs in India; even Jos Buttler averages just 13 here), perhaps some embers from contract discussions - but above all the players, as Wood and Stokes put it, have been poor.

Australia's fortunes change

Australia, their opponents on Saturday started the tournament similarly. And by the time their game against Sri Lanka unfolded on October 16, they looked down and out. Sri Lanka were cruising at 125 for 0, then 157 for 1, but suddenly collapsed to 209 all out. In a blink, their tournament began to change. From that third game on, they began to fire one by one.

On their last tour of Sri Lanka, in the midst of an economic disaster in the island nation, on their last day of the tour, a vast majority of the Sri Lankan crowd had turned in yellow jerseys to show their gratitude for Australia choosing to tour their country in tough times. Perhaps, the Sri Lankan players took that a bit far in this World Cup game, collapsing as they did, and helping Australia to stand on their feet again.

> **We have been crap ... not having an answer and being able to understand as to why it's gone wrong is very simple. That's the answer. Because if we knew what had gone wrong, we would have been able to fix it. But unfortunately, we don't. It's just been one of those tournaments where, yeah, it's just been a disaster. And there's no point sugarcoating it ... the problem is that we've been crap."**
>
> **BEN STOKES**
> FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN

However, they haven't been standing on their feet all that well. Glenn Maxwell lost his footing from a golf buggy of all things and is out of the game against England. Mitch Marsh is back home for family reasons. They do have the personnel to fill in with Cameron Green and Marcus Stoinis stepping in for the England game. England can't see the twin absences as any magic portal that has opened up for them to barge through, but considering they don't know the hole in which they have fallen in India, they will take the developments in the Australian team as good signs for them. Even Afghanistan would hope so; if England can win here, the Afghanistan vs Australia game on November 7 would be a cracker.

Ultimately, it's a contest between Australia, a team that has found its stride, and England, a team that doesn't know what hit them. "Everything we've tried throughout this World Cup, through trying to put pressure back onto the opposition in a way in which we know or trying to soak up the pressure in a different way, which we know we've done before and been successful with, it's just not worked," Stokes said.

Generally, the sporting cliche is that the only way from the bottom is to move up. But the question is: have England hit rock bottom or are they still falling?

NZ hope to return to trusted 'Black Cap method' vs Pak

VENKATA KRISHNA B
BANGALORE, NOVEMBER 3

DARK BANGALORE clouds with a cool breeze wafting around can make the New Zealand players feel at home. Except they really can't be. This scenic city's undulating roads mirror their world cup campaign. After starting off with four successive wins, a run of three consecutive defeats has stuck New Zealand in the middle of nowhere, just like the city's frenzied traffic, alongside Afghanistan and Pakistan, their opponents on Saturday.

Since the defeat to India, they lost a thriller to Australia before South Africa drilled a few new holes. The mounting injuries aren't making it any easier. But unlike their opponents Pakistan, who too endured a three-match losing streak before getting back on track against Bangladesh and still find themselves in a sea of chaos, there is a certain calmness in the New Zealand ranks.

Despite being the most consistent team in World Cups, New Zealand know that there won't be any tremors if they miss out on a last four spot. For the outside world, they seem to reside in a never-never land where outcomes hardly matter and emotions remain in check.

"One thing we do as Kiwis is we stay pretty grounded," says their in-form middle-order batsman Daryl Mitchell. "We stay where our feet are, and injuries are things that we can't control. All I know is that the 11 guys that will take the field tomorrow will be very proud to represent our country and get stuck in a World Cup. And yeah, we won't make it bigger than what it is. It's another two points for this tournament, which is important for us in the big scheme of things, but we'll just keep playing like Black Caps and Kiwis do, and I'm sure we'll come a long way to winning the game," he added.

But at times, they haven't really been playing like Black Caps. Despite running Australia close, their fielding at Dharamsala was abysmal. Against South Africa, they chose to bowl first against an opponent whose biggest strength has been to bat first. Their week in Bangalore would decide their fate - if they win two of their remaining matches against Pakistan and Sri Lanka, they should make it through on a better NRR, even if Afghanistan also end up on 12 points.

Daryl Mitchell in training on Friday. *PTI*

But they are without Matt Henry, the seamer who would have been pretty handy on this track with some live grass. Four others, including skipper Kane Williamson, Jimmy Neesham, Lockie Ferguson and Mark Chapman, are in the injury ward, even as Kyle Jamieson joined the squad as a replacement for Henry. While the injured four were scheduled to undergo fitness tests on Friday evening, a heavy downpour cut short New Zealand's training session. The Kiwis might know about some of these players' availability only on Saturday morning, which makes their preparations even more challenging.

Somehow, just as the spotlight never shines on them when doing well, their chaotic losses too go unnoticed. By now, it's almost expected that they would reach semi-finals of ICC tournaments.

Mitchell chose to invoke the method – the Black Caps way of playing -- that has brought them success.

"Look, we're a small country, down at the bottom of the earth, and for us it's fighting for every ball, chasing every ball to the boundary, and doing the little things that we can control. The big stuff will look after itself if we're clear on our roles, very detailed with how we go about our business, and you can work out our blueprint and our plan from that," Mitchell said. They will have to find the missing blueprint on Saturday against Pakistan; else things can quickly go to the bottom of the earth.

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