

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

By UNNY



**THE CITY**

**RAIN CLEANS DELHI AIR, ODD-EVEN PLAN DEFERRED**

**AS DELHI CHOKES, HALF OF GREEN CESS UNUSED**

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**2+2 DIALOGUE ON DEEPENING TIES IN DEFENCE, SPACE, TECH**

## Need humanitarian pauses, stop conflict spread: India-US on Gaza

Ministers hold 'substantive' talks — from China's conduct to Canada row

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

AS EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hosted visiting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin for the Indo-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue, the two sides discussed Friday China's behaviour in the region, the contentious row

between India and Canada, the implications of the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and the upcoming elections in Bangladesh — a range of issues on which Delhi and Washington agree and disagree at many levels.

India signed off on the joint statement expressing "support for humanitarian pauses" in the Gaza war and to "prevent the conflict from spreading" in the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



(From left) US Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Delhi on Friday. PTI

## Shivraj and BJP's other challenge in MP — BJP

Restive rank and file, CM's over-reliance on bureaucrats, party high command's writ — all are shrinking the incumbent

**VANDITA MISHRA**  
BHOPAL, CHHINDWARA, NOVEMBER 10

AT THE centre of this Madhya Pradesh election, and yet not at its centre, is the figure of Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Chief Minister for four terms, the longest serving BJP CM, but no longer its chief ministerial candidate. In a large and sprawling state segmented by well-defined regions, Chouhan remains the state BJP's only pan-MP leader.

But this time in the poll fray, there are abundant signs of Chouhan shrinking.

These signs tell a larger story about the BJP's multi-layered challenge this time in MP — it must ensure that voter resentment and restlessness born of a long incumbency is contained, that it doesn't spill over to the

Lok Sabha contest in 2024, while keeping ahead of the Congress that has been closing the gap and managing the toll that long years in power have taken

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



## Patna HC cancels Bihar ambulance contract to firm of JDU MP's kin



**The Indian Express report on June 18, 2023**

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, NOVEMBER 10

THE PATNA High Court Friday cancelled a contract worth Rs 1,600 crore allotted to Pashupatinath Distributors Private

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Public interest to orders ignored: Govt gets power to dissolve IIM boards

**RITIKA CHOPRA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE GROUNDS under which the Government of India will get to invoke powers to dissolve the board of any Indian Institute of Management are likely to be: i) persistent disobeying of its orders, ii) public interest and iii) inability of the board to perform its duties.

The Board of Governors is the highest decision-making body in an IIM, and the government acts through the Visitor of the IIMs, who is the President of India.

Earlier, only the Board of Governors in an IIM had the

**EXPLAINED** **Whither autonomy**

THE GOVERNMENT move goes against the grain of making academic institutions autonomous and gives it a handle to exercise complete control.

powers to audit the functioning of the institute and remove or appoint directors. The Union government had little say in the matter. This changed three months ago when the Ministry

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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WHEN PAKISTAN'S ZIA-UL-HAQ HELPED JORDAN KING KILL THOUSANDS

A set of hijackings carried out by Palestinian resistance groups in September 1970 set off a war between them and Jordan. It culminated in the killing of approximately 10,000 to 25,000 Palestinians. The war was significant because of its unusual geopolitics.

TECHNOLOGY



HEADPHONE WITH A TRICK UP ITS SLEEVE  
Dyson Zone has big ear cups with perforations for air filtration



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EXPRESS AUDIO

Chhattisgarh polls, ground report from Nepal, and the ex-navy men in Qatar

In 3 Things, we look at factors affecting the Chhattisgarh assembly polls, the Nepal earthquake, and an update on the eight former Navy personnel in Qatar.

Cong poll promise in Telangana: Hike in minority welfare budget to Rs 4,000 cr

ENS & PTI HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 10

THE CONGRESS has promised to increase the state annual minority welfare budget to Rs 4,000 crore if elected to power in Telangana. In a late-night announcement Thursday, Telangana Congress chief A Revanth Reddy also said that a separate allocation of Rs 1,000 crore would be made annually to provide subsidised loans to students and women from the minority community.

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee had constituted a Minorities Declaration Committee with Mohammed Ali Shabbir as the chairman. Shabbir said the party wants to win back the minority vote from the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the AIMIM.

Reddy said the party would also initiate a caste survey in Telangana if it is voted to power. The Congress further said it aims to ensure 'fair reservation' for all backward classes including minorities in jobs, education, and government schemes.

Under the Abdul Kalam Taufa-e-Taleem Scheme, the party said it would provide financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to Muslim, Christian, Sikh, and other minority youths upon completing MPhil and PhD programmes.

The party declaration also promised a monthly honorarium of Rs 10,000-Rs 12,000 for priests of all religions including imams, muezins, khadims, pastors, and granthis. Moreover, it promised to establish the 'Telangana Sikh Minority

Finance Corporation' and conduct special recruitment to fill up vacancies for Urdu-medium teaching posts.

Newly-wed couples belonging to minority communities would be given Rs 1.6 lakh, the declaration added. Muslims and Christians account for over 12 per cent and 1 per cent of the state population, respectively.

Alongside this, the Congress promised to spend Rs 20,000 crore annually for the welfare of Backward Communities, amounting to Rs one lakh crore in five years. It also announced a new degree college in each district and promised a full fee reimbursement for students from Backward Communities whose annual income is below Rs 3 lakh.

Shopping complexes will be constructed in each mandal to provide free shop space for artisanal communities such as barbers, carpenters, washer men and goldsmiths, it said.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced this Friday as part of the "BC Declaration" comprising welfare schemes for the Backward Communities, in Kamareddy.

The party promised to increase Backward Communities' reservation based on caste census and BC Commission report within six months after coming to power.

The Declaration also said the quota for Backward Communities will be increased to 42 per cent from the existing 23 per cent in local bodies to provide new political leadership positions for them, besides giving 42 per cent reservation in government civil construction and maintenance contracts.

Bhavnagar: Sanitation worker dies while cleaning sewage tank on govt lab campus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAJKOT, NOVEMBER 10

A SANITATION worker of Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation died of asphyxiation while another was taken seriously ill after they entered a sewage tank on the campus of the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI) in Bhavnagar city on Friday.

The incident took place around 11 am when sanitation workers of the corporation and of a private contractor engaged by the CSMCRI were cleaning sewerage line on the campus.

The corporation worker who died has been identified as Rajesh Vegad (45). The worker who took ill, Suresh Goradiya, is an employee of a private contractor engaged by CSMCRI.

Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation Commissioner N V Upadhyay told *The Indian Express*, "The CSMCRI had hired services of the corporation to clean its sewerage network. Accordingly, our workers and workers of the private contractor cleaned the sewerage line by using suction machines for about 45 minutes.

After that, one of the employees of the CSMCRI contractor climbed down in a sewage tank but was affected by poisonous gas. Vegad jumped into the tank to save that worker but was af-

ected by poisonous gas himself." Asked if Vegad was wearing safety gear when he entered the sewage tank, the commissioner said: "He was not wearing any safety equipment, as he was not supposed to enter the tank. The cleaning was supposed to be done through suction machine only."

Kanji Zapadiya, in charge executive engineer of the corporation's drainage department, said that Vegad managed to move Goradiya to safety. "The corporation team comprised three sanitation workers and a driver of suction machine. After the team vacuum-cleaned the septic tank with the suction machine, Goradiya started climbing down the tank. Our staffers asked him not to but Goradiya told them that he often enters tanks."

"But after a while, he stopped talking to our staff and fell unconscious. Vegad entered the tank to save him. He lifted Goradiya to the machine-hole of the tank and our staffers pulled him out. But in the meantime, Vegad was affected by the gas. He lost balance and fell into the tank," Zapadiya said.

Following this, the fire brigade arrived and pulled Vegad out of the tank. He was taken to hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. This is the second incident of sewer deaths in Saurashtra. In March, two sanitation workers were killed while cleaning a drainage line in Rajkot.

FROM PAGE ONE Need humanitarian pauses, stop conflict spread: India-US on Gaza

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Middle East. Underlining that the two countries "stand with Israel against terrorism", the statement called for the release of people taken hostage by Hamas on October 7.

There were also conversations on bilateral defence cooperation, space as the next area of collaboration, and semiconductors as the next growth area between India and the US.

Blinken and Austin also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and briefed him on their discussions, highlighting progress in various areas of bilateral cooperation, including defence, semiconductors, emerging technology, space, health in the follow-up to the PM's State Visit to the US in June this year and the meeting between Modi and President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi.

"PM expressed satisfaction at the deepening cooperation in all areas and noted that the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership between India and the US is anchored in democracy, pluralism and respect for rule of law," a PMO statement said.

"They also exchanged views on various regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the ongoing developments in West Asia. They emphasised the need for continued close coordination between India and the US on these issues. PM conveyed warm greetings to President Biden and said that he looked forward to continued exchanges with him," it said.

At the end of the 2+2 dialogue, Jaishankar described the talks as "substantive". "Our agenda covered advancing our strategic partnership, including elevating our

defence ties, moving forward in space & tech, future logistics co-operation and people to people contacts," he said in a post on X.

"Also exchanged perspectives on the Indo-Pacific, South Asia, West Asia and Ukraine conflict. Reaffirmed our commitment to our collaboration in the multilateral arena and engaging the Global South," he said.

In his opening remarks at the beginning of the talks, Jaishankar said the dialogue was an opportunity to advance the vision of Prime Minister Modi and President Biden to build a forward-looking partnership and construct a shared global agenda.

Blinken said the US and India have a robust partnership and both sides are deliberating on matters with implications for the future.

"We are bolstering the partnership in international peace, security and specifically working to promote rules-based order, and uphold principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence. Our defence cooperation is a key pillar of that work," he said.

"We are promoting a free and open, prosperous, secure and resilient Indo-Pacific, including by strengthening our partnership through the Quad with Japan and Australia," Blinken said.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, briefing reporters on the meeting, was upfront when he said "China's conduct and behaviour was discussed" during the meetings in a "detailed manner".

Asked about the India-Canada row, Kwatra said, "As far as Canada is concerned, we have been having very consistent conversations with all our friends and partners... the thrust of conversation

with our partners... is that we have core security concerns, and I am sure you all are aware of the recent video that has surfaced from one such individual which causes problems, which presents a very serious security concern for the Indian interest and we have made our position very, very clear to our friends and partners and I think they understand and appreciate that, that sense of where India comes from."

He was referring to the calls for violence against India by a Khalistan separatist based out of US and Canada.

On the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, the Foreign Secretary reiterated India's position on the conflict: "We have always stood for a two-state solution and early resumption of dialogue. You are also aware, very early on, when the current hostility started, India put out a tweet condemning the horrific terrorist attacks on Israel on October 7. We have always advocated zero-tolerance for terrorism."

Besides, he said, "there is also the angle of humanitarian assistance... India has already sent about 38 tonnes of humanitarian assistance to the region to address this humanitarian situation. We have asked for strict observance of international humanitarian law, de-escalation of the situation and of course, also condemned the civilian casualties, where they have occurred."

The joint statement expressed "support for humanitarian pauses" and underlined the need to "prevent the conflict from spreading" in the Middle East.

"Noting horrific terrorist attacks against Israel, the Ministers reiterated that India and the

United States stand with Israel against terrorism and called for adherence to international humanitarian law, including with regard to the protection of civilians. They called for the immediate release of all remaining hostages," the joint statement said.

"The Ministers committed to continue coordinating with partners in the region on humanitarian assistance to meet the urgent needs of Palestinian civilians in Gaza. They expressed support for humanitarian pauses and committed to continue close diplomatic coordination, including with key partners in the region, to prevent the conflict from spreading, preserve stability in the Middle East, and work toward a political solution and durable peace," it stated.

On the elections in Bangladesh which are due early next year, Kwatra said: "I think when it comes to developments in Bangladesh, elections in Bangladesh, it is their domestic matter, it is for the people of Bangladesh to decide their future. As a close friend and partner of Bangladesh, we respect the democratic processes in Bangladesh, and will continue to support that country's vision of a stable, peaceful and a progressive nation that the people of that country seek for themselves." This is a clear backing of the Sheikh Hasina government in the face of challenges like pro-Islamist groups and Opposition parties in Bangladesh.

Rajnath Singh said the India-US bilateral relationship has seen a growing interest of strategic convergence and that defence remains one of the most important pillars of the ties.

"In spite of various emerging

geopolitical challenges, we need to keep our focus on important and long-term issues. Our partnership is critical for ensuring a free, open and rules-bound Indo-Pacific region," Singh said.

"We look forward to closely working with the US across the domains of defence for capability building and for abiding partnerships which can address emerging challenges," he said.

Austin said in the face of urgent global challenges, it is more important than ever that the world's two largest democracies exchange views, find common goals and "deliver for our people".

"We have made impressive gains in building our major defence partnership over the past year, and that will help us contribute even more together to the cause of peace and stability," he said. "We are integrating our industrial bases, strengthening our interoperability, and sharing cutting-edge technology. The scope of our cooperation is vast. It stretches from the seabed to space," he said.

"The strength of our partnership is rooted in the people-to-people ties that are the heart of our long-standing friendship together. Our diplomats, entrepreneurs, and students are expanding our partnership in new domains, including clean energy, artificial intelligence, and semiconductors," he said.

On space cooperation, Kwatra said a working group would be constituted. The other area of partnership, he said, where discussions have taken place in recent months is "our engagement on the human spaceflight programme for the International Space Station".

Citing public interest or orders ignored: Govt gets power to dissolve IIM boards

of Education amended the IIM Act to assert more authority over the business schools, including giving itself powers to dissolve an IIM Board. The three grounds for dissolution of an IIM Board are expected to be spelt out in the amended Rules (under the revised IIM Act) being finalised now, sources told *The Indian Express*.

While the changes to the IIM Act in August clearly stated that henceforth the President — in her capacity as the Visitor of all IIMs — is empowered to dissolve the Board, with the Ministry appointing an interim Board in its place, the extent of this power is now being defined under the Rules of the amended IIM Act.

For instance, while the amendment to the IIM Act

granted the President the authority to remove the director of an IIM, the Rules are expected to explicitly state that the institute's Board is obligated to follow the decision of the Visitor in this regard. There is no room for back-and-forth on this matter.

The Rules are also expected, for the first time, to firmly establish the educational qualifications of an IIM Director. It is understood the Ministry is keen on the amended Rules to specify that any candidate or applicant for the position of an IIM Director should possess a first-class degree at both the Bachelor's and Master's levels, in addition to a Ph.D or an equivalent qualification. Currently, under the unamended Rules, an IIM Director's academic credentials are de-

scribed as "a distinguished academic with a PhD or equivalent".

The provision on educational qualifications comes in the wake of the IIM Rohtak case. Here, Dheeraj Sharma, the incumbent Director, had misrepresented his academic credentials during his initial appointment, which occurred before the enactment of the IIM Act. Sharma had a second class Bachelor's degree, instead of a first class, which was a mandatory eligibility requirement for the job as per the government's advertisement. Subsequently, despite the MoE uncovering the fraud, it was unable to prevent Sharma's re-appointment for a second term last year. This was because, at the time of his re-appointment, the IIM Rohtak Board

had the absolute power under the IIM Act to choose the director and it had not stipulated a first-class Bachelor's and Master's degree as a mandatory criterion.

The amendment of the Rules under the IIM Act has been necessitated by recent changes to the law. In a surprising move, the Ministry had introduced an amendment Bill for the IIM Act during the monsoon session this year, significantly diluting the absolute autonomy granted to the 20 IIMs five years ago with the enactment of the IIM Act in 2018. The changes were made to entrust the management accountability of the IIMs with the President, who will be the Visitor to the premier B-schools with powers to audit their functioning and remove or ap-

point directors. Earlier, these powers were vested in the IIM Board with the Union government having little say in the matter.

Now, the President, in her capacity as Visitor, has the power to appoint the Chairperson to the Board of Governors and the director of the institute and nominate an individual to the search-cum-selection committee for the position of Director, giving the government a say in these crucial appointments.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has justified the changes stating the government has no intention to take away the academic accountability from the institute but the bill will only ensure its management accountability.

Cashew farmer chances on rare find: 832 copper coins from Portuguese era in Goa

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA PANAJI, NOVEMBER 10

A FORTNIGHT ago, Vishnu Shridhar Joshi, a farmer in North Goa's Nanoda Bamber village, was clearing weeds at his cashew plantation when he noticed a pot buried in the soil. After a little digging, Joshi found a vessel that contained coins from a bygone era.

Unbeknownst to Joshi, he had stumbled on a "treasure" from centuries ago — 832 copper coins, believed to have been minted in Goa around the 16th or 17th Century when it was under Portuguese rule.

The rare discovery is now part of a study that will be undertaken by the state's department of archaeology, which could offer insights into trade relations, commerce and the economic history of Goa during the early years of

Portuguese rule. "We brought the vessel home and inside were a large number of coins with symbols and inscriptions. I was not sure what to do. I contacted the village panch and informed government officials. It appears that someone had buried this treasure here," Joshi said.

On Wednesday, state Minister of Archaeology Subhash Phal Dessai and a team of officials from the department visited the village and took custody of the coins.

Officials said the "buried treasure" could offer insights into Goa's numismatic history.

"Prima facie, from the alphabets and symbols, it appears that the coins were issued in the 16th-17th Century during early years of Portuguese rule. On some coins, one side has a cross and an alphabet, which could be interpreted as the initials of a king, un-



Archaeology department says the coins likely from 16th or 17th Century, could offer insights into trade ties at that time

der whose kingdom the coins may have been circulated," said Dr Nilesh Fal Dessai, director, department of archaeology.

Experts will undertake a study to ascertain when the coins were minted and circulated, and to understand mercantile trade

relations at the time.

"There were no banks at the time. There is not much documentation about the kind of currencies that were in circulation then. Rulers often issued coins bearing initials of their names and inscriptions of religious symbols. Though

it appears the coins are made of copper, we have to clean them and identify the metal composition using conventional techniques," Dessai said. "It could be that these coins were part of someone's personal collection or may have been buried for the purpose of hoarding for commerce. After a study, we will be able to conclusively establish their origin."

An official said, "During Old Conquests, Tiswadi, Bardez and Salcete talukas in Goa were under Portuguese rule. This discovery of coins from Sattari taluka is significant since it offers evidence of trade and economic relations during that period."

Archaeology Minister Dessai told the media, "After a thorough examination, the coins would be placed in the state museum, specifying the description of the location and crediting the person who found it."

Patna HC cancels contract

Limited (PDPL), a company run by family members of JD(U)'s Jehanabad MP Chandeshwar Chandravanshi.

In June, *The Indian Express* had reported how the RJ-D-JD(U) government in Bihar brushed aside remarks by the High Court and ignored a series of audits that flagged irregularities to renew, for another five years, the contract to run emergency ambulances across the state to the MP's relatives.

It had also, for the first time, added a clause in the contract that it could be extended by three more years.

The contract, given to PDPL on May 31, was for running 2,125 ambulances as part of the Dial 102 service. Under this, ambulances ferry critical patients, pregnant women, and infants to the nearest government hospitals free of cost. The firm is owned by sons, daughters-in-law and close relatives of Chandravanshi. The MP had earlier said: "It is my relatives' company and I have no personal say or stake in it."

Official records investigated by *The Indian Express* had shown how norms were tweaked amid objections since the Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on April 5, 2022.

The firms that lost out on the contract, BVG India Ltd and Samman Foundation, had gone to court.

On Friday, the High Court disqualified PDPL and directed the state to consider allowing the petitioner's bid from the technical bid stage.

A division bench of Justice PB Bhanthiri and Justice Arun Kumar Jha said in their verdict: "The petition of petitioner (a consortium of BVG India Ltd and Samman Foundation) is allowed. State Health Society of Bihar is asked to reevaluate and reconsider the bid of the petitioner from the technical bid stage. PDPL's bid is disqualified as it did not meet RFP (request for proposal). The SHSB should complete the process within two months."

A detailed court order is yet to be uploaded.

The petitioner's lawyer, Nirbhay Prashant, told *The Indian Express*: "The court order came in wake of PDPL not meeting bid conditions of annual turnover. While the RFP asked for turnover of the individual company, it had given cumulative turnover of PDPL and its allied companies. The court had also seen merit in our arguments of PDPL not having requisite experience in running advanced life support ambulances."

Rajasthan: Police SI arrested for raping minor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 10

A POLICE sub-inspector was arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl in Dausa district of Rajasthan on Friday.

According to the police, the accused sub-inspector, Bhupendra Singh, allegedly lured the minor girl to his room and raped her. ASP Ramchandra Singh Nehra said that the accused has been taken into custody and being interrogated.

Dausa SP Vandita Rana said, "The exact age of the victim girl will be determined after a medical examination..." The estimated age of the girl is around four to five years, she said.

BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena, who visited the spot, said: "There is huge anger among the people over the incident of rape by a policeman."





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**POLLUTION LEVELS DOWN, GOVT TO TAKE A CALL ON SCHEME POST DIWALI**  
**Rain washes away odd-even plans**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE ODD-EVEN scheme will not be implemented in Delhi from November 13 onwards as was decided earlier, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Friday.

"From last night onwards, with the change in weather, rainfall, and increase in wind speed, there is a consistent improvement in pollution levels. The AQI that was over 400 is now close to 300. Seeing this, the government has decided that the odd-even scheme, which was to be implemented from November 13 to 20 in Delhi, will be postponed. After Diwali, the pollution situation in Delhi will be assessed and decisions will be taken," Rai said at a press conference Friday.

Rainfall and winds triggered by a western disturbance and moisture from the Arabian Sea brought a steep fall in particulate matter levels in Delhi on Friday. The AQI, which is a 24-hour average, dropped from a figure of 452 in the 'severe' category at 2 am on Friday, to 262, in the 'poor' category at 6 pm, going by data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Relief, however, could be short-lived. A forecast issued by the Air Quality Early Warning System on Friday said the air quality is likely to be in the 'poor' category on Saturday. It could, however, deteriorate and be in the 'very poor' category on

Sunday, and in the 'severe' category on Monday, the day after Diwali, going by the forecast.

On Monday, Rai announced that the odd-even scheme would be implemented from November 13 to 20, considering a possible rise in pollution levels after Diwali. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court, while hearing a matter on air pollution, had referred to the scheme as "optics". Rai then said Wednesday that two studies on the impact of odd-even would be submitted to court and based on the court's order, the government will decide on its implementation.

The odd-even scheme is suggested as a measure that state governments in the NCR may consider taking under Stage IV or the 'severe plus' category of the Graded Response Action Plan which kicked in across Delhi-NCR last Sunday.

After what he said were visits by Delhi's cabinet ministers to the borders on Thursday night, where it was found that vehicles that are not destined for Delhi are entering the city "and causing vehicular pollution," Rai has also written to the Transport Ministers of UP and Haryana asking that directions be issued to ensure that vehicles not destined for Delhi be diverted through the eastern and western peripheral expressways before the Delhi border. He has asked that enforcement teams be deployed at entry points to the expressways to ensure compliance.



Rainfall and winds triggered by a western disturbance and moisture from the Arabian Sea brought a steep fall in particulate matter levels in Delhi on Friday. Praveen Khanna

**Capital chokes, but half of Delhi govt's green cess unused**

Rs 1,491 crore collected in 8 years, just Rs 781 cr spent on RRTS

JATIN ANAND & MALLICA JOSHI  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

EIGHT YEARS after it began being levied, almost half of the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Compensation Charge (ECC) collected by the Delhi government — an amount which is upwards of Rs 700 crore — is lying unused.

The ECC has been collected since the midnight of November 6, 2015, and is imposed on commercial vehicles entering the city alongside toll tax. The decision to implement the charge was taken after it was found that emissions from automobiles were responsible for the bulk of the particulate matter (PM) load that pollutes Delhi's air.

The genesis of the ECC lies in a National Green Tribunal (NGT) direction to the effect that commercial vehicles entering Delhi pay it along with toll tax. After the NGT order, the Supreme Court, on October 12, 2015, ordered the imposition of the charge which would be handed to the Delhi government.

As part of the measure, light commercial vehicles are charged Rs 700 while three-axle vehicles and above are charged Rs 1,300. According to official figures accessed by *The Indian Express*, the Delhi government collected about Rs 1,491 crore in ECC from November 2015 till July 27 this



The ECC is imposed on commercial vehicles entering the city alongside toll tax. Archive

year. Of this, about Rs 781 crore, a little more than over half the charge collected, was spent on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor — which too was at the directions of the Supreme Court. Almost half the amount collected as ECC, that is about Rs 710 crore or over 47% of the charge collected since it came into existence, remains un-utilised.

When contacted, the Delhi government did not offer a response.

Around Rs 415 crore of the expenditure on the RRTS project came after the Supreme Court questioned the Delhi government's reluctance to provide the amount while spending over Rs 1,000 crore for advertisements.

While hearing an environment-related matter on July 3, the SC was told the Delhi government had said it had no funds to con-

tribute its share of Rs 3,261 crore for the construction of the Delhi-Gurgaon-Rewari-Alwar RRTS corridor and Rs 2,443 crore for the Delhi-Sonapat-Panipat corridor.

Taking exception, the SC asked the Delhi government to appraise how much it had spent on advertisements in the last three financial years. The government in a subsequent hearing told the court it was ready to make provisions to give its share.

In the July 3 hearing, a bench of Justices S K Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia had said, "If Rs 1,100 crore can be spent for advertisement in the last 3 financial years, certainly, contributions can be made to infrastructure projects." In an affidavit, the Delhi government told the court that allocation was not made due to lack of adequate financial resources.

**Ramp up pollution awareness: Health min to Delhi, its neighbours**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

SURVEILLANCE OF air pollution-related illnesses, building a health workforce, and creating awareness of the ill effects of pollution are among measures suggested by the Director General of Health Services to Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and UP for dealing with the high pollution levels this time of the year.

Written last week, the letter advised measures that people could take to reduce their exposure, such as checking air quality indices before stepping out, avoiding routes with heavy vehicular congestion, and using cleaner cooking fuels.

"Vulnerable people should seek medical help when they first develop worsening of their illness or feel discomfort and symptoms due to poor air quality," the letter said. The letter also asked states to increase awareness to curb stubble and waste burning, avoid firecrackers during festivities, and increase use of public transport instead of personal vehicles.

Last month, Union Health Secretary Sudhanshu Pant had written to all states urging them to develop state and city-level action plans for climate change and to expand a network of sentinel hospitals that can keep track of pollution-related cases throughout the year. A similar sentinel network exists for illnesses such as flu and Covid.

The latest advisory by the health ministry focuses on health of school-going children, suggesting measures such as children encouraged to use school buses, car-pooling, and cleaner CNG and electric vehicles to reach school. It also suggests wet mopping of school floors before children come in and use of marker pens instead of chalk to reduce dust pollution.

It suggests ensuring proper ventilation on good days but keeping windows closed when the air quality index levels are poor. The guidance also suggests avoiding any physical activity such as running, jogging or playing outdoors and suggests suspending school functions and events when the pollution levels are high.



A policeman posted outside the Vidhan Sabha. The AQI was 262, in the 'poor' category at 6 pm, Friday. Amit Mehra

**'WANT FARM FIRES STOPPED': TOP COURT AT AIR POLLUTION HEARING**  
**We're not here to tell you what to do... you have to take call: SC to Delhi govt**

ANANTHAKRISHNANG  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

REITERATING THAT it wants farm fires to stop, the Supreme Court Friday asked all stakeholders to follow the decisions taken in the meeting chaired by the Union Cabinet Secretary at its instance to devise ways and means to tackle the surge in air pollution affecting the Capital. "We want farm fires stopped, we want air quality to get better, and we want long-term measures for crop replacement," a three-judge bench presided by Justice S K Kaul said.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahsanuddin Amanullah, seemed unimpressed by the Delhi government's defence of the odd-even scheme and said it only had "minimal impact" in reducing pollution levels. On November 7, the court had termed the odd-even scheme "optics".

On Friday, Senior Advocate Meenakshi Arora told the bench that studies had shown the scheme had brought down PM 2.5 levels by an average 13% at a particular time of the day. She added that though "odd-even may not have a very large effect, it does have a certain percentage effect".

Justice Kaul, however, pointed out as per report of pollution control authorities, "total vehicular pollution is 17%. Rest is others. Out of this 17%, you are saying during a particular time period, there is a decline of 13% of this 17%. Therefore, possible the amicus curiae said... it's not really effective. That's the position. What you have to do, you have to do. We are not here to tell you what to do".



The bench seemed unimpressed by the Delhi government's defence of the odd-even scheme and said it only had 'minimal impact'. Abhinav Saha

The judge added, "You have to take a call, Tomorrow you will say we told you to continue, not continue... You do what you want. What the amicus said, we have flagged. What you have to do, you do. Don't tell us what you should do. But we are only flagging it that this is the minimal impact of it. You want to do it, you do it, whatever you want to do".

Responding to Arora's submission on regulating app-based taxis registered in other states, Justice Kaul said, "Don't try to non-perform and shift your burden onto the court. This is what is happening. Amicus is saying odd-even is not working. You are saying we will implement it also on taxi. Did we ask you to?"

Leaving the task of controlling farm fires to the states and the Centre, Justice Kaul cautioned that if they don't, "we will summon the chief secretaries and keep them here till they find

a solution. I'm sure they will work better in their own offices. So please find a solution".

Hearing a batch of petitions in the matter on November 7, the SC had asked the Union Cabinet Secretary to call a meeting urgently Thursday with all stakeholders.

On Friday, the bench noted in its order that "Attorney General R Venkataramani submits that the meeting held under the chairmanship of the cabinet secretary has prescribed certain immediate steps to be taken..." and directed that "those steps should be proceeded with by all stakeholders".

It said "there are certain suggestions made in the course of the hearing and the authorities concerned will look into it. Among the suggestions which we can easily flag is that there is technology available now information is forthcoming to be utilised to control farm fires, where the exact lo-

cation of farm fires can be immediately located. How to proceed with it and what measures are to be taken are administrative in character. The function of the court is to make sure administrators perform the task assigned to them. The methodology has to be by the administrators".

The bench also said orally that the Union Cabinet Secretary "will continue to monitor" the situation.

The SC said the only long-term solution was to replace current variety of paddy that was being sown with a different variety or another crop. "The main problem is the time of sowing. And the variety which is permissible. If you feel a particular variety is causing a problem, ban the variety as far as I am concerned. Your decision..." said Justice Kaul.

In its order, the court said this, however, should be "done in a phased manner".

**Inside SC, a cafe run by differently abled to open doors**

UDBHAV SETH  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

FOR ACHINTA Ghosh, who has been involved with Mitti Cafe since it started in Bengaluru in 2015, the most satisfying part of his job is teaching people how to empower themselves and become productive members of society. "It makes me happy," he says with a smile, as he sits amidst the refurbishing and drilling underway on the new cafe premises.

On Friday, Mitti Cafe's newest branch on the Supreme Court premises was inaugurated by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud. Speaking at the inauguration, the CJ said, "If you go down the grand staircase, to the right there is a small cafe with a place to sit called Mitti Cafe. Everyone who runs it is disabled. I hope all lawyers will support... it's a joint venture between all of us to encourage the disabled."

Attorney General R Venkataramani too said, "It's a wonderful act of compassion." The cafe exclusively hires dif-

ferently abled people and has more than 30 branches around India. After training staffers of a new branch in Mumbai, Ghosh is now here at this branch to help prepare it for its launch. "Staff training goes on for anything between 2-3 months," he said.

"If, let's say, someone is blind, then it's not that they can't do any work. They can talk to a customer. They can be helped with orientation around the cafe — if we help them see where tables 1, 2 and 3 are, eventually they will be able to speak to customers and take their orders," Ghosh added.

Another staffer, Sujith Kumar Mandal from Bihar, used to work at Bengaluru's Chai Gully before moving to Delhi in February to work in the cafe's Hansraj College branch. He said two of his colleagues who are mute and deaf use sign language to communicate in the kitchen. If someone is in a wheelchair, he adds, they can operate the cash register — everyone has a role to play. Mitti Cafe is scheduled to launch on November 19.

(with agency inputs)



Mitti Cafe is scheduled to launch on November 19. ANI

**POLICE DETAIN HUSBAND, BUT FINDING A SAFE HOME HAS POSED HURDLES**

**Married forcibly, raped and abused, help nowhere in sight for teenager**

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

TILL LAST YEAR, a girl in her teens was living a normal life like any school-going child her age, with dreams of going to college and becoming an English teacher. All her plans came crashing after she was forcibly married to a 25-year-old man in UP in February. Over the past few months, she was allegedly raped and impregnated by her husband and abused by her in-laws, not allowed to speak to anyone, and stopped from studying further. She finally managed to per-

suade her father to let her come home in August — only to find her family, except her mother, turning their backs on her. For the past two days, amid pressure to return to her in-laws and threats to kill her, the girl, now seven months pregnant, has been running from pillar to post for help. But neither the Delhi Police nor the Child Welfare Committee have been able to find a safe home for her yet.

The Delhi Police has detained the husband as he was allegedly threatening to hurt the minor. A senior police officer said since the incident took place in another state, they have lodged a Zero FIR against the

husband and his family under sections of rape, causing hurt and the POCSO Act.

Police also conducted an enquiry and found that the accused sexually and physically assaulted the victim "several times" at his house. The minor was taken to AIIMS Hospital where doctors confirmed her pregnancy.

The FIR lodged on Friday, accessed by *The Indian Express*, states that the minor was taken to her aunt's place in Farrukhabad on January 14 on the pretext of attending a cousin's birthday but was left there by her parents. In February, she was forced to get married.

"(My husband) made physical relations with me and I got pregnant. After two-three months, I came back home. Ten days ago, (my husband) came to Delhi and (tried to) force me to go back with him. My mother told him no. I don't wish to live with my husband because he assaults me and has stopped me from going to school," alleged the girl, as per the FIR.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the accused husband, along with the girl's family members, allegedly threatened to kill her if she didn't go back. She then approached her neighbours who informed a local NGO to

help her and call the police.

On Friday, the minor told *The Indian Express* that no one in her family, except her mother, is helping her. "I was never told I would be married at a young age... my father pushed me to get married. I have been insulted, assaulted and tortured since I told everyone that I don't wish to live with my husband. He raped me. Two weeks back when he came to Delhi, he tried to rape me again..." she alleged.

Mother and daughter had to stay at the police station on Thursday since they had nowhere to go. "Everyone is against her. I now understand

what she is going through... we just want help from the authorities. Everyone is out there to hurt us..." said the mother.

**Safe homes not an option for now**

A police officer confirmed that the minor and her mother stayed at the police station since two shelter homes refused to take her in.

This despite an order from the CWC Chairperson, accessed by *The Indian Express*, allowing the girl's application to be placed in an institution. "Child (has) shared safety issue as family engaged in child marriage

and other illegal acts. Child also needs over high protective shelter..." read the order.

When contacted, a senior official from the Delhi government's Women and Child Development department said the girl wasn't allowed to stay with the minors since she is pregnant and can't stay with adult women since she is a minor.

While a separate home for pregnant minors has been created by the Department of Social Welfare, the minor has not been accepted there either as they are in the process of verifying her documents. "She will be sent to a Nirmal Chhaya centre. It's a

case of child marriage and we need to conduct an enquiry before taking action. We are in touch with police to expedite proceedings," said the official.

Till then, police said the minor and her mother have been sent to her maternal grandmother's house — 1 km away from where her parents live.

Nirmal Gorana, Convener, National Campaign Committee for Eradication of Bonded Labour, said, "I received information about the minor... We are facing a lot of challenges since the shelter homes aren't lodging her and the CWC isn't taking her in. Who will take responsibility?..."



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# Liquor bottles worth over Rs 100 crore sold in fortnight before Diwali

**GAYATHRI MANI**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

CALL IT the festive season effect: In the last two weeks, Delhi has seen a 31% increase in liquor sale as compared to last year in the same period.

According to government data, Delhi residents have consumed alcohol worth more than Rs 100 crore over the last fortnight, and have also stocked up in the run-up to Diwali and other festivals such as Chhath and Govardhan Puja scheduled this week.

days, until November 9, a total of 2,58,19,988 liquor bottles have been sold in wine shops across the national capital. In the same period last year, a total of 1,78,21,320 bottles were sold. In the last three days alone (until Thursday), Delhi recorded a sale of 54.92 lakh liquor bottles. The highest number of bottles were sold on Tuesday: a whopping 20,78,668 bottles.

The peak festival season this year started from October 20 with four days of Durga Puja celebrations; the month also had three dry days on Gandhi Jayanti, Dussehra, and Valmiki Jayanti.

"The sale during this period increases due to the ongoing festi-

val season, and dry days. October and November usually have a large number of dry days plus rush at all the wine shops also increases... So, the average per day sale increases..." said an official.

The average sale this year has increased to 17,21,333 bottles in comparison to last year when it was 12,56,186.

"Two days are still left for Diwali and the sale of liquor bottles will see a sharp jump as the festival is on Sunday and it will be a dry day. Also, the average per day sale on a usual day is 8 to 10 lakh bottles, but it has risen this year to 20 lakh and it will increase as per our expectations," said an official.

# Sisodia can meet wife today, Singh's custody extended

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court on Friday granted permission to former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, an accused in a money-laundering case related to the alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped excise policy, to meet his wife

Seema, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, on Saturday. The court also extended AAP MP Sanjay Singh's judicial custody by 14 days in the case. Special Judge MK Nagpal also allowed Singh's production in Amritsar, where the MP is facing

charges of defamation. The court had earlier extended Singh's judicial custody till Friday. Earlier in October, he was sent to five-day custody of the Enforcement Directorate following 10 hours of searches that ended in his arrest. The

central agency claimed that Rs 2 crore had changed hands at his North Avenue home. Singh's arrest came after he was named by Dinesh Arora, a businessman and co-accused who turned approver in the ED case. **ENS**

# 3 personnel part of Kumar Vishwas security removed after 'road rage' case

**New Delhi:** Three CRPF personnel deployed in the VIP security unit of poet Kumar Vishwas, a former AAP leader, have been removed from duty and an inquiry has been initiated in connection with a recent road rage incident where a doctor has alleged he was roughed up by the armed personnel. A fresh batch of CRPF commandos have replaced their colleagues in Kumar's VIP security unit.

The Centre had accorded a small 'Y' category armed cover of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) VIP security wing to 53-year-old Vishwas last year following his allegations against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with regard to supporting Khalistan supporters. Kejriwal had dismissed the charges.

An inquiry was initiated after an alleged road rage incident took place on November 8 when Vishwas was travelling from Ghaziabad to Aligarh.

"Prima facie, it has been found that standard operating procedures were probably not followed by the commandos... The CRPF has prepared a preliminary report based on some mobile videos recorded about the incident..." an official said. **ENS**

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**75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4) of the Listing Regulations] (₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated				
		Quarter ended		Half Year ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Half Year ended		Year ended
		30.09.2023	30.09.2022	30.09.2023	30.09.2022	31.03.2023	30.09.2023	30.09.2022	30.09.2023	30.09.2022	31.03.2023
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
1	Total Income from Operations	708.17	589.26	1068.84	923.21	2003.65	708.28	589.30	1069.24	923.27	2004.05
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	386.57	288.43	446.73	321.21	783.44	385.73	288.24	445.89	320.78	783.06
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	386.57	288.43	446.73	321.21	783.44	385.73	288.24	445.89	320.78	783.06
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	331.04	262.79	378.57	320.70	673.09	330.23	262.70	377.75	320.49	672.85
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	330.37	264.41	377.23	323.95	670.57	329.56	264.32	376.41	323.74	670.33
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	6968.69	6766.28	6968.69	6766.28	6762.90	6966.94	6765.17	6966.94	6765.17	6761.77
8	Securities Premium Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Net worth	10634.57	10432.16	10634.57	10432.16	10428.78	10632.82	10431.05	10632.82	10431.05	10427.65
10	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	13166.17	9038.97	13166.17	9038.97	10675.24	13176.17	9038.97	13176.17	9038.97	10675.24
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Debt Equity Ratio	1.39	0.96	1.39	0.96	1.11	1.39	0.96	1.39	0.96	1.11
13	Earnings Per Share (of ₹1000/-each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -										
	1. Basic: (in ₹)	90.30	71.68	103.27	87.48	183.61	90.14	71.67	103.10	87.44	183.55
	2. Diluted: (in ₹)	90.30	71.68	103.27	87.48	183.61	90.14	71.67	103.10	87.44	183.55
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Debt Redemption Reserve	221.57	156.25	221.57	156.25	186.50	221.57	156.25	221.57	156.25	186.50
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	3.15	2.34	2.26	1.72	1.84	3.10	2.33	2.23	1.72	1.83
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	9.83	6.35	8.95	4.53	6.22	9.81	6.35	8.94	4.53	6.22

# - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.

**Notes:**

- The above results have been approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 10.11.2023
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly Financial Results is available on the websites of the stock exchange and THDCIL <https://www.bseindia.com/xml-data/corpfiling/AttachLive/440a3319-8225-4cae-9608-6d2d2ab47d18.pdf> and [https://www.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/Debt\\_10112023180612\\_FinancialStatementFinal.pdf](https://www.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/Debt_10112023180612_FinancialStatementFinal.pdf).
- For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made in the stock exchanges and can be accessed on <https://www.bseindia.com/xml-data/corpfiling/AttachLive/440a3319-8225-4cae-9608-6d2d2ab47d18.pdf> and [https://www.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/Debt\\_10112023180612\\_FinancialStatementFinal.pdf](https://www.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/Debt_10112023180612_FinancialStatementFinal.pdf).

For and on Behalf of Board of Directors  
(J. Behera)  
Director (Finance)/CFO  
DIN: 08536589

Place : Rishikesh  
Date : 10.11.2023

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

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

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

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

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## UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

(₹ crore)

Sr. No.	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]	[Unaudited]	[Unaudited]	[Unaudited]	[Unaudited]	[Audited]
1	Total Income from Operations	11,560.83	11,702.52	9,636.43	23,263.35	18,497.51	39,330.54
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	2,131.32	1,745.08	1,457.42	3,876.40	2,875.08	6,554.70
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	2,131.32	1,745.08	1,457.42	3,876.40	2,875.08	6,554.70
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1,560.31	1,340.40	1,102.69	2,900.71	2,175.29	5,359.79
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	Paid-up share capital	17,080.00	17,080.00	17,080.00	17,080.00	17,080.00	17,080.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves)	-	-	-	-	-	48,808.52
8	Securities Premium Account	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
9	Net Worth	68,789.23	66,459.27	62,013.26	68,789.23	62,013.26	65,118.87
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt*	6,33,653.99	6,52,327.21	5,95,484.44	6,33,653.99	5,95,484.44	6,88,859.02
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Share	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
12	Debt-Equity Ratio	9.21	9.70	9.48	9.21	9.48	10.45
13	Earnings Per Share (EPS)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
15	Debt Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA = Not Applicable  
\* Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt includes Outstanding Deposits, Bonds & Debentures and Borrowings

Notes: 1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Half-yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Half-yearly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (NSE: [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and BSE: [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and on the bank's website ([www.nabard.org](http://www.nabard.org)).

Place : Mumbai  
Date : November 10, 2023

Shaji K V  
Chairman



# Rajghat power plant chimney lights up

New Delhi: L-G VK Saxena inaugurated the lighting of the 166-metre chimney tower at Rajghat power plant, joining the ranks of South Delhi's Qutub Minar and North/West Delhi's Pitampura TV Tower, the brightly lit chimney is the tallest illuminated structure in the city. As per official sources, the aim of the project was to create a distinctive landmark for Central/East Delhi. Commissioned in 1989, the coal-based plant was decommissioned in 2015 due to pollution concerns. Seen as an eyesore for over eight years, plans to demolish the chimney were reconsidered to avoid substantial



The chimney is the city's tallest illuminated structure

costs, prevent dust pollution, and minimise contributions to the city's construction and demolition waste, said officials. The L-G's visit to the plant in February prompted a shift in plans. **ENS**

# CM seeks enquiry into allegations against Chief Secretary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal has directed Vigilance Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj to get a "detailed enquiry" conducted with regard to a complaint alleging links between Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar and owners of a piece of land acquired for the Dwarka Expressway.

As reported by *The Indian Express* on Friday, the piece of land in Southwest Delhi, compensation for which was increased from Rs 41.52 crore to Rs 353.79 crore in May, leading to action against an IAS officer, is now at the centre of a fresh row — a complaint has been filed by a lawyer with the

Centre as well as the Delhi government alleging that the son-in-law of one of the landowners is the director in a firm that employs the son of the Chief Secretary.

Kumar, however, said he does not know the directors of his son's firm, and that it was, in fact, he who took action against the IAS officer. He also called the allegations an attempt "by the present set up of the elected government" to malign him. "A complaint in this regard was made to CM Kejriwal, which he has sent to the vigilance minister for a detailed enquiry," read a message from the Vigilance Minister's Office.

The complainant, a lawyer, who requested anonymity, had told *The Indian Express* that he had filed a complaint in the mat-



CM Kejriwal; CS Kumar

ter with the offices of the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Minister of Road Transport & Highways, the Central Bureau of Investigation, Delhi Lieutenant Governor, and Delhi Chief Minister in October, alleging "a clear connection between the Chief Secretary of Delhi and the landowners".

The 19-acre land in question

is owned by Subhash Chand Kathuria and Anubhav Kathuria in Southwest Delhi's Bamnoli village, and was acquired by the NHAI for the Dwarka Expressway in 2018. The initial award of Rs 41.52 crore as compensation was decided by the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) South West district that year. The landowners then challenged this amount, and the matter went into arbitration. Between February 2019 and June 2022, three other officers who were posted as the South West Delhi DM successively agreed with the initial assessment of Rs 41.52 crore.

IAS officer Hemant Kumar, who was appointed as DM in June 2022, granted the landown-

ers an enhanced compensation of Rs 353.79 crore, reasoning that the land was low-density residential area, and not agricultural. The money, however, has not been paid so far since the matter has been in court.

One of the landowners is the father-in-law of director at realty firm Anant Raj Limited. The senior general manager of the realty firm, as well as directors in firms affiliated to the group, also serve as directors in a company called Big Town Properties Pvt Ltd, records show. The Chief Secretary's son is also a director in Big Town Properties Pvt Ltd, according to the records. As per records, the two companies share the same email ID and address.

"I was the instrument for ac-

tion against him (Hemant Kumar). I don't know the relatives of the director of the firm that my son works in. If I was supporting them, why would I seek action in the case... My son has never communicated anything to me about any land..." Kumar told *The Indian Express*, adding that despite repeated reminders by the Divisional Commissioner, the DM did not reverse the order of enhanced compensation.

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



## EVENT—ICSI

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India organized its 51st National Convention of Company Secretaries recently, in Varanasi, UP on the theme India @ G20- Empowering sustainable future through Governance & Technology. VP of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, graced the National Convention as the Chief Guest, & Governor of UP Smt. Anandiben Patel was the Guest of Honour on the occasion.

## EVENT—NIET

Global Design Thinking Challenge is being organized by NIET Greater Noida & School of Future Skills in collaboration with AICTE recently the grand finale of Segue 2.0 has started at NIET campus. Honorable VC, APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Professor JP Pandey is gracing the occasion as the chief guest. The 2 days long finals will conclude with a valedictory session.



## PROGRAMME — JAMIA HAMDARD

Rufaida College of Nursing, Jamia Hamdard organised inaugural session of Induction Programme for M.Sc. Nursing, B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing, Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing and DGNM 1st year students on 8th November, 2023 at Convention Centre, Jamia Hamdard. The dignitaries present on the dais were Prof. (Dr.) M. Afshar Alam, VC Jamia Hamdard Prof. (Dr.) Manju Chhugani, Dean, SNSAH and Prof. Veena Sharma, Principal Rufaida College of Nursing.



## CONFERENCE—UPES

UPES, a multidisciplinary university in Dehradun, in collaboration with IUAC, New Delhi, hosted the 7th International Conference on Nanostructuring by Ion Beams (ICNIB 2023). Serving as a dynamic platform that facilitates dialogues around the advancement of nanotechnology research, the conference brought together renowned scientists, researchers, and industry experts.



## PROGRAM — I.T.S DENTAL

An informative Hands-on 2nd module of "8th Advanced Oral Implantology Course" was organized by I.T.S Dental College, Muradnagar recently. The Program on Oral Implantology was attended by 52 participants including private practitioners, college alumni, dentists, post-graduate students and Interns. This course was conducted in association Kyung Hee University, Seoul and CSM Implants South Korea. The program is the brain child of Arpit Chadha, V.C., I.T.S.



# CORPORATE BRIEFS

## EDUCATION

### EVENT—AKGEC

In a remarkable display of cultural richness & collaborative accord, the exalted galleries of Ajay Kumar Garg Engineering College hosted the Diwali Fair Event recently with in an outstanding triumph that united students & teachers in a celebration of tradition & solidarity while illuminating the campus with the spirit of Diwali. Traditional practices were skillfully merged with modern enthusiasm.



### VISIT—AMITY

A high-level delegation from PACE University, USA, comprising of Dr. John Meletiadis, Assistant Dean, Lubin School of Business, Dr. Sonia Suchday, Chair of Psychology, Pace Board of Trustees Member and Prof. PV Viswanath, Graduate Program Chair, Department of Finance, visited Amity University Noida. The aim of the visit was to explore higher education opportunities.



### CELEBRATION—AKGEC

Ajay Kumar Garg Engineering College Ghaziabad celebrated the deepawali function recently with marking of unwavering commitment, remarkable display of cultural richness. It brings together all Management Members, all faculties, Staff members and their families in a dazzling display of lights, culture, and unity. The faculties and staff members of various departments put up the magnifying cultural shows.

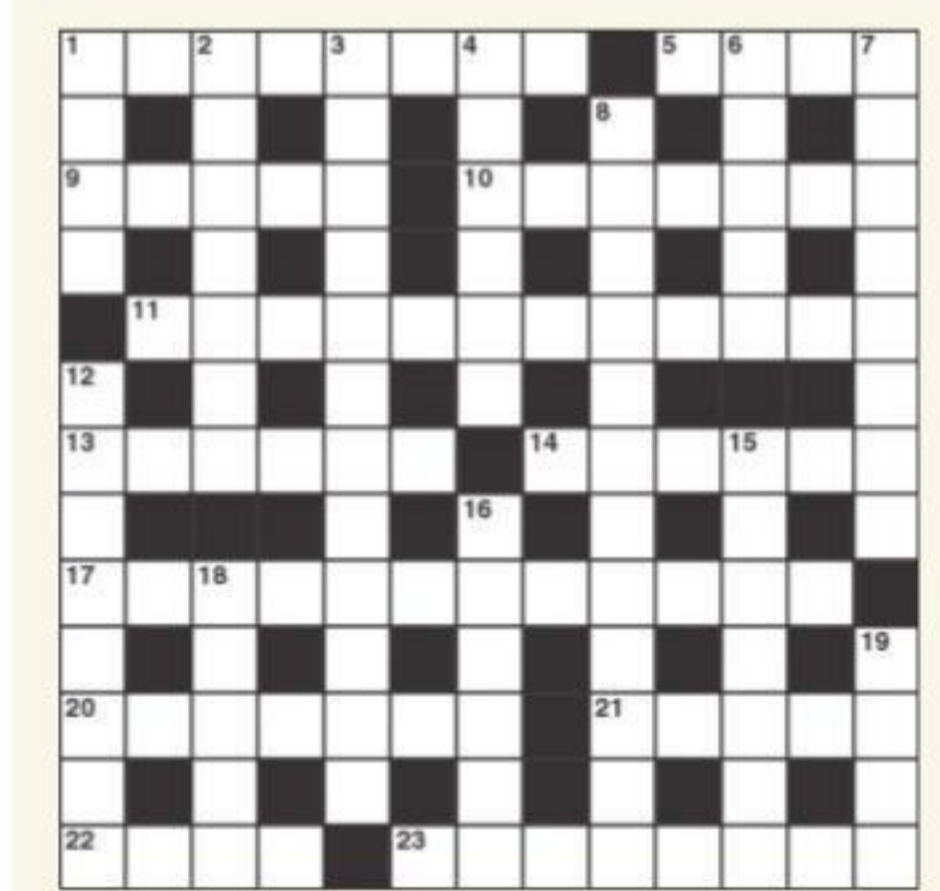


### CEREMONY—IGDTUW

Recently, the prestigious Indra Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women, Delhi, celebrated its Sixth Convocation Ceremony, an event of great significance. The convocation was inaugurated by the distinguished Lt. Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, who serves as the University's Chancellor. The Chief Guest for this momentous occasion was M. Venkaiah Naidu, Former VP of the GOI.



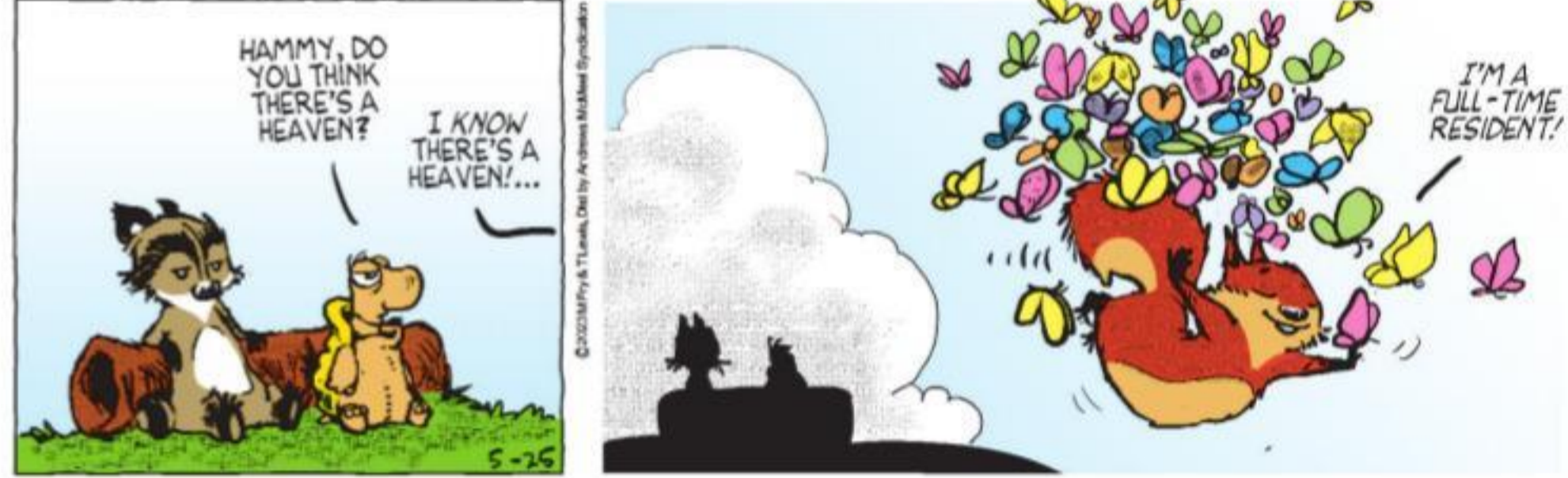
## CROSSWORD 5206



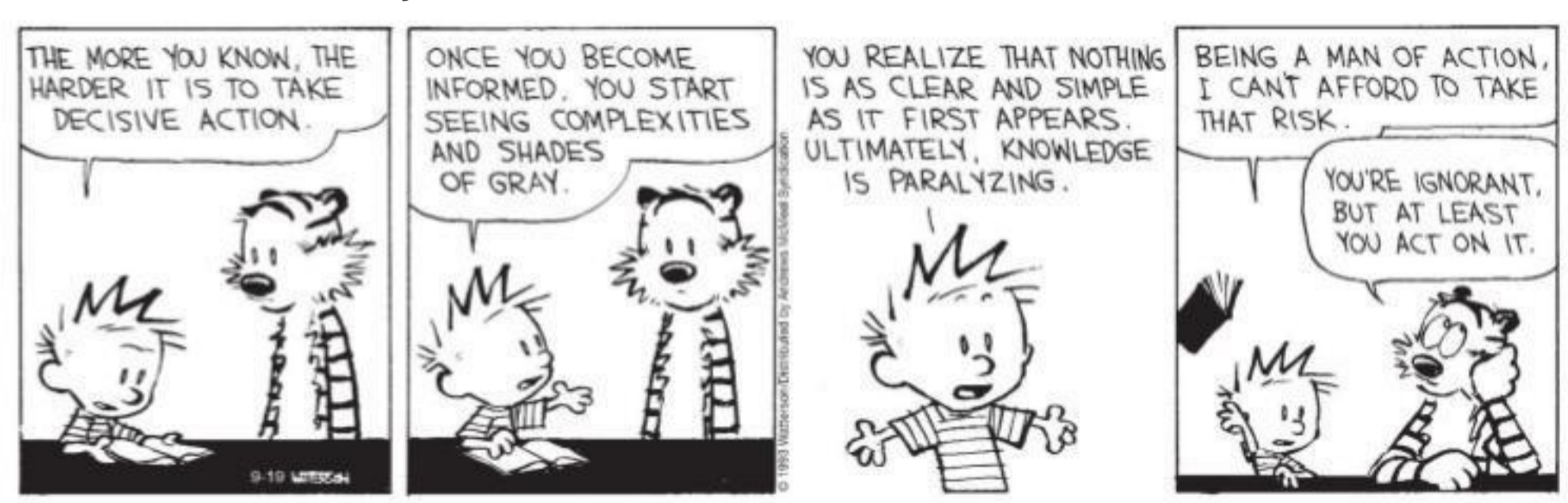
- ACROSS**
- Shakespearean character able to thrive on love (8)
  - Reasonably good show (4)
  - Social exclusion also takes in a mariner (5)
  - A single way of putting a plug in (7)
  - New string on tops of heavily fortified places (12)
  - Cake made by Claire (6)
  - Stick together or split apart (6)
  - Direct speech? (8,4)
  - Kind of language in which lovers are involved (7)
  - Eastern lake found in the west? Strange (5)
  - Beaten hollow (4)
  - Impression about a child according to the time of year (8)
- DOWN**
- The head quietly had a meal (4)
  - Not much talked about, as planetary movements are? (7)
  - Schemes put forward for places (12)
  - Make someone take notice? (6)
  - Get into a row (5)
  - Record the range of one's voice (8)
  - Type of person that corresponds to a scholar? (3,2,7)
  - This class is certain to be kept in idle fashion (8)
  - A new role in flight control (7)
  - It's said to produce a smile (6)
  - Type of Italian capitalist (5)
  - Timber business (4)

Solutions Crossword 5205 Across: 1 Breakfast, 8 Raven, 9 Cascade, 10 Mussel, 11 Chaser, 12 Archives, 15 Quotient, 18 Emerge, 20 Evince, 21 Jointed, 22 Oaths, 23 Easy-going Down: 2 Reach, 3 Accuse, 4 Federate, 5 Trough, 6 Evasive, 7 Enclosure, 11 Conqueror, 13 Category, 14 Goliath, 16 In case, 17 Lean-to, 19 Green

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

**GNAAI**      **EOTMPP**

**BFLYY**      **EEIRFH**

Answer: A happier family is but an earlier heaven. - George Bernard Shaw (5,6)

**SUDOKU 5378**

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

**SUDOKU 5377**

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

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 5377**

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

## DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
Passionate Aries should aim for family gatherings and home entertainments. Those of you planning decorations or even dreaming of a move of home should be able to take your plans one very major step forward. The message of the moment is to be businesslike.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
This is bound to be one of those times when you don't see eye to eye with partners and loved ones, especially if money is involved. Spending or saving plans could provide the catalyst for a lively exchange of views. Emotions might improve if finances do.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Still, there's no let-up from planetary pressures. However, if you talk about personal feelings you may find that the old adage, a problem shared is a problem halved, is more true now than it ever was before. Next, you'll have to deal with all the financial implications.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
What a dull old world it would be if everyone agreed all the time. A frank exchange of views is inevitable, but do try not to fly off the handle or take everything too personally. You're a little bit accident-prone, so please use care with the priceless heirlooms.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
Chance encounters will lead to a much more fulfilling lifestyle for you and your loved ones. Yet I can't pretend that everything will be easy, and some of the people you encounter over the next few days may try your patience to the limit, and beyond.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
You have waited too long for the rewards you deserve, but you may have realised that you won't get anything you haven't worked for. By next week, you'll be able to figure out how to get round a recent delay. One word of advice: take steps to get into tip-top physical form.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
Shopping trips are bound to involve higher costs. Indeed, almost every area of life is going to work out more expensive than you hoped. You must talk about your problems, otherwise you'll have to accept the sole blame for any mistakes. Get expert help whenever you need it.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
Lunar alignments anchor you to reality, but those of you pursuing romantic adventures may be swept off your feet. In spite of a general argumentative atmosphere, the chances of a very pleasurable windfall are much higher than average. Take your chances.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
You seem to have the edge at home and you can, if you wish, get your own way. Remember that, as far as family members are concerned, causes of discontent are still very much alive. If you put your mind to it, this is a time when one major financial or personal obstacle can be surmounted.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
A brilliant aspect between the Sun and a series of other planets, places hurdles in your path. Life is like an obstacle-course featuring traps for the unwary but big prizes for the winners. Long-distance journeys are strongly signified by the Moon.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
Window-shopping and casual spending is one option for today. But devoting some of your resources to charity is another. Indeed, it's probably the best if you want to avoid continued personal turmoil. You don't know yet what sort of changes you'll set in train once emotional issues are raised.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
You may be misunderstood. However, your strength at the moment lies in repairing the damage left by people who have no control over their feelings. If your confidence should dip, then remember that you're playing a long game and you need a reliable strategy.



# I&B Ministry invites comments for new Bill to cover OTT, digital news

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE UNION Information and Broadcasting Ministry Friday invited comments on a new draft Bill that consolidates the legal framework for the broadcasting sector and extends it to OTT content and digital news and current affairs as well. The ministry in a statement said comments have been invited for 30 days on the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill 2023.

I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said the new Bill was in keeping with PM Narendra Modi's vision for "ease of doing business" and "ease of living". "This pivotal legislation modernizes our broadcasting sector's regulatory framework, replacing outdated Acts, Rules, and Guidelines with a unified, future-focused approach. It adapts to the dynamic

world of OTT, Digital Media, DTH, IPTV, and more, promoting technological advancement and service evolution," he said on X.

Sources said it is unlikely that the Bill would be tabled in the Winter session of Parliament next month as another round of consultations will be held after receiving feedback from stakeholders. A preliminary round of intra-ministerial and inter-ministerial consultation has already been held, they add.

The Bill also seeks to replace the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act of 1995 that has been in effect for three decades. "The CTN Act serves as the primary legislation overseeing content on linear broadcasting, including cable networks. However, the broadcasting landscape has undergone significant changes. Technological advancements have introduced new platforms such as DTH, IPTV,

OTT, and various integrated models... there is a growing need to streamline the regulatory framework," the ministry said.

The draft Bill also expands the purview of the regulations to cover OTT content, digital news and has provisions to cover emerging technologies.

"It seeks to provide for Content Evaluation Committees and a Broadcast Advisory Council for self-regulation, different programmes and advertisement code for different broadcasting network operators, accessibility measures for persons with disabilities, and statutory penalties, etc.," the ministry said.

The Broadcast Advisory Council would have one "eminent independent person" with at least 25 years of experience in the media, entertainment, broadcasting or other relevant fields as its chairperson; five of-

ficers nominated by the Union government representing the ministries of I&B, Women and Child Development, Home Affairs, External Affairs and Social Justice & Empowerment as ex officio members, and five eminent independent members from the fields of media, entertainment, broadcasting, child rights, disability rights, human rights etc, the draft Bill says.

The Bill also introduces "Content Evaluation Committees" as a self-regulation mechanism. It also introduces statutory penalties like advisories, warnings, censures, monetary penalties for operators and broadcasters, and imprisonment for "very serious offences", the ministry said. "Monetary penalties and fines are linked to the financial capacity of the entity, taking into account their investment and turnover to ensure fairness and equity," it said.

## EC removes three observers for 'misconduct'

**New Delhi:** The Election Commission on Friday removed two general observers and one expenditure observer deployed for the Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram Assembly elections for alleged misconduct, an EC source said.

The officers removed are IAS officers Laltinkhuma Franklin and Udaya Narayan Das, and an IRS officer Gaurav Awasthi, officials said.

MP polls and second phase for Chhattisgarh and are to be held on November 17, while Mizoram polls were held on Nov 7. **ENS**

## School slapping row: SC slams UP govt for not complying with order

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE SUPREME COURT castigated the Uttar Pradesh government Friday for not complying with its order to depute an agency for counselling the boy and his classmates who were allegedly instructed by their teacher to slap him for not completing his homework. The accused teacher was booked after a video purportedly showed her asking students to slap the boy, making communal remarks.

Observing that there was "total non-compliance" with its order by the state government, a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka

and Pankaj Mithal directed the principal secretary of the state's school education department to remain present virtually during the next hearing to avoid any strong action by the court.

The top court appointed the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, to suggest the mode and manner of counselling for the child and his classmates involved in the incident. "There is no proper counselling conducted for the victim child and the other children involved in the incident... the approach of the state government as seen from the affidavits filed... is shocking," the SC said.

"We therefore appoint Tata Institute of Social Sciences,

Mumbai to suggest the mode and manner of extending counselling to the child and other children. TISS will also suggest the names of expert child counsellors available in the state who can extend counselling under the supervision of TISS," the bench ordered.

The SC directed the UP government to provide all infrastructural assistance and support to TISS, and ordered it to submit a report before December 11.

Hearing a plea filed by Tushar Gandhi, the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, seeking speedy investigation, SC had earlier asked the UP government to consult expert agencies like NIMHANS or TISS to counsel the victim and other children involved.

## SC refuses to stay HC proceedings in Mathura-Shahi Idgah dispute

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Friday refused to stay the proceedings before the Allahabad High Court on suits related to the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute, saying it will not be fair to interfere with the HC order without hearing both the sides.

The top court was hearing a petition challenging a HC order which had transferred to itself all matters related to the dispute pending before a Mathura court.

The plea filed by the Committee of Management Trust Shahi Masjid Idgah came up for hearing before a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul.

The SC, while posting the matter for January 9 noted that 18 petitions were pending before the high court in the matter. **PTI**

## Cattle carcasses found near office; BJP candidate lodges FIR

**Jaipur:** An FIR was lodged in Jaipur Friday after the BJP's candidate from the Adarsh Nagar constituency for the Rajasthan Assembly elections said three cattle carcasses were found near his election office Friday morning and alleged the animals were 'slaughtered'.

"There were three cows at the office. Today around 6am, I found that they were dead... Doctors said that they were killed" BJP's candidate Ravi Nayyar said.

While speaking to reporters, Nayyar accused a rival candidate responsible for this incident and alleged that it was a conspiracy to spoil the poll atmosphere.

He said the rival candidate tried to spoil the communal harmony and also attack the faith of 'Sanatanis'. **ENS**

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Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s) / date of receipt of the said notice (s).

The borrower/s have failed to repay the amount. Notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic / physical possession of the property/ies described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under section 13 (4) of said Act read with the rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned against each account.

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	A. Name of Branch B. Name of the Borrower	Descriptions of the Property	A. Date of Demand Notice. B. Date of Symbolic/Physical Possession Taken. C. Claim Amt on date of possession.
1.	A. BO: Dhamitola and Rai Kashi Nath More. B. M/s Magadh Agric Prop. Sidharth Shankar Lohani S/o Shri Shayam Sundar Lohani Sidharth Shankar Lohani S/o Shri Shayam Sundar Lohani.	Property Covered Under Sale Deed no: -3699 Dated 08.04.2009, Khata No-803 (NEW), 09 (OLD), Plot No.-47 (KA, KH, G (NEW), 43 (OLD) KA Ansh. Boundary- N- Nala, S-Rasta, E-Smt. Bacchi Devi W/o Dinanath Prasad, W-Nij Holding Khariadar Kiran Devi. Area-1200 sqft. Situated at Mohalla-Rajendra Path, Thana-Kotwali, Distt-Gaya, Ward No-1(O), 12(N), Survey Ward No-5, Holding No.172(O), at Present-Part of holding No-231, in the name of Shri Sidharth Shankar Lohani S/o Shyam Sundar Lohani R/O Mohalla-16A, Anugrah Narayan Road, Murarpur, Thana-Kotwali, Distt-Gaya.	A 29.06.2023 (Subsequent Paper Publication on 03.08.2023 in Daily Newspaper Prabhat Khabar and The Hindu on return of the said notice) B 07.11.2023 (Symbolic Possession) C Rs. 68,05,405.99/- (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakh Five Thousand Four Hundred Five and Paise Ninety Nine only) as on 29.06.2023 plus further interest w.e.f 30.06.2023 and other expenses until payment in full.

Place: Gaya  
DATE: 10.11.2023

(Authorised officer)  
Punjab National Bank

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Sd/- Director, Directorate of Research Sikkim Manipal University

**Important Dates/Time**  
Last Date for Online Registration Application Form: 28.11.2023  
Date of Entrance Examination : 07.12.2023  
Online Examination Slot  
Research Methodology: 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM  
Subject specific examination: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

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"ideathonharyana.in"  
**Registration :** Individual or Team  
**Team Size :** Max 5 Students

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"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work  
Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge N.C.B. No. 328 for 2023-24.  
Letter No. 6313 / Date: 9.11.23

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Total No. of works	Estimated Cost	Eligible Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Other details	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender		Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada	
							From	To	Clarification	Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
1.	Bridge work under Biju Setu Yojana in the District of Mayurbhanj	06 Nos. (Six)	Rs. 329.37 lakhs to Rs. 808.71 lakhs (approximately).	As per annexure.	As per annexure.		Dt. 14.11.2023	Dt. 28.11.2023	Up to 11.00 A.M.	Up to 5.00 P.M.	Up to 5.00 P.M.	29.11.2023

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada

Further details can be seen from the website: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
Any Corrigendum/ Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender website only.

Sd/- Er. S.K. Rout  
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Baripada  
OIPR- 25130/11/0065/2324



# 8 DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

ELECTION IN NUMBERS

41

Of the 49 Chhattisgarh seats won by BJP in 2013, 41 flipped away from the party in 2018. Congress alone flipped 39 seats

## THE CASTE MATRIX

# Rajasthan Congress list parallels BJP in OBCs, far behind in upper castes

Congress fields same number of Muslims, one more woman than in 2018

HAMZA KHAN  
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 10

AT A TIME when it is talking of increasing representation to OBCs, the Congress has given one-third of its tickets to groups falling in the category. However, the representation of women in the list remains less than half of the promised quota for them, at 14%.

With 72 tickets to OBCs, the Congress is just ahead of the BJP, which has fielded 70 candidates from Other Backward Classes.

However, the BJP list has a clear upper caste tilt. While 44 of the Congress's 199 candidates belong to upper castes, the BJP has given tickets to 63.

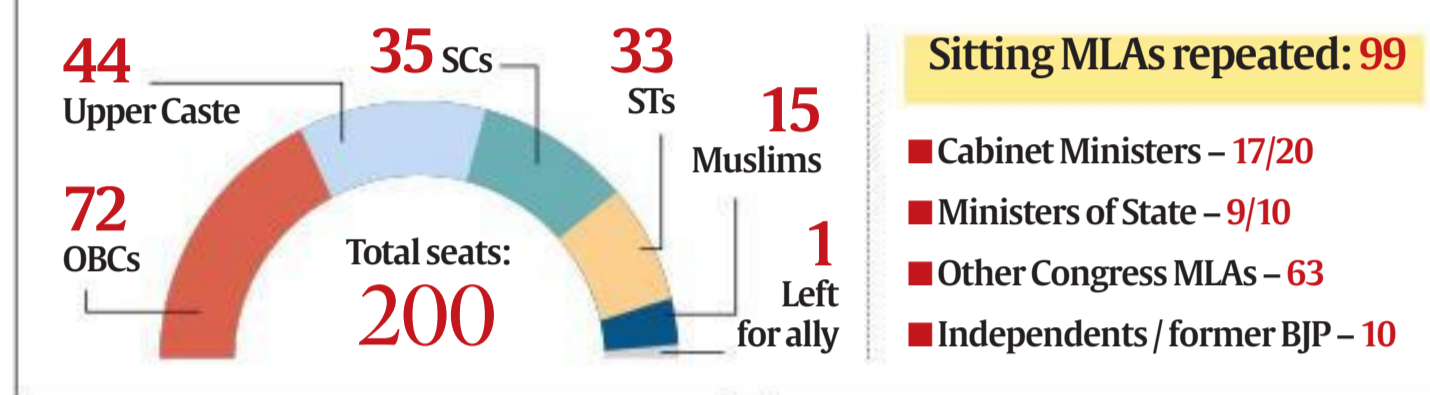
Of the 200 Assembly seats in Rajasthan, the Congress has set aside Bharatpur for ally Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD). The RLD had won Bharatpur last time too, and incumbent Subhash Garg is a minister in the Congress government.

The 72 tickets given by the Congress to OBCs include 34 to the Jats; 11 to the Gujjars (including Sachin Pilot); 4 each to the Yadavs and Bishnois; 3 each to the Malis (including Congress CM Ashok Gehlot) and Patels; 2 each to the Kumhars and Kalas; and 1 each to the Jangids, Kushwahs, Dhakads, Kumawats, Ghanchis, Charans, Dewasis, Ravana Rajputs and Sondhiya Rajputs.



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot addresses a public meeting in Bhinmal on Thursday. PTI

### SEAT SPLIT BY CASTE, RELIGION AND INCUMBENTS



While the Kalals and Sondhiya Rajput are not in the state OBC list, the Kalals are in Central OBC list for Rajasthan. The Sondhiyas are also considered backward and are OBCs in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh.

The sole Congress Sondhiya Rajput candidate is Ram Lal Chouhan, against former BJP CM Vasundhara Raje in Jhalrapatan.

In 2019, following protests, the Rajasthan government had given 5% reservation to Gujjars and four other castes under the category of More Backward Classes (MBCs), outside of the 21% given to OBCs in the state for education and government jobs.

Apart from the 34 seats re-

served for Dalits, the Congress has fielded one more SC candidate, taking their share in the party's tickets to 17%. ST representation is only marginally less, at 16.5% seats or 33 tickets. This is eight more than the 25 ST-reserved seats, and all these 8 are Meenas.

The BJP has also fielded 35 Dalits, but 29 tribal candidates.

The Congress has fielded 15 Muslims, making 7.5% of its total. The BJP has not given any ticket to the community, which makes over 9% of the population.

Last time too the Congress had fielded 15 Muslims - of whom seven won. The BJP had fielded one Muslim, in Yunus Khan, who lost to Sachin Pilot.

There are 28 women in the Congress list, compared to 27 in 2018. The BJP has given tickets to 20, fewer than the 23 it had fielded in 2018.

### Four ministers axed

Amid talk that Gehlot pushed back against denial of tickets to sitting MLAs, the Congress has repeated 26 of 30 ministers, besides 63 of sitting MLAs.

The dropped ministers include Cabinet ministers Mahesh Joshi, Lalchand Kataria and Hemaram Choudhary. While Hemaram and Kataria were not keen on contesting, Joshi was dropped owing to his role in the Gehlot camp's rebellion last year.

# In MP, little separates BJP, Congress in share of OBCs, women or Muslims in tickets

ANAND MOHAN J  
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 10

AS THE MADHYA Pradesh election goes down to the wire, the ruling BJP and Congress are banking on OBC and women voters to tilt the scales in their favour.

The Congress underlines its slogan "Jitni aabadi, utna haq (rights proportional to population)," while its party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi have promised a caste census and demanded an OBC quota within women's reservation. The biggest USP of four-time CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan remains his government's women-oriented schemes.

However, in terms of tickets, the focus on OBC or women voters is not as prominent. The BJP, which has given the state three successive OBC CMs - Uma Bharti, Babu Lal Gaur and Chouhan - is slightly ahead of the Congress on OBC candidates. While the BJP has 71 in its list, the Congress has fielded 62.

"It's not just about numbers. We have fielded efficient candidates, based on winnability. We are promising OBC voters 27% reservation. It is true in the past, the BJP may have advanced strong OBC faces, but they are now old.

We are developing young OBC leaders," a Congress leader said.

He added this would take time. Earlier, the party's strong OBC leaders included former Deputy CM Subhash Yadav's son, Arun. But he has been sidelined over his rivalry with PCC president Kamal Nath and, after having lost in 2018 against Chouhan from Budhni, hasn't been nominated this year. CWC member Kamleshwar Patel is being groomed as his alternative.

BJP leaders are more confident about their OBC voter base. "We have strong OBC leaders... We now even have Union Minister Prahlad Patel as a candidate. He is no Shivraj, but there is no one in the Congress who can come close."

At over 48% of the voters, women are a crucial vote bank, whom the BJP has painstakingly wooed. In 18 of the 230 seats, they outnumber men. At a campaign rally in Satna, PM Narendra Modi said "the future of MP will be decided by mothers and sisters".

While the Congress has fielded 30 women (13% of total), the BJP has put up 28 (12%).

Amidst an election marked by a strong Hindutva tinge, the BJP has not given a ticket to any Muslim, who form 7% of the state's population. The Congress has fielded only two.

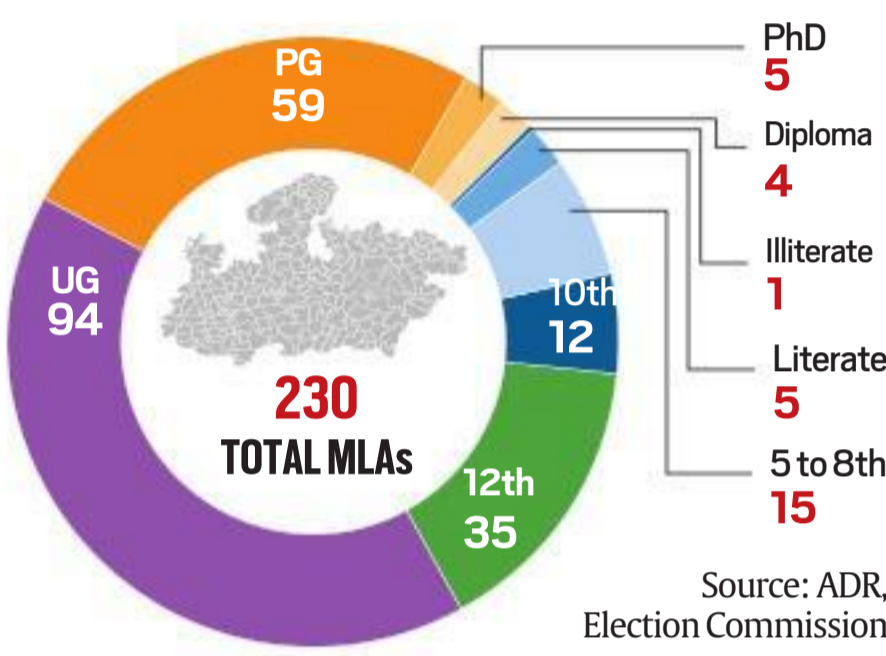


BLOWING HOT AND COLD, MAHAN DAL, SP BACK TOGETHER FOR MP POLLS

## NUMBER SPEAK

### MADHYA PRADESH: PARTY-WISE EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF MLAS

Party	Illiterate	Literate	5 to 8th	10th	12th	UG	PG	PHD	Dip
BJP	1	4	7	7	16	53	35	4	2
Cong	0	0	8	5	19	39	24	1	1
BSP	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ind	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1



## I HEREBY DECLARE

TSSINGHDEO, 71



Chhattisgarh Deputy CM, contesting for Congress from Ambikapur

**MOVABLE ASSETS**  
₹ 10.99 CRORE  
(₹ 10.73 crore in 2018)

**IMMOVABLE ASSETS**  
₹ 436.71 CRORE including agricultural, commercial and residential properties (₹ 491.42 crore in 2018)

**LIABILITIES:** ₹ 1.15 crore (₹ 1.65 crore in 2018)

**CRIMINAL CASES**  
None

**SOURCE OF INCOME:**  
Agriculture and business

**EDUCATION:**  
M.A. History from Hamidia College, Bhopal University

ARUNSAO, 55



BJP's Chhattisgarh unit chief and Bilaspur MP, contesting from Lormi

**MOVABLE ASSETS**  
(including spouse)  
₹ 99.56 LAKH  
(₹ 33.95 lakh in 2019 LS)

**IMMOVABLE ASSETS**  
₹ 66.16 LAKH including agricultural, commercial and residential properties (₹ 1.02 crore in 2019 LS)

**LIABILITIES:**  
None (₹ 50,000 in 2019 LS)

**CRIMINAL CASES**  
None

**SOURCE OF INCOME:**  
MP salary and agriculture

**EDUCATION:**  
LL.B. from GGD University, Bilaspur

# 'Next Chhattisgarh govt won't be formed without us': Amit Jogi

JAYPRAKASH NAIDU  
RAIPUR, NOVEMBER 10

THREE MEMBERS of the family of the late Ajit Jogi, who was the first Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh - wife Renu, son Amit and daughter-in-law Richa - are contesting the state elections. Since his father passed away, Amit leads the Janta Congress Chhattisgarh-Jogi (JCCJ), formed by Ajit after a split from the Congress in 2016. In the 2018 polls, it received 76.1% of the votes, winning five seats. In an interview with *The Indian Express*, Amit speaks about his party's chances in the upcoming polls. Excerpts:

**You are contesting against CM Bhupesh Baghel and BJP MP Vijay Baghel, both strong leaders in Patan. You are new to Patan. Why would people vote for you?**

The Patan region has not witnessed any development over the past 20-plus years. The uncle-nephew combination of Bhupesh Baghel and Vijay Baghel has divided the region between themselves for selfish ends. Bhupesh has not done any work for Patan. There is no water for irrigation, no hospital, no school, no college, no housing for the poor, the tap water is polluted. This family has only encouraged casteism in the re-



gion, and people of Patan now want change.

In Patan, I am just the face, the real contestants are the people. It is the love of the people here and their plight that moved me.



**What is the impact of your father's legacy?**

I did not join politics after my father's death. I became an MLA in 2013. Many ministers in the Bhupesh Baghel Cabinet... were

groomed by me. I am experienced when it comes to politics.

It is not me but the people of Chhattisgarh who carry forward my father Ajit Jogi's legacy. I am convinced the people are vexed with the national parties, and are set to elect the JCCJ.

Leaders of both these national parties have no vision and lack morality. They are remote-controlled from Delhi. Even after 23 years of the state's formation, 45% of people are considered economically poor (the official poverty count from NITI Aayog is 16.4%)... To end this plight was my father's dream, and I am duty bound to fulfil it.

**You have said you want to ensure non-BJP and non-Congress votes do not get divided. Have you succeeded?**

The JCCJ is the lone regional party with a strong presence on the ground. Many seats in these elections will witness a three-cornered tussle between the JCCJ, the ruling Congress, and the BJP.

**Are any smaller parties supporting you?**

We are aligned only with the people of Chhattisgarh... The JCCJ is fighting in 79 seats, and we will put up a strong fight in all. Mark my words, the next government won't be formed without us.

FROM PAGE 1

# Restive workers, dominant babus, high command writ impede Chouhan

on the party organisation. These are inter-related imperatives - for the BJP, facing the people is inextricably linked to addressing the wear and tear within.

This is especially so for a party that treats every election also as a test of "prabandhan" (management), and revels in myth-making about its formidable election-fighting machine. In this project of repairing and rallying, Chouhan the champion has become the also-ran.

With the high command pulling strings, the BJP poster in this election has 12 faces, Chouhan one among them, as Narendra Modi looms over the rest. For the first time, five pre-political "jan ashirwad yatra" were led by different party leaders in the state, as opposed to one CM-led yatra ahead of earlier elections. As many as seven MPs, including three Union Ministers, and one party general secretary have been fielded this time in the state arena, and party workers and leaders brought in from other states have fanned out across MP's districts and constituencies on a never-before scale.

In Bhopal, a senior leader of the central BJP terms it "collective leadership". In Indore, MP's showpiece city, justifiably proud of its distinctive successes in urban governance, especially sanitation, BJP Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargav's poll-eve press conference is sprinkled with "national

issues starring Modi.

At the BJP media centre, posters advertising government schemes claim "MP ke mann mein Modi", and Mayor Bhargav says: "JNU se pro-Hamas rally nikalti hai... Congress CWC resolution condemns attack on Israel..." Later, he talks about India's journey to the Moon and the war in Russia-Ukraine. Lok Sabha MP Shankar Lalwani does not mention CM Chouhan either and says: "Indore has benefited from the double engine sarkar... Our leader is Modi."

And in Chhindwara, former Bihar deputy CM Sushil Modi, deputised by the party to the BJP district, says: "We have come here not to ask for votes, but for effective coordination, to gear up the working at the booths and to placate party workers who are unhappy."

Behind the veneer provided by the central takeover, and propelling it arguably, is a BJP in search of a new equilibrium in MP - what senior Congress leader and former MP CM Digvijaya Singh has colourfully labelled as a contest between the "Shivraj BJP", "Maharaj BJP" and "Naraaz BJP" (the "Maharaj" a reference to Jyotiraditya Scindia and his defecting band of MLAs who brought down the Congress government and installed the BJP in power in 2020).

There is some truth to what he says. Their impact on the final electoral tally may or may not be



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at a road show in Sagar district. PTI

decisive, but on the MP road in this election, there are several illustrations of the BJP vs BJP.

To some extent, it is unsurprising, even inevitable, for a party that has been in power for as long as the BJP has in MP to have to douse fires within. Those denied tickets in this election, and their supporters, need to be rallied and enthused, and clashes of factions and ambitions defused within.

But the BJP in MP is also roiled by stronger currents.

In Bhopal, a state party veteran, who does not want to be named, uses a term that one hears again and again in conversations with and about the state BJP - the basic problem, he says, is the relegation of the "dani bichchane wale aur jhanda utthane wale (those

who have worked and sacrificed for the party)."

A party that boasted of being primarily worker-based, he says, especially in a stronghold like MP, is being made dependent on its leaders or netas, many of whom are from outside the ideological fold. "The jod-tod (machinations) of the Scindia episode did not go down well with the committed workers", and the government that came to power after his defection was seen to be dependent on a "mercy mandate", not the "public mandate", he says.

While at one end the BJP's aam worker is said to feel neglected and ignored, at the other end, a section is seen to have arrogated too much power to itself - a middle level of power brokers

may be alienating other supporters of the party.

You can hear anger against the BJP's "chhuthaiyye" (small-time leaders) on the MP street. In Rehti tehsil in the CM's home district of Sehore, Santosh Chauhan says, "We have always supported the BJP. But we don't like the local leaders, nor those who are coming in from outside. We are not angry with Shivraj or Modi, but with the local BJP". Says Rohit Maheshwari, "Mama toh mahaan hain, chamchon se pareshan hain (Shivraj is fine, but not his stooges)".

In a lonely dhaba off the road that winds into Betul district from Khandwa, flanked by forests on both sides, Anup Pardhe, who both cooks and serves and describes himself as a

BJP supporter "shuru se" (from the beginning), expresses a similar sentiment. "We cannot reach the leaders, our access stops at the chamchas and vidhayak ke kareebi (lackeys of the MLA), who do manmaani and dadagiri (act wilfully)." His co-worker Rajesh Jaiswal shrugs off the criticism and says that he will continue to vote BJP because "chhoti moti galtiyan toh hoti hain (small mistakes will be made)... rashtra hit (national interest)... sena (army)... Ram mandir ke liye Modi..." (for Ram Mandir, Modi)".

But Anup cannot forgive or forget that in a nearby village, the BJP MLA's henchmen forcefully disrupted a marriage ceremony. "The boy belonged to an SC caste, the girl was ST. They are adults, it was their choice. You (BJP) have the power, you should have listened to both sides..." This time, he says, he will vote for a third party that has put up a candidate in his constituency.

The road from Bhopal to Chhindwara, passing through Indore, Khargone and Khandwa, is also strewn with BJP leaders' rags-to-riches stories. The BJP worker who travelled by cycle and was burdened by debt became an MLA and then a wealthy hotelier - it's one among many stories that stoke resentment and envy.

The saga of BJP vs BJP rests on the uneasy shoulders of Chouhan in another crucial way.

Over his four terms in power, and especially in the last term, a fundamental discontent festered within the BJP: Chouhan is seen to have privileged the prashasan (administration) over the party.

In Bhopal, a former chief secretary talks about the different phases of CM Chouhan: "In his first term, he was the 'paanv paanv wale bhaiyya' (from a humble background), learning the ropes, he knew poverty and suffering... By the time he became CM on the back of Congress defections, he had changed, become more dependent on a bunch of bureaucrats. The current chief secretary has already got two extensions, and is up for a third. It's unprecedented."

In Khargone, former BJP MLA Babul Mahajan explains what Chouhan's growing dependence on a set of chosen bureaucrats has meant: "Karyakartaon ke kaam nahin hue (workers' demands were not attended to)... Earlier, BJP workers assembled the crowds for the CM's programmes, and in the process they went to the people, personal contact was established... Now, Collectors were asked to arrange audiences, they filled the stands with gram sevaks and ASHA workers... The worker feels sidelined, used only in the election."

And in the BJP office in Chhindwara, Sheshrao Yadav, member of the state working

committee, says with a bitterness barely concealed: "Itna bas kiya ki Collector se bhashan nahin dilwa diya (at least the Collector was not asked to also make the speeches)".

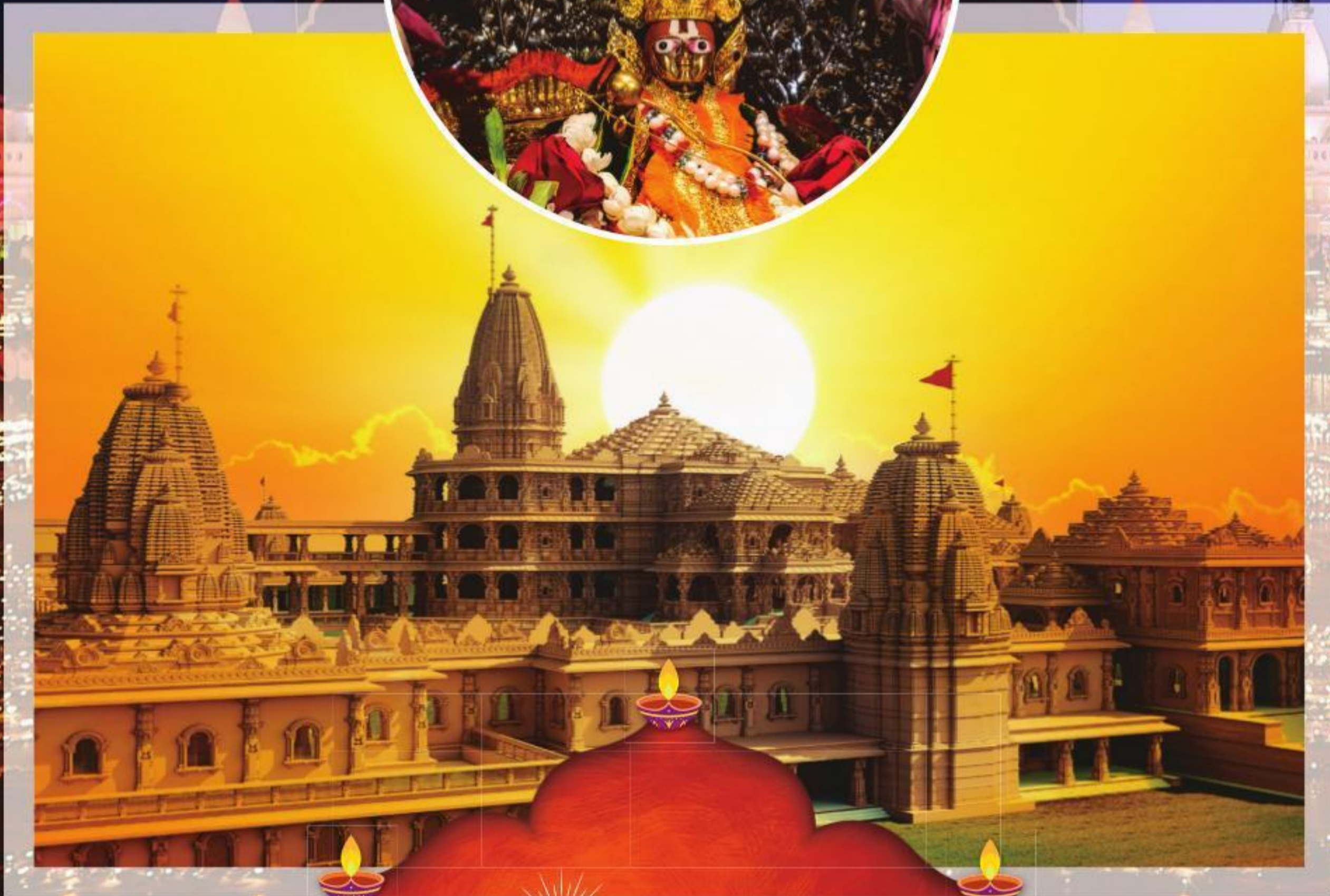
Basically, the story goes, the gap between the sangathan and prashasan, party and administration, has grown in MP, the latter being privileged at the cost of the former. Perhaps sensing his own weakening, CM Chouhan, the genial Mamaji, made attempts at an image makeover - last year in Khargone, for instance, by borrowing from the playbook of a BJP CM from a neighbouring state.

In April 2022, after incidents of arson and stone-pelting on a Ramnavami procession, Chouhan, a la Yogi Adityanath in UP, presided over the short-circuiting of due process and rule of law in the perpetrating of an irreversible and collective form of punishment by the state - several homes were demolished, using the fig leaf of illegal constructions, in Muslim localities.

Chouhan's stratagem may come to his rescue in this election. Or not. It could even contribute, instead, to his by-passing: "Yahan sampradayik maahaul hai (the atmosphere is communally-charged)," says ex-MLA Mahajan in Khargone. "Hamne maange hain Yogi (We have asked for Yogi to campaign here)."



# Awadhपुरी Raghunandan Aaye Ghar-Ghar Nari Mangal Gaaye



Deepotsav  
2023



## Arrival of Maryada Purushottam Bhagwan Shri Ram, Mata Sita and Lakshman ji through Symbolic Pushpak Viman and Bharat Milap

- Shobha Yatra/Tableau and Exhibition based on the life of Prabhu Shri Ram • Worship and Aarti of Shri Ram and Mata Janaki, followed by the Symbolic Coronation of Shri Ram
- Release of a Coffee Table Book based on Deepotsav • Aarti of Saryu ji with Vedic Chanting • Ramayana based 3D Holographic Show, Projection Mapping and Laser Show
- Eco-friendly display of Musical & Digital Crackers • Staging of National/International Ramleela

## Lighting of 21 Lakh Earthen Lamps on Ram Ki Paidi

Lighting of an additional 7 lakh Earthen Lamps in Ayodhya City

**Dignitaries from 50 Countries will witness the Divine Deepotsav**

In the august presence of

**Anandiben Patel**  
Governor, Uttar Pradesh

**Yogi Adityanath**  
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

**Keshav Prasad Maurya**  
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

**Brajesh Pathak**  
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

**Jayveer Singh**  
Minister, Tourism and Culture, Uttar Pradesh

and other dignitaries

Date : 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 | Time : 3:00 PM | Venue : Ayodhya

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# 10 GOVT & POLITICS

## ISSUES NOTICE ON TN PLEA AGAINST GOV: 'SERIOUS CONCERN'

# Gov can't doubt Punjab session validity, must decide on Bills: SC

Apex court tells Purohit: You are playing with fire



Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit. File

ANANTHAKRISHNANG  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE SUPREME COURT Friday said any attempt to cast doubt on a session of the legislature is fraught with great peril to democracy, as it rejected Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit's contention that the state Vidhan Sabha session held on June 19-20, 2023 was not constitutionally valid. It asked him to "proceed to take a decision on the Bills which have been submitted for assent on the basis that the sitting... was constitutionally valid".

"There is no valid constitutional basis to cast doubt on the validity of the session of the Vidhan Sabha held on June 19 and June 20, 2023. Any attempt to cast doubt on the session of the legislature would be fraught with great perils to democracy.

The speaker... was acting well within his jurisdiction in adjourning the House sine die", a three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Mishra said. The order came on a plea by the Punjab government which said the governor was sitting on Bills sent to him for assent for the assembly.

The bench also issued notice on a Tamil Nadu government plea accusing its governor, R N Ravi, of withholding consent to Bills presented by the state legislature. "The issues raise a matter of serious concern... it appears as many as 12 Bills which have been submitted to the governor under Art 200 have not elicited further action. Other matters such as proposals of grant of

sanction, premature release of prisoners, appointments are pending," the bench said.

On the Punjab petition, the bench said: "Casting doubt on the validity of the session of the House is not a constitutional option open to the Governor..."

"We are therefore of the view that the Governor of Punjab must now proceed to take a decision on the Bills which have been submitted for assent on the basis that the sitting of the House which was conducted on June 19 and 20, 2023, was constitutionally valid", the court said.

Earlier, the bench said the legislative assembly was within its rights to adjourn the session sine die and reconvene it because the budget session hadn't ended.

The court told the Governor "you are playing with fire" and asked: "How can you say that a bill which has been passed cannot be assented to because session is invalid?... You realise the gravity of what you are doing?... Tell us the power of the governor to say this? The speaker has no power to say adjourn sine die?".

Issue shouldn't have gone this far, says Mann

Chandigarh: Hours after the SC pulled up the Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit for delaying assent to Bills, CM Bhagwant Mann said the issue shouldn't have reached the top court.

"We are not against any person occupying a constitutional post... it is not a matter of any win or loss for us. But what our duties are under law, I am doing that. Likewise, what are governor's duties, he too should discharge those," Mann told reporters.

"I am not commenting on SC verdict... I'm saying the issue should not have gone this far. The SC had earlier also observed... the Governor reacts when the government moves court," he added.

The CM said it is in the interest of the state that there is "good relations between CM House and Governor House." **ENS**



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar outside the Assembly on Friday. PTI

# With quota hike, Nitish takes caste play lead, may force Congress, BJP hand

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

BE IT Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement to extend the free ration scheme for five more years or Rahul Gandhi's aggressive OBC pitch and demand for a caste census, both the BJP and Congress have used the present round of Assembly elections to frame their respective 2024 Lok Sabha poll campaign narratives.

Now, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has stolen a march on others by passing a Bill in the Assembly to increase the overall reservation in educational institutions and government jobs for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled

Tribes, Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from 50% to 65%. The jury is still out on whether Nitish is

blowing. Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from 50% to 65%. The jury is still out on whether Nitish is

seeking political survival given that his party is now relegated to being a junior partner to the RJD. In Bihar, as the survey again underlines, the caste Nitish belongs to, the Kurmis, are numerically much smaller than the Yadavs, the core base of the RJD. The fleshing out of EBC numbers enables Nitish to give a signal to a constituency he carved out, and thus claim the status of an equal with the RJD.

With the INDIA bloc making caste census a key poll agenda, Nitish has in one go projected himself as the symbol of it by walking the talk. Nitish hoped to

have a bigger role in the INDIA formulation. He is unlikely to go easy on the grand old party on the caste issue. Especially when, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have been promising a caste census.

But for the Congress, it is easier said than done. In Karnataka, where there is a demand for release of the Socio-Economic and Education Survey conducted in 2015-2016, the Siddaramaiah government is dithering for fear of inviting the ire of dominant caste groups. In Maharashtra, the pushback from the OBCs to the demand for Maratha reservation shows how tricky the path is.

The BJP can be trusted to catch on to whichever way the wind is blowing. Given the potency of caste as a reply to its Hindutva pitch the BJP has already hinted that its position on a caste census is not inflexible. During a re- cent poll campaign speech, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the BJP was never opposed to the idea of a caste census.

A BJP meeting some days ago in Delhi, attended by top leaders especially from the OBC community, reportedly thrashed out the pros and cons of the party's current position holding back on a caste count. A decision was taken to form a panel to frame OBC outreach programmes. One option before the Modi government to reach out to the OBCs is to implement Justice Rohini Commission's report on sub-categorisation of OBCs. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



### SPECIAL GESTURE

AMID HECTIC travelling to poll-bound Telangana, where Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar has been given charge of some Assembly constituencies by the BJP, the leader has taken out time to make the festival season special for the employees working for him. Chandrasekhar returned to his Delhi office to personally distribute gifts to the staff, especially those working behind the scenes such as safai karamcharis, CISF guards, staff who serve coffee/tea to him and guests, and the bell boys who attend to his call. The minister had sent Dussehra gifts to all drivers and security officers who were deputised by the protocol office of the state governments during his recent official visits.

### NEW POST

The Law Ministry has created a new secretary-level post for handling litigation of the central agencies section. It is now headed by former legislative department secretary Reeta Vasishtha. The Central agencies division earlier had a joint secretary who reported to the secretary, legal affairs. However, since Vasishtha was already a secretary, she now directly reports to the Law Minister. Justice Secretary S G K Rahate has been given the additional charge of the legislative department.

## Ajit's meet with Shah in Delhi raises eyebrows

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 10

TWO DAYS after announcing that he would not participate in public events for a few more days as he was recovering from dengue, Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar on Saturday flew to Delhi to meet Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah. Rajya Sabha MP Praful Patel and Lok Sabha MP Sunil Tatkare accompanied him on the visit.

After meeting Shah, the three held another meeting at Patel's residence in Delhi giving rise to speculations about the reason behind the impromptu meeting with BJP leadership in Delhi.

Sources in the Ajit camp said the meeting was pending for over two weeks. "The most important is about the cabinet expansion, which has been pending for months," said a leader from the Ajit-led group.



## ITBP FOUNDATION DAY

Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the ITBP's 62nd Foundation Day ceremony in Dehradun, Friday. During the event, Shah said the Centre's move to boost facilities in border villages was aimed at not only sustaining their population but increasing it. PTI

# Digital ad policy gets Centre's approval

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE GOVERNMENT Friday announced that it had approved a new policy allowing its advertising wing, the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), to undertake advertisement campaigns on social media, OTT platforms and other digital media.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting approved the "Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023 to enable and empower the [CBC]... to undertake campaigns in the digital media space," the Ministry said in a statement.

The statement also said that the policy "marks a pivotal moment in CBC's mission to disseminate information and create awareness regarding various schemes, programs, and policies of the Government of India in response to the evolving media landscape and the increased digitalization of media consumption".

The CBC will now be able to empanel agencies working in the digital media space in order to reach out to podcast listeners, YouTube and OTT viewers and other social media users.

The policy will also encompass campaigns to be run on mobile applications, apart from websites. It mandates that the websites, mobile apps, OTT platforms and digital audio platforms need to be at least a year old to be eligible to apply under the scheme.

Senior officials from the Ministry said it's a conscious shift to advertise government messaging through whatever media the public consumes.

They said that advertising rates will be linked to the subscriber base and viewership numbers, and will use competitive bidding to ensure transparency and efficiency.

"Rates discovered through this process will remain valid for three years and will be applicable to all eligible agencies," the Ministry said.

As per the policy document, not only can OTT platforms be empanelled for placing advertisements along with regular content, including live-streamed ones, they can also be empanelled for "production of embedded/in-film advertisement/pro-

motion/branding activities whenever CBC issues a Letter of Intent for such campaigns".

As per TRAI's Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators January-March 2023, the internet penetration in India as of March 2023, is over 880 million, and the number of telecom subscribers as of March 2023 is over 1172 million, the Ministry said.

As reported in *The Indian Express* on November 8, government spending on traditional media had decreased from Rs.1,200 crore in 2017-2018 to Rs. 264.78 crore in 2021-2022. As a part of government schemes, 2% of the total outlay is usually marked for publicity and outreach activities, and it is this fund that the CBC uses for advertisements and campaigns.

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Amidst the Assembly election heat, if there is one other burning question, it is this: Will the ED arrest Kejriwal? If so, when? What will be the impact? And, if the AAP supremo has to choose a replacement as CM, who would it be? Either of his ministerial colleagues Gopal Rai or Atishi? Or could it lead to President's rule in the Capital, whose influence goes beyond the boundaries of little Delhi?

Given how the AAP has trumped the Congress in Delhi since it burst onto the political scene 10 years ago, some top Congress leaders may feel pleased about Kejriwal's discomfiture today. But what happens to the AAP

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A fast learner, and now seen as an Ustad (master) of realpolitik, Kejriwal is weighing his options. On the one hand, he skipped the ED's summons to question him in the Delhi liquor policy case, and described it as political vendetta by the BJP. On the other hand, he rushed off to Madhya Pradesh to campaign for his party in the Assembly elections—a campaign that will only help the BJP as the AAP is expected to be a spoiler for the Congress in all the Assembly segments where it has fielded candidates in the tightly fought state.

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The AAP has also proved nimble footed, deftly moving from anti-Congress stance to anti-BJP, and adopting soft Hindutva as and when needed, to keep itself relevant. BJP leaders admit the party continues to worry them more than other regional outfits.

So how will a Kejriwal arrest play out on the national stage? It will give a boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's projection of the Opposition as a coalition of the corrupt, with its top leaders across states under the scanner of Central agencies—in-

# BJP seeks EC action against Priyanka, AAP over comments on PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE BJP on Friday lodged two complaints with the Election Commission — one against the Aam Aadmi Party for social media posts alleging PM Narendra Modi was working for Gautam Adani, and the other against Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for saying the PM had handed over BHEL to industrialists.

A BJP delegation, including Union Minister Hardeep Puri, met the EC on Friday evening to lodge the complaints. They raised the "reprehensible" state-

ments made by the AAP on the party's X handle, Puri said.

In one of the posts, AAP shared a poster on Thursday with an image of PM Modi and Adani, saying "sarkar janta ke liye nahi, malik ke liye kaam karti hai [government works for the owner, not the public]". In another tweet, AAP posted a video on Wednesday with a parody cartoon linking the PM to Adani.

In its complaint against Priyanka, the BJP said while addressing an election rally in Sanwer Assembly constituency in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress leader said: "Modiji, why did you give BHEL to your big industrialist friends".

The BJP knows only too well that the big battle will be won not in the country's courts, but in the war of perceptions. So does Kejriwal. He is hoping that sympathy for him will do the trick. It is not surprising then that Kejriwal says that, if arrested, he would want to run his Cabinet from within Tihar jail.

Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, *The Indian Express*, has covered the last 10 Lok Sabha elections. She is the author of the recently published *How Prime Ministers Decide*

# Kejriwal makes a play for sympathy, but is jail the trump card he hopes it is?

What happens to the Aam Aadmi Party will have a bearing on its own prospects and the showing that the INDIA bloc makes in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections



THE NEERJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN

Weekly insight into what's changing in national politics — and why

FIREBRAND SOCIALIST leader George Fernandes contested elections from jail in 1977. He was incarcerated during the Emergency when suddenly Prime Minister Indira Gandhi decided to hold elections. While most of the Opposition leaders were released, not Fernandes, who won from Muzaffarpur in Bihar, without visiting it even once, by a whopping 3 lakh votes.

Facing an Enforcement Directorate summons, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is hoping to ride a sympathy vote

too in case he is arrested. The Aam Aadmi Party has declared that Kejriwal will hold Cabinet meetings from jail if needed, and that the party will seek the court's permission to do so.

Amidst the Assembly election heat, if there is one other burning question, it is this: Will the ED arrest Kejriwal? If so, when? What will be the impact? And, if the AAP supremo has to choose a replacement as CM, who would it be? Either of his ministerial colleagues Gopal Rai or Atishi? Or could it lead to President's rule in the Capital, whose influence goes beyond the boundaries of little Delhi?

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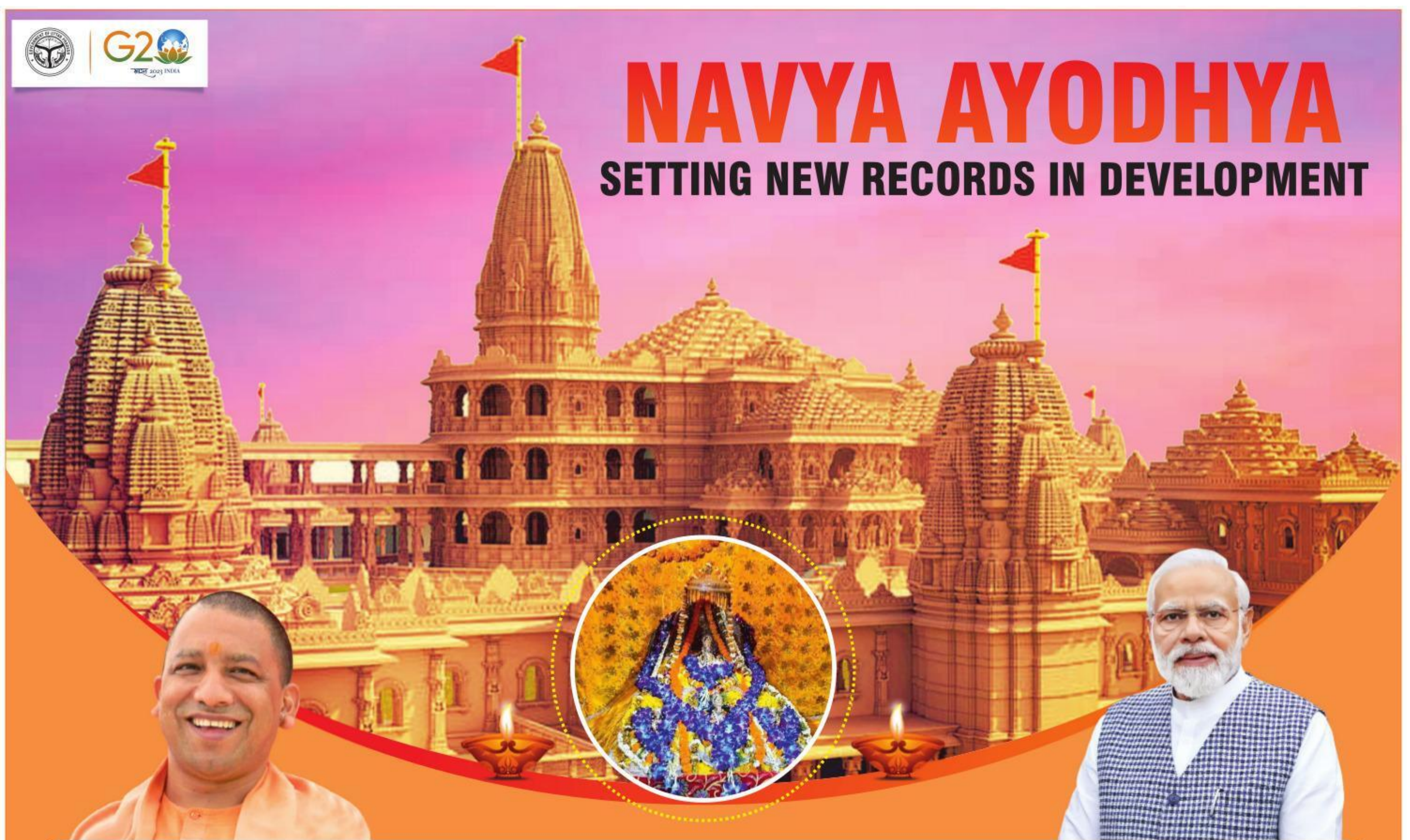
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# NAVYA AYODHYA

## SETTING NEW RECORDS IN DEVELOPMENT



**Deepotsav-2023 : Witness the lighting of an astounding 21 lakh earthen lamps, a spectacular Shobhayatra, captivating exhibitions based on the life of Shri Ram, the eco-friendly display of Green & Digital Crackers, mesmerizing Projection Mapping, the 3D Holographic Show and an enchanting Musical Laser performance.**

**Ayodhya has emerged as a dynamic city that is on a transformative journey towards modernization, economic development and communal harmony**

- ❖ Ayodhya's Deepotsav sets new **Guinness World Records** for lighting earthen lamps every year.
- ❖ After centuries, the **construction of the Shri Ramjanmabhoomi temple** in Ayodhya is finally approaching completion, with its grand inauguration proposed in January 2024.
- ❖ **The Maryada Purushottam Shriram International Airport**, Uttar Pradesh's fifth international airport, is in the final stage of its construction, spanning over 621 acres worth Rs. 1,200 crore.
- ❖ Ayodhya is poised to make history as the **first solar city** on the banks of Saryu River by generating 70 million units of electricity with a 40 MW Solar Power Capacity
- ❖ Underground power cable laying project worth **Rs. 300 crore** to enhance the city's electrical infrastructure and reliability.
- ❖ In pursuit of creating '**Navya Ayodhya**,' the development of a new Greenfield Vedic City with modern urban amenities, is underway across approximately 1,893 acres of land.
- ❖ Implementation of an **Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS)** to enhance the city's traffic management and develop Ayodhya as a "**Smart City**."
- ❖ The **Ayodhya Railway Station** is currently undergoing an extensive upgradation and expansion project, with an investment of Rs 724 crore.
- ❖ Construction of 8 Railway Overbridges worth **Rs. 515 crore**, 80% work completed on 4 ROB's
- ❖ Beautification and Widening of Panch Kosi worth Rs. 773 crore and Chaudah Kosi Parikrama Marg worth **Rs. 1,140 crore** for the convenience of devotees.
- ❖ The amazing work of carving "**Ramayana period**" illustrations on the parikrama route is in progress.
- ❖ Ongoing research is being conducted on 208 locations of mythological significance that are situated on the **Parikrama route** and equipped with the necessary facilities.
- ❖ Ayodhya has taken a significant step towards modernization, enhancing connectivity and facilitating digital interaction by providing **Wi-Fi facilities** at four major locations including Hanumangarhi, Nayaghat, Ayodhya Railway Station and Guptarghat.
- ❖ Beautification and expansion of the 13 Km long Rampath from Sahadatganj to Naya Ghat is currently underway with a budget of **Rs. 787 crore**.
- ❖ **Ayodhya Ring Road Development** is in Progress with a budget of **Rs. 4,793 Crore**.
- ❖ The establishment of **Rajarshi Dashrath Autonomous State Medical College in Ayodhya** marks a significant development, providing access to high-level medical services.
- ❖ The development of the **Queen Ho Memorial Park**, covering an area of approximately 2,000 square meters, includes the construction of a Meditation Hall, Queen Pavilion, King Pavilion, pathways, fountains, murals, and more. This endeavor aims to give a new dimension to the ancient friendship relations between **South Korea and India**.
- ❖ **Enhancing Tourism** of Mangal Bhawan Temple, Janaki Ghat Badaghat, Akshari Temple, Laxman Fort, Brahmkund Gurudwara Temple and Dasharath Bhawan Temple.
- ❖ Decision to establish **temple museum**.
- ❖ Construction of **entrance gates** on 6 major routes inspired by the design of Shri Ram Temple.
- ❖ **84 Kosi Parikrama Road** declared 'National Highway'. Devotees will get convenience on 04 lane highway.
- ❖ Development and **beautification work** continues from Guptar Ghat to Janaki Ghat.
- ❖ Beautification and expansion of **Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Path** with Rs. 39 crore, **Bhakti Path** with Rs. 62 crore and **Dharm Path** with Rs. 65 crore.
- ❖ The **Ramayana Circuit** amplifies the immense potential for tourism growth in Ayodhya.
- ❖ The revival of more than **108 ponds in Ayodhya**, known as the 'city of ponds,' is underway.
- ❖ A **light and sound show** is operational at Suryakund, a place of great mythological significance.
- ❖ The ecological conservation of the 67 hectare '**Samada Wetland**' lake, a thriving biodiversity hotspot, is a destination for nature enthusiasts and tourists.
- ❖ Development of Swarkokila Bharat Ratna **Lata Mangeshkar Smriti Chowk** on Ram Ki Pauri.
- ❖ **UP's second Vande Bharat Express** train, introduced between Gorakhpur-Lucknow via Ayodhya.
- ❖ Formation of **Ayodhya Dham Teerth Development Council**.
- ❖ **Temple Museum** will be established on 25 acres in Majha Jamthara, Ayodhya.
- ❖ Ayodhya Research Institute will get **international status**.
- ❖ Accorded the status of "**state fair**" to all the fairs and upcoming Deepotsav in Ayodhya.







## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# The rice of the matter

To resolve stubble burning in states adjoining Delhi, area under paddy cultivation must be drastically reduced



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH  
BY ASHOK GULATI

WITH THE AIR quality index (AQI) (PM 2.5) breaching the 400 mark in Delhi for most days this week, the Supreme Court (SC) bench has come down heavily on the adjoining states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The bench has asked them to stop stubble burning in paddy fields forthwith, and then find long-term solutions. It also suggested making the local Station House Office (SHO) responsible for its implementation. How far this will be implemented is yet to be seen. However, according to reports from Punjab, when officials went to the villages to stop stubble burning, they were forced to light farm fires. This speaks of a breakdown in law and order.

Containing farm fires is critical if people in Delhi have to breathe without serious harm to their health. On November 7, as per the Decision Support System for air quality management in Delhi, biomass burning (mainly stubble burning) accounted for 37.85 per cent of pollution. Notably, Delhi's transport accounted for just 12.67 per cent, and Delhi's construction and dust accounted for less than 3 per cent. Clearly, the most urgent action needed is controlling stubble burning in neighbouring states, notably Punjab.

If Delhi's pollution — stubble burning is a big culprit for that — is not controlled, people in the city are likely to lose 11.9 years of their life, as per the Air Quality Life Index report (2023) of the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute. Given that our life expectancy hovers around 71 years, losing 11.9 years of life for a population of about 22 million people in the National Capital Territory, is like killing 3.7 million people through polluted air. And this stretches to many other cities in northern India.

What are the ways to stop stubble burning? Many schemes have been tried to help the farmers in uprooting the entire stubble af-

ter harvesting paddy, from making bales for boilers to using the stubble for mulching. Smart Happy Seeders showed some promise but they have not checked stubble burning at scale. Ultimately, the area under paddy in the Punjab-Haryana belt needs to be drastically cut from 4.7 million hectares (m ha) to just 2.5 m ha. The SC rightly pointed out that it is not a suitable crop for this region and is depleting the water table fast. In a district like Sangrur, the constituency of the present Chief Minister of Punjab, the water table has gone down by 25 meters in the last 20 years. And it is in this district that there are the most farm fires.

The quantum of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from paddy in Punjab is still not counted. In a forthcoming study from ICRIER on Low Carbon Agriculture this writer has co-authored with Reena Singh, we have estimated that paddy cultivation in Punjab produces at least 5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> eq/ha. This is also a silent killer. We also estimate that Punjab farmers get a subsidy on paddy cultivation to the tune of almost Rs 30,000/ha, which comes through free power and highly subsidised urea and other chemical fertilisers. This subsidy constitutes roughly one-third of the profits in Punjab's paddy cultivation; this is the root cause of farmers sticking to paddy even when they know they are damaging water aquifers. This is reinforced by the open-ended procurement of paddy by state agencies for the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

How do we wean farmers in the Punjab-Haryana belt away from paddy? Here are some suggestions: One, give a subsidy of say Rs 25,000/ha to farmers switching from paddy to pulses, oilseeds and millets, or even maize. This will help create a crop-neutral incentive structure and will not cost the government as it will save that subsidy from paddy cultivation. Two, incentivise the private sector to set up ethanol plants based on maize, starting

from Sangrur, where water table depletion needs to be arrested as soon as possible. This will help create a market for ethanol blending with fossil fuels, and help in lowering air pollution from vehicular traffic. Three, state agencies should reduce paddy procurement from those farmers burning stubble, and also in those blocks where the water table is depleting fast. Four, FCI should make it clear that they will not pay more than 3 per cent on top of MSP for any mandi fee and commissions for arhatias. This should be uniform across states. Lastly, the PM needs to sit down with chief ministers of the states adjoining Delhi and offer a package to move towards more nutritious crops, millets, oilseeds, and pulses by assuring a procurement of these at MSP. We are short of all these crops that are more nutritious, and more nature-friendly.

Our reliance on rice and wheat in the Public Distribution System is excessive, causing diabetes and harming the environment. Of more than 5 lakh fair price shops, at least 10 per cent (50,000) can be made nutrition hubs where these nutritious crops will also be supplied along with wheat and rice. The consumers should be given a choice whether they want rice and wheat or other crops costing the same money through food vouchers. This will create a more diversified market, save water, minimise GHG emissions from the crop sector, and reduce pollution in Delhi coming from stubble burning.

But Delhi's pollution will also have to be tackled by replacing modes of transport, from fossil-fuel-based vehicles to electric vehicles, or at least 20 per cent ethanol blending in all Delhi's petrol pumps. We hope Delhi's policymakers can rise to this challenge and save us from choking deaths.

Gulati is Distinguished Professor at ICRIER. Views are personal

## LAYING PARALI TO REST

To curb farm fires, introduction of short-duration rice variety should go with enforcement of polluter-pays principle

IT IS CLEAR that the solutions for the paddy crop residue burning problem are primarily two. The first, as Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand has highlighted in an interaction with this newspaper, is to create a market for the standing stubble and loose straw remaining in fields after combine-harvesting of paddy. This market includes plants that produce compressed biogas and ethanol, utilising rice straw and other agri-residues such as cane trash, cotton stalks and maize cobs. Once there is increasing demand for straw — also from biomass-based power plants, paper mills brick kilns and for use as steam boiler fuel — farmers will have less incentive to set their fields on fire. Instead, baler machine owners would be willing to cut and collect the stubble/straw straight from the fields. This "parali" they would, then, compress into compact bales for supplying to the various user industries.

One indicator of a market for rice straw developing is a reduction in overall rice residue burning events. During the current harvesting season from September 15 to November 9, Punjab has cumulatively reported 23,620 burning incidents. That's down from 34,868, 47,554 and 69,372 events for the corresponding period of the preceding three years. In Haryana, there have been only 1,676 cumulative cases so far this season, as against 2,693 and 4,753 in the same period of 2022 and 2021 respectively. Yes, the number of farm fires is still uncomfortably high. But some progress can be claimed, thanks to the policy measures to promote utilisation of straw and convert fire/waste into energy/wealth. It links up with the second solution. The residue-burning problem is most serious in Punjab, which accounts for over two-thirds of the reported cases. And, the main source of that is Pusa-44, a high-yielding paddy variety grown over 155-160 days, from nursery-sowing in mid-May to harvesting towards end-October. The long cropping duration period leaves little time for farmers to sow wheat before mid-November. Ergo, they simply burn the left-over paddy straw after harvesting.

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has developed a new variety Pusa-2090. It is an improved variant of Pusa-44, which IARI bred 30 years ago, but is said to yield just as much with only 120-125 days of maturity. That should enable harvesting by early October, giving farmers enough time for field preparation to plant the next crop. While the breeding of shorter-duration high-yielding varieties is welcome, it should be accompanied by strict enforcement of the polluter-pays principle: If paddy is harvested early, farmers will have no excuse for burning stubble. Further, the free supply of electricity for irrigation must end. Having to pay for water will force Punjab farmers to reduce paddy acreage, which itself should address multiple problems — including that of air pollution.

## A DISTRESS CALL

Protest by UP emergency helpline workers underlines a disturbing reality — women entering job market lack security

ACCORDING TO A report in this newspaper from Lucknow, hundreds of women — who otherwise play the role of saviours as communication officers for Uttar Pradesh's Dial 112 emergency helpline — are protesting in distress. Simply put, their grievance is two-fold. One, they assert that Rs 11,400 for a month's work (that's Rs 380 per day) where a regular day involves handling at least 600 emergency calls (ranging from road accidents to crimes against women to harassment) is not adequate remuneration. What makes it worse is the fact that their salary hasn't increased while the world around them has gone through upheavals, including a global pandemic and historic inflation. The second complaint of the communication workers is about the lack of job security since they are employed by a private firm, and not by the government. On the face of it, this is just one local protest. However, seen in the broader context of India's employment data, this protest underlines a sobering reality, especially for women in India's labour force.

When the official employment data for India was released last month, there were four key takeaways. One, that most of the headline indices continued to improve. These included improving the labour force participation rate (implying more people were demanding jobs), falling unemployment rate (implying the ratio of those who looked for a job and failed to get one is falling) and rising workforce-population ratio (implying that overall the ratio of employed people and the total population was rising). Two, that most of these positive changes were happening due to women entering the workforce. Three, that most of the new jobs were of very poor quality — self-employment — where monthly incomes are much lower than regular wages. Four, all types of incomes — be it for regular wages, casual labour or self-employment — had remained largely stagnant over the past six years. Simply put, women were entering the job market driven by economic woes.

The distress call from the women workers in Lucknow provides a real-life example of the macro data. The workers claim that instead of listening to their complaints, the police lathicharged their protest march and booked them for rioting. The solutions, however, lie far away from the police's domain. What is required is broad-based economic growth: An economy that creates so many new and well-paying jobs that young women enter the workforce out of choice, not distress.

## IN THE LIGHT OF DIWALI

The festival is a reminder of the joys of community and camaraderie in anxious times

AT THE MENTION of Diwali, some images instantly spring to mind. Lights, sweets, dry fruit, distant relatives and close friends who come bearing gifts. The festival has a unique and yet shared meaning for every one. It is a celebration of the triumph of good over evil, it is an opportunity to pause and reflect, an occasion to give generously, and a reason to revisit the idea of community.

The last few years have been marked by events that have stoked anxieties and uncertainties on a global scale. The world has grappled with an unprecedented pandemic. Global poverty increased for the first time in a generation. The Russia-Ukraine war seems set to reach its two-year mark in a few months. The ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict has claimed over 11,000 lives in just a month. This festive season, then, is more welcome than others. Pictures and stories of twinkling lights, long-awaited reunions and moments of reaching out are much needed. So also, even, the long line of WhatsApp forwards about the meaning of Diwali, ending in pretty lines of diya emojis — alongside AQI warnings and precautionary measures to deal with the pollution in the grey air.

This season, then, let the values of Diwali matter more, not less. Community, which is at the centre of grief, is also at the centre of festivities. So, here's wishing you a happy Diwali, even as you might worry about the world, or your place in it. Light is here, the darkness can wait.



ANUPRIYA DHONCHAK

RECENTLY, A DEEPPAKE video of actor Rashmika Mandanna went viral. A video posted by British-Indian influencer Zara Patel was morphed to splice Mandanna's head onto Patel's body. As digital platforms proliferate in an attention economy, the dissemination of deepfakes with unprecedented speed and finesse, at little to no cost to the creators, has already increased the objectification of women online. The sophistication of the technology makes deception easy and the ease of its availability and use makes detection difficult.

Women's exercise of bodily autonomy invites disproportionate stigma in India. Societally defined roles determine women's mobility, making their access to public spaces conditional, requiring adherence to a code of conduct. The online sphere where the average internet user may not fully understand what "Terms of Use" she is "consenting" to, further complicates this spatial register.

Women's unwilling embodiment online has been termed a "double embodiment". Women are disproportionately "bodied", that is, over-identified with their physical characteristics, as compared to men in the offline world. Similar objectification awaits them online. Thus, women's loss of liberty in cyberspace is a second loss, exacerbating the impact of their offline social subordination.

Against this context, women who post videos and photos of themselves to their social media accounts should not be considered to have consented to any and all subsequent uses of their depictions just because these accounts have not been set to "private".

Social media content creation today has emerged as a form of gig work. While participants can view it as a natural medium for self-expression, platform design also enables the

## THE UNEQUAL DEEPPAKE RISK

Law to tackle it must be sensitive to burdens, vulnerabilities of women

monetisation of content, audiences, and skills. The concept of honour in India is closely tied to ideas of possession — control of and ownership over women's bodies. Women on social media often reject this concept by reworking the dominant frames that regard them as sexualised property. They navigate heteronormative and capitalist metrics of value on social media for their profit.

However, allowing attention-grabbing deepfakes that profit from the male gaze generates higher advertisement revenues for platforms by driving up engagement and harming vulnerable users. Apart from causing economic, physical, and/or psychological harm to victims, it stifles their right to free speech, forcing them to often shut down their profiles. This restricts women's access to the technological means of production in an age of informational capitalism.

According to research by IT for Change, in India, one-third of the women surveyed reported that they had faced harassment, abuse, or unwanted behaviour online and two-fifths knew women in their circles who had similar experiences. Ninety per cent of the respondents who had faced harassment reported having faced it on multiple occasions. The vitriol faced by Dalit women was unsurprisingly casteist as well. Further, data indicating a wide gap between male and female users of social media platforms reveals the starkly gendered digital divide in the country. For instance, as per Instagram demographics, around 27.5 per cent of Instagram users in India are women, while around 72.5 per cent are men.

The Supreme Court in *K S Puttaswamy v Union of India* noted that "people do not want to... become inaccessible as much as they want their information to be treated in accor-

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dance with their expectations". Women do not want to retreat from publicity, and they should not be forced to. Especially when the Supreme Court has afforded express legal recognition to privacy interests in public spaces by observing that "if dignity is the underlying feature, the basis of recognising the right to privacy is not denuded in public spaces". Hence, when a social media user's post is deepfaked by a third party, concerns regarding consent get implicated along with unequal bargaining power and informational asymmetries to constitute a violation of the user's right to privacy.

As per the prevailing legal position, moderation policies and platform design focus largely on negative freedoms (freedom from). However, there is a need to evolve frameworks which also promote positive freedoms (freedom for), such as the right to (equal) public participation, or the right to publicness.

In her tweet, Mandanna expressed that had this happened to her when she was in school or college, she would not have been able to tackle it. The virality, instantaneity, anonymity and permanence afforded by the use of generative AI in an unforgiving online medium renders all of us terrifyingly vulnerable. But not all of us are equally vulnerable.

Legal frameworks to tackle deepfakes must be sensitive to the burdens that women and other minorities bear to access the benefits of publicity, their additional vulnerabilities, and the incorrectly presumed renunciation of their rights once they choose to commodify some aspects of their identities online.

The writer is a lawyer and Rhodes Scholar from India and is pursuing an MPhil in (IP) Law at the University of Oxford



## NOVEMBER 11, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

### TAMILS ISSUE

G. PARTHASARATHY, PRIME Minister's special envoy, said positive ideas for a political settlement of the Tamils issue had emerged in the course of his discussions with Sri Lankan leaders. Parthasarathy said tentative proposals were worked out to provide greater devolution of powers to the regions.

### TRIPOLI GUNFIRE

ROCKETS AND ARTILLERY fire poured on residential neighbourhoods of Tripoli as a brief Arab-sponsored ceasefire collapsed between loyalist Palestine Liberation Organisation

guerillas and Syrian-backed rebels seeking to depose PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. Eight neighbourhoods were the target of Syrian gun positions, less than 24 hours after a truce had eased tensions in and around the city.

### MILLS TAKEOVER

EVEN BEFORE THE dust raised by the takeover of 13 Bombay textile mills settled, the Union Commerce Ministry has finalised a proposal to take over about eight to 10 upcountry textile mills. The proposal is likely to come up before the Cabinet within a week. The mills include Marsden, Manogram, Bhalakia and some others.

### ADB FUND FOR INDIA

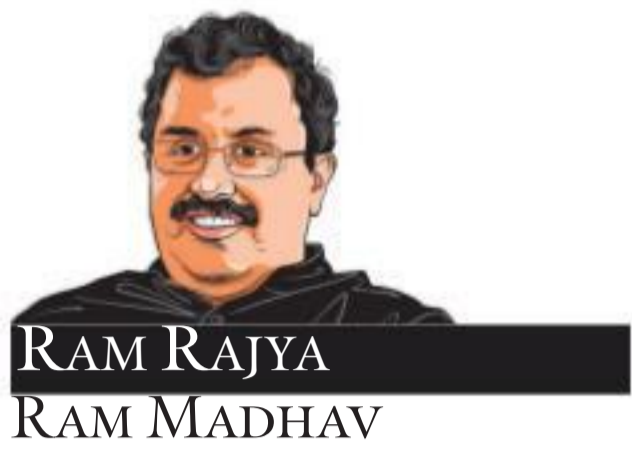
THE ASSISTANCE FROM the Asian Development Bank to India may be modest around \$1.2 billion, according to indications available after bank president Masao Fujioka had a preliminary round of discussions with the Union Finance Minister, Pranab Mukherjee. A bank mission would be arriving in January and borrowing could begin from the middle of next year. But what seems to have come as a surprise was the insistence by the ADB president to begin by giving loans to developmental financial institutions and confining initially to areas like energy and transmission.



# 13 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Lohia's lessons for Nitish

Bihar CM should note — in the important conversation about population control, what is needed is a scientific approach, not a patriarchal mindset



RAM RAJYA  
RAM MADHAV

BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER Nitish Kumar stirred a hornet's nest before apologising for his crass comments in the Bihar Assembly over the man-woman relationship.

It is very sad to see such language being used on the floor of the House by a 70-year old leader of Nitish's stature, violating parliamentary decorum and personal ethics.

Some tried to laugh it off as the rusticity of Bihar politics, citing the example of leaders like Lalu Prasad. To give the devil his due, the universal infamy of his rustic demeanour apart, Lalu was never known for crude utterances against women. Nitish's comments marked an all-time low, causing acute embarrassment to every woman legislator, reducing some to tears.

What shouldn't be missed in the viral video was the merriment of some of Nitish's male colleagues, including Tejashwi Yadav, his deputy. They were seen giggling while Nitish was graphically describing the activity with physical gestures. Tejashwi even sought to underplay the angry reaction by trying to explain the comments away as a sort of sex education, as if the Assembly is a classroom.

But a more discomfiting dimension is his patriarchal mindset, which looks at women as mere baby-making factories subordinate to the whims of men. Patriarchy is a taboo topic for many Indians living in the same socio-cultural milieu that found Nitish's comments regressive. But it is an everyday reality for millions and millions of women.

Even a committed socialist like Nitish Kumar could only imagine the freedom of an educated woman in terms of requesting her husband to stop the intercourse at some point. In a revealing article, 'Women and Sexual Purity', Lohia castigates this patriarchal obsession of men with a woman's body, "a tiny part of the body", but not about "her ability and functionality".

In another famous essay 'Draupadi or Savitri', Lohia categorically states that Draupadi "epitomises Indian women in the true sense", being "knowledgeable, brave, bold and a spitfire to boot". The enlightened women of Lohia's conception were like Draupadi — not in terms of the number of husbands, but "in terms of her character and personality".

Nitish Kumar's concerns may be real. Population control is a burning challenge. Bihar tops the charts with the highest decadal population growth of 25 per cent. He wanted women to be literate to address this challenge. But then, the patriarchal prism he wore couldn't find a better reason for women's education than the debased one related to "a tiny part of the body".

India's ballooning population — 30 lakh more than China's 142.5 crore, making the country the most populous in the world — prompted even Prime Minister Narendra Modi to express concern during the Independence Day address in 2019. But he didn't present it as just the obligation of a woman to avoid pregnancy, but for both man and woman to stop and think "before bringing a child to the world, whether they can do justice to the child". Unlike Nitish,



CR Sasikumar

Modi linked it to societal vigilance and described having a small family as "a form of patriotism".

The larger debate of population control should be freed from patriarchy and polarisation. It is the responsibility of all sections of society. Looking at women as "reproductive machines" in the competition for numerical superiority to conquer the world "through the womb of a woman" is the bane of humanity. The population control debate needs to be brought out of this abominable and anti-woman discourse.

The scientific way to ensure rational growth of population is to maintain a stable total fertility rate (TFR) of women of all religions, regions and cross sections. TFR — the average number of children that a woman bears in her lifetime — should be around 2.1 for a stable population growth.

There are many myths surrounding population growth and imbalance. But if we are ready to believe in the data of the UN and other international agencies, the country's population graph will touch its peak in the mid-2060s at 1.65 billion before climbing down to 1.5 billion by 2100, subject to the TFR remaining at the current level. In fact, a fall of 0.5 in TFR, which is not unlikely, could bring the population down to 1 billion by 2100.

The Pew Research Centre in Washington DC has recently released its analysis, based on the more credible data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, according to which, the average Indian

The larger debate of population control should be freed from patriarchy and polarisation. It is the responsibility of all sections of society. Looking at women as 'reproductive machines' in the competition for numerical superiority to conquer the world 'through the womb of a woman' is the bane of humanity. The population control debate needs to be brought out of this abominable and anti-woman discourse.

woman is expected to have two children in her lifetime.

Sadly, this data is mired in debates over the variance in TFR among different religious groups with the obvious suspicion turning to Muslim women. According to the NFHS data of 2019, the latest that is available, TFR among Muslim women is the highest at 2.4, whereas that of Hindu women is at 1.9. Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains are at 1.6, 1.4, 1.6 and 1.6, respectively.

A higher TFR rate among Muslims is naturally a source of concern. But there is an important silver lining. Over the last 30 years, it has fallen by almost half, from a high of 4.4 in 1992 to 2.4 today. The TFR among Hindus, too, dropped from 3.3 to 1.9 during the same period. Educational development, economic prosperity, aspiration for good living standards and also the stigma attached to polygamy and unplanned families are some of the factors leading to the fall in TFR across the board. More work is needed within the Muslim community to bring down the TFR to the standard level of 2.1 or below.

This is what will help control population growth rates and also allay the fears of other communities about imbalanced population growth and its evil consequences, which many countries, including India, witnessed in the not-so-distant past.

After all, the French philosopher Augustine Comte was not wrong to quip that "demography is destiny".

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

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"We call upon the government to ensure the rule of law and protection of human rights ahead of the election. Ghost cases may benefit the Awami League in the short run, but they will end up irreparably damaging the credibility of crucial state institutions."  
— THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

## Wall Street, China and India

At an investors' conference in Hong Kong, some fragile green shoots emerged. But the case for investing in India over China remains strong



HENNY SENDER

IT MAY not be obvious when international sentiment about Chinese growth and markets remains deeply depressed, but the case for China proved surprisingly strong this past week as Hong Kong's central bank invited an all-star cast of international financiers to its second annual forum in the requisitely posh Four Seasons Hotel.

Most of the invitees were bankers and investors from Wall Street. Yet rather than beat up on the mainland, where the collapse of the property market has left both the macroeconomy and capital markets reeling, they unexpectedly focused their doom and gloom on their home market instead — and particularly on what is supposed to be the safest market of all — the market for US government debt. Their concerns come at a time when the mantra, after 40 years of low to minimal interest rates, has become higher for longer.

In a panel appropriately entitled the 'Next Crisis', Bob Prince, the co-chief investment officer of Ray Dalio's Bridgewater Associates, explained what he referred to as the potential inability of the US government to refinance its ever-burgeoning debt, given who buys these securities. That's because 27 per cent of demand comes from foreign buyers, with another 18 per cent accounted for by central banks — in other words, 45 per cent of all demand comes from abroad. That can be worrying when a combination of geopolitics and economic fundamentals is reducing the appeal of these securities in many parts of the globe. "Whether they will roll over is a long-term issue," he concluded.

"The US forgets it relies on the kindness of strangers," Anne Richards, CEO of Fidelity International, added, speaking on a separate panel. While the panels did not go into detail, in fact, foreigners are no longer as kind as they were even a few months ago, suggesting that rates could go much higher than even the Fed anticipates. Both Japan and China have already reduced their holdings of US government debt from a peak of \$1.3 trillion to about \$800 billion, albeit for very different reasons. The Chinese prefer to buy gold, fearing that just as the US seized \$300 billion from the Russians, if tensions increase, they could be the next target. Meanwhile, as yields rise in Japan for the first time in years, the big Japanese investors are bringing capital back to Tokyo, rather than investing so much abroad, with the need to hedge the currency risk of holding dollar debt.

Meanwhile, much discussion at the HKMA Forum was devoted to the fact that an increasing part of financial activity in

the US has shifted from public to private markets while many of the dominant players in the markets today come from the lightly regulated world of the non-banks. The conclusion — especially from the non-bankers in the room — is that today banks matter less, and that that is not a bad thing. After all, it wasn't the so-called shadow banks that almost brought the system down in the global financial crisis of 2008, it was the publicly listed banks and brokerage firms.

"De-banking is taking place worldwide," noted Marc Rowan, CEO of Apollo Global Management. "The way to (outperform) is to step back from public markets." Moreover, "unregulated private markets are not more risky than banks, which are far more leveraged" than the vehicles that Apollo uses when it makes investments, he said. Apollo is one of the biggest players in the fast-growing private credit market which extends debt to smaller companies at higher rates than banks offer to their more creditworthy clients.

The bankers, themselves, meanwhile were only slightly defensive. Referring to several bank failures in the US last spring, "We didn't have a banking crisis, three banks had a crisis," James Gorman, the outgoing CEO of Morgan Stanley said, referring to Silicon Valley Bank, First Republic and Signature Bank. Speaking of the UBS acquisition of Credit Suisse, chairman Colm Kelleher stayed away from the question of the latter's flawed culture and risk management and referred more diplomatically to a business model that proved substandard.

In any case, the mood was a vast improvement over last year when the message that Hong Kong is back (and therefore by extension, the Motherland itself) hardly resonated with attendees. Covid restrictions were still in place in a city whose response to the pandemic at one point included closing the beaches while keeping shopping malls open. This time, Chinese officials appeared via video, many speaking in English to reassure the city about its status as an international financial centre, at a time when capital inflows from the West have dropped to five per cent of what they were at the peak a few years ago, according to the Institute of International Economics in Washington.

Admittedly, though, the green shoots in China remain fragile, especially compared to India. Among those championing India, was Chip Kaye, the CEO of investment firm Warburg Pincus, whose investment in Bharti made his firm and its investors so much money that he was given the top job in NY. "Because of the high cost of capital in their country, Indian management has always been good at thinking about return on capital," he said. "It is the opposite of China which always had a flood of capital. The next generation in Asia (outside India) will have to learn that capital is not always free."

The writer is Founder, Apsara Advisory, and a former MD of Blackrock

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TB FREE INDIA

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A fight to the end' (IE, November 10). We should not become complacent due to the reduction in TB mortality and incidence in the past eight years. Target 2025 is ambitious because of multiple challenges. First, lack of access to healthcare in rural areas as people do not have the same resources and technology as those in urban areas. Primary health centres do not have diagnostic tools to assist patients and guide them to the correct treatments in rural areas. Second, if WHO has prescribed molecular tests for TB, then India must adopt them now. We must all work together like we did to eradicate polio from the country.  
Bal Govind, Noida

### over employment' (IE, November 9).

Claudia Goldin won this year's Nobel Prize in Economics for her work on the history of women in the labour market. Although Goldin's focus is mainly on the US, there are obvious implications for India too. Ending gender discrimination is a primary goal for policymakers across the globe and a lot of resources are spent on the promotion of girls' education. However, this doesn't ensure that they join the labour force effectively. Some drop off mid-career and many face discrimination. Economic growth doesn't always improve labour market results for women. The forces that prevent women from working must be discouraged.  
Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

### METRO AS SOLUTION

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'People must drive the change' (IE, November 10). There is a health emergency in the capital. We have scientists and eco-warriors who can and must focus on the problem to find a viable solution. The stubble, instead of burning, could be recycled. As an immediate measure, Delhi's authorities would do well to improve the last-mile connectivity of people who use the metro. The government should also focus on phasing out polluting fuel-based vehicles and further incentivise the use of CNG.  
SS Paul, Noida

### SC ON POLLUTION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Dousing fires' (IE, November 9). The pollution level in Delhi NCR has assumed alarming proportions. Although the Delhi government has taken several measures like closing schools, introducing an odd-even policy, etc., to curb the menace, they were found to be perfunctory measures to deal with the worsening situation since the real culprit was the mass-scale burning of stubble. While upbraiding the delinquent state governments for their inaction, to take effective measures to plug the source of pollution, the Court took the bull by the horns by castigating the Punjab government. With this judicial intervention, hopefully, there will soon be a remarkable improvement in the situation.  
Ravi Mathur, Noida

### EMPOWER WOMEN

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Questions

## The promise of a new life

Kozhikode has always been a storied place. It is worthy of City of Literature tag



ANEES SALIM

WHEN I heard Kozhikode had earned the title of the City of Literature from UNESCO, I remembered the day I walked its streets for the first time, laden with the hope of becoming a writer. The first city I ran away to was Kozhikode. I had just dropped out of school to become a writer and I had two reasons to choose Kozhikode as the springboard for my literary career. One was a backup plan if the other failed, and in hindsight, each looks as inane immature as the other.

A few days after my 16th birthday, the newspapers carried an article about a Japanese sailor who had come to Kozhikode to get a schooner built, on which he would rediscover the Silk Route. The moment I finished reading the article I knew there was something in it for me, the seed of a story or a whole travelogue. And I wanted to be a part of that voyage at any cost. The second reason was a legend in literature, Vaikom Muhammed Basheer, whose books were the prized possession of our home library and who occasionally wrote warm, personal letters to my father. I didn't want to meet him for an autograph, I wanted to be taken as his protégé. He would be my guru, and his home would be my gurukul, so that I would be rubbing shoulders with giants

in literature who held regular durbars in his front yard under a mangosteen tree.

Brimming with the promise of a new life, I set off for Kozhikode. I reached the sleepy city at the crack of dawn and sat waiting for the Japanese sailor outside a hotel that overlooked the sea. After several hours and many requests sent through his secretary, the sailor finally agreed to meet me. I think I lied convincingly for a 16-year-old, and told him about the magnitude of the book I was currently working on, a book that had the roaring sea as the constant backdrop and a sailor as the protagonist. I expected him to be surprised by the coincidence and welcome me to his expedition with open hands. But he laughed off my request and asked me to take the next homebound train. I took a bus, though, to my next destination, which was a small village called Bepore where the legend lived.

There were many empty chairs under the mangosteen tree to suggest that there had been a literary gathering recently, probably that very morning when I was wasting my time first with the secretary and then with the sailor. As I waited under the tree for the next door of opportunity to open wide and take me in, the silhouette of an

old man appeared at the doorway and walked tiredly into the verandah, rubbing oil onto his thin arms. He looked somewhat like the caricature of one of the characters he had immortalised in ink. He stared into the front yard, evidently not seeing me, and I was overwhelmed by the fear that he would disappear through the door without saying a word and I would be left standing under the tree forever. So I quickly told him why I had come in search of him from a distant town.

If the sailor had dismissed me with a laugh, the writer simply waved me away without even a smile. And, as I was walking away, I heard his weak voice asking me my name. He pondered over my name for a moment. Maybe the fact that his son has the same name softened him up a little. He said he was too tired for a conversation and asked me to go home, probably I could come back another day and we could talk. The world seemed to have one advice for me that day — go home.

On my way to the railway station, I struck a conversation with the rickshaw driver who said there were many other writers who had made the city their home. He could take me to many if I could afford the fare. Finally, he

dropped me at a newspaper office where M T Vasudevan Nair, another legend in literature, worked as the chief editor, but I didn't go in. I didn't have the courage to.

Feeling let down by Kozhikode, I ran away to other cities to chase stories. While I was in Lucknow, I read about the expedition of the Japanese sailor. The schooner had capsized a week after the voyage had begun and the sailor was airlifted. The memory of that day in Kozhikode came back to me again a few months later. This time I was in Hyderabad. I had called my mother and the first thing she said was "Basheer is no more." It took me a while to understand that it was Vaikom Muhammed Basheer she was referring to. Standing in a payphone booth and watching pigeons take off from the minarets of the Charminar, I saw the silhouette of an old man appearing at the doorway, his eyes straining to see the boy standing under the mangosteen tree. He had asked me to come back another day, but that another day was not to be.

Coincidentally, the book I am currently working on is partly set in Kozhikode.

Salim is a Kochi-based author, most recently of, The Bellboy



Man gets 109 yrs jail for sexually abusing adopted minor girl

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 10

A POCSO COURT in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district Friday sentenced a 63-year-old man to 109 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 6.25 lakh for sexually abusing a minor girl from Tamil Nadu, whom he had adopted.

The court in Adoor convicted Thomas Samuel, a native of Panchalam, Kerala, under various sections of POCSO Act, IPC and the Juvenile Justice Act. If Thomas fails to pay the penalty, he would have to serve another term of three years and two months.

According to the prosecution, the victim, 12, along with her two siblings were with their grandmother after being abandoned by their parents, who are from Tamil Nadu. The four found shelter under the veranda of a shop at Kadapra near Thiruvalla in Pathanamthitta.

protection samithi intervened which led to the victim being adopted by Thomas and his wife. Her two other siblings were also adopted.

The grandmother, left alone and assured that the siblings are in safe hands, ended her life.

The prosecution said the girl was subjected to brutal sexual abuse from March 2021 to May 2022 at Thomas's house. The girl was unable to share her trauma as she was not well-versed in Malayalam. Thomas had also threatened her to keep mum.

When Thomas's wife sustained injuries following an accident, he approached the district child protection samithi saying he cannot look after the girl. The victim was handed over to the samithi. At this juncture, the family who had adopted the boy expressed their willingness to adopt the girl. The samithi allowed their plea, leading to the reunion of the siblings. The girl shared her traumatic experiences with the new family members, which led to police intervention.

BILATERAL MEETING ON SIDELINES OF 2+2 DIALOGUE

In defence tech push, Rajnath, Austin discuss joint production and research

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh and his US counterpart, Lloyd Austin, on Friday discussed a wide range of strategic issues, including co-production and co-development of defence systems, as they explored ways to enhance cooperation on defence technology.

At a bilateral meeting shortly after the India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue concluded, the two ministers reviewed the progress of INDUS-X, an initiative aimed at expanding strategic technology ties and defence industrial cooperation, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with US Defense Secy Lloyd Austin in New Delhi. PTI

According to the joint statement, the two sides looked forward to finalising a Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA), a key priority in the roadmap which will further integrate their defence industrial ecosystems of both countries while strengthening the "supply chain resilience".

While vowed to strengthen collaboration in emerging domains such as space and artificial intelligence, both sides also pledged to implement commitments by PM Modi and President Biden

to undertake efforts to address export control issues while supporting India's goals of emerging as a global defence hub, the joint statement said.

Singh and Austin appreciated the "commencement of negotiations for a commercial agreement" between General Electric (GE) Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to manufacture GE-F414 jet engines in India. The engines will power the Indian Air Force's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Mk2 jets.

The GE-HAL deal was signed during Modi's state visit to the US in June. "Such partnerships exemplify the type of defence industrial cooperation the two countries look forward to pursuing as an enduring pillar of the defence partnership," the joint statement said.

The two sides also "recommitted to spurring investment in India's growing maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) sector, which encompasses aircraft maintenance and mid-voyage repair of US naval vessels".

Lauding the "continuing advances in interoperability", the two sides noted India and the US were setting up new liaison positions to facilitate seamless communication and cooperation between their armed forces. They also welcomed India's full membership of the multinational Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), headquartered in Bahrain.

"The ministers also welcomed further discussions to maximize shared benefits of the Logistics and Exchange Memorandum of Understanding (LEMOA) and identify reciprocal steps both countries can take to enhance the reach of their respective militaries," the statement said. "At a special briefing earlier on '2+2 dialogue', Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane called defence cooperation "a rock-solid support" to bilateral relations between India and the US.

He said the potential collaboration between the two sides in emerging domains for civilian commercial use and for strategic purposes was of common interest. "We have a common vision of free open and inclusive Indo-

Pacific and a rules-based global order throughout the seas. Our partnership is of critical importance to peace and stability in our immediate neighborhood in other regions connected to us," he said.

He said India has already sent a Letter of Request to the US on the purchase of General Atomics (GA) armed MQ-9B HALE UAVs, which was also announced during Modi's US visit. The weaponised UAVs are expected to boost the ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces. "The US-based company (GA) has to take clearance from their government and come back to us. Meanwhile, we have the necessary capabilities to take care of our immediate threats," Aramane said. On the development of infantry combat vehicles for India, Aramane said it was part of defence industry co-operation roadmap between the two countries. The initial offers on infantry combat vehicle systems have come from the US, he said. "We have expressed our interest in further discussions," he added.

Manipur: Bandh over two missing Meitei teenagers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 10

THE MEITEI-dominated valley areas of Manipur came to a standstill on Friday in response to a bandh called against the disappearance of two teenagers from the community earlier this week. The bandh had been called by a "Joint Action Committee" formed following the disappearance.

The two teens, Avinash Maibam (16) and Anthony Ningthoujam (19), did not return to their homes in Imphal West after leaving for Sekmai on Sunday morning.

The phones of both the boys were recovered wrapped in a black plastic bag near an oil pump in Senapati district. They have not been found yet, though police have arrested two cadres of the militant outfit Kuki Revolutionary Army (U), who they said "are highly suspected to be involved in committing the crime".

While the bandh was in place, an incident of exchange of fire took place near Sugnu on Friday morning, though no injuries were reported.

Two days after the Meitei teens were abducted, four members of the Kuki-Zomi community related to an Indian Army soldier were found abducted. Two bodies were found later that day, which are yet to be identified.

Summons over Adani report: SC directs no coercive action against two FT journalists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday directed that no coercive action be taken against two Financial Times journalists who had been summoned by the Gujarat Police for a preliminary enquiry in connection with an article published in the newspaper regarding the Adani group of companies.

Issuing notice on the plea by the two correspondents - Benjamin Nicholas Brooke Parkin and Chloe Nina Cornish - a bench of Justices B R Gavi and P K Mishra fixed it for hearing on December 1 and directed no coercive action be taken till then. The bench asked them to cooperate with the enquiry. Initially, the bench expressed its distress over the petitioners directly approaching it instead of moving the high court.

"This trend is now becoming

very difficult, everyone is approaching the Supreme Court directly," remarked Justice Gavi. Senior Advocate Siddharth Agarwal, appearing for the scribes, said they were not the authors of the article but were correspondents stationed in New Delhi and Mumbai.

He also pointed out that on November 3, it had granted protection from coercive action to two others who had authored another piece on the Hindenburg report on the Adani Group. The counsel said the enquiry was being undertaken on the complaint of an investor in the Adani group and added it could at best amount to a complaint for defamation which is non-cognizable.

"One person is in Delhi, one person in Bombay. Preliminary enquiry has been ordered based on some individual's complaint saying that the article is false. The Gujarat Police has then sum-

Medical, financial liabilities: Prune ecological task force, says TA

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 10

THE DIRECTORATE General of Territorial Army (DGTA) has ordered to discharge those Ecological Task Force (ETF) personnel who have over four years of em-bodiment service.

The DGTA, in a letter on October 13 to all 10 ETF battalions, asked them to hold a Board of Officers (BoO) to weed out such personnel. The letter cites a violation of rules wherein ETF personnel have been retained in service for longer periods, leading to possible medical and financial liabilities to the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Consequently, 58 personnel of 133 Infantry Battalion (TA) Eco Dogra, located in Kufri, Himachal, have moved the Chandigarh bench of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), challenging the alleged "arbitrary policy/discharge order issued by DGTA".



Millet song on which PM Modi, Falu collaborated nominated for Grammy

Song in best global music performance category. Express

New Delhi: A special song to promote the benefits of millets, on which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had collaborated with Indian-American singer Falu, has been nominated for the Grammy award under the best global music performance category, officials said on Friday.

The "Abundance in Millets" song, performed by Mumbai-born singer-songwriter Falguni Shah, popularly known by her stage name Falu, and her husband and singer Gaurav Shah, has been nominated for the award. Under the best global music performance category, "Falu and Gaurav Shah (featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi) - Abundance in Millets" has made it to the nominations.

DIYA RECORD ON COURSE

Preparations under way on Friday to set a world record of lighting over 21 lakh diyas in Ayodhya during 'Deepotsava', which begins Saturday. The event will be attended by Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Governor Anandiben Patel and representatives of 41 countries. PTI

Man dies after questioning in UP; kin allege police brutality, cops deny charge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NOIDA, NOVEMBER 10

A 55-YEAR-old man died under mysterious circumstances after he, along with several others, was questioned by Bulandshahr Police between Thursday and Friday night in Jaleepur village.

The deceased, Saleem Qureshi, was a meat seller. His family members told media persons he died because of police brutality. Police said he was only questioned about the other suspects in the village and died from a cardiac arrest.

Bajrang Bali, SP (Rural), Bulandshahr, "This is routine police work, we keep verifying people who are habitual offenders and have been jailed several times. In this connection, police had reached the village around 3 am. The team knocked on Saleem's door and he was asked to (lead us) to a person's house. He was accompanying the police. Suddenly, he staggered and fell to the ground. Later, he was admitted to the nearest government hospital where he was declared dead."

He said a postmortem was conducted with a panel of doc-

tors and it was videographed. "The whole incident is on CCTV. It is clear the police did not beat the man and he suddenly fell. The autopsy report says he died of a cardiac arrest. This is an unfortunate incident, but police do not have anything to do with this," said Bali. The police said they are yet to receive any complaint from the family. The SP said the family had protested against the police and levelled allegations of brutality. "A police team went to the family. There is no point in filing an FIR as no foul play has been found," said Bali.

In Kerala's first deepfake case, ex-Coal India executive loses Rs 40,000; 1 held

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 10

EARLY MORNING on July 9, when Kozhikode resident Radhakrishan P looked at his phone, he noticed a series of WhatsApp messages from an unknown number. A friend of four decades introduced himself, shared family photos, and details of their mutual friends. Soon, he got a WhatsApp call from that number, and the friend asked for Rs 40,000 for his sister's surgery.

As Radhakrishan remained noncommittal, the friend came on video call. In Radhakrishan's mind, little doubt remained. It was his friend Venu Kumar, whom he had worked with in Coal India for decades before retiring. He sent him the money on GPay. By day-break, Kerala's first suspected AI deepfake fraud was born.

Four months in, Kozhikode city police on Friday cracked the

case, arresting one of the alleged accused, Shaik Murtuzamiya Hayat Bhai (43), from Mehsana in Gujarat. Police say he allegedly arranged fake bank accounts for the prime accused, Kaushal Shah from Ahmedabad, who is on the run. City police commissioner Rajpal Meena said this is the first arrest in a cyber crime using deepfake technology - wherein facial appearance is manipulated through deep generative methods. Prima facie, police believe Kaushal was the one who allegedly used deepfake technology to impersonate a friend of the complainant during a video call.

Kozhikode cyber crime inspector Dinesh Koroth said the amount debited from the account was transferred to an account of a person in Ahmedabad. From there, it was transferred to the account of a gambling firm, where Kaushal is a regular. Eventually, the money would return to Kaushal as wins from gambling - a strategy employed to mislead po-

lice. Inspector Koroth said the police reached Shaik from Kaushal's call detail records. According to them, Shaik maintained several bank accounts taken in the names of poor people not linked to the crime. "The accused were involved in similar cases in Gujarat and Karnataka," said the officer.

Police said Kaushal is believed to have got details of the complainant and his friend from a WhatsApp group of former company employees. Kaushal, police said, is a B.Com graduate. "His relatives and friends have complained about his cheating habit. Banks have also filed civil cases against him," said the inspector.

Recalling the incident on July 9, Radhakrishan, who retired from Coal India 12 years back as a senior executive, said he did not doubt when the person who sent a flurry of messages identified himself as Venu Kumar. "He started sending messages about my family and shared photos of his family. When I was going through

these messages, I got a WhatsApp voice call from that number." "There was no reason to doubt his voice, which I had been familiar with for decades. He told me he was at Dubai airport and would reach Mumbai that evening. His sister was in hospital and Rs 40,000 was needed for surgery. He told me he would return it once he reached Mumbai. He asked me to transfer Rs 40,000 to a bystander's account. When I started to raise doubts, he immediately made a video call. His image and voice were so clear I had no room for doubt. He WhatsApped a number, to which I credited the amount," he said.

Radhakrishan became suspicious after the fraudster demanded another Rs 35,000. "When he insisted on the second payment, I hung up the call." "When I called Venu, he was excited to talk to me after years. When I shot back that we had already talked that morning and I had sent money to him, he was stunned," he said.

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In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway has planned to run the following East Bound Festival Special Trains from 11.11.2023 to 17.11.2023 in addition to normal regular trains as per schedule given below:-

**EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 11.11.2023 (SATURDAY)**

04080	New Delhi	19:20	Varanasi Jn	09:45	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow & Pratapgarh Stations
04488	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Gorakhpur	14:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & Sleeper	Ghaziabad Moradabad, Chandausi, Bareilly Cantt., Sitapur, Gonda & Basti Stations
04002	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:05	Patna Jn.	15:45	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04022	New Delhi	15:30	Saharsa Jn.	16:30	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria & Simri Bhakhtiyarpur Stations
02252	New Delhi (Vande Bharat Express)	07:25	Patna Jn.	19:00	AC Chair Car	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
03576	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:55	Asansol Jn.	10:20	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpur, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Sasaram, Dehri-On-Sone, Gaya, Koderma & Dhanbad Stations
02246	New Delhi	23:45	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04490	New Delhi	19:35	Darbhanga	16:45	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Narkatiaganj, Raxaul & Sitamarhi Stations
02248	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Patna Jn.	16:30	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpur, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04038	Delhi Jn.	19:10	Azamgarh	11:30	3 Tier AC	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Sultanpur, Jaunpur City, Jaunpur Jn. & Shahganj
04052	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	22:45	Saharsa Jn.	03:30	General	Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria & Simri Bhakhtiyarpur Stations
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	15:30	Purnea Jn.	16:05	General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria, Mansi & Katihar Stations
04004	New Delhi (Unreserved Special)	00:10	Sitamarhi Jn.	23:30	General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Narkatiaganj & Raxaul Stations

**EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 12.11.2023 (SUNDAY)**

04062	Delhi Jn.	08:05	Barauni Jn.	06:30	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Aligarh, Tundla, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra & Hajipur Stations
05284	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:25	Muzaffarpur Jn.	07:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur & Hajipur Stations
04006	Delhi Jn.	23:05	Jaynagar	23:45	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations
04016	New Delhi	14:55	Banmankhi	16:45	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria, Simri Bhakhtiyarpur, Saharsa & Dauram Madhepura Stations
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	08:30	Jaynagar	07:00	General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations

**EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 13.11.2023 (MONDAY)**

04080	New Delhi	19:20	Varanasi Jn	09:45	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow & Pratapgarh Stations
01678	New Delhi	08:10	Gaya Jn.	00:30	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Bhabua Road, Sasaram & Dehri-on-Son Stations
04086	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:00	Patna Jn.	16:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya & Danapur Stations
01676	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Muzaffarpur Jn.	21:15	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Chandausi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Chhapra & Hajipur Stations
01664	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:10	Saharsa Jn	11:20	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Dalsingh Sarai, Barauni, Begu Sarai, Khagaria & Simri Bhakhtiyarpur Stations
02250	New Delhi (Rajdhani Exp. Special)	19:10	Patna Jn.	07:30	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Kanpur Central Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04002	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:05	Patna Jn.	15:45	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04022	New Delhi	15:30	Saharsa Jn.	16:30	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria & Simri Bhakhtiyarpur Stations
05024	Delhi Jn.	14:30	Gorakhpur Jn.	07:30	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	
05160	New Delhi	00:30	Chhapra	19:25	General	Ghaziabad, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Aishbag, Barabanki, Gonda, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj, Thawe & Siwan Stations

**EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 14.11.2023 (TUESDAY)**

04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Raebareilly, Amethi, Pratapgarh, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations
04012	New Delhi	19:20	Darbhanga Jn	16:45	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur Jn., Narkatiaganj, Raxaul & Sitamarhi Stations
04010	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Chandausi, Bareilly Cantt., Sitapur, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan, Chhapra, Sonpur, Hajipur, Shahpur Patoree, Barauni, Begu Sarai, Khagaria, Naugachia, Kathar, Purnea, Araria Court, Araria and Forbesganj Stations
04002	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:05	Patna Jn.	15:45	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04022	New Delhi	15:30	Saharsa Jn.	16:30	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria & Simri Bhakhtiyarpur Stations
02252	New Delhi (Vande Bharat Express)	07:25	Patna Jn.	19:00	AC Chair Car	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
02246	New Delhi	23:45	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations
02260	New Delhi	18:15	Bhagalpur	15:15	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpur, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patna, Kiul, Abhaypur, Jamalpur & Sultanganj Stations
03436	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:30	Malda Town	23:30	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpur, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patna, Simri Bhakhtiyarpur, Mokameh, Kiul, Abhaipur, Jamalpur, Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Kahalgaon, Pirpaitni, Sahibganj, Barharwa & New Farakka Stations
03228	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:30	Ara	04:00	Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Dildarnagar, Gahmar, Buxar, Dumraon & Bihya Stations
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	15:30	Purnea Jn.	16:05	General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria, Mansi & Katihar Stations
04052	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	22:45	Saharsa Jn.	03:30	General	Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria & Simri Bhakhtiyarpur Stations
04004	New Delhi (Unreserved Special)	00:10	Sitamarhi Jn.	23:30	General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Narkatiaganj & Raxaul Stations

**EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 15.11.2023 (WEDNESDAY)**

02250	New Delhi (Rajdhani Exp. Special)	19:10	Patna Jn.	07:30	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Kanpur Central Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
02246	New Delhi	23:45	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations
04490	New Delhi	19:35	Darbhanga	16:45	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Paniaha, Narkatiaganj, Raxaul & Sitamarhi Stations
04146	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:15	Prayagraj Jn.	20:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Aligarh, Tundla, Etawah, Govindpur & Fatehpur Stations
04006	Delhi Jn.	23:05	Jaynagar	23:45	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations
04016	New Delhi	14:55	Banmankhi	16:45	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria, Simri Bhakhtiyarpur, Saharsa & Dauram Madhepura Stations
05070	New Delhi	00:30	Gorakhpur	14:45	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Burhwal, Gonda, Basti & Khalilabad Stations
04028	Anand Vihar Terminal	01:00	Bapudham Mithari	23:30	Sleeper, General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur, Paniaha, Bhatnagar, Narkatiaganj, Bettiah & Sagauli Jn.
05316	Delhi Jn.	14:00	Chhapra	13:20	3 Tier AC, Sleeper, General	Delhi Shahdara, Ghaziabad, Hapur Jn., Amroha, Moradabad, Chandausi Jn., Aonla, Shahjehanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Ayodhya Cantt., Akbarpur, Shahganj, Jaunpur, Karakat, Dohi, Aunrihar, Gazipur City, Yusufpur & Ballia
05090	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:15	Banaras	09:50	3 Tier AC	Moradabad, Bareilly, Alam Nagar, Lucknow, Rae Bareilly, Matihani, Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratapgarh & Bhadoli,
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	08:30	Jaynagar	07:00	General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations

**EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 16.11.2023 (THURSDAY)**

04080	New Delhi	19:20	Varanasi Jn	09:45	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow & Pratapgarh Stations
04066	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:00	Patna Jn.	16:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya & Danapur Stations
01676	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Muzaffarpur Jn.	21:15	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Chandausi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Chhapra & Hajipur Stations
05284	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:25	Muzaffarpur Jn.	07:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur & Hajipur Stations
04002	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:05	Patna Jn.	15:45	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04022	New Delhi	15:30	Saharsa Jn.	16:30	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria & Simri Bhakhtiyarpur Stations
02252	New Delhi (Vande Bharat Express)	07:25	Patna Jn.	19:00	AC Chair Car	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
05116	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:45	Chhapra	09:30	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Burhwal, Gonda, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria & Siwan Stations
02248	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Patna Jn.	16:30	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpur, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
02246	New Delhi	23:45	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
05066	New Delhi	14:00	Gorakhpur	04:15	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Burhwal, Gonda, Basti & Khalilabad Stations
03228	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:30	Ara	04:00	Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Dildarnagar, Gahmar, Buxar, Dumraon & Bihya Stations

**EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 17.11.2023 (FRIDAY)**

04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Raebareilly, Amethi, Pratapgarh, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations
04012	New Delhi	19:20	Darbhanga Jn	16:45	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur Jn., Narkatiaganj, Raxaul & Sitamarhi Stations
01678	New Delhi	08:10	Gaya Jn.	00:30	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Bhabua Road, Sasaram & Dehri-on-Son Stations
02250	New Delhi (Rajdhani Exp. Special)	19:10	Patna Jn.	07:30	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Kanpur Central Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
02246	New Delhi	23:45	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
02260	New Delhi	18:15	Bhagalpur	15:15	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpur, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patna, Kiul, Abhaypur, Jamalpur & Sultanganj Stations
04004	New Delhi (Unreserved Special)	00:10	Sitamarhi Jn.	23:30	General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Narkatiaganj & Raxaul Stations
05072	New Delhi	10:00	Chhapra	04:15	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Aishbag, Gomia, Barabanki, Gonda, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria & Siwan Stations
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	15:30	Purnea Jn.	16:05	General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria, Mansi & Katihar Stations
04052	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	22:45	Saharsa Jn.	03:30	General	Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria & Simri Bhakhtiyarpur Stations

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कार्यालय परिसर, गण्डोला विहार, गाजियाबाद-201102 ईमेल-cdcu03baghpat@upavp.com  
पत्र सं- 1290/PRP-42A/40 दिनांक- 10.11.2023

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**Government of India**

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

**Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003**

**Scholarship for Students with Disabilities (Divyangjan) for the year 2023-24**

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities provides an opportunity to Students with Disabilities (Divyangjan) for availing scholarship under the schemes viz. Pre-matric, Post-matric, Top Class Education and National Overseas Scholarship for the year 2023-24.

**2. Instructions for applicants:**

- (i) Applicants are advised to apply online for Pre-Matric, Post Matric and Top Class Education Schemes on the website of National Scholarship Portal at [www.scholarships.gov.in](http://www.scholarships.gov.in) (a link to the site is also available at [www.depwd.gov.in](http://www.depwd.gov.in)) or Mobile App of National Scholarship Portal. Applications for National Overseas Scholarship scheme are received offline.
- (ii) Details of the schemes including eligibility criteria and instructions for filling up the applications are available at [www.depwd.gov.in](http://www.depwd.gov.in).
- (iii) Applicants are advised to provide correct information while applying for scholarships.

**3. Timeline for application:**

- (i) Applications for National Overseas Scholarship are received offline throughout the year.
- (ii) National Scholarship Portal is open for students' registration for applying for the scholarship schemes as per details below:

Last date for submission of online applications on National Scholarship Portal for Fresh scholarship (first time applicants) and renewal scholarship (applicants who got scholarships in the year 2023-24)	i. Pre-Matric Scholarship ii. Post Matric Scholarship iii. Top Class Scholarship	30.11.2023 31.12.2023
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**Note:** Slots for Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Top Class schemes include fresh as well as renewal cases. Fresh cases will be considered only against the left over slots after processing all the renewal cases. Thus, mere fulfilling the eligibility criteria will not entitle grant of scholarship due to fixed number of slots in a year.

**4. Eligibility criteria:**

- i. Scholarships are open for Nationals of India.
- ii. A person with benchmark disability i.e. having not less than 40% disability, and having a disability certificate issued by the competent medical authority.
- iii. Scholarship for studying in any class will be available for only one year. If a student has to repeat a class, he/she would not get scholarship for a second (or a subsequent) year.
- iv. A scholarship holder under this scheme will not avail any other scholarship/stipend. No scholarship will be paid to the students under this scheme from the date he/she accepts any other scholarship/stipend
- v. Unique Disability Identity (UDID) or UDID enrolment number along with Disability Certificate is mandatory for availing benefits under any of the Scholarship schemes.
- vi. Applicants may have to undergo Aadhaar based biometric authentication to avail the Scholarship
- vii. For National Overseas, Applicant must have Fifty five per cent (55%) marks or equivalent grade in relevant Master's Degree or Bachelor's Degree.

CBC-38117/12/0039/2324

**"INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE FORCE" (MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS) GOVT. OF INDIA**



# 16 EXPRESS NETWORK

## Bombay HC pulls up BMC for delaying pollution control plan

OMKAR GOKHALE  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 10

THE BOMBAY High Court on Friday pulled up the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) over delayed implementation of its air pollution mitigation plan it had announced in March this year, and said if the civic body had been proactive before the HC initiated a suo motu PIL, the situation in Mumbai would have been better.

The HC noted that the number of construction sites in the city flouting air pollution control norms was "alarming" and action that the BMC should take against them was not a "favour" but its duty towards residents.

Referring to an affidavit in reply submitted by the BMC refer-

ring to the steps it has taken to deal with the deteriorating Air Quality Index (AQI) in the city, senior advocate Milind Sathe said it had constituted over 90 special squads of employees to visit construction sites, and has taken action against them.

Sathe said the civic body had been effectively implementing its mitigation action plan. The BMC has ensured that large infrastructure projects including Coastal Road, Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) and Metro fully comply with air pollution guidelines, he said, and was continuously monitoring the situation at the strictest possible level. He also said that 650 km of roads are being washed on a regular basis, for which water sprinklers and mist machines have been employed in polluted areas as



College students hold a protest in Thane Friday. Deepak Joshi

per the action plan of October 25. In response to this, the bench quipped, "All you (BMC) have been doing is fine and good enough. It is nothing that you are doing favour to Mumbaiers."

The bench further noted that of the 1,623 construction sites visited by special squads, notices were issued to 1,065 sites on ac-

Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya remarked.

The court also said that it was only due to recent rains that AQI levels improved, and will go back to poor in the coming days. "In the case of BMC, if you were proactive before the matter was taken up by us, the situation would have been better," the HC said.

Amicus Curiae Darius Khambata, assisting the court in the matter, said that while the BMC had recognised the issue in March this year and drew out a mitigation plan, it has taken action only now in October and December.

The bench said that even though the mitigation plan was initiated in March, the BMC took action only recently in October and November. "Our children have started facing problems

with breathing. We are here dealing with a drastic situation and it is an emergent situation," the bench said.

Sathe on instructions from BMC officials submitted that within the shortest possible time it will create a special website and phone app to publicise the phone number and email address where citizens can raise complaints related to violation of air pollution norms.

The bench asked the BMC to come up with the same forthwith, and the information be published in the media at the earliest. The court asked all other civic authorities in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) to take similar steps for redressal of citizen's complaints. The HC will hear the suo motu PIL and other pleas next on December 11.

## UNDER PMLA PROVISIONS ED attaches Munjal assets worth ₹25 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10



THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate on Friday said it has attached three immovable properties — land worth around Rs 24.95 crore in Delhi — of Hero MotoCorp executive chairperson Pawan Kant Munjal under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The agency has alleged that Munjal used foreign currency issued in the name of other persons for his personal expenditure abroad to override RBI rules.

The ED has initiated investigation on the basis of a prosecution complaint filed by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) under Section 135 of the Customs Act against Munjal and others for taking foreign exchange/currency out of India illegally. "The prosecution complaint alleges that foreign currency/foreign exchange equivalent to Rs 54 crore was illegally taken out of India," an ED spokesperson said.

"ED investigation has revealed that Munjal got issued foreign exchange/foreign currency in the

name of other persons and utilised the same for his personal expenditure abroad. The foreign currency was drawn from authorised dealers by an event management company in the name of various employees and thereafter handed over to Munjal's relationship manager," the agency alleged.

"The relationship manager carried such foreign currency in cash/card secretly, for the personal expenditure of Munjal during his personal/business trips. The modus operandi was adopted to override the limits of USD 2.5 lakh per annum per person under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme," the spokesperson said.

The ED had on August 1 conducted raids with respect to Munjal and related entities and seized valuables worth around Rs 25 crore, along with digital proof and other incriminating evidence. The total value of the seizure and attachments stands at Rs 50 crore.

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## Terror-gangster nexus case: NIA supplementary chargesheet against 4

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a second supplementary chargesheet against four accused in a case related to a nexus between Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist group and the organised criminal gang of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi.

"The charge sheet was filed in a special NIA court against Darman Singh alias Darmanjot Kahlon, Parveen Wadhwa alias Prince, Yadhvir Singh alias Sadhu, and Vikas Singh. All the accused have been charged with criminal conspiracy to unleash a wave of terror under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act," an NIA spokesperson said.

"Kahlon is one of the key links between Canada-based BKI operative Lakhbir Singh alias Landa and Lawrence Bishnoi's terror and crime

syndicate. Operating from the United States, he has been actively involved in a range of criminal activities, including the smuggling of weapons, explosives and heroin into India from Pakistan," an NIA official said.

"Prince is one of the associates of the Lawrence Bishnoi terror syndicate. Investigations indicate Prince was instrumental in coordinating communication channels, enabling seamless interactions among gang members. Sadhu has figured as the chief arms procurer for the Lawrence Bishnoi terror syndicate. Sadhu's role and expertise extends to facilitating the procurement of arms and ammunition from foreign countries," the spokesperson said.

"Vikas Singh has been involved in providing sanctuary to gang members involved in executing terror attacks and criminal operations. He provided safe harbour to gang members responsible for the RPG terror attack at the Punjab Police State Intelligence Headquarters in Mohali," the spokesperson said.



Tourists at a ski resort in Baramulla district, Kashmir, Friday. PTI

## FROSTY FROLIC

WITH THE DEATH of five more people, the toll in a suspected case of poisoning due to the consumption of spurious liquor has climbed to 12 in Haryana, officials said on Friday.

## \$3 mn found by ragpicker fake; his employer kidnapped, tortured

KIRAN PARASHAR  
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 10

THE CURRENCY notes worth \$3 million found by a ragpicker near a railway track in Bengaluru and handed over to the authorities were found to be fake, as expected.

A senior police officer confirmed to The Indian Express that HDFC Bank, the nodal bank appointed by the Reserve Bank of India, to check the notes, found them to be fake.

It reported that the notes were either "printed or photocopied".

Following the report, the Hebbal police filed an FIR under IPC Section 489A (counterfeiting currency notes or bank notes)

against unknown people.

On November 3, Salman SK, 39, a native of West Bengal's Nadia district, who works as a garbage collector in Bengaluru, found 23 bundles of US dollars wrapped in paper near the Nagawara railway station.

On Sunday, he approached social activist and the national executive member of Swaraj India R Kaleem Ullah.

They handed over the currency notes to the Hebbal police after meeting Bengaluru city police commissioner B Dayananda.

Though Saleman was relieved after handing over the notes to the police, a piece of shocking news was waiting for him.

Touhidul Islam alias Bappa, 33, a scrap dealer under whom Saleman worked, was kidnapped around 1 am on November 7 by

around five men seeking to lay their hands on the currency notes.

Kaleemullah said, "There were about five men who kidnapped Bappa while he was inside his room. Two men barged in and asked him about the US currency. When he told them that it was handed over to the police, they did not believe and took him away in an Innova car."

The assailants allegedly tortured Bappa before dumping her near the Manayata tech park around 9.30 am the same day. Kaleemullah said, "According to Bappa, they spoke in Kannada and Hindi."

However, Bappa chose not to file a police complaint.

"People who kidnapped me stay in a nearby locality. If I tell their names, my life will be in danger," Bappa said in a purported video message.

## CBI busts fake inter-state job syndicate, 3 held during searches

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE CBI on Friday arrested three members of an inter-state fake job syndicate that allegedly collected crores of rupees from aspirants over the last two years by promising them government jobs. They were apprehended during searches by the agency at nine locations in Patna, Mumbai, Mangaluru, Bengaluru and Dhanbad.

The CBI had booked six people in its FIR and three of them — Ajay Kumar from Bengaluru, Aman Kumar alias Rupesh from Jharkhand and Abhishek Singh alias Vishal from Bihar — were arrested.

"During searches, it emerged

the syndicate was operating for over two years and had collected crores of rupees from aspirants by promising them government jobs. It was alleged that the organised syndicate, consisting of private persons, was taking huge amounts of money (between Rs 10-20 lakh, sometimes in installments) under the guise of processing fees/security deposits from prospective job seekers in various central government departments and public sector units," a CBI spokesperson said.

"Members of the syndicate conducted fake training camps for aspirants in multiple cities. Two were found operational in Patna and Mumbai's Sakinaka in which around 25 jobseekers were being imparted training after being given fake appointment letters, purportedly of various central government

departments such as the FCI and the railways," the CBI spokesperson said.

The CBI has found an accomplice of one of the accused in Bengaluru who was taking two prospective job seekers inside the GST office purportedly to sign appointment letters. To prove its genuineness, the agency alleged, the syndicate set up fake training centres in different states.

"The accused also used to call jobseekers for handing over appointment letters and training call letters at actual government premises to present a genuine set up," the spokesperson said.

The modus operandi of the syndicate was to approach desperate job seekers who were preparing for central government recruitment examinations.

**Rural Works Department**  
**RFP CORRIGENDUM**

Corrigendum No: RWD (HQ)/MSP/ET-2023-01

Ref no. 03030-4(गु) विविध कार्य -06-58 / 2023

With reference to Invitation for Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of System Integrator (SI) Cum Master Service Provider (MSP) for Development, Maintenance & Operation Of Digital Project And Asset Management Information System (DPAMIS) - Cum -Intelligent Rural Road Maintenance Monitoring System (IRRMS) in the state of Bihar, which was issued vide letter no. RWD (HQ)-MSP-01/2023-24, dated: 19.10.2023 and published through advertisement PR No. 010642 (RWD) 2023-24, the earlier schedule of dates are being now modified as per column 4 of table below due to some unavoidable circumstances.

Schedule of Dates			
Sl. No.	Description	Published Date & Time earlier	Modified Date and Time
1	2	3	4
1	Date of issue of RFP	18-10-2023	18-10-2023
2	Period of sale/downloading of RFP Document	From 27.10.2023, 11:00 AM IST to 16.11.2023, 3:00 PM IST	From 27.10.2023, 11:00 AM IST to 15.12.2023, 3:00 PM IST
3	Pre-Bid Meeting Date/Time	03.11.2023 at 03:00 PM IST in the Conference Hall of Rural Works Department, Government of Bihar, 5th Floor, Vishwesariya Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna- 800015.	16.11.2023 at 03:00 PM IST in the Conference Hall of Rural Works Department, Government of Bihar, 5th Floor, Vishwesariya Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna- 800015.
4	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Proposal	16.11.2023 upto 3:00 PM	15.12.2023 upto 3:00 PM
5	Date and Time of opening of Pre Qualification Proposal	16.11.2023 at 3:30 PM	15.12.2023 at 3:30 PM
6	Date and Time of opening of Technical Proposal	To be intimated	To be intimated
7	Date and Time of opening of Financial Proposal	Will be informed later on	Will be informed later on

All other terms & conditions other than above mentioned in Schedule of Dates shall remain same. For any queries regarding tendering process kindly contact - Office of Chief Engineer-4, Rural Works Department, Government of Bihar, 5th Floor, Vishwesariya Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800015 or email atce4.rwd@gmail.com.

(Amrendra Kumar Sinha)  
Engineer-In-Chief -Cum-  
Additional Commissioner-Cum-Special Secretary  
RWD, Bihar, Patna

PR-11632 (RWD) 2023-24 नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

**Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd.**  
(A Government of Bihar Undertaking)

Beltron Bhawan, Shastri Nagar, Patna-800023,  
Telephone No. 0612-2281242 Tele Fax No. 0612-2281857  
CIN No -U31900BR1978SGC001317  
Email: vijay\_sinha1963@yahoo.com

Ref. No. BSEDC/9785/2023

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited by Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd. for "Selection of System Integrator for the Web Portal of Directorate of Employment and Training". The details of the tender will be available on the website: <https://proc2.bihar.gov.in>. Last date of tender submission will be **12/12/2023 till 5 PM.**

PR-011652 (Ni.Ni.) 2023-24 **Managing Director**

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

**उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रॉन्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (2023-24)  
विद्युत जानपद पारेषण मण्डल आगरा

1. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या-12/विजा010400/आगरा/2023-24:- 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र सिरसागंज जनपद फिरोजाबाद पर 01 अदद 132/220 के0वी0 'बे' एवं 160 एम0वी0ए0 ट्रान्सफार्मर प्लिन्थ से सम्बन्धित जानपदीय निर्माण कार्य, समय अवधि 02 माह, धरोहर धनराशि ₹ 1,08,000.00, निविदा मूल्य ₹ 6000+1080=7080.00, अन्तिम तिथि 23.11.2023। PR No-1300037195. निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण, विस्तारीकरण शुद्धिकरण इत्यादि की सूचना ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है, जिसको वेबसाइट के माध्यम से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। बैंक खाता अधिशासी अभियन्ता (जानपद) आगरा A/C No.-30065294923, IFSC Code-SBIN0005717 Payable at S.B.I. Foundary Nagar (Agra). अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत जानपद पारेषण मण्डल, उ0प्र0 पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि0, 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र सिकन्दरा आगरा। "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचावें" पत्रांक:521-विजा010400/आ0/दिनांक:07.11.2023

**दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि0**  
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा निम्नलिखित विवरणानुसार दो भागों में दिनांक 26/11/2023 को समय 18:00 बजे तक प्रेषित एवं वीय केन्द्र/निविदादाताओं से निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है एवं दिनांक 27/11/2023 को समय - 13:00 बजे खोला जायेगा। विस्तृत जानकारी उ0प्र0 शासन की आधिकारिक ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है:-

1. ई-निविदा विधि/विधि संख्या - 40/SE/EDCCKT/2023-24: कार्य- विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-राजपुर की सीमान्तगत के 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र-पहाड़ी एवं बोडी पोखरी में 02 अदद 10 एम0वी0ए0 पावर परिवर्तकों में रिपेयरिंग एवं ओवरहालिंग का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि- ₹ 2,000.00, निविदा शुल्क - ₹ 0 - 1180.00 (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)।

2. ई-निविदा विधि/विधि संख्या - 41/SE/EDCCKT/2023-24: कार्य- विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-राजपुर की सीमान्तगत के 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र-ओबी एवं खोवी में 02 अदद 05 एम0वी0ए0 पावर परिवर्तकों में रिपेयरिंग एवं ओवरहालिंग का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि - ₹ 2,000.00, निविदा शुल्क - ₹ 0 - 1180.00 (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)।

3. ई-निविदा विधि/विधि संख्या - 42/SE/EDCCKT/2023-24: कार्य- विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-राजपुर की सीमान्तगत के 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र-राजपुर में 01 अदद 08 एम0वी0ए0 पावर परिवर्तकों में रिपेयरिंग एवं ओवरहालिंग का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि ₹ 2,000.00, निविदा शुल्क - ₹ 0 - 1180.00 (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)।

4. ई-निविदा विधि/विधि संख्या - 44/SE/EDCCKT/2023-24: कार्य- विद्युत वितरण खण्ड, कवी चित्रकूट की सीमान्तगत के 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र- गंगा जी रोड के अनर्गल विधिन एच0टी0/एल0टी0 लाइन की मरम्मत एवं उपकेन्द्र के स्विचयार्ड को साफ-सफाई एवं अन्य कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि ₹ 2,000.00, निविदा शुल्क - ₹ 0 - 1180.00 (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)।

पत्र संख्या- 1206/विधि/मं/वि/2023-24 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
निविदा प्रक्रान्त, दिनांक- 10/11/2023 विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट

"सुनहरा भविष्य बनायें, राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें"



## 17 BIG PICTURE

## Inside Maharashtra's drug networks

Raids across the state over the past month offer a window into how local drug manufacturers operate. MOHAMED THAYER on this secret world of family networks, pop-up factories and fail-safes

**R**ESIDENTS OF Mokhada, a town in Maharashtra's Palghar, talk about the isolated farmhouse — *khoop at madhe aahey* (it's located deep inside) — and its mysterious visitors.

"Two men would come here twice a month in their car — mostly alone, at times with their family — and stay for just two-four days. However, they would tell the watchman to make himself scarce during their stay. All would be quiet during the day, but at night, the lights would be switched on," says Aadi Ramdas, a 25-year-old farmer from a village nearby.

A raid on the farmhouse on October 22 by a Mira-Bhayandar Vasai-Virar (MBVV) Crime Branch team had led to the arrest of 45-year-old Sameer Pinjara, allegedly the main "cook" at the unit where synthetic drugs were being manufactured, and led to the seizure of drugs worth Rs 36 crore. Eight arrests have been made so far in the case, a source said.

A police officer said, "Since Pinjara used to work for a pharma company in Hyderabad, he knew how to make drugs. His co-accused would order the raw materials needed to make these drugs online."

The raid on the Palghar farmhouse is one of six such factory busts — apart from those in Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad and Solapur — that law enforcement agencies have carried out over the past month leading to at least 28 arrests and the seizure of drugs worth over Rs 1,200 crore.

## Location is key

Each time a factory bust is carried out, it effectively cuts one player from the synthetic drug supply chain, at least for a few months, said sources from the MBVV Crime Branch.

Factory busts such as the one in Palghar were unheard of until a decade ago, they said, adding that such raids were mostly mounted by Central agencies, since only they had the wherewithal to conduct them.

According to media reports, a mere six busts took place in Maharashtra between 2019 and the recent raids.

With a spike in the consumption of locally made synthetic drugs in Mumbai over the more expensive plant-based narcotics such as cocaine that have to be imported from abroad, cartels have switched to pop-up operations in isolated farmhouses, sick units and factories falling under state industrial corporations, say officials.

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Mumbai Zonal Director Amit Ghawate added, "Some gangs even manufacture mephedrone (a synthetic drug commonly known as meow meow) at home."

"Cartels have realised that instead of evading multiple law enforcement agencies across the globe to supply cocaine from South America or hashish from Afghanistan, it's easier to manufacture synthetic drugs like mephedrone at a small unit locally," an officer said.

However, location of these units is key. An IPS officer explained, "When mephedrone is manufactured, the smells range from vanilla to bleach and stale urine. So manufacturers look for units or factories far from habitation or one that is located around something smelly to help mask the smell."

"For instance," the officer said, "some cartels manufacture their stock during the monsoon since heavy rain washes away some of the smell."

Of the two factories busted in Pune on October 6, Ghawate said one was located in a chikoo (sapodilla) orchard and the other next to a poultry farm.

"In these factories, soak pits (chambers where refuse is released) were made since there were no sewage lines. The soak pits were filled with cow dung and mud to cover up the smell of drugs," Ghawate added.

A Mumbai Police officer said, "Some gangs cook (manufacture drugs) near drains or gutters. In the slums of Dharavi, they do it near tanneries to hide the smell."

An official said that in some cases, drugs were manufactured in abandoned factories, usually located at isolated spots away from cities.

"The Solapur unit raided on October 14 by the Mumbai Crime Branch was a sick unit which the drug manufacturers took on rent," an official said.

The officer added that cartels usually put in place some fail-safes to keep the next base of their operations a secret even from those involved in the manufacture of synthetic drugs.

"They rent a factory/unit for just a few weeks and ensure that only 3-4 people are involved in manufacturing a good quantity (about 50-100 kg of synthetic drugs) before shifting the operation elsewhere," the officer added.

## Cook, pharmacist and peddler

The police said manufacturing synthetic drugs is a "relatively simple procedure" since it only requires a small space and a pharmacist who can 'cook'. Of the six recent raids carried out across the state, mephedrone was recovered at four sites.

"To make mephedrone, you need just five chemicals that are available easily and a pharmacist with some knowledge of cooking. A typical manufacturing cycle takes 4-5 days and one batch yields nearly 25 kg of mephedrone," said a police officer.

Brothers Rahul Gawli, 32 and Atul Gawli, 28, arrested recently in Solapur, were allegedly using "formulae written down by a person with chemical expertise" to manufacture the drugs themselves. The officer said the brothers are school dropouts.

Talking about the role of the pharmacist, an officer said, "A doctor or pharmacist — the role played by Walter White in (the 2008 series) *Breaking Bad* — usually uses his contacts to source the chemicals required."

An NCB officer added, "Restricted chemicals used to make medicines can also be used to make drugs. Those in the pharma industry are aware of what they stand to gain by doing that. Though the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), health department and NCB keep an eye on supply of chemicals restricted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) Act, some pharmacists do give in to the temptation."

(FSA), health department and NCB keep an eye on supply of chemicals restricted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) Act, some pharmacists do give in to the temptation."

## Of family-run businesses

Yet another precaution taken by the cartels is to keep just one person as a go-between for the manufacturers and peddlers. Officers said the mephedrone manufactured in Palghar was allegedly supplied directly to peddlers at a lodge in Mumbai's Mira Road.

"The arrest of these peddlers blew the lid off the operation. We wouldn't have known about it otherwise since very few people were involved in the manufacturing, no locals were employed and the farmhouse was owned by the main accused," an officer says.

An officer said most of the recently busted operations managed to stay below their radar because only family members were part of these enterprises. "These businesses operated like a cottage industry to ensure no one tipped-off the police," said a senior officer.



(Clockwise from bottom row, centre) Kailash Rajput, Kamal Rajput, Rahul Gawli, Atul Gawli, Bhushan Patil and Lalit Patil. Maharashtra's anti-drug agencies have over the past month cracked down on three drug businesses, each run by siblings. Illustration by Suvajit Dey

## Narcos, a new season: The sibling act

WHAT LED to three enterprises run by three sets of brothers from humble backgrounds — the owner of courier companies, sons of a former LIC agent, school dropouts who worked as cleaners at a chemical factory — to come under the radar of state law enforcement agencies?

While two of these enterprises are suspected to be involved in manufacturing mephedrone across the country, one was allegedly a supplier of chemicals needed to manufacture the drug, said an officer with the state anti-narcotics bureau.

The officer said that for very long, most of the recently busted operations escaped the attention of law enforcement agencies largely unnoticed because they involved only family members.

"These businesses operated like a cottage industry to ensure no one tipped-off the police," quipped the officer.

Daya Nayak, a senior inspector at Mumbai Crime Branch (Unit IX), said these gangs that manufacture and supply mephedrone operate independently of each other. And that is how, over the past month, three "sibling-run businesses" have come on the radar of Maharashtra anti-narcotics agencies.

Here's a look at the faces behind these operations.

## The Rajput brothers

The most prominent among these sibling entrepreneurs are the Rajput brothers, believed to be India's biggest suppliers of synthetic drugs, especially ketamine and mephedrone.

While Kailash Rajput, 52, fled the country around 2014 and is currently believed to be holed up in London, officials said Kamal, 50, was arrested by Mumbai Crime Branch on September 25.

They said Kamal's arrest had renewed their hopes of getting Kailash extradited to India.

A source added, "Kailash surrendered his passport in London and has sought political asylum there, but it's unlikely that he will get it given his drug peddler background."

Law enforcement agencies said Kailash is accused of supplying drugs through his network in north-eastern states. An official said, "At one point, we believe he made ₹150,000 per month from his drug trade in Mumbai alone."

Kailash, who lived in Mumbai's Malad and has a third sibling, started out as a small-time player in the early 2000s, said the official.

"By 2010, he started using his network to supply ketamine, ephedrine and other chemicals abroad. He also sent Viagra to Australia, UK and other European countries, where it is illegal," the official added.

Chemicals supplied by him were either sold directly or used to make synthetic drugs that were sold to networks across the globe, sources said.

An officer said, "Kailash realised that there was scope in supplying restricted chemicals to countries abroad. Two things worked in his favour — India's status as the global pharma hub and the ease with which these chemicals could be obtained or manufactured here due to lax regulations and corruption."

The smuggling of chemicals abroad, the official said, was done by his younger brother Kamal, who lived in Andheri and later moved to Vasai.

"Kamal started courier companies. The contraband would be packed in his company's parcels bound for air cargo. He paid some loaders to ensure his parcels were not scanned. In the Andheri case, in which he has been named as a wanted accused, Kamal sent nearly 70 couriers abroad over six months," the official added.

Talking about the case in which Kamal has been arrested, officials said it began with a raid on an Andheri-based courier firm.

"During the raid, police seized 15.74 kg of ketamine worth Rs 7.87 crore and over 23,000 strips of Viagra worth Rs 58 lakh. They were being sent to the UK and Australia. Two persons were arrested. Seven more, including security agents at the airport cargo, were arrested later. We are seeking Kailash's extradition under this case," the police said.

Despite being touted as one of India's biggest drug lords, they said Kailash does not have a long rap sheet in Mumbai. "He was arrested in October 2012 in a case registered against him by the Customs. However, he fled the country around 2014, soon after he got bail from the Bombay High Court. The other case against him was registered by Amboli police in February 2018," a senior officer said.

They said it is believed that Kailash first fled to Dubai, where he lived for a few years, before moving to the UK. Law agencies believe he came in contact with mob boss Dawood Ibrahim's drug network while in Dubai and continues to be associated with him. The officer said Kailash's family travels to Dubai frequently.

the world.

An officer said, "Kailash was reportedly detained in Ireland in September last year, but we believe he managed to evade the authorities."

Though the two cases registered against him in the country — in 2012 and 2018 — will not be enough for the UK to extradite him to India, an officer said the Mumbai Crime Branch was confident of establishing his direct link in the Andheri case, thus giving a boost to the Indian government's case in the UK.

The official said the matter is being pursued by Central agencies, along with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). "Getting Kailash extradited will be a huge win in our fight against drugs," the official said.

## The Patil brothers

On October 5, the Mumbai Police were tracking the supplier of a gang peddling mephedrone in the city when their search led them to a factory in Nashik, from where they seized 150 kg of mephedrone worth around Rs 300 crore.

The probe revealed that the factory belonged to Bhushan Patil, 43, who turned out to be the brother of another wanted drug lord — Lalit Patil, 47, who had fled police custody only days earlier, on October 2.

An officer said, "We were unaware of the connection between them at the time of the raid. Both the brothers have now been arrested."

Lalit had been arrested by the Pimpri Chinchwad police in Pune in 2020, following which he was lodged in Yerawada Central Prison. In June this year, Lalit was admitted to the jail ward of Pune's Sassoon Hospital for treatment of hernia and tuberculosis.

Such was Lalit's clout, police said, that he allegedly ran his drug empire from hospital with the help of a mobile phone, an aide and a hospital canteen staffer. Police said he escaped from the ward on October 2, after the police stumbled upon his hospital operations.

Soon after his escape, ministers Dada Bhuse and Shambhuraj Desai, and some police officers were accused of helping him flee. The ministers and the police have denied these allegations.

According to the police, just manufacturing and selling mephedrone helped the Patil brothers — Lalit and Bhushan — earn nearly

Rs 1 crore per month.

DCP Datta Nalawade said, "Their father is a retired LIC agent. While Lalit studied till Class 12, Bhushan studied till Class 8. Bhushan lost his wife a few years ago; he has a son."

The officer said Lalit, who had done some liaisoning work, was ambitious and wanted to be a politician.

"Having fought the Pune mayoral elections, he realised that he needed a source of income to fulfil his political ambitions. In 2018, while securing bail for an accused in a narcotics case, he realised the profitable nature of the business and turned to drugs," Nalawade said.

The officer added, "Lalit used Bhushan as a front for all the purchases he made, including the factory."

## The Gawli brothers

Siblings and Class 10 dropouts Rahul Gawli, 32, and Atul Gawli, 28, were arrested by the Mumbai Crime Branch on October 14 for allegedly manufacturing mephedrone in a rented factory in their hometown.

According to the police, the Solapur raid led to the seizure of mephedrone and raw materials worth around Rs 116 crore.

The police said the brothers had rented the factory, spread over 2,100 square feet, at the Solapur MIDC. During the raid, the police found books containing chemical formulae and the recipe to cook the drug.

"They lost their parents at a young age, after which Rahul became Atul's guardian. They earlier worked as helpers at a chemical factory. That stint made them realise how these chemicals could be diverted to manufacture drugs. So they rented a factory and assembled a team," said Daya Nayak.

Nayak added, "At the time of the raid, they were in the process of getting a huge house made."

The police said the brothers had managed to manufacture nearly 60 kg of mephedrone, worth nearly Rs 120 crore, over the past six months.

An officer said, "They had some links with anti-social elements from Hyderabad. Through them, they managed to get in touch with a Hyderabad-based person who was proficient in chemistry to get the recipe to cook mephedrone. After renting a sick unit, they used their expertise to source chemicals and started manufacturing the drug. Their interstate racket sold mephedrone in the south."

Nayak said, "Parallel gangs operate independently when it comes to supplying mephedrone. While there are no major gangs as such, the brothers ran one of the bigger networks that catered to various states."



The isolated farmhouse in Mokhada in Palghar district, where mephedrone worth Rs 33 crore was seized during a raid on October 22. Mohamed Thayer



# 18 REVIEWS CINEMA & MUSIC

## Operation Rogue

PIPPA

★★★

**Director:** Raja Krishna Menon  
**Cast:** Ishaan Khatter, Mrunal Thakur, Priyanshu Painyuli, Soni Razdan, Inaamulhaq



BALRAM SINGH Mehta (Khatter) is the kind of younger sibling who is spoiled, brash, and insolent. He is also an Army brat, with both his dear departed father and disciplinarian older brother Ram (Painyuli) being celebrated war heroes. Pippa, directed by Raja Krishna Menon, is set against the 1971 conflict in which India's military intervention became the decisive factor in the formation of a free Bangladesh.

Based on *The Burning Chaffees*, written by the real-life Brigadier Balram Singh Mehta, Pippa is the kind of frustrating watch where you are in no doubt about the sincerity of purpose but also where you are unable to suspend disbelief: behind the frenetic action sequences where brave soldiers are doing what soldiers do — forging ahead in the face of lethal enemy fire — you can almost sense the camera-and-crew, just out of the line of our vision.

The film works a tad better as a coming-of-age story of our headstrong hero Balram, whose designated arc is to learn how to tamp down his natural rebellious instincts, and discover the real man within. In this aspect, the boyish Ishaan Khatter is much more believable than when he is on the field, barking orders, keeping his unit together in the face of the mounting body count, and embarking upon daring rescue missions.

The writing is choppy. In one second we see Balram being dressed down by a senior, and in the next, he is professing his love for Pippa (all over again; we've already heard this litany when the film opens) for PT-76, the first Indian amphibian tank, which played a major role in the Indian win. Being the kind of guy who just has to disobey orders, Balram takes off with the tank for a watery joyride while on exercise. His explanation — 'Was doing a stress test, sir' — cuts no ice with his enraged superior officer, of course; we are meant to be impressed by his impish dare-devilry which turns into exemplary valour on the front.

A good war film takes you up close to the sights and smells of battle, to the point where you flinch when bullets hit bodies, and want the bloodshed to end just as much as the characters on screen do. Here, Ram being captured and tortured by a fellow (Inaamulhaq) meant to exude menace, is more caricature than anything else, despite Painyuli being the sort of actor you want to watch more of. Mrunal Thakur, as the sister who works on cracking codes in a top-secret organisation, comes off generic, and Soni Razdan is wasted.

Hard to believe that this film is from the same director who pulled off the crackling *Airlift*.

SG

# Blue is the Warmest Colour

RAINBOW RISHTA

★★★

**Directors:** Jaydeep Sarkar, Hridaye A Nagpal and Shubhra Chatterji  
**Cast:** Soham Sengupta, Aneez Saikia, Trinetra Haldar, Aishwarya Ayushmaan  
**Streaming on:** Amazon Prime Video



SHUBHRA GUPTA

FINDING TRUE love is hard enough. Being able to keep it together is harder, even more so when you identify as being on the LGBTQI spectrum, and are up against the constant familial and societal judgement and pressure-to-conform in conservative India.

Prime Video series *Rainbow Rishta* explores six real-life stories in which a touching mixture of candour and vulnerability keeps surfacing as the characters go through the whole relationship thing — discovering their authentic self, wondering how to 'come out' to their families, searching for the right partner, dreaming of living together with dignity, and yes, getting married.

Guwahati-based lesbian couple Aneez and Sanam, tired of finding space for themselves in their natal homes, are in search of a flat. But their being a couple keeps becoming a deal-breaker, as they go through one refusal after another from prospective landlords. Trinetra Haldar, an MBBS doctor-turned-actor whose trans character left such a strong impact in the second season of *Made In Heaven*, speaks of how hard it is to find that special someone who will accept her for who she is. Once the layers of make-up are off, drag queen Lush Monsoon who is such a hit on the gay clubbing circuit in Delhi, is Ayushmann-from-Ranchi, who keeps wondering just how he will reveal all to his parents. Will he ever be able to? Sadam, who lives in Imphal, is getting ready to meet someone new from Mumbai: will he be lucky this time around? The primal desire to be a parent, and bring up children, is paramount in the long-term relationship between Soham and Suresh: will they be able to adopt?

The series, created by Jaydeep Sarkar, and directed by Sarkar, Shubhra Chatterjee and Hridaye A Nagpal, comes at a time when the negative Supreme Court judgement on same-sex marriages has turned out to be such a blow for the community. On the outskirts of Mumbai, we meet transwoman Daniella and her prospective groom Joel as they gear up for a wedding ceremony, choosing the most affordable invitation cards, the perfect wedding dress, and finally, the ceremony itself: it is a dream-come-true for the former, coming out of a traumatic past, and advancing towards a future where all, hopefully, will be well.

Not everything in the six episodes is as riveting: sometimes the banality of life-as-it-is-lived takes over the story-telling. But as a collective, these stories foregrounding real people have real poignance and warmth. You feel for them, and you wish them well.

Not everything is riveting. But as a collective, these stories have real poignance and warmth.

## Waste of Space

THE MARVELS

★★

**Director:** Nia DaCosta  
**Cast:** Brie Larson, Iman Vellani, Teyonah Parris, Samuel L. Jackson, Zenobia Shroff, Mohan Kapur

SHALINI LANGER

A CAT THAT is not a cat, called Goose though not a goose, which lays eggs that are not golden. And that is not the only thing messed up about *The Marvels*, the 33rd film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

That number alone should be a warning, but hardly ever has Marvel Studios spotted a chink in the space-time continuum that it didn't want to jump through. *The Marvels* takes the challenge head-on, making an entire film about taking those jumps. And when those skies split open into hexagonal beehive shapes, there is nothing that won't seep through in the film to another dimension — sun, water, and atmosphere, included.

Now, that is one way to kill a planet — even if not the most visually appealing or



entertaining. Another way is to have a planet where people don't talk, they just sing — there is one of those, too, in the film.

But the entertainment burden is clearly meant to be shouldered by Ms Marvel, a.k.a Kamala Khan, the central character of the popular TV series, who has been teleported with her entire family into the film. While Vellani is charming, how many times can you hear her exclaim 'Oh my God! Oh my God! Oh my God!' at the sight of everything from Captain Marvel or Carol Danvers (Larson), to Goose the cat's tricks, to the end of the universe.

Technically, she is part of the team that Captain Marvel finds herself unwittingly

at the heart of, and which includes Monica (Parris).

Kamala, Carol, and Monica find that one of those blips in one of those jumps through one of those wormholes has left them tethered together via light force — basically when any of them uses their powers, they could find themselves in the same space and time as the other two.

On paper, this seems like an intriguing story device, not to mention the welcome prospect of seeing an all-woman Marvel team save the world.

On-screen, this is used to no particular effect or laughs or mystery, with Vellani forever caught in an awe-struck teenager ex-

pression, Parris making no impression and Larson seeming jaded.

The three-in-one or one-in-three trick is ultimately just one more sleight of hand in a film that is desperately trying to show that there are still some things we haven't seen in the 32 times we have been here.

Actually, there are two — one involves having to choose between being swallowed by a cat or dying, and the second has a crucial character praying to Allah for help as an escape pod carrying him and others including Nick Fury (Jackson) hurtles through space.

What are the chances you will see that again anytime soon?

STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI



WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

LIONSGATE PLAY

In London, an award-winning filmmaker documents her best friend's journey into an assisted marriage in line with his family's Pakistani heritage. In the process, she challenges her own attitude towards relationships. The movie directed by Shekhar Kapur, features Lily James, Emma Thompson, Shabana Azmi, and Shazad Latif.



SLY

NETFLIX

For nearly 50 years, Sylvester Stallone, an Oscar-nominated actor-writer-director-producer, has entertained millions across the globe with iconic characters and blockbuster franchises, from *Rocky* to *Rambo*. This intimate documentary tells his story and its parallels with the characters he brought to life. His love of film began as an escape from a difficult childhood and from being an underdog, he went on to become a Hollywood legend.



BTS: YET TO COME CONCERT

PRIME VIDEO

As part of Busan's World Expo 2030 bid, BTS performed at the Asiad Main Stadium with approximately 50,000 people in attendance. This concert-film includes 19 performances from their hit tracks, such as *Dynamite*, *Butter*, *RUN, MIC Drop*, *Yet to Come (The Most Beautiful Moment)*, and more. The show also featured touching speeches and spectacular sets.



OUR TIME

MUBI

A family lives in the Mexican countryside raising fighting bulls. Esther is in charge of running the ranch, while her husband Juan raises and selects the beasts. When Esther becomes infatuated with a horse trainer named Phil, the couple struggles to stride through the emotional crisis. Directed by Carlos Reygadas, the Mexican drama was screened in the main competition section of the Venice International Film Festival in 2018.

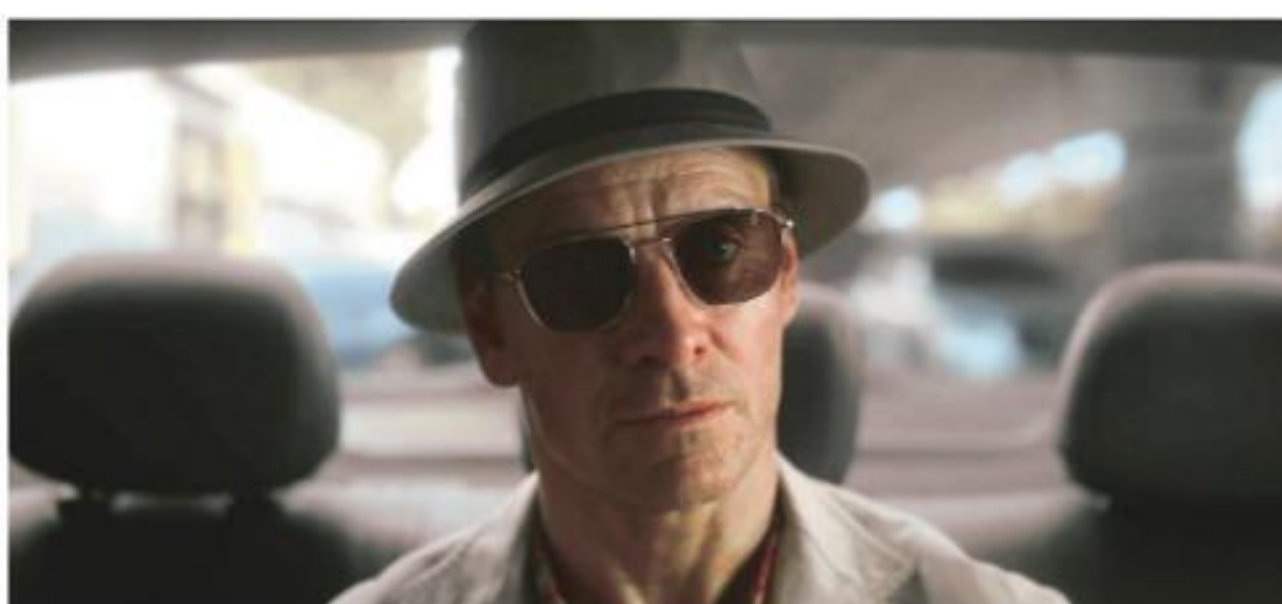
## Off the Mark

THE KILLER ★★★

**Director:** David Fincher  
**Cast:** Michael Fassbender, Tilda Swinton, Arliss Howard, Charles Parnell, Monique Ganderton  
**Streaming on:** Netflix

ALAKA SAHANI

IT IS possible that those familiar with David Fincher's stylish, dark, and atmospheric movies (*Fight Club*, *Zodiac*, *Gone Girl*, and others) would have let out a 'wow' while watching *The Killer's* opening sequence that hints



to calm his nerves, every time before he hunts down someone. This makes the story of a hitman on the prowl, which is an adap-

tation of a French comic book of the same name created by writer Alexis 'Matz' Nolent and artist Luc Jacamon, drab.

Yet, it is no surprise that *The Killer* reflects Fincher's impressive visual aesthetics and cinematic style even as it keeps the story-telling sharp and straightforward. As a hitman on a mission, Fassbender has the perfect body language and deadpan expression. Some of the action sequences are engaging and well-choreographed. His encounter with Swinton and the exchanges they have over a flight of whiskeys add some spark to the narrative. But that's too little and comes a bit late in the film. The story, which appears lean in the absence of layers and complexities, does not draw the audience into this brutal world of assassins. It also does not offer enough reason for the audience to relate to the assassin's fury or inner turmoil as he moves from Paris to the Dominican Republic to America seeking revenge.

The process of how an assassin hunts down his/her targets and goes for the kill can be engrossing for the audience (This is already established in movies such as *Kill Bill I* and *II*). Fincher's earlier movies, too, have dealt with twisted human psyche and intriguing characters. For instance, Amy in *Gone Girl* is a dangerous yet captivating character. The audience is on the edge of their seats as the layers of her character are peeled away in the course of the movie. In *The Killer*, Fincher keeps it uncomplicated and flat, almost deliberately.

It is possible that Fincher wanted a ruthless assassin pondering and philosophising about the world (his voiceover tells us about his views regarding exploitation, survival, and others) to leave a mark on the viewers. That, however, remains unrealised.



# 19 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 64,904.68 ▲ 72.48 (0.11%) NIFTY: 19,425.35 ▲ 30.05 (0.15%) NIKKEI: 32,568.11 ▼ 78.35 HANG SENG: 17,203.26 ▼ 308.03 FTSE: 7,364.40 ▼ 91.27 DAX: 15,265.59 ▼ 86.95

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>USD RATE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹61,200	₹83.34	\$81.64	₹74,000

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of November 9

International market data till 1900 IST

## LIC profit falls 49% in second quarter

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 10

LIFE INSURANCE Corporation (LIC), India's largest life insurer, has reported a 49.68 per cent fall in net profit to ₹7,925 crore for the quarter ended September against ₹15,952 crore in the same period a year ago.

The insurer's net premium income declined to 18.70 per cent to ₹1,07,396 crore for the quarter ended September against ₹1,32,104 crore a year ago.

In terms of market share measured by first year premium income (FYPI), LIC continues to be the market leader with an overall market share of 58.50 per cent, LIC Chairman Sidhartha Mohanty said.

For the six months ended September 30, 2023, LIC had a market share of 40.35 per cent in individual business and 70.26 per cent in group business.

A total of 80,60,725 policies were sold in the individual segment during the half year ended September 30, 2023 as compared to 83,59,029 policies sold during the previous six months.

The Indian Embedded Value (IEV) as of September 2023 was ₹6,62,605 crore as compared to ₹5,44,291 crore as of September 2022 registering an increase of 21.74 per cent over the previous year. The solvency ratio as on September 30, 2023 improved to 1.90 against 1.88 on September 2022.

According to auditors, the 'outstanding unclaimed amounts/deposits' and 'interest accrued on unclaimed amounts' aggregating to Rs 19,459 crore does not match with the 'Assets pertaining to unclaimed amounts' of ₹19,459 crore.

### BRIEFLY

## Ransomware attack on top China lender

THE INDUSTRIAL and Commercial Bank of China's (ICBC) US arm was hit by a ransomware attack that disrupted trades in the US Treasury market Thursday, the latest in a string of victims ransom-demanding hackers have claimed this year. ICBC Financial Services, the US unit of China's largest commercial lender by assets, said it was investigating the attack that disrupted some of its systems, and making progress toward recovering from it. **REUTERS**

## Best-ever PV wholesales in October: SIAM

New Delhi: Passenger vehicle wholesales surged to a record high in October riding on robust festive season demand, auto industry body SIAM said on Friday. The overall passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers last month rose 16 per cent year on year to 3,89,714 units as compared to 3,36,330 units in October 2022. Similarly, the three-wheeler segment also witnessed the highest ever monthly dispatches in October at 76,940 units, a growth of 42 per cent over 54,154 units in the year-ago period. **PTI**

## NK Singh

A CHANGE is needed in management culture on many fronts to help Multilateral Development Banks to act cohesively, co-convenor of the expert group on strengthening MDBs N K Singh said. **ENS**

## BHEL event

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd organised a dialogue with domestic businesses, industry associations and government on 'Development powered by Research and Innovation'. **ENS**

# Rules of origin, IPR issues pending, India-UK FTA to miss another Diwali

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10



PM Narendra Modi with UK counterpart Rishi Sunak. Both countries have made headway on service sector work permits in FTA talks, which began formally in Jan 2022. File

THE SIGNING of the India-UK free trade agreement (FTA), originally slated for Diwali last year, is set to miss this year's festival too as negotiators are still working on contentious issues including chapters pertaining to rules of origin and intellectual property rights (IPR), two officials aware of the development said.

With talks gathering momentum (21 out of 26 chapters have been finalised and negotiations are happening in weekly rounds), there is urgency to wrap up the deal. India heads for elections early next year. General elections in the UK, meanwhile, will take place latest by January 2025.

A government official said India has been able to secure "limited" short-term work permits for its service sector workforce under the movement of natural persons (mode 4) category. Mode 4 refers to services traded by individuals of one WTO member through their

presence in the territory of another. It covers employees of services firms and self-employed service suppliers.

The degree of mode 4 market access is "very limited" as it deals with commitments that provide a right of entry and stay only to highly skilled individuals and those transferred from an affiliate of a company with a commercial presence in the UK. The discussion on rules of origin,

which ensure that products from third countries do not receive FTA benefits unless they undergo "significant transformation" in the exporting country, has been one of the most contentious.

After the US, the UK is the largest importer of India's services. It makes up 17% of India's total services exports including travel, transportation, insurance, software and financial services.

Services are among India's fastest growing exports, registering a jump of nearly 30% to \$267.79 billion from April to January in FY23 compared to \$206.27 billion during the comparable period in FY22.

"(The) rules of origin (issue) is a crucial concern for India in various categories of products. For instance, there is fear that products from Europe, especially alcoholic drinks such as gin, vodka and Irish whiskey, could make their way into India via the UK. They are dominant in these areas so discussions regarding the same are going on in great detail," said a person aware of the negotiations.

After opening its high tariff market to Australian wines in the India-Australia early-harvest deal that came into effect in December last year, India is expected to bring down tariffs for UK's Scotch whisky after the initiation of the UK FTA. London is pushing New Delhi to slash the whisky import tariff to 30 per cent from the current 150 per cent over three years.

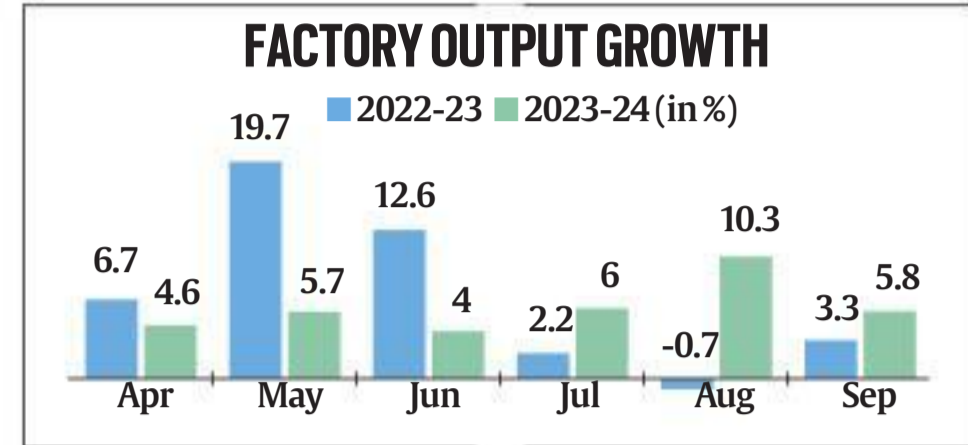
India tends to weigh in favour

of more conservative rules of origin compared to most developed countries, leading to extended discussions and negotiations in its FTA talks, including with the UK, said Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) co-founder Ajay Srivastava. India, however, may need to be more flexible in its rules of origin framework, especially as its firms in sectors like chemicals, electronics, and synthetic textiles are increasingly using imported inputs, he said.

Talks on IPR are crucial as India is the world's largest producer and exporter of generic drugs and affordable generic drugs constitute 70-80 per cent of consumption in the domestic market. The UK, as a leader in life science innovation, is seeking strong IPR protection. But its state-run health system, National Health Service (NHS), also relies on Indian generics to keep costs down.

The UK has also asked India to reduce duty on car imports to gain access to one of the largest automobile markets in the world. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

## IIP growth falls to 3-month low, rises yr-on-yr



ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL output growth slid to a three-month low of 5.8 per cent in September from a 14-month high of 10.3 per cent in August, mainly due to base effect, subdued manufacturing, especially consumer goods output, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Friday showed. The factory output growth has come in much lower than economists' expectations which had pegged it broadly over 7 per cent.

Manufacturing, which accounts for 77.6 per cent of the weight of the IIP (Index of Industrial Production), grew by 4.5 per cent in September as against 2.0 per cent in September 2022 and 9.3 per cent in August 2023. In absolute terms, manufacturing index to 140.6 in September from 134.6 in the year-ago period but was lower than 143.5 in August this year.

Factory output had grown at 3.3 per cent in September last year. Cumulatively, during April-September, the first half of the financial year, factory output has grown 6.0 per cent as against 7.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

As per the IIP data, nine out of the 23 sectors in manufacturing registered a contraction in September, with furniture, apparel and computer and electronics amongst the significant non-performers. Among the 14 positive

performing sectors, manufacture of basic metals, beverages, and motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers performed better.

In terms of the use-based industries, consumer durables output recorded growth of 1 per cent in September as against (-) 5.5 per cent in the year-ago period, reflecting weaker consumption demand. Consumer non-durables output, which reflects fast-moving consumer goods, registered a 2.7 per cent growth in September as against (-) 5.7 per cent in the year-ago period. Primary, infrastructure/construction, and capital goods recorded growth rates of 8.0 per cent, 7.5 per cent and 7.4 per cent, respectively, in September this year.

Economists said the trend for industrial output will depend on consumption recovery. "The overall performance is encouraging and should lead to stable industrial growth for the year. The crux will be pick up in consumption and investment. Readymade garments has been a low performer due to exports being low. October has indicated that exports could have turned the corner and if sustained can provide the requisite boost for the textiles sector," Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda said.

However, Sabnavis said contraction in electronics and computers manufacturing, which has come in at (-) 15.1 per cent for April-September has been a "major disappointment as this is the leading sector for the PLI scheme.

## This Diwali, buy local, says PM

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

ON THE occasion of Dhanteras and ahead of Diwali, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to purchase products made in India, stepping up the "vocal for local" call and praising the "relentless spirit of entrepreneurs" to boost India's progress.

He asked people to make this Diwali about the hard work of 140 crore Indians.

The PM was responding to a post on X (formerly Twitter) by Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, supporting the 'vocal for local' mission. Earlier this week, the Prime Minister had urged people to buy products which have been made locally and then

post a selfie with the product or its maker on the NaMo App.

Dhanteras is a major buying occasion for many Indians and according to the estimates of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) the trade volume during the occasion is estimated at Rs 50,000 crore.

Households typically buy items such as gold and silver jewellery, utensils, kitchenware, vehicles, clothing and electronics during the time. In a post on X, Modi said, "Indeed, let's make this Diwali about the hard work of 140 crore Indians. It is due to the creativity and relentless spirit of entrepreneurs that we can be #VocalForLocal and further India's progress. May this festival herald an Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

In October, the prime minister had asserted that his government has boosted employment opportunities in traditional as well as emerging sectors like renewable energy, defence exports and automation, speaking at the 'Rashtriya Rozgar Mela'.

In September, he launched the PM Vishwakarma Scheme for providing collateral-free loans and skills training to 18 categories of traditional artisans and craftspeople. The scheme has a Rs 13,000 crore outlay over five years up to 2027-28.

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme will allow artisans to attend a five-day skilling workshop, a voucher to buy tools, and the provision for guarantee-free loans of up to Rs 3 lakh.

## Net direct tax collections cross 58% of budget target

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

NET DIRECT tax collection swelled 22 per cent so far this fiscal year to Rs 10.60 lakh crore, crossing 58 per cent of the Budget target for the full year, the Income Tax department said Friday.

The net corporate tax collection grew 12.48 per cent and personal income tax mop up rose 31.77 per cent.

"Direct Tax collection, net of refunds, stands at Rs 10.60 lakh crore which is 21.82 per cent higher than the net collection for

the corresponding period of last year. "This collection is 58.15 per cent of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for F.Y. 2023-24," the I-T department said in a statement.

Refunds totalling Rs 1.77 lakh crore have been issued between April 1 to November 9, 2023.

On a gross basis, collection from direct tax, which includes corporate and Personal Income Tax (PIT), rose 17.59 per cent to Rs 12.37 lakh crore.

The growth rate for corporate income tax (CIT) is 7.13 per cent, while that for PIT is 28.29 per cent.

## Govt relaxes norms for some small savings schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE GOVERNMENT has relaxed the norms for various small savings schemes, including the Public Provident Fund (PPF) and Senior Citizen's Savings Scheme.

As per the gazette notification dated November 9, an individual can open an account under the Senior Citizen's Savings Scheme within three months from the date of receipt of the retirement benefits and proof of the date of disbursement of such retirement benefits.

The deposit in such an account will earn interest at the rate applicable to the scheme on the date of maturity or the date of extended maturity, the notification said.

In the case of the Public Provident Fund, the notification has made some changes with regard to the premature closure of accounts. According to the notification, some changes have been made for premature withdrawal under the National Savings Time Deposit scheme.

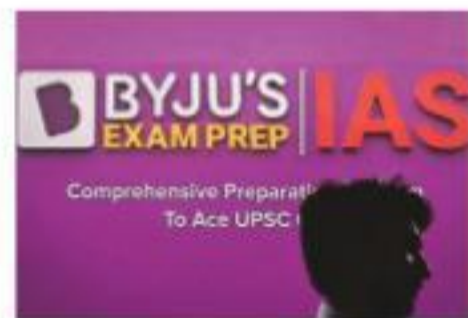
## Ranjan Pai buys out Davidson Kempner debt in troubled Byju's

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 10

IN RELIEF for troubled edtech major Byju's, Manipal Education and Medical Group chairman Ranjan Pai has bought the debt investment of US-based asset management firm Davidson Kempner in a ₹1,400-crore deal.

According to industry sources, Pai will get a seat on the board of Aakash Educational Services, which is Byju's largest asset. He will also have the right to nominate two more representatives. There are currently six members on the Aakash's board, including two representatives from Kempner, who will exit.

Of the ₹1,400 crore paid to Kempner, ₹800 crore was the loan amount and ₹600 crore was interest, industry sources said. Kempner, which holds 15-20% of Aakash via pledges, will transfer its holding to Pai as part of the transaction. An entity of Pai purchased all the NCDs of Davidson Kempner on the NSE CBRICS platform.



Pai will get a seat on the board of Aakash, Byju's largest asset. Reuters

A spokesperson for Byju's declined to comment.

Kempner had provided Byju's with \$250-million in structured debt in May, based on the future cash flows of Aakash. However, the US-based AMC withheld approximately \$100 million because Byju's was not able to meet some of the loan agreement covenants.

Industry sources said that Pai plans to also buy out part of Aakash's promoters' stake in the company as well as Blackstone's which is expected to exit the firm. This will take his effective shareholding in Aakash to nearly 30%. **PTI**

## WIN FOR BYJU'S LENDERS IN US COURT

New Delhi: A Delaware, US, court has upheld the takeover of Byju's Alpha by US-based lenders. Byju's Alpha is the US-based subsidiary of edtech major Byju's. The court ruled that lenders were within their rights to replace a relative of Byju's founder Byju Raveendran in the board of Alpha with their nominee. **PTI**

Aakash's promoters, the Chaudhry family, still hold 18-20% in Aakash. According to sources, one fourth of this stake will be sold to Pai at a valuation of \$10 billion, one fourth will be converted to Think and Learn's (Byju's parent firm) shares, while the family will retain the rest.

Aakash Chaudhry will return as CEO after the partial stake sale and share swap is completed, sources said. **FE**

## ONGC posts 20% drop in second quarter profit on lower crude prices

REUTERS BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 10

State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) Friday posted a more than 20% drop in second-quarter profit, dragged down by lower prices for crude oil. Crude prices have fallen more than 35% from their peak in the September quarter last year amid economic uncertainties and easing concerns over supply.

The company's profit fell to ₹102.16 billion for the quarter ended September 30, compared with ₹128.26 billion a year earlier. Crude oil price realisation, or the price at which it sells the product, was down 11.2% at \$84.84 per barrel in the latest quarter, compared with \$95.50 a year earlier, while realisations in its joint ventures fell 16.4% to \$79.41, the country's top explorer said in a statement.

ONGC's total crude oil production fell 2.1% to 5.25 million metric tons, while total gas production dropped 2.8%.

Oil India reported a more than 80% drop in second-quarter profit on Wednesday as it set aside ₹23.63 billion for an ongoing litigation.

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice**  
Tender No: 259/2023-24/SE/PHC/MVPA  
JJM-Phase II Pampakuda Grama Panchayath - Additional Proposals - Extensions & Replacement of damaged pipe line in non covered area -Part 1- pipeline work  
EMD: Rs. 20000/- Tender fee: Rs. 11025/- Last Date for submitting Tender: 29.11.2023 02:41:pm Phone: 04852935637 Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in  
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in  
Superintending Engineer PH Circle Muvattupuzha  
KWA-JB-GL-6-1568-2023-24

**NPCL NOIDA POWER COMPANY LIMITED**  
CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506  
**Notice Inviting Bids for Procurement of Hydro Power with renewable benefit on Medium 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 hydro power with renewable benefit from 01.05.2024 to 30.09.2026 in accordance with Guidelines dated 30.01.2019 issued by Ministry of Power, GOI. Bid Document is available on DEEP Portal of www.mscecommerce.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)

**KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION**  
Transport Bhavan , Fort P.O, Thiruvananthapuram-695023  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Name of Item	Last Date of Bid submission
Computer Paper 80 Column I Part	
Mobile Service Unit with tools & Equipment	27.11.2023, 06.00 PM
Heavy Duty Degreaser (Workshop Grade)	
KSRTC Form No.476 (Daily Vehicle Log Sheet)	20.11.2023, 06.00 PM

For the detailed tender document visit:  
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in,  
www.keralartc.com/tenders/purchase, e-mail : sr@kerala.gov.in  
sd/- Chairman & Managing Director 11.11.2023

**Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited**  
(A wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)  
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)

**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)**  
BESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) for the following Enquiry Nos.:

- (1) BESCOM/GM(M&C)/124/RO/2023-24. Zone-BMAZ North.
- (2) BESCOM/GM(M&C)/125/RO/2023-24. Zone-BMAZ South.
- (3) BESCOM/GM(M&C)/126/RO/2023-24. Zone-BRAZ.
- (4) BESCOM/GM(M&C)/127/RO/2023-24. Zone-CTAZ.

**Particulars:** BESCOM invites tender for "Sale of single phase, three phase whole current and three phase CT operated Static Meters for prospective consumers on rate contract basis in retail outlets and for procurement of meters for arranging power supply to new connections under Janasnehi and for replacement of defective /burnt-out meters on need basis against Purchase orders placed for O&M Divisions in Retail Outlets of BESCOM for a period of one year extendable for another one year or till implementation of Smart meters whichever is earlier."

The Tender documents can be obtained through e-procurement portal from the tendering website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/> on or after 17.11.2023. Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with e-procurement helpdesk at 080-46010000, 080-68948777.

Sd/- The General Manager (Ele.,) Meter & Commercial, BESCOM.  
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912  
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

**CHANDRAPUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, CHANDRAPUR (M.S.)**  
No. CCMC/WS/2023/2460 Date:- 09/11/2023

**e-Tender Notice**  
Chandrapur City Municipal Corporation invites e-Tender notice for the work of Central Government Sponsored AMRUT 2.0 Mission Chandrapur Municipal Corporation Water Supply Project in the State of Maharashtra valued at Rs. 201.90 Cr. The e-Tender details are available on the web portal [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) from dated 13.11.2023.

All relevant dates will be as per tender published in web portal [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in).

sd/-  
**Commissioner**  
Chandrapur City Municipal Corporation, Chandrapur



**EXPLAINED GLOBAL**

## RAPID MELTING OF ICE SHEET IN WEST ANTARCTICA NOW UNAVOIDABLE — THIS IS WHAT IT COULD MEAN



Chunks of ice break off from an ice shelf in Antarctica. Wikimedia Commons

**ALIND CHAUHAN**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE RAPID melting of West Antarctica's ice sheet due to warm waters around it is now unavoidable, no matter how much carbon emissions are cut, according to a new study. If lost completely, the ice sheet would raise the global mean sea level by 5.3 metres or 17.4 feet — a potentially devastating consequence for millions of people living in vulnerable coastal cities across the world, including in India.

Even in a best-case scenario of limiting global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels, water in West Antarctica will continue to get warmer three times faster than in the 20th century, leading to an increased melting of the region's ice sheet, the analysis has found. The study, 'Unavoidable future increase in West Antarctic ice-sheet melting over the twenty-first century', was published by the journal *Nature* last month. It was carried out by Kaitlin Naughten and Paul R Holland, of the British Antarctic Survey, and Jan De Rydt of the Northumbria University (UK).

**What is an ice sheet?**  
An ice sheet is essentially a mass of glacial ice that covers more than 50,000 square kilometres of land — large enough to blanket the entirety of Uttarakhand in ice. There are two major ice sheets in the world today: the Greenland ice sheet and the Antarctic ice sheet. Together, they contain about two-thirds of all the freshwater on Earth.

"When ice sheets gain mass, they contribute to a fall in global mean sea level, and when they lose mass, they contribute to a rise in global mean sea level," a NASA report mentioned. Ice sheets are different from sea ice, which is the free-floating ice that surrounds the polar regions. Sea ice is created by sea water freezing.

**How is West Antarctic sheet melting?**  
There are various processes through which ice sheets melt. One of them is when warm ocean waters melt ice

shelves — the edges of an ice sheet which floats on the ocean.

Naughten, one of the authors of the new study, explained to *The Indian Express* in an email: "Ice shelves stabilise the land-based glaciers just behind them. If an ice shelf thins or disappears, these glaciers tend to speed up, discharging more ice into the ocean and causing sea level rise."

The same process is taking place in West Antarctica as well, particularly in the Amundsen Sea, which is the focus of Naughten's study. For decades, the region's ice shelves have been depleting, glaciers have been flowing faster towards the ocean and the ice sheet has been shrinking.

**What are the findings of the study?**  
To conduct the analysis, the scientists have used a high-resolution computer model of the Amundsen Sea to provide the most comprehensive assessment of warming in West Antarctica to date. They have used the model to run many different simulations of the 21st century, totalling over 4,000 years of ocean warming and ice-sheet melting in the Amundsen Sea.

"We considered different trajectories for fossil fuel burning, from the best-case scenario where global warming is limited to 1.5°C in line with the Paris Agreement, to the worst, in which coal, oil and gas use is uncontrolled. We also considered the influence of natural variations in the climate, such as the timing of events such as El Niño," the researchers wrote in an article published in *The Conversation*.

The findings are grim. All scenarios show significant and widespread future warming of the Amundsen Sea and increased ice shelves melting. Moreover, there is little to no difference between the scenarios up to 2045 — meaning come what may, major sea level rise, which will affect coastal communities across the world, is certain.

Although the findings are bleak, they should not discourage efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change, says Naughten.

"The melting West Antarctic ice sheet is just one contributor to sea level rise, which is just one impact of climate change," she adds.

**EXPLAINED SCIENCE**

## Seeding clouds to clean the air

Delhi is considering cloud seeding to induce rain, so it can wash out the pollution in the air. This is a novel idea — besides, cloud seeding, even to mitigate drought, has never been tried in non-monsoon months

**ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

EARLIER this week, the Delhi government announced that it was considering cloud seeding or 'artificial rain' to wash away pollutants in the air. Attempts have been made to 'create' rain in India earlier too; however, this has been done during the monsoon and in the pre-monsoon period — when clouds carry some moisture. Also, the intention has been to bring rainfall to drought-hit or drought-prone areas, and not to mitigate air pollution.

**What is cloud seeding?**  
In a cloud, water vapour condenses around small particles to form droplets. These droplets collide and grow; as they get heavy and the cloud gets saturated, it rains.

Cloud seeding is the process by which a cloud is injected with salts such as silver iodide or potassium iodide, which is the 'seed'. The salts are expected to provide additional nuclei around which more cloud droplets can form.

The seed can be dispersed either using aircraft, or through generators on the ground.

"Seeding accelerates the microphysical processes in a cloud. You need sufficiently large droplets that can reach the surface of the earth and not evaporate on their way down," Dr Sachchida Nand Tripathi, professor at IIT Kanpur and member of the Steering Committee of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), said. "The substance that is dispersed in the cloud needs to have cloud condensation nuclei and ice nuclei, and these two come from two different salts."

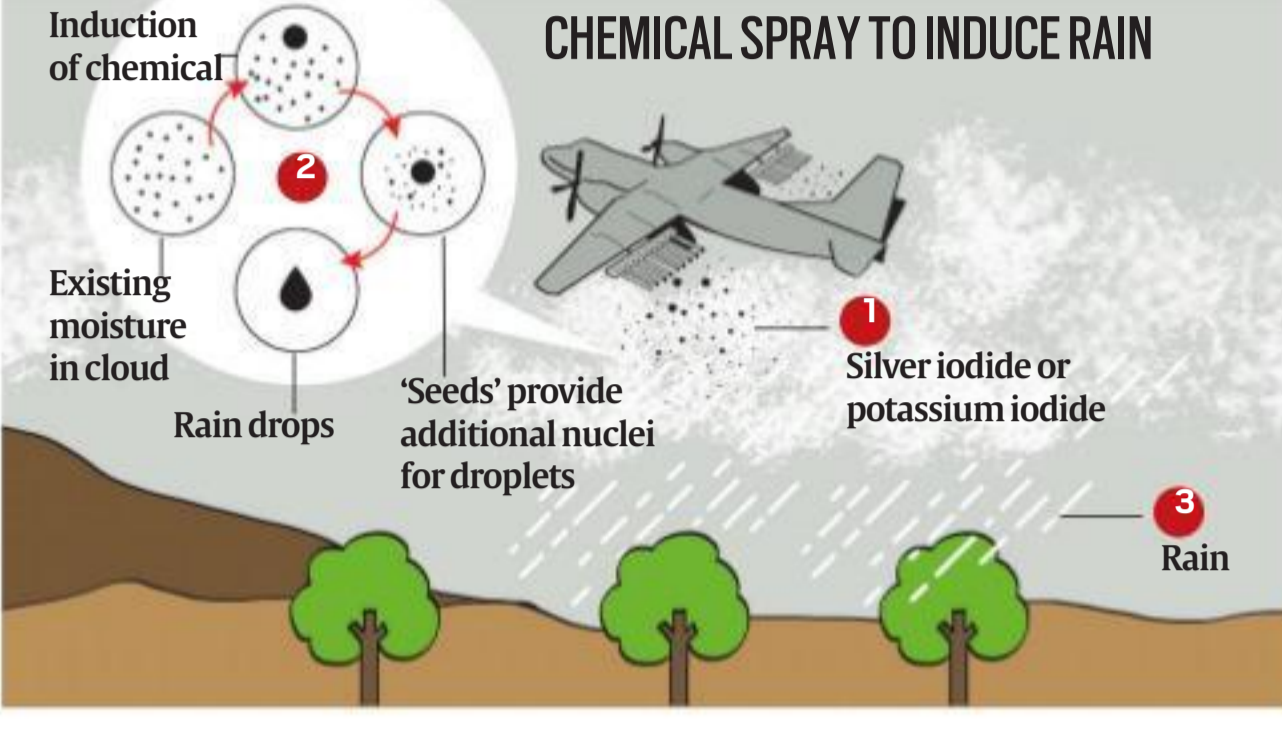
The cloud condensation nuclei help form cloud droplets, and ice nuclei help to form ice crystals. Ice crystals grow faster than drops, and they become large and fall.

**What is needed for the process to work?**  
Firstly, cloud cover and clouds of a certain type are necessary.

Dr M Rajeevan, former Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, said, "Cloud seeding can only happen if there is a sufficient number of clouds, and there is a particular depth to these clouds. Inside, there needs to be an adequate number of cloud droplets."

"Cloud seeding is done to increase the radius of the cloud droplets so that they will grow bigger and, because of gravity, come down as rain. But with a clear sky, you can't do it."

In winter, clouds form over Delhi only when a western disturbance moves over the region. These are storms that originate above the Caspian Sea or Mediterranean Sea, and



### RAIN DOES WORK TO CLEAN THE AIR, HERE'S HOW IT HAPPENS

DELHI-NCR received light rain that began around midnight on Thursday. On Friday, the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB's) daily 4 pm air quality bulletin showed Delhi's air quality index (AQI) value at 279, Noida's at 247, and Gurgaon's at 240.

**However, this was a significant improvement over the past few days.**

The same values at 4 pm on Thursday — the CPCB bulletin records average AQI values over the past 24 hours — were significantly higher: 437 ('severe'), 394 ('very poor'), and 404 ('severe') for Delhi, Noida, and Gurgaon respectively.

On November 3, the AQI in Delhi rose to 471 — from November 2 to Friday morning, the region has been covered in a thick haze. The capital was supposed to implement the odd-even road rationing scheme for a week beginning Monday — following the change in the air, this has been deferred.

**So what does rain do that brings down levels of air pollution?**

The major pollutant in Delhi's air is PM2.5, fine particulate matter consisting of solids and aerosols in vehicular and industrial emissions, road and construction dust, and smoke from biomass burning such as farm fires. At this time of year, a

combination of low temperatures and low wind speeds ensure these particles are not dispersed, and hang low over the surface.

Rain clears the air by essentially pushing these airborne particles downward. Gusts of wind that often accompany rain help by breaking the stillness of the air, and dispersing the pollutants.

A 2015 article by the MIT news office about research carried out by atmospheric chemists at the institute described the way this happens: "As a raindrop falls through the atmosphere, it can attract tens to hundreds of tiny aerosol particles to its surface before hitting the ground. The process by which droplets and aerosols attract is coagulation, a natural phenomenon that can act to clear the air of pollutants like soot, sulfates, and organic particles."

**But while rain does wash away dust, the relief is temporary.**

Other pollutants — ground-level ozone, sulphur dioxide, lead, nitrogen oxides, etc — are not washed away, unless it rains heavily for long. So while the air on Friday was cleaner, it is prudent to temper expectations on how long this situation will last. There could be a spike again on or immediately after Diwali — unless there is another spell of rain or strong winds.

bring non-monsoonal rain to northwest India. "In winter, you don't see the kind of clouds that are needed for seeding, but west-

ern disturbances are the way through which clouds form. Even if clouds are there, you need to see what their height is, what their

liquid water content is," Dr Tripathi said.

**Has cloud seeding succeeded earlier?**

Seeding has been attempted during the monsoon in Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. More recently, the fourth phase of the Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment (CAIPEEX-IV) was carried out in drought-prone Solapur in Maharashtra during the monsoon seasons of 2018 and 2019.

The experiment pointed to a relative enhancement of 18% in rainfall. But the picture that emerged was complicated.

"We tried to understand more about cloud seeding, but still there are a lot of difficulties. Cloud microphysics is more complicated than we think... When you seed, all clouds won't rain, and even without seeding clouds can rain. It is still a very complex and uncertain field of research," Dr Rajeevan, who was involved with the Solapur experiment, said.

IIT Kanpur attempted it on campus in the pre-monsoon months of April and May in 2018, and reported rain in five out of six trials. A proposal was floated for cloud seeding in Delhi, but it could not be followed through.

Dr Thara Prabhakaran of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune who specialises in cloud microphysics and was also part of the experiment in Solapur, said, "We did statistical and physical experiments by registering what was happening inside the cloud before and after seeding, and by documenting the processes leading to precipitation."

"Whether rain reaches the surface or not is determined by several factors... In winter, it has not been tried. In winter, cloud systems are different. There will have to be further research to investigate this possibility."

**Can it help tackle air pollution?**

Cloud seeding has so far not been tried as a pollution-fighting strategy in India.

Dr Prabhakaran said, "There are a few cases where China tried weather management options. In India, investigations have not been done on this aspect (impact of cloud seeding on pollution). Our conditions are different, and we will need a dedicated study on this."

"Clouds and their processes are complex. If you do something, it is not known whether, or how much, rain it will produce. Also, clouds can rain naturally, so how do you separate natural rain from seeded rain?"

Dr Nurfan Beig, founder project director of SAFAR, said, "This is being done for the first time for air pollution. There should be a significant amount of rain so it washes away pollutants. It will only be temporary, if it is at all successful."

**THIS WORD MEANS**

### BALER: A MACHINE FOR OFF-SITE MANAGEMENT OF FARM STUBBLE

Balers compress cut crop residue into transportable bales. But not enough machines are available in Punjab currently

**ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA**  
JALANDHAR, NOVEMBER 10

WITH THE problem of farm fires being taken up by the Supreme Court, a machine that facilitates *ex situ* (off site) stubble management has been in demand in Punjab.

"Baler" machines have been around for a decade, and currently around 2,000 of them operate in Punjab. Of these 1,268 are highly subsidised (50-80%) under the Centre's Crop Residue Management (CRM) scheme.

**Managing paddy stubble**

Upon harvesting, the paddy crop leaves a stubble on the ground. Farmers need to get rid of this stubble before the next crop can be sown. Farmers burn the stubble, the smoke from which becomes one of the largest air



A baler, including the rake and cutter, could cost around Rs 17 lakh. Express

pollutants around this time each year. More environment-friendly methods include incorporation of the stubble into the

soil using machines such as super seeders (*in situ* management). However, farmers say this leaves fields vulnerable to insect attacks, necessitating the use of toxic insecticides.

For many, *ex situ* management is preferable. This is where baler machines come in.

**Compressing farm residue**

Balers compress agricultural residue into manageable and transportable bales. Before using a baler machine, farmers cut the crop residue with a tractor-mounted cutter. After two days of drying, a rake arranges the stubble in straight lines. A tractor-mounted baler machine then compresses the stubble into compact bales using netting. These bales are transported to factories or dumping sites.

In fields where balers are used, farmers can immediately plough the field and sow the next crop. Most balers in Punjab create cylindrical or

rectangle bales weighing 25-30 kg, though bigger machines are also available.

**Not enough units currently**

A single baler costs about Rs 14.5 lakh without subsidies — the costs of the rake and cutter are extra, around Rs 2.5-3 lakh. Each baler can cover 15-20 acres in a day. Weather permitting, they operate for around 45 days.

Currently, Punjab has around 32 lakh hectares of rice fields. Depending on how many days they operate, only 15-18% of this area can be covered by the available balers in the state.

After they were included under CRM, no units were sold in the first two years (2018, 2019). The next three years, however, saw a total of 768 balers sold under subsidy, with another 500 added this year. Around 700 non-subsidised balers currently operate in the state.

## Can go all the way to Amarnath shrine by car, says BRO — here's how

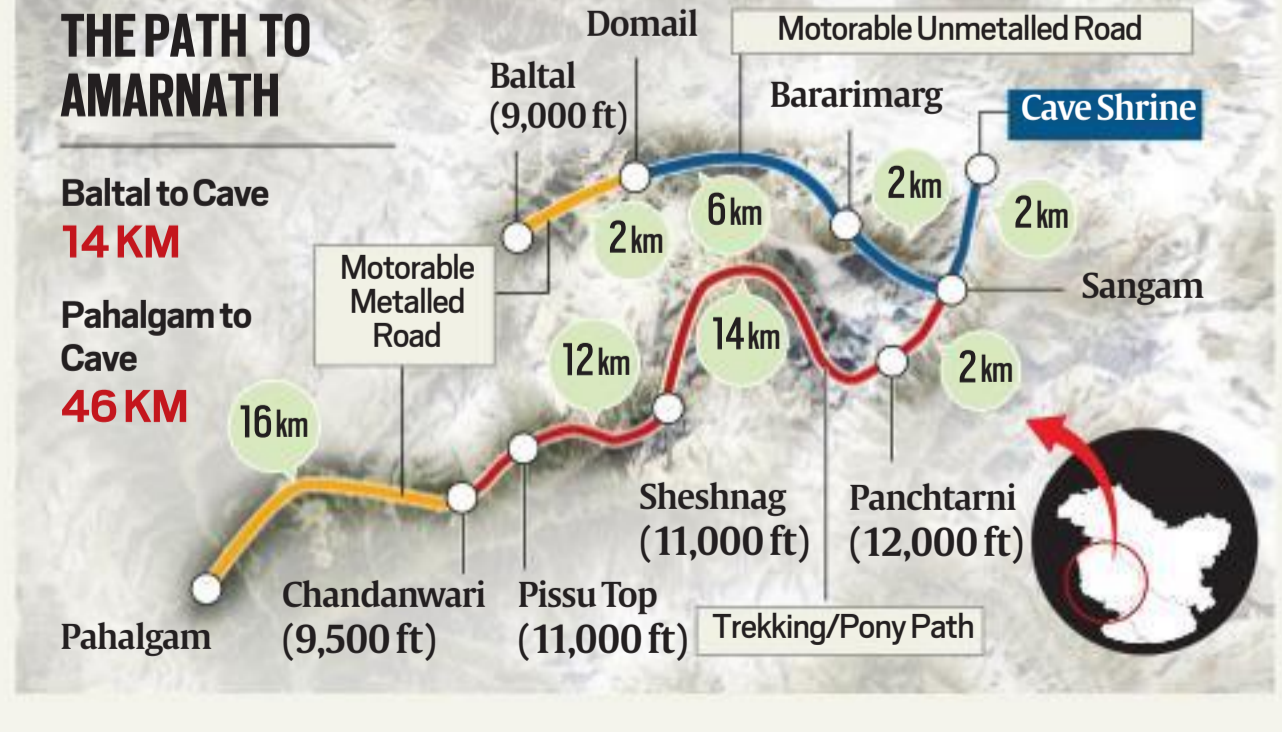
**BASHAARAT MASOOD**  
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 10

PROJECT BEACON of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has been working on restoring and improving the road to the Amarnath cave shrine, located in the snow-clad Himalayas of Kashmir's Lidder Valley.

On November 2, the BRO posted on X (formerly Twitter) that after upgradation of the Baltal road to the shrine, motor vehicles drove all the way to the holy cave for the first time ever. This came after Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, announced a new road to the shrine earlier this year.

**Access to Amarnath till now**

The Amarnath shrine, with its revered ice *lingam*, is located at an altitude of 13,000 feet. Pilgrims can reach the shrine through either



Pahalgam or Sonamarg, in the Lidder Valley.

The cave is 48 km north of Pahalgam. While the initial 16 km — from Pahalgam to Chandanwari — is motorable, pilgrims either trek or ride a pony the rest of the way, through extremely demanding terrain. It takes 3 to 5 days to reach the shrine by this route.

From Sonamarg, via Baltal, the route is much shorter. The 14 km distance between Baltal and the shrine is usually covered in eight hours on foot, or in less than six hours on a pony. Most pilgrims stay the night at Amarnath, although it is possible to complete a round trip in a single day.



Pilgrims on the arduous trek to the holy Amarnath shrine. Express Archive

Pilgrims can also reach the shrine on choppers, which ply from Baltal to Panchtarni — 6 km away from the shrine. Services that carried pilgrims all the way to the shrine were stopped due to ecological concerns, with choppers blamed for the *lingam's* rapid melting.

**Gadkari's ambitious proposal**

In April this year, Union Minister Gadkari announced a plan which would significantly improve access to the Amarnath shrine. This plan, with a budget of Rs 5,300 crore, comprises developing a 34 km two-lane motorable road from Chandanwari (on

the Pahalgam side), to Baltal (on the Sonamarg side). This includes a 10.8 km tunnel from Sheshnag to Panchtarni, the most arduous part of the trek on the Pahalgam route, that passes through Mahagunus Top at an altitude of 14,500 feet. A 5 km concrete pedestrian track will take the pilgrims from Panchtarni to the shrine. Alternatively, pilgrims will be able to take a 9 km ropeway from Baltal to the shrine, which will be built at a cost of Rs 750 crore.

Gadkari said that tenders for the project would be issued by the end of the year.

**BRO enters the picture**

Pedestrian tracks, both from Baltal and Chandanwari to the shrine were maintained by the J&K government's Roads & Buildings (R&B) department. In September 2022, both were handed over to the BRO for maintenance and improvement. BRO officials said that the existing tracks on the Baltal route have been widened to up to 15 feet. This is enough for trucks and pick-up vehicles to drive all the way to the cave shrine.



TODAY'S MATCHES

Australia vs Bangladesh, 10.30 am  
England vs Pakistan, 2 pm

Live on Star Sports network



GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE

### ICC suspends Sri Lanka Cricket's membership

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

SRI LANKA CRICKET'S membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC) has been suspended by the ICC Board with immediate effect, the global governing body of the sport announced on Friday evening.

In a short press release the ICC said: "The ICC Board met today and determined that Sri Lanka Cricket is in serious breach of its obligations as a Member, in particular, the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and ensure that there is no government interference in the governance, regulation and/or administration of cricket in Sri Lanka. The conditions of the suspension will be decided by the ICC Board in due course."

The development comes on the heels of a turbulent World Cup campaign by the islanders, where they're currently ninth in the 10-team standings after winning just two of their nine matches.

There has been turmoil brewing in Sri Lanka cricket over the performance of the national team.

On Monday, Sri Lankan Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe had sacked the SLC management and appointed former World Cup-winning captain Arjuna Ranatunga as the head of a seven-member interim committee to govern the cricket board. However, that was overturned by the Court of Appeal.

SLC also issued a statement related to Ranasinghe alleging that was \$2 million was transferred from its accounts, saying they were used for operational expenses only and not transferred out of their accounts.

"SLC receives funds and sponsorship income in USD, which are intentionally kept in our USD accounts to leverage exchange rate fluctuations," it said. "However, it is important to note that SLC needs to carry out its operations in Sri Lanka and fulfil financial obligations to stakeholders, including suppliers, on a regular basis. To meet these expenses, SLC follows the practice of transferring funds from its USD account to its local currency (LKR) accounts. This has been a long-standing practice, as SLC does not derive significant income in local currency."

Later in the week, the Sri Lankan parliament had unanimously passed a resolution demanding the sacking of SLC. Parties from both sides of the aisle had supported it. That resolution, passed by Sri Lankan parliament, seems to have irked ICC.

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	PTS	NR
Ind	8	8	0	0	16	+2.456
SA	9	7	2	0	14	+1.261
Aus	8	6	2	0	12	+0.861
NZ	9	5	4	0	10	+0.743
Pak	8	4	4	0	8	+0.036
Afg	9	4	5	0	8	-0.336
Eng	8	2	6	0	4	-0.885
Ban	8	2	6	0	4	-1.142
SL	9	2	7	0	4	-1.419
Ned	8	2	6	0	4	-1.635

## Maverick's method

Psychological warfare and targeted hitting was the essence of Glenn Maxwell's once-in-a-lifetime match-winning double ton

SHIVANI NAIK  
PUNE, NOVEMBER 10

WHILE THE whole world and importantly the Afghanistan team watched him writhing in pain on the ground, and dealing with cramps in toes, calf, hamstring and back spasms, hoping he would buckle under, any moment, Glenn Maxwell had throughout been working on messing with their minds at Wankhede.

The sixes and fours would inevitably rain down later to catch on with the target. But it was the casual, smiling bullheadedness to survive, of Maxwell with Pat Cummins and some cricketing chess that the former played that ultimately broke Afghan backs and gave the Australians an epic win that cricket won't easily forget.

Maxwell is unlikely to play at the MCA Stadium on Friday against Bangladesh but speaking on the podcast *Club Prairie Fire*, he offered a peek into five-time world cup champions' response to the collapse at 91/7. The Australian batting unit reckon they have cracked the code to take chases deep.

Showtime for the Big Show began from the first delivery he faced at 49/4, a hat-trick ball after the departure of David Warner and Josh Inglis. "I had nicked it and didn't believe it didn't carry to the keeper. I tried to stare blankly and not look guilty. But I saw them running around the batters a lot. I hoped they'd make a couple of emotional decisions, and burn a few reviews early. And if a few close lbw calls went against them, it could take a toll on them and I could start playing on their emotions," he told Adam Gilchrist and Michael Vaughn on the podcast.

Though he was dropped on 24 and 33, Maxwell continued to do the legwork for a future assault.

"Earlier all I did was play one reverse sweep against Noor Ahmad to make sure deep backward point became a little bit finer, and I knew they had to have mid-off back at some stage. They wouldn't take mid-wicket out if they wanted to bowl a leggie. So with the sweep I created a gap either side of mid-off, both sides of cover and over the top. As soon as I got it wide outside off, I could use my hands through gaps. I was setting up even dot ball to get those boundary gaps," he explained of manipulating the field.



Glenn Maxwell using the unorthodox route to flay Afghanistan. Deepak Joshi

Maxwell would prey on their impatience eventually, banking on what he called a sub-continent trait to come undone.

"The energy that they had in the first 15-20 overs was extraordinary and we have seen that a lot from them. I have played (against) a lot of sub continental teams and one thing I have always found that if you could take the sting out of the game, not by runs but by ba-

sically being there, you play one or two shots in every couple of overs and you can see how flat it starts to get," he told the podcast.

"They start a bit of bickering, infighting, finger-pointing, arms-raising, fielders not paying attention, it sort of starts to unravel," he said.

Pat Cummins would play a major role, with his easy manner, as if it was just two

It was the casual, smiling bullheadedness to survive, of Maxwell with Pat Cummins and some cricketing chess that the former played that ultimately broke Afghan backs

guys having a beer at a pub, talking cricket.

"He was laughing, joking. This one time he played and missed on legside, and said 'don't worry mate, we'll get them after a few overs when the fielder's in'. We still needed 200 then! But the fact that we just stood there and smiled, sucked the emotion out of them. It was like they were saying, 'hey, we're still here trying to win a game of cricket'. But neither of us were buying into it too much and kept having fun," he recalled of a surreal inning where he swung between wincing in pain and grinning at his partner.

Sticking around

The desperation wasn't allowed to mount by a simple thought: "We knew we are probably not going to win this. So we thought let's just stick around. Stick to plans," Maxwell described, adding they didn't really go deep into discussing the plans.

Getting the runs itself was something Maxwell was equipped for as long as they stayed put. "It's got a lot to do with positions I get myself into on the golf course where I'm stuck behind a tree and I have to turn my wrist around. Flick it around. It allows you to be inventive. One of things I used to work for every BBL game was to do drills where the first 12 balls I'd stand dead still and hit them as far as I could as a warm-up to get trajectory. Working on upper body movement without using legs, tinker with bowlers," he said.

Adam Gilchrist called it an ODI-salvaging innings.

"In the short history of T20 cricket, there have been phenomenal victories when it all seems lost, but batters are bashing their way out of it. Beauty of one day cricket is you've got time for the story to be told. Time for games to look like they've been lost, but consolidate, rebuild and relaunch." Cummins and Maxwell seemed to toy around with time, and as an extension the Afghans.

THEY STARTED A BIT OF BICKERING, FINGER-POINTING

Maxwell on how Afghanistan began to unravel and the cool as cucumber Cummins

ON THE REVERSE SWEEP

"Earlier all I did was play one reverse sweep against Noor Ahmad to make sure deep backward point became a little bit finer, and I knew they had to have mid-off back at some stage. They wouldn't take mid-wicket out if they wanted to bowl a leggie. So with the sweep I created a gap either side of mid-off, both sides of cover and over the top."

ON SUBCONTINENTAL TRAIT

"I have played (against) a lot of sub continental teams and one thing I have always found that if you could take the sting out of the game, not by runs but by basically being there, you play one or two shots in every couple of overs and you can see how flat it starts to get."

ON AFGHANISTAN UNRAVELLING

"They start a bit of bickering, infighting, finger-pointing, arms-raising, fielders not paying attention, it sort of starts to unravel."

ON CUMMINS ATTITUDE

"He was laughing, joking. This one time he played and missed on legside, and said 'don't worry mate, we'll get them after a few overs when the fielder's in'. We still needed 200 then!"

ON GOLF LINK

"It's got a lot to do with positions I get myself into on the golf course where I'm stuck behind a tree and I have to turn my wrist around. It allows you to be inventive. One of things I used to work for every BBL game was to do drills where the first 12 balls I'd stand dead still and hit them as far as I could as a warm-up to get trajectory."

## Despite improbability of semis, Babar says 'you never know'

SAYAK DUTTA  
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 10

THE FESTIVAL season drags on in the City of Joy. The first time Pakistan landed here, Kolkata was hungover from the Durga Puja. Two weeks later, as they return for one last time in the World Cup. Diwali and Kali Puja are ushering in. But the mood in their camp, though, would be far from festive, as their semifinal hopes are as bleak as reaching on time for a function in the city during the festival time, as you would be bumping into one block after the other.

Similarly, Pakistan have most avenues to the semifinals reaching dead-ends. All but the dreamers and romantics would still nurse hopes of them reaching the last four, in which case they would encounter India in a dream knockout match. To achieve that, though, they need to beat England by 287 runs if they bat first or with 284 balls to spare if they are chasing. Pakistan, semi-seriously said: "I think there is one match left. You never know. It is cricket." He turned a bit philosophical too: "There should be hope at all times. At any stage, at any work you do, you should have positive hope and I firmly



The Pakistan team prepare for the England game at the Eden Gardens. Partha Paul

believe in that."

But deep inside, Babar would know the improbability of the task that confronts them. Even by their propensity to conjure miracles, this is a miracle too far. Rather, it's a time to rue about missed opportunities.

This was classical Pakistan, veering between mediocrity and sublime. They managed the highest chase ever in the tournament, beat New Zealand on DLS chasing a steel total. Yet, they could not convert the spark into a sustained fire.

Of all the defeats, the one against South Africa by a wicket still rankles Babar. "I think the South African match cost us and we should have won that match, but unfortunately, we didn't win that because of which we are at this stage," he said.

But one that set them back psychologically was the hammering at the hands of India in the Ahmedabad cauldron, after which they lost four on the spin. From thereon, it was always an uphill task for them to reach the last four.

At the heart of the storm was the leadership of Babar. Among the most vociferous was Shahid Afridi, who fumed during a show in SAMATV "If a captain gives his best, dives during the field, backs other players between overs, the entire team will get [more] active, because when they see that the captain is giving his all and we are not, they feel ashamed that my captain is doing so much, why can't I be the same?" he said, adding: "At the end of the day, everything comes right back to the captain."

Babar, though, was defiant. Add his comparatively meagre returns with the bat—282 runs in eight innings—there is a school of thought that he should relinquish captaincy and focus on batting. Even a Virat Kohli par-

allel was struck. Babar would retort: "It's just because I have not performed the way I should have in the World Cup, that's why people are saying that I am under pressure. I am under no pressure. I have been doing this for the last two and a half to three years. I was the one who was performing and I was the one who was the captain. I was applying the same thing..." Towards the end of the press conference, he would admit: "I had high expectations but I couldn't perform as per expectations. I accept that."

A bigger worry would be Pakistan's fall from grace as a force to be reckoned with in 50-over cricket. This century, they have reached the semifinal just once (2011) in five editions before this. From 1987 to 1999, they were winners, runners-up and semi finalist once apiece in four editions.

"Because we haven't done well in this World Cup or the last World Cup, you can't say that we haven't done well since 99, we have dominated and we were number one in one day. Yes, we are not able to finish well. We will work on that," he said.

The only crumb of comfort is that they are meeting a team whose fall was steeper than them. The mood of the game would be as contrasting as the festivity around them.

NEIGHBOUR'S ENVY

## Across the border, they can't stop singing praises of Team India and Kohli

SANDEEP DWIVEDI  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

OF LATE Pakistan has been finding the grass on the Indian side sparkingly green. And they aren't just referring to the cricketing turf where India is in the middle of a near-perfect World Cup campaign. The erstwhile ultra-competitive nation, not known to give an inch but presently disillusioned by its falling cricketing stock, seems to have walked away from the region's longest running one-upmanship battle.

The new self-loathing Pakistan has been unabashedly applauding Indian cricket, Indian cricketers and India.

For the former cricketers-turned-TV pundits, *Youtubers* hoping for billion likes from across the border and even hardened politicians, India is the benchmark that Pakistan repeatedly falls short of. Increasingly, most sporting and political introspections have the disparaging 'look at them, look at us' theme, with fingers being pointed across the border. Be it Rameez Raja, Wasim Akram, Mohammad Yousuf talking about Pakistan's underperforming cricketers or Imran Khan, Nawaz Sharif taking potshots at their opponents; the India reference keeps cropping up.

All through this World Cup, Akram's praise of Rohit Sharma & Co has gone viral in

India. His articulation apart, it's his validation that is important for the country he tormented during his playing days. India has given Akram enough reasons to glorify them but Pakistan, a mid-table team with obvious flaws, has left him frustrated.

On *A Sports'* popular *The Pavilion* show, Akram is on the panel with the three other Pakistan captains — Moin Khan, Misbah ul Haq and Shoaib Malik. To unbox India's march, they discuss India's robust coaching system that has the old hands Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman. In the same breath they also point to the cricket setup in Pakistan that has seen 4 chairmen since 2018.

There were more examples of India observations and the Pakistan riders. Pakistan batsmen don't use their feet against spinners — "Look at the footwork of the Indians". PCB botched the recovery and rehab of their pacers — "Look at how BCCI got Bumrah fit and timed his return perfectly". Naseem Shah's injury crippled the team, Pakistan lacked bench strength — "Look how India has replacement for every spot in the playing XI". The ultimate approval for the all-conquering Indian pace battery came from Akram when after the India-Pakistan World Cup match he said that Haris Rauf needs to learn from Bumrah.

Few days back, on another channel, master batsman Mohammad Yusuf was sounding hurt. He blamed the entire Pakistan



Virat Kohli on equalling Tendulkar's ODI century count. Former Pakistan cricketers and also fans want their players to be like Virat Kohli. Partha Paul

ecosystem for the World Cup failure. "*Hum sab zimmedaar hain* (We all are responsible for this) since we don't respect each other," he said. Yusuf was pointing to the present Pakistan dressing room atmosphere, war of words between former players and mistrust between players and administration.

Yusuf too couldn't resist the temptation of

leaning on the team of the tournament, India, to buttress his argument. "Why are these things not seen in India? It's because the Indian players respect each other. We haven't heard things said about (Rahul) Dravid, (Sunil) Gavaskarji, Kapil (Dev) ... *Hamare yahan toh har ek player ko udaya gaya hai .. kisi ko nahi chhoda* (In our country every player has had to face flak, no one was spared)".

This reverence for Indian cricket has peaked during the World Cup but it hasn't happened overnight.

Kohli, the catalyst

The catalyst to this thaw, unrelated to the border tension, has been Virat Kohli. Over the last decade, with India-Pakistan duels just confined to ICC events, the two cricketing nations had mostly stayed apart. However, it was Virat Kohli who broke the ice. He had them at hello.

Since his junior India days, Kohli reminds Pakistan of their past heroes — the untimidated aggressive fighters with extraordinary skills from the 80s and 90s.

There's an older *Youtube* video from a few years back that has Akram, Saqlain Mushtaq and Shoaib Akhtar. They are discussing a Pakistan debacle. Saqlain had just returned from India where he had met Kohli at a gym. He saw respect in the Indian star's eyes, the kind Yusuf had spoken about. "*Paaji paaji*

*karta raha*, he was meeting me like I was from his country. He was eating bhutta (corn), he said he hasn't had paranthas for the last five years," he says. The mostly Punjabi-speaking Pakistan panel let out a collective gasp of disbelief.

Shoaib too has a story. "Once I asked Kohli, 'don't our cricketers ask you questions?' He said, 'they do, but it is always about my cars'." Laughs, rather smirks, all around. Pakistan's opinion about Kohli hasn't changed. Just the other day, after another Indian win, all-rounder Abdul Razzaq used the Kohli example to undermine the present World Cup squad. "*Jitni mehnat Kohli karta hain, uski 10 per cent bhi hamare player nahi karte* (Our players don't even train 10 percent of what Kohli does)," he said.

How much the Pakistan legends, and even the fans, want their players to be like Kohli.

This sentiment echoes in a speech that Imran Khan, easily the most ruthless warrior India has faced on a cricket field, gave in April this year. He wanted Pakistan to follow India's foreign affairs strategy. At a PTI rally, he told the teeming thousands that Pakistan, like India, should buy oil from Russia.

More recently, former PM Nawaz Sharif raved in an interview about India's economic progress: "India has gone to the moon, they have hosted the G20 meeting. We should



# Azmat shines but Proteas win

South Africa win the dead rubber but young Omarzai showcases Afghanistan's absolute refusal to give up

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 10

YOU DIDN'T really have to watch to absorb all the action at the Narendra Modi Stadium. All you had to do was close your eyes and listen to the sounds.

The hush when the game was seemingly heading nowhere.

The celebratory cry from Gerald Coetzee, returning to the XI after being dropped against India, when he landed the cricketing equivalent of a one-two punch, a venomous short ball followed by a scorching full-length delivery for a wicket. The 'tock' each time the ball pinged off Azmatullah Omarzai's sweet spot. The groan when he was left stranded three runs short of a well-deserved century. And the seamless, spontaneous transition into applause, a standing ovation as Omarzai walked off.

South Africa won the dead rubber by five and 15 balls to spare, overcoming minor hiccups to chase down the target of 245 with five wickets to spare. But it was in the closing stages of the first innings where the actual story lies.

For, that phase captured two consistent themes of this World Cup. For the semifinal-bound South Africa, their sub-par death bowling – already exploited by the Netherlands and Bangladesh – was exposed once again after Afghanistan scored 71 in the last 10 overs.

It also celebrated Afghanistan's most innate quality – their stubbornness, the absolute refusal to give up no matter how dire the situation. They would bow out but not without a fight.

For the longest time, though, they resembled a boxer left dizzy and with wobbly legs, still recovering from the previous punch landed by Australia.

Afghanistan started uncharacteristically. The openers – Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran reversed their roles. Gurbaz, who usually does the big-hitting up front, adopted a safety-first approach. Zadran, the more cautious of the two, was carefree. Both were back to the pavilion inside the first powerplay.

The stability provided by the openers and the steady scoring by the middle order have been the hallmark of Afghanistan's batting at this World Cup. On Friday, their innings was bereft of these elements.

It wasn't like they were scoring at a slow rate because of a strategic decision. It was a combination of some daft shot-making and tight bowling, especially by Coetzee and Keshav Maharaj.

Afghanistan collapsed from 41/0 to 116/6. But Omarzai, who has grown up in a war-torn region of Afghanistan, remained calm amidst the carnage around him.

In many ways, the 23-year-old has been their find of the tournament: a fast-bowling all-rounder, who comes in at number 5 and bowls at 140-plus. A batsman who can walk in at any situation and adapt; be it

playing a breezy knock coming in at a relatively comfortable position against Sri Lanka or grinding it out like he did against India, helping his team post a respectable total.

The kind of knocks that have forced the Afghan think-tank to reduce the established Gulabdin Naib to the bench.

With the ball, Omarzai has the potential to bulldoze through any batting lineup, the glimpse of which we saw against Australia when he took two in two. His wrist position reminded Sachin Tendulkar of India's swing kings Praveen Kumar and Bhuvaneshwar Kumar.

His unbeaten knock of 97 was another reminder of why Afghanistan can go home with immeasurable hope even though the pain of the Australia defeat, which decisively ended their semifinal hopes, will linger.

Omarzai weathered the storm early on when South Africa's bowlers were on top, made most of a lifeline handed to him by Andile Phehlukwayo, who fluffed an easy opportunity to run him out. He kept the scoreboard ticking with brisk running between the wickets and then with some clean-hitting towards the end.

He made Phehlukwayo pay for his mistake with the run-out by clobbering him to the straight boundaries. He showed no regard for Kagiso Rabada, effortlessly punching him through the covers.

And he milked a struggling Lungi Ngidi – who had earlier walked off after injuring his ankle – all over the park, clearing the boundaries of the stadium in Ahmedabad with ease.

At a venue where two of his teammates – Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad – have made a name for themselves with Gujarat Titans, Omarzai made a good case for himself to secure an IPL contract with the player auction a little more than a month away.

His innings ended on a bittersweet note, just like Afghanistan's overall campaign this World Cup.

Needing 3 runs off the last 3 balls to score only the second century by an Afghan player at the World Cup, the man who was middling almost everything couldn't connect. He fell short but not before propelling his team to a score that their deadly spin quartet had a chance to defend.

Three of them – Mujeeb ur Rahman, Mohammad Nabi, and Rashid – exposed South Africa's vulnerability while chasing by taking five wickets between them. South Africa had to endure a few anxious moments but Rassie van der Dussen did what Omarzai had done for Afghanistan. His unbeaten 76 steadied the ship and ensured they crossed the finish line.

The good news for the Proteas is that they go into the semifinals against Australia on the back of a win while chasing.

The not-so-good news for them is they fly to Kolkata with seeds of doubt sown into their minds.

Afghanistan, on the other hand, fly back home with nothing but boundless optimism.



South Africa's sub-par death bowling was exposed once again after Afghanistan scored 71 in the last 10 overs. Nirmal Harindran

## SCORECARD

**AFGHANISTAN vs SOUTH AFRICA**  
NARENDRA MODI STADIUM, AHMEDABAD  
Toss: Afghanistan, elected to bat

AFGHANISTAN	
R Gurbaz c Klaasen b Maharaj	25 (22b, 3x4, 1x6)
I Zadran c de Kock b Coetzee	15 (30b, 3x4)
Rahmat Shah c Miller b Ngidi	26 (46b, 2x4)
H Shahidi (c) c de Kock b Maharaj	2 (7b)
A Omarzai not out	97 (107b, 7x4, 3x6)
I Alikhil c de Kock b Coetzee	12 (14b, 1x4, 1x6)
M Nabi c de Kock b Ngidi	2 (3b)
Rashid Khan c de Kock b Phehlukwayo	14 (30b)
Noor Ahmad c f de Kock b Coetzee	26 (32b, 4x4)
Mujeeb c Markram b Coetzee	8 (5b, 1x6)
Naveen-ul-Haq run out (Rabada)	2 (4b)
■ Extras (b 4, lb 1, w 10)	15
■ Total 50 Ov (RR: 4.88)	244
■ FoW: 1-41 (Rahmanullah Gurbaz, 8.1 ov), 2-41 (Ibrahim Zadran, 9.3 ov), 3-45 (Hashmatullah Shahidi, 10.5 ov), 4-94 (Rahmat Shah, 23.5 ov), 5-112 (Ikram Alikhil, 26.5 ov), 6-116 (Mohammad Nabi, 27.4 ov), 7-160 (Rashid Khan, 37.5 ov), 8-204 (Noor Ahmad, 45.6 ov), 9-226 (Mujeeb Ur Rahman, 47.4 ov), 10-244 (Naveen-ul-Haq, 49.6 ov)	
■ Bowling: Kagiso Rabada 10-0-40-0, Lungi Ngidi 8.3-0-69-2, Aiden Markram 4.3-0-25-0, Gerald Coetzee 10-1-44-4, Keshav Maharaj 10-1-25-2, Andile Phehlukwayo 7-0-36-1	

SOUTH AFRICA	
Quinton de Kock lbw b Nabi	41 (47b, 2x4, 3x6)
T Bavuma c Gurbaz b Mujeeb	23 (28b, 3x4)
van der Dussen not out	76 (95b, 6x4, 1x6)
A Markram c Naveen b Rashid	25 (22b, 1x4, 1x6)
Klaasen b Rashid Khan	10 (13b, 1x4)
Miller c & b Nabi	24 (33b, 1x4, 1x6)
A Phehlukwayo not out	39 (37b, 1x4, 3x6)
■ Extras (lb 3, w 6)	9
■ Total 47.3 Ov (RR: 5.20)	247/5
■ FoW: 1-64 (Temba Bavuma, 10.6 ov), 2-66 (Quinton de Kock, 13.1 ov), 3-116 (Aiden Markram, 23.1 ov), 4-139 (Heinrich Klaasen, 27.3 ov), 5-182 (David Miller, 37.1 ov)	
■ Bowling: Mujeeb Ur Rahman 10-0-51-1, Naveen-ul-Haq 6.3-0-52-0, Mohammad Nabi 10-1-35-2, Azmatullah Omarzai 1-0-8-0, Rashid Khan 10-1-37-2, Noor Ahmad 9-0-49-0, Rahmat Shah 1-0-12-0	

## Coetzee roars to the top of SA bowling charts

**SANDIP G**  
NOVEMBER 10

IF ANRICH Nortje were fit, Gerald Coetzee would have watched the World Cup with his two pet dogs in his hometown Bloemfontein. But Nortje's stress fracture of the back, as well as an injury to Sisanda Magala, secured Coetzee a last-minute seat on the flight. A month after landing in India, he is his country's highest wicket-taker in a single edition of the World Cup (18 wickets at 19.38), usurping the numbers of a handful of Proteas legends.

The bare bones reveal his extraordinary success but do not tell you how fast he bowled, how much bounce he extracted off dead surfaces, how much terror he induced in the eyes of the batsmen, the deathly halo of his head-band, or the roar of joy when he gets a wicket. Afghanistan batsmen simply could not deal with his heat. First, he broke the Afghan wall of resistance, getting rid of Ibrahim Zadran with a short ball down the leg side but with so much pace and hostility that the batsman was compulsively hurried into the pull.

None of three other wicket-taking deliveries in Ahmedabad were any more exceptional. But they accrued from the sheer hostility he had ratcheted up all through the afternoon under the scorching sun. He was sweating bucketful, he would constantly take



Gerald Coetzee (left) has taken 18 wickets at this World Cup so far. Reuters

swigs of water from the bottles sprayed around the boundary ropes. None of these, of course, diluted his aggression.

It starts with his head-band that covers almost his entire forehead. "My dad used to wear a sock around his head when he would cut the grass because we sweat a lot in my family. I wear it to keep the sweat out of my face. I don't like having my hands in my face the whole time, so it really helped with that. After that it sort of became a thing," he had once said.

Like his fiery predecessors, Allan Donald and Dale Steyn, he has a powerful run-up. He

**The pace, Coetzee says in an ICC video, he got from playing with his elder brother Petrus in the backyard with the dogs in tow, acting as fielders.**

hammers through the crease with his bounding muscular legs, before releasing the ball with a fluid flow of the limbs and a leap reminiscent of Donald, sans the zinc cream on nose and lips. When in flight, the wrists of the left-arm end up behind the ear; the right arm is a shade behind the same ear, the upper body is swayed like a pole vault just before the vaulter is going to catapult himself.

Often, the ball lands back of length, or even shorter, and jags back into right-handers, sharp like shrapnel. None of Afghanistan's batsmen could douse his short ball. Neither could Mohamed Rizwan a few nights ago in Chennai. The Pakistani batsman is someone who counterpunches at the slightest sniff of uneasiness. But Coetzee rendered him helpless. He would jive and jump around in the crease, before knocking him over with a wicked away-seamer.

Like Donald and Steyn, he has frightening speed too. "To bowl fast," he says, "is my strength. I try to be an enforcer."

The pace, Coetzee says in an ICC video, he

got from playing with his elder brother Petrus in the backyard with the dogs in tow, acting as fielders. "He was also a pacer, and we were always in a competition as to who bowled the fastest. He was three years older, and so I was the one who always had to try extra hard," he would tell The Stumped.

Naturally, he aced every age group and burst into the first-class scene when he was just 19. That's where his real development began too, under the watchful eyes of his idol Donald. As much as his pace, Donald was impressed by his willingness to learn. "He walks into every team meeting with a notebook and is almost always the one player with the most questions about the opposition, game plans, and everything else. He builds his little blocks," he once said.

He also has the ability to seam the ball away from the right-hander in conventional fashion, as he showed when inducing Jos Buttler to nick behind. Buttler thought he could force the ball through covers off the back foot, but the extra movement and bounce foxed him. "It's one of those wickets that I really enjoyed so far in my career," he would later say.

As Buttler walked back, he kept staring at him, arms spread, before he would shriek in joy. Coetzee's celebrations are a riot of emotions, and he has infused South Africa with a rough edge that could stand by them in difficult times. The last-minute replacement is making heads turn, in both joy and fear.

## Over 1,150 shuttlers, Rs 4L prize for Krishna Khaitan Memorial jr tourney

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NOVEMBER 10

JUNIOR NATIONAL champion Anmol Kharb of Haryana and Under-17 national champion and Asian Under-17 Junior Championships silver medallist Tanvi Sharma of Punjab will be among the top contenders in the girls' U19 category for the Yonex Sunrise 30th Smt Krishna Khaitan Memorial All India Junior Ranking Prize Money tournament from November 14 to November 20.

The qualifying rounds run from November 14 to 16.

The tournament, which is being organised by Express Shuttle Club Trust under the aegis of Haryana Badminton Association, will be played at the Multi-purpose Hall at the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex. This is the penultimate ranking tournament of the year to be conducted by the Badminton Association of India (BAI).

BAI President Hemanta Biswa Sarma has sanctioned a total prize money of 4 lakh for the tournament.

"We have got more than 1,150 entries for the tournament this year. The tournament happens to be the penultimate tournament in the BAI calendar this year and will offer ranking points to the players. Like the past, some of the top Indian junior players are competing in the tournament and players like junior national champion Anmol and junior Asian silver medallist Tanvi will be the top draw of the tournament," said Sanjiv Sachdeva, organising secretary of the tour-



PV Sindhu won the girl's singles title of the tournament in 2010. File

name.

Top seed Dhruv Negi, second seed Lokesh Reddy, and third seed Ginpaul S will lead the charge in the boys' U-19 category. In the mixed doubles U-19 category, Bhavya Chhabdra and Manya Ralhan have been drawn as top seeds while the pair of Bhavya Chhabdra and Param Choudhary will be the top seeds in the boys doubles' U-19 category.

Gayatri Rawat and Mansa Rawat have been seeded first in the girls' U-19 category.

"The main draw for the boys as well as girls singles will be of 64 players each, while the rest of the categories will have a main draw of 32 players each. We have got more than 430 entries in the qualification draw of

**Top seed Dhruv Negi, second seed Lokesh Reddy, and third seed Ginpaul S will lead the charge in the boys' U-19 category.**

boys' singles category while a total of 184 entries will be in the girls' singles category. The tournament will be played on the ten wooden courts and a total of 25 BAI certified umpires will be conducting the tournament," Sachdeva said.

### Greats of the game

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal had won the girls' singles title in 2005 while double Olympics medallist PV Sindhu won the title in 2010. Last year, Bharat Raghav had won the boys' singles title while Tara Shah had won the girls' singles title in the tournament.

National coach Pulela Gopichand's wife PVV Lakshmi had become the first girls' singles winner in 1991. "The tournament has been a platform for the emerging junior players of the country. In the past, the likes of Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu and others have won the title here and went on to become international champions. Gian Chand Gupta, speaker Haryana Vidhan Sabha, will be the chief guest during the concluding ceremony of the championship," Sachdeva said.

The quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals of the tournament will be streamed live on YouTube.

## Finding hockey joy from Plan B

**VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN**  
NOVEMBER 10

IN RANCHI during the Asian Champions Trophy, thousands descended at the Astroturf Hockey Stadium to watch the Indian women's hockey team. But even when Savita Punia and Co were not playing, they had a couple of other Indians to cheer for. In a few of the non-India matches, two umpires got a smattering of applause every time they walked out onto the field leading out the teams. For Rama Potnis and Yogita Pasi, two youngsters who grew up with dreams of playing hockey at the highest level, it felt like vindication.

Rama, a 29-year-old from Kohlapur in Maharashtra, started playing around 2006 when she was in class V. Yogita, a 27-year-old from Mumbai, began her hockey journey in 2005. Both of them, however, had to abandon hopes of scaling up the rungs as players because of injuries. Her passion for hockey, however, burned bright.

"I played at the state level but then I had to undergo a left knee ligament surgery. Before the injury I felt I was at the top," Rama tells *The Indian Express*. "I tried playing with the injury too, but there came a moment when doctors told me it was about time I had surgery. I took a one-year break and coming back from that wasn't possible. I didn't know anything about officiating then, I was still hoping I would be able to play. But the pace and performance I had before, it wasn't there anymore."

"I started in Mumbai, and for around 10 years I played the sport," Yogita says. "I played till 2016. Then I had an ankle injury which forced me to rest for 6 months and then I couldn't come back to the level I was at. The financial side of the injury was difficult to deal with too."



Yogita Pasi (top) and Rama Potnis were umpires at JWACT. Hockey India

Rama's officiating journey began in 2014. Hockey India had a program to have more umpires below 22. Manoj Bhore, general secretary of Hockey Maharashtra told Rama to give it a go. "In my very first tournament, I got an opportunity to do a final when I was just 20. I had dreams to become an international player but it was too late, but now I felt like could make a career out of this," Rama says. Soon, she made her international debut in 2016 at the South Asian Games.

For Yogita, a workshop was the turning point. She went just as a player to understand the rules, then it was suggested to her by an official that she could be an umpire if she felt she couldn't go higher as a player. And earlier in 2023, she got her big break when she officiated at the Women's Junior Asia Cup in

Kakamigahara, Japan.

Rama, who works as an HR Manager, believes in learning by watching. "Rules are the framework for us but the interpretation of the game is entirely different, so we have to study situations in microseconds. We work a lot of physical fitness, there is also yoga and meditation for our mental prep. But the most important thing is watching games from all the platforms we can, it helps us understand how the umpires deal with situations."

For Yogita, who is also a Physical Education Teacher, being a player herself is a big advantage. "We need to understand team strategies too. Having played helps me understand intentions as well as handle emotions in the heat of the moment."

The dream for both of them is to make it to the Olympics. Yogita believes she will get to that level in 10 years while Rama wants to be on the list for LA 2028.

In the list of active umpires as per FIH, India currently has two men at the top level (Pro League) Raghu Prasad and Javed Shaikh, with no one at a level below in the International Elite list. There are two women and two men in the Advancement Panel. Finally, there are a total of six Indians (four men and two women) on the International Panel and Rama is one of them. For both Rama and Yogita, the likes of Raghu and Javed, and many other active officials in India act as role models. But in Ranchi, they got to experience a different feeling.

Rama says, "It's special because people can look at us and know there is someone other than just players who are representing the country." And Yogita adds, "We even got to hear our names being shouted from the crowd. I heard 'come on Yogita!' a few times. It felt really good, that as players we didn't achieve but as an umpire, it's happening now."



Prince Harry, singer Elton John and five other British figures can have lawsuit against publisher of *Daily Mail* alleging unlawful behaviour heard at trial, High Court in London ruled Friday. The publisher ANL has been accused of phone-hacking and other serious privacy breaches dating back 30 years. **REUTERS**

## TOP OF THE WORLD



US President with his Chinese counterpart in 2022. *Reuters file*

## UNITED STATES

## Biden, Xi to meet next week, says White House

Washington: President Joe Biden will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping face-to-face for the first time in a year on Wednesday, the White House said, in high-stakes diplomacy aimed at curbing tensions between the world's two superpowers. The closely watched interaction, on the sidelines of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco Bay area, could last hours and involve teams of officials from Beijing and Washington. "Nothing will be held back; everything is on the table," said one US official, who declined to be named, in a briefing with reporters. **REUTERS**

## NASA to observe asteroid's 2029 close encounter

Washington DC: In 2029, astronomers predict an asteroid about as wide as the height of the Empire State Building will streak through space within 32,200 kilometres of Earth, which will be examined closely by a spacecraft launched by NASA in 2016. The mission, directed by the University of Arizona scientists, is expected to yield insights into planetary formation and knowledge that could inform efforts to build defence against possible doomsday asteroid collisions with Earth. **REUTERS**

## THE PHILIPPINES

## China slammed for bid to block resupply mission

Manila: The Philippines on Friday condemned China's coast guard for "unprovoked acts of coercion and dangerous manoeuvres," against one of its boats in an attempt to disrupt a resupply mission in the South China Sea. The regular resupply missions support the Philippines' troops stationed in a dilapidated warship on Second Thomas Shoal, a hotly disputed atoll in the South China Sea. China's coast guard said its actions were lawful and it has made temporary arrangements for the Philippines to transport food and other daily necessities. **REUTERS**

## MEXICO

## 123 migrants found trapped in a trailer

Mexico City: Authorities found 123 Central and South American migrants trapped in a trailer in the central Mexican state of San Luis Potosi, Mexico's immigration agency said Thursday. The majority of migrants rescued were from the Central American nations of Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador as well as four from Ecuador and one Cuban. According to Mexico's National Immigration Institute. Among them were 34 children. They did not say how the migrants came to be stuck there nor where they were heading. **REUTERS**

## TANKS TAKE POSITIONS AROUND HOSPITALS, courtyard and dept in Al Shifa hit: Gaza officials

## ISRAEL OPENS SECOND ESCAPE ROUTE, hours extended from 9 am to 4 pm

## Air strikes hit Gaza hospitals, WHO says 20 entirely defunct

North Gaza's only hospital providing pediatric services under significant bombardment

## AGENCIES

KHAN YOUNIS, GAZA STRIP, NOVEMBER 10

ISRAELI AIR strikes hit three Gaza hospitals and a school on Friday, killing at least 22 people, and a ground battle was under way at another hospital, Palestinian officials said, as Israel's forces took on Hamas in the heart of the enclave.

Officials said missiles landed in the courtyard of Gaza's biggest hospital, Al-Shifa, damaged the Indonesian Hospital and reportedly set fire to the Nasser Rantissi paediatric cancer hospital.

Israeli tanks, which have been advancing through northern Gaza for almost two weeks, have taken up positions around the Nasser Rantissi, Children's and Eye hospitals as well as the Al-Quds hospital, medical staff said earlier, raising the alarm.

The biggest hospital in the Gaza Strip and another with children on life support was under bombardment Friday, World Health Organization (WHO) said.

Twenty hospitals in Gaza were now out of action entirely, it said.

WHO spokesperson Margaret Harris said there was "significant bombardment" on Rantissi hospital, the only hospital with paediatric services in North Gaza.

Gaza health ministry said Israel had bombed Shifa hospital buildings five times.

"One Palestinian was killed and several were wounded in the early morning attack," it said.

Mohammad Abu Selmeyah, director of Shifa hospital said later that at least 20 people were killed in Israeli strikes on Al-Buraq school in Gaza City, where people whose homes had been destroyed were sheltering.

The Palestinian Red Cross said Israeli forces were shooting



A woman carries her belongings while Palestinians fleeing north Gaza move southward, in the central Gaza Strip, on Friday. *Reuters*

## DEATH, DESTRUCTION

ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	11,078
1,400+	
TOTAL INJURED	20,000+
5,400+	

at Al-Quds hospital, and there were violent clashes, with one person killed and 28 wounded.

Israeli military said it struck over 15,000 "terror targets" in Gaza and located 6,000 weapons since the beginning of the war.

Israel says it has opened a second humanitarian corridor for Palestinians to leave the northern Gaza Strip and head south.

Lt Col Richard Hecht said the "Rashid" coastal road was opened Friday, although it was not widely used. He said the hours for the corridors were expanded Friday, from 9 am to 4 pm. **REUTERS**

## Evacuations from Gaza resume through Egypt's Rafah crossing

## REUTERS

CAIRO, NOVEMBER 10

EVACUATIONS FROM the Gaza Strip into Egypt for foreign passport holders and Palestinians needing medical treatment resumed through the Rafah crossing on Friday after being suspended for a day, Egyptian security and medical sources said.

Departures from Rafah, the only crossing to the besieged enclave that does not border Israel, had been paused Wednesday for a second time following bombardments on the route within Gaza leading to the border.

The Red Cross said its convoy escorting medical evacuees on Tuesday had been targeted, prompting it to pause the escorts. On Thursday, two sources



Palestinian doctor bids farewell to his family before they leave the strip at Rafah border crossing. *Reuters*

said that 695 foreign passport holders and dependents, including Egyptians, were able to cross. Twelve medical evacuees and 10 companions entered Egypt, the sources said.

## To the other side

695

foreign passport holders and dependents, including Egyptians, were able to cross on Thursday, sources said.

US Special Envoy David Satterfield said he hoped evacuations via Rafah would become easier with four-hour humanitarian pauses that the US said on Thursday Israel agreed upon.

Evacuations from Gaza via Rafah began November 1 for an estimated 7,000 people.

Rafah is also the only entry point for humanitarian aid going into Gaza.

## Fights in bread lines, despair in shelters: How war threatens to undo Gaza's close-knit society

## ISABEL DEBRE

JERUSALEM, NOVEMBER 10

FISTFIGHTS BREAK out in bread lines. Residents wait hours for a gallon of brackish water that makes them sick. Scabies, diarrhea and respiratory infections rip through overcrowded shelters. And some families have to choose who eats.

"My kids are crying because they are hungry and can't use the bathroom," said Suzan Wahidi, aid worker and mother of five at a UN shelter in Deir al-Balah, where hundreds share a single toilet. "I have nothing for them."

With the Israel-Hamas war in its second month and more than 10,000 people killed in Gaza, trapped civilians are struggling to survive without electricity or running water.

Each day families send their most assertive relative off before dawn to one of the few bakeries still functioning. Some take knives



A crowd awaits food distribution in Rafah, South Gaza. *AP*

and sticks — they say they must prepare to defend if attacked, with riots sporadically breaking out in bread and water lines.

One woman told *Associated Press* that her nephew, a 27-year-

old father of five in the urban refugee camp of Jabaliya in northern Gaza, was stabbed in the back with a kitchen knife after being accused of cutting the line for water. He needed dozens of stitches, she said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

The violence has jarred the tiny territory, where family names are linked to community status and even small indiscretions can be magnified in the public eye.

"Social fabric for which Gaza was known is fraying due to the anxiety and uncertainty and loss," said a spokesperson for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

"I cannot recognize my own son," said Fadi Ihjazi. The 3-year-old has lost 5 kg in two weeks, she said, and is diagnosed with a chronic intestinal infection. **AP**

## GAZA TOLL COULD BE HIGHER: U.S. OFFICIAL



"...The Palestinian toll was very high, frankly — and it could be that they are even higher than are being cited... We will know only after the guns fall silent"

BARBARA LEAF  
UNITED STATES ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

## PASSPORT PROCESS BACKLOG SOARS AS CASH-STRAPPED NATION DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH IMPORTED LAMINATION PAPER

## Pakistan unable to print passports over shortage of lamination

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 8

AN ACUTE scarcity of lamination paper, which is used in Pakistani passports and typically imported from France, has resulted in a sharp decline in the issuance of the key travel document in the cash-strapped country, media reports said on Friday.

Thousands of Pakistanis, who need the green-coloured book, for travelling abroad for study, work, or leisure are stuck, with no end to their ordeal presently in sight, *The Express Tribune* newspaper reported.

Quoting a senior officer of the passport office in Peshawar, who

spoke under the condition of anonymity, the newspaper said, they could presently process only 12 to 13 passports per day as compared to 3,000 to 4,000

passports daily previously.

The newspaper also quoted sources in different regional passport offices, who too, it said, "were in the dark about a concrete timeline" and that "People may have to wait for another month or two."

However, *Pakistan Observer* portal quoted the Interior Ministry sources who said, "The order for lamination paper has been placed by Pakistan and they will get the order in a week."

Quoting sources privy to the development, it also said that the (regional) offices are "receiving up to 25,000 applications for renewal or issuance of passports on a daily basis, but due to a shortage of lamination paper in the country, the backlog has reached 5,00,000."



Only 12 to 13 passports per day are being processed, as compared to 3,000 to 4,000 previously. *Reuters file*



Afghan refugees wait for registration in a camp near the Turkham border. *AP file*

## Keeping lights off: Undocumented Afghans go into hiding in Pakistan

ARIBA SHAHID & MOHD YUNUS YAWAR  
KARACHI, NOVEMBER 10

AFTER LIVING in Pakistan for years, thousands of Afghans have gone into hiding to escape a government order to expel undocumented foreigners because they fear persecution under a Taliban administration in their homeland, rights activists say.

"The gate is locked from the outside... we are locked inside, we can't come out, we can't turn on our lights, we can't even talk loudly," said a 23-year-old Afghan woman, speaking from a shelter where she said dozens of others had holed until earlier this week before moving to a new hideout.

Locals put a lock on the gate so neighbours believe the house is unoccupied, said other inmates.

The woman, who is from the Afghan capital Kabul, said she fears prosecution if she returns to Afghanistan because she converted from Islam to Christianity in 2019 and renunciation of the Islamic faith is a serious offence under the strict Islamic law practised by the Taliban.

She is one of thousands believed by rights activists to be in hiding in Pakistan to avoid deportation under a government push for undocumented migrants to leave the country. That includes over one million Afghans, many of whom the government says are involved in militant attacks.

Authorities began rounding up operations across the country after a deadline for voluntary exits expired on November 1.

Sijal Shafiq, 30, a rights activist who helped vulnerable Afghans find shelter before Pakistan's new policy, is one of several petitioners asking Supreme Court to halt the deportation programme.

There was no immediate comment from a spokesman of the Taliban administration on whether those returning would be screened or prosecuted.

Pakistan's foreign and interior ministries also did not respond to requests for comments.

The Pakistani government has so far brushed off calls from the United Nations, rights groups and Western embassies to reconsider its plan or to identify and protect Afghans who face the risk of persecution at home. **REUTERS**

## US House Republicans aim to release shutdown averting measure today

DAVID MORGAN  
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 10

REPUBLICANS WHO control the US House of Representatives expect to release a stopgap spending measure on Saturday, aimed at averting a partial government shutdown by keeping federal agencies open when current funding expires next Friday.

A knowledgeable source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said plans for release of the continuing resolution, or "CR," were still in flux. It was also unclear what form measure would take.

US House Speaker Mike Johnson has spent days in talks with members of his slim 221-212 Republican majority about several CR options. The Republican-controlled House and Democratic-led Senate must agree on a vehicle that President Joe Biden can sign into law before current funding expires on November 17.

With a potential shutdown only days away, some Republicans

have called for a "clean" CR that would run to mid-January and have no spending cuts or conservative policy riders that Democrats oppose.

With a potential shutdown only days away, some Republicans have called for a "clean" CR that would run to mid-January and have no spending cuts or conservative policy riders that Democrats oppose.

But headline conservatives continue to press for a measure with spending cuts, policies including tighter security at the U.S.-Mexico border and an unorthodox structure with staggered deadlines for different segments of the federal budget.

Many lawmakers warn that a prolonged partisan fight over a stopgap measure could prevent Congress from averting a shutdown. As House Republicans debated their options this week, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer took an initial procedural step toward moving his own stopgap measure. **REUTERS**

When asked about the apparent inefficiency of the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports (DGI&P), *The Express Tribune*, Qadir Yar Tiwana, the Director General for Media of the Ministry of Interior, the parent ministry of DGI&P, said that the government was doing its best to navigate the crisis.

"The situation will soon be under control and passport issuance will continue as normal," Tiwana was quoted by the newspaper as saying. The department had already witnessed a steady decline in the backlog, he claimed.

The newspaper quoted people from across the country whose travel plans were jeopardised because of the delay in receiving their passports.

The troubled citizens ranged from students, who had secured admission in a foreign university, to devotees who were readying for the Umrah booking in Saudi Arabia.

*The Pakistan Observer* said that the official delivery timing for the issuance of regular passports had been extended to a maximum of 21 working days, compared to the previous 10-day timeframe.

Back in 2013 too, passport printing had come to a similar grinding halt due to the DGI&P owing money to printers and a lack of lamination papers, *The Express Tribune* reported. **PTI**



UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006... Time Extension Notice-1

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) No. Med-G-Cashless Eye Tie Up, Dated : 07.11.2023.

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

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, रौंची

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr.Pc.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Wasim S/o Yamin R/o House of Ramchander, Gali No. 4, Pritam Colony, Badli Road, Bahadurgarh, Haryana has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 353/2023 Date 02.05.2023 U/s 356/379/411/34 IPC PS Mundka, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Wasim can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Wasim has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि. (अंतर प्रदेश सरकार का उद्योग) कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक, जोन-2, 14-बन्दरखोखरनगर कारोमी, मुल शेरपुर, संजयनगर बाड़पार, बरेली-243122. ई-मेल : gm2.uppcblb@gmail.com

कार्यपालक अभियंता ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्य प्रमण्डल, रौंची पत्रांक:- आवाश्यक सूचना दिनांक- एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा ई-निविदा संख्या- 10/RE/2023-24/RWD/EE/RANCHI, P.R.No.-309619 REO (23-24)\_D द्वारा दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित हुआ था। website में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 26.10.2023, निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि 10.11.2023 एवं निविदा खोलने की तिथि 11.11.2023 था। अपरिहार्य कारणवश निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि को बढ़ाकर 14.11.2023, निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि 29.11.2023 एवं निविदा खोलने की तिथि 30.11.2023 किया गया है।

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD. Anpara Thermal power project E-Tender Notice 1. E-Tender Notice No.: 03/AHD/DTPS/2023-24, Online e-Bids are invited for the Work of "Supply, erection testing and commissioning of mechanical system for ash filling in gorbhi mine pit no. 03."

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person Name: Unknown, S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : About 25 years, Height : About 5'5", Complexion : Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing : White Colour T-Shirt & Dark Green Colour Half Pant was found in unconscious condition at Near Metro Pillar No. 2, Nehru Chowk, Panchkuan Road, New Delhi on 07.11.2023.

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD, OBRA-SONEBHADRA E-Tender Notice 1. Tender No: OBR/B/OMC2/TMD1/6000003835 online e-Bids are invited for the "Complete Re-tubing/Re-conditioning of SWC Heat Exchanger, BFP Lube Oil Cooler and Working Oil cooler of TMD-I, 3x200MW, BTPS, Obra".

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD. Anpara Thermal power project E-Tender Notice 2. Short Term E-Tender Notice No.: 59/CF-40/PD-II/ABT/2023-24, Online e-Bids are invited for the "Supply of cold end support grating for APH of 2x500MW, BTPS, Anpara." E-Tender Has been uploaded on 09.11.2023 on http://etender.up.nic.in, Estimated cost of material: Rs. 5,77,800.00 only, E.M.D cost: Rs. 6000.00, Last date of Tender: 15.11.2023 at 13:00 Hrs.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tender under One Packet System for the under noted work-

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD, OBRA-SONEBHADRA E-Tender Notice 4. Tender No: OBR/III/6000003914\_00/T-11 online e-Bids are invited for the "Annual Work of operation & AMC of pusher car including its overhead LT Line, AMC of metal detector, suspension magnet & PA system of CHP A&B of CHD-III, BTPS, Obra".

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Table with 7 columns: SR. NO, NAME OF DEPARTMENT, NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE, AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES, WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL. Contains 23 tender entries.

UPSIDA 3090 राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण ई-निविदा सूचना एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विद्युत संयंत्रों का विकास कार्य हेतु सरकारी विभागों/संवैधानिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत कर्मों/उद्योगों से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 68/2023-2024 Dated: 10.11.2023 Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

Table with 5 columns: S. No, Tender No., Brief Description, Qty., Closing Date. Lists various mechanical and electrical components for tenders.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD. (A State Govt. Undertaking) "Press Tender Notice" (E-Tendering Mode Only) Online Tenders on E-reverse auction mode are hereby invited for the following work:

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान मोहाली (भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित) भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान मोहाली (Established by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India) ISERM(S&P)23-24/Pur सौंपीपीसी-CPPI/Institute Website

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC/FM/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction (www.ireps.gov.in) for leasing of parcel space of SLR compartments and Parcel Vans (on round trip basis) for a period of two years as per detail and schedule given below:-



**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

**5041534P L/HAV TUL PRASAD PUN 10 NOV**  
On this day 5041534P L/HavTul Prasad Pun of 5/1 Gorkha Rifles made the supreme sacrifice during 'OP RAK-SHAK', Jammu & Kashmir on 10 Nov 1998 in a true act of valour. The brave soldier will always be remembered for his enthusiasm. To this brave heart we pledge that we shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and make his name proud.

**CO AND ALL RANKS, 5/1 GORKHA RIFLES**

**NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED**  
(A Government of India Undertaking)  
Gohana Road, Panipat - 132 106

**Notice Inviting Tender**  
Applications are invited for "Engineering, Design, Fabrication, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of plant for manufacturing of Sulphur coated Urea (Urea Gold), with annual capacity of 5000 MT, at NFL Panipat Unit." The estimated amount for this work is Rs. 422 Lakhs. Pre-bid meeting date is 22.11.2023. Last date of submission of bid is 22.12.2023. Applications received after closing date shall not be considered. For further details, visit our website [www.nationalfertilizers.com](http://www.nationalfertilizers.com) and CPP portal [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in).

DGM (Mechanical & Civil)  
X @ NFL\_Kisan | f @ nationalfertilizers | in National Fertilizers Limited

**HARYANA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
Bays No. 33 - 36, Sector - 4, Panchkula-134109  
Telephone No. 0172-2582531; Fax No. 0172-2572359  
Website: [www.herc.gov.in](http://www.herc.gov.in), E-mail: [herc-chd@nic.in](mailto:herc-chd@nic.in)

Memo No. 3383 /HERC/Admn. Dated: 10/11/2023

**CORRIGENDUM**

This is with reference to advertisement published in the Indian Express (English) - Haryana Edition and दैनिक हिन्दुस्तान (हिन्दी) - हरियाणा संस्करण vide vacancy circular no. 1578/HERC/Admn.293 dated 04.07.2023 regarding filling up the post of Private Secretary is hereby withdrawn due to administrative reasons.

Narender Kumar, HCS Secretary, HERC, Panchkula.  
22587/HRY

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rohit @ Lakhan, S/o Sh. Sompal R/o H.No.159, Lal Quater Madipur, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.16716/16 u/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. North Rohini, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rohit @ Lakhan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rohit @ Lakhan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rohit @ Lakhan of FIR No.16716/16 u/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. North Rohini, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **19.12.2023**.

By Order,  
Deepali Shrivastava  
Metropolitan Magistrate (NW)  
DP/12837/RD/2023 Room No.107, 1st Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
On the occasion of "DEEPAWALI" festival on **12.11.2023 (Sunday)**, the following arrangements have been made at all the Computerized Passenger Reservation offices in Delhi Area:-

**Partial Service :-** Will be available up to 18:00 hrs at (i) IRCA Reservation Complex (ii) Delhi/PRS & (iii) Hazrat Nizamuddin/PRS.

The following Reservation offices will remain closed in the evening shift from 14:00 hrs to 20:00 hrs:

(i) Sarojini Nagar (ii) Lajpat Nagar (iii) Okhla (iv) Karkadooma (v) Noida (vi) Delhi Shahdara (vii) Ghaziabad (viii) Adarsh Nagar (ix) Subzi Mandi (x) Kirti Nagar (xi) Tuglakabad (xii) Shakurbasti (xiii) Rohini (xiv) All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS). All the above offices will work as usual in the morning shift.

**PRS counters will remain closed for the whole day:**  
(i) Parliament House (ii) Press Club of India (iii) Railway Board (iv) Supreme Court (v) International Tourist Bureau (IRCA Building)

PRS counters will remain closed on **12.11.2023 (Sunday)** in the **EVENING** shift at the following locations over Delhi Division i.e. **Anand Vihar Terminal (PRS), Sahibabad, Naya Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Palam, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Faridabad, Ballabhgarh, Palwal, Narela, Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Mansa, Rohtak, Bahadurgarh, Nangloi, Shamli, Muradnagar, Modinagar, Meerut Cantt., Meerut City, Muzaffarnagar, Khatauli, Deoband, Baraut, Gohana, Pataudi Road, Jhajjar, Greater Noida, Noli, Saket Court, Dwarka Court, Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Shakur Basti, Samalkha, Gannaur, Shahabad Markanda, Jakhal, Tohana, Julana, Narwana, Chaudhary Charan Singh University (MTC) & Rohini Court.**

Current Reservation counters at New Delhi (Pahar Ganj & Ajmeri Gate Side), Delhi Main, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar & Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Stations will work at usual timing.

RailMadad Helpline No. **139**  
Visit RailMadad website: [www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in)  
Download RailMadad app.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Always at your service  
Visit us at: [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)

3541/2023 Serving Customers with a Smile

**उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)  
CIN No. U40109UR2001SGC025867/2358  
कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत् वितरण मण्डल (ग्रामीण), 18, इंदीरा रोड, देहरादून

**ई-निविदा विधि विस्तार सूचना**  
दिनांक 10.11.2023

अधोहराशाहकर्ता द्वारा ई-निविदा सूचना-53/EDCRDUN/2023-24 आमंत्रित की गई थी जिसको खोलने की तिथि 10.11.2023 थी जो कोई भी निविदा प्राप्त न होने के कारण विस्तारित की जाती है। निविदा अब दिनांक 21.11.2023 को 1200 बजे तक ऑफलाइन/ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है जो उसी दिन 1500 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं की शेष नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।

पत्रांक-2948 / विद्युत् वितरण / उपकारिता अधिशासी अभियन्ता  
राष्ट्र हित में विद्युत् बचाव। बिजली बचाने हेतु एलईडी बल्ब का प्रयोग करें।  
\*Pay Electricity bill Online 24x7 from [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org) Customer Care Toll Free No.-1800 419 0405

**UJVNL Limited**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763507  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)

RO No. 1116 **Tender Notice** Dated: 10/11/2023

Office of The Executive Engineer (Civil-III), Lakhwar Multipurpose Project, Dakpathar (Distt-Dehradun) invites sealed and separate tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders are given below:

Tender No.-10/EE (Civil-III)/LMP/2023-24  
Name of work-"Construction of Public Toilet for project affected villagers of vill-Kwaansha at Kalsi block, Dehradun Of LMP".  
Estimated Cost-Rs 8,66,682.00(excluding GST)  
Date & Time of availability of bid document on website-11-11-2023, from 10:00 Hrs  
Last Date for submission of tender-30-11-2023, up to 16:00 Hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The Tender documents can be downloaded from the NIGAM's website "[www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)".  
Executive Engineer (Civil-III)  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Shiv Kumar S/o Sanju Lal R/o A-68, Roopali Enclave, Village Karala, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 8247/2018 U/s 138 NI Act PS South Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Shiv Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Shiv Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shiv Kumar of FIR No. 8247/2018 U/s 138 NI Act PS South Rohini, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **12.12.2023**.

By Order  
Deepali Shrivastava  
Metropolitan Magistrate  
DP/12920/RD/2023 Room No. 107, 1st Floor Rohini Courts, Delhi

**SECURITY PAPER MILL, NARMADAPURAM-461005 (M.P.)**  
(A Unit of Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Limited)  
Wholly Owned by Government of India  
Ministry Category-4 CPSE & ISO 9001 : 2015, 14001:2015, 45001:2018, 50001:2018 & ISO 17025:2017 Certified  
CIN : U22213DL2006GOI144763, GSTIN : 23AAJCS611J3ZE  
Tel. No.: 07574-255259, Fax No.: 07574-255170,  
Email : [gm.spm@spmcil.com](mailto:gm.spm@spmcil.com), Website : <http://spmnarmadapuram.spmcil.com>

Advt. No. 165 Dated: 10.11.2023

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Chief General Manager, Security Paper Mill, Narmadapuram (M.P.) Pin 461005 invites sealed tenders for following work/material purchase. Interested Manufacturers/Suppliers may visit our website <http://spmnarmadapuram.spmcil.com> or <http://eprocure.gov.in> or <http://gm.gov.in> for detailed tender specifications/terms and conditions of tender enquiry.

Tender No.	Description/Work of Item	Please visit for Quantity, details & Submission of Bid	Last Date/Time for receipt of tenders
No.GeM/2023/IB/4126821 dated 06.11.2023	Hiring an agency to provide 27 Security Guards & 03 Security Supervisors for SPM, Narmadapuram Residential Colony for the period of one year.	<a href="http://gem.gov.in">http://gem.gov.in</a>	05.12.2023 (Upto 15:00 Hrs)

Any updates, Corrigendum, etc against the above tenders shall be published on said website only. Those shall not be published in any other newspaper or media.  
Manager (Material)

**कार्यालय नगर पंचायत डसना गाजियाबाद**  
पत्रांक: 449/नपडा-निविदा/2023-24 दिनांक: 09-10-2023

**अतिअल्प कालीन पुनः ई-निविदा सूचना**

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उ०प्र० साईट <https://e-tender.up.nic.in> पर नगर पंचायत डसना के द्वारा एन०जी०टी० प्रकरण के अंतर्गत अल्प समय हेतु दिनांक 14 नवम्बर 2023 को 12 बजे तक ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की है नियम एवं शर्तें एवं कार्यों का विवरण हेतु <https://e-tender.up.nic.in> साईट पर उपलब्ध है।

(मनोज कुमार मिश्र) (बागें जहाँ)  
अधिशासी अधिकारी अध्यक्ष  
नगर पंचायत डसना, गाजियाबाद नगर पंचायत डसना गाजियाबाद

**कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निगम खण्ड बागपत-03,**  
**उत्तर प्रदेश आवास एवं विकास परिषद**  
कार्यालय परिसर, मण्डोला विहार, गाजियाबाद-201102 ईमेल-[cdcu03baghat@upavp.com](mailto:cdcu03baghat@upavp.com)

पत्र सं०- 1294/PRP-42A/41 दिनांक- 10.11.2023

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

"मैं प्रमोटर उ०प्र० आवास एवं विकास परिषद व्यक्तिगत कारणों से उ०प्र० रेरा में पंजीकृत परियोजना **Construction of 624 Nos Flats under PMAY (Urban) in sector-19 Mandola Vihar Yojna Ghaziabad** पंजीयन संख्या **UPRERAPRJ552035** का सरेन्डर/कैन्सिलेशन/निरस्तीकरण करा रहा हूँ। किसी व्यक्ति/संस्था आदि द्वारा इस परियोजना में यदि कोई बुकिंग करायी गई हो तो कृपया अपना क्लेम/दावा प्रस्तुत करें। उक्त क्लेम/दावा को विवरण सहित 15 दिनों के अन्दर उ०प्र० रेरा की ईमेल आईडी [contactuprera@up-rera.in](mailto:contactuprera@up-rera.in) पर भी भेजा जाए तथा क्लेम/दावा विवरण को सचिव, उ०प्र० रेरा मुख्यालय, नवीन भवन, राज्य नियोजन संस्थान, कालाकांकर हाउस, पुराना हैदराबाद, लखनऊ-226007 को प्रेषित किया जाए।"

**उ०प्र० आवास एवं विकास परिषद**  
Email-upavp-rera@upavp.com

IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH  
**FORM-18**  
[Sub - Rule (2) of Rule 20]  
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION BY APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT/COLLECTOR [UNDER SUB-SECTION (1) OF SECTION 11 OF THE ACT]  
NOTIFICATION  
September 21, 2023

No. 111/VIII-S.L.A.O./Notification/Moradabad-2023-Under sub section (1) of section 11 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Rehabilitation and Resettlement act 2013, Whereas the Government of Uttar Pradesh/Collector (For the purpose of Appropriate Government) is satisfied that a total of 0.0192 Hectares of land is required in the village Kazi Behta, Pergana-Chandausi, Tehsil- Chandausi, District Sambhal is required for the public purpose, namely, project Madhya Ganga Canal Phase 2nd Kazi Behta, Minor through Madhya Ganga Canal Construction Div-15, Moradabad (Name of acquiring body).

2. Social Impact Assessment study was carried out by the State Social Impact Assessment agency and submits its recommendations to the Appropriate Government which has approved its recommendation on dated.....

3. The summary of the Social Impact Assessment reports as follows:-N.A.

4. A total of Nil families are likely to be displaced due to the land acquisition. The reason necessitating such displacement is as under:  
.....

Deputy Collector/Assistant Collector ..... is appointed as administrator for the purpose of rehabilitation and resettlement of the project affected families.

5. Therefore, the Governor is pleased to notify for general information that the land mentioned in the schedule below is needed for public purpose.

**SCHEDULE**  
(Land under proposed acquisition)

Sl. No.	District	Tehsil	Pargana	Village	Plot No.	Area to be acquired
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Sambhal	Chandausi	Chandausi	Kazi Behta	429	Hectares 0.0192

6. The Governor is also pleased to authorise the Collector for the purpose of land acquisition to take necessary to entre upon a survey of land, take levels of any land, dig or sub soil in to the sub-oil and do all acts required for the proper execution of work as provided and specified under section 12 of the Act.

7. Under section 15 of the act, any person interested in the land may within 60 (days) after the publication of this notification, make an objection to the acquisition of land in the locality in writing to the collector.

8. Under section 11(4) of the act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, specified in the preliminary notification or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of this notification till such time as the proceedings of land acquisition is completed, without prior approval of the Collector.

**NOTE-** A plan of land may be inspected in the office of the Collector for the purpose of acquisition.

UPID-197476 Dt. 09.11.2023  
[www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) (Sd.) ILLIGIBLE Collector, Sambhal

**ANDHRA PRADESH INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(Govt. of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)  
APIC Tower-9, 10&11<sup>th</sup> Floors, CFC-1, IT Park, Autonagar, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522503, Website: [www.apic.in](http://www.apic.in) Phone: 0863 - 2381850

APIC has proposed for selection of Construction of 5 MLD CETP and up-gradation of existing CETP to MLD, Construction of 10 MLD WTP, Hazardous & solid Waste Management at Atchutapuram, Anakapalli District, Andhra Pradesh on DBFOT mode. The tender documents (Request for Proposal, Concession Agreement and Price Bid) were submitted to Judicial Preview.

As a part of Judicial Preview and to ensure transparency, the tender documents were placed in the public domain of Judicial Preview website: [www.judicialpreview.ap.gov.in](http://www.judicialpreview.ap.gov.in) on November 10, 2023 to invite the objections / suggestions from the general public and intending bidders. The objections / suggestions, if any, have to be submitted to the Judge, Judicial Preview in working days i.e., before 05.00 PM on November 21, 2023 through Judicial Preview official emails ([judge-jpp@ap.gov.in](mailto:judge-jpp@ap.gov.in)) & ([ajudicialpreview@gmail.com](mailto:ajudicialpreview@gmail.com)) only, according to Chief Engineer (N), APIC.

Mangalagiri, Date: 10.11.2023  
Sd/-  
CHIEF ENGINEER (N)/c, APIC : Mangalagiri

**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Farin D/o Chand Kha R/o Z-11/533, Welcome, Delhi Aged-19** Years 6 Month has been reported missing since 03.11.2023 at 5AM from her residence vide **DD No.0067A Dated 03.11.2023** registered at Police Station Welcome, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'0", Face: Round, Built: Thin, Clothing: Unknown coloured suit, Pink coloured pajami and slipper in feet.**

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Welcome, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-  
Tel. No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Welcome, Delhi  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-2282877, 22826808  
DP/12852/NE/2023 Mob.: 8750870731



Farin

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE/ CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/TEND (APPROX) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	HSAMB SIRSA	SPECIAL REPAIR OF ROAD FROM 8 BURJI TO DHANI TAMBULWALI VIA DHANI PURAM SINGH (ED-2334) + 18 WORKS	03.11.2023 17.11.2023	20.25 CRORES	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	94161 78720 xensirsa.hsamb23@gmail.com

22596 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH.	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH.	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	UHEVN	TENDER NOTICE NO 33/CCR/2023-24	CONSTRUCTION OF ONE ROOM WITH ATTACHED BATHROOM IN THE OFFICE OF XEN MANDP DIVISION UHEVN SONIPAT.TIME EXTENDED AS BELOW CLOSING: 20.11.2023 OPENING: 21.11.2023 UPTO 01.00PM	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9991480086 xenciviluhvnrhntak@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) 22592

**झारखण्ड सरकार**  
**सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क निदेशालय**  
(सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग)

**विभागीय स्टॉल के निर्माण हेतु अति अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार दिनांक 14.11.2023 से 27.11.2023 तक नई दिल्ली स्थित प्राति भेदान में आयोजित हो रहे भारतीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेला, 2023 में झारखण्ड प्रेवेलियन के अंतर्गत विभाग को आवंटित 9 (3x3) वर्गमीटर स्पेस में स्टॉल फेब्रिकेशन, सुसज्जीकरण एवं मीडिया मैनेजमेंट कार्यों को संपन्न करने हेतु ख्यातिप्राप्त इवेंट मैनेजमेंट कम्पनी/पीआर कम्पनी से दिनांक 11.11.2023 के अपराह्न 12.00 बजे तक मुहरबंद लिफाफे में (तकनीकी बीड एवं वित्तीय बीड अलग-अलग) निविदा आमंत्रित करती है। निविदा को उसी दिन अपराह्न 12.30 बजे निदेशक सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग से कार्यालय कक्ष में खोला जाएगा।

इस निविदा से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी यथा पात्रता, मापदण्ड, नियम एवं शर्तें, कार्य की विवरणी इत्यादि की सूचना विभागीय वेबसाईट [www.prdjharkhand.in](http://www.prdjharkhand.in) पर उपलब्ध है। दिनांक 10.11.2023 को आमंत्रित निविदा में जिन कम्पनियों द्वारा निविदा डाली गई उन्हें अग्रण एवं Tender Fee फिर से समर्पित करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

- उक्त निविदा में झारखण्ड प्रो policy-2014 (यथा संशोधित) से अद्यतित होगा।
- विभाग द्वारा इस कार्य हेतु प्रतिनियुक्त पदाधिकारियों को समय-समय पर Pick & Drop Facility आवश्यकता अनुसार संबंधित एजेंसी को ही उपलब्ध कराना होगा। (इसका दर प्रीमियम प्राप्प अलग से उक्त करना होगा।)
- निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

ह/०-  
निदेशक  
सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग  
PR 311226 (IPRD) 23-24 (D)



Classifieds

PERSONAL
It is for general information that I, Jogender Kumar S/o Dharm Singh R/o E-107, Prem Nagar-1, Kirari Suleman Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Joginder and Dharam Singh respectively in my Driving Licence No. DL-1120110148086. The actual name of mine and my father is Jogender Kumar and Dharm Singh respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

Abhay Aggarwal S/o Surender Kumar Aggarwal R/o Near Saral Diagnostics, House No-107, Anand Vihar, Pitampura, West Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Abhay Kumar Aggarwal

Sangeeta Datta W/o Sh. Subir Datta R/o K-2033, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110049 have changed my name to Sangita Datta for all purposes.

Shahnawaz Alam Khan S/O, Fasiullah Khan R/O H.No. 577, Gali No-18, F-block, Khajoori Khas, North East Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Shahnawaz Alam.

Sheetal Satish Bajaj C/o Prateek Sultania R/O 261, 2nd-Floor, Gujranwala Town Part-3, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Sheetal Bajaj

Sunita Rani or Sunita Arora W/o Harish Chander R/O 4-49, Gali-No-21, Mahendra Park, Adarsh Park, Delhi-110033 have changed my name to Sunita for all future purposes.

Har Prasad Sharma S/o Anand Sharma R/O Kherli Hafizpur, G.B. Nagar, Gurukul Sikandrabad U.P-203202 have changed my name to Har Prasad Sharma permanently

Jai kishan S/o late sh. Bishan Dass R/O-28, Old Geeta Colony, Delhi-110013. Have Changed my name to Jai Kishan Atreja, for all future purposes.

Mohd Fazal S/o Wali Mohammad R/o C-74, 3rd-Floor, Gali-No-15, Jama Masjid, Madanpur Khadar Extension, Sarita Vihar, Delhi-110076 have changed my name to Mohammad Fazal

Mohd Rahis Ali S/O Ali Sher, R/O L-1st A-6 G/F, Gali No-17, Sangam Vihar, Delhi, South Delhi-110062. Declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Mohd Rahis in my minor Son Rihan, aged about 15 Years. In his 10th Class Certificate. The actual name of mine is Mohd Rahis Ali, which may be amended accordingly.

Neha Garg W/O Sh. Puneet Singhal R/O Hno 10, SF, Maa kalyani kunj, Kalyan Vihar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Neha Singhal.

hitherto known as MD Mainuddin alias Mohammed Saddam Ayaan, S/O Mohammed Kudo Permanent, R/O Vill-lakri, Police Station, Lakri-nabiganj, District Siwan, Bihar-841416, and Present R/O H.No-43, Gali No-5, Phase-2, Naya Gaon Sector-87, Noida-201305, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mohammed Saddam Ayaan.

Vrinda Goel D/O Pradeep Goel R/O B-217 F/S Surajmal-Vihar, DELHI 110092. Have Changed My Name to Vrinda Gupta permanently

SIMRAN RANDHAWA D/O GULZAR RANDHAWA R/O 88-A, G&JU, GREEN APARTMENT, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SIMRAN KAUR RANDHAWA.

Vinita Sharma alias Vinti alias Vinita alias Vinity Bala, D/O, Rattan Parkash Chhiber W/o, Manish Sharma, R/O, WZ-18, Floor-2nd, Gali-No-12, Krishna Park, Tilak Nagar, New-Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Bhumika Sharma.

VINITA MISHRA W/O SHIVANAND MISHRA, R/O C-108, GALLI NO-4 BHAJANPURA, DELHI-110053, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VINITA DEVI.

Umakshi D/o kimti Lal R/o-110-B, Rani Garden, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110031. Have Changed My Name To Pragya Sharma For All Purposes.

Saleem Khan, R/o HNO-110/13, C-Block Stno-12, Ghonda-Extension Delhi-110053, Have Chnged The Name of My minor Son SONI TO REHAN KHAN, For all, Futher Purposes.

SUMINDER W/O JITANDER SINGH SIKKA R/O HNO.38L, MODEL TOWN, ROHTAK, HARYANA-124001. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUMINDER SIKKA.

SETU W/O PARVESH KUMAR, RESIDENT 1225/31, GALLI NO-1, PARGATI NAGAR, SEMPAT, HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SETU SINGH.

Pramod Kumar alias Pramod Kumar Maheshwari S/o Trilok Chand, R/O C-20, Multan-Nagar Delhi-56, have changed my name to Pramod Kumar.

PREM CHAND S/O SHIV DHAN R/O HNO.275, SECOND-FLOOR, TARUN-ENCLAVE, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PREM CHAND GARG.

POONAM RANI ARORA, W/O VINAY KUMAR R/O 8361, ROSHANARA GALI FLOUR MILL, MALKA GANJ, DELHI-110007. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO POONAM GHAI.

POONAM CHAUDHARY W/O ARVIND KUMAR, R/O KHASRA NO-222, GARHI, GHAZIABAD, U.P-201017, have changed my name to POONAM CHOUDHARY, for all, future purpose.

POONAM BEN VAGHELA, W/O RAMKESH KUMAR PAL, R/O WZ-1073, THIRD-FLOOR, RANI BAGH, DELHI-110034 have change my name to POONAM PAL.

NISCHAY CHAUDHARY S/O ARVIND KUMAR, R/O KHASRA NO-222, GARHI, GHAZIABAD, U.P-201017, have changed my name to NISCHAY CHOUDHARY, for all, future purpose.

Mukesh Rani, D/o Raghbir, W/o Labh Singh, R/O Village-Khushali Majra, Guhla, Kaithal (Haryana)-136035, have changed my name Mukesh Kaur.

Mohammed Afreen S/o, Md. Ashraf R/o, House-No.G-53/7, Gali-No.13, Muradi-Road, Batla-House, Jamia-Nagar, Okhla, New-Delhi-110025, have changed my minor daughter's name Atiba to Adiba Afreen. D.O.B-06.12.2006.

MOHAMMAD UMAR S/O AAS MOHAMMAD, R/O H.No.528, Ali Nagar Kotla Mevatyan, Hapur (UP)-245101, have changed my name to MOHD UMAR, for all purposes.

KANCHAN SHARMA, W/O AJAY KESTWAL, R/O PLOT.No.2652, 1ST-FLOOR, SECTOR-23, GURGAON, HARYANA-122017, CHANGED MY NAME TO KANCHAN KESTWAL.

KAMRAN AHMAD, S/O IRSHAD AHMED R/O, J-405, OXY HOMEZ-BHOPURA, TILLHA ROAD NR RYL-ENCLAVE BAHAITA HAJEPUR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201102, changed my name to KAMRAN AHMED.

Mohd SHAHZADE, S/O NAJIB AHMED, ADD-FA-4TH FLOOR, ABUL-FAZAL ENCLAVE JAMIA NAGAR OKHLA, SOUTH EAST-DELHI 110025, changed my name to MOHD SHAHZADEY, for all, future purposes.

JITENDAR SINGH SIKKA S/O UJJAL SINGH R/O HNO.38L, MODEL TOWN, ROHTAK, HARYANA-124001. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JITANDER SINGH SIKKA.

IRSHAD AHMAD, S/O MUSHTAQ HUSAIN, R/O-9, 9110, GROUND-FLOOR, GALI ZAMIR WALI, NEAR-PLUD BANGASH NAWAB GANJ, AZAD MARKET, NORTH, DELHI, DELHI-110066, changed my name to IRSHAD AHMED.

Har Krishan Lal, S/o Jai Dayal, r/o-Chhabra nursing home, H.No-1, Teachers colony, sonipat have changed my name to Har Krishan Lal chhabra, for all purposes.

Beena Harit, D/o Sh.Tara Chand Harit, R/O, H.No.F-49/A, Subhash Chowk, Laxmi-Nagar, Delhi-110092, states that I also known by the name of Beena and Beena Harit is the same and one-person.

Ashna Jain, W/o Ashish Jain, S/o Arvind Jain, R/o House No.29, Veer-Nagar, Jain Colony, Delhi-110007, have changed our minor daughter Gaurika to Gaurika Jain.

LAKSHY S/O SHUBHASH R/O, HOUSE NO-187, KAILASH NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201001, changed my name to AKASH SHARMA.

Yogendra Singh S/O Kunwar Pal, R/o H No-28 B, New No-213, Gali No-1, Mandoli Road Chanderlok, Mandoli, North East Delhi-110093. Declare that Name of Mine has been wrongly written as Yogender Singh in my Marksheet and certificate of 10th and 12th class. The actual name of Mine is Yogendra Singh, which may be amended accordingly.

Vishal Kanodia R/O 187, Sector-15A, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my minor daughter name from Nupoor Kanodia to Nupur Kanodia.

S. Sekar S/O R Sambasivan R/O House No-G-702, Indianoil Apartment, C-58/23, Sector-62, G.B. Nagar, U.P-201301 have changed my name to Sekar Sambasivan permanently.

URMILA D/o BRIJ LAL LAMBA R/o 110, SHAKTI VIHAR, PITAMPURA, DELHI have changed my name to URMILA LAMBA

Syed Ahmad Ali S/O Musharrat Ali Rizvi, R/O House no- 15-D, 1st Floor, Street Number-5, Noor Nagar, Jamia Nagar, New Friends Colony, Defence Colony, Delhi-110025. Declare that Name of Mine & My Father and My Mother has been wrongly written as S Ahmad Ali, S. Musharrat Ali and Fatima in my 10th Class Certificate. The actual name of Mine & My Father and My Mother are Syed Ahmad Ali, Musharrat Ali Rizvi and Fatima Ali, which may be amended accordingly.

Sushant Kumar S/O Satyabadi Pradhan H No 267B second floor block B near Navkrishi Complex, Sector 55, Gurgaon, Haryana 122011 have changed my name to Sushant Kumar for all future purposes

Shilpa W/o Sandeep R/O A-20, Sangam Park, Rana Pratap Bagh, Malika Ganj, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Shilpa Jain.

Shikha goel D/o Ghanashyam Goe, W/o Pardeep Gupta R/o House No-A-89, Shastri Nagar, Ashok Vihar, North west, Delhi, Pin code-110052 have changed my name to Bhumi Gupta

Sharique Mohd S/O Yaqoob Ali R/O 448, Sec-4/4, Gali.No.2, Chhalera Bangar, Noida Sec-37, G.B.Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name to Mohd Sharique for all future Purposes.

Hardev Singh S/O Harbans Singh, R/O WZ-905 Gurananak Nagar Tilak Nagar, Delhi have changed my name to Hardev Singh.

Sehar Ansari, W/o Pramod Kumar, R/O 111C, Bhagwaan Nagar, Ashram Jungpura, South Delhi-110014, have changed my name to Loveena, for all purposes.

PRITHA A D/o A ANAND, R/O No.5, Kullappa House, KH Main Road, RS Palaya, MS Nagar Post, Bangalore-33, have changed my Name from PRITHA A TO A PRITHA vide Affidavit NO.IN-DL81375935077955 dated 14-Oct-23 before Court, New Delhi.

ASHIK, S/O, ACHHAN SHAH, ADD-L-2/1033/23, SANI BAZAR, SANGAM VIHAR MEHRAULI, SOUTH DELHI 110062, changed my name to ASHIK ALI for all future purposes.

MADHU RANI, D/o. Sh. Duni Chand, R/O. Khadra No.337, Firni Road, Fatehpur Beri, Police Station, Jona pur South Delhi, New Delhi-110047, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my father's name is wrongly printed on my PAN card as "DUNL CHAND" but his correct name is "Duni Chand".

LOST & FOUND
I, Have lost my Original-property documents agreement for sale between harmadass, and shanti Devi, and GPA year-1992, Ashok Kumar for address-K-9, THIRDFLOOR, Srinivaspur, New Delhi-110065. Finder contact-9899631952

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at Jagan is hereby informed that my client Jagan Lal Kojia W/o Late Sh. Astwan Kumar Kojia R/o A-4363, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, has detached all the ties with her son Manish Hood and his wife Parul Hood and their children on account of their persistent bad and abusive behaviour. The aforesaid Manish Hood and his wife Parul Hood have caused mental agony and tension on regular basis to my client. As such they are disowned and disinherited from the inheritance of all the properties of my client whether movable or immovable. They shall have no right, title, interest or claim of any nature whatsoever in the estate and assets of my client. Anyone dealing with them shall be doing so at his own risk, responsibility. My addressed client or her other family members shall not be responsible for the same.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to public at large on behalf of my clients Mr. Vaibhav sharma, that original documents i.e. 1) Allotment letter in favour of Bhiramwasi 2) Possession letter in favour of Bhiramwasi 3) Lease deed in favour of Bhiramwasi and 4) Transfer deed executed by Bhiramwasi in favour of Ms. Manju Sharma of a respect of property bearing No. SH-251 area measuring 74.40 sq. Mtrs., Block H, Shastri Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. has been lost on 12.10.2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The same is lost and online F.I.R. has been lodged on 10.11.2023 vide LR No. 1125581/2023 Sh. No. 430/2023 Police, Any person (s) institution (s) found responsible for the loss of the said property please inform us at the below mentioned address with documentary evidence within 07 days of the issue of this notice. Failing which no further claim shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed that my client Smt. RESHMA DEVI W/o Late Sh. RAM KUMAR YADAV R/O B-3021, PASCHEM VIHAR, DELHI-110083 has divorced her husband with her daughter-in-law namely Mrs. Poonam Yadav W/o Late Sh. Rajendra Yadav and grandchildren namely Ms. Harshita Yadav, Mr. Shivanji Yadav and Ms. Vanashi Yadav all R/O F-606, ANHO, Sujay, Sector-42, Gujranagar HR. My client has disowned her daughter-in-law namely Mrs. Poonam Yadav and her children namely Ms. Harshita Yadav, Mr. Shivanji Yadav and Ms. Vanashi Yadav from all her movable and immovable properties due to their continuous misbehavior and disobedience towards my client. My client hereby has no connection or concern with her above named daughter-in-law Mrs. Poonam Yadav and grandchildren namely Ms. Harshita Yadav, Mr. Shivanji Yadav and Ms. Vanashi Yadav. They and their legal heirs will also have no connection or concern with the movable and/or immovable property of my client. Any person dealing with Mrs. Poonam Yadav and her children namely Ms. Harshita Yadav, Mr. Shivanji Yadav and Ms. Vanashi Yadav shall be doing so at their own risk and responsibility. My client will not be responsible or any act, deed or doing done by their heirs. Poonam Yadav or her alienated/renounced three children.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sd/- SURENDER SINGH ADVOCATE OFFICE: 730, LAWYERS CHAMBERS BLOCK, DISTRICT COURT BUILDING, ROHINI, DELHI-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Sh. Ajay Pratap Tripathi S/O Late Shri Nivas Tripathi and Smt. Manju Tripathi W/o Ajay Pratap Tripathi present address Flat B-12A-01, B Block, 13th Floor, Exotica Eastern Court, Crossing Republic, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201016 and permanent address 5/68, Chhishka Naig, Kunal, Farukhabad, Uttar Pradesh-209225 hereby severed all relations with their Son Abhishek Tripathi alias Deep and his wife Nidhi Doid & disowned them from all their movable and immovable properties due to their hostile behaviour if anybody dealing with them my client will not be responsible. Sd/- Rajesh Aggarwal (Advocate) Enrl. No. D/5046/16 452/2 Shubhan Bhawan Ring Road, Azadpur, Delhi-33

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that my client Smt. Sarbati Devi W/o Late Sh. Darya Singh, Resident of A-254, Shyam Colony, Ph-2, Budh Vihar Delhi-110086 have severed all relation with her son Rajesh Kumar S/O Sh. Darya Singh and his wife Archana i.e. (Daughter-in-law) and their children Hriday Choudhary. They all are also debarred from her all movable and immovable properties and all other articles due to their misconduct, disobedience, trespassing, their out of control / abusive nature and threat for her life. In case, if anybody deals with them in any form, my client will not be responsible in any form of nature. Aysha Usmani (Advocate) Enrol. No. D/11353/2022, G-325, MKD Courts, Delhi. Mob. 8076322953

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Farimander S/O Sh. Parminder & Smt. Nitisha W/o Sh. Parminder, both R/O B-57, Gali No. 14, Jagat Puri Extension, Delhi-93, have debarred their son Rajat from their entire movable & immovable properties and also severed their relation with Rajat due to his misconduct & misdeeds. My clients shall not be responsible for his acts in future. Lavi Tyagi Advocate Ch.No.D-413, Karkardoola Courts, Shahdara Delhi-32

PUBLIC NOTICE
GENERAL PUBLICS ARE HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENTS SMT. RAJESH DEVI W/O LT. SHER SINGH, SH. VIKRAM SINGH S/O LT. SHER SINGH, SMT. SAVITA W/O SH. VIKRAM SINGH, KSH. SUNITA W/O SH. VIKRAM SINGH, S/O SH. VIKRAM SINGH, S/O SH. VIKRAM SINGH, ALL RESIDING AT OPP. QULABI BAGH, DDA FLATS, DELHI-110052, HAVE DEBARRED AND DISOWNED THEIR SON RAJESH PRADIP BROTHER-IN-LAW UNCLE, SH. KANWAR PAL SINGH & KUNAL SINGH S/O LT. SHER SINGH FROM THEIR LEGAL AND MORAL INMOVABLE PROPERTY & SEVERED ALL RELATIONS WITH HIM DUE TO HIS NON COMPLIANCE WITH AND HOSTILE BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS MY CLIENTS. ANYONE DEALING WITH HIM WILL BE DOING SO AT THEIR OWN RISK AND MY CLIENTS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER FOR HIS ACTS, COMPLAINTS, OMISSIONS, DEEDS, LOANS, ETC. Sd/- MOHIT MITTAL Enrol. No. 0871/2015 ADVOCATE Ch. No. V-33, Tilak Nagar, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110049

सार्वजनिक सूचना
मेरे मुदतिकरण कर्मदोर पिता मोहन सिंह निवासी गुरा-ई-382 विक्रान्त मार्ग, छत्रपुर, इंदौर बाबरपुर, शाहदरा, दिल्ली-110032 ने अपने पुत्र रवी वर्मा व पुत्रवधु भारती को उनके दुव्यवहार के कारण अपनी वल-अवल सम्पत्ति से बेवखलकर समस्त सम्पन्न विवेक कर लिये है। उनके किसी भी कार्य हेतु मेरे मुदतिकल ज़िम्मेदार नहीं होंगे। Sd/- NEERAJ KUMAR MISHRA, ADVOCATE Ch. No. 17, Tehal Building, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client Sh. Hazari Singh Shekhawat S/o Ram Kumar Singh and Sneh Lata W/o Hazari Singh Shekhawat Both R/O U-47, Gali No. 3, Shakhpur, East, Delhi-110092 have already severed all their relations with their son namely Jitender Singh, daughter-in-law Rashmi Tanver and second son namely Prian Shekhawat on account of their bad habits, misdeeds and wrongful actions. My client shall not be responsible for the personal acts and deeds of their above-mentioned sons and daughter-in-law in any manner from today onwards. My aforesaid clients hereby debar their said son namely Jitender Singh, daughter-in-law Rashmi Tanver and second son namely Prian Shekhawat from inheriting their movable/immovable properties/assets. Sd/- NEERAJ KUMAR MISHRA, ADVOCATE Ch. No. 17, Tehal Building, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mr. Ram Khelvan Chaurasiya, S/o Sukh Lal Chaurasiya, R/O RZ-6-94, New Janki Pur Gali No. 4, Utlam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, has severed his relation from his son Sanjay Chaurasiya S/o Ram Khelvan Chaurasiya, his wife Sunita W/o Sanjay Chaurasiya, his daughters (1) Parli and (2) Kanchari both S/o Sanjay Chaurasiya, all R/O RZ-6-94, New Janki Pur Gali No. 4, Utlam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, disowned and debarred them from all movable and immovable properties, and shall not be responsible for their acts, deeds and things done by them in past, present and future. Anyone who deals with them shall be doing at their own cost and risks and my above client will not be held responsible of their acts. Sd/- SH. CH. ANJ (Advocate) SHR-I-B, Jankipur, Delhi-110058.

"IMPORTANT"
Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited and its publishers shall not be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with advertisers, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that advertisers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or others acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

North Eastern Railway
E-Tender Notice : OT-13-2023
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction/N.E.R./Lucknow for and on behalf of President of India invites "Open" e-tender for the following work: Tender No: OT-13/2023, Description of Work : Left over Electrification work of 707 nos-Quarters of Bhojipura, 11 KV/415 Volt Sub-Station and allied work at Lalkuan, Second Platform of Harsinghpur Gao. 150 M long extended Platform of Kasganj Station and under ground Cabling for High Mast of Phibbit Gao siding" in connection with Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura & Kasganj-Bareilly-Lalkuan incl. material modification for extension from Bareilly to Lalkuan and Manjandra-Brahmanpur (55.9 Km) and Phibbit-Shahjahanpur Gauge conversion projects, respectively. Approx. Value : Rs. 33,92,284.64, Earnest Money : Rs. 67,990.00, Cost of Tender Form : NIL, Completion Period : 03 Months, Date & Time of Closing of e-Tender : 28.11.2023 at 15:00 Hrs. Note : Manual offers are not accepted against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For full details and submission of bid, kindly visit the official website of Indian Railway i.e. http://www.reps.gov.in. In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed. CPRO/Elect-194 Dy. CEE/Con/LN Do not travel with inflammable article in train

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

Whereas complaint has been made by that accused Narender Kumar, S/o Kalu Ram, R/o F-290, Budh Nagar, Inder Puri, Delhi-12 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 10623/2018, U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Narender Kumar cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Narender Kumar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Narender Kumar accused of FIR No. 10623/2018, U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 11.12.2023.

By Order Sh. Ayush Sharma Metropolitan Magistrate, North-West Room No. 113, 1st Floor Rohini Court, Delhi DP/12467/NW/2023

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy.Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, S.E.Road, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:

Table with 2 columns: No. of work and location, and 120 Days. Includes details for POH (Periodic Overhaul) of CSM-976 at NR Track Machine Workshop including General mechanical works, cabin repair, hydraulic hoses, Electrical Works and Electronic Works, Pneumatic works, Painting of Machine, Service & " under jurisdiction of Dy.CE/TMC/Line, Northern Railway.

No. 1-W-DyCETMCL-POH-CSM-18-23-24 Dated: 10.11.2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3531/23

Government of Jharkhand Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minorities and OBC Welfare

Ref no. 2181Ranchi, Re-Expression of Interest Dated: 10.11.2023

Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all Colleges)/Department of Universities/Government Institutes/ Recognized Research Institutes for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the financial year 2023-24.

Topic: Caring for Nature: A Sociological Study of Adivasi Wisdom, Environmental Ethics and Resource Management for Sustainable livelihood

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by Director of the Institutes/ Registrar of Universities/ Head of Departments [applicable to Universities (all Colleges)/Department of Universities only] along with technical EOI giving relevant details of the organization/ Institute/ University necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 1st December 2023. The project cost should be all inclusive (inclusive of all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open ended.

The intending agencies may submit their EOI in sealed envelope on or before the due date. Technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in BOLDA TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR "Caring for Nature: A Sociological Study of Adivasi Wisdom, Environmental Ethics and Resource Management for Sustainable livelihood" written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of proposal document sent by post.

Expression of Interest will be opened on 7th December 2023 in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi. Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for presentation of project.

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

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

Sd/- Director PR.NO.311166 Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department(23-24):D

Government of Jharkhand Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minorities and OBC Welfare Ranchi-834008

Ref no.2183 Ranchi, Dated:10.11.2023 Expression of Interest

Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all Colleges)/Department of Universities/Government Institutes/ Recognized Research Institutes for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the financial year 2023-24.

Topic: A Comparative Study of Socio-economic-cultural and educational status of Adivasis in the colonial and postcolonial Jharkhand

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by Director of the Institutes/ Registrar of Universities/ Head of Departments [applicable to Universities (all Colleges)/Department of Universities only] along with technical EOI giving relevant details of the organization/ Institute/ University necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 1st December 2023. The project cost should be all inclusive (inclusive of all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open ended.

The intending agencies may submit their EOI in sealed envelope on or before the due date. Technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in BOLDA TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR "A Comparative Study of Socio-economic-cultural and educational status of Adivasis in the colonial and postcolonial Jharkhand" written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of proposal document sent by post. Expression of Interest will be opened on 7th December 2023 in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi.

Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for presentation of project. Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details can be obtained from the concerned nodal person (Mr. Vikas Dubey) at the TRI office on any working day during office hours, and the same can also be downloaded from the website www.trijharkhand.in under tender/notification section.

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

Sd/- Director PR 311171 (Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department) 23-24 (D)

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे ई-निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना

पत्र सं. WB-74-W/Works/NITX निति: 10.11.2023

मंडल रेल प्रबंधक, इजीनियरिंग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के निवे एवं उनकी ओर से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमों के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित प्रयोजनों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Table with 4 columns: ई-निविदा सूचना सं., कार्य का नाम व स्थान, अनुमानित लागत रुपये, बचाने की राशि रुपये. Includes construction of RCC box Bridge at Km/308.9, Km/318.9, Km/709.71/0, Km/1761.72 along with protection wall, Piling & other protection work at breaches locations in SMR-BLDI Sec.

निविदा सूचना संख्या 131 & 140 to 141 of 2023-24 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 04.12.2023 को 15 बजे तक, 132 to 138 of 2023-24 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 30.11.2023 को 15 बजे तक तथा 139 of 2023-24 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 01.12.2023 को 15 बजे तक है। वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई-निविदा देखी व नीचे जा सकती है - www.reps.gov.in 1170-PR/23

www.nwrailways.gov.in NWR Railways पर क्लिक करें

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER Tender Notice No.: e-TENDER/2023/48, Date: 09.11.2023. For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-tender for the following works before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. SI.No.-1. Tender No.: E-KGP-South-41-2023. Description of work: Benapur-Bahanagabazar: Construction of 3 nos. RUB (Road Under Bridge) by box pushing method in lieu of manned L.No. 18, 19 & 37 under the jurisdiction of ADEN (South)/KGP. Tender Value: ₹ 19,02,32,899.50. Earnest Money: ₹ 11,01,200. Completion Period of the work: 12 (Twelve) months. SI.No.-2. Tender No.: E-KGP-South-42-2023. Description of work: Bahaganabazar-Ranital: Construction of 2 nos. RUB (Road Under Bridge) by box pushing method in lieu of manned L.No. 101 & 104 under the jurisdiction of ADEN/BLS. Tender Value: ₹ 13,88,33,364.23. Earnest Money: ₹ 8,44,200. Completion Period of the work: 12 (Twelve) months. SI.No.-3. Tender No.: E-KGP-South-43-2023. Description of work: Supplying 50mm gauge hard