

THE WORLD



UK: SUNAK BRINGS BACK FORMER PM CAMERON, SACKS INTERIOR MINISTER

EXPRESS NETWORK



BASUDEB ACHARYA, CPM VETERAN AND 9-TIME MP, DIES P 14

Firecracker ban flouted, Delhi air quality worsens day after Diwali, triggers AAP-BJP blame game



Firecrackers being burnt in Delhi during Diwali on Sunday night. On Monday, the 24-hour average Air Quality Index was 403 (severe category) by 10 pm. *Amit Mehra* MORE REPORTS, P 6

Sharpest spike in post-Diwali AQI since 2015, set to deteriorate further

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

WITH THE firecracker ban being flouted across the city on Sunday night, and the after-effect of the recent rainfall wearing off, Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) deteriorated to 358 at 4 pm, with the 24-hour average hitting 403 ("severe" category) by 10 pm on Monday, worse than the post-Diwali AQI recorded last year.

This triggered a blame game between the AAP and BJP. While the AAP government accused the BJP of "instigating" people to flout the firecracker ban despite



a Supreme Court order, the BJP accused the AAP government of failing to impose the ban.

Last year, the AQI on the day after Diwali, which was in October, was 303.

The deterioration in post-Diwali AQI this year was the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Biggest hospital in Gaza 'out of fuel', normal room floor is OT: Palestine envoy

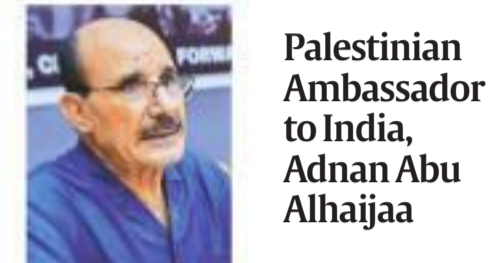
I have called them many times, they did nothing... not expecting anything from India: Ambassador Abu Alhajjaa

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

WITH ISRAELI tanks almost at the gates of Al-Shifa Hospital and besieging the complex, Ambassador of Palestine to India, Adnan Abu Alhajjaa, said Monday the hospital is "running out of fuel", that six children on incubators have died, and another six have died in the Intensive Care Unit.

"The hospital is without any electricity, so there is no oxygen," envoy Abu Alhajjaa told *The Indian Express*. "They are performing operations in a normal room, and on the floor, not in the operation theatre...because there is no electricity and the forces from three sides are besieging the hospital," he said.

Gaza health ministry spokesperson Ashraf Al-Qidra, who was inside Al-Shifa



Palestinian Ambassador to India, Adnan Abu Alhajjaa

Hospital, was quoted by wire agency Reuters as stating that 32 patients died in the past three days, including three newborn babies, as a result of the siege of the hospital and lack of power.

In its latest statement, the World Health Organisation said that over the past 48 hours, Al-Shifa Hospital — the largest medical complex in Gaza — has been reportedly attacked multiple times, leaving several people dead and many others injured. "The intensive care unit suffered damage from bombardment, while areas of the hospital where displaced people were **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

2020 Amshipora 'encounter': Tribunal suspends Captain's life term, grants bail

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

THE ARMED Forces Tribunal (AFT) has suspended the life term awarded to an Army Captain who was found guilty of killing three men in a "staged" encounter in South Kashmir's Amshipora village in July 2020.

In its order on November 9, the tribunal also granted conditional bail to Captain Bhoopendra Singh and directed him to appear before its principal registrar at regular intervals starting from January next year.

The tribunal, however, made it clear that it would not stay his conviction. "As we have only stayed the sentence of conviction to the extent of undergoing the jail sentence, all other punishments like cashiering etc shall continue to remain in operation during the pendency of this appeal. The sentence of imprisonment for life shall remain suspended during the pendency of the original application (seeking stay on the findings and sentence passed by the



At the 'encounter' site; 3 persons were killed. *File*

court martial," the tribunal said. On July 18, 2020, three labourers from Jammu's Rajouri district — Imtiyaz Ahmed (20), Abrar Ahmed (25) and Mohammed Ibrar (16) — were killed and labelled as "terrorists" by troops under the officer's command in Shopian district.

The J&K Police set up a Special Investigation Team, which filed a chargesheet against three persons, including Singh, for "staging" the encounter.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'REOPENED OLD WOUNDS' PAGE 14

CHIEF MINISTER DHAMI VISITS SITE

Day later, rescue work on as 40 still trapped in Uttarkashi tunnel

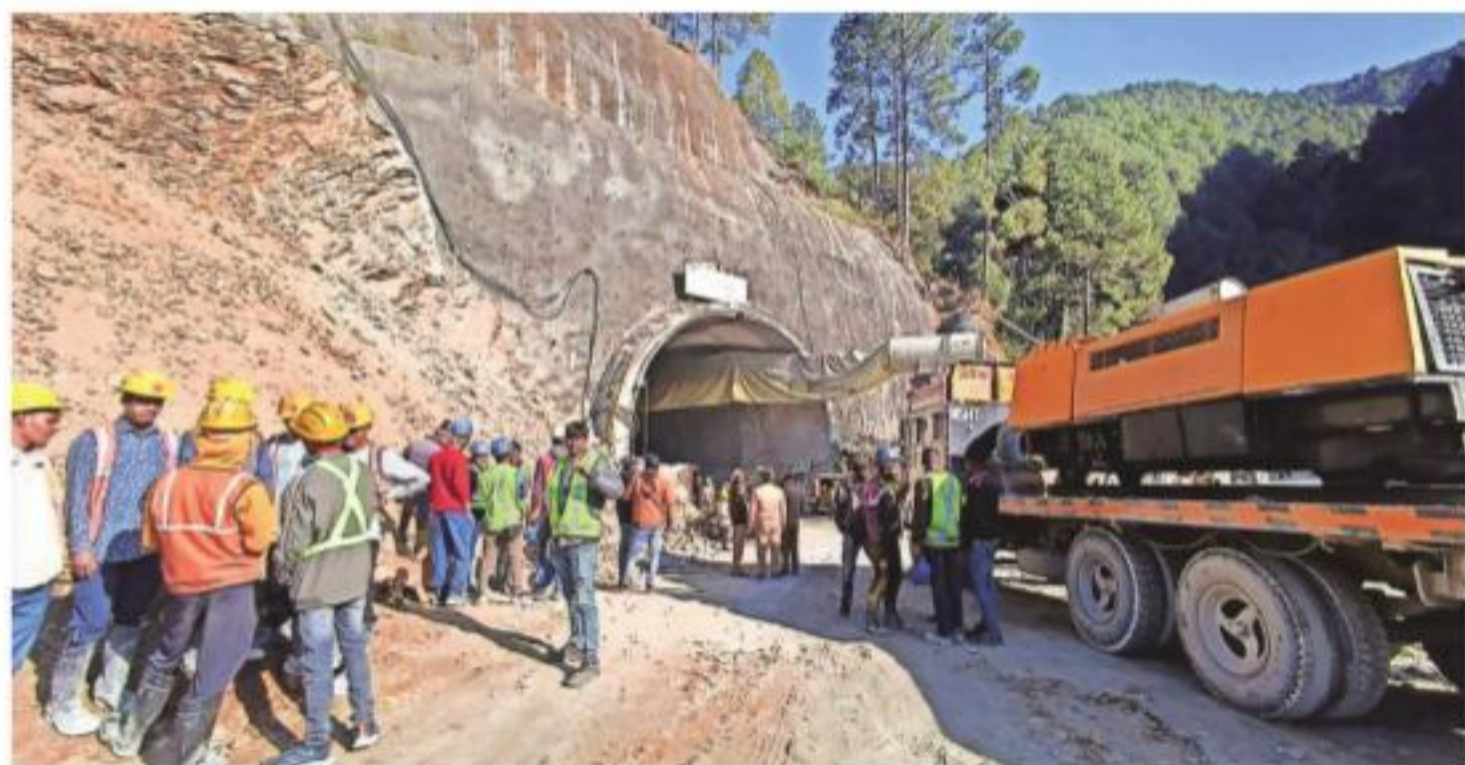
Workers have access to oxygen, food, say officials; falling debris a challenge



AVANEESH MISHRA
UTTARKASHI, NOVEMBER 13

RELIEF AND rescue operations continued through Monday after an under-construction tunnel to join the Gangotri and Yamunotri collapsed a day earlier, leaving 40 construction workers trapped inside.

The first step, officials said, was establishing communication with the trapped men to



Rescue operations at the tunnel in Uttarkashi district on Monday. *PTI* RELATED REPORT, P 9

confirm whether they were safe. Officials said the men have access to oxygen cylinders, and are being supplied with additional oxygen through a pipe used to supply water. A larger pipe that supplies oxygen was damaged

in the collapse. Food packets containing chana and puffed rice are also being pushed through the water pipe using pressure, officials said, adding that the workers have torches to use in the dark.

The State Disaster Response Force and National Disaster Response Force alongside police and local administration are carrying out the rescue operations using JCBs and heavy excavator **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Delhi officer defends Chief Secy, takes aim at AAP: 'Dirty politics'

Targeted for ordering probes in CM house, excise cases: Divisional Commissioner

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

IN A move that shows a widening rift between the bureaucracy and the AAP government in Delhi, a senior official on Monday came out in defence of Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, who is facing allegations of corruption related to land acquisition for the Dwarka Expressway, terming the charges against him as "dirty politics".

Divisional Commissioner Ashwani Kumar told reporters at a press conference that the allegations against the Chief Secretary, who is retiring on November 30, were an attempt to scuttle his chances of securing



an extension. Dismissing allegations that the Chief Secretary benefited his son's company to the tune of Rs 315 crore in the land deal, the Divisional Commissioner indirectly targeted the AAP government, which has ordered a probe into the allegations. He said the Chief Secretary's image was being tarnished as he ordered inquiries in several cases such as CM house renovation, excise **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

IDEA EXCHANGE

'A sustainable solution for stubble is to create a market for paddy straw, convert waste to wealth'

RAMESH CHAND
MEMBER, NITI AAYOG
PAGE 18

EXPLAINED

ECONOMICS
EASING WHEAT, RISING RICE
PAGE 17

Amid cash-for-query row, Trinamool gives party post to Mahua

'Grateful to party for reposing faith, BJP spread speculation it had deserted me'

ATRI MITRA, RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & LIZ MATHEW
KOLKATA, NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

AMID THE cash-for-query controversy in Parliament that has seen the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee recommend her expulsion, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Monday tasked its Krishnanagar MP Mahua Moitra with strengthening its organisation in the Nadia (Krishnanagar) district unit.

"I have always been an organisation person," Moitra told *The Indian Express*. "I am grateful to my party and its leader for reposing faith in me. A few months



away from the elections (Lok Sabha) and in such challenging times, the party has trusted me. I hope I can exceed their expectations. Booth workers are of utmost importance to me. They are the backbone of the party." Asked about the allegations levelled by the ethics panel, the MP said, "I have always maintained it is the BJP's propaganda and rumour-mongering at its best. As part of my character **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

EXPRESS NETWORK

HYDERABAD BLAZE: 7 OF FAMILY AMONG NINE KILLED

TMC LEADER KILLED, ASSAILANT LYNCHED IN BENGAL PAGES 8, 14

Adani Green advisor in hydel appraisal committee of MoEF

Abstained from discussions on AGEL project, says advisor

JAY MAZOOMDAR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

A KEY ADVISOR to Adani Green Energy Limited is now a member of one of the Centre's Expert Appraisal Committees (EAC) before which the company's hydro project proposals come up for clearance, *The Indian Express* has learnt. The EAC discusses and decides on projects that require prior government approval.

On September 27, the Union Environment Ministry named Janardan Choudhary as one of the seven non-institutional members when it reconstituted the EAC for hydroelectricity and river valley projects on September 27.

The first meeting of the reconstituted EAC (hydel) was held on October 17-18. Records show Choudhary attended the meeting on October 17, the day AGEL's 1500 mw Tarali Pumping Storage

Project in Maharashtra's Satara came up for consideration.

AGEL sought an amendment in the project's Terms of Reference (ToR) for a revision of the project layout after it realised that the proposed water conductor system passed "just below an existing wind farm" and that construction underground or below the wind turbines foundations would be difficult.

After detailed deliberation, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

For father who chanted 'Saachin, Saachin', it's time for 'Raachin, Raachin'

VENKATA KRISHNA B
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 13

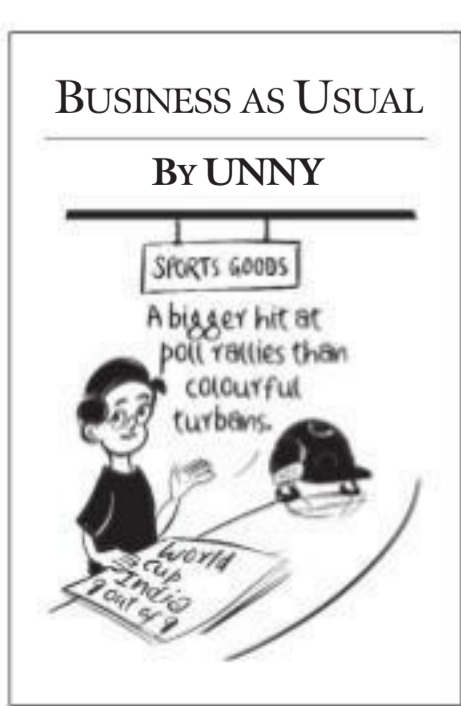
RAVI KRISHNAMURTHY, 53, can't get a chant out of his head since the time he returned to his home in Wellington after the short trip to India to watch his son Rachin Ravindra play the World Cup.

The software engineer, who migrated to New Zealand in the '90s, was at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru when Rachin, playing Pakistan, smashed his third century of the tournament. Shouts of "Raachin,

Raachin" echoed around the stadium and Krishnamurthy's mind wandered to the famous "Saachin, Saachin" cheer he would be part of when his hero, Sachin Tendulkar, would walk in to bat at the same venue.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* from Wellington, Krishnamurthy calls it a "truly unique and heart-warming experience". For a father who named his son after Tendulkar and his other cricketing idol Rahul Dravid, it was a truly emotional moment.

"Listening to these chants



New Zealand player Rachin Ravindra with Sachin Tendulkar's wax figure in Sydney. *File*

stirs up a sense of nostalgia for me, as I, like many others, had the privilege of witnessing the greatness of Tendulkar, and I was among those who passionately chanted his name in the stadiums. For Rachin, the chants serve as a reminder of the high standards and dedication that Tendulkar epitomised throughout his career," says Krishnamurthy, who runs a cricket club, Hut Hawks, in Wellington and spent most of his waking hours thinking of ways to make his son a better cricketer. In Mumbai on Wednesday,

when India plays New Zealand for a place in the World Cup final on November 19, skipper Rohit Sharma will hope to get the in-form Rachin out early. With 565 runs and 3 hundreds, the Kiwi all-rounder is placed second on the highest run-getters list. He is New Zealand's most-trusted match-winner and easily the find of the tournament.

Coach Dravid will be in the Wankhede Stadium dressing room and Tendulkar, too, is expected to be in the stands. Since New Zealand had knocked India out of the World Cup four years

back, Rachin's runs could decide if they can repeat the feat.

Krishnamurthy steers away from making any comment about the big game. Before the high-stake game, Rachin's Bengaluru-based grandparents too avoided the media. However, a social media clip of his grandmother performing the "drishti rituals" to keep away the evil eye has gone viral.

Along with the New Zealand cricket ecosystem, Bengaluru also played a role in the making of the batsman, who Sunil **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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TOPPERS' TIPS: 'NOTES PREPARED FOR CBSE BOARD EXAMS EASED CUET UG PREPARATION'

CUET UG Toppers' Tips: The CUET topper, now in DU's Hindu College, says that after the implementation of NEP, they are having to study seven subjects per semester instead of four subjects.



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EXPRESS AUDIO Chhattisgarh polls, 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.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM 40 still stuck in Uttarkashi tunnel

machines to remove the debris. Talking to The Indian Express, Shashi Chauhan, a mechanical foreman for Navayuga Engineering...

the tunnel between 205 metres and 260 metres from the Silkyara side collapsed, trapping the men beyond the 260-metre mark. The debris removed by heavy excavator machines is being taken away by trucks...

even though the collapse is hard to predict, better safety measures and alarm systems could have prevented people from getting trapped. "A technical team is there, we have also talked to the consultants...

Firecracker ban flouted, Delhi air quality worsens post-Diwali, triggers AAP-BJP blame game

steepest since 2015. On Sunday, the 24-hour average AQI was 218 ("poor" category) at 4 pm. On Monday, it deteriorated to 358 at 4 pm, and, by 10 pm, the 24-hour average AQI was 403 ("severe" category).

24-hour standard is 100 µg/m3. The level remained over 1000 µg/m3 from 11 pm to 4 am, falling to 467 µg/m3 by 8 am on Monday, according to data from the DPCC.

ing down. Due to rainfall, there were no accumulated pollutants, which is why the AQI is better this year than it was in some of the previous years. A source of emission has been added...

due to firecrackers, some contribution will be there, but for a day or two. There are calm conditions and other sources of pollutants as well which are already at play...

the Supreme Court's order, pollution would not have increased in NCR... Supply of so many firecrackers is not the work of a common man, this has been done on a large scale under the patronage of the UP and Haryana governments...

Rachin

Gavaskar has hailed as the "superstar of the next decade". During the winters in New Zealand, Krishnamurthy would travel with his son to India so that there was no gap in his training...

Delhi officer defends Chief Secy

scam and matters related to the Delhi Jal Board. "This is just dirty politics because he has ordered inquiries and taken action in several cases, be it CM house renovation, liquor and matters of DJB..."

Transgenders' possible entry

in the force, possible employment avenues, and the roles they could perform in the military. According to sources, most of the directorates have already submitted their comments and suggestions...

Transgenders' possible entry

Another officer said multiple other issues will have to be factored in before any decision is taken. "The military cannot be looked at as just an employment opportunity. There are administrative challenges such as lack of housing and toilets...

Adani Green advisor in hydel appraisal panel of MoEF

the EAC recommended in favour of AGEL. While the minutes of the meeting do not record any refusal, Choudhury, when contacted by The Indian Express, said he did not take part in the discussion when the EAC considered the AEGL project...

2020 Amshipora 'encounter'

The Army constituted a Court of Inquiry which found prima facie evidence that the troops had "exceeded" powers vested under AFSPA. The Court of Inquiry was followed by the summary of evidence, which was completed in the last week of December 2020.

Mahua Moitra

assassination, they spread the speculation that my party had deserted me. The TMC is a party with organisational strength, we do not need to shout from the rooftop just because the BJP spread this. So, I am very happy that my party has entrusted me with this responsibility in an election year.

Gaza hospital 'out of fuel': Envoy

sheltering have also been damaged," it said. According to Palestine's envoy to India Abu Alhajjiaa, about 7,000 people have sought refuge in the hospital as a safe shelter.

2020 Amshipora 'encounter'

likelihood of the applicant being acquitted after hearing of this appeal cannot be ruled out," it said. Saying that Singh had already been in custody for about three years, the tribunal said it was a "fit case where, prima facie, evidence available on record suggests that bail can be granted..."

Mahua Moitra

Moitra led the undivided Nadia district unit of the party and then Nadia (Krishnanagar) before being dropped during an organisational reshuffle in August 2021, months after the TMC's victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections.

Gaza hospital 'out of fuel': Envoy

allow 300 litres of fuel, and reduced it further to 200 litres. This, he said, is "enough just half an hour for generator" because they need between 8,000 and 10,000 litres of petrol per day.

2020 Amshipora 'encounter'

Appealing against the decision, Singh had said he was only complying with the orders of his Commanding Officer, who was part of the operation. In a 27-page order, the two-member tribunal headed by Justice Rajendra Menon said that prima facie, the findings recorded in the trial seemed to be "perverse" and "improper".



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WORLD DIABETES DAY

2023

ADVERTORIAL

AWARENESS ON DIABETES

Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs either when the pancreas not able to produce enough insulin or body will not effectively utilize it. Insulin is a hormone that regulates blood sugar. Hyperglycaemia is a common effect of uncontrolled diabetes and over time leads to serious damage to many of the body's systems.

Common Symptoms of diabetes:

- Frequent thirsty
- Frequent urination
- Blurred vision

- Feel very tired
- Lose weight without trying

In India, More than 100 million adults have Diabetes, 136 million have prediabetes 53% population is undiagnosed. India is 2nd most affected country in the world. Adults with diabetes have a two- to three-fold increased risk of heart attacks and strokes. Combined with reduced blood flow, neuropathy (nerve damage) in the feet increases the chance of foot ulcers, infection, and the eventual need for limb amputation. Diabetic retinopathy is an



important cause of blindness and occurs as a result of long-term accumulated damage to the small blood vessels in the retina. Diabetes is among the leading causes of kidney failure.

World Diabetes Day 2022-23 : Access to Diabetes Care.

In 2023, the campaign focuses on the importance of knowing your risk of type 2 diabetes to help delay or prevent the condition and highlighting the impact of diabetes-related complications and the importance of having access to the right information

and care to ensure timely treatment and management.

World Diabetes Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness of diabetes as a global public health issue and what needs to be done, collectively and individually, for better prevention, diagnosis and management of the condition.

Ref: Addadapted from Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol 2023; 11: 474-89. Addapted from

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-diabetes-day/2022>

In diabetes: Watch on Hypoglycemia!



Dr. Subhash Tyagi
Physician & Cardiologist
Delhi

Hypoglycemia is the medical term for low blood glucose (blood sugar), usually less than 70 mg/dL. It occurs most often in people with diabetes who take insulin, or diabetes pills, when they eat too little food or skip a meal and or exercise too much without eating a snack. The frequency of hypoglycemia among people with longstanding type 2 diabetes increases over time, as the body

eventually stops making enough insulin. The symptoms of low blood glucose vary from person to person and can change over time. During the early stages of low blood glucose, you may sweat, tremble, feel hungry and or feel anxious.

If untreated, symptoms can become more severe and can include difficulty walking, weakness, difficulty seeing clearly, confusion, or having a seizure.

How to Treat Hypoglycemia if it happens to you

If you think your blood sugar is too low, use a blood glucose meter to check your level. If it is 70mg/dL or below, take 15 grams of a fast-acting carbohydrate such as one teaspoon sugar, glucose tablets, fruits juice or a candy. Wait 15 minutes, and check your blood sugar again. You can remember this as the 15:15 rule. Repeat the treatment until your blood sugar is within normal range.

How to prevent Hypoglycemia

- Follow a regular schedule to maintain your usual medication times with your

usual meals and activities.

- Check with your doctor for diabetes medicines that can cause low blood sugar
- Meal plans designed by your dietitian can help you eat regular meals that fit your preferences and lifestyle.
- Physical activities, such as sports or exercise may require a snack or an adjustment to your medication.
- Blood sugar should be checked regularly by people with diabetes.
- A quick source of sugar, like glucose tablets should be kept with you at all times in case of a hypoglycemic episode so you are able to treat the problem right away.

Low blood glucose can be frightening and unpleasant. If you experience low blood glucose levels, let your doctor know about it. They can help adjust your diabetes treatment medicines to reduce the chances of hypoglycemia happening again.

Sick day rules:

Diabetes management when you are sick



Dr. Ajay K Ajmani
Sr. Director & HOD,
Dept of Endocrinology BLK Hosp.
Delhi

Like everyone, people with diabetes too can get sick either due to cold, flu or any infection. When you are sick, as part of the body's defence mechanism for fighting

illness and infection, your body releases more glucose. Further, glucose levels increases even if you are not taking food or eating less than usual, making it harder to keep your blood sugar levels within normal limits. When you are sick, your diabetic symptoms get much worse. You may also get experience diarrhea, which can make your blood sugar levels drop further.

Sick day rules:

- Do not panic and continue taking your anti-diabetic medications as usual
- Test your blood sugar every 4 hours and keep track of the results.
- Stay hydrated (drink plenty of fluids at least 240 ml to prevent dehydration) and have plenty of unsweetened drinks.

- Drink small portions of these sweet beverages to keep your blood sugar from getting too high.
- Try to sip sugary drinks (such as fruit juice or non-diet cola or lemonade) or suck on glucose tablets or sweets like jelly beans.
- Eat little and often. If you cannot eat meals, you will need to eat or drink about 50 grams of carbohydrates every 4 hours (such as 1½ cup of fruit juice).
- Check your temperature every morning and evening. A fever may be a sign of infection.
- Remember, if you cannot eat enough, then there is a high chance that you increase your risk of low blood glucose. Contact your physician.

Managing diabetes in winter



Dr. Vimal Nakra
Sr. Consultant Physician
Delhi

Living with diabetes can be challenging. Diabetes has an effect on a person's overall health and living. With winter setting in, it only gets challenging for people with diabetes to manage it. It may increase blood sugar levels due to increased eating habit and might even

put health at risk.

Managing diabetes requires lot of precautions during winter. It can get difficult during winters when compared to other seasons. Cold weather may increase difficulty in sticking to your routine of a particular diet and an exercise plan. Contracting an infection or catching a common cold or flu might be more than just a disappointment when a person is diabetic; it can lead to severe health issues later on. In individuals with diabetes, preventable infections such as flu and pneumonia might develop quickly.

During winter, it becomes really important for people with diabetes to take care of their feet. Diabetes can reduce circulation to the feet which means it is less likely to be warm in cold weather. Winter also increases the chances of infections and nerve pain in

the feet. It becomes very important to keep them dry and warm. For people with diabetes, following care should be taken:

- Proper diet planning
- Keep yourself warm
- Daily foot checks for cracks, sores, or any discoloration
- Check feet daily
- Moisturize after taking bath
- Use warm, dry socks, shoes or boots

It can be tempting for diabetics to rely on comfort foods which include oily foods and sweets. This can make it even more challenging to keep the sugar levels in check. Being physically active can also be challenging, cold weather can make you feel lazy. Include a home exercise routine to avoid missing exercise outdoors. Other precautions include; avoid infections, stay hydrated, check your vitals regularly and stay positive.

Diabetic foot infection: What is it and how to prevent?



Dr. Ashok Damir
Sr. Consultant Physician
Delhi

Diabetic patients are increasing in leaps and bounds all over world. Similarly diabetic complications causing different comorbidities are also increasing. Diabetic foot is a common complication in diabetes which is often neglected

It usually occurs when your blood sugar levels remain high for very long time. Further, longstanding high blood sugar levels cause damage to the blood vessels, thereby decreases blood flow to the feet. Poor circulation can weaken the skin, contribute to the formation of foot ulcers which usually get infected leading to intractable Diabetic foot infection and impaired wound healing. The risk of developing foot problem is high if you have had a foot ulcer in the past, have nerve damage, have any foot deformities or if you have poor blood circulation.

In general, you can bring down your risk of diabetic foot infection by keeping your blood sugar within normal limits and by visiting your doctor regularly. You can also lower your risk of developing foot problems by examining your feet regularly.

Taking care of your feet

- Wash and check your feet daily.
- Use lukewarm water and mild soap to clean your feet.
- Thoroughly dry your feet, paying special attention to the spaces between the toes, by gently patting them with a clean, absorbent towel and sprinkling dusting powder.
- Apply moisturizing cream or lotion when feet are dry.
- Trim your toenails straight across, and avoid cutting them down the sides or too short.
- If there is a corn or callus, do not try to remove of your own; instead consult a foot care provider (such as a Podiatrist).
- Never walk barefeet.
- Wear cotton socks during summer and woolen socks in winter that fit loosely and always wear proper footwear to cover your feet.

In Diabetes: Avoid Infections



Dr. Kunal Chawla
Sr. Consultant Physician,
Sir Gangaram Hosp.
Delhi

Diabetes is a chronic disease in which blood glucose levels are above normal levels. High blood sugar levels can weaken a person's immune system defenses. People who have had diabetes for a long time may have peripheral nerve damage and reduced blood flow to their extremities, which increases the chance for infection. The high sugar levels in your blood and tissues allow bacteria to grow and allow infections to develop more

quickly.

The most common infections in people with diabetes include:

- Ear, nose, and throat infections: Fungal infections of the nose and throat are seen almost exclusively in patients with diabetes. Symptoms include severe ear pain and ear discharge.
- Urinary tract infections (UTIs): Uncontrolled diabetes is one of the major causes for UTIs. These UTIs are commonly caused by germs such as Escherichia coli, Klebsiella, Enterococcus, and Candida. Kidney infections and inflammation of the bladder are also common.
- Skin and soft tissue infections: People with diabetes are at risk for infections and wounds in the leg (also called diabetic foot). Repeated trauma and poor footwear can lead to these infections. If these infections aren't treated promptly and properly, it can result in the need to amputate.

Ways to prevent infections diabetic patients

- 1) Make sure your blood sugar levels are well controlled. This can be achieved by exercising regularly, making healthy food choices, and following your healthcare provider's recommendations for routine blood glucose testing.
- 2) Take medicines exactly as prescribed by your doctor.
- 3) Maintain good personal hygiene. Wash your hands frequently, especially after using the bathroom; after sneezing, blowing your nose, or coughing; before eating; when visiting someone who is sick; or whenever your hands are dirty.
- 4) Never share your insulin pen. These are meant for only one person.
- 5) Get your flu vaccine each year and stay up to date on all vaccinations.
- 6) Wear good, soft, and covered footwear. Wear clean socks daily. People who have diabetes should examine their feet on a daily basis.
- 7) Seek early medical care if you are injured or ill.

Burden of Diabetic Complications



Dr. Aditya Jayraman
Diabetology
Delhi

The constant rapid surge in the number of individuals with diabetes has made India a diabetes capital of the world. In 2019, India was home to 77 million individuals with diabetes. Furthermore, diabetes has also been found to contribute to the development of ischemic heart disease, stroke, chronic kidney disease (CKD), and peripheral artery disease.

The presence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is known to decrease the life expectancy by around 10 years. Along with the rising diabetes pandemic, there is also an increase in the micro- and macrovascular complications. One of the known contributor to morbidity and mortality in diabetes is the presence of cardiovascular diseases, however, the microvascular complications specific to diabetes are also some of the causative factors. The major risk factors for microvascular diseases are glycemic control, duration of diabetes and hypertension, whereas, blood pressure, smoking, lipids, and albuminuria are the important risk factors for macrovascular diseases.

Complications in Diabetes

The development of complications in diabetes can be attributed to the metabolic and haemodynamic abnormalities. In diabetes, hyperglycaemia in the cells causes the upregulation of glucose, thereby stimulating the hemodynamic and biochemical pathways. This further activates the intracellular and growth

factors resulting in tissue damages. A plausible mechanism is the overproduction of superoxides in diabetes by the mitochondrial electron transport chain that causes the activation of these pathways.

Microvascular Complications

Diabetic Retinopathy

One of the most common of diabetes is diabetic retinopathy that is the cause of 5% of blindness in the world, as estimated by the World Health Organization. Diabetic retinopathy, if not recognised or treated well can lead to blindness or visual impairment. In diabetes, long term high blood glucose levels causes leakage or blockage of the blood vessels in the retina. The pathophysiology of diabetic retinopathy progresses from mild, nonproliferative abnormalities to moderate and severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy (NPDR) and consequently to proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR).

Diabetic Nephropathy

Diabetic nephropathy (DN) presents itself as the most common cause of end-stage renal disease requiring dialysis. The natural pathogenesis of diabetic nephropathy changes depending on the type of diabetes and the presence or absence of microalbuminuria. Among the patients developing nephropathy, approximately one third progress to proteinuria, other one third remain microalbuminuric, and further one third revert to normal albumin excretion. Consequently, once a person reaches the stage of proteinuria, there are increased risks of progression to end stage renal disease.

Diabetic Neuropathy

People with diabetes face a 30-50% lifetime risk of chronic peripheral neuropathy and further, severe symptoms of neuropathies are experienced by 10-20% of patients. Peripheral neuropathy involves amputation of lower limbs and foot ulceration. Diabetes is also responsible for erectile dysfunction in about 50% of men over 50 years, as compared to their nondiabetic peers. The

presence of other neuropathies might be rare but they also majorly affect the life expectancy and quality of life. It is therefore a significant public concern to address the issues of neuropathy by identifying the risk factors in people with diabetes.

The importance of multifactorial care

A significant trial of STENO2, a randomised controlled trial of patients with type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and microalbuminuria emphasized on the importance of an intensified, targeted, and multifactorial intervention in the management of complications. The trial involved two groups- one with intensive management and other with a conventional approach. Lifestyle advice, use of aspirin, and angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors were a part of the intensively managed group with tight goals for glucose, blood pressure, and lipids. The conventional group received usual structured care in a primary care setting. It was observed that over the course of eight years, the risks of complications and progression of microvascular and macrovascular disease in the intensive management group were reduced by around 40-60%.

Conclusions

The prevalence and presence of complications in diabetes lead to a high morbidity and mortality risk in patients with T2DM. It is noteworthy to understand that prevention is key and thus priority must be given to a good glucose, blood pressure and lipid control. Nevertheless, screening and monitoring the complications is imperative and patients having any micro or macrovascular complications must be identified and treated.

References

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Diabetes distress and burnout



Dr. G. S. Kohli
Sr. Consultant Physician
Rajouri Garden, Delhi

Diabetes distress or burnout is the feeling of frustration, sadness, guilt and worry with regards to managing diabetes. You have been religiously following all the routines of taking your meds on time, eating the right diet, taking time out for your daily walk and physical activity,

checking your blood sugar levels regularly. And all of a sudden you feel vindicated for not getting the desired results or you develop a health problem related to diabetes despite your best efforts. These feelings may result in frustration & discouragement, and you may stop monitoring the blood sugar levels, even stop practicing your routine stuff. You're experiencing a diabetes distress or burnout.

Anyone can feel diabetes distress and a lot of people experience it more than once. The most common reason for feeling diabetes distress is worrying about getting complications in the future or feeling anxious about your diabetes management. It is slightly more common for people who take insulin.

Having diabetes distress for a long stretch of time can lead to burnout. It is

completely normal to go through a burnout and there is nothing right or wrong way to feel. Knowing the signs of these feelings can help you overcome or manage these feelings better. However, it is important to be aware about some signs that things are getting too much and those are:

- Feeling angry and frustrated about the demands of managing diabetes.
- Lack of motivation to change the unhealthy habits in managing diabetes.
- Avoiding doctor appointments or regular checking blood sugar levels.
- Being lenient with your diet.
- Feeling lonely.

Be kind to yourself, recognize the signs and symptoms and get the right support from your healthcare team and people around you to overcome these feelings.



WORLD DIABETES DAY-2023

Healthy ways to eat non-vegetarian food for diabetics



Dr. Ashish Rohatgi
Physician Consultant
Delhi

According to experts in diabetology, people with diabetes should avoid food containing trans-fat. But most of the diabetics have less knowledge about trans-fat. In fact, many of them are unaware about different types of fats

such as saturated fats and unsaturated fats. Hence, it is very much important for diabetics to know some basic information, especially for non-veggies.

Not all fats are bad. Unsaturated fats are the "good" fats (present in nuts, fish, olive oil, canola oil, seeds). Saturated fats (present in red meats, butter, lard, full-fat dairy products, dark-meat poultry) are less healthy and you should avoid. Lastly, Trans fats are harmful. You can find it in processed foods like crackers, snack foods, and most junk foods. Having said this, it might be difficult to cut down most non-vegetarian food, but still, you can have it, if you follow the below methods.

- Buy meat without fat.
- Eat chicken without the skin.
- Cook meat and meat substitutes in low-fat ways such as broil/grill/roast/steam/microwave.

- To add more flavour, use vinegars, lemon juice, soy sauce, salsa, ketchup, herbs and spices.
- Cook eggs using non-stick pan.
- Limit the amount of nuts, peanut butter, and fried foods. They are high in fat.
- To identify trans fats, check food labels for the words "partially hydrogenated."

Healthy ways to have milk?

- Drink fat-free (skim) / low-fat (1%) milk.
- Eat low-fat /fat-free fruit yogurt sweetened with a low-calorie sweetener.
- Use low-fat plain yogurt.
- Choose low-fat or fat-free cheese.

Tips for better Sleep when you have diabetes



Dr. K. J. S. Narula
Cardiologist & Gastroenterologist
Delhi

Good sleep becomes essential when you have diabetes. If you do not get the required amount of sleep, it can have a negative effect on your blood sugar levels. Adequate amount of sleep is as important as diet and exercise for people with

diabetes.

Sleep loss or sleep deprivation puts a lot of stress on your body. Body to cope with this unusual stress releases a hormone known as Cortisol; this hormone Cortisol increases blood sugar levels. It should also be noted that too much of sleep may also have a negative impact on diabetes. Recent study confirmed that people with diabetes who slept more (or less) than seven hours had an elevated risk of dying early, compared with those who got a full seven hours.

It becomes important that an individual with diabetes must ensure to get the required amount of sleep which can be helpful in managing diabetes better. Here are few tips to sleep better when you have diabetes.

- Check for Sleep apnoea which is a common condition amongst diabetes patients wherein breathing starts and stops while you are asleep. Consult your doctor for a sleep test. It can be treated with breathing devices and lifestyle changes such as losing weight can be helpful.
- Keep your blood sugar levels in check. It is highly recommended to use a continuous glucose monitor.
- Plan for adequate sleep. Practice good sleep hygiene. Having a stable bedtime and wake time every day is associated with better sleep quality
- Don't drink alcohol before bed.
- Caffeinated beverages.
- Exercise during the day.
- Use relaxing techniques to de-stress.

Heart disease and Diabetes



Dr. Rupesh Kaushik
Cardiologist,
Mata Chandan Devi Hospital - Delhi

In diabetes the risk of getting heart disease is doubled when compared to individuals who do not have diabetes. The longer you have diabetes, the more likely you are to have heart disease. High blood

sugar levels cause damage to the blood vessels and the nerves that control your heart. Further, if your blood pressure levels and cholesterol levels are also high, then its for sure that your chances of getting heart problems is very high.

By bringing the following changes in your life, you can lower your risk for heart disease or keep it from getting worse

1. Take healthy diet:
 - Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables, lean protein, and whole grains.
 - Eat fewer processed foods (such as chips, sweets, and junk food) and especially avoid food comprising of trans fat.
 - Drink more water, fewer sugary drinks, and less alcohol.

2. Maintain healthy body weight: This will have beneficial effects not only on heart but also reduced blood pressure and cholesterol levels
3. Be physically active: Helps control blood sugar levels and lowers your risk of heart disease. Try to get at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity physical activity, such as brisk walking.
4. Quit Smoking.
5. Take following steps:-
 - Get a regular HbA1C test done
 - Try to keep your blood pressure below 140/90 mm Hg
 - Manage your cholesterol levels.
6. Reduce stress. Try meditation or deep breathing exercises.

In DIABETES: Take charge of your blood sugar levels for Healthy Eyes!



Dr. Jagdish Moolchandani
Sr. Diabetologist
Delhi

Diabetes can harm your eyes. The excessive amount of glucose circulating in the blood stream can damage the small blood vessels in your retina. This is called diabetic retinopathy. Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness. People with type 1 and type 2

diabetics are at risk for this condition. The longer a person has diabetes, the higher his or her chances of developing diabetic retinopathy. Diabetes also increases your risk of having glaucoma, cataracts, and other eye problems.

In addition to diabetes duration, factors that increase the risk of, or are associated with, retinopathy include chronic hyperglycemia [High sugars], nephropathy [kidney damage], hypertension [high blood pressure] and dyslipidemia [deranged lipids/cholesterol].

Patients with diabetes should have an initial dilated and comprehensive eye examination by an ophthalmologist or optometrist at the time of the diabetes diagnosis and then repeated at least annually. Intensive diabetes management with the

goal of achieving near-normal glycemia [normal blood glucose levels] has shown to prevent and/or delay the onset and progression of diabetic retinopathy.

Tips to Keep Your Eyes Healthy

- Get a dilated eye exam at least once a year by an ophthalmologist or optometrist
- Visit your eye doctor right away if you: See little black lines or spots that don't go away; See any red spots or a red fog; Have a sudden change in how clearly you see; Take longer than usual to adjust to darkness.
- Talk with all of your doctor about ways to manage your blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol.
- Be more active each day and
- Eat foods that are healthy.
- Keep your Sugar, BP, Lipid, HBA1C at normal level.

Drinking alcohol leads to high blood pressure in diabetic patients



Dr. Vikram Jeet Singh
Sr. Consultant-Internal Medicine
Delhi

It is believed that light to moderate alcohol consumption may have beneficial effects on heart health in the general adult population. However, as a thumb rule, too much is always too bad.

Regular consumption of even moderate amounts of alcohol (i.e., two to four drinks per day), increases the risk of impotence, peripheral neuropathy (complication of diabetes that affects the nerves) and possibly retinopathy (complication of diabetes that affects the eyes). Thus, individuals with diabetes should restrict themselves from drinking too much of alcohol. Moreover, heavy drinking in a fasting state can bring down the sugar levels below the normal range and ultimately increase Diabetics risk of death from non-cardiovascular causes.

Besides these complications, in individuals with diabetes, consumption of alcohol increases blood pressure. It has been reported that moderate drinking (i.e., eight or more alcoholic beverages in

a week) was associated with a 60% or higher increased risk of high blood pressure. The severity of high blood pressure also increased with eight or more drinks per week. Likewise, heavy drinking increased the risk of high blood pressure by 91%, suggesting more alcohol consumed, the higher the risk and severity of high blood pressure. Thus, patients with diabetes should limit the intake of alcohol, women with diabetes may have no more than one alcoholic beverage in a day and men should have no more than two alcoholic beverages in a day.

It is advisable for people with diabetes to restrict the consumption of alcohol or gradually decrease the intake to prevent untoward incidents.

Diabetes and heart disease often go hand in hand



Dr. Sanjay Sharma
Sr. Consultant & Interventional Cardiologist
Delhi

If you have diabetes, then the risk for you getting heart disease is doubled when compared to individuals who do not have diabetes. The longer you have diabetes,

the more likely you are to have heart disease. High blood sugar levels cause damage to the blood vessels and the nerves that control your heart. Further, if your blood pressure levels and cholesterol levels are also high, then its for sure that your chances of getting heart problems is very high.

By bringing the following changes in your life, you can lower your risk for heart disease or keep it from getting worse

1. Follow a healthy diet:
 - Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables, lean protein, and whole grains.
 - Eat fewer processed foods (such as chips, sweets, and junk food) and especially avoid food comprising of trans fat.
 - Drink more water, fewer sugary

- drinks, and less alcohol.
2. Maintain healthy body weight: This will have beneficial effects not only on heart but also reduced blood pressure and cholesterol levels

3. Be physically active: Helps control blood sugar levels and lowers your risk of heart disease. Try to get at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity physical activity, such as brisk walking.

4. Manage your ABCs:
 - A: Get a regular HbA1C test done
 - B: Try to keep your blood pressure below 140/90 mm Hg
 - C: Manage your cholesterol levels.
5. Reduce stress. Try meditation or deep breathing exercises
6. Quit smoking.

In Diabetes: Prevent the Nerve Damages



Dr. Arvind Kumar Agarwal
Sr. Consultant Internal Medicine
Delhi

Diabetic neuropathy (DN) is an important and common complication of diabetes, with a lifetime prevalence of more than

50% among people with diabetes. DN can encompass several patterns of neuropathy, owing to the numerous possible sites of nerve damage.

DN is an insidious and often disabling disease. Sensory symptoms are diverse, ranging from numbness to dysesthesia [an abnormal unpleasant sensation felt when touched, caused by damage to peripheral nerves], pain and allodynia [pain due to a stimulus that does not normally provoke pain], and typically begin in the feet and spread proximally. DN can impact psychosocial behaviour and quality of life (QoL). DN is a major risk factor for diabetic foot ulceration and lower limb amputation.

All patients should be assessed for

diabetic peripheral neuropathy starting at diagnosis of type 2 diabetes and 5 years after the diagnosis of type 1 diabetes and at least annually thereafter.

Assessment for polyneuropathy should include a careful history and assessment of either temperature or pinprick sensation and vibration sensation. All patients should have annual 10-g monofilament testing to identify feet at risk for ulceration and amputation.

Prevention strategies for DN focus on glycemic control, lifestyle modifications [such as such as regular exercise and a balanced diet] and footcare (all people with diabetes should have a foot assessment at the time of diagnosis and annually)

Uncontrolled diabetes can harm your eyes



Dr. Rajesh Gupta
Consultant Physician
Delhi

Did you know that diabetes can harm your eyes? In fact it is also a major cause of blindness in elderly diabetic patients. Yes,

you have read it right. Diabetes can cause eye damage if your blood sugar level is high for a long time. The good news is that you can prevent your eyes getting damaged due to diabetes. But before that, you need to know about different types of eye diseases caused by uncontrolled diabetes. Basically, eye diseases include-

- Retinopathy: Small blood vessels in the retina (at the back of the eye) become weak and possibly the blood gets leaked. This disease can cause blindness if not treated and unfortunately this disease has no symptoms.
- Cataracts: This causes a "clouding" of the lens of the eye, which makes vision blurry. People with diabetes are more likely to get cataracts.

- Glaucoma causes pressure in the eye. If not treated, glaucoma can cause vision loss or blindness.

As mentioned earlier, most of the patients do not experience any symptoms of eye damage. However, if you see little black lines or spots that do not go away, or if you see any red spots or a red fog, blurred vision, then there are chances that your eyes have been affected. When you experience these symptoms it is always better that you consult your doctor immediately.

Getting your eyes tested regularly can help you in preventing from eyes getting damaged. Get your regular HbA1C tests to measure your blood sugar over time because poor blood sugar can make eye problems happen faster.

Diabetic foot infection: What is it and how to prevent?



Dr. A. S. Dave
Consulting Physician
Delhi

Foot problem is a common complication in people with diabetes. It usually occurs when your blood sugar levels remain high for very long time. Further, longstanding

high blood sugar levels can cause damage to the blood vessels, thereby decreases blood flow to the feet. Poor circulation can weaken the skin, contribute to the formation of foot ulcers (foot infection), and impair wound healing. The risk of developing foot problem is high if you have had a foot ulcer in the past, have nerve damage, have any foot deformities or if you have poor blood circulation.

In general, you can lower your risk of diabetic foot infection by keeping your blood sugar with in the normal levels and by visiting your doctor for regular check-ups. You can also lower your risk of developing foot problems by examining your feet regularly.

Taking care of your feet

- Wash and check your feet daily.
- Use lukewarm water and mild soap to

clean your feet.

- Thoroughly dry your feet, paying special attention to the spaces between the toes, by gently patting them with a clean, absorbent towel.
- Apply a moisturizing cream or lotion.
- Trim your toenails straight across, and avoid cutting them down the sides or too short
- If there is corn or callus, do not try to remove on your own; instead consult a foot care provider (such as a podiatrist).
- Apply moisturizing cream or lotion when feet are dry.
- Never walk barefoot.
- Wear cotton socks that fit loosely and always wear shoes to cover your feet.
- Make sure your shoes fit right.

Healthy ways to eat vegetables and fruits when you have diabetes



Dr. Manas Chakravarty
Sr. Consultant Physician
Delhi

You may worry that having diabetes means going without foods you enjoy. The good news is that you can still eat your favourite foods, but you might need to eat smaller portions or enjoy them less often. Eating certain foods and limiting others

can help people with diabetes manage their blood sugar levels. A diet rich in vegetables, fruits, and healthy proteins can have significant benefits. Thus, it is advised to eat a variety of healthy foods from all food groups especially from fruits and vegetables. Vegetables provide vitamins, minerals, and fibre. But they are low in carbohydrate. Whereas fruits provide carbohydrate, vitamins, minerals, and fibre.

Healthy ways to eat vegetables?

- Eat raw and cooked vegetables with little or no fat, sauces, or dressings.
- Try low-fat or fat-free salad dressing on raw vegetables or salads.
- Steam vegetables using water or low-fat broth.
- Mix in some chopped onion or garlic.
- Use a little vinegar or some lemon or lime juice.

- Sprinkle with herbs and spices.
- If you do use a small amount of fat, use olive oil, instead of fat from meat, butter, or shortening.

Healthy ways to eat fruits

- Eat fruits raw or cooked
- Fruit juice with no sugar added is preferred
- Canned fruit/ fruit juice should be avoided.
- Buy smaller pieces of fruit.
- Choose pieces of fruit more often than fruit juice. Whole fruit is more filling and has more fiber.
- Save high-sugar and high-fat fruit desserts such as peach cobbler or cherry pie for special occasions.

Can diabetes cause nerve damage?



Dr. Gurprit Singh Sawhney
Consultant Physician
Delhi

Uncontrolled high blood glucose levels for a long time can lead to various complications, many of which can be

serious if they are not identified and treated immediately. One such complication caused by high blood glucose level is damage to the nerves (the medical term for this is diabetic neuropathy).

Nerve damage usually is felt in the toes and feet first. When your nerves are damaged, there is loss of feeling (numbness), tingling /burning and painful sensation, which often worsens at rest or at night. Some people might also start to feel symptoms or enjoy them less often. Eating certain foods and limiting others

feet. Over time, this can cause a person's foot to have an abnormal shape. These symptoms can be managed or reduced if your blood sugar levels are within the normal values. However, it is always believed that prevention is better than cure. Having said this, there are several ways by which the risk of getting nerve damage can be reduced such as-

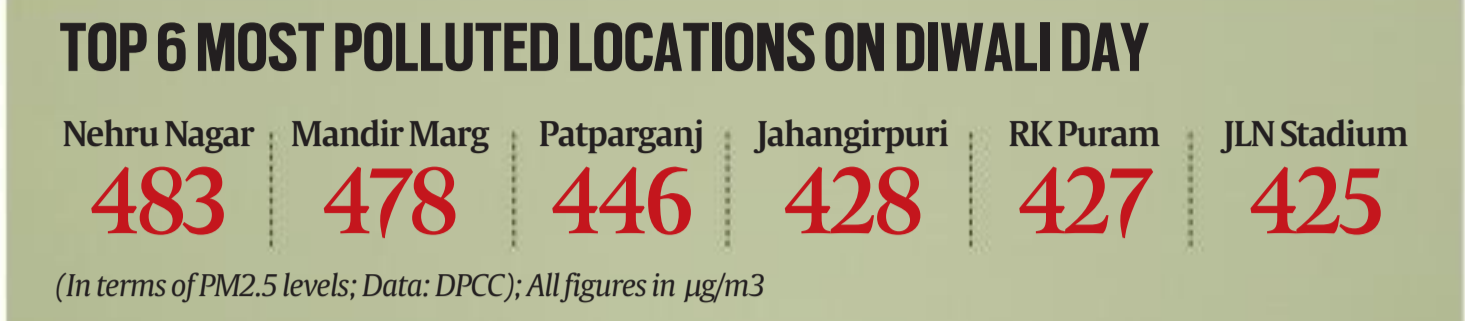
- Maintaining blood sugar levels as close to normal as possible.
- Not smoking, or quitting smoking if you do smoke.
- Eating a healthy diet and getting plenty of physical activity.
- Losing weight, if you are overweight.
- Making sure that high blood pressure and heart disease are treated (if these conditions are present).

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Suneel Kumar S/o Sh. Lakhan Singh R/o H.No.6C, Type-III, Delhi Police Colony, Model Town-II, Delhi-110009, from Suneel Kumar to Sunil Kumar for all future purposes. 0070874130-1

SEASON'S LOWEST MIN TEMP RECORDED Delhi sees higher PM levels than last Diwali



Out of 24 monitoring stations, 21 recorded higher PM 2.5 levels and 19 recorded higher PM 10 levels on Sunday as compared to last Diwali, data from the DPCC shows. Praveen Khanna

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

ON DIWALI day this year, most air quality monitoring stations of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee recorded higher particulate matter levels as compared to last year. Out of 24 monitoring stations, 21 recorded higher PM 2.5 levels and 19 recorded higher PM 10 levels on Sunday (as compared to last Diwali), data from the DPCC shows.



Amit Mehra

levels at most monitoring stations on Diwali this year compared to 2022 is in keeping with the higher average for the city for the city as well. The average PM 2.5 level for the city this year - 314 µg/m3 - is up from 217 µg/m3 on Diwali day last year, but down from 607 µg/m3 on Diwali day in 2021, going by data from the DPCC.

Pay twice the fee to park your car in CP & other NDMC areas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

THE NEW Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has decided to increase its existing parking fees by two-fold in a temporary attempt to discourage private transport in view of the rising levels of pollution in the capital. "The parking fees (off road/on road) has been enhanced to twice of the existing to discourage private transport for the parking managed by NDMC through its own staff," the NDMC said in a public notice.

The decision has been taken as part of GRAP to discourage use of pvt vehicles in view of pollution in the Capital. The measure will be in place till Jan 31

ing to the highly unfavourable meteorological and climatic conditions," the statement said. The NDMC has taken the decision based on the guidelines by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM). In its guidelines dated October 6, the CAQM had directed the implementation of the revised schedule of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) with immediate effect by all the agencies concerned in the NCR; this also included a provision to enhance

parking fees to discourage private transport. In areas other than Lutyens' Delhi, the parking fee will remain the same as the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has not taken any action in this regard as of now. "Increase in the parking fee is currently under discussion but no hike has been implemented in spaces managed by the MCD at the moment," an MCD source said. Areas that would be affected by NDMC's decision include Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, Feroz Shah Road, Shershah Road, Panchkuian Road, Minto Road, Central Secretariat, Ashoka Road, Parliament Street, Janpath, Jantar Mantar Road, Pandara Road, Shahjahan Road, Akbar Road, Teen Murti Marg, Lodhi Colony, Jor Bagh, Kidwai Nagar, Sarojini Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, Race Course Road, Panchsheel Marg, Chanakya Park, Netaji Nagar and Moti Bagh.

Firecracker thrown at him, man dies of injuries

Ghaziabad: A 35-year-old man died on Sunday after a person threw a pipe firecracker at him during Diwali celebrations. The deceased has been identified as Naatu alias Afzal, a resident of Link Road police station area in Ghaziabad. Police said they received information about the incident around 11 pm Sunday. "A man named Pradeep was using pipe firecrackers and it seems he threw it on Afzal. Due to this, a vein in Afzal's leg burst and he started bleeding profusely. He was immediately taken to a hospital, where he was declared dead by doctors. A case has been registered by police. Teams have been formed to arrest the accused," said Bhaskar Verma, ACP Sahibabad.

CBI seeks L-G nod to probe 'extortion racket' by AAP's Jain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

THE CBI has sought L-G VK Saxena's approval to probe a "high-level extortion racket" allegedly operated by AAP leader and former Delhi home minister Satyendar Jain with the assistance of Tihar Jail officials. L-G House officials confirmed that the CBI had written to Raj Niwas for Saxena's approval to probe the complaint against Jain filed by jailed conman Sukesh Chandrashekar. The communication was received over the weekend and is expected to be put up before Saxena for consideration soon. It was alleged that Jain was at the helm of an extortion racket and was receiving "protection money" from Sukesh and other high-profile prisoners lodged in different Delhi jails to "live peacefully and comfortably in jail".



The complaint against Jain was filed by jailed conman Sukesh Chandrashekar (R).

CBI investigation into the claims of Sukesh Chandrashekar who extorted over Rs 200 crore from a businessman's family in 2020 because the Home Minister asked him to do so," the AAP alleged in response. According to sources, the CBI also sought Saxena's approval to investigate the role of Raj Kumar, a former jail superintendent, as a part of the alleged racket under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Chandrashekar, according to the letter, was lodged at Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli jails as an undertrial prisoner in judicial custody during 2017-22. He claimed it was during this time that a "high-level corruption and extortion racket" was being run by Jain who was then, in his capacity as Delhi Home Minister, in charge of the city's prisons. Sukesh's complaint also named the then-Director General and an additional Inspector General of being part of the alleged syndicate. It also accused Jain of allegedly receiving Rs 10 crore from him in various tranches from 2018 to 2021 "either by himself or through his accomplices".

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान मोहाली (इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एजुकेशन एंड रिसर्च मोहाली) Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali. Notice inviting e-tender for various services.

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER. DRM/ENGG. South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender against Open Tender. Manual Offers are not allowed against this tender.

PUBLIC NOTICE. Public at large is hereby notified that Entire Second Floor without roof/terrace rights, of the freehold property bearing No. 04, area measuring 80 sq mtrs, Block B, Pocket - 2, Sector-16, Rohini, New Delhi.

NORTHERN RAILWAY. E-TENDER NOTICE No. ELS_SRE_T-40 dtd. 11/11/2023. Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on web site www.ireps.gov.in.

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank. CIRCLE SASTRA PATNA (8297), Patna R-Block, 2nd Floor, Chanakya Place, Patna-800001. POSSESSION NOTICE (For Movable/Immovable property). Where as The undersigned being the Authorised 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 Rule 3 of 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).

Bunts Sangha's S M SHETTY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT STUDIES. Applications are invited for the post of PRINCIPAL FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024. (UN-AIDED). The above post is open to all however candidates from any category can apply for the post.

I, Binod Kumar S/o Dharam Deo Prasad Shrivastva, R/o-389/31,3, Laxman-Vihar, Phase-2, Gali No.3, Ward No.-10, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Binod Kumar Shrivastva. 0040698908-1

LOST & FOUND

I, Rama Trikha D/o Sh. Nand Lal Paul and W/o late Sh. Lajpat Rai Trikha R/o Flat No. 90, Ajanta Co-op group housing society Ltd, Plot No.36, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092 have lost my original allotment letter, Share Certificate, Possession letter of my above mentioned residential property. Finder please contact mob. 9810219555 0040698886-1

7 THE CITY

LAND IN BURARI THEY LIVE ON MIRED IN LEGAL DISPUTE

Residents take to streets to protest demolition orders: 'Lived here for yrs'

UPASIKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

HUNDREDS OF residents from Jharoda Majra in Northwest Delhi's Burari blocked GT Karnal Road Monday to protest against eviction and demolition orders issued by the Delhi government's Land and Building department. Identifying the residents as "encroachers", the order cited the Delhi High Court's directions and directed the residents to vacate the property/premises by November 19 so demolitions could take place the following day. It further warned that "if the property/land is not vacated and handed over within the stipulated time period, the occupants/encroachers will be solely responsible for any damage to the goods lying in said land after the start of demolition".



Residents blocked the GT Karnal Road, Monday. Abhinav Saha

The land in question, two acres, where there are around 1,000 homes now has been mired in a legal dispute for decades — a fact residents claimed they were unaware of. The land owner in the case, Shobhat Ram, migrated from Montgomery (now Sahiwal district) in Pakistan to Delhi in 1947 and sought alternate land under the Displaced Person (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act in 1954. While he received some land in Punjab Khor as partial sat-

isfaction of his claim, a balance of 2 acres and 11 agricultural units remained unallocated. In 1961, this land was granted to his son Ram Chander in Jharoda Majra. Chander then petitioned the court, arguing that the land was too remote for his family to maintain and that he never gained physical possession of it. In 1995, the Burari allocation was cancelled and a different parcel of land was allotted in Mehrauli. Chander got the land mutated in his name and began farming. However, the Mehrauli allocation

was cancelled in 1999 and the Burari allocation reinstated. In 2016, Chander's grandson, Neeraj, filed a writ petition contending his family had still not received possession of the 2 acres in Burari. According to residents, they had purchased land from local agriculturists and settled in the area as far back as 1985. A month ago, they said the Land and Building Department began putting up eviction notices. Gautam Nand Shah (57), a shopping bag manufacturer, said he has lived in the area since

1997. "We were caught off guard (by the notices). We knew a case had been going on since 1999 but didn't know our houses came within that land," he said. Court documents reveal orders to evict trespassers and regain possession were issued in 2019. The Land and Building department sought extensions but residents claim they did not notify them until a month ago.

"We have government connections for electricity and water in our houses. Didn't they know then that there was a legal dispute?" said BB Singh (57), a former MTNL employee. Residents appealed against their eviction earlier this year, but the High Court did not grant a stay order. In the meantime, Neeraj filed a contempt petition in the High Court, represented by Advocate Varun Phogaat, over his land. The High Court set a deadline of October 13 for the Land and Building Department to complete demarcation and hand over possession. On November 9, residents woke up to fresh eviction notices. Shah said, "We'll fight them tooth and nail."

According to Jharoda Majra councillor and High Court advocate Gagan Choudhary, "We plan on going to the High Court on November 16 for a stay order. According to the law, if a piece of government land goes unclaimed for over 20 years, then it goes to the occupier. People have been living here for the last 30-35 years." He also alleged Neeraj and the Land and Building department concealed from the courts that settlements had come up on the contested land as far back as 1985. The Indian Express reached out to Neeraj and his family through their lawyer, who did not comment on the case. The Land and Building Department was not available for comment.

IN 5 INSTANCES, MONEY ISSUED AFTER COURT ORDERS

Green cess collected by Delhi govt spent 7 times in 8 years

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

OVER THE eight years that it collected the Environment Compensation Charge (ECC), the Delhi government only disbursed funds from the green cess on seven occasions of which five instances were the consequence of court orders, data accessed by The Indian Express shows.

According to government records related to ECC collection and usage, of the approximately Rs 1,491 crore collected by the government from November 2015 till July 2023, as much as around Rs 780 crore was sanctioned after court directions for large infrastructural projects. While just around Rs 60 lakh was disbursed for expenses at the request of other departments in Delhi from the corpus, an estimated balance of Rs 709 crore, which constitutes the rest of it, is lying unutilised.

The Delhi government did not offer a response on the matter. The ECC has been collected since the midnight of November 6, 2015, and is imposed on commercial vehicles entering the city

BALANCE SHEET

- ECC collected from Nov 2015 till July 2023: **₹ 1,491 CR (APPROX.)**
- No. of times it was utilised till date: **7**
- Total amount utilised till date: **₹ 781 CR (APPROX.)**
- Total amount utilised at court directions: **₹ 780 CR (APPROX.)**
- Total amount utilised at requests from other departments: **₹ 60 LAKH (APPROX.)**
- Balance amount: **₹ 709 CR (APPROX.)**

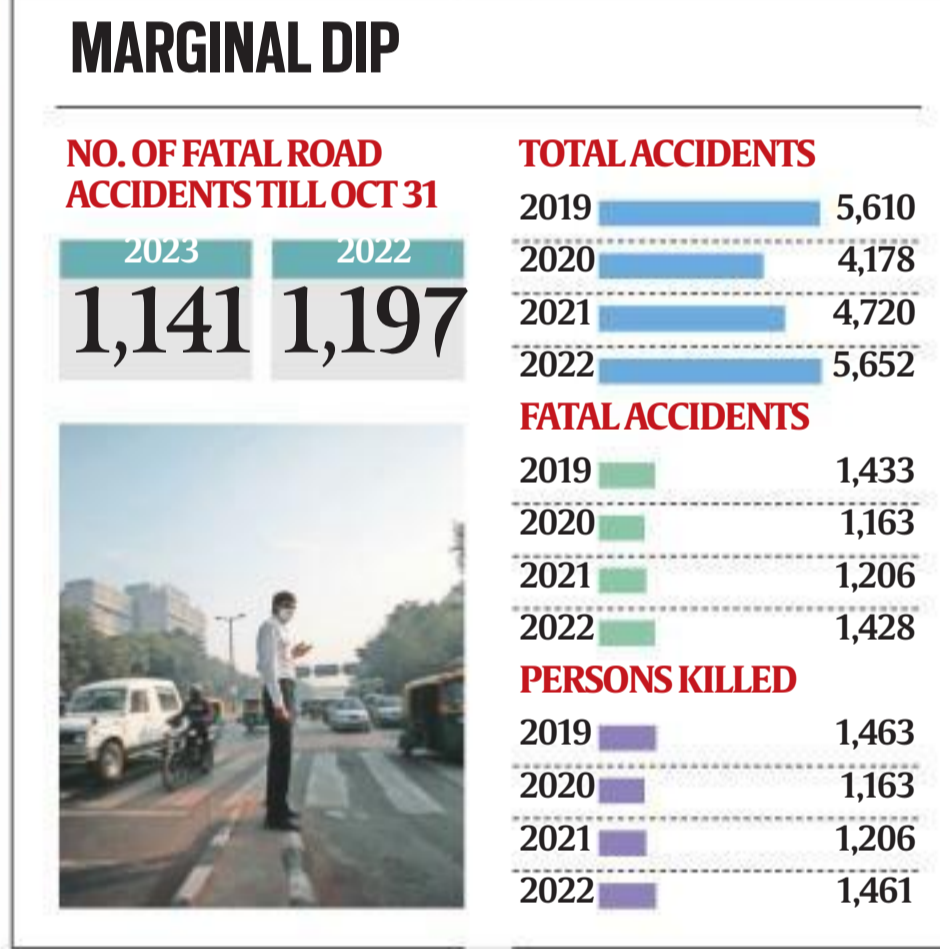
alongside toll tax. The decision to implement the charge was taken after it was found that emissions from automobiles were responsible for the bulk of the particulate matter (PM) load that pollutes Delhi's air. According to government

data, the first disbursement from the corpus was for an amount of over 90 lakh for creation of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) infrastructure in the city in 2016. After this, Rs 15 lakh and Rs 43 lakh were sanctioned for the improvement of road infrastructure and deployment of civil defence volunteers at the Sardar Patel Marg in the years 2018 and 2019, respectively.

The first large payment made from the fund, amounting to around Rs 6 crore, was for the Hydrogen-enriched Compressed Natural Gas (HCNG) project in the capital to the Indian Oil Corporation in 2019 to which another installment of Rs 9 crore was sanctioned in 2020 — both as per court orders. Payments of Rs 265 crore in 2019 and Rs 500 crore in 2023 were made to the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) for the implementation of the Regional Rapid Transit System project. Apart from the expenses related to SPM Marg, the others were at court directions. As part of the measure, light commercial vehicles are charged Rs 700 while three-axle vehicles and above are charged Rs 1,300.

City sees slight dip in fatal accidents this yr

Officials cite stringent deployment and checking of vehicles at crucial junctions



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

THE NUMBER of fatal accidents that took place this year has seen an over 4% reduction as compared to last year, according to data. The number of persons killed in accidents has also seen a 3% decrease in 2023 as compared to 2022, the data further revealed.

According to official data based on road crash analysis released by the Delhi Traffic Police, in 2019, 1,433 fatal accidents claimed 1,463 lives and led to 5,152 persons being injured. In 2020, the number of fatal accidents reduced to 1,163.

"Notably, the number of female casualties decreased and the total number of injuries declined in 2020. In 2021, the trend continued with 1,206 fatal accidents, lowering the death toll. In 2022, while fatal accidents slightly increased to 1,428, the number of persons killed was 1,461," said the analysis report.

Officers attributed the improvement in the situation to better reporting and awareness of accidents, allowing authorities to address issues proactively. Meanwhile, a comparison of

fortnightly data by the traffic police revealed a mixed trend. In 2023, there was a slight increase in the number of fatal accidents during the early months of the year — January and February — as compared to the same period in 2022.

However, as the year progressed, the number of fatal accidents in 2023 began to decrease, particularly during the second quarter — April to June.

Stated the report: "Conversely, the number of persons killed in 2023 remained relatively consistent or decreased slightly compared to 2022, indicating that the severity of accidents might have been lower. Notably, the second quarter of 2023 witnessed a reduction in both fatal accidents and persons killed."

A senior traffic police officer said that the reduction is a result of stringent deployment and checking of vehicles, especially at crucial junctions during the night time, for cases of drunken driving, one of the most common reasons for increase in accidents. "Increase in the number of road safety workshops and traffic signages on the roads have also contributed to the decrease," said the officer.

Najma Akhtar's term ends, Eqbal Hussain now acting Jamia VC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

JAMIA MILLIA Islamia Pro Vice-Chancellor Eqbal Hussain took over as the university's officiating V-C on Monday, as the tenure of Najma Akhtar, who is the first woman to have held the post, has ended.



Najma Akhtar is the first woman to hold the post

Hussain will serve as the acting V-C till the time an appointment is made to the post by the Visitor of the University, an official statement said.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Akhtar said, "The experience of being the V-C of Jamia was beyond my imagination. During my tenure, my significant achievements include giving promotions to faculty members, high-rise expansion of the campus, and the attainment of a Medical College. We have also managed to attain a good ranking in the NIRF and NAAC accreditation for the university."

Akhtar, who assumed office in 2019 and her tenure ended after she turned 70 this year, said she would continue to "do her duty and serve the community and country". "One does not have to be an official to do good deeds for this country," Akhtar added, stating that she is yet to make a decision on her next role.

Meanwhile, the varsity, in its statement, noted: "He (Hussain) highlighted how the university attained new heights under the leadership of Prof Najma Akhtar reflected in the NAAC and NIRF performance. He noted that JMI is the 3rd top-ranked university in the country in the NIRF 2023 with Grade A++ by the NAAC." The university stated that

Hussain has assured the outgoing Vice-Chancellor that he would leave no stone unturned to uphold the interests of the institution both in academic and administrative matters. The statement further said, "Consequent upon the completion of tenure of Prof. Najma Akhtar as Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, on November 12, 2023, Prof Eqbal Hussain, Pro-Vice Chancellor, JMI, shall discharge the duties of officiating vice chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, in accordance with Statute 2(6) read with Statute 4 (2) of Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988, with effect from November 13, 2023 (forenoon) till a new vice chancellor, JMI, assumes the charge of the Office of the Vice Chancellor."

Hussain was appointed the Pro V-C of the university in September this year. He started his teaching career with National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, in June 1990 and joined JMI in February 1994. He also taught at Zanzibar University, Zanzibar, Tanzania, between April 2002 and March 2005. He was promoted to the post of professor at JMI on September 23, 2013.



A massive rush was witnessed at the New Delhi railway station as passengers wait to board trains to their home towns ahead of the Chhath Puja festival, Monday. Prem Nath Pandey

TOWARDS HOME

A massive rush was witnessed at the New Delhi railway station as passengers wait to board trains to their home towns ahead of the Chhath Puja festival, Monday. Prem Nath Pandey

3 cr bottles sold in 18 days: Liquor sales see major boost this Diwali

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

DELHIITES APPEAR to have stocked up on alcohol ahead of Diwali, with liquor sales having almost doubled this year as compared to 2022.

As per data from the excise department, 3.04 crore liquor bottles were sold in the last 18 days leading up to Diwali amounting to sales worth Rs 525.84 crore. In the same period before the festival last year, 2.11 crore bottles were sold.

Sales skyrocketed leading up to the festival: On Friday (2 days before) 18,89,969 bottles were sold as opposed to 15,04,000 last year. On Saturday (1 day before), 27,83,175 liquor bottles were sold, compared to 19,39,594 in 2022. In anticipation of Diwali and other festivals this week, including Chhath and Govardhan Puja, officials said Delhiites seem to have hit the vends. "Sales during

FESTIVE SALE

Bottles sold	2022	2023	Sales value
Day before Diwali	19,39,594	27,83,175	₹ 53.89 cr
Total sales*	2,11,62,676	3,04,93,132	₹ 525.84 cr

* (over 18-day period prior to the festival)



this period increase due to the ongoing festival season and dry days. October and November usually have a large number of dry days. So, the average per day sale increases..." said an official.

In anticipation of festivals this week, officials said Delhiites have stocked up on alcohol. Archive

Peak festival season this year started on October 20, with four days of Durga Puja celebrations; the month also had three dry days on Gandhi Jayanti, Dussehra, and Valmiki Jayanti. This festive season, liquor sales have so far brought in 525.84 crore for the excise department.

The average sale this year has increased to 17,93,714 bottles in comparison to last year when it was 12,44,863.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

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Officers attributed the improvement in the situation to better reporting and awareness of accidents, allowing authorities to address issues proactively. Meanwhile, a comparison of

FROM A STALL IN CHANDNI CHOWK TO A MAJOR BRAND

Kedarnath Aggarwal, man who gave Delhi taste of Bikaner sweets, dies

UDBHAV SETH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

A LITTLE after Independence, two brothers from Rajasthan's Bikaner made their way to Delhi, selling bhujia and rasgullas out of buckets in the hope of winning over the people of another, bigger city with their family recipes. Soon, they established a stall in Chandni Chowk, which eventually grew

into a behemoth of sweets and namkeen: Bikaner. One half of the sibling duo, Lala Kedarnath Aggarwal, died Monday. He was 86.

His death "marked the end of an era that has enriched palates and touched countless lives," shared Bikaner in a statement.

The brand Bikaner has seen several phases, starting from Bikaner Namkeen Bhandar established by

Aggarwal's father in 1905 in the Rajasthan town.

As the country attained Independence, senior Aggarwal's sons, Kedarnath and Satyanarayan, decided to take the family recipes to Old Delhi with the desire to expand their business out of the desert state. Following a laborious, almost-cinematic journey of finding their feet in the country's capital, the brothers established a stall in Chandni Chowk's



Lala Kedarnath Aggarwal passed away on Monday at the age of 86

Parathewali Gali, giving it the name: Bikaner Bhujia Bhandar.

By 1968, when Aggarwal's son, and the Bikaner group's current managing director, Shyam, joined the business, the sweet shop's footprint had expanded to other parts of Delhi, including Karol Bagh.

This expansion was enabled by a new factory on Lawrence Road. In the 1980s, to counter western food products in India, the sweet shop expanded to

other parts of the country. By this time, the business's third name, a callback to its roots, had assumed recognition in Delhi: Bikaner. Literally meaning 'from Bikaner'.

The fourth and final name came with the next successor in the family, Manish, who oversaw the group's international brand, Bikano, being launched in 1988. The group entered into a partnership with PepsiCo's brand 'Leher' and opened a new

manufacturing plant in Faridabad. Bikano Chat Cafés have been another venture, selling fast food along with regular sweets and namkeens. Over the last two years, the group has launched a hotel in Hyderabad, and opened a new plant there, as well as one in Greater Noida.

On his father's death, Shyam Aggarwal shared in a statement, "[His] departure is not just a loss to Bikaner; it's a void in the culinary landscape. His vision

and leadership will forever guide our culinary journey."

In a statement, Radhey Mohan Aggarwal, Bikaner group's director and Aggarwal's eldest son, noted: "As we bid farewell to a legend, we carry forward his legacy with a deep sense of responsibility. Bikaner will continue to be a reflection of his values — a place where every dish tells a story and every customer is part of our extended family."

8 GOVT & POLITICS

SCHEME LAUNCH ON 'JANJATIYA GAURAV DIVAS' IN JHARKHAND

PM to launch Rs 24,000-cr scheme for vulnerable tribal groups tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will launch a Rs 24,000-crore scheme aimed at holistic development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) on the occasion of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' on November 15 in Jharkhand. The scheme will focus on the delivery of 11 interventions under nine ministries for 75 PVTGs.

The mission was first announced during the budget 2023-24 and is being launched ahead of the Assembly elections in MP and Chhattisgarh.

Both the states have a significant tribal population, with the Census 2011 pegging the ST proportion in MP and Chhattisgarh at 21.1% and 30.6% respectively.

The PVTGs are the more vulnerable communities among tribal groups and they usually have distinctive culture, live in geographical isolation, and are shy of contact with other communities.

The scheme is meant to saturate the scattered, remote and inaccessible habitations of the PVTGs with facilities such as



PM Narendra Modi in Barwani district on Monday. PFI

roads, telecom connectivity, electricity, safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The 75 PVTGs, with a population of about 28 lakh, live in 22,544 villages across 18 states and Union Territories in India.

The norms of certain schemes will be relaxed to cover these remote habitations.

In addition to the 11 interventions, saturation of other government schemes such as PMJAY health insurance scheme, the Sickle Cell Disease Elimination

programme, TB Elimination programme, 100% childhood immunisation, PM Surakshit Matrutva to ensure free of cost antenatal care to all women, PM Matru Vandana Yojana for cash benefit to mothers, PM Poshan, and PM Jan Dhan Yojana.

The government's tribal push comes in the midst of the ruling BJP's desperate attempts to woo the tribal votes in the poll bound Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. In 2018, the BJP had faced a huge setback in the tribal-dominated areas of all these states. MP and parts of Chhattisgarh are voting on Friday.

Will keep all promises, it is my guarantee: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAIPUR, BHOPAL, NOV 13

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Monday hit out at the Congress over corruption as well as neglect of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and said the countdown for its exit from power in Chhattisgarh had begun, while in adjoining Madhya Pradesh he sought to woo tribals and asked voters to be wary of the promises made by the rival party.

Modi addressed three election rallies in a day — two in Chhattisgarh and one in Madhya Pradesh — in support of his party's candidates as campaigning for the November 17 polls in these states reached its crescendo.

The campaigning ends on November 15 evening.

Speaking at rallies in Mungeli and Mahasamund districts in Chhattisgarh, where 70 assem-

bled seats will vote in the second and last phase of polling on Friday, the PM said the Congress's only aim was to loot Chhattisgarh and fill its own coffers.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's son, other kin, as well as officials had destroyed the Congress-ruled state by acting as "super CM", he claimed.

The Congress had not implemented reservations for OBCs despite being in power from "panchayat to Parliament" for several years since Independence, Modi said at the rally in Mungeli.

From Chhattisgarh, the PM travelled to Madhya Pradesh where he addressed a rally in tribal-dominated Barwani district. The PM said the Congress can even promise to build a "castle of gold" to win elections anyhow. "All promises I made to you will be fulfilled. This is my guarantee," PM Modi said at Barwani.

India asks UK for details on suspects, aides involved in violence at London Mission

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

INDIA HAS sought from authorities in the UK evidence against suspects who were involved in the violence at the Indian High Commission in London during a pro-Khalistan protest on March 19. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has made a request under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to authorities in the UK, asking them to share specific details of the suspects and their aides.

In a related development, the NIA has prepared a separate proposal, seeking details from the US on those who targeted the Indian Consulate in San Francisco on July 2.

Sources in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs said that after visiting the UK and collecting several pieces of evidence, the NIA got some crucial leads about the March 19 violence. "To get more details related with the case, a set of 24 queries have been sent under the MLAT in which it has been asked about the protest, organisers of the protest, their credentials, their permission," a source said.

Under the MLAT, either country can approach the other for collecting evidence against an accused.

In April, the MHA had directed the NIA to file a fresh case



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron on the latter's first day in office. PFI

in connection with the London protests after preliminary investigation pointed to a terror link involving Pakistan's ISI. The ministry had also directed Delhi Police, which had registered an FIR under the UAPA, to hand over the probe to the NIA.

In May, an NIA team visited the UK and collected crucial evidence, including CCTV footage. Days after returning to India, they released five videos of the violence, asking the general public to help identify the suspects who tried to vandalise the High Commission. The agency received more than 1,050 calls in response, sources said.

Another official said that the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) also helped the NIA probe team to identify the suspects. "The NIA has identified 15 attackers issued a Look Out Circular against some of them,"

an official said. In the FIR, complainant Kiran Kumar Vasant Bhosale, assistant personnel and welfare officer at the High Commission, mentioned names of three persons — Avtar Singh alias Khanda, Gurcharan Singh and Jasvir Singh. "Khanda died in Birmingham in June," an official said.

The NIA questioned Waris Punjab De chief Amritpal Singh and nine of his associates in Assam's Dibrugarh jail in connection with the UK incident after it was found they were in touch with Khanda.

Meanwhile, in connection with the protest in San Francisco, an NIA team visited the US in August. "We have identified some attackers with the help of CCTV footage and opened Look Out Circular against some of them. We are preparing queries for MLAT," said an official.

TMC leader shot, one 'assailant' lynched, tension in Bengal town

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 13

A 43-YEAR-OLD Trinamool Congress panchayat member was shot dead by motorcycle-borne persons when he was on his way to a local mosque in Bamangachi village in the Jaynagar area of West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district in the early hours of Monday, police said.

The incident triggered tension in the area and an angry mob lynched a man, identified as Sahabuddin Laskar, whom they suspected of having committed the crime before setting on fire 20-25 houses belonging to CPIM workers and supporters. It was alleged that the ruling party supporters were behind the unrest. Another person they attacked is under treatment in a hospital, officials said.

The deceased, Saifuddin Lashkar, also the party's area president, was husband of



A torched house in Jaynagar, South 24 Parganas. Express

the Bamangachi panchayat pradhan. "Saifuddin was shot at around 5 am when he was going to offer prayers at the local mosque. We have found in our preliminary probe that a total of five people came on two bikes and opened fire at him. He collapsed on the road after a bullet hit him on the shoulder. He was taken to the hospital in a critical condition and was declared brought dead by doctors," said a

police officer.

Local residents rushed to the spot after hearing the gunshots and took Saifuddin, who was lying in a pool of blood, to the Padmerhat rural hospital in Jaynagar block, it is learnt.

Following the unrest, a large police contingent was rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control and several fire tenders were engaged to douse the fire.

Focus on Indo-Pacific, Rajnath holds talks with UK counterpart

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh Monday held a telephonic conversation with his British counterpart Grant Shapps, focusing on ways to develop deeper India-UK cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

The defence ministry said Singh and Shapps reviewed the ongoing bilateral defence engagements and discussed possible cooperation in new domains.

"Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a telephonic conversation with UK Secretary of State for Defence Grant Shapps on November 13. Both ministers dis-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, UK Secy of State for Defence Grant Shapps. File

cussed a range of defence and security issues with particular emphasis on the Indo-Pacific," it said.

"They briefly reviewed the ongoing engagements and discussed possible cooperation in new domains," the ministry said in a statement.

Singh and Shapps explored ways and means to develop closer defence ties, it said.

"Grant Shapps visited the defence minister to visit the UK in the near future. The defence minister congratulated Shapps on his appointment as the Secretary of State for Defence," it said.

Shapps was appointed as the defence secretary in August, replacing Ben Wallace.

Later, in a post on social media platform X, Singh said he and Shapps discussed a range of defence and security related issues.

The phone conversation between Singh and Shapps came amid the ongoing visit to the UK by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



VOCAL FOR LOCAL

UNION MINISTER of State for Science Dr Jitendra Singh celebrated Diwali at home this year. A day before the festival, he inaugurated a school in the far-flung village of Massu that falls under his Udhampur constituency. On returning to Jammu on Diwali, the minister ensured that he was vocal for local. He and his neighbours in Jammu decorated their homes with 20,000 diyas made by local self-help groups.

CAMPUS MYSTERY

THE UNIVERSITY Grants Commission (UGC) finally notified the framework under which foreign universities will now be allowed to set up international branch campuses in India. Last week, the application portal went live. However, the Commission has, until this date, been tight-lipped about the foreign universities that have been in touch with it and shown interest in entering India. It is learnt that apart from Australia's Western Sydney University (which announced its India plans a little over a week ago), at least three others are (informally) in talks with the UGC, exploring options and potential sites for their India campuses. Among these three, one is from Australia, and another from Italy.

Kerala disaster relief fund 'misuse': Lokayukta rejects case against CM

Thiuvananthapuram: A full bench of Kerala Lokayukta Monday rejected a case registered against CM Pinarayi Vijayan and 17 previous Cabinet ministers over alleged nepotism and anomalies in releasing aid from the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund

during the previous Left Democratic Front (LDF) regime.

The case filed in 2018 had led to resignation of KT Jaleel, a minister, in 2021. In 2022, a Bill to limit the powers of Kerala Lokayukta was passed by the House, which awaits the Governor's assent. **ENS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 13

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Monday said if the BJP retains power in Madhya Pradesh, its government will arrange for people from the state 'darshan' at the Ram temple in Ayodhya. "I am saying there will be the consecration of Lord Ram's idol in Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) on January 22, 2024," he told a rally in Sironj Assembly seat of Vidisha district.

Asking those gathered at the rally not to spend money to visit Ayodhya to offer prayers at the newly constructed temple of Lord



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Guna, Monday. PFI

Ram, the senior BJP leader said: "Don't spend money... If the BJP government is formed in Madhya Pradesh, it will gradually arrange for darshan of Lord Ram in Ayodhya for people of the state one-by-one." He said this was part of the BJP's promises in the manifesto for the November 17 polls.

Targeting the opposition Congress, Shah said "What is the guarantee of those who do not have their own guarantee?"

"In Madhya Pradesh, Rs 21,000 crore were deposited into the bank accounts of 93 lakh farmers at the rate of Rs 6,000 per year... I am telling you today to elect a BJP govern-

ment... This double engine government is going to take this Rs 6,000 to Rs 12,000," he said. Shah also said medical treatment is free up to Rs 5 lakh, which will be increased up to Rs 10 lakh, if the BJP comes to power. Before the BJP government in 2003, MP was led by "Mr Bantadhar Digvijaya Singh" who turned MP into a Bimaru (laggard) state, he said. The BJP, in its 18 years of power in MP, has pulled the state out of Bimaru status and made it "Bemisal (unparalleled) Madhya Pradesh," he said. In the next five years, the BJP will turn MP from "bemisaal to best," he added.



SC expunges Gauhati High Court remarks against judge in NIA case decided by him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 12

THE SUPREME COURT has expunged certain "adverse observations" made by the Gauhati High Court against one of its judges while reversing a judgment delivered by him in his earlier capacity as Special NIA court judge.

"Having heard learned senior counsel, we are of the opinion that the adverse observations against the petitioner as contained in paragraphs 130, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194 and 233 and in any other relevant portion of the order are treated as expunged and shall not be held against the petitioner in any manner," a bench of Justices AS Bopanna and PS Narasimha

said in its November 10 order. The court also clarified that "dehors the said observations which are expunged, the order/judgment would remain in force, to be considered on its merits, if it arises subsequently in any other case."

The petition, filed through advocate Somiran Sharma, contended that "the observations/remarks were not necessary for deciding the appeal and rendering the impugned judgment and therefore ought to have been avoided". "The remarks have deeply hurt the petitioner's reputation before his colleagues, lawyers and litigants and is disturbing his peace of mind besides affecting him in discharging his judicial duties with calm and

confidence. The remarks can also adversely affect the petitioner's career in future," said the plea.

The plea pointed out the SC had in a 2001 ruling said, "The existence of power in higher echelons of judiciary to make observations even extending to criticism incorporated in judicial orders cannot be denied, however, the High Courts have to remember that criticisms and observations touching a subordinate judicial officer incorporated in judicial pronouncements have their own mischievous infirmities. Firstly, the judicial officer is condemned unheard, which is violative of principles of natural justice... Secondly, the harm caused by such criticism or observation may be incapable of being undone.

Thirdly, human nature being what it is, such criticism of a judicial officer... gives the litigating party a sense of victory not only over his opponent but also over the Judge who had decided the case against him. This is subversive of judicial authority of the deciding Judge. Fourthly, seeking expunging of the observations by a judicial officer by filing an appeal or petition of his own reduces him to the status of a litigant arrayed as a party before the HC or SC — a situation not very happy from the point of view of the functioning of the judicial system... The possibility of a single or casual aberration of an otherwise honest, upright and righteous Judge being caught unaware in the net of adverse observations cannot be ruled out".

Why no probe against Tomar son, asks Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 13

CITING A purported video of a Union Minister's son allegedly speaking about financial transactions running into crores of rupees and other allegations related to the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the Bharatiya Janata Party had broken all records of corruption.

Speaking in Narela in Bhopal, Rahul questioned why the ED, CBI and the Income Tax department had not begun a probe.

"The BJP has broken all records of corruption. They have a minister, his name is Tomar

and this video is of his son. He is saying Rs 10 crore will go here, Rs 20 crore there, 100 crore put in the bank's account. Whose money is he talking about? It is the people's money," Gandhi alleged.

"All their ministers and the chief minister are involved in corruption. Mahakal Lok corridor, mid-day meal, Vyapam... the patwari scam, sale of MBBS seats. But (PM Narendra) Modi did not conduct any inquiry of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government. No Income Tax, no CBI and no ED probes them," he claimed.

The Union minister's son has claimed the video is fake and has also got an FIR registered against unidentified persons in this connection.

Kanhaiya Lal was killed by 'BJP people', party now raising issue for polls: Gehlot

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 13

RAJASTHAN CHIEF Minister Ashok Gehlot has alleged that the killers of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal were "BJP people" and that the BJP was raking up the issue to whip up tensions ahead of the November 25 elections in the state, adding that "there are many mysteries to the case."

Gehlot's remarks came as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly attacked the Congress-led state government and accused it of playing "vote-bank politics" over Lal's killing.

Lal was killed on June 28 last year by two cleaver-wielding men who accused him of insulting Islam. The two men, Mohammad Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad, also made a video of the act and posted it online.

Talking to journalists in Jodhpur on Sunday, Gehlot said it was "serious that the ones who have been caught are BJP people."

Earlier on Friday, a day after PM Modi raised the issue at a rally in Udaipur, Gehlot said the accused in Lal's killing had been arrested in a separate case "4-5 days" before the tailor was murdered and were bailed out by BJP members. Referring to Modi's attack on his government over the issues, he said the PM was either "misled" or "not briefed properly".

"Who were the people who had Kanhaiya Lal murdered? It



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot

was BJP people. He [Modi] must not have been briefed on this. When they (the accused) were taken to the police station 4-5 days before (Lal's killing) in (another) case, then it was the BJP people who got them bail. Doesn't he know this? Then how can he (Modi) speak?" Gehlot said.

"Prime Minister is a big post. Either he has been misled by his party people and has been given incorrect reports and spoke such objectionable language yesterday (Thursday). Or maybe, he is so worried about the (political) atmosphere in Rajasthan that he has become frustrated and is speaking this kind of language," he said, adding the case was being "intentionally stretched" so that the BJP can make an issue out of it in the elections.

Termining Gehlot's accusations as baseless, BJP spokesperson Laxmikant Bhardwaj said: "Such a heinous crime took place where terrorists were involved and they even threatened to kill the Prime Minister. The law and order is a CM's responsibility but instead if he gives such a shameless, irresponsible and baseless statement, then there cannot be anything worse."

'It could have been me': Nightmare for some is narrow escape for others

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 13

RAJEEV DAS, a construction worker from Bengal, was about to enter his room after his night shift when one of his colleagues started shouting frantically.

It took him nearly a minute to realise that a part of the tunnel where he had been working until a few minutes ago had collapsed, trapping some of his colleagues.

Soon, everyone embarked on a frantic rescue mission. "We all rushed toward the tunnel entrance, about 300 metres from our temporary residence. Some went to find JCB drivers, and others searched for their friends on the night shift. Initially, we thought it might be a minor collapse, and began removing the debris however we could. But soon, we realised it was a challenging search and rescue (mission)," Das said.

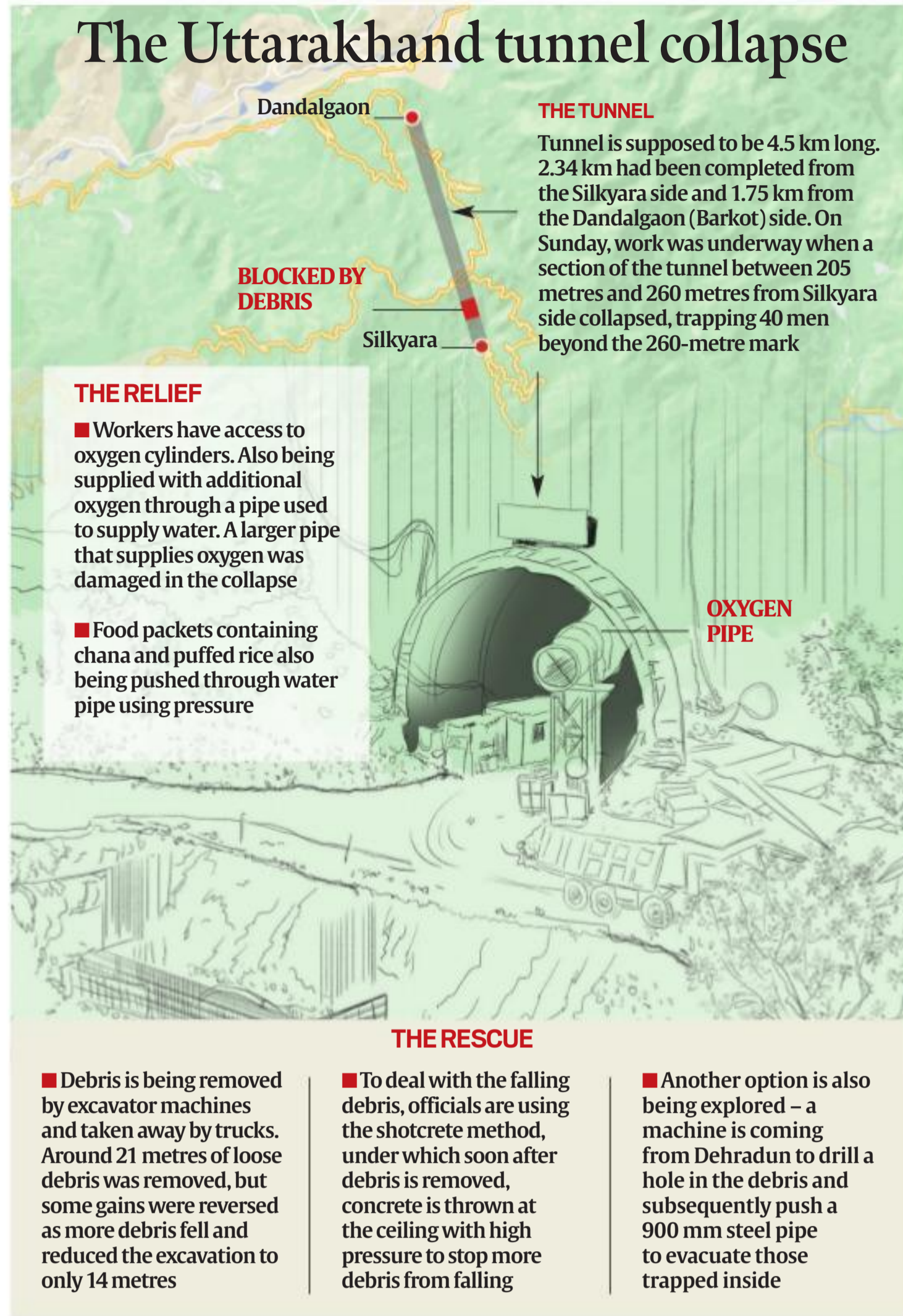
He recalled there were around 50-60 workers of which around 10-20 were working closer to the exit. Hence, they exited soon after the shift ended. The ones who got trapped were the 40 who were inside. Of those trapped, 15 are from Jharkhand, eight from Uttar Pradesh, five from Odisha, four from Bihar, 3 from West Bengal, 2 each from Uttarakhand and Assam, and one from Himachal Pradesh.

"The thought that it could have been me does not leave my mind. We were working at the exact same spot where the collapse happened," Das said. The workers have a 12-hour shift that changes every 15 days. Those on the night shift were to start their day shift on Tuesday.

There were apprehensions about the structure's strength. "For the past two-three days, we have been feeling that perhaps, the structure is not very strong. Just a day before, when we were removing a lattice girder, we saw some debris falling. On Saturday night, a piece of concrete fell from the roof. We informed our seniors. But before they could do anything, the incident happened," Das said.

Shashi Chauhan, a mechanical foreman at Navayuga Engineering — the company building the tunnel, said those trapped inside panicked initially. "But after continuous communication was established around midnight, and food was provided, they felt relaxed. There is enough light and space inside. They also have walkie-talkies and extra batteries," he said.

Secretary (Disaster Management) Ranjit Sinha said they have directed National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd and contractors to inform the families of those trapped that the situation was under control and the workers were safe.



Submit poll bond details by Nov 15: EC to parties

Move follows SC order to poll panel to produce updated data in two weeks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

THE ELECTION Commission has asked all political parties to submit details of donations received through electoral bonds in a sealed cover by 5 pm on November 15.

The direction follows a Supreme Court order to the Election Commission to produce updated data, till September 30, 2023, on contributions received by political parties through the electoral bonds scheme.

ever received any donation by way of Electoral Bond(s), since the inception of the Electoral Bond Scheme, are to furnish the details of all such donation(s) received by them, by way of Electoral Bond(s) till 30.09.2023, along-with detailed particulars of the donors against each bond; the amount of each such bond and the full particulars of the credit received against each bond, namely, the particulars of the bank account to which the account has been credited and the date of each such credit," the EC had written on November 3.

bench of the Supreme Court gave the EC two weeks to produce updated data in an interim order on November 3, while hearing the constitutional challenge to the electoral bond scheme. The bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud reserved its verdict after a three-day hearing. In April 2019, the Supreme Court had passed a similar order requiring the EC to furnish details of the electoral bonds received by political parties in a sealed envelope. When it was pointed out to the bench that the EC had only

submitted data pertaining to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the SC expressed displeasure that the poll panel had not maintained updated data. During the November 3 hearing, CJI Chandrachud told the EC, "But we didn't freeze the data which was to be maintained. You were to continue collecting the data." The bench also observed that the EC could have sought a clarification from the court if it had been any doubt. The court then gave the commission two weeks to submit the revised data.

MHA advised MEA to bring policy for fresh passport after sex change, HC told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

THE DELHI High Court was told that the Ministry of Home Affairs has suggested the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to develop a policy for verifying the identity of persons undergoing sex change operation outside India before issuing them new passports as their biometrics won't change even after the surgery.

seeking reissuance of her passport with revision of her details, after a sex reassignment surgery in the US. A single-judge bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad in its November 7 order took note of two letters submitted by Deputy Secretary (Immigration) and MEA. The MHA said it agrees with the MEA's comments and said the matter has been examined in consultation with the field agency and since biometrics don't change after such surgeries, a mechanism or policy may

be developed to verify the identity before issuing new passports. The MEA also said the Bureau of Immigration (MHA) agrees with the MEA that a new passport may be issued over proper documents and a clear police report. It sought time to "examine the same with different stakeholders". The plea is next listed on December 19.

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on
Incorporation of Sanskrit Texts in the Persiant World: From Al-Beruni to Dara Shikoh
by
Dr. Mohsin Ali
Senior Fellow, PMML
Tuesday, 14 November 2023 at 3:00 pm
Venue:
Seminar Room, Library Building Prime Ministers Museum and Library Teen Murti House, New Delhi
All are Welcome
Those wishing to have their names added to the email list may please email us at: ccs2nmml@gmail.com
CBC- 09142/12/0045/2324

Indian Bank Zonal Office, Gaya(e-AB), South Bissar Talab Road, Gaya, Bihar-823001

{ Rule-8(1) }
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Where as, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the account as mentioned hereinafter calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioning in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(S) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Indian Bank (e-Allahabad Bank)** or an amount and interest thereon. Along with legal expenses and other expenses already incurred to be incurred by the bank.

1. Name of the Branch	CIRCUIT HOUSE GAYA
Name of the Accounts/ Borrower	Mr. Syed Zeya Ahmad S/o Late Shaqir Hussain & Mrs. Shahin Ratzwi W/o Mr. Syed Zeya Ahmad, At - Panchateya Akhara, Masjid Gali, River Side Road, Gaya - 823001
Name of the Proprietor/ Guarantor/Mortgagor	1. Md. Zaki Hussain S/o Syed Zeya Ahmad, At - Panchateya Akhara, Masjid Gali, River Side Road, Gaya - 823001 2. Mr. Syed Zeya Ahmad, At - Panchateya Akhara, Masjid Gali, River Side Road, Gaya - 823001
Date of Demand Notice	01-09-2023
Date of Possession Notice	08-11-2023
Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice:	Rs. 9.55.409/- (Rupees Nine Lacs Fifty Five Thousand Four Hundred Nine Only) as on 01.09.2023 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank.
Detailed description of the Property	Registered mortgage of land and building along with present and future construction thereon in the name of Mr. Syed Zeya Ahmad S/o Late Shaqir Hussain Mohalla - Panchayati Akhara, Ward No 1 Old, Survey ward no 3, Present ward no 13, PS - Kotwali, Holding no - 997/158, Dist - Gaya, Bihar, Khata No-140(O) 343(N), Plot No-7321 Part (O) 1540(N), Area-600 sqft, Bounded by (as per deed): North: Farooki, South: Manna Mahto, East: Syed Raza Ahmad, West: House of Abbu Jair.
Date :- 14.11.2023	Sd/-Authorised Officer, (Indian Bank)
Place :- Gaya	

India International Trade Fair 2023
November 14-27 2023

Hall 1-14
Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Partner States: BIHAR, KERALA, DELHI, JAMMU & KASHMIR, JHARKHAND, MAHARASHTRA, UTTAR PRADESH

Inauguration by **Smt. Anupriya Patel**
Union Minister State for Commerce & Industry

Presided over by **Shri Som Parkash**
Union Minister State for Commerce & Industry

Date: 14 November, 2023 | Time: 3:30 pm
Venue: Auditorium 2, Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

Business & Trade Visitors: 14-18 November, 2023
General Public: 19-27 November, 2023
Timings: 10:00 am to 7:30 pm

Entry tickets available at 55 Delhi Metro Stations (Except Supreme Court Metro Station)
Entry from Gate No. 4 on Bhairon Road and Gate No. 6 & 10 on Mathura Road

PARKING DETAILS

Visitor Parking: Basement 1: Entry from Bhairon Road (Underpass 4) & Main Tunnel (Connecting India Gate with Ring Road)
Exhibitor Parking: Basement 2: Entry from Mathura Road (Underpass 6) & Main Tunnel (Connecting India Gate with Ring Road)

Charges: Four Wheeler: Rs. 100 flat for 12 hours • Two Wheeler: Rs. 50 flat for 12 hours

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Free Shuttle Service available for easy commuting from Gate No. 4 (Bhairon Road)-I.P. Depot (Parking)-ITO (Bus Stop)-Mandi House (Bus Stop)-Gate No. 10 (Supreme Court Metro Station)
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Dean



EARLIER IS BETTER IN DIABETES

Taking care of sugar levels earlier in life is better



Coping with type 2 diabetes

One of the hardest things to deal with when diagnosed with diabetes is accepting it as a life-long condition. Everyone reacts differently. Some are overwhelmed, shocked, afraid, angry, and anxious. Some choose to hide their feelings. As you adjust to an enforced new lifestyle, it is important to remember that there is help and advice out there. Type 2 diabetes is a progressive disease, which means that over time, your pancreas will produce less and less insulin. To keep good control of blood sugar, treatment needs to keep pace with your need for insulin. For this reason, the initial strategy your doctor recommends for you may change over time.

STAGES OF TREATMENT
In the early stages, you may be able to keep your blood sugar under good control simply by eating and exercising healthily. Once this is no longer sufficient to maintain good sugar control, your doctor will recommend starting an anti-diabetic drug. This will help maintain acceptable blood sugar levels for a further period of time, but if high blood sugar becomes a problem again, you will need more than one drug. Eventually, some people need to inject a small dose of insulin in addition to their oral drug, and some may eventually need more intensive insulin-based therapy.

Can type-2 diabetes be prevented?

Yes. To lower your chances of getting type 2 diabetes, the most important thing you can do is eat a healthy diet and get plenty of physical activity. This can help you lose weight if you are overweight. Even gentle activity, like walking, has benefits.

Are there tests that can find people who are at risk?
■ **Fasting glucose test:** This measures blood sugar when you have not had anything to eat or drink (except water) for at least 8 hours. In pre-diabetes, fasting glucose is between 100 and 125 mg/dL.
■ **Glucose tolerance test:** For this test, you do not eat or drink anything for 8 to 12 hours. But then, as part of the test, you have a sugary drink. Two hours later, a doctor or nurse takes a blood sample to see how high your blood sugar got. People with pre-diabetes have glucose tolerance results between 140 and 199 mg/dL.
■ **Haemoglobin A1C test (or "A1C"):** This test can be done at any time, even if you have recently eaten. It is a blood test that shows what your average blood sugar level has been for the past 2 to 3 months. In pre-diabetes, A1C levels are between 5.7 and 6.4%. People with pre-diabetes do not yet have diabetes, but they are at increased risk of getting it.

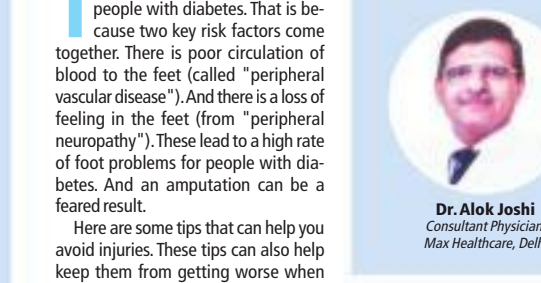
Women, diabetes and the heart

Controlling your blood sugar is one of the best things for women's heart health, along with maintaining healthy BP and cholesterol levels.

In many patients with diabetes who have no symptoms, diabetes, particularly when poorly controlled, is already harming their blood vessels and leading to hardening of the arteries, a precursor to heart disease. People may not even realise that they have diabetes until the disease progresses to the point where they have a heart attack. That's why it's important to be aware of your blood glucose numbers, along with monitoring your overall weight and body fat.

IF YOUR BLOOD SUGAR IS HIGH
Losing weight is the best way to get high blood sugar under control. Two effective tactics for helping lose extra pounds and prevent diabetes are:
■ Limiting your carbohydrate and sugar intake
■ Doing heart-pumping, heart-beating aerobic exercise.
If you're just getting started with diet changes and exercise, work with your doctor to come up with a combined plan that's best for your needs. Be sure to get your blood glucose levels monitored as recommended.

What should I do if I have pre-diabetes?
■ **Eat a healthy diet:** Consult your physician or certified dietitian.
■ **If overweight, try to get a healthy body weight.** Losing 5 to 10% of your body weight can lower your risk a lot. Your doctor or nurse can help you find healthy ways to do this.
■ **Be active for 30 minutes a day**
■ **Quit smoking**
■ **Take your medicines:** If your doctor or nurse prescribed any medicines, take them every day as instructed.



The feet are at risk for problems in people with diabetes. That is because two key risk factors come together. There is poor circulation of blood to the feet (called "peripheral vascular disease"). And there is a loss of feeling in the feet (from "peripheral neuropathy"). These lead to a high rate of foot problems for people with diabetes. And an amputation can be a feared result. Here are some tips that can help you avoid injuries. These tips can also help keep them from getting worse when they do occur.
■ **Bathe your feet daily.** Wash carefully with warm water and soap; rinse and dry thoroughly. Make sure you dry completely between the toes.
■ **Inspect your feet daily.** Be on the lookout for: cuts; red spots, warm spots, or hot spots; calluses or corns; in-grown toenails; change in colour; or any other abnormalities.
■ **Never go barefoot;** always wear shoes to cover your feet.
■ **Finally, make sure your shoes fit right.** Shoes that are too tight can cause blisters and calluses; shoes that are too loose can also cause ulcers or blisters as they rub against the foot. Make sure socks aren't rubbing, either.

Diabetes and oral health

Prediabetes is a condition that occurs when your blood glucose is higher than normal but not high enough to be considered diabetes. This condition puts you at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. You can have prediabetes for years without symptoms. Talk to your doctor about getting your blood sugar tested if you have any of the risk factors for prediabetes, including:
Results indicating prediabetes are:
■ A1C of 5.7%-6.4%.
■ Fasting blood glucose of 100-125 mg/dL.
■ Two-hour blood glucose of 140 mg/dL-199 mg/dL.

WHAT CAUSES PREDIABETES?
Insulin is a hormone made by the pancreas that acts like a key to letting blood sugar into cells for use as energy. If you have prediabetes, the cells in your body don't respond normally to insulin. Your pancreas makes more insulin to try to get cells to respond. Eventually your pancreas can't keep up, and your blood sugar rises, setting the stage for prediabetes and type 2 diabetes down the road.
FACTORS THAT INCREASE THE RISK OF GETTING TYPE 2 DIABETES
Family history of type 2 diabetes
■ Age (> 40)
■ Being overweight
■ Not being physically active
■ Previous abnormal blood glucose levels, for example, gestational diabetes

When to see a doctor if you have diabetes

Nobody wants to call the doctor for every little thing, but we know that treatments for diabetes-related health problems are more effective if you start early. So when should you see your doctor? Here are a few guidelines:
■ **Pain, numbness, weakness, or tingling—especially in the hands, feet, arms, or legs:** Even if it seems insignificant, these feelings can be a sign of early nerve damage.
■ **Changes in your health:** If you feel light-headed after standing, experience constipation, bloating, or nausea, have trouble seeing—even just at night or when the light changes—or if you have sexual problems, these can all be signs of issues with your nerves.
■ **Skin problems or infections:** a wound or cut that won't heal, an ongoing sinus, bladder, or vaginal infection—diabetes can interfere with your body's ability to recover on its own.
■ **Illness:** If you're running a fever, are sweating or having the chills, or are experiencing nausea, vomiting, or diarrhoea, your doctor wants to know. Being sick can affect your blood sugar levels, and it may be a sign of an infection that needs care. If you can't keep food or fluids down, call for emergency assistance.
■ **High blood sugar:** If your blood glucose remains above 240 mg/dL, even after taking your medicine and/or increasing insulin and fluids, or you have trouble staying within range, make an appointment.
■ **Moderate to large ketones in your urine:** Talk to your doctor if you are experiencing symptoms that might signal ketoacidosis or dehydration, such as worsening abdominal pain, trouble breathing, or breath that smells fruity or like acetone.
Your doctor may be able to alleviate the symptoms you're experiencing and even help slow the progression of the problem through better blood sugar control.

increasing insulin and fluids, or you have trouble staying within range, make an appointment.

MONONUNSATURATED FAT
They are considered a part of a healthy, balanced diet because of the protective effect they have on our hearts. It decreases low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol.
SOURCES: ■ Avocado ■ Canola oil
■ Nuts: Almonds, cashews, pecans and peanuts
■ Olive oil ■ Safflower oil
POLYUNSATURATED FAT
This lowers LDL cholesterol and thus decreases your risk for heart disease and stroke. Omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids are the two types of polyunsaturated fat.
Omega-3 Sources
■ Oily fish (salmon, sardines, herring, mackerel, tuna)
■ Walnuts ■ Flaxseeds
■ Canola oil ■ Chia seeds
Omega-6 Sources
■ Tofu ■ Walnuts
■ Flaxseed and flaxseed oil ■ Canola oil

TRANS-FAT: Trans-fats are produced when liquid oil is made into a solid fat—a process called hydrogenation. It is more harmful than saturated fat.
If there aren't at least 0.5 grams or more of trans fat in the food, the food label can claim 0 grams. Look for words like hydrogenated oil or partially hydrogenated oil. Avoid foods where a liquid oil is listed first on the ingredient list.
SOURCES: Processed foods like snacks, crackers, chips, etc. and baked products like muffins, cookies, and cakes made with hydrogenated oil or partially hydrogenated oil.

The "A - B - C" of diabetes

If you have diabetes (sometimes called diabetes mellitus), the most important thing you can do is control your "ABCs."
■ **"A" stands for "A1C"** - A1C is a blood test that shows what your average blood sugar level has been during the last few months.
■ **"B" stands for "blood pressure"** - High BP puts you at risk for heart attack, stroke, and kidney disease.
■ **"C" stands for "cholesterol"** - High cholesterol is another factor that increases your risk of heart attacks, strokes, and other serious problems.
WHAT SHOULD MY ABC LEVELS BE?
The levels you should aim for will depend on how severe your diabetes is, how old you are, and what other health problems you have. Ask your doctor or nurse what your target levels should be.
Many people with diabetes aim for:
■ A1C levels below 7 percent
■ BP below 140/90, or lower in some cases
■ LDL cholesterol level below 100 (LDL is one type of cholesterol, often called "bad cholesterol" or "lousy cholesterol")
HOW CAN I CONTROL MY ABCS?
You and your doctor will work together to create a plan to keep your ABCs under control. Your plan might include:
■ **Medicines:** Take your prescribed medicines every day.
■ **LIFESTYLE CHANGES**
■ **Make healthy food choices** - Eat lots of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products. Limit the amount of meat, fat and fried or fatty foods that you eat.
■ **Be active** - for 30 minutes or more on most days of the week.
■ **Stop using tobacco products** in all forms.
■ **Lose weight** - Being overweight increases the risk of many health problems.
■ **Avoid alcohol** - Luckily, many of the lifestyle changes above can improve all three of the ABCs. For instance, being active and losing weight can help control blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels.

Put the brakes on diabetes complications

When diabetes gets out of control, it can take a toll on your body. Too much sugar in your blood can damage nerves and blood vessels, which can lead to many different types of problems. But those complications aren't set in stone for everyone with diabetes; there's a lot you can do to avoid them. Along with treatment, good health habits can help you keep your disease under control and keep other troubles at bay.
WHAT ARE THE COMPLICATIONS RELATED TO DIABETES?
High blood sugar can impact different parts of your body.
Eyes. Diabetes increases the risk of having vision problems, including blindness. It can cause:
■ **Cataracts.**
■ **Glaucoma.**
■ **Retinopathy.**

Diabetes and the travel

you and that you know how to revert to insulin injections if your pump fails.
■ Bring a written prescription for medications in case you need to get extra supplies or visit a doctor while abroad.
■ Bring more diabetes supplies and insulin than you will need in case the holiday is extended for unforeseen reasons.
■ Carry your medication in its original packaging in your hand luggage.
■ Ensure travel or health insurance covers any diabetes-related emergency.
■ You may need to bring snacks for the journey.
■ If you are crossing time zones, discuss when to take your insulin with your diabetes team.
■ If you are travelling to a hot climate, the heat will increase your risk of hypoglycemia as you will be more sensitive to your insulin. Test your blood glucose level more often and carry fast-acting carbohydrates.
■ Ensure to bring plenty of blood glucose strips and a spare metre, as you may need to check your blood glucose levels more frequently.
■ Be aware of the need to protect your feet; don't walk on hot sand; check your feet daily if you are doing extra walking, etc.

Diabetes is not a barrier to travel but does require some extra planning beforehand.
■ You need a letter signed by your doctor stating you have diabetes and are carrying equipment for control of your condition, i.e., insulin, a metre, needles, etc., for airport security.
■ Insulin needs to be carried in your hand luggage. If stored in the 'hold' of the plane, it will freeze and not be fit for use.
■ Identification stating you have diabetes.
■ If you are using an insulin pump, ask your diabetes team or insulin pump manufacturer about getting an extra pump to bring on holiday in the event of pump failure. Ensure you have insulin pens and needles with

■ **Heart.** Years of high blood sugar may harm your body's blood vessels and nerves that take care of your heart. That raises your chance of having heart disease. High BP and high cholesterol make the problems even more likely.
■ **Kidneys.** Diabetes can affect blood vessels in your kidneys, too, so they may not work as well. After many years of trouble, they might stop working.
■ **Feet.** You may lose some feeling in your feet, which keeps you from noticing injuries that can get infected.
■ **Nerves.** If high blood sugar damages your nerves, called diabetic neuropathy, you might feel pain, tingling, or numbness, especially in your feet.
■ **Erection problems.** Diabetes may cause sexual problems.

Developing a fitness routine in diabetes

Regular exercise can significantly reduce the complications of type 2 diabetes. Exercise can decrease body fat, lower blood pressure, and prevent high blood sugar. The following points may be helpful for beginning an exercise plan with type 2 diabetes.
Talk to Your Healthcare Provider
It is important to consult with your healthcare provider to determine if there are any specific precautions you need to take before beginning exercise.
Plan a time
Committing to a specific time to exercise can help fit it into your day.
Monitor Your Blood Sugar During Exercise
Low blood sugar while exercising is more likely to occur if you take insulin or medications that affect your insulin levels, exercise strenuously or for a long period of time, or skip meals. To reduce your risk of having low blood sugar when exercising, check your blood sugar immediately before you begin your workout.
Have Carbs on Hand
Keeping carbohydrates on hand is important in case you experience symptoms of low blood sugar during your workout. You may need them while you exercise if you start to experience symptoms of hypoglycemia.
Start Out Slowly: When

starting any new exercise programme or routine, start off slowly to allow time for your body to adjust.
Find the Right Activity
Aerobic exercise helps the body absorb insulin, while strength training can improve how quickly the blood absorbs sugar (also known as blood sugar uptake).
Taking Care of Your Feet
It is important to have supportive, properly fitting sneakers for exercising to prevent skin breakdown and foot ulcers, a common complication of diabetes.
Drink Water
Drinking water while exercising is important to keep you adequately hydrated.
Follow a Routine
Having a structure for your exercise sessions can help keep you on track and make exercising a consistent habit.

Focusing on Cardio Renal protection in diabetes management

Cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, and diabetes frequently occur together in individuals. Together, these three conditions represent the largest cause of mortality in the world. Moreover, the fact that these three conditions have common risk factors and causative mechanisms implies that the presence of one of these conditions substantially increases the likelihood of developing the others. Patients with diabetes are at substantially increased risk of having cardiovascular events, kidney disease, an increased risk of hospitalisation, and death. Unfortunately, more patients are presenting today with multiple chronic disorders than ever before. Although this is a challenge, it also presents an opportunity for those with diabetes, chronic kidney disease, or cardiovascular disease to screen for and prevent other conditions. In addition, simple non-pharmacological steps such as weight management, regular physical activity, blood pressure, and lipid modification have been proven to be beneficial in all of these conditions. Newer classes of anti-diabetic drugs, such as SGLT-2 inhibitors and GLP-1 analogs, have shown promising results in trials. The need for cohesive management of these conditions is exemplified by the expansion of the indications for SGLT-2 inhibitors, which are anti-diabetic drugs for use in patients with heart failure and chronic kidney disease. The results of trials on another class of drugs called GLP-1 agonists can only be called revolutionary. Apart from glycaemic control, they have been shown to cause weight loss, reduce postprandial lipid spikes, blood pressure, and inflammation, as well as decrease cardiovascular and all-cause mortality. With early detection and appropriate care, diabetes can now live healthier, more productive lives than ever before.

Understanding carb confusion

Making wise choices regarding carbohydrates (carbs) is essential for managing both blood glucose and weight. It's true that high-carb foods can significantly impact blood glucose. However, monitoring overall food intake, not just carbs, is key to effective blood glucose control.
CARBOHYDRATES AND BLOOD GLUCOSE:
Several factors influence how carbohydrates affect blood glucose after a meal, including:
■ The quantity of carbohydrates consumed
■ The type of carbohydrate eaten (complex carbohydrates preferred)
■ Fibre content of the food
All these factors determine how quickly and to what extent blood glucose rises after a meal. To assess the carbohydrate content of a food item, refer to the nutrition label, which indicates the amount of carbs in grams.
BALANCING YOUR MEALS
To maintain stable blood glucose levels, it's important to distribute your daily carbohydrate intake throughout your meals and snacks. Aim for 3 to 4 servings of carbs at each main meal and 1 to 2 servings during snacks (1 serving = 15 gm). However, ensure you stay within your daily carb allowance. Additionally, prioritise well-balanced meals that include carbs, proteins, fibres, and a limited quantity of healthy fats. Avoid the practice of saving all carbohydrate consumption for a single large meal or special occasion, as this can lead to blood glucose spikes.
TIPS FOR CARBOHYDRATE COUNTING
■ Here are some tips to help you manage your carbohydrate intake effectively:
■ Check food labels for accurate carb counting. Also, try to understand the type of carbs.
■ Spread carbohydrate intake evenly across meals and snacks for better glucose control.
■ Plan your meals in advance and be aware of the nutritional content of the recipes and even the restaurants you visit.
■ Choose a variety of carbohydrate sources, with an emphasis on fruits, dairy, and green vegetables.
■ By following these simple guidelines and incorporating a well-balanced diet, you can manage your weight and blood glucose better.

Dr. S.K. Wangnoo
HOD Endocrinology Department, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A bond of secrecy

State should not reward transactions through electoral bonds with tax relief for donor and beneficiary



ASHOK LAVASA

ALMOST EVERYTHING IN favour of and against the disclosure (or non-disclosure) of funding received via electoral bonds is in the public domain, save the identity of the giver and the receiver, and their bond.

The introduction of the bond as an instrument of political funding per se cannot be questioned but not making the information public has been questioned as being antithetical to the principle of transparency and against the Right to Information (RTI) Act. That political parties have themselves steadfastly resisted being brought into the ambit of the RTI Act despite feeble attempts by statutory bodies, speaks volumes about their commitment. But why should the State seem to collude with political parties in this obfuscation by granting income tax exemption? The Election Commission of India too had consistently argued against electoral bonds till it decided not to oppose the matter for reasons that remain as mysterious as the instrument.

Even in past hearings, the Supreme Court (SC) raised inconvenient questions and appeared to be seeing the point made by the petitioners questioning the merit and intent of this opaque instrument. Instead of sealing the fate of the bond, it ordered the envelopes containing vital information to be sealed. The Court refrained from staying or delegitimising electoral bonds leaving everyone wondering if yet another opportunity to pronounce on a matter of "great pith and moment" was lost in the absence of "the native hue of resolution".

What the SC does this time is a subject of much anticipation. Will it look into the record of requests for anonymity from potential donors and validate it? Will it see if tax exemption without full disclosure is fair public policy? Can such tax-exempt money be kept forever by the recipient, without spending?

There is merit in the argument that an electoral bond is an authorised instrument that serves as an alternative to cash, but the logic of secrecy is confounding even if there is

evidence that such a demand was made. It is baffling that the state should reward secret transactions with tax relief, both for the donor and the beneficiary. Do the tax laws permit tax exemption without disclosing full details of the recipient tax-exempt organisation or the donor claiming tax relief? Further, the general principle of granting tax exemption to any organisation receiving donations is that funds received are utilised for the stated purpose. For example, an organisation set up for assisting the orthopedically challenged would have to show that the "use of proceeds" has been made to fulfil the objectives for which it was established. Similarly, if a political party receives tax-exempt electoral bonds, should it be allowed to retain that amount indefinitely? It must be obliged to spend that amount substantially for election purposes in a given period or lose the benefit of exemption. This would curb the tendency of political parties to become recipients of tax-exempt funds without utilising them.

Redressing this would require a specific provision in the relevant laws by which party accounts are subject to periodic proprietary audits and parties are made to incur tax liability for unutilised funds. This would align the provisions pertaining to political donations with those that apply to tax-exempt donations for other purposes.

Such a reform in tax laws would have to be accompanied by another stipulation specifying limits to expenditure incurred by a political party during an election. There have been suggestions in the past relating to this, including the EC proposing a specific limit. For example, if the limit on candidate expense for a parliament election is, say, Rs 95 lakh, the political party fielding the candidate may be allowed to spend no more than, say 50 per cent, of the expenditure reflected by the candidate in his accounts submitted to EC. This would automatically limit party expenditure during elections. Thus, if a party were to field a hundred candidates during Lok Sabha elections, it would be able to legitimately spend

no more than Rs 425 crore for campaigning from party funds assuming that all the candidates of that party utilise the entire expenditure ceiling.

If the proposed periodic audit by a CAG-appointed firm conducted every five years were to show that the party has been unable to spend the tax-exempt income it received for the declared purpose, it should be liable to pay income tax on the unutilised portion along with interest. Tax exemption should be treated as a form of state subsidy to political parties and subject to the same principle of utilisation of subsidy as is the case in other schemes funded by the exchequer. No tax exemption should be allowed on electoral bonds if the details are not fully disclosed. If the donor and a political party want to have a bond of anonymous munificence, such contributions and incomes must be fully taxed. When income tax laws insist on full and honest disclosure, why should the electoral bond incentivise secrecy?

This secret "bond" also begs a counterintuitive question: Why is it that in India, people prefer to contribute to the cause of democracy in secret? There are countries in which people proudly and openly claim to provide donations to political parties (like the Political Action Committees in the US), which are vital instruments of a democratic system. After all, democracy is as worthy a cause as climate change, environment protection or looking after the homeless and infirm and an honest citizen would be happy to be associated with such a cause. Isn't that the principle behind making such contributions eligible for tax exemption? Why are we as a society such that those who fund it want to conceal their contribution and why does our political system support this? Let society introspect while the SC ruminates.

The writer is a former Election Commissioner. This article is an edited excerpt from his essay in the forthcoming book *The Great Indian Manthan*: State, Statecraft and the Republic

AFFIRMING PRIORITIES

Whether in two plus two dialogue or voting on Israeli-Palestine conflict, India's positions underline its stakes in the Middle East

THE GROWING CONVERGENCE of the Indian and American perspectives on the Middle East is among the main signals from the fifth iteration of the "two plus two" meeting last week in Delhi. The defence and foreign ministers of the two countries were unambiguous in condemning Hamas terror, emphasising Israel's right to self-defence while observing the international laws of war, calling for pauses in Israel's military operations, demanding the release of hostages held by Hamas, promising more humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and pressing for a durable peace in Palestine. The affirmation that Delhi and Washington "stand with Israel against terrorism" underlines how close the two sides have come in the Middle East. Delhi has condemned Hamas's terrorism while reaffirming its strong commitment to Palestinian statehood. The nuance in New Delhi's approach to the region is clear from two recent votes in the UN: While India abstained two weeks ago from the resolution calling for an end to hostilities because it did not mention Hamas's use of terror, it voted on November 9 in favour of a resolution that condemned Israeli settlement activities in Palestinian areas.

The two plus two meeting has, over the last few years, become the principal vehicle to review and advance the India-US strategic partnership. Together, the foreign and defence ministers — nudged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi and Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden in Washington — have deepened the intensity of engagement on defence industrial collaboration, technology transfer, counter-terrorism, and regional security. Cooperation on Asian security issues is a new element in the engagement between the two nations.

Since Independence, Delhi and Washington have been at political odds in Asia. This has begun to change in the last few years, as China's assertiveness challenged the US in Asia, and threatened India's Himalayan frontiers and its primacy in the South Asian waters. This led to the Indian government embracing the Indo-Pacific geopolitical construct articulated by the US and reviving the Quadrilateral security forum that brings Delhi and Washington together with Australia and Japan. As India and the US embarked on a cooperative strategy to address the China challenge, conventional wisdom in Delhi insisted that though the two might be on the same side to the east of the Subcontinent, they will remain far apart to the west of the Subcontinent. That proposition was quickly overturned as India and the US joined hands with Israel and the UAE to form the I2U2 grouping. At the G-20 summit in September, India, along with the US and Saudi Arabia, unveiled the ambition to build an economic corridor between the Subcontinent and Europe. Its decisions on the conflict in the Middle East have affirmed that Delhi no longer sees the region through the Pakistan lens and has begun to appreciate its enormous stakes in the region. The deepening partnership with the US will reinforce India's potential to promote peace and prosperity in the Middle East.

FOR CONTENT'S SAKE

Proposed law for traditional and digital broadcasters has implications for Indian internet space. It must be scrutinised

ON NOVEMBER 10, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting sought comments on the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, which would bring traditional broadcasters as well as OTT content and digital news services under a single regulatory umbrella. This draft legislation proposes to replace the three-decade-old Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. As the Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said on X (formerly known as Twitter), it would "streamline" the regulatory framework for a broadcast landscape that has seen vast changes over the last couple of years, with the development of new platforms such as DTH, IPTV and OTT. The purpose of the new "dynamic" law would be to ensure "ease of doing business", while promoting "technological advancement and service evolution", he said.

For those who would be most affected including the general public that has come to rely on the new digital services not only as consumers of entertainment and information, but also as creators, the government's invitation for feedback is an opportunity to deliberate on some of its key features. One welcome provision addresses the needs of persons with disabilities, with guidelines recommending subtitles, the inclusion of audio-descriptions in video content and translation into sign language, among other measures. Other provisions, however, raise concerns about content restriction. Among them is the requirement for "any person who broadcasts news and current affairs programs through an online paper, news portal, website, social media intermediary, or other similar medium... as part of a systematic business, professional, or commercial activity" to adhere to the Programme Code and Advertising Code. Inadequately defined phrases and words like "half-truths", "good taste" and "decency" must not be carried into the new law. Also a matter of concern are the measures proposed to "strengthen the self-regulation regime", as part of which a Broadcast Advisory Council will be set up. Five officers representing different ministries will join an eminent independent person with experience in media, entertainment and broadcast and five other domain experts in this Council. The new piece of legislation must, therefore, find ways to ensure the Council's autonomy.

Any regulatory framework must be created keeping in mind the strengths of the Indian digital space — it has thrived on creativity and expression. It must also make sure that this space continues to generate lively engagement and debate, besides providing avenues of income for the many content creators who depend on it.

PAST AND PREJUDICE

Astronomers are calling for a change to the name of Magellanic Clouds. But is renaming a counter to injustice?

THE NAMES OF the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds are under a cloud. A report in *The Guardian* speaks of astronomers appealing to the International Astronomical Union, calling for a change in the names of the dwarf satellite galaxies over the Southern Hemisphere. Their reason: The man they are named after — Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan — was a violent colonialist, known for his repression of local communities in modern-day Guam and Philippines. As someone who had nothing to do with the discovery of the clouds, it is an ill-begotten honour, especially since indigenous people knew of and had their own names for the Magellanic Clouds.

The Magellanic Clouds are not the only things named after Magellan, the man credited with leading the first expedition to circumnavigate the world. In 1519, he led the Spanish expedition to the "East Indies", discovering the Strait of Magellan, the channel connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. There are also the Magellan Telescopes, the Magellan penguin, *Sphagnum magellanicum* (Magellan's peat moss), to name only a handful of things. But they are also indications of the politics of naming — and renaming — and its power play.

The 'Age of Discovery' led to European nomenclature in diverse parts of the world, erasing regional cultures and contexts. Independence would lead to a renaming spree in an assertion of a national or local identity. The suggestion to rename the Magellanic Clouds is rooted in this politics of visibility. But it is also an exercise that needs careful maneuvering. In an era of majoritarian politics, engagement with history in all its messiness — its legacy of violence, injustice, progress or peace — is crucial for a broader understanding of events. Is renaming then another form of erasure or empowerment? Are there better ways to counter past prejudice? The answers might be worth looking for.



TASHAN MEHTA

SO MANY PEOPLE have asked me if I fear AI will replace me as an author. Some are worried about my future. Others are curious about how I will grapple with my approaching obsolescence. Still others ask with their opinion already formed — "But you cannot fight progress" — before I've even answered.

I don't think AI will replace me. This isn't naivety about what AI will eventually be able to do, only a recognition that once AI can do it, our definition of creativity will shift. We will move the goalposts further or towards a different plane, as we always do. At a deeper level, I think this shifting is rooted in the primacy of process in how and why we create.

People assume the goal of writing is the book, the short story, the final product you push out into the world. But art lies in the symbiotic relationship between thinking and process: In how your thinking influences process and how process influences your thinking, an ever-moving back-and-forth cycle.

What does this mean for those who think they can key in an idea and have AI spit out a novel for them (indeed, those who are already doing it)? It means they are missing what I believe is the essential value in creation: The remaking of yourself and your perspective, as well as how others see the world. Why do we do 24 drafts of a novel? It is not hard to write a good sentence. We write draft after draft because we are searching for the right sentence, and the only way to find it is to become the right person to make this

PROCESS IS THE ART

Protest against OpenAI is about creativity being weaponised against writers

What does this mean for those who think they can key in an idea and have AI spit out a novel for them (indeed, those who are already doing it)? It means they are missing what I believe is the essential value in creation: The remaking of yourself and your perspective, as well as how others see the world. Why do we do 24 drafts of a novel? It is not hard to write a good sentence. We write draft after draft because we are searching for the right sentence, and the only way to find it is to become the right person to make this book.

book. There's a relationship between an author's thought patterns and the sentence rhythms that express themselves on the page, the word choice, and how the text moves or forms.

But you cannot get to that final product, the last draft that you step away from, without all the drafts that came before it. With each wrong sentence, each inadequate structure, each missing link, your thought patterns shift and reform, your ideas flow down different neural pathways — you grow, one inch at a time, into the right person.

It's interesting how arguments like this can come across as anti-technology or, perhaps, as aggrandising art, which is often devalued in the marketplace (someone was quick to remind me that an AI book may sell thousands more copies than my 24-draft *Mad Sisters of Esí*, and look, it would have taken 1/24th the time). But two of the dearest artists in my life work with technology: My partner is the technical director in immersive media, particularly virtual reality, and my sister is a new media artist. I've watched them sweat, swear and push the limits of their art and I don't think their technologies make the process easier or quicker — they're inching forward as agonisingly, just with different problems (Ones, honestly, I would hate to have — imagine being caged by your medium, or working with a technology that morphs so quickly when your creative process is slow).

This brings me back to my original thought about the shifting definition of cre-

ativity. There is an essential, agonising and confusing nature to creation that doesn't go away, and that can only be mediated through process. There are no, I am sorry to report, shortcuts.

What authors are uniting against — and I am firmly in their number — is the fact that AI exists today in a capitalistic structure that would use it to exploit artists whose labour has made the very existence of that AI possible. Do you think AI could produce a George Saunders novel if it hadn't fed on the novels he has made, and thus, on years of time, of process, he's poured into his art to become the right person, over and over, to write his books? Of course not. But it's easier for corporations to not look at that, to knock out a hundred Saunders novels (such efficiency! such scalability!) in the hope it will keep profit margins as fat as possible. This is no single individual's fault; this is capitalism, a system that focuses on art as a product and brand, rather than on the humanness that makes it or the connection we seek from it. This is what the Authors Guild lawsuit against OpenAI and ChatGPT is about: A protest against art and labour that's been appropriated, without permission, to be weaponised against its creators.

No one is marching against "progress". We're simply saying it is within our power to define what progress looks like and who it benefits. Let's not give that power away.

The writer is the author, most recently of *Mad Sisters of Esí*



NOVEMBER 14, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

CONGRESS STUNG

THE CONGRESS (I) efforts to topple the Janata government in Karnataka through defections was exposed when V B Gowda, an associate member of the Janata Party, produced Rs 2 lakh in cash given to him to defect and also a taped conversation between him and the leader of the opposition, Veerappa Moily. The conversation convincingly demolishes the official pronouncement of the Congress (I).

TRAIN KILLS PILGRIMS

TWENTY-ONE PILGRIMS were killed and 50 injured, 16 of them seriously, when they

were run over by the Bareilly-Varanasi passenger train at the Madha level-crossing near Faizabad railway station. According to reports, the pilgrims had got down from the Allahabad-Faizabad train, which had stopped due to chain pulling. They were walking on the track when the Bareilly-Varanasi train ploughed through them.

RAIL BODY SCRAPPED

RAILWAY MINISTER A B A Ghani Khan Chowdhury has ordered the scrapping of the North-East Frontier Railway Service Commission on grounds of corruption and the appointment of an emergency service

commission for recruitment of railway employees. Chowdhury said, "If this means violating the autonomy of the commission we are not worried. We are making and will continue to make efforts to combat corruption."

BYPOLL RESULTS

THE CONGRESS (I) candidate, Motilal Saha, retained the prestigious Charlam seat, defeating his lone rival, Braj Gopal Bhowmik of the ruling CPI(M) by a margin of 1,885 votes in the Tripura Assembly bypoll. Saha polled 9,126 votes against Bhowmik's 7,241 votes. Voter turnout in the by-elections ranged from moderate to heavy.

13 THE IDEAS PAGE

With a little help from the Sun

Solar energy mini-grids can help end energy poverty of rural communities in climate-vulnerable regions. Investments in these renewable energy initiatives must be scaled up



AJAY MATHUR AND BRAD MATTSON

THERE IS A private sector-led revolution underway to lift 500 million people out of energy poverty. The transformation is thanks to clean energy mini-grids that are popping up in rural communities across Asia, Africa, Latin America and Small Island Developing States and, in the process, serving many small businesses and households. This success followed a first generation of government-supported mini-grids, which taught two essential lessons: The necessity of being adaptable to the needs of local communities and having a sustainable operational model.

According to the World Bank — which recently set a target to fund a thousand mini-grids in Nigeria, where over 90 million people still live without electricity — private sector owned and operated solar mini-grids are the most cost effective and sustainable way to bring electricity for the first time to 75 per cent of the 675 million people worldwide who still live in darkness, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. It says 20,000 mini-grids have been installed to date, and \$220 billion is needed to build the 2,10,000 mini-grids required to achieve these targets. Solar mini-grids are displacing the default energy source for rural communities — expensive and polluting diesel generation — at a fraction of the cost and with immediate environmental benefit.

But besides delivering reliable and clean power to these unserved communities, mini-grid companies are also offering a range of other services that drive rural prosperity — mobile telephony, irrigation, agro-processing, e-mobility, to name a few. They also provide sales and financing of appliances that are otherwise unavailable. In other words, these are not merely electricity utilities providing power, they are rural development accelerators. In recent times, several heads of multilateral institutions, company executives and experts (including both co-authors of this article) have noted that while access to clean energy directly provides high-quality energy services, it can also enable other livelihood activities — they also provide opportunities in the healthcare and agriculture sector.

Decentralised energy systems like solar mini-grids are also emerging as an important answer to climate shocks like drought, heat stress and flooding. This adaptation and resilience capability of mini-grids is critical for farming-dependent rural Africa and Asia, which are the world's most climate-vulnerable regions.

In the unlikely event that centralised grid infrastructure reaches these communities, mini-grids also offer an important complement. Cambodia is a prime example. Through the 1990s, hundreds of diesel-powered mini-grids were built and operated by local entrepreneurs. Eventually, they were connected to the main grid as local distributors. Today, more than 250 formerly isolated mini-grids are part of the national grid, helping serve more than 1 million consumers.

In India, about 700 solar mini-grids are owned and operated by a handful of private



CR Sasikumar

companies that, unlike state-run mini-grids, are unsubsidised and commercially viable purely based on customer payment. These grids are largely in the states of UP, Bihar and Jharkhand, which have seen significant progress on a number of sustainable development goals based on the success of these mini-grids. UP and Bihar have introduced regulations to enable private-sector entrepreneurs to set up mini-grids and to provide a mechanism for private-sector investors to look at this application favourably.

Solar is the cheapest form of energy generation in most countries, and its climate, energy and economic benefits are increasingly apparent. However, the current level of global solar investments represents only 10 per cent of the required amount to achieve net-zero emissions. Notably, developing countries, which are home to over 50 per cent of the global population, received a mere 15 per cent of renewable energy investments in 2022. In Sub-Saharan Africa, per capita investment in renewable energy saw a concerning 44 per cent drop between 2015 and 2021. To put this into perspective, investments in North America are 41 times higher, and, in Europe, they are 57 times greater.

This glaring disparity, compounded by a bias towards large-scale solar projects, underscores a significant imbalance in the types of investments being made. To unlock the potential of smaller-scale solutions like solar mini-grids, it's imperative to implement guarantees and introduce innovative financial mechanisms complemented by robust risk underwriting that can catalyse private sector investment. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is actively spearheading such an initiative through its Global Solar Facility (GSF). Geared towards catalysing investments in solar projects, the GSF places special emphasis on underserved regions in Africa. With a fund of \$100 million, it aims to enable \$10 billion in investments, providing clean energy access for 35–40 million African households by 2030. This fund, fortified by payment guar-

Solar is the cheapest form of energy generation in most countries, and its climate, energy and economic benefits are increasingly apparent. However, the current level of global solar investments represents only 10 per cent of the required amount to achieve net-zero emissions. Notably, developing countries, which are home to over 50 per cent of the global population, received a mere 15 per cent of renewable energy investments in 2022. In Sub-Saharan Africa, per capita investment in renewable energy saw a concerning 44 per cent drop between 2015 and 2021. To put this into perspective, investments in North America are 41 times higher, and, in Europe, they are 57 times greater.

antees, insurance, and investment vehicles, will mitigate risks and bolster investor confidence in decentralised solar applications in Africa, thus rectifying the skewed investment pattern in solar.

Solar energy presents a financially viable path to energy independence, bolstering security and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Moreover, the cost of solar PV energy is now highly competitive, standing at \$24/MWh, lower than both coal and natural gas — this is, of course, contingent on sunlight availability. The substantial drop in solar module costs over the past decade underscores the holistic benefits of investing in solar energy.

Creating a diverse energy mix, with adequate centralised and distributed renewable generation, is the future of energy, and is suitable especially in underserved markets where the cost of grid extension to rural, off-grid areas is prohibitive. Efficiently planned and well-run solar mini-grids rapidly provide strong and dependable grid-level electricity, surpassing the reliability and cost-effectiveness of alternative electrification methods. India's successful initiative to offer electricity through both large centralised grids and decentralised renewable energy sources is serving as an exemplar for clean energy adoption. It demonstrates how collaboration between private and public sectors can drive innovation, enabling developing economies to achieve a trajectory of robust energy supply with minimal carbon emissions.

Private mini-grids — combining solar with battery storage — are an affordable, technically mature, easily deployed, bankable solution that needs more support at a time when urgent energy access and climate action are required.

Mathur is the director general of International Solar Alliance; Mattson is chairman of Husk Power and board member of the Africa Mini-grid Developers Association

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"If our political parties are truly dedicated to the people's welfare — as they routinely claim to be — they must recognise how their political actions are affecting the economy, and by extension the ordinary people."
— THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

Clean air as political rhetoric

Delhi government has gone back on its promises to check pollution. Instead of owning its failures, it describes the matter as a national problem



JAIVEER SHERGILL

THE GREEK PLAYWRIGHT Euripides once wrote, "When one with honeyed words but evil mind persuades the mob, great woes befall the state." The people of Delhi are realising this after trusting the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party. The Right to life, guaranteed under the Constitution, is under threat as the city and its surrounding areas are shrouded in a thick cloak of smog and other pollutants. The murky skyline is a cruel reminder that the AAP-led government in Delhi has no plan to tackle pollution, but offers a series of excuses.

The environmental and economic cost of unchecked pollution encompasses a large gamut of consequences, impacting everything from public health to productivity and investment potential.

The Arvind Kejriwal government has been promising to deliver clean, breathable air to the capital for years. But the Delhi CM's words have been at odds with his actions. As with his "declared commitment" to clean the Yamuna, Kejriwal's approach to combating air pollution lacks a long-term strategy. It's true that addressing the problem requires a multi-pronged approach. But the Delhi government has never really shown adequate resolve or owned the issue. It has never given evidence of putting in place measures that can be implemented on a sustained basis. Kejriwal and his colleagues are more interested in making political statements.

The plans to implement the "odd-even" scheme have been put off for now. But the truth is, the scheme was never a magic wand to tackle pollution. Since 2015, when it was first implemented, road rationing has done little to bring about sustained improvement in air quality. Its enforcement has been inconsistent at best. It is another short-term, headline-grabbing measure. Without addressing the root causes of pollution, the quest for clean air remains elusive in Delhi.

In 2018, after the much-publicised "Clean Air Campaign", the National Green Tribunal (NGT) slapped a fine of Rs 25 crore on the Delhi government for failing to curb the city's air pollution. In 2020, the Yuddh Pradushan Ke Virudh campaign, a plantation drive, was launched, again with much fanfare. A year later, the India, State of Forest Report 2021 stated that Delhi had lost forest cover for the first time in a decade — this at a time, when forest cover increased in most other states and Union Territories. Then came the promise of electric buses and the Switch Delhi campaign. But the slow pace of procurement derailed the project and Delhi is nowhere close to the March 2023 target of 2,000 electric buses.

The Delhi government has spent a significant amount of funds on ineffective measures. According to an RTI reply, in November 2021, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) spent over Rs 470 crore from 2015 to 2021 on various pollution control measures. This includes grants for battery-operated vehicles and e-rickshaws, the odd-even drive, maintenance of biogas plants, and the development of waste management facilities. The Delhi government has also collected over Rs 1,491 crore in the name of the environment compensation charge (ECC) since 2015. There is, however, no clarity on how these funds have been utilised and why almost half of the amount is unused. The Delhi government spent Rs 22.9 crore to install a smog tower at Connaught Place in August 2021. This was followed by an expenditure of Rs 5.58 crore on advertising the tower. But when the people of Delhi are gasping for air, the tower has become a mere unused relic. Both the cost and impact of the smog tower are questionable. The political leadership, by merely blaming the bureaucracy, cannot escape accountability for the lapse.

Besides long-term measures, dealing with air pollution demands an honest approach. However, denial and deflecting blame seem to be the AAP government's core strategy. In 2021, Kejriwal blamed Punjab for 40 per cent of Delhi's pollution. After AAP formed the government in Punjab in 2022, he said that Delhi's pollution was caused by "a combination of factors, including vehicular emissions, dust, and stubble burning". This year, he has gone a step ahead and said that Delhi's pollution is "a national problem" and that Punjab should not be blamed for it. It's clear that AAP leadership is neither interested in taking responsibility for its faults nor is it genuinely interested in addressing the problems. In Punjab, the party's government has been unwilling to reach out to and work with the farmers to arrest stubble burning. In Delhi, the government has been slow to implement stricter emission standards for vehicles and industries. It has also been reluctant to crack down on illegal constructions and industrial activities that contribute to pollution. Steps like artificial rain are no solution in the long run.

As the metropolis grapples with a public health crisis, the administration needs to pivot from stopgap measures to holistic and sustained interventions. Collaborative efforts, stringent policies, robust enforcement, and innovative solutions are imperative to clean up Delhi's air and restore the right to clean air for its citizens. India is emerging as a bright spot in the world economy. Nothing should be done to dent its image and bring down the country's investment potential. Delhi deserves more than mere political posturing and hollow rhetoric.

It remains to be seen if the Kejriwal administration can recalibrate its approach and rise to the challenge.

The writer is an advocate at the Supreme Court and national spokesperson, Bharatiya Janata Party

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BILL FOR WOMEN

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'House of inequality' (IE, November 13). Though late in its formulation, the latest Women's Reservation Bill is a welcome step in the journey towards a more egalitarian society. The prevailing pessimism about the Bill, because it is linked with the delimitation exercise, is a political smokescreen. India would not have to wait till 2029 for its implementation. Once the delimitation is over in 2026, one-third of seats in all subsequent assembly elections — and there will be many before the 2029 general elections — will go to women. For a society driven by patriarchy it will be a revolutionary change.

Shubhada H, via email

INSECURE WORKERS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A distress call' (IE, November 11). The protest by UP helpline workers reflects the disturbing reality of women workers. The pittance they are getting as salary and lack of job security are inherent characteristics of private contractual jobs. For instance, the worst off are millions of women domestic workers who work for long hours and are constantly vulnerable to physical abuse. They are denied minimum wages and lack any social security. Sadly, there is no political will to address their concerns. The National Commission for Women drafted the Domestic Workers (Registration, Social Security and Welfare) Act in 2008-10, to cover various aspects like wages, working conditions, offences and penalties, and created the Domestic Workers Welfare

Fund among others that are yet to be passed.

LR Murmu, New Delhi

PERSUADE FARMERS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Laying Parali to rest' (IE, November 11). Delhi, for years, has been suffering from acute pollution. From time to time, the Supreme Court has admonished the Delhi government as well as Centre. Large-scale Parali burning should be stopped by persuading farmers to use short-duration varieties of rice. Industries should be encouraged to use Parali as fuel and raw material for energy and ethanol production. There is a need to understand the farmers' problems instead of blaming them. They should be given alternatives so that they can shift to diversified crop production.

Atul Thakre, Nagpur

MISOGYNIST STREAK

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The our and Dior' (IE, November 12). The Ethics Committee's questioning of TMC MP Mahua Moitra is meaningless, and the questions betray a streak of misogyny. The recommendation is not only partisan but also devoid of ethics and fairness. Moitra has been held guilty before any evidence has been found in the case and based on the say-so of an estranged friend and a businessman who had first denied it. The Ethics Committee has therefore failed to follow the principles of justice and produced a report and recommendation that is flawed. The Speaker and the House must not act on it.

SS Paul, Nadia

A divisive campaign

BJP's methods to woo the Adivasi vote in Telangana are questionable



BHANGYA BHUKYA

WITH THE TELANGANA State Assembly election getting closer, political parties are busy influencing voters by creating different narratives that undercut their opposition. Adivasis (Scheduled Tribes), who constitute 9.08 per cent of Telangana's total population are a decisive force in the election fray. Twelve MLA and two MP seats, out of the 119 MLA and 17 MP seats of the state, respectively, are reserved for Adivasis. However, they constitute 50 per cent of the vote share in six MLA constituencies, about 40 per cent in 14 constituencies, and about 35 per cent in 36 constituencies. So, Adivasis can be a deciding factor in 56 constituencies. They also constitute about 30 per cent of the vote share in two MP seats and about 10 per cent in five MP seats. The election in the state is going to be a triangular fight between the Congress, BRS and BJP. In such a setting, if Adivasis vote for one side, they have the power to decide the fate of a party in the election. That is why all political parties are focusing on Adivasi areas.

Historically, Adivasis have voted for the Congress. However, a section tilted towards the TRS (now called BRS) during the Telangana movement. Even after the formation of Telangana in 2014, the Congress won the majority of the ST-reserved seats in the state. However, many of the victors

were poached by BRS.

The BJP has accelerated its programmes in Adivasi areas after the formation of Telangana. The RSS, Hindu Mahasabha and Arya Samaj have been active in Adivasi areas since their inception. Notably, following the Jodenghat incident of 1940 in which 13 Gonds, including leader Komaram Bheem, were killed, these organisations reached the area and supported the Adivasis in dealing with the court cases and paperwork. They saw Bheem as another Shivaji, projecting his movement as being a "Hindu fight" against a Muslim ruler (the Nizam of Hyderabad).

Since Independence, organisations such as the Bajrang Dal, Shishu Vidya Mandir schools and Vanavasi Kalyan Kendras, have been working in these areas. These organisations carry out various educational and welfare activities among the Adivasis. The Shishu Vidya Mandir schools, which were started in Adivasi areas in 1965, have two to three branches in each Adivasi-concentrated mandal of Adilabad, Khammam and Warangal districts. An ashram set up in 1981 on the Adilabad-Thantholi road, which promotes handicrafts among Adivasis, is also worth mentioning here. These organisations, besides conducting welfare activities, propagate Hindutva philosophy and politics. These activities have helped create

the foundation on which the BJP builds its electoral politics.

In the last general election, the BJP won the Adilabad MP seat, which is reserved for STs. The BJP has many unusual advantages in Adilabad. The district borders Maharashtra, and there has been cross-pollination of Hindutva ideas and politics. This is often witnessed in the district's Bhainsa town, which has a sizeable Muslim population, and has been used as a laboratory for Hindutva politics. Importantly, the district has about 30 per cent Maratha population, most of whom are Hindutva supporters. Yet, the trigger point in the last general election was the growing tensions between Gond/Koya tribes and Lambada tribes. The former have been organising against the latter, alleging that they take the lion's share in employment and welfare schemes.

There is, indeed, an issue between the communities. But, the BJP, instead of solving the problem, is seen as instigating the Gond/Koyas against the Lambadas. BJP MP candidate, Soyam Babu Rao, was the chief leader of Tudum Debba, a tribal rights organisation, which allegedly runs the anti-Lambada campaign. Babu Rao won the Adilabad MP seat with a comfortable majority, as the Gond/Koya tribes had a ma-

majority compared to the Lambadas in the constituency.

In the coming election, the BJP is circulating a new divisive narrative in the Adivasi areas by celebrating the Gond heroes of the anti-colonial and anti-Nizam movement — Ramji Gond and Komaram Bheem. Both the leaders are, in fact, celebrated by the Adivasis for their heroic fight against British imperialism and the Nizam's revenue and forest policies. Yet, they are now painted by the BJP as Hindu Adivasis fighting against the Muslim rulers, the Nizams.

In this venture, the BJP organised a massive public meeting at Nirmal recently, where Ramji Gond is believed to have been killed by the British, although the BJP says the Nizam's army killed him. A huge museum is also coming up in the name of Ramji Gond in Hyderabad with the financial support of the Union government.

In the last 10 years, grave injustice has been done to the Adivasis in the state. The progressive Forest Rights Act of 2006 was put in cold storage. These are important Adivasi issues should be a part of the election agendas of all political parties, rather than a divisive politics.

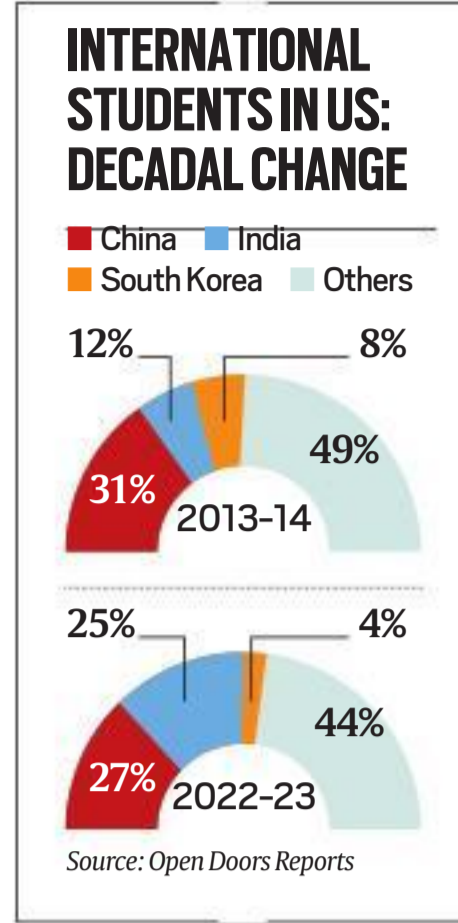
The writer teaches at University of Hyderabad

Indian PG students in US up 63% in '22-23, overtake China: Report

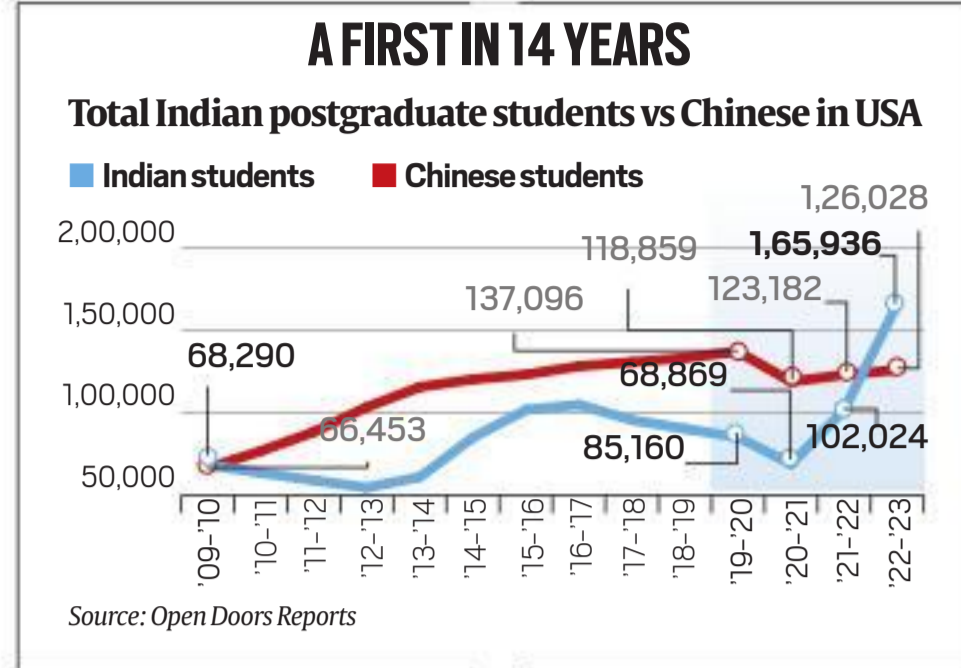
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

THE NUMBER of Indians pursuing postgraduate studies in the United States (US) increased 63 per cent to 1.65 lakh in academic year 2022-23 — surpassing China for the first time in 14 years to become the largest source of international graduate students in the US during the same period.

According to the latest Open Doors Report released on Monday, 2.68 lakh Indian students were studying in the US last year at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including those enrolled in Optional Practical Training programmes, which allow foreign graduates with F-1 or student visa to en-



gage in paid or voluntary work for up to three years. This is 35



per cent more than the 1.99 lakh students recorded in 2021-22, and represents the largest single-year jump in at least 23 years, data analysed by *The Indian Express* shows. China and India together account for 52 per cent of the total international student cohort in America.

TELANGANA GOVT ANNOUNCES RS 5 LAKH EX GRATIA

Nine, including seven of a family, killed in massive Hyderabad blaze

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 13

SEVEN MEMBERS of a family and a couple died in a fire that engulfed a residential building in Bazarghat area of Nampally in Hyderabad Monday morning.

The victims have been identified as Mohammed Azam, 58, his wife Rehana Sultana 50, their daughters Faiza Sameen, 26, Dr Tahura Farheen, 35, and her children, Tarooaba, 13, Tooba, 6 and son Hasib-ur-Rahman, 32. They died in a flat in the five-storey building.

In another flat, Mohammed Zakir Hussain, 66, and his wife Nikath Sultana, 55, died. Dr Farheen, a BDS doctor, was visiting her parents with her two children Tarooaba and Tooba.

At least 12 others, who have sustained burns, were rescued by the Fire Department and police.

According to Osmania General Hospital, the first person was brought in at 10:22 am.

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao have expressed shock and anguish at the

loss of the nine lives. The Telangana government has announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the families of the victims.

While the cause of the fire, which started at about 9.30 am, is under investigation, it spread to several drums filled with chemicals and diesel stored in the cellar of the building.

Seven fire tenders were pressed into service. Venkateshwar Rao, DCP, Central Zone, said the fire started either from a spark of a car that was being repaired in the cellar or from fireworks.

"Some of the drums had toxic chemicals, oil and diesel, which caught fire and within

minutes it engulfed the entire building," he said. The thick black smoke resulted in the deaths due to asphyxiation or burns, the fire department officials said. Officials said that the building owner, who owns a factory, uses the cellar to store drums. Fire and police officials pulled out dozens of drums which had not caught fire.

Vikram Singh Mann, Additional CP, Hyderabad, said, "Highly inflammable chemicals were stored in the ground floor and nine persons have died of asphyxiation when fire and smoke quickly spread through the building".

"Action will be taken against those responsible after investigation," Mann added.

According to a fire officer on the ground, the control room received an emergency call around 9:34 am. The caller said a car was ablaze on the street.

"When we reached, the fire had started spreading fast. The fire originated from the cellar where chemical drums were stored," he said. Ministers K T Rama Rao and Talasani Srinivas Yadav and Telangana BJP chief G Kishan Reddy visited the spot.



A damaged car in front of a building where the fire erupted in Hyderabad's Nampally area on Monday. PTI

Revised IIM rules notified: President can dissolve board for disobedience

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

THREE MONTHS after amending the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Act to assert more authority over the 20 premier business schools, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has officially notified revised rules that lay down three grounds for dissolving an institute's governing Board.

As first reported by *The Indian Express* on November 11, the Union government, represented by the President who is the Visitor of all IIMs in this case, can dissolve the board of an IIM for persistent disobedience of its orders, in public interest, and in case of circumstances beyond the board's control hindering its duties.

The amended rules, now in effect, also clearly define the extent of the President's power regarding removal of an IIM director. The rules explicitly state that the institute's board is obligated to follow the decisions of the Visitor in this regard, leaving no room for debate.

For the first time, the Rules under the IIM Act firmly establish the educational qualifications of an IIM director. It specifies that any candidate for the position should possess a first-class degree at both the Bachelor's and Master's levels, in addition to a PhD or an equivalent qualification. Earlier, the criteria used to be a "distinguished academic with PhD or equivalent" and there was no mention of the required division for the degrees.

This move is significant as it comes against the backdrop of the IIM Rohtak case, where it was discovered that the incumbent director, Dheeraj Sharma, had a second-class Bachelor's degree while the government, while advertising the post, had mandated a first-class Bachelor's degree. The Ministry of Education had informed the Punjab and Haryana High Court last year that Sharma had misrepresented his educational qualification.

The amendment of the rules under the IIM Act was prompted by recent changes to the law, introduced during this year's Monsoon Session of Parliament.

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 13

AMID THE ongoing crisis in Manipur, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday notified an extension of its ban under the UAPA of seven "Meitei Extremist Organisations" and their affiliates for a period of five years.

The groups are: the People's Liberation Army and its political wing, the Revolutionary People's Front; the United National Liberation Front and its armed wing, the Manipur People's Army; the People's Revolutionary Army of Kangleipak and its armed wing, the "Red Army"; the Kangleipak Communist Party and its armed wing, also called the "Red Army"; the Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup; the Coordination Committee; and the Alliance for Socialist Unity Kangleipak.

The MHA notification collectively referred to them as "Meitei Extremist Organisations", having the professed aim of the secession of Manipur from India through armed struggle and "and to incite indigenous people of Manipur for such secession".

The notification stated that the Union government is of the opinion that these groups have been "engaging in activities prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India", engaging in armed means to achieve their objectives, attacking and killing civilians, police and security forces in Manipur, intimidating and extorting civilians to collect funds, maintaining camps in neighbouring countries, and "making contacts with sources abroad" to influence public opinion and secure their assistance to procure arms and training.

Stating that these organisations are considered detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of India, the notifications said that the Union government is of the opinion that in the absence of "immediate curb and control", they will take the opportunity to continue with these activities.

A 2018 notification for their ban had specified that these groups were involved in 756 violent incidents in the preceding five years and had been responsible for the killing of 86 people, including 35 security forces personnel, in that period.

While Monday's notification did not carry such an enumeration, the increased activity of cadres of these groups with the ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur has been a concern, especially since these groups had weakened and waned over the years.

The oldest of these Meitei insurgent groups, the UNLF, had been formed in 1964, and the others came into being subsequently — both to press for secession and to ward off the Naga insurgent groups operating in Manipur.

In the last month, the Manipur Police arrested multiple people on different occasions in different parts of the Manipur valley, saying they were active members of groups such as KYKP, KCP and UNLF, found to be allegedly extorting the public and to be in possession of arms. In September, the NIA had arrested M Anand Singh, a former cadre of the PLA, from Imphal in a case related to "transnational conspiracy by Myanmar based leadership of terror outfits" to exploit the ethnic unrest to "wage a war against the government of India".

Bina Agarwal wins Kenneth Boulding Award

Prof Agarwal got the award for Ecological Economics

New Delhi: Development economist Bina Agarwal has won the prestigious Kenneth Boulding Award for Ecological Economics.

Agarwal, Professor of Development Economics and Environment at the Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, and ex-director of the Institute of Economic Growth (Delhi), was conferred the award jointly with David Barkin, a professor at the Metropolitan University in Mexico City. The International Society for Ecological Economics said Agarwal was recognised for her significant contributions to Ecological Economics, with focus on environmental governance, agrarian change, and social equity in developing countries. ENS

Veteran CPI(M) leader Basudeb Acharia dies at 82

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 13

VETERAN COMMUNIST leader Basudeb Acharia died on Monday at the age of 82 in Hyderabad. Acharia was suffering from old-age-related illnesses and passed away at a private hospital. He was staying with his son in Hyderabad.

He was born on July 11, 1942, in Purlia. Acharia was involved in politics from his student life. He was one of the faces of the rural tribal society movement and campaign. CPI(M) West Bengal state committee secretary Md Salim posted on X, "Veteran parliamentarian and Trade Union leader Com. Basudeb Acharia breathed his last in Hyderabad this afternoon." West Bengal CM Mamata

Reopened old wounds: Kin of Amshipora victims after officer's sentence suspended

ARUN SHARMA
RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 13

A PALL of gloom descended on three families of Rajouri district in Jammu Kashmir as the Army Tribunal suspended the sentence of Captain Bhoopendra Singh and granted him conditional bail in the fake Amshipora encounter.

The case pertains to the deaths of Imtiyaz Hussain, Ibrar Hussain and Mohammad Abrar who belonged to Dharsakri and Tarkasi villages of the border district. The three youths, who had gone to Shopian in Kashmir Valley to work as labourers, were allegedly branded as terrorists and killed by troops on July 18, 2020 under Captain Singh's command.

In March, the Army officer was court-martialed and sentenced to life by an Army court following a Court of Inquiry. Subsequent summary of evidence found troops



In March, the officer was court-martialed and sentenced to life. File

under Captain Singh's command exceeded their powers under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act. "What should I say now," said Mohammad Abrar's 65-year-old father Mohammad Yousuf Khan. "Even today, his four-year-old son, Hanees, was asking me where his father is,"

he said. Khan said they were called twice to Kashmir during the court-martial proceedings. "Captain Bhoopendra Singh had confessed to have killed our children," Khan said, adding that they (troops) killed an earning member of his family.

"Now the suspension of his sentence and release on bail has only reopened our old wounds as it means that they have put a price tag of only Rs 10 lakh on the life of my son," the bereaved father said. When Captain Singh was sentenced, they had no words to thank the Army and the government for getting them justice, recalled a close relative of Mohammad Ibrar.

A member each from the families of Imtiyaz and Ibrar were given jobs in the Sheep Department of the J&K government only last month, Khan said, adding the three families had been paid Rs 10 lakh each as ex gratia.

Lalit Patil, 'doctor' planned Nashik drug factory in Yerawada jail infirmary: Probe

SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, NOVEMBER 13

KINGPIN of drug cartel Lalit Patil and the mastermind behind his narcotics production operation Arvindkumar Lohare alias 'doctor' chalked out the plan to set up their Nashik-based Mephedrone manufacturing unit at the most unexpected place — the infirmary or hospital ward of the Yerawada Central Prison. This is where Patil strategically kept coming, allegedly feigning various medical issues, revealed the probe conducted by the Pune police.

The crime branch of the Pune City police launched a probe into the large-scale Mephedrone manufacturing and smuggling operation led by Patil (34) and Lohare (39). The investigation kicked off after the Anti Narcotics Cell of Pune City police seized mephedrone worth Rs 2.14 crore near the state-run Sassoon General Hospital on September 30.

Lohare and Patil were lodged in Yerawada Central Prison under judicial custody, following their arrest in December 2020 in a case pertaining to the seizure of 20kg mephedrone.

A senior officer, who is part of the probe, said, "Probe revealed that Lohare gave Patil the formula and the entire method of synthesis of mephedrone during their stay in Yerawada prison. The two are alleged to

Around 2,000 Myanmar refugees cross over in a day to Mizoram's Zokhawthar

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 13

AROUND 2,000 refugees are estimated to have crossed over to Mizoram's Champhai since Sunday night amid fierce fighting between guerrillas of Chin Defence Force and the Myanmar military close to the Indo-Myanmar international border.

The Indian border town of Zokhawthar, only a few kilometres from the Myanmar town of Rikhwadwar — the epicentre of the fighting, has emerged as the centre of the cross-border movement.

Manipur DGP Anil Shukla Monday said one refugee was killed, while around 20 Myanmar nationals were hospitalised in Mizoram. "These are people who have been injured in Myanmar and crossed over the border

to receive medical treatment here," he said. As of Monday evening, 20 injured have been admitted to Champhai district hospital and another eight in hospitals in Aizawl.

Local Refugee Relief Committee chairman Robert Zoremliuaga told *The Indian Express* they could still hear gunfire as of 6 pm Monday. According to his estimates, the area received close to 2,000 refugees since Sunday night. "Everyone from the 2 villages of Rikhwadwar and Khawmami has come to the Indian side. So, movement of people has stopped for now... Three who have been injured in Indian territory are people who crossed over to Zokhawthar earlier. One of them died. He had been living on the Indian side since last year," he said. The deceased is Cungsianmawia, 51, from Khawmami.

Shindegaon that the Mumbai police raided in October this year and seized mephedrone worth Rs 300 crore," said the officer.

The infirmary of Yerawada prison has an OPD and can admit around 35 inmates in the inpatient department (IPD). A police officer said an inmate admitted to IPD can easily meet any other inmate coming to the OPD since a large number of inmates gather at the prison hospital for various medical reasons. Patil and Lohare, who were otherwise lodged in different cells, allegedly took advantage of this overcrowding and held their meetings in the infirmary, without attracting much attention.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



ELECTION IN NUMBERS

4,921

The altitude (in feet) of Shergaon in Rajasthan's Abu-Pindwara seat, where people will vote in their village for the first time.



REVIVING UP

Telangana CM Chandrashekar Rao in Warangal Monday. PTI

'I am more effective today. I am Deputy CM, part of central poll panel of Cong'

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
RAIPUR, NOVEMBER 13

WITH THE second and final round of Chhattisgarh elections now just four days away, Deputy CM T S Singh Deo talks about taking up the post ahead of the polls, the fight the party is facing in his turf Surguja, implementation of the PESA rules, and corruption allegations against CM Bhupesh Baghel. Excerpts:



WITH TS SINGH DEO
DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER,
CHHATTISGARH

In an earlier interview with The Indian Express, you spoke about not being inclined to contest elections. Have things changed now?

I feel I'm more effective today. The party has given me the honour to work as Deputy CM and made me a member of its central election committee.

The Baghel government is facing several ED cases. How many seats will this affect?

Zero. The ED is no longer a reliable factor. Nobody believes in the effectiveness or neutrality of the ED anymore. They see it just as a wing of the BJP.

In Jagdalpur, Rahul Gandhi said land acquisition will need gram sabha consent. Will PESA rules, in which 'consent' was changed to 'consultation', be revised again?

This (gram sabha consent) is the Congress's thinking. Now it's up to the government to implement it. The thinking of the leadership is evident. The state government won't go ahead against the will of the people. If the people don't want something, the government won't proceed on it.

Your party has supported 33% women's quota, but given tickets to only 20% women.

This is a male-dominated society. We are not an egalitarian society where women have an absolute 50-50% position. The first time an American woman

contested for President, she did not win. So first talk about advanced and egalitarian America and compare yourself with it, and only then compare Chhattisgarh. We already have 50% reservation for women in panchayats and local bodies, because that law has been enacted.

When all 14 seats in Surguja division went to the Congress in 2018, the people here hoped you would be the CM. Are you expecting a similar mandate?

Donald Bradman (cricketer) it did not score a triple-century every time he went on to the field. This has never happened in the history of politics in Surguja... Though, we always want that to happen, we expect no less than 10-11 seats.

Internal issues in Surguja are now public.

Chintamani Maharaj is no longer an internal issue. He has joined the BJP. So far, there are no reports that Brihaspat is involved in sabotage.

FULL INTERVIEW ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

NASIR AND JUNAID'S MURDER

Shadow over Cong MLA, BJP senses opportunity

Bharatpur seat with a high proportion of Meo Muslims feels Zahida Khan did not side with them; apart from BJP, she faces Independent, AIMIM candidate

DEEP MUKHERJEE
KAMAN (BHARATPUR),
NOVEMBER 13

IN FEBRUARY, at a community panchayat in Bharatpur's Ghatmika village, a teary-eyed Mohammad Jabir had a public confrontation with Rajasthan Minister of State (MoS) and Kaman MLA Zahida Khan.

The meeting was over the murders of Nasir and Junaid, the two men killed allegedly by cow vigilantes. Their charred bodies were found in Loharu in Haryana's Bhiwani district. Zahida was urging members of the families to bury the bodies.

Jabir, a cousin of the duo, said the bodies would not be buried until Monu Manesar, one of the men accused of the murder, was arrested. Manesar has been in a Rajasthan jail in connection with the case since September.

"Pehlu Khan, Umar Mohammad, Rakbar Khan, and now Junaid and Nasir! How many more men will die?" Jabir said at the panchayat convened on the morning of February 17.

Nine months later, Jabir does not mince his words as he stands near the makeshift election office of Mukhtyar Ahmad, a chartered accountant who is contesting in the November 25 polls as an Independent after being denied a ticket by the Congress. The party has once again fielded sitting MLA Zahida from Kaman. Apart from 2018, Zahida won the seat in the Meo Muslim-populated Mewat region in 2008. Kaman has around 2.55 lakh Muslim voters. Meo Muslims constitute 58% of this number.

"Zahida Khan did not help us during the Nasir-Junaid murder case. When family members protested, the government slapped cases on us. We will have to change this dictator. The public wants an MLA who sides with the *biradari* (community) and not the government," said Jabir.



Congress announced minister Zahida Khan's candidature at the last moment. Facebook

HOW KAMAN VOTED IN LAST TWO ELECTIONS

Results in 2013
CANDIDATE VOTE SHARE
Jagat Singh, BJP: 46.88%
Zahida Khan, Cong: 44.77%

Results in 2018
Candidate Vote share
Zahida Khan, Cong: 58.04%
Jawahar Beadham, BJP: 37.28%



He added that Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot only took note of the case "after AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi targeted him" for not speaking on the matter. Owaisi had compared the case with the killing of Kanhaiyalal in Udaipur, who was murdered allegedly for sharing a post on the Prophet, and targeted the Gehlot government over "difference" in the government compensation.

Jabir is now campaigning for Ahmad, who the local Meo community believes supported Nasir and Junaid's families as they demanded action. Owing to the severe opposition Zahida is facing among sections of the community in Kaman, the Congress only announced her name in its last candidate list, released a day before the closing of nominations.

The main contest is seen as between Zahida, Ahmad and the BJP's Nauksham Chaudhary. The AIMIM has fielded Imran Nawab.

Another reason for the opposition against Zahida is the clout her

family wields in the region. Her son and daughter are both pradhans of panchayat samitis, while her husband had served as one.

"The corruption in public dealing is a big issue here. False cases have been registered on the behalf of the MLA, which have led to anger in the public. The election will be between us and the BJP. The minister will finish third or fourth," said Ahmad.

A few hundred metres from the election office of Ahmad, people shuffle in and out of the house of Zahida. Thick brochures of the development work that has been done by the legislator in the last five years can be found here.

Sitting with Congress workers, Javed Khan, from Zahida's camp, said the "Nasir-Junaid case has been used to polarise voters".

"Some people tried to launch their political careers by using the case. These are the same people who refused to bury the body and protested against the state government. We handled the case

smoothly, compensation was announced for the families," said Javed Khan, Zahida's relative.

With a strong Independent candidate from the Muslim community challenging Zahida, the mood at the election office of the BJP's 33-year-old candidate Nauksham Chaudhary is upbeat. So far, Kaman is the only place where the BJP has chosen to field a Dalit for an unreserved seat.

"Caste doesn't matter here. This is a Hindu-Muslim election. But the Congress is not in the fight due to the huge opposition that MLA Zahida Khan is facing. We will gain with the division of Muslim votes between Zahida and Ahmed," said Rajesh Gurjar, a former sarpanch involved with Nauksham's campaign.

Nauksham, who is from Haryana, is trying to shed her outsider tag. She had unsuccessfully contested the Punhana seat in Haryana in 2019. The BJP is also counting on the fact that it won Kaman in 2003 and 2013.

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KEY PLAYERS

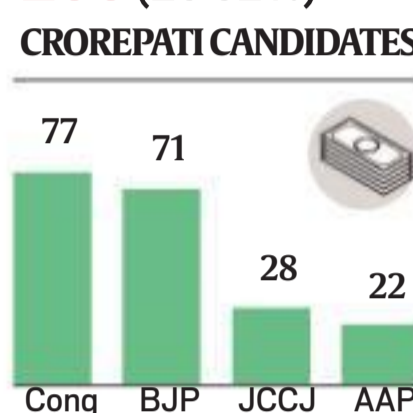
NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN? SONS OF FIVE FORMER CMs IN THE RACE IN MP

WHY CONG IS TALKING OF 'DORALU' VERSUS 'PRAJALU' IN TELANGANA

NUMBER SPEAK

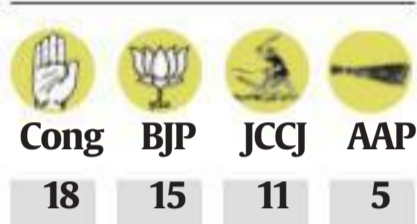
CHHATTISGARH CANDIDATES: A DEEPER LOOK

299 (25.32%)
CROREPATI CANDIDATES

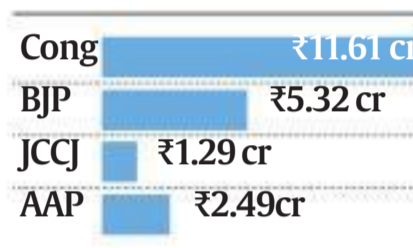


Total Candidates
1,181

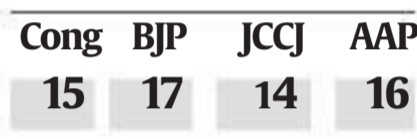
155 (13.13%)
WOMEN CANDIDATES



₹1.87 crore
AVERAGE ASSETS OF CANDIDATES



126 (10.67%)
CANDIDATES WITH CRIMINAL CASES



Source: ADR, Election Commission

I HEREBY DECLARE

GVIVEKANAND, 66
Richest Telangana candidate,
Congress nominee from Chennai

PSRINIVASAREDDY, 58
Second-richest in fray in Telangana,
Congress candidate from Palair

MOVABLE ASSETS (including of spouse)
₹380.76 CRORE
(Rs 61 cr in 2014 LS polls)

MOVABLE ASSETS (including of spouse, HUF)
₹424.12 CRORE
(Rs 4.33 cr in 2014 LS polls)

IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹225.92 CRORE
(Rs 205.52 crore in 2014)

IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹36.93 CRORE
(Rs 30.29 crore in 2014)

CRIMINAL CASES:
Five FIRs for offences under IPC, no convictions

SOURCE OF INCOME:
Property, dividend, agriculture, interest and MP pension

SOURCE OF INCOME:
Dividend, agriculture and interest

EDUCATION:
MBBS from Osmania Medical College

EDUCATION:
MBBS from Osmania Medical College

All Karnataka hands on deck, Telangana Cong aims at rerun

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 13

NEIGHBOURING KARNATAKA is a big part of the political conversation in Telangana ahead of the polls on November 30. While the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has been hitting out at the Siddaramaiah government, as a warning regarding what might follow if the Congress came to power, the Congress leadership has deployed star campaigners from its first big electoral victory in years to campaign in the state.

At a rally on November 10, speaking in the high-profile Kamareddy seat, where CM K Chandrashekar Rao is taking on Telangana Congress chief

Revanth Reddy, Siddaramaiah, who is from the OBC Kuruba community, unveiled the party's backward classes declaration. The Congress is highlighting that its government in Karnataka will ensure that details of a caste survey conducted by it earlier are revealed and reservations will be increased in local bodies from 23% to 42%. The party also promised Rs 20,000 crore annually for backward class welfare.

Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Pradesh Congress president, has been accompanying Telangana leaders during roadshows and public meetings.

A Congress leader said the party's Karnataka leaders are helping highlight the



Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah with Telangana Congress chief Revanth Reddy at a rally in Kamareddy last week. X/File

Siddaramaiah government's schemes in Karnataka, with the promise to "replicate the model"

in Telangana. "In Karnataka, the Congress was able to spread their message

effectively," another Congress leader said. Apart from Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, at least eight other ministers, over 30 MLAs, and key Congress leaders are on the ground in Telangana. In all, Karnataka Congress leaders have addressed 14 rallies so far and 30 of them have been appointed observers of constituencies for polling day.

"Several Karnataka ministers and MLAs have been appointed as observers in key constituencies to help Congress candidates. Siddaramaiah spoke last week at a public meeting at Kamareddy. Minorities Welfare Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan is in Hyderabad, while ministers S P Patil, KH Muniyappa and others are in other constituencies," a

senior Telangana Congress leader said.

CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikaramarka said the Congress was reaching out to the people with the six guarantees, like it did in Karnataka.

Since the party won in Karnataka, the Telangana Congress has implied that the victory has re-energised its ranks, leaving it resurgent against the BRS government, which has been in power for almost 10 years.

The BRS, in turn, has been highlighting the differences between the fractured Karnataka Congress unit, while dubbing the party "scam-gress".

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

VIEW FROM THE GROUND

In Rajasthan constituency with Ram Mandir link, temple not poll issue

LALMANI VERMA
BAYANA (RAJASTHAN),
NOVEMBER 13

THE BJP may be hoping that the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya will become an electoral issue in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election, but in the village of Banshi Pahadpur in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, surrounded by pink sandstone mines that have been supplying stones for the temple for over three decades, the temple seemingly is not a matter big enough to sway voters.

Locals acknowledge that the temple has put their village on the map and provided them with a source of earning but it is not an election issue for them. The BJP candidate for the Bayana (SC-reserved) Assembly constituency of which the village is a part, Bachchu Singh Banshiwal, how-

ever still makes a mention of the temple while canvassing.

"It is a matter of pride that stones for Ram temple in Ayodhya have been supplied from Bayana. I mention this in my speeches. If the BJP comes to power, I will try to ensure villagers get mining leases of smaller areas and earn money," Banshiwal, a Jatav, tells The Indian Express while out on a door-to-door campaign.

A drone camera operated by his supporters and a vehicle mounted with dragon lights and loudspeakers follows Banshiwal on the campaign trail. "I will resolve the problem of irrigation in this area. Also, the Ram temple is being built with stones of Banshi Pahadpur. That is my village. I mention this in my campaign because people are happy that the Ram temple is going to be inaugurated. It is a proud moment for us and people will vote on this is-

sue," he adds.

Banshiwal makes it a point to bring up the Ram Mandir in his speeches as there is another candidate with Hindutva credentials in the fray. Independent candidate Ritu Banawat contested the 2018 election from Bayana on a BJP ticket but lost to the Congress's Amar Singh. That is why she is as much a threat to the BJP candidate as the MLA.

"My ticket was taken away in 2018 but I did not rebel. She became a rebel in 2013 too and in 2018 ticket was given to her but she rebelled again this time. Her husband was the district president. It is wrong to contest as a rebel," Banshiwal tells a group of people in Shahpur Dang village, almost 30 km from Banshi Pahadpur, before departing.

After he leaves, a youth, who identifies himself as Sanjay Gurjar, says that the BJP can win



Independent candidate Ritu Banawat is one of the BJP's biggest challenges in Bayana in Bharatpur district. Express

but adds that if it comes to power "the CM should someone like Yogi Adityanath who takes strong action, people are safe in UP under Yogi rule".

Asked why Banawat lost the last election, Rajkumar Parmar, a Thakur, and Banshi Pahadpur resident says, "Then, Gujar voters got polarised in favour of the

Darbhanga College of Engineering, Darbhanga
 Adv. No.- DCE/04/2023-2024
Walk-in-Interview

Application are invited from the citizens of India for walk-in-interview for the Guest Assistant Professor in the Department of Applied Sciences and Humanities (Physics) against the sanctioned vacant seat at Darbhanga College of Engineering, Darbhanga. Applicants must have three year Industrial/Teaching Experience. Eligible Candidates have to Submit their Bio-Data with Photocopy of All documents during the Walk-in interview on 28.11.2023 at Darbhanga College of Engineering, Mabbi, Darbhanga -846005.

Venue :- Administrative Building,
 Darbhanga College of Engineering, Darbhanga. Principal
 D.C.E., Darbhanga

PR. No. 011753 (Education) 2023-24
 This information is available on website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
 1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CCE/BLS/NCB/51
 Invited vide this office Letter No. 5148 dt. 27.10.2023

Due to unavoidable circumstances, partial modifications of Road Works under CMRL vide above identification have been made as follows:-

Sl. No.	Items	As per Original TCN	As per 1 st Corrigendum to TCN & DTGN
1.	Last date of availability of tender	Dt: 15.11.2023 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt: 21.11.2023 upto 5:00 PM
2.	Last date & time of seeking tender	Dt: 14.11.2023 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt: 20.11.2023 up to 5:00 P.M.
3.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	Dt: 16.11.2023 up to 11:00 A.M.	Dt: 22.11.2023 up to 11 A.M.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore

OIPR-25105/11/0067/2324

Stray dog bite: HC rules Rs 10K per teeth mark compensation

JAGPREET SINGH CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13

HOLDING THE state as "primarily responsible" for paying compensation to people in incidents where stray animals are involved, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that in cases relating to dog bite, the financial assistance shall be at a minimum of Rs 10,000 per teeth mark and where the flesh has been pulled off the skin, it shall be a minimum of Rs 20,000 per 0.2 cm of wound.

The high court, while disposing a bunch of 193 pleas, also ordered the states of Punjab and Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh to constitute committees chaired by the deputy commissioners of respective districts to the determine such compensation.

"The award shall be passed by the committees within a period of four months of the claims being filed for it along with requisite documents...The State shall be primarily responsible to pay compensation with a right to recover the same from the defaulting agencies/instrumentalities of the State or the private person, if any," a bench of Justice Vinod S Bhardwaj said.

EAST BOUND FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Chhath Puja Festival, Northern Railway has planned to run the following East Bound Festival Special Trains from 14.11.2023 to 19.11.2023 in addition to normal regular trains as per schedule given below:-

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

Train No.	From	To	Time	Class	Stations
04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	Jaynagar	15:15	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Raebareilly, Amethi, Pratappgarh, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations
04012	New Delhi	Darbhanga Jn	16:45	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur Jn., Narkatiaganj, Raxaul & Sitamarhi Stations
04010	Anand Vihar Terminal	Jogbari	05:20	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Chandausi, Bareilly Cantt., Sitapur, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan, Chhapra, Sonpur, Hajipur, Shahpur Patore, Barauni, Begu Sarai, Khagaria, Naugachia, Kathar, Purnea, Aranya Court, Aranya and Forbesganj Stations
04002	Anand Vihar Terminal	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	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)	Patna Jn.	19:00	AC Chair Car	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
02246	New Delhi (Gati Shakti)	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations
02260	New Delhi	Bhagalpur	15:15	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patna, Kiul, Abhaypur, Jamalpur & Sultanganj Stations
03436	Anand Vihar Terminal	Malda Town	23:30	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patna, Simri Bhakhtiyarpur, Mokameh, Kiul, Abhaypur, Jamalpur, Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Kahaigaon, Pipraini, Sahibganj, Barharwa & New Faraika Stations
03228	Anand Vihar Terminal	Ara	04:00	Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Dildarnagar, Gahmar, Buxar, Dumraon & Bihya Stations
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	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)	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)	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)

Train No.	From	To	Time	Class	Stations
02250	New Delhi (Rajdhani Exp. Special)	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 (Gati Shakti)	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations
04490	New Delhi	Darbhanga	16:45	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Panihawa, Narkatiaganj, Raxaul & Sitamarhi Stations
04146	Anand Vihar Terminal	Prayagraj Jn.	20:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Aligarh, Tundla, Etawah, Govindpuri & Fatehpur Stations
04006	Delhi Jn.	Jaynagar	23:45	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations
04016	New Delhi	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	Gorakhpur	14:45	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Burhwal, Gonda, Basti & Khalilabad Stations
04028	Anand Vihar Terminal	Bapudham Motihari	23:30	Sleeper, General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur, Paniya Hawa, Narkatiaganj, Bettiah & Sagauli Jn.
05316	Delhi Jn.	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, Kerakot, Dobhi, Aunihar, Gazipur City, Yusufpur & Ballia.
05090	Anand Vihar Terminal	Banaras	09:50	3 Tier AC	Moradabad, Bareilly, Alam Nagar, Lucknow, Rae Bareilly, Amethi, Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratappgarh & Bhadohi.
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	Jaynagar	07:00	General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations
02256	Anand Vihar Terminal	Jaynagar	14:00	3 Tier AC	Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Mokama Jn., Barauni Jn., Samastipur & Darbhanga Stations

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

Train No.	From	To	Time	Class	Stations
04080	New Delhi	Varanasi Jn	09:45	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow & Pratappgarh Stations
04066	Anand Vihar Terminal	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	Muzaffarpur Jn.	21:15	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Chandausi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Chhapra & Hajipur Stations
05284	Anand Vihar Terminal	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	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	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)	Patna Jn.	19:00	AC Chair Car	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
05116	Anand Vihar Terminal	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	Patna Jn.	16:30	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
02246	New Delhi (Gati Shakti)	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
05066	New Delhi	Gorakhpur	04:15	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Burhwal, Gonda, Basti & Khalilabad Stations
03228	Anand Vihar Terminal	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)

Train No.	From	To	Time	Class	Stations
04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	Jaynagar	15:15	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Raebareilly, Amethi, Pratappgarh, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations
04012	New Delhi	Darbhanga Jn	16:45	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur Jn., Narkatiaganj, Raxaul & Sitamarhi Stations
01678	New Delhi	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)	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 (Gati Shakti)	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
02260	New Delhi	Bhagalpur	15:15	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patna, Kiul, Abhaypur, Jamalpur & Sultanganj Stations
04004	New Delhi (Unreserved Special)	Sitamarhi Jn.	23:30	General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Narkatiaganj & Raxaul Stations
05072	New Delhi	Chhapra	04:15	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Aishbag, Gomtiganj, Barabanki, Gonda, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria & Siwan Stations
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	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)	Saharsa Jn.	03:30	General	Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria & Simri Bhakhtiyarpur Stations

EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 18.11.2023 (SATURDAY)

Train No.	From	To	Time	Class	Stations
04080	New Delhi	Varanasi Jn	09:45	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow & Pratappgarh Stations
04488	Anand Vihar Terminal	Gorakhpur	14:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & Sleeper	Ghaziabad Moradabad, Chandausi, Bareilly Cantt., Sitapur, Gonda & Basti Stations
03576	Anand Vihar Terminal	Asansol Jn.	10:20	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Sasaram, Dehri-On-Sone, Gaya, Koderma & Dhanbad Stations
04490	New Delhi	Darbhanga	16:45	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Narkatiaganj, Raxaul & Sitamarhi Stations
04146	Anand Vihar Terminal	Prayagraj Jn.	20:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Aligarh, Tundla, Etawah, Govindpuri & Fatehpur Stations
02248	Anand Vihar Terminal	Patna Jn.	16:30	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04018	New Delhi	Bapudham Motihari	12:15	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Paniya Hawa, Narkatiaganj, Bettiah & Sagauli Jn.
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	Jaynagar	07:00	General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations
04028	Anand Vihar Terminal	Bapudham Motihari	23:30	Sleeper, General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur, Paniya Hawa, Narkatiaganj, Bettiah & Sagauli Jn.
02246	New Delhi (Gati Shakti)	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
05316	Delhi Jn.	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, Kerakot, Dobhi, Aunihar, Gazipur City, Yusufpur & Ballia.

EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 19.11.2023 (SUNDAY)

Train No.	From	To	Time	Class	Stations
04062	Delhi Jn.	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	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
03228	Anand Vihar Terminal	Ara	04:00	Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Dildarnagar, Gahmar, Buxar, Dumraon & Bihya Stations
02250	New Delhi (Rajdhani Exp. Special)	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 (Gati Shakti)	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations

During the Rail journey never travel with inflammable objects like Crackers, Petrol, Kerosene, Gas Cylinder etc.

For any kind of information, such as seat availability and time-table etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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Row erupts over Kerala temple board's reverential invitation to Travancore royals

SHAJUPHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 13

THE TRAVANCORE Devaswom Board, the state-government-run body that manages more than 1,200 temples in southern Kerala, triggered a controversy when in an invitation card to an event commemorating the 1936 Temple Entry Proclamation, it referred to the erstwhile royal family of Travancore in terms that were criticised as excessively complimentary and reverential.

Under fire, the board met on Monday and removed its director of cultural and archaeological affairs, Madhusudan Nair, from his post. Nair, who had issued the invitation, was made a deputy commissioner.

Earlier, the board was forced to withdraw the invitation card, which referred to members of the former royal family as "queens who have won the love and respect of people due to their simple and sweet nature and welfare work". The royals were also addressed as "highness", and the late king Balarama Varma was referred to as venerable and a blessed soul. The wording of the card had come under heavy criticism.

The event to commemorate the abolishing of the ban on the entry of people from marginalised castes to temples in Travancore was held Monday. Following the controversy, Aswathi Thirunal Gowri Lakshmi Bayi and Gouri Parvathi Bayi did not attend. They had been invited to light a lamp in front of a statue of Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma, the former ruler of the princely state of Travancore, who had issued the Temple Entry Proclamation in 1936.

CPI(M) central committee member and state Temple Affairs Minister K Radhakrishnan had said earlier in the day that the board would take action against the persons behind the invitation card. "Casteism, which has accrued in the mind over the years, will not end in one day. Our state had witnessed many agitations against the caste system. However, there are still remnants. We still require great efforts to get rid of such thoughts," the minister said.

Two months ago, minister Radhakrishnan, a Dalit man, had disclosed he faced caste discrimination at a Kannur temple under the Malabar Devaswom Board, which is also under the state government.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA WORKS DEPARTMENT
 Short Tender call Notice

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-29/2023-24 Memo No-2451 Dt. 09.11.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Government of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Temple work as detailed in the table below:

- Nature of Work : Temple Works
- No of Work : 3 Nos
- Tender Cost : Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
- Class of Contractor : B & A Class
- Available of Bid document : From 10.00 AM of Dt.14.11.2023 up to 05.00 PM of Dt.21.11.2023 up to 5.00 PM in the Website
- Date of opening of Bid : Dt 22.11.2023 at 11.30 AM
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in> Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha OIPR-34127/11/0036/2324

Five employees of homestay held for gangrape in Agra

Noida: Five employees, including a woman, of a homestay were arrested by the Agra Police on Sunday for allegedly gangraping and forcing a 30-year-old woman into prostitution.

The police said they took action after a video appeared on the social media where a woman could be seen crying and seeking help while alleging that she was gangraped by a colleague.

"The police had received information that an incident of rape and assault had taken place at a homestay. Taking cognisance of the incident, a case has been registered on the basis of a complaint filed by the woman. Five persons involved in the incident have been arrested," said ACP (Sadar) Archana Singh.

A senior police officer said those arrested have been identified as Ravi Rathore, Manish, Jitender, Dev Kishore and Riya. "All the accused and the victim worked at the 4-bedroom homestay. The woman has alleged that Ravi Rathore, the owner of the homestay, and her colleagues, forced her into prostitution at the homestay. She said that this has been going on for one year," he added.

The officer said Rathore, who took a flat on rent to run a homestay, has been providing accommodation for marriages, among others.

An FIR has been lodged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. Attempts are being made to arrest the other accused, he added. **ENS**

Govt. of Bihar

Department of Agriculture Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna (State Horticulture Mission)
 2nd Floor, Krishi Bhawan, Mithapur, Patna-800001,
 Phone Fax: 0612-2547772, e-mail: dir-bhd-bih@nic.in,
 Website: horticulture.bihar.gov.in

NOTICE - INVITING Very E-TENDER
 Through e-procurement mode only over (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

E-tender notice for selection of the agencies for supplying of Dutch Rose (Budded Plant) and Gerbera (Tissue Culture Plant) during 2023-24 in the State of Bihar.

For the holistic development of horticulture in the state of Bihar, Bihar Horticulture Development Society (BHDS), Bihar, Patna invites e-tender from interested registered/recognized nurseries - Govt./Semi Govt./Private producers and suppliers for the supply Planting Materials for Dutch Rose (Budded Plant) and Gerbera (Tissue Culture Plant) on uniform price to the farmers of the state of Bihar. In determination of uniform price of Plants for the state, financial proposals of the technically qualified agencies will be evaluated.

E-tender forms including terms and conditions for technical qualification, specifications, as well as quality and quantity of Planting Material and procedure is available on website: horticulture.bihar.gov.in/https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in. Applicants may upload/submit their tender along with all required documents for technical qualification through the online portal <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>. Financial proposals should also be proposed on that portal in prescribed form separately.

Proposal can only be uploaded/submitted on the website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> while EMD and Tender fee payment should be through online mode (NEFT/RTGS) only.

Sl No.	Activity	Date/Time: Duration
1.	Start Date & Time for Downloading of Tender document	30.11.2023 (10:00 Hrs.)
2.	Last Date & Time for Downloading of Tender document	21.12.2023 (11:00 Hrs.)
3.	Last Date & Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	21.12.2023 (15:00 Hrs.)
4.	Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting	12.12.2023 (12:00 Hrs.) (Through Zoom)
5.	Date and time of technical bid opening	22.12.2023 (15:30 Hrs.)
6.	Date and time of financial bid opening	To be intimated to technically successful bidder only
7.	Nodal officer/Contact person for queries	Sri Rakes

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

WHY PM RISHI SUNAK SACKED SUELLA BRAVERMAN, HOW EX-PM CAMERON MADE A COMEBACK TO THE UK GOVT



I want to...be part of the strongest possible team that serves the UK and that can be presented to the country when the General Election is held.

DAVID CAMERON, ON X



It has been the greatest privilege of my life to serve as home secretary ... I will have more to say in due course.

SUELLA BRAVERMAN, QUOTED IN UK MEDIA

ALIND CHAUHAN & RISHIKA SINGH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

BRITAIN'S PRIME MINISTER Rishi Sunak sacked Home Secretary (as the interior minister is known) Suella Braverman as part of a wider cabinet reshuffle on Monday, days after she criticised the police's handling of pro-Palestinian marches in London.

On November 8, *The Times* published an opinion by Braverman. The article was first sent to 10 Downing Street for approval in accordance with the Ministerial Code, which lays down the rules and standards that British ministers must follow. The changes that Number 10 asked for were apparently ignored.

In the article, the Home Secretary alleged that "senior police officers play favourites when it comes to protesters", and treat rightwing and nationalist protesters more harshly than pro-Palestinian crowds. Along with her criticism of this alleged "double standard", Braverman described pro-Palestinian demonstrators who had planned a march on November 11, as "hate marchers", and accused the organisers of the protest of having "links to terrorist groups, including Hamas".

On the day of the march, far right counter-protesters clashed with police, who tried to keep them away from the 300,000 pro-Palestinian marchers. More than 140 people were arrested.

The opposition Labour alleged that Braverman's incendiary comments sparked the clashes. Members of the Conservative Party also condemned her remarks and expressed despair at Sunak's delay in sacking her. One MP told *The*

Guardian: "Every day she remains in office it further undermines the Prime Minister's authority."

Even before Israel's war in Gaza polarised the world, Braverman repeatedly made insensitive and xenophobic statements about asylum seekers, immigrants, and homeless people, including specifically targeting Indians and Pakistanis.

Braverman's sacking coincided with the return to government of David Cameron, the man who was Prime Minister from 2010 to 2016, and whom the Sunak government on Monday made a life peer to ensure he can assume responsibility as a UK minister.

The newly minted Lord Cameron will be Foreign Secretary, replacing James Cleverly, who has been given Braverman's job. Cameron presided over the 2016 referendum in which Britain decided to leave the European Union, triggering a chain of events that has since tossed the country from one economic and political crisis to another. Cameron, who was himself in favour of 'Remain', resigned, and all but retired from active politics.

Cameron's return is being seen as one of the last throws of the dice by Sunak to snatch a Tory victory from what seem like the jaws of almost certain defeat in the 2025 elections. An analysis in *The Guardian* said bringing back Cameron could please more moderate sections of Sunak's party — however, it could lead to a loss of support from those on the far right.

A BBC analysis made the point that the "appointment allows the Prime Minister to argue he is bringing the Conservative family back together".



HARISH DAMODARAN

PRICES OF wheat and rice have gone in opposite directions in the global market, one crashing and the other soaring.

Wheat prices at the Chicago Board of Trade futures exchange hit an all-time high of \$13.64 a bushel (\$501/tonne) on March 8, 2022. That was days after Russia invaded Ukraine, with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Food Price Index (FPI) touching a record 159.7 points in March 2022.

Prices of wheat have since more than halved to \$5.75 a bushel (\$211.4/tonne). The FPI — a weighted average of world prices of a basket of food commodities over a base value, taken as 100 for 2014-16 — has also fallen to 120.6 points in October 2023.

The declines have been sharper for the cereals and vegetable oils price indices — from 170.1 and 251.8 points to 125 and 120 points respectively — between March 2022 and October 2023. (See chart)

Situation in wheat

Wheat from Russia is being exported currently at \$227 per tonne free-on-board, i.e. from the port of origin. Ocean freight and insurance charges will take the cost at Indian ports to \$265-270 per tonne or Rs 2,200-2,250 per quintal. That's just under the Rs 2,275/quintal minimum support price declared by the Union government for the 2023-24 wheat crop that is being sown now.

After adding port handling-cum-bagging (Rs 200) and internal transport (Rs 100-150 from Tuticorin or Krishnapatnam), imported Russian wheat would cost Rs 2,500-2600/quintal at any flour mill in South India. That makes imports feasible, relative to a year ago.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has projected the country's wheat shipments at a record 50 million tonnes (mt) in 2023-24 (July-June), up from 47.5 mt and 33 mt in the preceding two years. Higher exports from the European Union (31.9 mt in 2021-22 to 37.5 mt in 2023-24), Canada (15 mt to 23 mt) and Kazakhstan (8.5 mt to 10 mt) too, will more

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

Easing wheat, rising rice

The global impact of actions taken by large exporters of agri commodities: Russia's flooding the world with cheap wheat has softened its prices, while the export curbs by India have done the opposite to rice

TABLE 1 INTERNATIONAL WHEAT PRICES (\$ per tonne)

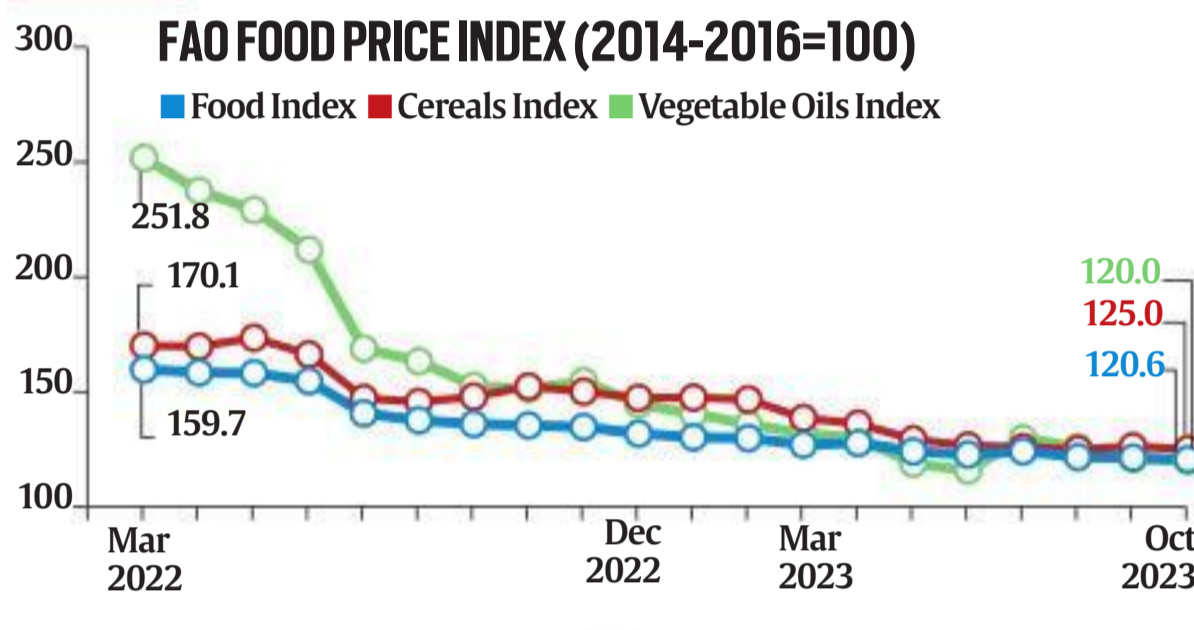
	CURRENT	YEAR AGO	MAR 2022
Russia	227	320	405
EU	251	342	460
Argentina	287	410	425
Australia	302	396	395
Canada	317	389	478
US	289	433	539

TABLE 2 INTERNATIONAL RICE PRICES (\$ per tonne)

	CURRENT	YEAR AGO	MAR 2022
India	NA*	385	360
Pakistan	555	418	351
Thailand	563	418	424
Vietnam	676	448	400
US	760	730	655
Uruguay	760	545	545

Note: Prices are export quotes for loaded cargoes at ports of the countries concerned; *Not available since July ban on white non-basmati rice exports. Source: US Department of Agriculture.

CHART 1 FAO FOOD PRICE INDEX (2014-2016=100)



than offset the reduced quantities from Ukraine (18.8 mt to 12 mt) over this period.

"Wheat availability has overall improved. Apart from international prices easing, the government has managed its own stocks very well," S Pramod Kumar, president of the Roller Flour Millers Federation of India, said.

At 21.88 mt on November 1 this year, wheat stocks in government godowns were marginally above the 21.05 mt a year ago, though way below the 41.98 mt for the same date in 2021. From April 2020 to December 2022, the government supplied 10 kg of free or near-free rice or wheat per person per month through the public distribution system (PDS). With stocks depleting, the quota for PDS beneficiaries was cut — rather, restored — from this calendar year to the original 5 kg/person/month.

The government is at present channeling 1.2-1.3 mt of wheat per month (from 1.8-1.9 mt till last year) through the PDS. Simultaneously, in order to cool market prices, it has resorted to selling from the Food Corporation of India's (FCI) stocks. Such open market sales,

at a minimum auction reserve price of Rs 2,125/quintal, have increased from 0.2 mt to 0.3 mt per week from November 2023.

"Even if they step up the weekly open sales to 0.5 mt from January (2024), and maintain PDS supplies at 1.2-1.3 mt per month, FCI warehouses would have 7-7.5 mt of wheat stocks on April 1, which is close to the required minimum buffer of 7.46 mt for that date. By then, the new crop will also arrive in the market," Kumar said.

It's tighter in rice

In wheat, the flexibility to import is an added comfort. It's another matter whether the government will allow imports, with national elections scheduled in April-May 2024. Any move to slash/scrap the 40% import duty on wheat may face opposition from farmers across North and Central India.

In rice, even that limited flexibility for imports does not exist. This is because India is the world's No. 1 exporter of rice, its share in the global trade having ranged from 36.6% to

40.7% in the last three years, according to USDA data. The world's biggest exporter cannot also be an importer.

Unlike the situation in wheat, global export prices of rice today are higher than a year ago, or in March 2022. (Table 2) The reason is the restrictions India has put on exports. The Narendra Modi government has, since July 2023, banned exports of all white non-basmati rice. Only basmati and par-boiled non-basmati rice shipments are being permitted, while being subjected to a \$950/tonne minimum export price (MEP) stipulation and 20% duty respectively.

India's position in the international rice market is similar to Indonesia's and Malaysia's in palm oil or Ukraine's and Russia's in sunflower. Supply disruptions from these large exporters tend to not only push up world prices, but to also produce a domino effect. India's rice export curbs have benefited Pakistan, which is expected to ship out 5 mt this year, much more than the 3.6 mt in 2022-23.

But the Pakistan government too, last week, fixed floor prices below which no rice can go out. These MEPs — from \$450/tonne on 100% broken rice to \$900/tonne on white, parboiled, and steamed basmati — are aimed at preventing domestic supply shortfalls.

Implications for inflation

India's cereal inflation averaged 10.65% year-on-year in October, based on the latest official consumer price index numbers. That was more than the 4.87% general retail inflation and the 6.61% annual rise in consumer food prices for the month.

Inflation in both rice and wheat are mainly a function of domestic production. While Russia's flooding the world with cheap wheat has made imports more economically viable, electoral considerations render it politically not-so-feasible.

It's quite the opposite in edible oils, where India meets roughly 60% of its consumption needs through imports. In the marketing year ended October 2023, vegetable oil imports reached an unprecedented 16.71 mt, as against 14.41 mt in 2021-22.

But the global price collapse — due to normalisation of supplies from Indonesia and Russia-Ukraine — led to imports falling from \$19.60 billion in 2021-22 to \$16.65 billion in the 2022-23 oil year, according to the Solvent Extractors' Association of India. And retail edible oil inflation, not surprisingly, was at minus 13.73% in October.

The course of cereal inflation, by contrast, would be determined primarily by the size of the crops harvested by Indian farmers.

Tracked while on bail: How GPS anklets work

BASHARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 13

EARLIER THIS month, a prisoner in Jammu and Kashmir was released on bail after he was tagged with a Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking device to monitor his movements. This is the first time in the country that a GPS tracker has been put to such use.

Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, who is accused of offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, was let out of jail after a special NIA court in Jammu upheld the prosecution's plea and ordered police to affix a GPS tracker ankle on his foot.

What is a GPS tracker; how does it work?

A GPS tracker is a small, wearable device like the GPS collars that have long been used to monitor the movements of animals. The device provides the exact location of the wearer at all times, and allows law enforcement and security agencies to monitor his/



A GPS tracker getting affixed on the prisoner (sitting) released on bail. PTI

her movement in real time.

The device is tamper-proof, and cannot be removed without damaging it. It can be put on the ankle or arm of a person — thus, there are GPS anklets and GPS bracelets.

GPS trackers are fairly common these days — people put them on pets and cars. The quality and prices of the devices vary. It's possible to buy one online for around Rs 1,000.

Why has a GPS tracker been put on Bhat?

The prosecution wing of the J&K Police asked for close monitoring of Bhat's movements, and pushed for his tracking by GPS as a bail condition.

Director General of Police RR Swain, who also heads the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the J&K Police, said GPS trackers could "help curb narcos smuggling and terror activities", and police can "monitor whether the person who is out on bail is meeting an active terrorist, or someone to collect a

narco assignment or terror funds, etc."

GPS trackers are a precondition for bail in several countries including the US, UK, and Malaysia. J&K Police have indicated they might ask for GPS tracking in the future as well.

What is the legal position on the use of this technology?

The use of the GPS ankle on Bhat was sanctioned by a court. Human rights activists have, however, pointed to the absence of specific legal provisions allowing this. Ravi Nair of the South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre said it is also "important to ask whether the security establishment has developed any standards and ethics in electronic monitoring".

Backers of the use of GPS trackers argue they can make it a little easier to get bail under UAPA, and give police the confidence to not oppose bail. Rights activists, however, say tracking a human being is a violation of their fundamental right to privacy.

EXPLAINED TECH

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Once upon a time, a plan to join Red Sea with Mediterranean through Israel

ARJUNSEGUPTA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

IT HAS been speculated that one of the reasons behind Israel's desire to eliminate Hamas from the Gaza Strip and completely control the enclave is to give itself the chance to better explore a theoretical but dramatic economic opportunity that has been talked about for several decades, but for which peace and political stability in the region is an essential prerequisite.

The idea is to cut a canal through Israel's Negev Desert from the tip of the Gulf of Aqaba — the eastern arm of the Red Sea that juts into Israel's southern tip and south-western Jordan — to the Eastern Mediterranean coast, thus creating an alternative to the Egyptian-controlled Suez Canal that starts from the western arm of the Red Sea and passes to the South-Eastern Mediterranean through the northern Sinai peninsula.

The so-called Ben Gurion Canal Project, which was first envisioned in the 1960s would, if it were to be actually completed, transform global maritime commerce by taking away Egypt's monopoly over the shortest route between Europe and Asia.

However, any attempt to construct the canal would have to overcome gigantic logistical, political, and funding challenges which, in the current situation, makes it seem largely fantastical.

maritime trade by allowing shipping between Europe and Asia without having to travel around the continent of Africa. It cut the distance between London and Mumbai by a staggering 4,450 km (more than 41%). In the 2022-23 fiscal year, around 26,000 vessels crossed the Suez Canal, accounting for approximately 13% of global shipping.



The Suez Canal and the so-called 'Ben Gurion Canal' (left). The 1963 US govt memorandum that presented a possible alignment for the canal.

The canal is critical to the economy of Egypt, which collects all the toll revenue generated, in addition to the benefits it brings to its local economy.

Issues with the canal

The 193 km long, 205 m wide, and 24 m deep Suez Canal is the world's biggest shipping bottleneck, and remains perennially

congested. In March 2021, the mammoth cargo ship *Ever Given* got stuck in the canal, blocking passage for more than a week, and causing a traffic jam that held up an estimated \$9.6 billion of goods every day.

Also, Egypt's control over the waterway has been a source of conflict for almost 70 years now. In 1956, the UK, France, and Israel attacked Egypt after President Gamal Abdel Nasser decided to nationalise the canal. The Suez Canal was also the focal point of both the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars, and was shut from 1967-75.

A Western alternative

It remains unclear when the first concrete plan for a shipping lane through Israel was suggested. In 1963, the US Department of Energy commissioned a study to determine the technological feasibility of constructing a canal through Israel. Conducted by H D MacCabee of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the study looked at the possibility of using buried nu-

clear explosives to blast a way for the canal.

In a highly classified memorandum issued on July 1, 1963, MacCabee presented a possible alignment for the canal, the mode of construction, and costs. This memo was declassified in 1996. The 'Ben Gurion Canal Project', named after Israel's founding father David Ben Gurion (1886-1973), remains one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects ever planned on paper.

Hurdles in the way

Such a project would be extremely complex and hugely expensive — it would cost much less to widen the Suez Canal and solve its traffic problem. Also, using nuclear explosions would be an extremely risky option. The proposed route of the Ben Gurion Canal was over 100 km longer than the Suez Canal, primarily due to limitations of the terrain and topography. Even if built, many ships might still favour the older, shorter route.

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18 IDEA EXCHANGE NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

The last 10 years or more have been good for the agriculture sector in India. If you make a global comparison, our share in the global agriculture GDP has increased rapidly, we have left China behind in agricultural growth



WHY RAMESH CHAND

Dr Ramesh Chand is a member of NITI Aayog, the country's official policy think tank. An agricultural economist of repute, he has been a key architect behind the Narendra Modi government's policies on farming that engages nearly 46 per cent of India's workforce. Chand has for long advocated a paradigm

shift in the approach towards agriculture, including envisaging farms as "factories of the future". Agriculture, he believes, can create remunerative job opportunities, not only on, but outside farms — in industries that process and add value to produce and also exploit the growing demand for bio-based products.



Wherever there is irrigation, followed by free or subsidised power for extraction of groundwater, rice cultivation follows. We should put water meters. Let the water supply be metered and the farmer will use water rationally

Harish Damodaran: The burning issue right now is crop stubble. Data shows that the number of burning incidents has come down substantially but the Supreme Court is not impressed. What exactly is happening?

People say that farmers have a short window (to sow wheat) after harvesting paddy and so we must develop high-yielding but early-maturing varieties. I don't believe in these solutions. I know farmers who harvest rice as early as mid-October but still burn the straw. We need to find a different solution. The main reason behind the reduced number of cases is the small market that has been created for rice straw. Some compressed biogas plants have come up for using rice straw. The well-known BioCNG plant is in Lehragaga (Sangrur, Punjab), set up by Germany-based Verbio. I was hopeful this technology would spread because you buy paddy straw and produce bio-compressed gas, converting farm fires into energy. The government-owned Gail India will buy whatever bio-gas you are producing from straw within a 20-km radius. Currently, the going rate is probably Rs 65 a kg. It is an attractive proposition. But straw is a high-volume, low-value kind of thing, you require a big space (for storing). So, the first solution that comes to my mind is to create a market for straw.

A second solution has to do with free irrigation. Wherever there is irrigation, it is followed by free or subsidised power for extraction of groundwater. Rice cultivation, then, follows. In Telangana alone, the area under rice cultivation has doubled in the last decade (due to subsidised irrigation). I suggest we let the water supply be metered. You will find that the farmer will make rational use of water and in a few years the area under rice will come down. I did a study on diesel-operated tubewells. In places with electric-operated pump sets with free power, almost the entire area is under paddy. But under diesel-operated farms, you will find maize and other kinds of crops.

'A sustainable solution for stubble is to create a market for paddy straw, convert waste to wealth'

Ramesh Chand, Member, Niti Aayog, on the reasons for stubble burning and ways to address the problem, creating a circular economy for paddy straw and why agriculture should remain a state subject. The session was moderated by Harish Damodaran, National Rural Affairs and Agriculture Editor, *The Indian Express*



(Right) Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, with Harish Damodaran at The Indian Express in Noida Praveen Khanna

Amitabh Sinha: Why has stubble burning gone up so much? How were farmers dealing with straw earlier?

This (burning) appeared after the Punjab government made electricity free for irrigation, which made rice cultivation attractive. Earlier, when the area under paddy was less, farmers kept the stubble after harvesting the crop on one side of the field. With rain, it would decay and get back into the soil; they were not burning it. I belong to Punjab and I had not seen even a single burning till the early '90s. In areas bordering Himachal Pradesh, hardly any burning happened. This was because there were some packaging industries that bought the rice straw from farmers. Then, there were some Kashmiri (pastoralist) tribes, who come with their livestock. So, because of these reasons, in Punjab's Kandi belt (in the Shivalik foothills), you hardly found any fires.

Amitabh Sinha: What explains the incidences of crop burning in other states also?

The main reason is that farmers want to grow more crops. In some areas of Haryana, in late April, they either want to grow sunflower or some vegetables in the summer. If they leave the stubble there, in the long run, it may be advantageous — the biomass will go back into the soil. But decomposition takes time. So, they quickly want to clear the field. It is human nature to find the easy way out. All countries follow the polluter-pay principle. If people do not fear the law, most people would throw their garbage on the road.

Harish Damodaran: Are you saying there is no compelling reason for farmers not to burn the stubble?

It's not just that. If you have one-and-a-half months, maybe you require less effort to dispose it of, compared to if you have only a seven-day window. But even if we are able to develop a variety, which gives a window of one month for the next crop, the effect will be very small. We will not be able to get rid of the problem at large (without a polluter-pay policy).

Ritika Chopra: The Supreme Court told the governments of Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan to ensure that farm fires stop. Do you think that's practical?

Farmers need to set aside some part of their land to store the stubble. Create a pit, put some urea to decompose it. That's one way out. But a more sustainable solution is that you create a market for paddy straw and convert a waste-to-wealth circular economy. After you produce bio-gas from straw, whatever remains is bio-slurry and it goes back to the fields. It requires a

proactive effort to encourage industries. Many companies took licences, but they have not yet set up (BioCNG) plants. The Punjab CM had said that all the paddy straw will either go to brick kilns, boilers or to the bio-gas and other plants that are coming up.

Kaushik Das Gupta: This year's data shows stubble burning in Haryana and even Uttar Pradesh is almost negligible. What have they done right?

In the case of Haryana, there are a couple of factors. The total area under rice cultivation is much less compared to Punjab. Secondly, even within rice, Haryana has largely shifted towards basmati. The straw from basmati has less silica and lignin content, because of which livestock can consume that straw. Thirdly, Panipat (oil refinery) is also a good market for bio-ethanol. Haryana also made a serious effort to diversify away from rice.

Kaushik Das Gupta: There seems to have been farm fires even from wheat in April. But it does not show up because pollution wasn't so bad in Delhi this time.

That's because there was a wheat shortage. So wheat stubble was selling at a premium. But, even wheat straw is easy to dispose of by burning when there is no accountability and legal enforcement. Also, over time, green fodder has become a strong alternative to dry fodder.

Aakash Joshi: In the cycle of elections, there have been stories about stray cattle being a menace for farmers. With de facto cow slaughter politics and bans, how do you see them affecting the farmers' economic cycle?

These are not issues settled on economic considerations; they are based on people's sentiment and matters of faith. I did a report on *gaushalas*, on how cattle numbers there are swelling, and how we can make *gaushalas* economically viable. If we move towards the waste-to-wealth model, for paddy straw to get properly decomposed or fermented under anaerobic digestion, you need some microbial activity. For that fermentation to happen, you either use something that the German firm does or maybe you add, say, 20 per cent cow dung. That's a proposal I had given to make *gaushalas* more viable through supply of dung.

Liz Mathew: There are many opportunities for farmers to sell stubble, for instance in paper and furniture industries. But there is no

consistent effort from the authorities to persuade the farmers.

Yes, this market is emerging now. I believe that in the next six years or so, a proper market for stubble will be created. The market has started offering opportunities for procurement of straw this year and it is only going to expand.

Liz Mathew: Can India afford to reduce rice production, especially at a time when the world is facing food scarcity?

Whatever we are witnessing at a world level is a temporary situation. It's not that the world is facing a food shortage. There are many reasons why world prices of rice and other commodities are moving up — disruptions to food movement, transport cost, risk, insurance and many other things.

Commodity prices move in cycles. Most of the time, they are either too low or too high — the reason being that every country transfers its own instability into international markets. If India has a surplus, it will say let us export. If India has deficit, it will say let us import. So, you are passing on domestic instability into the international market.

Vikas Pathak: There is a perception that the procurement of wheat and paddy under MSP has benefited only farmers in Punjab and Haryana. Farmers in many other states complain that they don't get such assured prices. Is this also leading to over-dependence on wheat and paddy grown in Punjab and Haryana?

Nobody can deny that assured and remunerative price for rice and wheat has caused a shift in cultivation towards these crops. But as far as the concentration of MSP procurement from these two states is concerned, in the last eight to 10 years,

there is considerable dilution of this concentration. You will find that the share of Punjab in the central grain pool has been declining. Now, much more rice comes from Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Procurement of rice happens from as many as 14 states. It is not only rice and wheat, but there is procurement from other states, of pulses and to a small extent, millets and even oil seeds.

Sandip Das: Do you agree with export bans? We have seen it in onions when farmers were getting some money and now minimum export price restrictions even on basmati rice exports.

The purpose of policy is to balance the interests of different classes. If you're doing something to reduce export, you affect the interest of the producer, but you safeguard the interest of consumers. In another situation, you find that too much of cheap edible oil is coming into the country. So you put a duty of 30 per cent to keep a check on its import.

Our trade policy has been to maximise the welfare of society and maintain prices within a band. So we need to look at it that way. The farmer or producer should also know that there are situations in which our prices are much higher than the international price. In sugar, for four years, our price was 50 per cent higher than the international price. So, it depends on the situation. International prices are volatile. The best way for a developing country to maintain price stability is to maintain buffer stocks. This stabilisation is very important and India has been working on that.

Sandip Das: What is the status on doubling of farmers' income? What is your current assessment?

Commodity prices move in cycles. Most of the time, they are either too low or too high — the reason being that every country transfers its own instability into international markets

The last 10 years or more have been good for the agriculture sector. If you look at the elements which go into calculating farmers' incomes, they have been mostly favourable. The average growth in production during the last 15 years (ending 2021-22) has been over 3.6 per cent.

Also, look at the prices. The terms of trade for agriculture relative to the non-agriculture sector has gone up by 50 per cent during the same period. If you make a global comparison, our share in global agriculture GDP has increased rapidly and we have left China behind in overall agricultural growth in the last 10 years.

Besides, there is a second source of income for farmers — from non-agriculture sources. That is very important. Non-agriculture income accounted for 40 per cent of income of an average farming family in 2012-13 and 47 per cent in 2017-18. When the next survey results (for 2022-23) come, we may see that share crossing 50 per cent. It is because of small farmers, owning one acre or 1.5 acres. Now, almost half of the income is from farm and the other half from non-farm sources.

Harish Damodaran: When you look at the experience of China or Vietnam, they've moved people from farms to factories. Why has this not happened in India?

I have argued before that the Lewis hypothesis (which theorises the growth of a developing economy through labour transition, from agriculture to industry) is not working in India's case. India's growth process bypassed that transition from agriculture to manufacturing and straightaway went to services. Services now accounts for more than 50 per cent of India's economy and manufacturing is only 16-17 per cent.

It is very strange and probably unique to India that the share of manufacturing in India's GDP has followed an inverted U-shaped curve. And that decline started after economic reforms; before 1991-92, India's manufacturing share in Indian economy had reached 20 per cent. So, the Lewis hypothesis is not working despite the same Rs 100 value of output in manufacturing offering two times the employment from that in services. We need to have a different kind of model for India's development because of the direct transition from agriculture to services and, secondly, urbanisation happening at a very slow rate.

Amitabh Sinha: What is the fate of the farm laws?

For this, it is better to take the state route and help the states to come up with the kind of reforms which they consider

suitable for themselves. The model laws are already there, be it agricultural land leasing (from NITI Aayog) or marketing/APMCs (from the Union Ministry of Agriculture). The (Centre's) farm laws are also there. So wherever a state feels there is a deficiency, I think they should address it and go ahead. But the sustainable way of having growth in agriculture is not in offering different kinds of MSP. We should enable farmers to get the best market price and enable markets to pay the farmer a remunerative, competitive price. Look at how some sub-sectors within agriculture are growing. For instance, fish is growing at 9-10 per cent, poultry at 5-6 per cent, eggs and broiler and milk at 4.5 per cent per year without any kind of MSP. Horticulture is growing at a higher rate compared to rice and wheat. All this because their production is demand driven. So we should make our market send signals to the farmers that this is what is needed on the demand side. Once that happens, you will see that big change in agriculture happen.

Ritika Chopra: NITI Aayog has a lot of indices, and a lot of them were introduced to promote the spirit of cooperative federalism and give states an opportunity to compare their performance across sectors. So first was the health index, and very recently, the water management index. Has there been a rethink on the indices that NITI Aayog initially introduced? Why have these two not been released?

There's nothing fixed about indices. For instance, when we wanted to create competition among states in agriculture, I created the Agriculture Market Reform index, but I produced it only for one year. NITI Aayog goes for indices to capture attention for a particular period. So, from time to time, when a new thing comes you go for that type of thing. At one time, we promoted ease of doing business, so for some years we did it.

Liz Mathew: Recently, while travelling in Madhya Pradesh, many farmers I met were complaining about low-quality fertilisers and seeds. Are you concerned about this or is it just a local issue?

There are a lot of reports about spurious pesticides and insecticides. In the case of fertilisers and seeds, I don't think it is a pan-India situation, maybe there are some isolated cases. You see one thing that the media should highlight is that agriculture is basically a state subject. Monitoring the quality of seeds or pesticides is the responsibility of the states.





GOLD

₹60,700



USD RATE

₹83.32



OIL

\$82.09



SILVER

₹72,500

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of November 10

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
MARKETS**Active equity funds: What led to higher inflows in July-Sept quarter?****HITESH VYAS**
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 13

ACTIVE EQUITY funds are the flavour of the season for mutual fund investors. As per a recent study by Motilal Oswal AMC, during the July-September quarter (Q2), active equity funds witnessed net inflows of about Rs 74,000 crore with fund managers getting higher returns for investors through dynamic and active investing style. On the other hand, passive equity funds saw Rs 9,000 crore of inflows and arbitrage funds got Rs 29,000 crore.

How were the flows in the active equity fund in Q2?

The mutual fund industry recorded net inflows of approximately Rs 51,000 crore in Q2 of FY'24 and active equity funds led the way with net inflows of about Rs 74,000 crore, according to Motilal Oswal AMC. Investors continued to bet on active small cap funds, highlighting high investor risk appetite taking away around one-third of the Rs 33,000 crore net inflows, the study showed.

Within the Rs 42,000 crore net inflows into broad based equity funds, active small cap funds accounted for nearly one-fourth of the net inflows. Among active equity funds, the focused and ELSS (equity linked saving scheme) categories experienced the highest net outflows, totalling around Rs 2,000 crore.

The study reveals that active multi cap funds picked up steam with two NFOs garnering Rs 2,000 crore out of around Rs 8,000 crore net inflows in Q2FY24. Active large cap funds saw net outflows to the tune of 1800 crore.

What are active funds?

In an active fund, the fund manager is 'Active' in deciding whether to buy, hold, or sell the underlying securities and in stock selection. This fund relies

on professional fund managers who manage investments. Active funds adopt different strategies and styles to create and manage the portfolio. They are expected to generate better returns (alpha) than the benchmark index. The risk and return in the fund will depend upon the strategy adopted, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) said.

How about flows into passive equity funds?

In the July-September quarter, inflows in passive equity funds were Rs 9,000 crore.

On the passive side, equity claimed the lion share with around 78 per cent of net inflows, while commodities held an 18 per cent share.

Investors flocked to passive large cap funds with the category receiving around 90 per cent of all net inflows. Other passive categories like mid and small caps also received high net inflows considering relatively small assets under management (AUM).

What are passive funds?

Passive funds – index funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs) – hold a portfolio that replicates a stated index or benchmark. In a passive fund, the fund manager has a passive role in the stock selection. Buy, hold or sell decisions are driven by the benchmark index and the fund manager/dealer merely needs to replicate the same with minimal tracking error.

What should investors do?

While active fund is suited for investors who wish to take advantage of fund managers' alpha generation potential, passive fund is appropriate for investors who want to allocate exactly as per market index.

As the fund manager manages the fund with active investing by studying the market forces and the economy, investors can hope to get better returns.

FOOD INFLATION REMAINED BROADLY STATIC AT 6.6%**October retail inflation drops to four-month low of 4.87%****ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

RETAIL INFLATION, or the inflation rate for consumers, eased to a four-month low of 4.87 per cent in October even as food inflation remained broadly static at 6.6 per cent, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday showed. Though this marked the third month of a moderation in inflation, with the latest print, the retail inflation rate has now completed four years of remaining above 4 per cent in the 4+/- 2 per cent band of Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) medium-term inflation target.

Food prices are still being seen as a risk to retail inflation. Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) recorded an inflation rate of 6.61 per cent in October as against 6.62 per cent in September, which was revised up from 6.56 per cent. It had stood at 7.01 per cent in October 2022.

Cereals inflation stood at 10.65 per cent in October, continuing to be in double digits for the second month in a row. There is a growing trend of inflation in egg, fruits, pulses and products, which

RETAIL INFLATION RATE BASED ON CPI		
	2023	2022
January	6.52	6.01
February	6.44	6.07
March	5.66	6.95
April	4.70	7.79
May	4.31	7.04
June	4.87	7.01
July	4.74	6.71
August	6.83	7.00
September	5.02	7.41
October	4.87	6.77

recorded inflation rates of 9.30 per cent, 9.34 per cent and 18.79 per cent, respectively, in October as against 6.42 per cent, 7.30 per cent and 16.38 per cent in September. Vegetables inflation, however, provided relief by easing to 2.7 per cent in October from 3.39 per cent in September. The decline in retail inflation rate in October was mainly driven by non-food items. Core inflation – non-food, non-fuel segment – eased marginally to 4.4 per cent in October from 4.6 per cent, reflecting weakening of demand, economists said.

Fuel and light group recorded

deflation of 0.39 per cent in October as against deflation of 0.11 per cent in September, reflecting the impact of the cut in cooking gas prices and no change in pump prices of diesel and petrol. Miscellaneous inflation, representing services mainly, also moderated to 4.40 per cent in October from 4.77 per cent in the previous month. The overall retail inflation rate in October was higher at 5.12 per cent in rural areas than 4.62 per cent in urban areas. Food inflation for rural areas was 6.58 per cent in October, lower than 6.63 per cent in urban areas. Going

ahead, weak prospects for Kharif harvest and Rabi sowing are expected to impact food prices along with a low base effect which will also push up inflation rate in November.

"Going forward, below par monsoon rainfall is likely to have its impact on cereals inflation, this along with pulses inflation is expected to keep food inflation elevated. Food inflation has potential to push retail inflation higher as witnessed in July and August 2023," Devendra Kumar Pant, Chief Economist & Senior Director – Public Finance, India Ratings and Research said.

"Another risk to retail inflation is from commodity prices, which presently are low and due to a freeze in pump prices of petrol and diesel fuel and lights and transport and communications is low. The core inflation which has declined to 43-month low suggests weakness in demand conditions. The base effect will push up retail inflation in November 2023 towards 5.0-5.4 per cent range. We expect RBI to maintain the status quo in its forthcoming monetary policy and may remain in status-quo mode for the rest of FY24," he added.

Manufacturing growth rose in Q2 for 10 major sectors; likely to continue momentum: FICCI**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

MANUFACTURING GROWTH accelerated in July-September for ten major sectors and is likely to continue for subsequent quarters in financial year 2023-24 (FY24) as well despite slowdown in developed nations, as per the latest 'Quarterly Survey on Indian Manufacturing Sector' released by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) on Monday.

Over 79 per cent of the respondents shared a higher level of production in Q2 FY24 and the average capacity utilisation rate was higher at 74 per cent in Q2 as against 73 per cent in previous quarters, the survey said. It, however, listed "demand" as the major constraint and limiting factor, with over 40 per cent respondents highlighting this as a significant constraint.



80% of the respondents in Q2 had a higher number of orders. File

"The existing average capacity utilisation in manufacturing is around 74 per cent, which reflects a sustained economic activity in the sector. This is slightly higher than 73 per cent capacity utilisation reported for previous quarters. The future investment outlook has also improved as compared to the previous quarter as over 57 per cent respondents reported plans for investments and expansions in the coming six

months. This is also a slight improvement over the previous survey," the survey added.

The demand has turned out to be the major constraint and limiting factor to realise the true potential of the manufacturing sector in India. "Whether it is domestic demand or exports, this remains a major limiting factor. Some other constraints, though not major ones, are high raw material prices, increased cost of finance, logistics, and other supply chain disruptions are some of the major constraints which are affecting expansion plans of the respondents," it said.

The survey conducted across ten sectors – automotive and auto components; capital goods and construction equipment; cement, chemicals, fertilisers and pharmaceuticals; electronics and white goods; machine tools; metal and metal products; textiles, apparels and technical textiles; paper; and miscellaneous – covered over

380 manufacturing units from both large and small and medium enterprises with a combined annual turnover of over Rs 4.88 lakh crore. 80 per cent of the respondents in Q2FY24 had a higher number of orders, while 85 per cent of the respondents had either more or the same level of inventory in Q2. In exports, over 48 per cent of the respondents reported higher exports in Q2 compared with 33 per cent in Q1FY24. "However, further improvement in export demand is required in the light of the country's growth aspirations," it said.

On the hiring outlook, 38 per cent of the respondents are looking at hiring additional workforce in next three months. Electronics and white goods; cement; automotive and machine tools were outperformers, whereas sectors like capital goods and construction machinery, chemicals, textiles, metals, paper and other sectors displayed moderate growth.

Goldman Sachs upgrades Indian shares to 'overweight'**REUTERS**
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 13

GOLDMAN SACHS upgraded Indian shares to "overweight" from "marketweight", citing strong economic growth prospects, steady domestic mutual fund inflows and a potential supply chain shift from China.

Indian markets will continue to gain in 2024, supported by steady earnings growth and macroeconomic stability in what would otherwise be a "tricky" period in the Asia Pacific region, Goldman Sachs analysts led by Timothy Moe wrote in a note.

"We believe India has the best structural growth prospects in the Asia Pacific region and offers mid-teen earnings growth over the next two years," Moe said in a note.

The Wall Street brokerage expects India's real economic growth to be 6.5 per cent in 2023 and 6.3 per cent in 2024 – the highest among large economies in the region, but slightly below the Indian central bank's target of 6.5 per cent for fiscal 2024.

The benchmark Nifty 50 jumped about 31 per cent between March 2021 and October 2023, a period during which do-

The Wall Street brokerage expects India's real economic growth to be 6.5 per cent in 2023 and 6.3 per cent in 2024 – the highest among large economies in the region

estic investors remained net buyers each month, helping tide over sustained sales by foreign investors.

While the domestic participation was a healthy sign, said Goldman, it also noted the market's surge has pushed valuations to an elevated 20 times the next 12 month's expected earnings. Still, that valuation had some support after earnings growth of 17 per cent in 2023, the brokerage said.

Goldman also raised Thailand to "overweight", while lowering Hong Kong-listed China shares to "marketweight".

The brokerage said concerns over China's economy could lead to countries shifting their supply chains, which could benefit India.

India, ADB sign \$400-mn loan pact to build high-quality urban infra**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

THE CENTRAL government on Monday signed a \$400 million policy-based loan with the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support its urban reform agenda to create high-quality urban infrastructure, improve service delivery, and promote efficient governance systems.

The signatories to the loan agreement for sub-programme 2 of the Sustainable Urban Development and Service Delivery Programme were Juhvi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission.

While Sub-programme 1 approved in 2021 with a financing of \$350 million established national-level policies and guidelines to improve urban services, Sub-programme 2 supports investment planning and reform actions at the state and urban local body (ULB) levels, the finance ministry said in a statement.

After signing the loan agreement, Mukherjee stated that the programme supports the government's urban sector strategy with a focus on reforms aimed at making cities livable and centres of economic growth through the provisioning of inclusive, resilient and sustainable infrastructure. Sub-programme 2 supports the reforms initiated by states and ULBs in operationalising the national flagship programme of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 targeted for universal access to water supply and sanitation, said Konishi.

The sub-programme also supports other mission objectives for ensuring urban water security through reducing water losses, recycling treated sewage for non-domestic use, rejuvenation of water bodies, and maintaining sustainable groundwater levels, the statement said.

The programme also envisages integrated urban planning reforms to control urban sprawls and foster systemic and planned urbanisation through enhancing the entire ecosystem of legal, regulatory, and institutional reforms, along with capacity building of ULBs and community awareness, it said.

Specifically, ULBs will promote the modernisation of building bylaws, land pooling, urban agglomeration, and comprehensive urban mobility planning through transit-oriented development to help cities become well-planned centres of economic growth, the ministry added.

Such integrated planning processes will incorporate climate and disaster resilience, promote nature-based solutions, improve the urban environment, and improve cities' financial sustainability through the generation of additional revenues, it noted.

Moreover, cities will be incentivised to become credit-worthy through various reforms on enhancing their revenues like property taxes and user charges, improving their efficiencies and rationalising their expenditures. This will substantially help cities to mobilise innovative financing, such as commercial borrowings, issuance of municipal bonds, sub-sovereign debts, and public-private partnerships to bridge significant deficits in urban infrastructure investments, it added.

REUTERS

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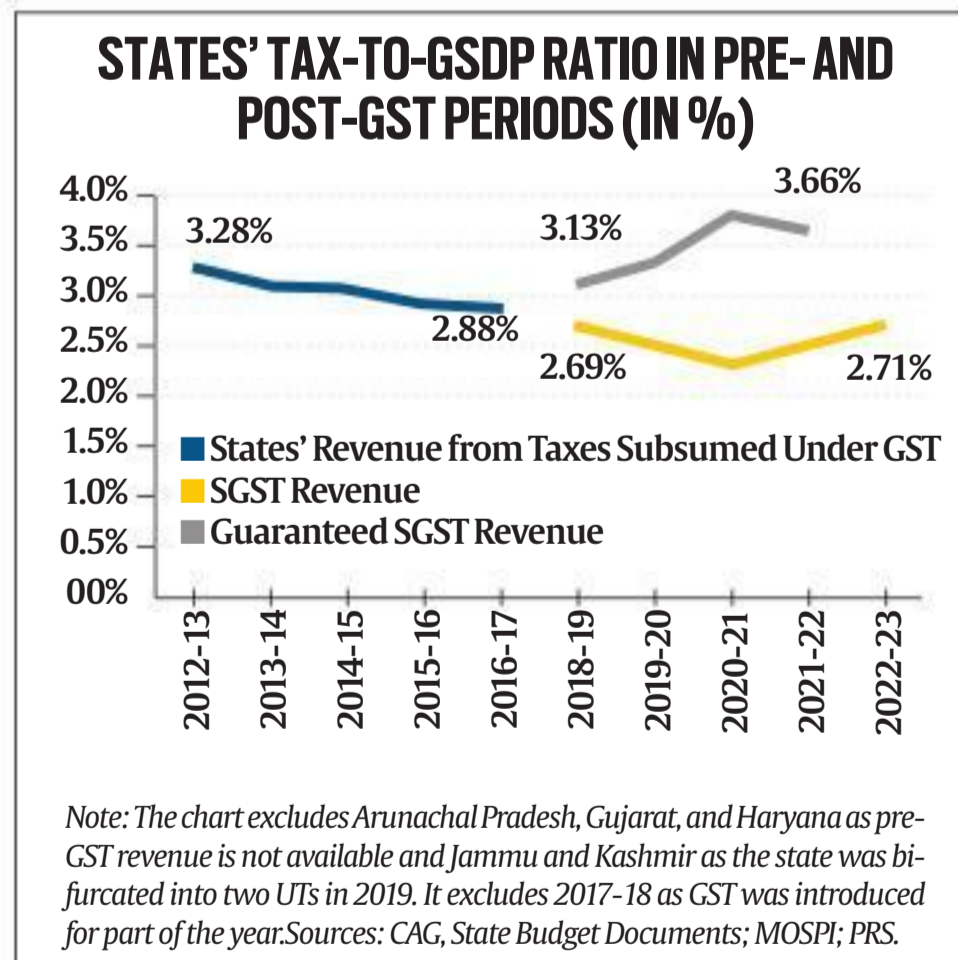
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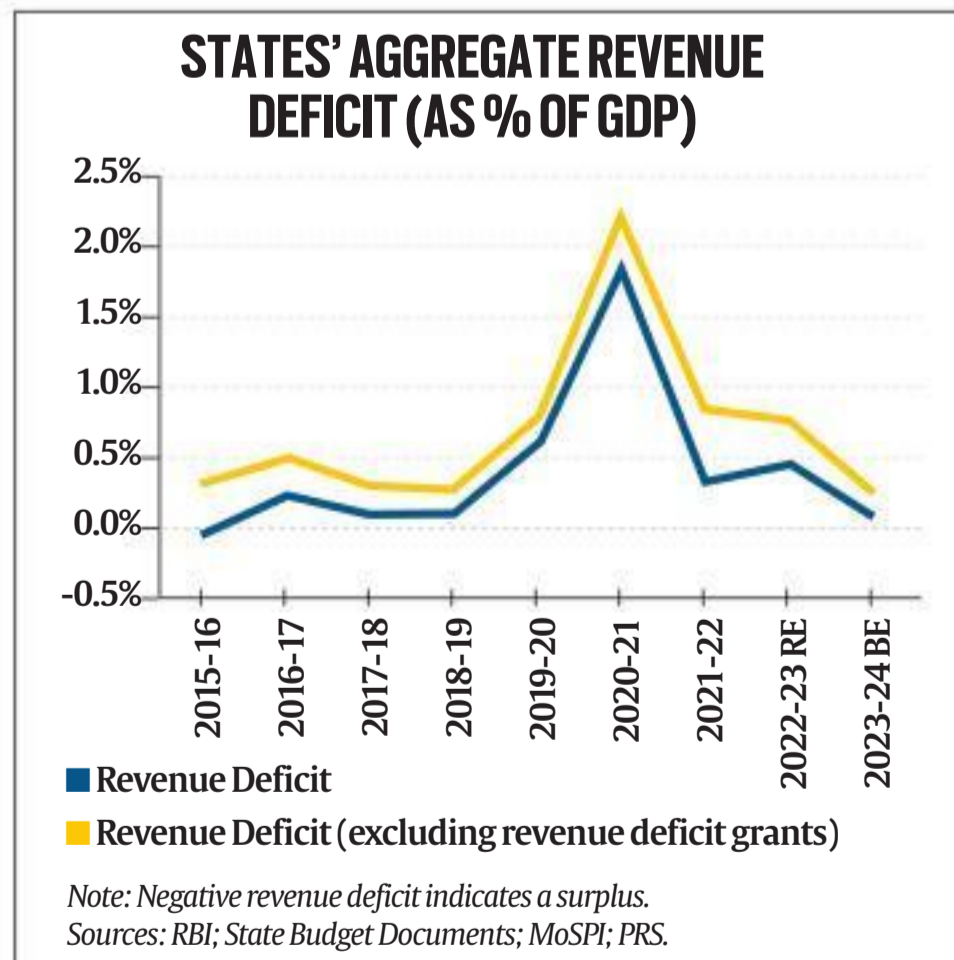
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REUTERS**STATE FINANCES REPORT BY PRS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH****Languishing share of GST revenue in GSDP**

Note: The chart excludes Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, and Haryana as pre-GST revenue is not available and Jammu and Kashmir as the state was bifurcated into two UTs in 2019. It excludes 2017-18 as GST was introduced for part of the year. Sources: CAG, State Budget Documents; MOSPI; PRS.



Note: Negative revenue deficit indicates a surplus. Sources: RBI, State Budget Documents; MOSPI; PRS.

EVEN AS state revenue receipts have returned to the pre-pandemic level, Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections of states as a percentage of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) remain below pre-GST levels, as per a recent report 'State of State Finances' by PRS Legislative Research. With the GST compensation grants having ended in June 2022, there has been an adverse impact on some states, it said, adding that increasing the level of GST revenue may require rationalisation in tax slabs.

States continue to have a high level of committed expenditure, and persistent revenue deficit. Increase in

non-merit subsidies, reversal of pension reforms, and poor financial conditions of state-owned discoms are some of the key challenges for state finances, the report said.

Key findings:

■ State GST (SGST) accounts for over 40% of states' own tax revenue but SGST to GSDP ratio continues to be lower than pre-pandemic level. SGST revenue is also lower than the level of guaranteed revenue for five years.

■ In pre-GST period, revenues from taxes subsumed under GST was around 3% of GSDP for 27 states/UTs. In 2018-19, the first full year of GST, this ratio

was 2.7%, and it has stayed below 3% in subsequent years.

■ Post-June 2022, states more reliant on GST compensation, such as Puducherry, Punjab, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, and Uttarakhand, are likely to be the most affected. Puducherry, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh have budgeted a revenue deficit in 2023-24 (FY24).

■ In FY24, 11 states have budgeted a revenue deficit—gap between revenue expenditure and receipts. Of these, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, and West Bengal did so after accounting for revenue deficit grants.

■ If revenue grants, as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission, were not provided, six more states, including Assam, Nagaland, and Uttarakhand, would have been in revenue deficit in FY24.

■ Over the past several years, states have spent around 8-9% of their revenue receipts on subsidies, with a significant portion on power subsidy. Concerns have been raised over rising subsidies for non-merit goods in several states over potential constraints in availability of fiscal space for capital expenditure.

Compiled by Aanchal Magazine

BRIEFLY**RBI fines Gandhinagar bank for not complying with norms**

Ahmedabad: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 4 lakh on Gandhinagar-based Shree Lodra Nagrik Sahkari Bank Ltd at Lodra for failure to comply with regulations which include sanctioning a loan to a relative of one of its directors. Similarly, RBI imposed a monetary penalty on Limbasi Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd of Kheda for sanctioning a loan where relative of one of its directors stood as a guarantor. In this case, RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 25,000. **ENS**

GAIL does world's first ship-to-ship LNG transfer

New Delhi: India's top gas firm GAIL has done the world's first ship-to-ship liquefied natural gas (LNG) transfer to save on shipping costs and cut emissions as the state-owned entity looks at innovative ways as a pivot to boost business, company officials said. GAIL has contracted 5.8 million tonnes per annum of LNG (natural gas super-cooled to liquid form) from the US. The company brings this volume to India via LNG ships. **PTI**

India asks OPEC to ensure oil mkt stability**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

INDIA, THE world's third largest oil consumer, has asked oil producers cartel OPEC to maintain and ensure market stability for the benefit of consumers, producers and global economy.

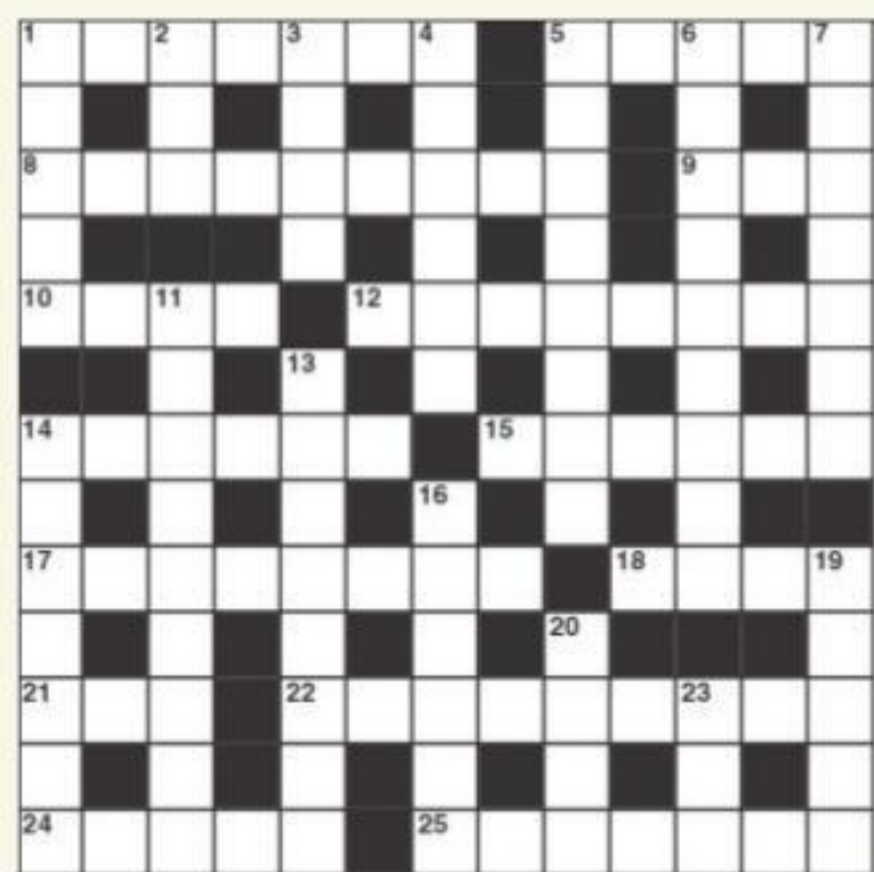
Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said this at the 6th India-OPEC Energy Dialogue that took place on November 9 in Vienna, an official press statement said on Monday. The meeting was co-chaired by OPEC secretary general Haitham Al Ghais and Puri.

"The open and candid discussions at the meeting focused on key issues related to oil and energy markets with a specific emphasis on ensuring availability, affordability and sustainability, which are necessary in ensuring the stability of energy markets. The two sides discussed the short, medium and long-term outlooks for the industry and recognized the important role of India in global economic growth and energy demand," the statement said.

At the meeting, Puri highlighted that as the third-largest energy consumer, crude oil importer and the fourth-largest global refiner, close ties between India and OPEC are natural.

They also noted the need for continued cooperation and dialogue in the interest of both producers and consumers while also exploring further areas for future cooperation.

CROSSWORD 5207



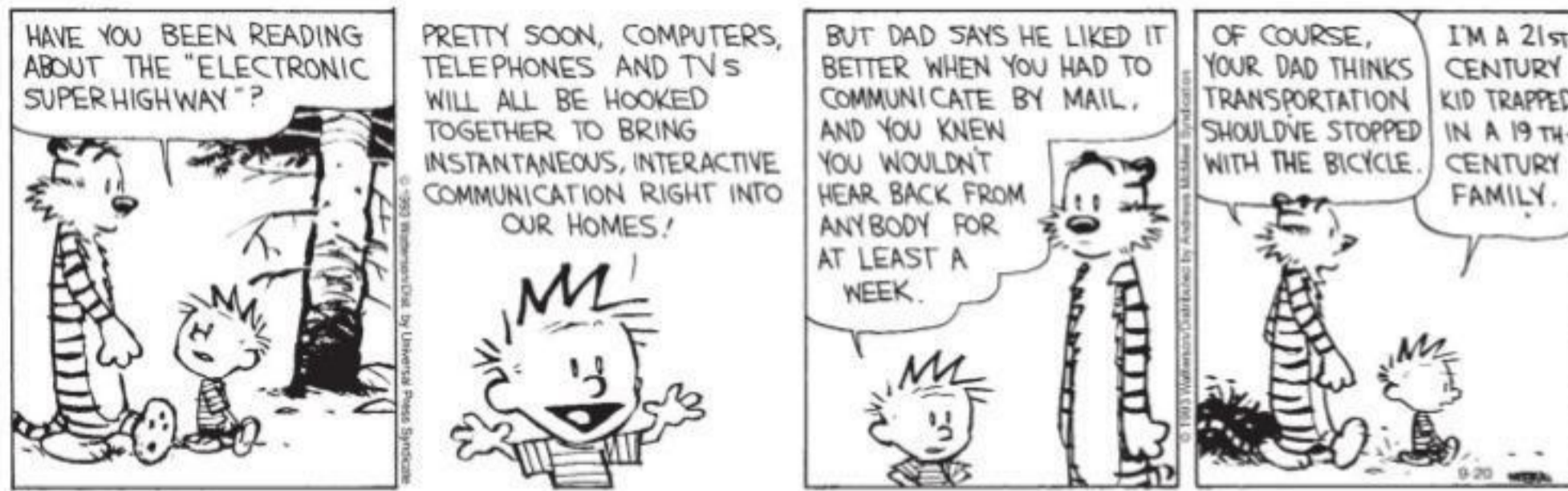
- ACROSS**
- Where a vehicle may be left? (7)
 - It's not true it comes to a moral conclusion (5)
 - Early Australian with derivation in Lincoln? (9)
 - A small point but appropriate (3)
 - Sound sense of position (4)
 - It's tied up with romance (4,4)
 - Push sleuth around (6)
 - No tricks, that's a promise (6)
 - Obtain fruit in return (8)
 - Disorientated leaf insect (4)
 - Rock to the right (3)
 - Vera or city? (4-5)
 - Directed a small floating group (5)
 - One who shares equal rent perhaps (7)
- DOWN**
- Many acts are beastly offensive (5)
 - Famous port in a glorious setting (3)
 - A classical author I'd nothing against at first (4)
 - Torpid characters making a stand (6)
 - Frantic if centre is moved (8)
 - A place of one's mind? (5,4)
 - Give one the right name? (7)
 - Willing female (9)
 - Tumbles over the coal scuttle-how careless! (8)
 - In a trice he is converted to nonconformist (7)
 - Imagine an order to join the army (4,2)
 - Hate the sailor cutting short a hornpipe (5)
 - Wake up cooler (4)
 - Work for money, say, in vessel (3)

Solutions Crossword 5206 Across: 1 Prospero, 5 Fair, 9 Taboo, 10 Sealing, 11 Strongpoints, 13 Eclair, 14 Cleave, 17 Straight talk, 20 Romance, 21 Eerie, 22 Dent, 23 Seasonal Down: 1 Tate, 2 Orbital, 3 Propositions, 4 Resin, 6 Align, 7 Register, 8 Man of letters, 12 Leisureed, 15 Aileron, 16 Cheese, 18 Roman, 19 Deal

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.

Make 'em __, make 'em __, make 'em __ - Charles Reade (5,3,__,4)

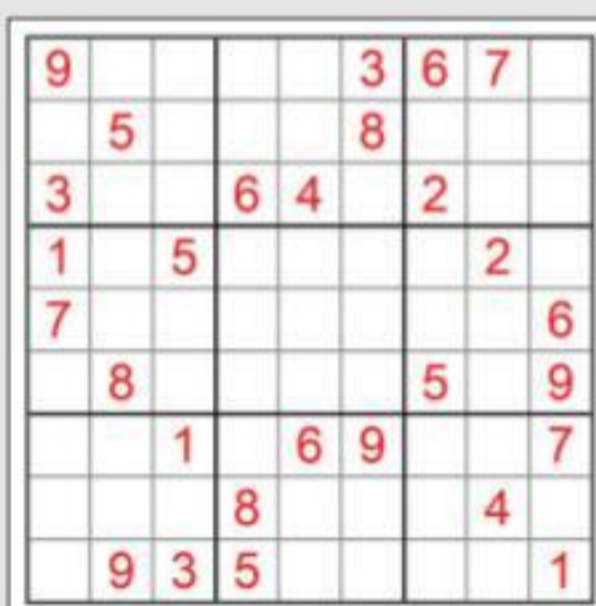
MOAAR, DDLUCY, LWILT, ORTGHW

SOLUTION: AROMA, TWILL, CUDDLY, GROWTH

Difficulty Level 3s

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 5379



THE BRAITHWAITE BURN AND JESSOP CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
Regd. Off: 27, Rajendra Nath Mukherjee Road, Kolkata - 700 001 Phone No. (033) 2248-5841-44; Fax: (033) 2210-3961 E-mail: info.bbcon@bbcon.com; Website: www.bbconnet.com

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

e-Tenders are invited UNDER THE TWO-BID SYSTEM, from reputed Agency/ies towards Fabrication & Erection works for construction of Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) and other miscellaneous works at the stations identified for the development under Amrit Bharat Station scheme in the jurisdiction of Gati Shakti Unit - Aansal Division, Eastern Railway.

e-Tender No.: e-NIT/FOB-ASANSOL/STR/PKG-I/2157/3138/28-2023 Dated 13-Nov-2023

Tender documents may be downloaded from <https://e-procure.gov.in/e-procure/app> and/or www.bbconnet.com (Tender ID: 2023_BBJC_789602_1). Sealed e-Bids (Two-Cover System) can be uploaded on e-procurement portal up to 15:00 hrs. on or before 27/11/2023 and opening of e-Tenders (Technical) will be on 28/11/2023 at 15:00 hrs. "Contingendum", if any, would appear only on the BB's website & e-Procurement portal and not to be published in any newspaper.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No.: 248/2023-24/KWA/PHIC/TLA(RT-1), 249/2023-24/KWA/PHIC/TLA(R-2), 250/2023-24/KWA/PHIC/TLA(RT-1), 251/2023-24/KWA/PHIC/TLA(RT-1), 252/2023-24/KWA/PHIC/TLA(RT-1), 1) JIM - RWSS to Adichipuzha Design, supplying and installing VT/CF pump sets, with all accessories at various pump houses including trial run and commissioning. 2) JIM - RWSS to Ranni Parthavangadi-Vadasserikara Village - Design, supplying and installing pump sets at various pump houses including trial run and commissioning. 3) JIM - RWSS to Cherukole-Nanganam (Installing pump sets)-Design, Supplying, erection and commissioning VT/CF pump sets with all accessories at various pump houses. 4) JIM - RWSS to Vechoochira -Design, supplying and installing VT/CF pump sets, soft starters with all accessories at various pump houses including trial run and commissioning. 5) JIM - RWSS to Chittar -Design, supplying and installing pump sets at various pump houses including trial run and commissioning. EMD: Rs. 100000,100000,100000,100000,10000. Tender fee: Rs. 9759,9759,9759,9759,9759. Last Date for submitting Tender: 24-11-2023 02:00 pm. Phone: 0469-2600162. Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.tenders.kerala.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle Pathanamthitta

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad
Short Term E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

No. 5356 /E-Tender/MBD Circle/23-24 Dated: 03-11-2023

1. On behalf of the Government of UP, tenders for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from registered contractors from 16.11.2023 at 10:00 am to 22.11.2023 at 12:00 hrs. Technical bid/Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 22-11-2023 at 12:30 PM. In office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day. Amount mentioned in column 5 & 7 shall be mandatory deposited by net banking only on E-Tender Portal.

Sl. No.	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Cost of tender documents including GST	Category of road contractor eligible
Financial Year 23-24 Under Spacial Repair Work							
1	Sambhal	C/O CC/Drain Work in Abadi Portion at Saidnagar Manota Chaudherpur (ODR)	305.00	17.25	3 Month	2354.00	A, Road Work
2	Sambhal	Repair of Moradabad Gawan Bulandshaher Road(including Anupshaher Dibai Portion) SH-448 to LMT Road Via Village Nawada Sira	174.00	10.70	3 Month	2354.00	A, B Road Work
3	Sambhal	C/O CC and Drain Work in Abadi Portion Village Kesarpur Babrala Gawan Fehra Road (MDR)	143.00	9.15	3 Month	2354.00	---do---
4	Sambhal	C/O CC and Drain Work in Sirsi Sakerpur and C/O Drain in abadi portion of Ladanpur Rajhera of Moradabad Gawan Bulandshaher Road (including	412.00	22.60	3 Month	2354.00	A, Road Work
5	Sambhal	C/O CC Road and Interlocking on Both Side of CC Road and C/O Drain in Abadi Portion in 0.400 KM length of Meerut Budaun Road(SH-18) Km 151 to Gauri Bicholi Via Patariya Road (ODR)	79.00	5.95	3 Month	2354.00	A, B Road Work
6	Sambhal	SR of Sambhal Chandausia Road to encholi Road	35.00	3.50	1 Month	2354.00	A, B, C Road Work
7	Sambhal	SR of Mandli Samaspur to Pansukha Road	34.00	3.40	1 Month	2354.00	---do---
8	Sambhal	SR of BB Road Shakin Shobhapur Road to Tatarpur Ghosi Road	34.00	3.40	1 Month	2354.00	---do---
9	Sambhal	SR of Sambhal Anupshaher Road to Karanpur Kayastha Road	34.00	3.40	1 Month	2354.00	---do---
10	Sambhal	SR of Bilari Darni Road Bicheta Road	35.00	3.50	1 Month	2354.00	---do---

3. In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahari Software. URL for Prahari is <http://wms.upwd.gov.in/Prahari> On opening of the website Prahari login page will open in which user type Contractor is to be selected. User name and password for login on Prahari shall be same as used for contractor's registration on Chakravya Portal. Bidders have to upload all the basic information and required document on Prahari as given in Prahari detail. If a bidder does not upload information and document on Prahari technical evaluation of the tender shall not be done and the bidder will be responsible for that.

Rules/conditions & details of the tender are available at website <http://etender.up.nic.in>.

(Er. S.P. Singh)
Superintending Engineer
Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad.
For and on behalf of Governor of UP
Mob. No. 9557104999
Mail ID: semoradabad14@yahoo.com

(Er. Suneel Prakash)
Executive Engineer
Provincial Division PWD
Sambhal
UPID-197550 DATE 11.11.2023
WWW.UP.GOV.NIC.IN

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified baby whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found dead in Garbage, Forest wall, near Shiv Mandir, Gali no. 16, H Block, Sangam Vihar, Delhi on 05.11.2023. In this regard FIR No. 797/2023, dated 05.11.2023 has been registered at P.S. Sangam Vihar, Delhi.

The description of the UIDB is as under:
Sex: Male, Age: About 1 year, Height: 1'6", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: No cloths.

If anyone has any information about this UIDB, kindly inform the SHO/Sangam Vihar, Delhi.

SHO
P.S. Sangam Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No.: 8750870833

DP/12998/SD/2023 E-mail: sho-sangamvhr-dl@nic.in

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this woman (depicted in the photo) Name: Baby W/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 50 Years, Sex: Female, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Unknown, found dead at BSA Hospital, Rohini, Delhi on 09.11.2023 by Under area of P.S. Alipur, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 50A dated 09.11.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Alipur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this woman but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information or clue about this woman may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S.- Alipur, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27202265, 27202290

DP/13011/ON/2023 (UIDB)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Sagar Mathur S/o Darshan Singh R/o H No D-98 Village Karala Delhi & H No 40 Kashmiri Colony Balor Road Near RTO office Bhadurgarh Distt Hajjarj Haryana has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 86/17 Dt.: 07.03.2017 U/s 33/58 Delhi Ex Act at PS: Moti Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Sagar Mathur can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sagar Mathur has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sagar Mathur of FIR No. 86/17 Dt.: 07.03.2017 U/s 33/58 Delhi Ex Act at PS: Moti Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.12.2023.

By order
SHAGUN
Metropolitan Magistrate-04
(West) Room No.268
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/12775/WD/2023

TRANSMISSION ZONE, PATNA (B.S.P.T.C.L)
Regd. Office - Barrack no-9, New Punahat, Nearby DNU Punahat, Patna.
(Contact No- 0612-2282845, M.No- 7763817733, Fax No- 0612-2282845, Email ID - tz.patna@bspctl.bihar.gov.in)
(TIN VAT No - 10011257007, TIN CST No - 10011146136, CN - U40102BR2012SGC018889)
(Unit of BSPTCL)

NIT No.08/PR/TRZ-Patna/2023
(Through e-tendering mode only-www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Online e-tenders are invited by GM-cum-CE, TRZ, Patna for the following works under TRZ, Patna:-

S. N.	Description of work	Estimated Cost (Including GST)	EMD	Cost of B.O.D. (Including GST)	Bid Processing Fee (Including GST)	Completion Period
1.	Laying of 24-Core Optical Fibre Cable for restoration of UGFO link between Karbigahya to SLDC Vidvut Bhawan, Patna for reliable data communication	₹23,84,450.00	₹47,690.00	₹5,900.00	₹590.00	03 calendar months.

Bid submission start date and time: From 10:00 am of 27.11.2023
Bid submission end date and time: Up to 03:00 pm of 18.12.2023
Date of opening of Techno-commercial Part: After 03:30 pm of 19.12.2023
Date of opening of price part: To be notified after Technical Bid evaluation (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Participant bidders are requested to kindly submit proof of EMD in form of NEFT/RTGS/Online payment to this office in original copy before bid submission end date of this tender. E-mail address: tz.patna@bspctl.bihar.gov.in.

Eligibility Criteria, Tender documents, etc. can be downloaded from website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in. For any detail, corrigendum/addendum kindly visit the website.

- "Bid Processing Fee and cost of BOQ is mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e. Internet Payment Gateway (Credit/Debit Card), Net Banking, NEFT/RTGS".
- "Bid along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-payment portal www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in before the date & time specified in the NIT. The department doesn't take responsibility for the delay/ Non submission of Tender/ Non Reconciliation of online Payment caused due to Non-availability of Internet Connection, Network Traffic/ Holidays or any other reason".

For complains regarding corruption vigilance help line No. 9431821485, 0612-2504969 e-tendering introduced in BSPTCL for tenders above Rs. 10 lakh. For registration logon to www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in E-Procurement Help Desk Phone No. : 1800 572 6571 & Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar G.M-cum-C E (TRZ, PATNA) PR- 011685 (Ni.Ni.) 2023-24

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely Yashoda D/o Shohan Lal R/o Jhuggi No 948, Jakhira Rakhi Market, Delhi has been missing since 03.11.2023 from PF No. 01, Delhi Cantt Railway Station. In this regard a FIR No. 29/23 Dt. 06.11.2023 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS, Delhi Cantt Railway Station.

The description of Missing girl is as under:
Name: Yashoda, Father's Name: Shohan Lal, Age: 17 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Brown Color Suit & Red Color Lower & White Dupatta & Black Sandal in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S., Delhi Cantt
Railway Station
DP/12880/RLY/23 Ph: 011-25688505, 8750871309

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified Male (depicted in the photo) namely Rohit R/o Apna Ghar Ashram, Pooth Khurd, Delhi and family is Unknown about 32 years of age was found dead at M.V. Hospital, Pooth Khurd, Delhi on 15.09.2023. In this regard a DD No. 29-A Dated 15.09.2023 has been lodged at PS Bawana, Delhi. The dead body was preserved for 72 hours in BJRM Hospital, Delhi Mortuary. His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: Approx. 32 years, Height: 5'6" ft., Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Dharidar Kamij & Pajama.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers:-

SHO
PS: Bawana, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-27752534
Mob. No.: 7065036321
DP/13020/ON/2023

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641
Fax No.: 011-24368639

For All Advertisement Booking
Call : 0120-6651214



WON'T PLAY NEXT WC: STARC

Australian left-arm quick Mitchell Starc on Monday made it clear that he has no plans to play the next World Cup. "I'll look to keep playing after this, but I don't doubt that I won't be making the next World Cup. I've no vision for that. Four years is a long (time)," he said. PTI

Beware: Wily Kiwis ahead

The Indian batting order has been in prolific form, but if there's one team that can be trusted to do its homework and come up with viable plans to overcome the huge challenge, it's New Zealand. *The Indian Express* analyses the techniques and playing styles of the top five Indian batsmen to come up with possible strategies that captain Kane Williamson and the rest of the Kiwi think tank can come up with as they try to stall the home team's juggernaut.

ROHIT SHARMA

Movement both ways early in the innings



THE BEST way to stop Rohit Sharma is to get him out early. So far in this World Cup, only Australia and Sri Lanka have achieved this. Once when Josh Hazlewood nailed him in front of the wicket, and the other when left-handed Dilshan Madhushanka unleashed a marvellous off-cutter that uprooted his off-stick. The Madhushanka method showed that Rohit is still wary of left-arm seamers moving the ball both ways. Madhushanka had set him up with an in-swing first up, though wayward, before slipping in the off-cutter that moved away from him. If one watches the replays, one can see that Rohit was pre-empting to play the in-swing, the body primed to go back and defend the ball. He ended up playing the wrong line. It means the nip-backer from the left-arm still haunts him. Trent Boult has a devious one, although he has struggled with it. But he did show glimpses of rediscovering his swing in the previous game against Sri Lanka. With the ball seaming around the twilight phase at the Wankhede, Boult could rip open old wounds. Like Madhushanka, Boult has an off-cutter too, apart from the traditional away-seamer. The in-swing from the right-arm too could trouble him, as Hazlewood showed. But it has to be perfectly designed — landing on the fourth stump, just a foot from the traditional good length and bending back late into the pads. Anything slightly fuller, shorter or into the body, Rohit could dispatch it to the rope. Tim Southee's three-quarter-seam ball could pose a threat in this regard, as the ball cuts back late into the right-hander. Southee also has an out-swing, his stock delivery, that comes into play as the set-up ball.

VIRAT KOHLI

Kiwis' go-to option: Left-arm spinner Santner



LET US keep aside Kohli's struggles against left-arm spinners for a moment. Consider these spells from Santner, in the previous two instances when India and New Zealand faced off in the World Cup — in 2019 and this time in Dharamsala. In Manchester, Santner had figures of 10-2-34-2. In Dharamsala, it was 10-0-37-1. In a side that has world-class seamers, Santner is exceptional when it comes to tying down batsmen with his remarkable consistency. So once the first Powerplay ends, if Kohli is in the middle, expect Kane Williamson to throw the ball to Santner. With no left-handers in India's top 6, Santner could well dictate the pace of India's innings. Like Ravindra Jadeja, he too doesn't believe in beating edges, but focuses on bowling that tight line attacking the stumps, which will make it more challenging for batsmen to make room. Other left-arm spinners have also had some success against India in this World Cup. Keshav Maharaj kept things tight after India were off to a rollicking start, and Roleof van der Merwe actually had Kohli playing on in Bengaluru. It would be interesting to see how he goes against Santner at the Wankhede. So far, thanks to the starts given by the openers, Kohli has had to bat only in third gear in the middle overs, which could be tested by Santner. If he manages to put Kohli in his shell, half the battle would be won as it would make the batsman at the other end take risks. So ideally, India would want Kohli to keep the tempo going provided the openers have given another good start. If they fail, the onus would be on Kohli to take the initiative and for that, his showdown with Santner will be key. The perfect scenario for India is to have Kohli and Shreyas — a fine player of spin — batting together when Santner is operating.

SHUBMAN GILL

Pacers expected to employ full-length balls nipping in

IT'S AN old problem that New Zealand have exploited before. A ball that lands on a full length and nips in. The way he is set up at the crease, Shubman Gill is usually a tad late in leaning forward, a touch slow in shifting his weight forward. He is on the move when the ball lands and tries to get his hands to jail-break for him, but when it's a nip-backer, the ball threads the bat-and-pad gap to crash into the stumps. New Zealand's Kyle Jamieson has done it before, Tim Southee too has troubled him — and to no one's surprise, New Zealand will try it again in the semifinal. It's a weakness that stems from Gill's developmental years of playing on cement tracks. He has set himself for playing on the up, or pressing back to punch, so the weight transfer can be slow. Pacers like James Anderson and Kagiso Rabada have troubled him. In this World Cup, England's Chris Woakes bowled him with a similar ball. Gill is aware of the issue but, understandably, doesn't want to upset the whole applecart to fix one issue. "There are one or two important elements. Like your shoulder should be aligned towards the ball, you should be a little side-on while playing, you should be in a good position even if your feet are not moving that well. If you are positioned well in relation to the ball, you will manage," is what he once told this newspaper.



SHREYAS IYER

Head-high bouncers to be speedster Ferguson's Plan A

ANOTHER BATTLE in the middle overs that could well decide the war. With seam movement being at a bare minimum, New Zealand's tactics during this phase of games has been to test opposition batsmen with short balls. The key to this plan is Ferguson. In the games that he has played, it was a tactic he has used to great effect as he seldom bowled a spell where both mid-on and mid-off were pushed back. While Shreyas has tweaked his technique that puts him in a better place to handle short deliveries, at Ferguson's pace he would be tested a lot. With a well-disguised yorker at his disposal as well, Ferguson is New Zealand's trump card with the ball in the middle overs. But he would need to get his bouncers head-high, from where it would be difficult to control the hook shot. If the Indian middle-order batsman persists with the approach of taking this tactic on, it could provide an opportunity with the suitable field-placement. Apart from the bouncer itself, the perceived threat of one could also play games with a batsman's footwork and mindset. Anything lower, around hip- or chest-height, would be that much easier for Shreyas to negotiate or attack. With Shreyas in good form and coming into the semifinal on the back of a hundred, this battle has all the making of being a deciding factor.



KL RAHUL

Bowlers likely to stick to off-stump line to start with

MURDEROUS ON the leg-side and smooth on the off, the likeliest way to dismiss Rahul is still peppering the fourth-fifth-stump channel and induce a nick behind. He has a wide array of off-side strokes — drives, cuts, taps and glides to punish good balls, but there is a vulnerability too. He has a tendency to poke at balls outside the off-stump, away from his body, early on in his innings. So if a fast bowler can extract movement either way, he would be in business. Southee can, but his lack of brisk pace, could make him less threatening. But if Lockie Ferguson is in his element, he could pose a considerable threat. He is not a prodigious mover of the ball, but masterly at shuffling lengths, besides purchasing a wee bit of away seam movement. His ability to hit the high 140 kph speeds makes him an even more difficult proposition for the whippy swipes through mid-wicket. The slippery bounce he purchases from back of a length means that driving him on the rise is risk-fraught too. It was how Sri Lanka's Dushmantha Chameera dismissed Rahul, when he played the shot a bit early and mistimed it to short extra-cover at the same Wankhede Stadium, where the odd ball tends to grip and stop at the batsman. But the lines have to be clinical because his silken hands could bail him out of trouble.



FINDING A WAY OUT

Australia do Australia things during their 7-match winning streak

SHIVANI NAIK
NOVEMBER 13

SHANE WARNE, one of Australia's all-time legends, had urged their floundering Ashes team of 2005 to bounce back with the epic quote: "Find a way to get back in to the game, find a way to build a partnership, find a way to get bowling partnerships, find a way to catch a ball, find a way to stop it." Australia's five World Cup campaigns in the past have mostly been about 'finding a way out' of trouble. And this World Cup offered a fair few samples of how the Batch of 2023 have gone about doing it, with Adam Zampa, Pat Cummins and that other gent, Glenn Maxwell showing how it's done.

Low total defence vs India
The fightback crystallised early when defending a small total of 199 against India in their opener at Chennai. Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood had the hosts in massive trouble at an eye-popping 2/3 as they sent back Ishan Kishan, Rohit Sharma and Shreyas Iyer, perhaps the last time the Indian batting order ever looked flaky.

Kohli and Rahul would course correct almost instantaneously displaying how crumble-proof their future campaign would be. The Aussie pacers haven't quite gone on to set the stage on fire thereafter, but they have their plans in place when defending small totals. If Marsh had taken the sitter offered by Kohli, chances are Aussies might not have even lost that day. But even in that defeat, but for those brief moments early in India's chase, you saw the World Cup version of Australia threatening to make it a contest.

The ZamPat tango vs SL
Still to register a win after two losses to India and South Africa, Australia found themselves staring at Sri Lanka's 124/0 dawdling into the middle-overs at the Ekana. Here was the first time that first-change Pat Cummins and Adam Zampa combined as enforcer and chiselling engraver, pulling the Lankans back to 199/8 by the end of the second powerplay. Cummins put in a lot of shoulder and back torque into Nissanka's first wicket, where David Warner poured equal effort into the dive to make a tough catch look routine at deep square leg even as the Aussies were melting on the field, and bracing for another



Top individual performances have got Australia out of trouble this World Cup. PTI

300+ total. Warner then ran from deep square leg to deep mid-wicket and clung on to a stunning tumbling catch off a skier as the dangerous Kusal Mendis top-edged Adam Zampa. The octopus leggie then claimed three more leg-befores with pinpoint lengths; a

leg-break that skidded straight and two googlies as the Lankans were constricted to 209 in 43.3 overs. Marsh and Inglis kept things steady with half centuries, for a comfortable five-wicket win, to kickstart the comeback that has led to seven straight wins going into the semifinals.

Captain's KO-punch vs Kiwis

Australia's 388 was looking chaseable amidst Dharamsala's dreamy vistas, as New Zealand neared 300 with two capable batters in Rachin Ravindra and Mitchell Santner. It's when Pat Cummins sent in a slower, fuller delivery making Rachin (116 off 89) lunge out and play an imbalanced loft. Labuachagne was seamless in catching it at the boundary as the captain sent the danger man back at 293/6. Change of pace would again work for Cummins against Matt Henry, who got no pace to work with to go past backward point at 346/8. Still, Jimmy Neesham was left, and he could hurt the Aussies. But Cummins would continue to bowl cramping lengths, denying him the big shots everytime he tried to hasten towards victory. His last four overs (all post 40) went for a total of 24 runs in a high-scoring game. In a match that went to the last over, Neesham's full-dive was in vain as New Zealand finished five short at 383/9.

The Ashes rashes vs England
At 247/8 batting first, the Australians were heading for a below par score against England, giving their arch rivals cruel hope

of staying afloat. But Adam Zampa, who by his own admission, never batted at the nets even once during this World Cup, fetched up and smashed around to get the Aussies to a decent total. He smacked 29 off 19 with four boundaries at No 10 as they wound up at 286. Then with the ball too, in a chase England should have sewn up, the Aussies just kept pinging them with regular wickets. In an evil peek into hope, the English were allowed to limp to three partnerships - 84 runs for third wicket, 63 runs for fifth and 37 runs for ninth, but Adam Zampa had the A to Z on them with figures of 21/3 off 10 overs.

GLOAT innings vs Afg
Afghanistan boast of the World Cup's best spin quartet, but the hyper-chatty Naveen ul-Haq and seriously talented Azmatullah Omarzai had Australia properly cooked at 91/7 in pursuit of 292. Then the greatest, Glenn Innes of All Time happened and blew the Afghans away; 201 off 128 with 21 fours, 10 sixes, myriad cramps and legless, mind-blowing swings of the bat ought to be repeated at every opportunity. It was the most Australian of fightbacks, and a finish to finish all finishes.

SEHWAG, DIANA,
ARAVINDA IN ICC
HALL OF FAME

Virender Sehwag, Diana Edulji and Aravinda de Silva became the latest inductees into the ICC Hall of Fame on Monday. The trio will be honoured during the first World Cup semifinal between India and New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday.

Edulji became the first Indian woman to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame thanks to a 17-year international career and her pioneering role in establishing the most successful domestic team in Indian women's cricket history, the Railways.

Sehwag was a pivotal figure in the India's World Cup-winning campaign in 2011, and his record-breaking career spanned 14 years with over 17,000 runs in international cricket.

DIANA EDULJI

20 TESTS – 404 runs, 63 wickets at an average of 25.77
34 ODIs – 211 runs, 46 wickets at an average of 16.84

EDULJI WAS arguably the first great woman cricketer produced by India. A right-handed batter and slow left-arm bowler, she played in three ICC Women's World Cups, captaining India in 1978 and 1993. She has had a big influence on the game in India off the field too. In 1984, she convinced the then Railways Minister to field a women's cricket team, and subsequently Railways became the most successful side in Indian women's cricket.

VIRENDER SEHWAG

104 TESTS – 8,586 runs at an average of 49.34, 40 wickets
251 ODIs – 8,273 runs at an average of 35.05, 96 wickets
19 T20is – 394 runs at an average of 21.88

SEHWAG STRUCK a century on his Test debut against South Africa in the middle order but it was as an opener that he had the biggest impact. Sehwag brought up India's first Test triple-century in March 2004 against Pakistan, and four years later passed the 300 mark again, this time against South Africa. He set a then-record men's ODI score of 219 against the West Indies in 2011, which stood for three years. He set the tone for India's victorious home campaign in 2011, starting off with a knock of 175 against Bangladesh.

ARAVINDA DE SILVA

93 TESTS – 6,361 runs at an average of 42.97, 29 wickets
308 ODIs – 9,284 runs at an average of 34.90, 106 wickets
DE SILVA made his Test debut at Lord's in 1984. The all-rounder was instrumental in Sri Lanka's World Cup-winning campaign in 1996, as he turned the semifinal against India in Kolkata and shone during a memorable final against Australia in Lahore.

There is always the fear that one match you could fall over or you could fall flat in one spell. But it's really about focusing on exactly what you can control and eliminate everything that you can't... when it comes down to the semifinals, it's a dogfight and whoever blinks first, generally falls over."

MATTHEW HAYDEN



"It looks like they're absolutely loving playing in front of obviously big crowds. The players are smiling and enjoying themselves. The challenge for them is to continue that mentality in the semifinals. If they maintain that and are able to play confident cricket, it's going to take a pretty special performance to turn them over."

MICHAEL HUSSEY

Law of averages: Only for statisticians



India have only been upping their game and intensity every time they have taken the field.

AP

After an all-conquering league phase, Hayden & Hussey feel if India continue with same mentality and confidence, they will be hard to beat

VENKATA KRISHNA B
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 13

THERE IS an air of invincibility around the Indian team at the World Cup. For a team that was not seen as an outright favourite to lift their second world title on home soil, India has been the team to beat by far, as the tournament reaches the semifinal stage.

Right from their first match in Chennai, where they recovered from an early wobble to post a commanding win, India have only been upping their game and intensity every time they have taken the field. Having the best fast-bowling unit they ever had, allied with a very resourceful batting line-up that isn't short of match-winners on their own, this team under Rohit Sharma is showing the Men in Blue faithful how the Aussies would have felt in the noughties.

Of course, despite their dominant cruise through the league phase, India have not won anything yet. But never before in the past 12 editions has any team, barring the all-conquering Australia of 2003 & 2007, looked unbeatable. As India keep ticking one box after another, with only two more to go, there is this quintessential question lingering in every India fan's mind. Will the law of averages catch up with India in the knockouts?

The question is not without merit. For in 2015, they were on a similar run, only for Australia to show them the reality in the semifinal in Sydney.

However, the sort of dominance that India have displayed this time against each of their nine opponents is unforeseen. The only team that had a similar dominant run from start to finish was Ricky Ponting's Australian side in the 2007 World Cup. Even

though they had won the title in the previous edition as well, they were run close by England and New Zealand in South Africa, but in the Caribbean, none came close to even posing a challenge.

Even back then, Australia faced similar questions, especially about the law of averages, more so because they had their bigger players in the twilight of their careers.

"That's really for the pundits to decide and discuss around a World Cup. But ultimately, inside a team unit, you can gauge the barometer of the success and the taste and hunger for a trophy and title by each game. Playing each game on merit really is the only focus so it becomes really a ball-by-ball, over-by-over, innings-by-innings, match-by-match exercise," Matthew Hayden, who won World Cups in 2003 and 2007, tells *The Indian Express*.

Doubting Thomases

Like it was the case with the Indian team before the World Cup began, in 2007, despite being two-time defending champions, Australia were not seen as the favourites. An indifferent home summer when they lost the tri-series to England, and a whitewash in New Zealand just weeks before the World Cup, had sort of undermined their credentials. And with South Africa emerging as strong contenders, it looked to be a tournament where the Aussies would crack, but the winning streak that began at the 1999 World Cup continued throughout the Caribbean too.

"There is always the fear that one match you could fall over or you could fall flat in one spell. But it's really about focusing on exactly what you can control and eliminate everything that you can't. Ultimately, that can only be done at an individual level and we had strong characters. It can be done through not

beating your chest, but through beating the opposition, and beating the moment. It's as simple as that. There's not a lot of rocket science to winning World Cups, but there certainly has to be a belief that you can. You are in the moment every time and from that point on, the rest looks after itself," Hayden, who is now a commentator for Star Sports, says.

There is also another similarity in India's campaign so far to that of Australia in 2007. They had good gaps between matches, which meant they have had enough time to recover and maintain the intensity that has made them ruthless. Like how India have been having optional net sessions to team-building activities to take the pressure off, Australia used the Caribbean landscape – the beaches and mountains – to unwind.

"Preparation was key and the level of detailing we had was unbelievable as in we were prepared for each situation and game. At the same time, we had lots of time between games, so we were able to sort of relax, get away from the game, and then come back and really prepare. It didn't matter who we were playing or that we won in the past. That was already all gone. It was already moving on to the next one, putting the previous game in the bin. We had experienced players, all that we needed was to have the right ambience," Mike Hussey, who was part of the 2007 team and is currently the batting coach of Chennai Super Kings, tells *The Indian Express*.

Crunch time

As India enter the key part of their campaign, both Hayden and Hussey believe the real test starts now. In that 2007 World Cup, South Africa, who came in as No.1-ranked side and looked like genuine contenders, tried to unsettle the Aussies in the semifinal

and self-destructed.

"Just because it is a semifinal doesn't mean you need to try harder or put more pressure on yourself. As it turned out in that game, South Africa tried to change the way they played. Instead of just playing a good, hard game of cricket, they tried to come out ultra-aggressive, and lost too many wickets by trying to go too hard. I don't think we played any better than we had earlier," Hussey recalls.

In 2015 and 2019, India were guilty of doing what South Africa did in 2007. Even in the 2003 final against Australia, Zaheer Khan had recalled how they tried to be too aggressive and ended up paying the price. So for India to move past the Kiwis at the Wankhede, Hayden suggests Rohit & Co don't think about winning the World Cup just yet.

"Not talking or thinking about the World Cup; that will take care of itself. So when it comes down to the semifinals, it's a dogfight and whoever blinks first, generally falls over. You saw it earlier when South Africa played India. They tried to go too hard against India and ended up being run over. So you got to be in the zone," Hayden says.

Hussey, who earlier had doubts about this Indian team's ability to handle the pressure of playing in front of home fans, admits there are none now. "The question I had coming into the tournament was how will they handle the pressure of playing at home. It looks like they're absolutely loving playing in front of obviously big crowds. The players are smiling and enjoying themselves and playing great cricket. The challenge for them is to continue that mentality in the semifinals. If they maintain that and are able to play confident cricket, it's going to take a pretty special performance to turn them over," Hussey says.

SHORT TAKES

NZ not bothered by Henry's absence

Lockie Ferguson believes New Zealand bowling attack remain a 'handsome bunch' despite losing fast bowler Matt Henry and have all bases covered for the World Cup semifinal against India here on Wednesday. New Zealand were the last to qualify for the semifinals, having lost four games in a row after winning as many. They won their last league game against Sri Lanka to make the cut. Ferguson said they would not be troubled much with Henry's unavailability due to torn right hamstring. "We look good here. Matt Henry is obviously a big hole in our side and we're still a handsome bunch without Matt Henry," Ferguson told the media ahead of New Zealand's training session at the Wankhede Stadium. PTI

'India bowlers ready for all conditions'

India bowling coach Paras Mhambrey has hailed his bowlers for their superb show in the World Cup, saying their unique skill sets have made them capable of facing any challenge on varied conditions in the ongoing showpiece event. The Indians have been unbeaten in the World Cup so far, winning all nine league games to storm into the semifinal, where they will play New Zealand in Mumbai on Wednesday. Be it pace or spin, the Indian bowlers have excelled in all departments. "In terms of the different skills, we have the ability to (take on) whatever challenge that is ahead of us. Maybe different surfaces, we have the bowlers to do that. And we've done it," Mhambrey was quoted as saying by the ICC after the game against Netherlands here on Sunday. PTI

Morkel quits as Pak bowling coach

South African Morne Morkel has resigned as Pakistan's bowling coach, the country's cricket board (PCB) announced on Monday, two days after their failure to reach the semi-finals of the World Cup in India. Pakistan finished fifth in the standings with eight points having won four matches and losing five, with their final defeat by outgoing champions England on Saturday ruling them out of contention for the knockout stages of the tournament. The former South Africa fast bowler had joined the team on a six-month contract in June. "Pakistan Cricket Board will announce his replacement in due course," the PCB said in a short statement without providing any reason for Morkel's departure. REUTERS

PUNCHING ABOVE THEIR WEIGHT

How New Zealand sparkles in cricket and produces quality Olympians

SRIRAM VEERA

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 13

SOMEONE FROM the New Zealand squad poked Daryl Mitchell to look towards his right. The Mumbai sun had set, New Zealand were just about to begin their warm-up as Mitchell looked up and stared at the recently-installed Sachin Tendulkar statue. Mitchell stared and soon other New Zealand players also craned their necks and peered at the Indian cricketing deity.

In New Zealand, cricketers don't enjoy demi-god status, that honour is reserved for the rugby players. Mitchell would be aware of this. His father has been a celebrated rugby coach in New Zealand, England, Australia, and South Africa.

However, New Zealand cricketers have been quietly consistent at the World Cup and other big tournaments. To state the obvious they always punch beyond their weight and are title contenders at most ICC events. It begs a question: How does a small nation like New Zealand produce world class cricketers, along with the many Olympians and world beaters in other sports?

Nigel Muir, who quit as CEO of Sport Tasman after 13 long years in 2022, had the

answer. It was during the 2015 World Cup while at the small seaside rural town Nelson, right in the centre of the country, Muir had shared the secret. Amused by the question, he pointed his finger out to declare: "You tell me, how you can't get out there and play sport in this setting?" Muir had told this newspaper that Nelson, the small sun-wrapped region, had produced at least 24 Olympians.

Rural New Zealand is where the country unwraps its natural splendour and provides a unique window to its sporting soul. Adjacent to Nelson happens to be the Tasman region. Both have a population of around 50,000. Sandwiched between Nelson and Tasman is Saxton Oval, a large open park with facilities for football, athletics, cricket and several other sports. On one side, Richmond hills envelop the region and across the aisle the Tasman sea shimmered. Muir's finger was pointing at all these glorious open spaces.

According to Muir, community building was the central philosophy of New Zealand's sporting ecosystem. Consider this stat from Muir: One out of three New Zealanders, across the country are involved in some sort of sports voluntary activity. Country's leading sports persons regularly pitch in with free coaching or a motiva-



Kids from the small seaside town of Nelson in New Zealand.

tional talk. Others could chip in with cleaning the dishes at a sports meet, preparing the ground or just driving the kids to sporting facilities.

Everyone has a personal stake in the entire enterprise: Parents, teachers, kids and senior citizens. As for facilitators like Muir,

they hold this interesting tapestry together.

He then pointed to a poster plastered in the administration office at the Saxton Oval cricket ground. Happy smiling kids, hundreds of them, are captured in a festival atmosphere on the beach. A sporting event has just finished by the look of the things

Sandwiched between Nelson and Tasman is Saxton Oval, a large open park with facilities for football, athletics, cricket and several other sports.

and all have a blissful look as the camera swoops on them from top. The thing is no one knows who won, who lost. "Deliberately done. Look you might be a great potential sportsman but we here are looking out for the others. There might be 1 per cent who can probably have a career in sports but what about the rest? What we are trying to do is use sports to produce people who are happier and turn out to be good human beings. What's the point of life if you don't do that?"

Different mottos

It's an interesting philosophy but does it also mean it could hurt the chances of producing top athletes? This line of thought is very different from their neighbours and sporting arch rivals Australia. The Aussies love winners, they stress on success.

"The amount of money Australia puts

into producing high performance athletes is a lot more than us," Muir said. "It's an interesting thing and something that is catching up here as well. The right thing to do is find the right balance but you know it does get difficult."

Another interesting development has occurred with respect to cricket. During the 2015 World Cup, a local newspaper ran a story about children's participation in official school cricket with a stat: "The number of secondary school-aged children playing cricket has dropped from 17,794 in 2000 to 9937 last year."

But everywhere one went during that World Cup, Brendon McCullum mania was on; his team's infectious style of play had caught the attention and kids were out there playing cricket in the parks. And then their glorious run in the 2019 World Cup occurred. NZ cricket put up a stat the other day: the number of secondary school players increased by 513 (2%) to 21,974. It seems to be near an all-time high.

The Black Caps might not be as popular as the All Blacks but they remain perpetual title contenders. They play an entertaining brand of cricket that continues to inspire the world and also motivate the kids in New Zealand to take up the sport in those gorgeous wide open spaces.



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THE WORLD

GETS BAIL AFTER NEARLY SEVEN YEARS PHILIPPINES 'DRUG WAR' CRITIC WALKS FREE

Leila de Lima, 64, a critic of former Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte's bloody "war on drugs" walked free after a court granted her bail seven years after she was jailed. She had launched a Senate inquiry into Duterte's campaign, in which thousands were killed by police or in mysterious circumstances. **REUTERS**

TOP OF THE WORLD



Xi Jinping with Joe Biden. Reuters file

UNITED STATES 'Biden to push China to resume military ties'

Washington: Joe Biden wants to re-establish military ties with China, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Sunday, days before the president and the Chinese leader are set to meet. Biden will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping in person for the first time in a year on Wednesday during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco. Sullivan, in an interview with CBS said restored military ties could take place at every level from senior leadership to the tactical operational level, as well "on the water and in the air in the Indo-Pacific." **REUTERS**

AUSTRALIA Govt to apologise over 50 yrs after drug tragedy

Sydney: Australia will issue a national apology to all citizens affected by the "Thalidomide tragedy", Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Monday, more than half a century after babies were born with birth defects when mothers took the morning sickness pill. Thalidomide, an ingredient in a sedative widely distributed to many mothers in the 60s, caused malformation of extremities and internal organs in unborn children. It killed 80,000 kids globally before they were born, and 20,000 more were born with defects. **REUTERS**

UKRAINE 'Prepare for new wave of Russia's winter attacks'

Kyiv: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned Ukrainians on Sunday to prepare for new waves of Russian attacks on infrastructure as winter approached and said troops were anticipating an onslaught in the eastern theatre of the war. Zelenskyy issued his warning during his nightly video address a day after Russian forces carried out their first missile attack on the capital, Kyiv in some seven weeks. Russian accounts of the fighting on Sunday said its forces had repelled five Ukrainian attacks near Bakhmut. **REUTERS**

JAPAN Deputy Finance Minister resigns over tax scandal

Tokyo: A Japanese deputy finance minister stepped down on Monday over revelations that he had been delinquent on tax payments, another blow to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida whose public support is languishing in the polls. Kenji Kanda, state minister of finance in charge of government bonds and monetary policy, told reporters he had resigned because he did not want the issue to disrupt debate in parliament. Kanda is the third official to leave a ministerial post in just two months since Kishida reshuffled his cabinet to improve tumbling public approval ratings. **REUTERS**

THREE NEWBORNS AMONG 32 PATIENTS dead in 3 days at Al Shifa hospital: Officials

Israeli tanks at main hospital gate, hundreds trapped: Gaza Ministry

Says 650 stuck inside, patients, medics desperate to be evacuated

NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI & DAN WILLIAMS
GAZA, JERUSALEM
NOVEMBER 13

ISRAELI FORCES reached the gates of Gaza City's main hospital on Monday, the primary target in their battle to seize control of the northern half of the Gaza Strip, where medics said patients including newborn babies were dying for lack of fuel.

Gaza health ministry spokesperson Ashraf Al-Qidra, who was inside Al Shifa hospital, said 32 patients had died in the past three days, including three newborn babies, as a result of the siege of the hospital and the cut-off of its power.

At least 650 patients were still inside, desperate to be evacuated to another medical facility by the Red Cross or some other neutral agency.

Israel says the hospital sits atop tunnels housing a headquarters for Hamas fighters, who are to blame for its plight for using patients as shields, which Hamas denies.

"The tanks are in front of the hospital. We are under full blockade. It's a totally civilian area. Only hospital facility, hospital patients, doctors and other civilians staying in the hospital. Someone should stop this," a surgeon at the hospital, Dr Ahmed El Mokhallalati, said by the telephone.

Spokesperson for Gaza health ministry Qidra said an Israeli tank was now stationed at the hospital gate.

Israeli snipers and drones were firing into the hospital, making it impossible for medics and patients to move around.

"We are besieged and are inside a circle of death," he said.

Qidra said the 300 litres would power the hospital for just half an hour, and Shifa needed 8,000-10,000 litres of fuel per day delivered by the Red Cross or an international agency.



At a hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza Strip on Monday. Reuters

DEATH, DESTRUCTION	
ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	
1,200+	11,000+
TOTAL INJURED	
5,400+	20,000+

An Israeli official who requested anonymity said 300 litres could last several hours because only the emergency room was running.

After three died there were 36 alive in the neo-natal unit, he said.

"We are expecting to lose more of them day by day."

The United States carried out two air strikes in Syria against Iran-aligned groups on Sunday, a US defence official said. **REUTERS**

Biden, Qatar leader discuss Gaza, agree hostages must be released

ANDREA SHALAL & AHMED TOLBA
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 13

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden spoke on Sunday with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani about developments in Gaza and "urgent ongoing efforts" to secure the release of hostages being held by the Hamas militant group, the White House said.

Biden "unequivocally" condemned the holding of hostages by Hamas, including many young children, one of whom is a 3-year old American citizen whose parents were killed by the group on October 7th, the White House said in a statement.



US President Joe Biden and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. File

were underway involving Israel, Qatar, Egypt and the US on securing the release of more hostages, but it was not clear if all were alive.

The White House made no mention of any discussion of a ceasefire, saying only that the leaders talked about the need "to protect innocent civilians and efforts to increase the flow of humanitarian assistance into Gaza."

AUS official said Brett McGurk, Biden's senior Middle East adviser, will visit Israel Tuesday and meet Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, with visits planned in Brussels, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Qatar.

Qatar's government earlier said Al Thani had stressed the need for an immediate ceasefire in the call with Biden. **REUTERS**

Israel holds off on threatened closure of Al Jazeera locally

DAN WILLIAMS
JERUSALEM, NOVEMBER 13

ISRAELI SIGNALLED ON Monday it would hold off on a threatened closure of the local bureau of Al Jazeera, leaving the powerful Qatar-owned satellite station unmentioned in a government decision about emergency media regulations for the Gaza war.

The omission pointed to a balancing act by Israel, which has been angered by Qatar's ties to its arch-foe Iran and Hamas, but is looking to Doha to persuade the Palestinian militant group to free scores of hostages held in the Gaza Strip.

A statement by PM Netanyahu's security cabinet said it had authorised action against Lebanese pro-Iranian channel Al Mayadeen for "making wartime efforts to harm security interests and to serve the enemy's goals".

Though Israel and Lebanon are formally in a decades-old state of war and the Lebanese Shi'ite group Hezbollah has joined the current hostilities on the side of Gaza's Palestinians, Al Mayadeen has been airing reports from inside Israeli territory.

After the Israeli security cabinet decision, Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi was working on a proposed blocking of Al Mayadeen websites. **REUTERS**

MORE FOREIGN NATIONALS RESCUED

From Gaza Strip into Egypt

86

Romanian citizens were evacuated on Sunday.

■ A group of 32 Brazilians was en route to Cairo after they were allowed to cross from Gaza into Egypt.

■ Albania's foreign minister said Sunday that the first Albanian citizens, a mother and her four children, were evacuated from Gaza. **Reuters**

BRIEFLY

UN observes a minute's silence for 101 dead staffers

UNITED NATIONS workers observed a minute's silence on Monday to honour the over 100 employees killed in Gaza since the war began as UN flags flew at half mast. Staff at UN offices in Geneva bowed heads as a candle was lit in memory of the 101 employees of UN Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA) killed in the fighting. "This is the highest number of aid workers killed in the history of our organisation in such a short time," said Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the UN in Geneva. **REUTERS**

UNRWA says its facility struck in southern Gaza

THE UN agency for Palestinian refugees said that Israel's navy struck one of its facilities in southern Gaza, despite sharing coordinates with warning parties. The agency, known as UNRWA, said Sunday's strike caused "significant damage" to its guesthouse in Rafah, adding that no casualties were reported since UN staff left the facility 90 minutes before the attack. "This recent attack is yet another indication that nowhere in Gaza is safe. Not the north, not the south," the UNRWA said. **REUTERS**



Former British Prime Minister David Cameron (left) took charge as the Foreign Secretary. Home Secretary Suella Braverman (right) was replaced by James Cleverly. **Reuters**

Braverman sacked, UK's Sunak brings ex-PM Cameron back into Cabinet

JILL LAWLESS
LONDON, NOVEMBER 13

FORMER BRITISH Prime Minister David Cameron made an unexpected return to high office on Monday, becoming foreign secretary in a major shakeup of the Conservative government that also saw firing of divisive Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

Cameron, who led the UK government between 2010 and 2016 and triggered the country's exit from the European Union, was appointed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in a Cabinet shuffle in which he sacked Braverman, a law-and-order hardliner who drew anger for accusing police of being lenient with pro-Palestinian protesters. She was replaced by James Cleverly, who had been foreign secretary. Sunak was making further changes to the government throughout the day, with Environment Secretary Theresa Coffey saying she would be leaving her job.

"While I have been out of front-line politics for the last seven years, I hope that my experience — as Conservative leader for 11 years and prime minister for six — will assist me in helping the prime minister to meet these vital challenges," Cameron said in a statement. Cameron's appointment

EXPLAINED Mixed legacy

CAMERON'S FOREIGN policy legacy is mixed. As PM he backed NATO-led military intervention in Libya in 2011 that toppled Moammar Gadhafi. In 2013, he tried and failed to gain Parliament's backing for UK airstrikes against Bashar al-Assad's forces in Syria. He also announced a short-lived "golden era" in UK-China ties, shortly before the relationship soured.

came as a surprise to seasoned politics-watchers.

It's rare for a non-lawmaker to take a senior government post, and it has been decades since a former prime minister held a Cabinet job.

The government said Cameron had been appointed to Parliament's unelected upper chamber, the House of Lords.

Sunak had been under growing pressure to fire Braverman — a hard-liner popular with the party's authoritarian wing — from one of the most senior jobs in government, responsible for handling immigration and policing. **AP**

'Disturbing goodwill and social harmony': Nepal bans TikTok

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, NOVEMBER 13

NEPAL GOVERNMENT has banned social media platform TikTok with immediate effect and decided to regulate other platforms to prevent "misuse".

It added that goodwill and social harmony were being disturbed with the popular video app and there was rising demand to control it.

"A meeting of the cabinet decided to ban TikTok with immediate effect," said Rekha Sharma, Minister for Communication.

The ban came five days after a government declaration regarding the regulation of all social media platforms, which also gave them three months to set up offices in Nepal in order to address grievances.

However, in a follow up action, it singled out TikTok imposing a total ban on it.

The government directives for social media users prohibited use of fake identities and engaging in defamatory activities.

The platforms were also asked to reveal the real identity of the user and cooperate in investigations, in case of any complaints.

The Home Ministry had produced a report which said social media, especially TikTok, was being used to defame political leaders both in ruling and opposition sides, and most users were using fake identities for the purpose.

More than 1,600 TikTok-related cyber crime cases have been registered over the last four years in Nepal, according to local media reports. **WITH REUTERS INPUTS**

TRAVEL SPENDING IN ASIA-PACIFIC SET TO GROW 41% THIS YEAR TO \$567 BILLION; WILL RISE TO \$800 BILLION BY 2027

North American airlines bet on Asia-Pacific to drive profits

ALLISON LAMPERT & RAJESH KUMAR SINGH
MONTREAL, CHICAGO,
NOVEMBER 13

THE RETURN of North American flights to Asia-Pacific is accelerating heading into 2024, as carriers bet on the region as the next source of high-margin revenue at a time of soaring costs. A rebound in Asia is especially important for airlines where long-haul travel makes up a bigger mix of revenue.

Business travel, a cash cow for airlines, is also rebounding in Asia. Travel spending in Asia Pacific is set to grow 41% this year to \$567 billion, and rise to \$800

billion by 2027, according to data from the Global Business Travel Association.

Air Canada's estimated traffic to Asia would be "closer to 80-something percent" of 2019 levels next year, the carrier's vice president of network planning told Reuters. The planned capacity, which has not been previously reported, is a strong rebound from 2022, when the carrier's Asia-Pacific traffic was 33% of 2019 levels.

While United Airlines, American Airlines and Delta Air Lines are offering fewer seats to Asia Pacific in the current quarter compared with 2019, the numbers are up 75% on an annual basis, according to aviation analyst-

ics company Cirium.

In the first three months of 2024, the numbers will be up about 79% year-on-year. In contrast, seats on the flights of the three US carriers to Europe will grow an annual 6%.

Travel to Asia is also a source of high-margin revenue at a time when soaring labor and fuel costs are pressuring profit and domestic fares are declining.

"The market here in the United States is more mature," United's chief commercial officer, Andrew Nocella, said at a conference earlier this month. "The growth rates of 7% or 8% or 9% for the industry are just not going to be possible, but growing overseas, we think there's



Travel to Asia is also a source of high-margin revenue at a time when soaring labour and fuel costs are pressuring profit and domestic fares are declining. **Reuters file**

just a lot more opportunity."

Supply-demand mismatch

Asia-Pacific has lagged behind the US and Europe in global travel demand recovery after the pandemic. While passenger traffic in the region has surged since the reopening of borders, international airline capacity remains below 2019 levels.

The supply-demand mismatch is driving up profit margins for carriers. Asia-Pacific was the second-best market for passenger earnings after transatlantic for both United and Delta in the third quarter.

However, closed Russian airspace as well as depressed

Chinese travel to North America remain hurdles.

The need to avoid Russian airspace due to the war with Ukraine has made it tougher for North American carriers to fly to destinations like Hong Kong from East Coast hubs Newark, New Jersey, and Atlanta and Toronto. Similarly, Chinese tourists are still not back in full force.

In 2019, 2.8 million tourists from China came to US, but research group Tourism Economics expects a mere 991,000 to arrive this year.

Uneven recovery in Chinese travel demand is an unknown for the carriers, but tight supply should help profit, analyst Savanthi Syth said. **REUTERS**