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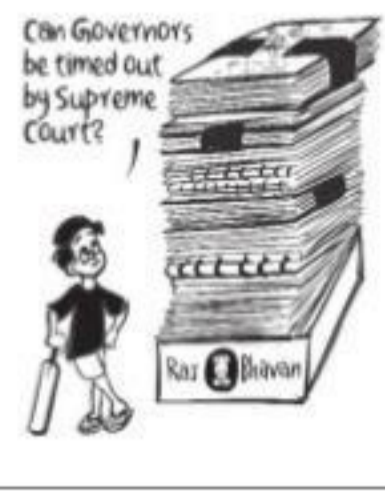


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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Seizure of journalist's devices serious, need better guidelines: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

UNDERLINING THAT privacy has been held to be a fundamental right, the Supreme Court told the Centre Tuesday to come up with "better guidelines" regarding seizure of devices of journalists.

It said it finds it "very difficult to accept" the "all-within power" that investigation agencies have, and called it "very, very dangerous".

On the seizure of devices, Justice S K Kaul, presiding over a bench that also included Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, told Additional Solicitor General S V Raju: "It's a serious matter. These are media professionals who will have their own sources and other things. There must be some guidelines. If you take everything away, there's a problem. You must ensure that there are some guidelines."

The bench was hearing a plea by the Foundation for Media Professionals seeking safeguards against what it called unnecessary interference by investigation agencies, and laying down comprehensive guidelines for search and seizure of digital devices.

Appearing for the Foundation, Senior Advocate Siddharth Agarwal said that as of now, there are no guidelines regarding when and what may be seized, what can be accessed, what kind of protection is ensured for personal data.

He said that once an investigation agency gets involved, the

QUESTIONS ODD-EVEN SUCCESS, SAYS IT'S ALL OPTICS

Stop crop burning now, long-term plan will follow: SC to States around Delhi

Make SHOs responsible under Chief Secy, says Bench; points to a specific Punjab paddy at the root of problem

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

REMINING THE Punjab government that the fight against stubble burning cannot be political, the Supreme Court Tuesday asked the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to take urgent steps to stop farm fires which it said are a "substantial" contributor to air pollution in Delhi.

A two-judge bench of Justices S K Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia put the onus of stopping the fires



on the respective Station House Officers under the overall supervision of the Chief Secretary. "We direct the state government of Punjab and for that matter, all states adjacent to Delhi —

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Long queues, stretched staff: Inside clinic in Delhi's most polluted area

ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

THE CLINIC is filled with a distressing symphony of sounds — raspy and violent coughing bouts, and toddlers crying in pain. By noon, the lone bench in the waiting area of the clinic is taken and patients are now seated on the cartons of medicines lying around.

This is the Bakkarwala Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinic in what has been the Capital's most



At the mohalla clinic in Mundka. Ankita Upadhyay

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW
AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

Give details on hiring of consultants, their salaries: MoF to depts

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

AHEAD OF Union Budget 2024-25, the Union Ministry of Finance has asked all ministries and departments to furnish details of consultants appointed by them, including their strength, selection process, normal tenure and average remuneration.

In an October 4 letter to ministries, Special Secretary in the Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance, Annie George Mathew, told ministries and departments that the "information is required for meaningful discussion for allocation of

Budget under the Professional/Office expenses/Salary head".

Requesting ministries to accord the issue "Top Priority", the letter asks them provide the information by October 9. Responses from some departments are still awaited, sources in the Ministry of Finance said.

The consultants being appointed by the ministries and departments, and in organisations and offices under them, could be young professionals, domain experts, professionals hired from consulting firms, personnel taken through outsourcing agencies, and executives from PSUs, state-owned banks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Cong skipped CIC selection meeting as they hate Dalits: Modi

Unmitigated falsehood, outrageous lie, everything on record: Adhir hits back

ANAND MOHAN J & MANOJ CG
BHOPAL, NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Tuesday said the Congress boycotted a meeting on the appointment of the Chief Information Commissioner because they "hate Dalits". On Monday, Heeralal Samariya became India's first Dalit CIC, and was administered the oath of office by President Droupadi Murmu.

As reported by *The Indian Express*, Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the Opposition member in the Prime Minister-headed high-powered selection committee,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DECISION 2023



VOTER TURNOUT
CHHATTISGARH PHASE 1
70.87% Polling marred by incidents of violence in some districts

MIZORAM
76.53% All 40 seats went to polls
MORE REPORTS, PAGE 8



Australia's Glenn Maxwell celebrates his double century at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday. With a 3-wicket win over Afghanistan, Australia entered the semi-finals. PTI

Depression low to double-ton high, Maxwell powers Australia victory

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 7

GLENN MAXWELL looked broken. He was crawling on his knees between overs, gasping in pain, but his spirit remained intact. The Aussie kept swishing

his bat around to score an unbeaten 201 to script possibly the greatest ODI knock of all time. It was certainly the greatest innings in a World Cup chase, the one that dealt a heartbreaking blow to Afghanistan.

The tournament's giant-killers had reduced Australia to

91/7 while chasing 292. After beating England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, they had another former World Champion in their stranglehold and only the formality of pulling the trigger remained. But, in a game for the ages, the hunter became the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In 5 years, 16 ministries gave Rs 500 cr work to Big Five consultants

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

FROM PETROLEUM to power and from NITI Aayog to India's own Aadhaar project, 16 ministries/departments in the Central Government outsourced several key assignments covering many facets of governance to top multinational consultancy firms, mainly the 'Big Four' plus McKinsey & Co, an investigation by *The Indian Express* of records made available under the Right To Information (RTI) Act has found.

The records show that between April 2017 and June 2022, the Big Four — PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, Ernst & Young Global Limited and KPMG International Limited — and US-based McKinsey & Company, bagged at least 308 consultancy assignments worth nearly Rs 500 crore from various government ministries, departments and organisations.

These projects involved a sweeping range of activities for

BIG FIVE: WHO GOT WHAT

PWC: 92 assignments, over ₹156 cr
TOP CLIENTS: HPCL, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, IREDA, NIC, Ordnance Factory Board and PSOCIL

DELOITTE: 59 contracts, over ₹130.13 cr
TOP CLIENTS: BPCL, HPCL, NHPC, Numaligarh Refinery, Oil India

EY: 87 assignments, over ₹88.05 cr
TOP CLIENTS: Engineers India, NIC, HPCL, THDC, Power Grid

KPMG: 65 contracts, ₹68.46 cr
TOP CLIENTS: Oil India, NITI Aayog, Numaligarh Refinery, UIDAI, Power Grid, DPIIT, BPCL
MCKINSEY: 3 contracts, over ₹50.09 cr
TOP CLIENTS: Oil India, Numaligarh Refinery and Power Finance

Source: RTI records; data for April 2017 to June 2022

CASTE SURVEY REPORT TABLED IN HOUSE

A third of families in Bihar live on Rs 6,000 or less per month

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, NOVEMBER 7

MORE THAN a third of Bihar's families live on around Rs 200 a day, among the Scheduled Castes that number stands as high as 43.93%; only 7% of its population are graduates; and about 96% have no vehicles.

These are some of the highlights of the Bihar caste survey report, tabled in both Houses of the state on Tuesday. The caste

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
The poverty pointers

AMONG THE SC families, more than half of the Mushahars (54.56%) and Doms (53.10%) are poor. Only 5% of the SC families earn between Rs 20,000 and Rs 50,000, and just 1% above Rs 50,000 per month.

After Praggnanandhaa, his sister moves to challenge world chess champion

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

AMIT KAMATH
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 7

WHEN RAMESHBABU starts talking about how chess became an inextricable part of his family, he starts with the story of his daughter's love for cartoon shows when she was a pre-teen. To wean her off television, he sent her to a chess school. And he followed the same plan for his younger son, who was also an animation fan.

A decade later, what started as a distraction for his children and turned into a hobby has now become an obsession. The two have become the world's most-

Vaishali R with her mother Nagalakshmi on Sunday.
Anna Shtourman/FIDE

celebrated chess siblings. Months after R Praggnanandhaa, 18, secured a spot at the Candidates Tournament — an event to decide the challenger to the world champion — his sister, Vaishali R, 22, has followed the same path.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

It is with considerable sorrow that we announce the passing of

Shri. D. N. Ghosh
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FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Stop crop burning now, long-term plan will follow: SC to States around Delhi

Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and some parts of Delhi - to ensure that crop burning is stopped forthwith and the local SHO is made responsible for it under the overall supervision of the Chief Secretary for the time being, the bench said.

It said it considered "appropriate that for immediate action, the Cabinet Secretary calls for a meeting tomorrow itself whether physically or by Zoom and all stakeholders will connect to ensure that we have a better picture and some redemption by Friday".

"For the time being, this has to be stopped. Then we will see what can be done in the long term," it said. The bench asked the Delhi government why the smog tower installed in the Capital was not working. It was told that some disciplinary action is being taken against an official. Calling the response "ludicrous", the bench directed that the tower be made functional.

"This is ludicrous. We want the tower to be working. As to which officer what they do is their business," it said.

Noting that the cultivation of a particular breed of paddy at this time of the year, as a third crop between the rabi and kharif seasons, was at the root of the problem, the bench also called for a shift to other crops as a long-term measure.

"Punjab is seeing a scenario where the growth of paddy is

causing the water table to decline and that too drastically. A number of wells are stated to have gone beyond redemption. Thus, the very cultivation of the paddy, which is not consumed in Punjab, is a problem. This is his (Punjab Advocate General's) suggestion, and we do believe currently so, that paddy cultivation must be phased out to be substituted with other crops and the Central government should explore the aspect of giving minimum support price for alternative crops rather than going for paddy," it said.

Appearing for the Punjab government, Advocate General Gurminder Singh Kharbada flagged the problems that the state was facing due to the MSP for paddy. "MSP is happening in such a strange way. Rice is grown in UP, it is smuggled into Punjab to be sold in the PDS at a higher price... MSP is encouraging smuggling of grains into Punjab and causing loss to the state exchequer," he said.

The AG said, "Haryana is not so much at fault. Haryana is growing basmati. It is also rice, but its stubble can be easily ploughed back." He said, "Therefore, the Centre has to take a policy decision on this that you have to get in new crops. You have to make renewable energy a norm, not an exception."

Taking note, the bench, in its order, said that according to the AG, "the misuse is also arising from the MSP for paddy because

paddy grown in adjacent states is then illegally brought into Punjab to claim MSP and sold under the MSP policy. The particular kind of paddy which is grown in Punjab, of which the stubble is a by-product, coupled with the season when it grows and the period required for cultivation, which causes the problem which may not be true of basmati grown in other states".

Saying that "a serious look is required", the bench added, "whether this kind of paddy should at all be grown and certainly, we believe, not in Punjab, because this problem is persistent with the particular paddy which is grown and the time period when it is grown. In fact, say 15 years back, this problem used to not exist because this particular cropping used to not take place."

The bench also referred to the AG's contention about Delhi's "locational issue" due to which "weather conditions" in and around Delhi affects the pollution level" and said "we cannot be dependent on the weather conditions alone to hope for some redemption. We want all the stakeholders to act promptly in respect of the aforesaid aspects."

It said "residents of Delhi have been struggling with health issues because they don't seem to find a solution year after year to the aggravated problem of pollution at this time of the year. That part of the year passes, and it goes on to

the next year. This has been the ongoing process for five years. It is time that something is done".

Agreeing that vehicular pollution also contributes to the pollution levels, the bench also called into question the odd-even scheme of the Delhi government, calling it "optics". Addressing the Delhi government counsel, Justice Kaul said: "You have said that you have imposed this alternative cars, even-odd... Did it succeed earlier ever?... These are all optics. This is the problem." The court asked the state government to "report back to us... on this aspect also". The bench asked the counsel appearing for the states to take instructions on what had been done to comply with the proposal to introduce colour-coded stickers for diesel, petrol and CNG vehicles in a bid to control vehicular pollution. Pointing out that a large number of app-based taxis, registered in other States, were plying in Delhi and contributing to pollution, the bench sought to know if there is any way of monitoring that only taxis registered in Delhi are allowed to operate in the Capital as an additional measure to control pollution. It clarified that this is only a temporary measure.

Justice Kaul said he "happened to travel through Punjab over the weekend and (saw) widespread fires, both sides of the road. Crop burning was taking place".

The Punjab AG, however, sought to point out that there was

a 40% reduction in farm fires in the State compared to the previous year. But Justice Kaul expressed doubts and told the counsel that it cannot always be a political battle. "Where? Where is it occurring? Both sides, fires are taking place. The only difference is... suddenly you have sought to shift the blame on other States... It's obvious why this shifting... But this can't be a political battle all the time... shifting from one State depending on who is ruling one State or the other. I am sorry, this is a complete murder of the health of people. There is no other phrase I have. You see the number of young children in Delhi who are going through health issues... Everybody can't keep throwing up their hands... Why can't you stop these fires?"

At the suggestion of the court-appointed amicus curiae, Senior Advocate Aparajita Singh, the court directed "the Delhi State Government to monitor and ensure that the Municipal Solid Waste is not burnt in the city in the open as happens during this season". It also asked the Delhi Pollution Control Committee "to immediately release data" from the study on "Real Time Source Apportionment and Forecasting for Advance Air Pollution Management in Delhi", commissioned by it, and asked the committee chairperson to remain present in the court on November 10 when it hears the matter next.

Cong skipped CIC selection meeting: Modi

wrote to President Murmu on Monday, saying he was "totally kept in the dark" about the CIC's selection.

Speaking at a public rally in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday, Modi said: "When the BJP decided that a tribal daughter should become the country's President, the Congress opposed it. It is the BJP which respects the aspirations of the SC, ST and OBC. Today, you must have read in your newspaper that for the first time in the country... I cancelled my election programme and attended a meeting in Delhi - we decided to appoint a Dalit from Rajasthan as the Chief Information Commissioner. Look at the Congressmen, they had to come to the meeting, they were invited much before time, we had spoken to them over the phone. But as soon as they came to know that a Dalit is going to become the CIC, they boycotted the meeting. They hate Dalits so much (tini Dalitose nafrat karte hain). When the President is tribal, they oppose that, CIC is Dalit, they oppose it, and then they spread lies and do drama for sympathy."

The PM's remarks drew a sharp reaction from Chowdhury, who told *The Indian Express*: "This is an unmitigated falsehood and outrageous lie. I am shocked how the Prime Minister of India could react in such a heinous manner. Everything is on record. Everything is on his table. It is really shocking. I think this kind of heinous recourse they have taken because of the assembly elections.

It is only to score an electoral brownie point. They have designed it very deliberately." "I had written a letter to Jitendra Singh, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, on November 1 itself urging him to reschedule the meeting. I spoke to Singh four-five times that day. He told me there was urgency and that if I cannot make it to the meeting in Delhi on November 3, he can send someone to Kolkata to get my signature on the selection," he said. "I told him that he can send someone to my party office in Kolkata... I told him I can even send electronic signatures given the urgency. I asked him to send the documents first. The documents reached me on November 2 afternoon. There were 10 names. I told him to send someone to Kolkata... I will sign the document after recording my opinion."

"I am not irresponsible. I am not the leader of an irresponsible opposition party. That is why I agreed to all that. But despite that, they did not show any courtesy. They did not communicate to me that everything had been done and that the selection had been done. I got to know about the name of the next CIC from the media... The matter did not end there... While they did not communicate to me that the CIC had been selected... they sent me the invitation for his swearing-in ceremony. It is nothing but misdeemeanour on the part of the Government," said Chowdhury,

who did not attend the swearing-in ceremony. In a "rejoinder" issued in the evening, Chowdhury wrote: "I have, all through my political career, stood up for Dalits and the downtrodden, and attributing any extraneous factors associated with caste or community as the reason for me not attending the meeting of the Selection Committee is not only unreasonable but too far-fetched to believe. My only concern is adherence to the legal provisions and to democratic norms, concerns and traditions, which have been flouted."

Modi's comments came during a speech in Sidhi district, where the party faced a political firestorm in July when a video emerged of a man with alleged links to the BJP urinating on a tribal man. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had to intervene, meeting the tribal man and washing his feet. The four-time Sidhi MLA, Kedarnath Shukla, was denied a ticket and the BJP fielded Lok Sabha MP Riti Pathak as a damage control measure.

Modi said that only those who attend the "Congress darbar" in Delhi were promoted and a leadership from the SC, ST and OBC society could never emerge. "Today, the poor, Dalit, OBC and tribal society has understood that the Congress is not their representative. Friends, look at the history of Congress, they have only promoted those who attend their court in Delhi. Congress never let the influential leadership of SC, ST, OBC society emerge," he said.

Inside clinic in Mundka

polluted area this past week - Mundka. With the air quality index touching hazardous levels of over 400, Mundka, an industrial neighbourhood in West Delhi, recorded a seven-day AQI average of 446.43 between October 31 and November 6. On November 5, Mundka's AQI touched 480. On the Central Pollution Control Board's scale, an AQI between 201 and 300 is "poor", 301-400 is "very poor", 401-450 is "severe", and anything higher is "severe plus".

The crowd inside the mohalla clinic has now swelled. Most of the patients are from the nearby slum colony whose residents mostly work in the Mundka Industrial Area or as street vendors, rickshaw pullers and domestic workers. With most of the adults away at work, a number of children have come to the clinic unaccompanied. The queue of patients outside the doctor's chamber breaks every now and then, before they are told to line up again.

Inside, Dr Amruta Nadar examines each patient, before asking her nursing assistant to make a note of the symptoms and the vitals - weight and blood pressure - before prescribing medicines. "Dawai bahar se lena (Collect your medicines from outside)," Dr Nadar tells each of her patients, handing them their prescription.

"Most of the patients have been coming in with cough, cold, fever and breathing issues... It has been this way for five-six days now. This clinic usually gets 80-100 patients a day; now we have been seeing around 150-160," says Dr Nadar, who was transferred to this clinic a week ago. "Though many of them are existing patients of COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and asthma, we are witnessing a worsening of their condition now. We have also been seeing a number of new patients who are coming in with fever, cough, cold and breathing issues," she adds.

Dr Nadar says she has largely been sticking to symptomatic treatment for her patients. "For those who have difficulty breathing, we give bronchodilators. It's a type of medication that makes breathing easier by relaxing the muscles in the lungs and widening the airways," she explains, adding that she has prescribed bronchodilators to 50 patients this past week. The severe cases, she said, are referred to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, around 10 km away.

One of her patients today is Jayesh Lal. The 12-year-old has had difficulty breathing, making it difficult for him to speak. His mother Devi steps in, saying Jayesh has been struggling to sleep for the past 3-4 days. "I took him for jhaad-phook (to a black-magic practitioner)... The other children in our neighbourhood recovered, but his cough didn't stop," she tells the doctor, who chides him. Devi runs a roadside stall in Mundka, where she sells pots and pans.

Seizure of journalist's devices serious: SC

person from whom the digital devices are taken cannot even expect to have a back-up.

Raju said the matter involved complicated legal issues and that he will need time to examine those.

The ASG said suppose there is incriminating material in a mobile phone, while the investigation agency cannot disclose the data to a third person, "the investigative agency will have to go through that entire record and find out one small bit which is relevant for the purpose of investigation, relevant for prosecuting somebody... you can't shut me off totally, completely". He said the prayer of the petitioner was to do that.

But Justice Kaul said, "I find it very difficult to accept that some kind of an all-within power that the agencies have. This is very, very dangerous actually... You must have better guidelines. Court has to do it, will do it, no difficulty. I think it is time you people do it yourself. My view is you must do it yourself to see that it is not misused. It can't be a state only which runs through agencies."

The bench said it will give the government time and "you must analyse what kind of guidelines are necessary to protect these. To

some extent, it cannot be adversarial in that sense".

Agarwal said "this is not about individual dispensations" but "about state power versus an individual's privilege". Justice Kaul said the problem is "one dispensation teaches the other". Raju said that while the media has rights, "they are not above the law". Agarwal said, "We only want the law to be laid down".

Justice Kaul said the court had already made privacy a fundamental right and asked the ASG to come back to it with his suggestions. The matter will be heard next on December 6.

16 ministries gave Rs 500 cr work

the government, including "financial due diligence", "retainer for advisory service", "hiring technical consultants" - and even "evaluation of nominations for e-governance awards", records show.

The 16 departments/ministries and about 50 organisations under their administration that consulted any of the five global consultants are: Petroleum and Natural Gas; Rural Development; Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances; Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade; Coal; Electronics and Information Technology; Health and Family Welfare; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Defence; Civil Aviation; Public Enterprises; Non-conventional Energy Resources; Power; Road Transport and Highways; Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Tourism. There are 59 ministries in the Central government.

And these are just a few pixels of the big picture - RTI records made available to *The Indian Express* are mainly from government wings in the petroleum and power sectors. The records show that PwC was the biggest beneficiary, coralling at least 92 contracts for over Rs 156 crore between 2017 and 2022 (see chart). Deloitte came close behind with 59 assignments worth well over Rs 130.13 crore - the amounts involved in four of those contracts were not provided.

E&Y bagged as many as 87 contracts for Rs 88.05 crore, with amounts not provided for five of them. KPMG got 66 contracts worth Rs 68.46 crore, without any data provided on amounts for five of them. And McKinsey got three contracts for Rs 50.09 crore.

According to the RTI records, made available for the period April 2017-June 2022 by Union ministries and departments seeking the data in early 2020, and again in April 2022, besides at least a dozen first appeals and reminders. Some of the departments responded by stating that they had "nil" information, a few others denied the request claiming it was exempt from the Act, and others did not respond.

World chess champion

On Sunday, in the Isle of Man, Vaishali claimed a victory in the women's category of the FIDE Grand Swiss event to make it to the Candidates Tournament.

Securing her third GM norm in a month, she is just three points away from the 2500 rating to be a Grandmaster like her brother.

"It's a great day for us... for the first time, a brother and sister are competing at the Candidates. For Vaishali, her chess career started as a distraction from TV, and see where they have reached now," Rameshabu, the branch manager at a Chennai bank, told *The Indian Express*. Brother Pragg, too, was happy with the success of his elder sister and first teacher. "I am in a celebratory mood... I am happy to see that the results are finally coming... to see that she is finally where she belongs," he said.

For Vaishali, who balances academics while chasing her chess career, the result came as a surprise. "This tournament is the biggest win in my career so far. I started as the 12th seed. I didn't come here with many expectations... the post-graduate student told FIDE's social media channel.

When Vaishali recalls her chess journey, Pragg always finds a mention. "I first started playing chess... When I used to play at home, Pragg would come and disturb me. So my parents got a second chess set at home," she told

FIDE. She has often spoken of how she likes to play "aggressive and exciting chess". "But away from the board, as a person, I am an introvert. I don't socialise much. I prefer my close circle. I like to be in my own space," she said.

Their early introduction to reputed coach and Grandmaster R B Ramesh was a major influencing factor. Their father said Ramesh proved to be more than a coach, or even a mentor. "A guide, he's a philosopher (for the players)," he said.

When the siblings first went to Ramesh for coaching, it was Vaishali who was a few hundred rating points ahead. "Both were already practising six to eight hours a day... They were very hard-working, not to mention ambitious. She was the better player then, older with a higher rating. But a few years on, Pragg made rapid growth and overtook her," Ramesh told *The Indian Express*.

"Vaishali has been very successful from a very young age. She's won the World under-14 title besides national titles in the age-category levels... But in between, for two or three years, there was a slowdown, which is natural," he said.

"They help each other during tournaments... Recently, Pragg has tried to help her with preparations... giving her opening ideas and so on," he said.

Depression low to double-ton high, Maxwell powers Australia victory

hunted as a limping Maxwell carried his team across the finishing line.

Maxwell's double hundred was a throwback to Pakistan's Saeed Anwar's epic 194 against India in the 1997 Independence Cup. However, unlike Anwar, Maxwell didn't have the luxury of the now-scraped rule of allowing an injured batsman a runner. The 35-year-old willed his beaten body to cross over for singles. He even collapsed to the ground once, but, grimacing in pain, he stood up. He couldn't bend his legs, or stretch his body, but his hands were in a frenzy, as they kept carting the ball around the park, and crashing Afghanistan's hopes.

"I hadn't done much high-intensity exercise in the heat. It was quite hot during the day, and it certainly got to me today," Maxwell would say later. He remained modest: "It would have been nice to say it was chanceless, but I led a charmed life, was dropped a few times. There have been occasions when I have been dropped and didn't make the most of it, so to make the most of it is probably the most pleasing thing."

When his past is placed in context, "making the most of it" has to be one of the greatest understatements out

there. During the 2019 World Cup in England, Maxwell was in hospital after being hit by a bouncer in the nets. Struggling for runs, he was frustrated. Such was his frame of mind that he hoped the injury was serious. "I thought it would be my ticket out of disappointment," he would later say. "I felt like I was 100 per cent to blame (for the failure of the team). I would look around the dressing room and wonder about others thinking 'if only Max had turned up for this tournament'."

Unlike four years back, on Tuesday, Maxwell was willing to push himself through the pain barrier. The reverse-laps, switch-hits, and slogsweeps came out with a hobbling body barely able to stand. Not many, if any, would have thought Australia could win the game after Afghanistan's bowlers had scalped early wickets with the new ball.

Even Maxwell had given up, when he began walking towards the dressing room after taking a DRS against an LBW call against wrist-spinner Noor Ahmed. The giant-screen replays had confirmed his worst fear, that the ball had landed

within line of the stumps. But technology gave him a reprieve by showing the ball was bouncing over the stumps.

There was another stroke of luck when he was dropped by Mubeen ur Rahman at short fine-leg. A smile spread across Maxwell, who yanked his head towards the sky. Did he think at that point that this could be done? "It kicked-started my innings," he would later say.

At that stage, Australia were still miles away from even glimpsing the final line. Physically, Maxwell looked drained, but showed no sign of being stressed or anxious. He hasn't always been strong mentally.

Maxwell had once opened up about his mental demons in a podcast. During the last World Cup, he had a meltdown. He spoke about being in a room with his then fiancée, now wife, Vini Raman, when he broke down. That was because he was named in the team that was to play England in the semi-final. Maxwell said he wasn't in the right frame of mind to take the field.

After he returned from hospital for the England game, the Aussie coaching staff wanted to test him.

Maxwell was thrown into an intense net session. "I was on a few painkillers and I had JL (Justin Langer, the then coach) and Ricky Ponting (batting consultant) just bounce the crap out of me to see if I was ready to go... I sort of blank-faced... I just wanted to get through the rest of this tournament."

Five months after the incident, he told the world he was suffering from depression and took a break. He was put on to sports psychiatrist Ranjit Menon, an external consultant for Cricket Australia. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Menon had refused to go into the specifics of Maxwell's case but shone a light on the broader theme. "The pressure of living up to potential can make athletes' lives feel like a perpetual missed opportunity and trigger an abiding sense of loss. Even when Maxwell was fielding, he says, 'I would be off with the fairies.'"

From being barely able to get through the World Cup last time to becoming Australia's saviour, Maxwell has come a long way. The dressing room and the Aussie fans would now be thinking: "Thank God, Max has turned up for this tournament."

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L-G NOD AWAITED

Penthouse to luxury flats, DDA plans Diwali scheme

UPASIKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

NOW, PROSPECTIVE homebuyers in the Capital will have the option of buying a penthouse, as well as several other luxury properties, as part of the Delhi Development Authority's proposed Diwali housing scheme. While the plan is currently awaiting approval at the Lieutenant Governor's office, sources within the DDA hope to make the announcement in time for the festivities.

Notably, the DDA is planning to introduce penthouses for the first time as part of this scheme.

The penthouses, 14 on offer, will be available at Dwarka Sector 18. According to sources, they will come with a premium price tag, ranging between Rs 4.5 to Rs 5 crore, marking the highest price point for any residential property managed by the DDA.

Apart from the penthouses, prospective homeowners will also have the opportunity to choose from a diverse range of 3,000 luxury properties, including 170 Super HIG (SHIG) flats, and 946 HIG flats in Dwarka's

WHAT'S ON OFFER

Area	Category	No. of Flats
Dwarka Sector 19B	Penthouse	14
	Super HIG	170
	HIG	946
Dwarka Sector 14	MIG	316
	LIG	316
	Narela (Sector A1-A4)	HIG
	MIG	3,700

How much will it cost?

Penthouses	Super HIG	HIG flats
₹4.5 to ₹5 cr	₹2.5 cr	₹2 to ₹2.5 cr

Sector 19B, along with over 2,000 HIG flats in Narela. (see box)

The SHIG flats will be available at around Rs 2.5 crore, while the HIG flats will be priced in the range of Rs 2 to 2.5 crore.

Interestingly, the allocation of these luxury flats will not follow the traditional first-come-first-serve (FCFS) approach typically employed by the DDA. Instead, they will be allotted through a draw of lots.

In addition to the HIG flats,

the DDA is planning to release approximately 4,700 Middle Income Group (MIG) flats in various areas, including Dwarka Sector 19B, Loknaya Puram, and Narela (Sectors A1 to A4). Furthermore, the DDA intends to auction 316 Lower Income Group (LIG) flats in Dwarka Sector 14, nearly 19,000 LIG flats spread across different pockets in Narela, and around 8,400 Economically Weaker Section flats in Dwarka, Narela, and Loknaya Puram.

Pay pending dues or face action: Two discoms get notices from power dept

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

SHOW CAUSE notices have been issued by the Delhi Power Department to two power distribution companies (discoms) over pending dues and late payment surcharge on those dues.

The notices issued in September, have sought the response of Discoms BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) on the payment of the amount due to power generation companies as well as the late payment surcharge (LPSC).

In Delhi, power is distributed to customers by discoms, who buy it from power distribution companies. Apart from BSES companies, the New Delhi Municipal Council, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited, and Military Engineering Services distribute power in the city.

The notices on the issue of LPSC states that the two companies reduced the rate of surcharge from 15%/18% to 12% "suo



In Delhi, power is distributed to customers by discoms, who buy it from power distribution companies. Archive

motu" and said it was "without any basis and completely illegal".

"In one stroke, it has reduced their LPSC liability and written back LPSC expenses of Rs 1,948.76 crore which was booked till March, 2021. This illegal act of BRPL and BYPL shall adversely impact financial position of Delhi Power Companies," the notice issued to BRPL states.

A similar notice to BYPL puts the amount of reduced liability

at Rs 1,301.32 crore.

The notice for payment of current charges pegs the BRPL dues at over Rs 5,419 crore and the BYPL dues at over Rs 4,718 crore.

"The show cause notices asked for replies and threatened to initiate stringent actions under existing laws. This could include suspension of license of the discom," a senior government official said.

Sources in the Discom said,

"There is no non-compliance of any statutory provisions. Moreover, matters concerning the Delhi Discoms and Delhi State Government Power Utilities are sub-judice before Hon'ble Supreme Court. Parties involved have been directed to maintain status quo till further orders."

According to power department officials, the discom in their reply said their accounts were vetted by government nominees on their Board. "These nominees were private or political persons appointed by the AAP government and their appointment was nullified by the L-G earlier this year by invoking difference of opinion with the elected government and referring the matter to the President," the official said.

The L-G had ordered the removal of AAP leader Jasmine Shah; MPND Gupta's son Naveen Gupta; and two other BSES board members — Umesh Tyagi and JS Deswal — in February.

Woman constable dies allegedly by suicide at home

New Delhi: A police constable, Preeti (27), allegedly committed suicide inside her house in North Delhi's Shastri Nagar over personal issues, officers said.

DCP (North) Manoj Kumar Meena said on November 6, around 10.17 pm, they received a PCR call. "The landlord found the body after breaking into the room that was locked from inside. Preeti was declared dead on arrival at the hospital and no suicide note was found. She lived with her batchmates. At the time of the incident, only one person was present in the other room," the DCP said. Police said no foul play has been found. ENS

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Swiss woman murder: Cops now book accused under Arms Act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

THE DELHI Police has registered a second case against 33-year-old Gurpreet Singh, who was arrested last month for allegedly killing Swiss national Nina Berger (36) in the national capital and dumping her body near an MCD-run school in a plastic bag. Police said Singh had been found dealing with illegal arms and cash and had been booked in a case of Arms Act on Tuesday.

Berger was allegedly smothered to death with a plastic bag

inside Singh's car on October 18, after he had allegedly chained her by convincing her that it was for an "astrological trick".

The two met in 2021 while Singh was visiting relatives in Switzerland and soon started dating. Police are also looking into a "money angle" as they suspect the couple fought over it.

On Tuesday, senior officers said Singh was found hiding weapons and cash. "We found four pistols and over 50 rounds of fire in a Nano car, registered under Singh's name; it was found near one of his houses in Delhi. We also found some cash. When Singh

was questioned about the weapons and cash, he started misleading us and gave contradictory statements," said an officer.

Based on the findings, police registered a case against Singh under sections of the Arms Act for possessing illegal sophisticated arms. Singh is already in police custody for allegedly murdering Berger and discarding evidence. Investigators said the Arms Act case will give them some more time to question Singh about his illegal activities.

Singh's mother and sister have left town while his father is still believed to be in France.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

"SHOULD KEJRIWAL resign or run the government from jail?" The Aam Aadmi Party is set to host public dialogues across the nation to find out what people think about the question.

The decision to hold a referendum in Delhi and across the nation was among several taken during a 1.5-hour discussion Tuesday between Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and AAP's municipal councillors to discuss the ED summons issued to him in connection with the excise policy case. This comes a day after he held a similar meeting with party MLAs.

AAP MLA and MCD in-



CM Arvind Kejriwal held a meeting with MCD councillors, Tuesday. Archive

charge Durgesh Pathak said, "AAP councillors and MLAs will run a campaign throughout the country and hold a referendum... they will visit every house to hold a dialogue with citizens.

We will tour the national capital and hold nukkad (street) discussions on whether the CM should resign or run the government from Tihar Jail."

Pathak said the councillors made the same request as the MLAs, namely that Kejriwal ought to lead the government from behind bars, in the event that he is arrested.

"All councillors requested the CM that he should not think about resigning. If the Modi government's ED dares to arrest the CM, then he has to run the government from jail...," he said.

"After being requested by the councillors to not resign, the CM said he will first hold a meeting with AAP leaders in Punjab, after which he will take a decision in this regard," Pathak added.

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How long will it take to clean India's air?



Dr. Gufran Beig
Chair Professor, NIAS (IISc) and Founder Project Director, SAFAR

In conversation with



Amitabh Sinha
Deputy Editor
The Indian Express

It is that time of the year when the air in and around Delhi become unbreathable. Haze and smog engulf the city, visibility drops sharply and face masks make a return. But bad air quality is not unique to Delhi. Most of the other cities in the country face the same problem, not just in winter but throughout the year.

It's been almost a decade since air pollution in India became a major issue. Lots of measures have been announced, and taken, to improve the country's air quality. But nothing much seems to have changed, especially during winter.

Air pollution is not an unsolvable problem. In fact, over the last few years, ample amount of data and information has been generated about the sources and causes of pollution, and ways to mitigate the impacts.

Why is the situation still not improving? How long will it take for our cities to have clean air? To discuss these, and related issues, The Indian Express has invited Gufran Beig, an environmental and atmospheric scientist, best known for his work on air pollution. Beig was founder director of SAFAR, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research, a government-backed initiative to monitor and forecast air quality in select metropolitan cities, and has monitored the air quality situation over India for several years.

10 November 2023

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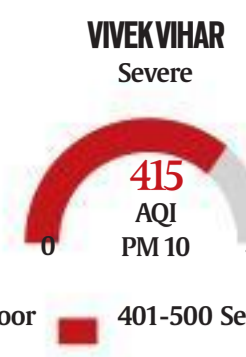
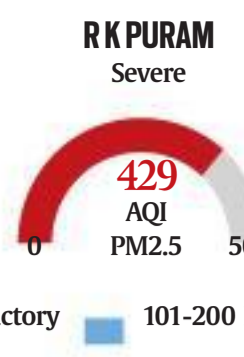
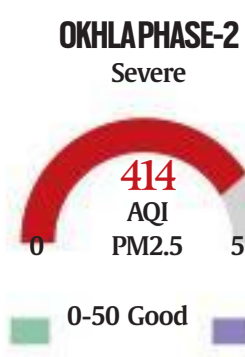
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SKY WATCH
FORECAST: November 8
Partly cloudy in afternoon.
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AQI forecast: Likely to be severe

MAX: 31 | **MIN: 16**
1.5°C above normal | 1.7°C below normal

SCHEME TO ROLL OUT WEEK AFTER DIWALI

'Misleading claims on odd-even': L-G, AAP govt trade charges over scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

EVEN AS the Supreme Court termed the odd-even road rationing scheme "mere optics", L-G VK Saxena accused the AAP-Delhi government of attempting to mislead the people and courts by announcing the scheme publicly without officially according approval for its implementation.

The AAP government countered the charge, stating that it was the city's bureaucracy that was misleading the L-G on the matter on the basis of an old file that didn't deal with odd-even at all.

Alleging that Monday's announcement regarding the roll-out of the scheme from November 13-20 was a ploy to divert attention from the ongoing pollution crisis in the capital, L-G House officials said the file regarding the decision to implement it as a part of measures under GRAP IV was not approved by Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai.

"Subsequently, CM Arvind Kejriwal's office conveyed his approval to deferring a decision on odd-even plying of vehicles, as proposed by Rai, since the CM was out of town," L-G House officials alleged.

According to officials, the file had proposed discontinuing physical classes for all classes up to class XI, all public, municipal, and private offices to work on 50% strength, closure of colleges, educational institutions and non-emergency commercial activities, as well as the implemen-



The scheme is recommended under Stage IV, or the 'severe plus' category, of the Graded Response Action Plan. Amit Mehra

tation of the odd-even scheme.

Rai and the Chief Minister had approved all proposals, except the one related to odd-even, where they wanted a decision on implementation to be taken after advice from "experts".

"The file was subsequently sent to the L-G Secretariat for approval, which flagged this deliberate misrepresentation in its notings to the CM Office," officials also said.

Refuting the allegations, Rai said the capital's bureaucracy

was misleading Saxena on the issue about the fact that the file being referred to only dealt with the decision to implement provisions under GRAP IV due to the dip in AQI.

It was only on November 6, Rai said, that the decision to roll out the odd-even scheme was taken at a meeting to assess the situation around air pollution by the Chief Minister.

"The decision to implement the scheme was taken on November 6, so how can it be attributed to a file which was moved on November 4? The

process regarding moving the proposal for the implementation of the scheme is now underway," Rai said.

"The Transport Department is currently working on this proposal and the file related to it will now be sent to the L-G for approval," he added.

According to officials, the closure of schools and restriction on vehicles, including odd-even plying of vehicles, were part of the mandatory GRAP procedures and were proposed for the consideration and approval of Rai, Kejriwal, and then the L-G on October 16.

"The file was sent back by the Office of the Environment Minister on October 23, asking for a discussion... Even while the

AQI kept rising from October-end and began to peak from November 2 onwards because of smoke from neighbouring states, the file was finally re-submitted to the Minister on November 3 and reached the CM's office on the same day," officials said.

According to officials, the CMO then noted on file that he was out of station and that the proposals had been shown to him on November 3, with the file finally being sent to the L-G Secretariat on November 4.

"Notings of the Minister... and subsequently those by the CM Office... clearly indicate that no decision whatsoever has been taken with regards to implementing the Odd-Even Scheme..." officials said.

Suspend IAS officer over smog tower shutdown: CM to L-G

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday recommended the suspension of IAS officer Ashwani Kumar to L-G VK Saxena after the Supreme Court pulled up the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) Chairman for shutting down a smog tower installed in the city.

Delhi government sources said the Apex court had directed Kumar, who is also Principal Secretary (Home), and Divisional Commissioner of Delhi to be present before it in person on the next date of hearing. In addition to directing the DPCC to publish real-time source apportionment data for sources of air pollution in Delhi on an ongoing basis, at least for this winter season, the top court further issued directions to operationalise the tower at Connaught Place immediately.

Sources in the bureaucracy, however, attributed Kumar's decision to the inefficacy of the tower based on empirical data. "The efficacy of the smog tower was found to be below expected lines as per data generated by IIT-Bombay after which it was decided to shut it down. However, as per the Honourable Supreme Court's directive, orders have been issued to restart its functioning; it will become operational by late Tuesday night," a government official said.

Meanwhile, sources in the government said, "Prior to the court's orders, CM Kejriwal had recommended suspension of the DPCC Chairman to the National Capital Civil Service



As per the Supreme Court's directive, orders have been issued to restart the smog tower's functioning: Official. Archive

Authority so as to take exemplary action against officers obstructing the government's efforts to fight rising pollution."

According to sources, in a file noting sent to the L-G, Kejriwal had cited instances where Kumar had "repeatedly refused to implement" written orders issued by ministers.

These, according to sources, included allegedly halting salaries of Civil Defence Volunteers for several months despite repeated written orders to the contrary; stopping honorariums of all imams in Delhi for two years; refusing to receive Revenue Minister Atishi's phone calls, not responding to her messages and allegedly skipping meetings with her "regularly".

"As DPCC Chairman, he refused to attend an important meeting on tackling pollution called by the Environment

Minister on October 23. In the case of real-time source appointment lab and smog tower in Delhi, he has gone to the extent of flouting and stopping the decision of the Cabinet itself," sources added.

Last Saturday, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai suggested Kumar's immediate suspension over his "persistent insubordination and laxity".

Rai stated that the DPCC Chairman had "suo motu halted" the payment of IIT-Kanpur's real-time source apportionment study on tackling pollution in the capital in violation of the decision by the Delhi Cabinet. Sources alleged Kumar had suo motu ordered the stopping of the functioning of the smog tower in violation of the decision of the SC and Cabinet.

In a first, RML hospital sets up weekly 'pollution' OPD

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

AMID SOARING pollution levels in the national capital, Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital has established a weekly 'pollution' OPD to address the growing number of patients experiencing health issues associated with the toxic air.

The multi-disciplinary OPD will function on Mondays from 2 pm to 4 pm. "As pollution peaks around Diwali, doctors witness an increase in the number of patients suffering from illnesses due to pollution... for the first time, RML has started a multi-disciplinary, dedicated and comprehensive OPD exclusively meant for medical consultations of patients suffering from pollution-related illnesses," said RML medical superintendent Dr Amit Shukla.

Doctors from five departments — Respiratory medicine, Ear Nose Throat (ENT), Eye, Dermatology and Psychiatric Department — will attend to those visiting the pollution OPD. The ENT department will handle patients with upper respiratory tract issues; the eye department will take care of problems like watering or redness in the eyes; the dermatology department will handle skin issues due to pollution;



Tourists at Connaught Place mask up due to the pollution. Prem Nath Pandey

and the psychiatric department will take care of patients experiencing mood swings or depressive episodes brought on by pollution.

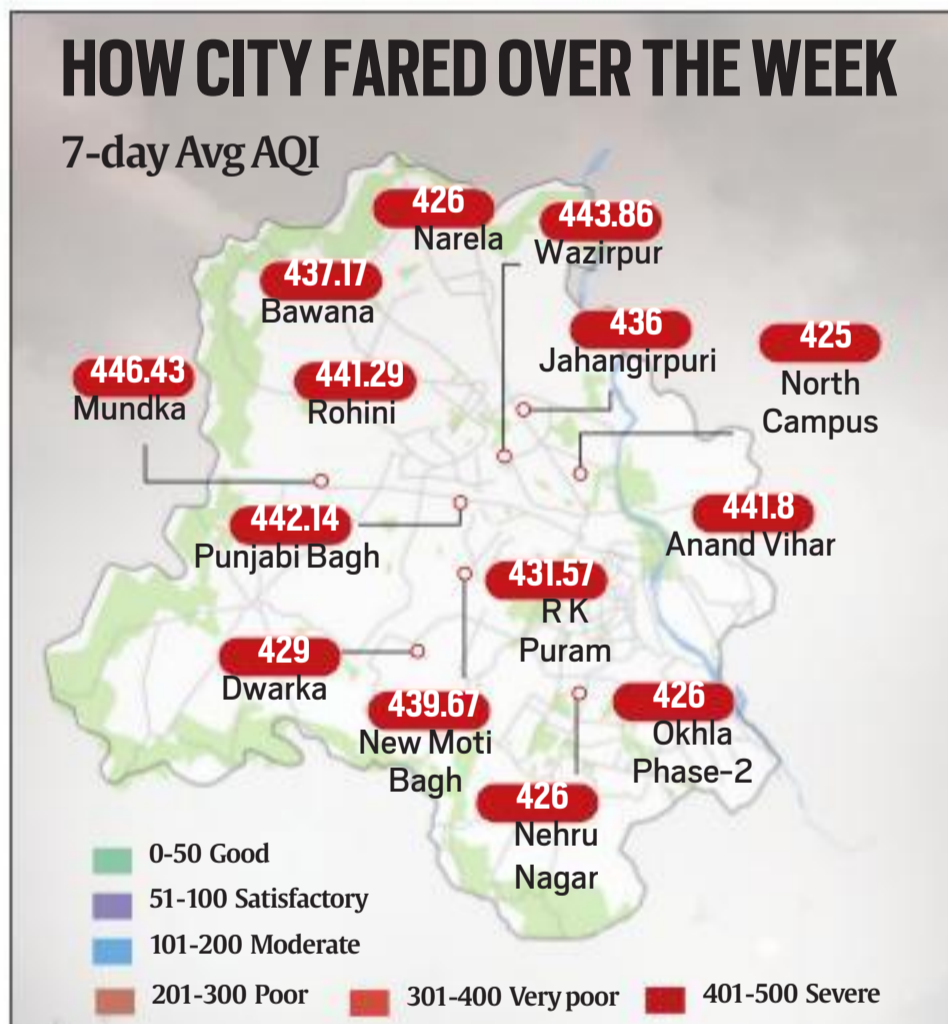
According to Dr Shukla, "The problems of people with long-standing respiratory problems and lung diseases increase every time there is a rise in the pollution levels... One or two doctors from each of the five departments will work in the OPD."

Since the rise in pollution levels, 30% of patients out of the hospital's daily footfall come in with pollution-related health conditions, according to Dr Shukla.

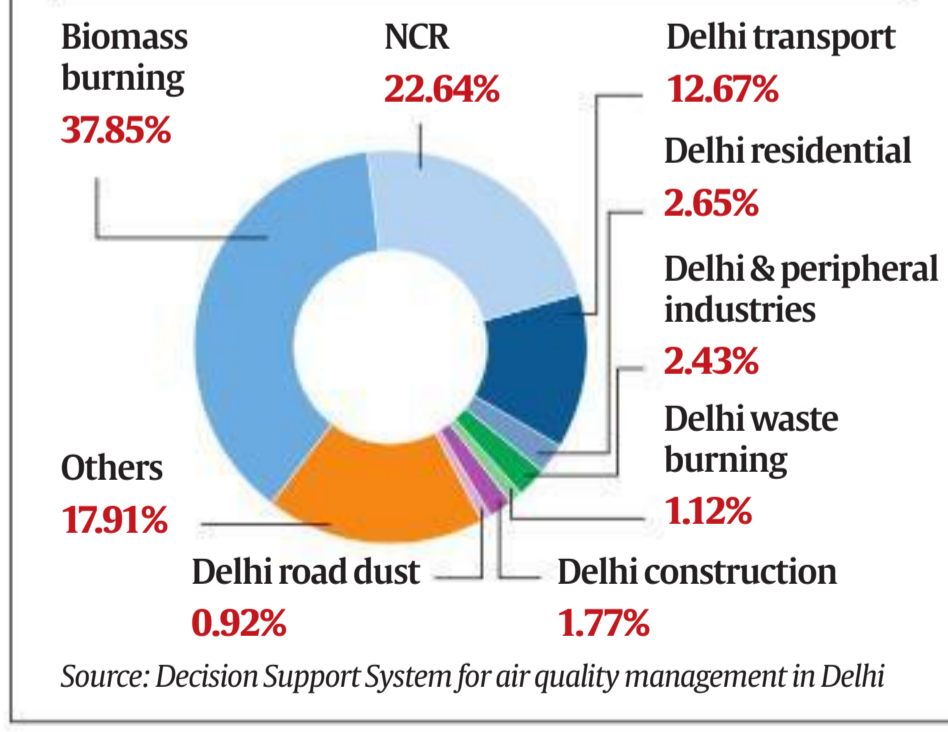
"Pollution causes several short-term and immediate health problems but there are several other effects that most people don't know about... Pollution may cause many types of cancers, which do not show severe immediate effects, but can be life-threatening in the long run," he said.

Sources said that because few people were aware of the pollution OPD, it only saw five cases on its first day of operation this Monday.

Dr Shukla stated, "The hospital will consider extending the duration of the OPD if the number of patients goes up next Monday."



WHAT CONTRIBUTED TO PM2.5 IN DELHI ON NOV 7?



After 5 days, Delhi's AQI drops below 400 — before rising again

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

DELHI'S AQI improved marginally to 395 on Tuesday owing to a slight pick-up in wind speed in the afternoon.

This is the first time in five days that the AQI has fallen below the 400-mark, which signifies the 'severe' mark. In the evening, however, as the wind speed dipped again, the AQI climbed to 409 at 11 pm.

According to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the air quality is likely to be in the severe range on Wednesday. It is

expected to improve to the very poor category on Thursday and Friday. In the subsequent six days, the forecast is between very poor and severe.

This, however, depends on the emissions during Diwali.

While the sale and purchase as well as use of firecrackers are banned in the city, violations are seen every year. According to officials, since neighbouring states have not banned firecrackers, people living in Delhi buy them from NCR towns. Several vendors in the city also sell crackers illegally.

"The day after Diwali is crucial because the impact of farm

fires is persistent, alongside an increase in Delhi's own emissions. Usually, the year's worst AQI is seen two-three days after Diwali," said a senior DPCC official.

The only silver lining may be in the form of wind. According to the forecast, wind speed is expected to increase to around 12 km per hour for some time during the day on Wednesday. There is also a slight possibility of very light rain/drizzle towards Thursday night.

IMD officials, however, said that a very small amount of rain may not have any positive impact.

'Breaking hierarchy': At this govt school, principal, staff and students sit on the floor for an interactive session

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA & PREM NATH PANDEY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

ONCE A week at this Delhi government school in Rouse Avenue, students, teachers, and the principal take a break from their routine, push back the benches in the classroom, and sit on the floor to talk — in a bid to break the hierarchy.

On Tuesday morning, Ajay Kumar Choubey (53), Principal of Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, who had removed the chair and table in his office, was seen sitting on the floor to interact with a bunch of teachers. Explaining

the concept behind the sessions, the principal said all teachers who teach one section, along with him and the students, sit in a circle and talk about each other's experiences and the issues they are facing at least once a week.

"We want to make our school the finest learning community and eradicate hierarchical barriers and the notion behind the 'Principal's chair in the school'. We want to provide free and open channels of communication for our teachers and students by ensuring an equal place for all," he said.

"We have been holding the interactive circle sessions for the past three months and



Principal of Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, had removed the chair and table in his office and was seen sitting on the floor to interact with a bunch of teachers. Prem Nath Pandey

have received a lot of positive feedback from parents, teachers and students. I always sit on the floor in my office. Whoever wants to interact with me either sits on the floor or if they wish to sit on the chair, there is always a sofa in my room. There is no compulsion for anyone to sit on the floor," said Choubey.

"We are also trying to create a multi- and a trans-class dialect between students who are in different classes by implementing the practice of interactive circles every week," he added.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Bishma Awasti, who teaches English to students of

classes XI and XII, said, "Sometimes, we cannot freely communicate when we are sitting on a table and a chair as it feels like talking to a ruler. Hence, to create more positivity and mindfulness, we have been following this initiative... This is our country's heritage and this is how it used to be in the gurukul system of schooling too."

Awasti added that they have received positive feedback. "Many have found this concept interesting and have also given us positive feedback for taking the initiative to break the rigidity and hierarchy in classrooms. This is a more democratic approach."

Minor kidnapped, beaten up by father's ex-employee

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

A 13-YEAR-OLD girl was allegedly kidnapped from outside her school gate by her father's former employee, who beat her up inside his car, police said Tuesday. The accused had initially planned to kidnap her and take her to a distant location, but later panicked and dropped her off at her school.

The accused, Vicky Singh (32), has been arrested. As per the police, they got a call about the kidnapping at 7.19 am. "The girl's father said he had dropped his daughter at school in the morning, but later received a call from school authorities saying she was absent. The father raised

suspicion about his former driver Vicky, who used to pick and drop the girl to her school and classes," said an officer.

Police found Vicky had allegedly been stalking the minor and was pressuring her to befriend him. He was kicked out after she told her parents about it. Upset over losing his job, Vicky plotted revenge, police said.

Pranav Tayal, DCP (New Delhi), said that Vicky had forcibly picked up the minor from her school gate and slapped her. His location was traced with the help of his phone details and he was arrested. The minor was medically examined and her statement was recorded. Vicky has been booked under sections of kidnapping, stalking, causing hurt and the POCSO Act.

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Impaled by iron rod at construction site, man saved after 15-hr surgery



The incident took place on the Saharanpur highway construction site in Northeast Delhi. Archive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

A 32-YEAR-OLD man survived after he fell into a 3-5-foot deep pit at a construction site and was impaled by a thick iron rod that went through his abdomen. Police said it was successfully removed after surgery.

The incident took place on the Saharanpur highway construction site in Northeast Delhi's Shastri Park, Monday evening.

The man, Sayeed Kamal Mustafa, was walking near the site when he accidentally slipped and fell into the pit where the highway pillars were being installed. "There were no pillars where he fell but he was impaled on an iron rod, which was placed in the pit as a foundation for the pillar," said an officer.

Construction workers made a PCR call at 7:21 pm, and police sent several teams to the spot. "We cut the rod and carefully removed the man without moving him much. A lot of movement could have led to more injuries or blood loss," said the officer.

DCP (Northeast) Joy N Tirkey said, "After cutting part of the rod, the man was rushed to Lok Nayak hospital, with the rod inside his body. It was then removed through surgery. He is stable and we are trying to identify his family members."

According to Dr Suresh

The man was walking near the site when he accidentally slipped and fell into the pit where the highway pillars were being installed

Kumar, Medical Director at Lok Nayak Hospital, the rod had pierced Kamal through his right buttock and came out of his abdomen. Doctors said none of his vital organs were damaged.

"He underwent a major 15-hour surgery and is now in stable and in the ICU. It was a 4-foot long rod that hurt his intestine and stomach. A team of doctors saved vital organs including the gall bladder, liver, blood vessels, and nerves... it was a challenging task," said Dr Kumar, adding that Kamal will now need 7-10 days to fully recover from the wounds.

Doctors said a CT scan was conducted to decide the process of the surgery and three kinds of surgeries were performed on Kamal—laparoscopic, open surgery and minimally invasive surgery.

Meanwhile, police have filed a case under IPC sections 336 (act endangering life) and 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life) but have not taken action against anyone yet.

Servicing aircraft, Air India engineer slips and falls from stairs, dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

A SERVICE engineer with Air India died after he slipped and fell from the stairs and sustained head injuries, officers said Tuesday.

DCP (IG) Devesh Mahla said they received a call from Manipal Hospital in Dwarka regarding a patient, Ram Prakash Singh (56), who had fallen from a height. Later, the patient was declared dead.

During enquiry, it was revealed that the deceased was

working as a service engineer with Air India Engineering Services Limited (AIESL) and was on the night shift on November 6-7. He was servicing an aircraft at Delhi Airport's Terminal 3 when he slipped from the stairs and fell to the ground.

"Air India staff sent him to Medanta Hospital and thereafter brought him to Manipal Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. The crime and FSL teams have inspected the spot," said the DCP.

When contacted, the Air India spokesperson was not available for comment.

Will send summons to Jindal prof: Hry women's body chair

AISWARYA RAJ
SONIPAT, NOVEMBER 7

A DAY after she flagged a lecture by a teacher of OP Jindal Global University in Sonapat, Haryana State Women's Commission chairperson Renu Bhatia visited the varsity and said a summons would be sent to the professor.

Bhatia said she spoke to the varsity's Vice-Chancellor regarding the video being circulated on social media of a lecture by Professor Sameena Dalwai where she can be seen displaying a dating app profile. "The V-C told me the lecture on gender took place on September 23 in the B.Com LLB third-year class."

After the video went viral, she (the professor) sent an apology, which, according to the V-C, was why no action was taken against her. She is not on campus now; we will wait for her to come back to send a summons. She will be asked to appear before us in Panchkula," she said.

did not comment.

A professor at the university, under condition of anonymity, said this was not the first time the university's professors have faced similar incidents. "Earlier, two such incidents wherein parts of lectures were filmed and posted on social media had drawn flak from various groups. The problem is students don't engage with the professor to state their disagreement and, instead... post parts of it on social media. You may agree or disagree with them, that's the point of a class discussion in a law school, it facilitates a democratic discussion on various matters," he said.

Bhatia added that she spoke to students at the university. "Some other matters have come to the surface and we will verify everything and speak to parents, if necessary," she said.

A university official said JGU received a request from Bhatia to visit the campus and they complied and cooperated with her.

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पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग
कार्यालय : वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, समस्तीपुर वन प्रमण्डल, समस्तीपुर
मोहनपुर, (रा. मं. विद्यालय, मोहनपुर एवं पावर ग्रीड स्टेशन के निकट), समस्तीपुर, पिन-848103, मोबाईल संख्या 9431048042
(Email : divfosamastipur-bih@gov.in & dfosamastipur@gmail.com)
आवश्यक सूचना
अवैध रूप से संचालित आरा मिल/विनियम मिल/प्लाईवुड इण्डस्ट्रीज को बन्द करने हेतु प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, बिहार अन्तर्गत आई०टी० सेल द्वारा अवैध रूप से संचालित आरा मिल/विनियम मिल/प्लाईवुड इण्डस्ट्रीज से संबंधित आंकड़ों की प्रविष्टि हेतु वेब एप्लिकेशन तैयार किया गया है। तदआलोक में समस्तीपुर जिलान्तर्गत अनुज्ञापित आरा मिल/विनियम मिल/प्लाईवुड इण्डस्ट्रीज संबंधित आंकड़ों की प्रविष्टि हेतु वेब एप्लिकेशन में आंकड़ों की प्रविष्टि किया जाना अपेक्षित है।
अतः निर्देश दिया जाता है कि समस्तीपुर जिलान्तर्गत अनुज्ञापित धारकों को आप अपने प्रतिशतन का उद्योग विभाग का पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र एवं विक्री कर विभाग पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र इस कार्यालय को दिनांक 02.12.2023 तक उपलब्ध कराया जाए ताकि वेब एप्लिकेशन में आंकड़ों की प्रविष्टि किया जा सके।
अनुज्ञापन पदाधिकारी-सह-वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी, समस्तीपुर वन प्रमंडल, समस्तीपुर
PR- 011426 (Envi. & Forest) 2023-24
नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

बिहार सरकार
कृषि विभाग
राज्य एवं राष्ट्रीय स्तर के सभी कृषि यंत्र निर्माता कम्पनियों के लिए आवश्यक सूचना
कृषि विभाग, बिहार सरकार द्वारा कृषि यांत्रिकरण (राज्य योजना) अन्तर्गत निम्नांकित कृषि यंत्रों को प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है।

1	Manual Agri. Imp. Kit (Improved Sickle, Serrated Sickle, Maize Sheller, Khurpi, Weeder and Kudal),	15	Potato Planter (Below 35 HP),
2	Metal Storage Bin (Dhatu Kothila) 5Q,	16	Solar Driers (Capacity-50kg & Above),
3	Chaff Cutter (Engine operated above 3-SHP)	17	Square Baler (working width min. 130 cm),
4	Aluminium ladder (3 meter & Above),	18	Briquette Making Machine (Minimum 100 Kg/hr Capacity),
5	Animal repellent Machine (Sound type) with Solar Panel,	19	Chisel plough (5-7 tyne),
6	Power Maize Thresher (Electric motor operated),	20	Hay rack (working width 1.0 M min.),
7	Hand tool okra for harvesting	21	Paddy Drum Seeder,
8	Thresher (Driven by Engine/Electric motor above 5 BHP),	22	Jute Seeder (Manual) 4 Row,
9	Raised Bed Planter (Driven by Tractor above 35 BHP),	23	Single Wheel Jute Weeder/Cycle Weeder (Manual),
10	Solar Power Artificial Intelligent Pest Control Traps,	24	Sugarcane Ratoon Management Equipment (Tractor operated),
11	Tea pluckers engine operated (One/Two Man Operated) working width min-500 & 1200 mm,	25	Bud chipper manual,
12	Tractor mounted sprayer (Capacity-1000L),	26	Sugarcane Cutter cum Planter(Above 35 HP),
13	Makhana Popping Machine,	27	Sugarcane seed treatment Device (Capacity-3000 Sugarcane butts/30 minutes),
14	Multi Row Seed drill (Manual) 3, 4, 5 Row,	28	Sugarcane seeding transp

अतः राज्य एवं राष्ट्रीय स्तर के सभी कृषि यंत्र निर्माता कम्पनियों को एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि अगर वे उपरोक्त यंत्रों का निर्माण करते हैं तो भारत सरकार के मान्यता प्राप्त परीक्षण संस्थानों (यथा- FMPTI's /SAU's/BIS) से यंत्रों की जाँच करवाकर उक्त यंत्रों के मेक/मॉडल को बिहार सरकार, कृषि विभाग के विभागीय वेबसाइट www.farmech.bih.nic.in (OFMAS Portal) पर पंजीकरण/सूचीबद्धता हेतु ऑनलाईन आवेदन करते हुए संबंधित चेक लिस्ट के अनुसार अभिलेखों की हार्ड कॉपी संयुक्त निदेशक (कृषि अभियंत्रण) बिहार, पटना के कृषि भवन, मोटापुर, पटना स्थित कार्यालय में समर्पित किया जाय।
सम्पर्क कार्यालय : संयुक्त निदेशक (कृषि अभियंत्रण) बिहार, पटना
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PR. No. 011451 (Agriculture) 2023-24

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(विज्ञापन संख्या- 01/2023)
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन के तहत राज्य स्वास्थ्य समिति, बिहार कार्यालय के लिए निम्नलिखित संविदागत पदों पर सेवानिवृत्त पदाधिकारियों का Walk-in-Interview के माध्यम से चयन/नियोजन किया जाता है:-

क्र. सं.	पद का नाम	न्यूनतम अनिवार्य अर्हता	रिक्त पदों की संख्या	मानदेय (प्रतिमाह ₹०० में)
1	Deputy Director- HR & Finance	- Graduate from any recognized university. - Retired Deputy Secretary and above from Govt. of Bihar. - Those who have retired on and before 30th June 2023 are also eligible to apply. - Preference will be given to those retired officers who have worked in General Administration/ Finance/ Health Department, Government of Bihar.	01 (Single)	(Last pay + DA) - (Pension + DA) per month.
2	Assistant Director- HRD	- Graduate from any recognized university. - Retired Section Officer/Under Secretary and above from Govt. of Bihar. - Those who have retired on and before 30th June 2023 are also eligible to apply. - Preference will be given to those retired officers who have worked in General Administration/ Finance/ Health Department, Government of Bihar.	01 (Single)	(Last pay + DA) - (Pension + DA) per month.

- उक्त सभी पदों हेतु TOR एवं विस्तृत निदेश राज्य स्वास्थ्य समिति, बिहार के वेबसाइट- www.shs.bihar.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है, जिसे डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।
- इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी राज्य स्वास्थ्य समिति, बिहार के अधिकृत वेबसाइट- www.shs.bihar.gov.in पर उपलब्ध विस्तृत निदेश में उल्लेखित शर्तों/विवरणों का पालन करके वाक-इन-इन्टरव्यू में भाग ले सकते हैं।
- उक्त सभी पदों हेतु TOR एवं सामान्य निर्देश में बर्णित शर्तों का ध्यान रखना आवेदक की ज़िम्मेदारी होगी।
- उक्त सभी पद हेतु आयु के लिए Cut off Date- 30.06.2023 होगा एवं अधिकतम आयु सीमा 62 वर्ष होगी।
- समाप्तकार हेतु तिथि एवं समय निम्नवत् निर्धारित है:-

तिथि एवं समय	28 नवम्बर, 2023 (मंगलवार), निर्वाह- पूर्वानु 10:00 बजे से 12:00 बजे तक समाप्तकार - अपराह्न 02:00 बजे से
स्थान	स्वास्थ्य भवन, चतुर्थ तल, राज्य स्वास्थ्य समिति, बिहार का कार्यालय

6. राज्य स्वास्थ्य समिति उक्त पदों या पदों की संख्या या विज्ञापन को रद्द करने या उक्त सभी पद या कोई एक पद को बिना किसी सूचना के समाप्त/परिवर्तित करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रखती है।
(राजेश कुमार)
उप सचिव-सह-प्रभारी, मानव संसाधन
PR. No. 011452 (Ni.Ni.) 2023-24
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F5326, F5333, F5349, F5356, F5375, F5385, F5388, F5394, F5399, F5400, F5404, F5407, F5409, F5417, F5418, F5422, F5428, F5440, F5445, F5453, F5463, F5473, F5477, F5480, F5482, F5483, F5484, F5485, F5497, F5498, F5505, F5507, F5513, F5514, F5516, F5535, F5536, F5537, F5541, F5562, F5558, F5560, F5566, F5572, F5574, F5582, F5588, F5599, F5603, F5607, F5710, F5714, F5726, F5732, F5737, F5778, F5781, F5785, F5820, F5827, F5828, F5844, F5847, F5848, F5849, F5856, F5863, F5870, F5919, F5920, F5921, F5963, F5973, F5990, F6023, F6064, F684, F807, **PATNA CITY-BIHAR:** F1006, F1099, F1124, F1487, F1532, F1576, F1824, F1875, F1958, F1969, F1973, F1990, F2009, F2017, F2282, F2794, F2795, F2911, F2913, F2914, F2936, F2957, F2969, F2979, F2989, F2999, F3006, F3126, F3173, F3192, F320, F3210, F3219, F3230, F3233, F3239, F3263, F3269, F3304, F3315, F3330, F3350, F3395, F3429, F3438, F3450, F3468, F3492, F35, F3605, F3640, F3656, F3665, F3684, F3690, F3607, F3614, F3616, F3623, F3637, F3646, F3651, F3668, F3697, F3705, F3725, F3754, F3760, F3761, F3775, F3776, F3787, F3796, F3811, F3822, F3832, F3839, F3840, F3841, F3843, F3848, F3868, F3877, F3879, F3891, F3892, F3902, F3907, F3909, F3912, F3916, F3919, F3921, F3925, F3929, F3932, F3939, F3949, F3950, F3962, F3965, F3969, F3970, F3974, F3975, F3982, F3986, F3987, F3999, F4012, F4025, F4039, F4042, F4047, F4053, F4068, F4080, F4087, F4092, F4097, F4098, F4099, F4104, F4106, F4110, F4118, F4129, F4133, F4140, F4144, F4148, F4149, F4154, F4155, F4156, F4170, F4171, F4174, F4177, F4178, F4183, F4186, F4313, F4323, F4329, F4331, F4332, F4353, F4355, F4362, F4366, F4401, F4409, F4455, F4476, F4477, F4480, F4489, F4501, F4582, F4592, F4612, F4630, F4647, F4667, F4736, F4759, F931, F932, F933, F934, F935, F936, F937, F938, F939, F940, F941, F942, F943, F944, F945, F946, F947, F948, F949, F950, F951, F952, F953, F954, F955, F956, F957, F958, F959, F960, F961, F962, F963, F964, F965, F966, F967, F968, F969, F970, F971, F972, F973, F974, F975, F976, F977, F978, F979, F980, F981, F982, F983, F984, F985, F986, F987, F988, F989, F990, F991, F992, F993, F994, F995, F996, F997, F998, F999, F1000, F1001, F1002, F1003, F1004, F1005, F1006, F1007, F1008, F1009, F1010, F1011, F1012, F1013, F1014, F1015, F1016, F1017, F1018, F1019, F1020, F1021, F1022, F1023, F1024, F1025, F1026, F1027, F1028, F1029, F1030, F1031, F1032, F1033, F1034, F1035, F1036, F1037, F1038, F1039, F1040, F1041, F1042, F1043, F1044, F1045, F1046, F1047, F1048, F1049, F1050, F1051, F1052, F1053, F1054, F1055, F1056, F1057, F1058, F1059, F1060, F1061, F1062, F1063, F1064, F1065, F1066, F1067, F1068, F1069, F1070, F1071, F1072, F1073, F1074, F1075, F1076, F1077, F1078, F1079, F1080, F1081, F1082, F1083, F1084, F1085, F1086, F1087, F1088, F1089, F1090, F1091, F1092, F1093, F1094, F1095, F1096, F1097, F1098, F1099, F1100, F1101, F1102, F1103, F1104, F1105, F1106, F1107, F1108, F1109, F1110, F1111, F1112, F1113, F1114, F1115, F1116, F1117, F1118, F1119, F1120, F1121, F1122, F1123, F1124, F1125, F1126, F1127, F1128, F1129, F1130, F1131, F1132, F1133, F1134, F1135, F1136, F1137, F1138, F1139, F1140, F1141, F1142, F1143, F1144, F1145, F1146, F1147, F1148, F1149, F1150, F1151, F1152, F1153, F1154, F1155, F1156, F1157, F1158, F1159, F1160, F1161, F1162, F1163, F1164, F1165, F1166, F1167, F1168, F1169, F1170, F1171, F1172, F1173, F1174, F1175, F1176, F1177, F1178, F1179, F1180, F1181, F1182, F1183, F1184, F1185, F1186, F1187, F1188, F1189, F1190, F1191, F1192, F1193, F1194, F1195, F1196, F1197, F1198, F1199, F1200, F1201, F1202, F1203, F1204, F1205, F1206, F1207, F1208, F1209, F1210, F1211, F1212, F1213, F1214, F1215, F1216, F1217, F1218, F1219, F1220, F1221, F1222, F1223, F1224, F1225, F1226, F1227, F1228, F1229, F1230, F1231, F1232, F1233, F1234, F1235, F1236, F1237, F1238, F1239, F1240, F1241, F1242, F1243, F1244, F1245, F1246, F1247, F1248, F1249, F1250, F1251, F1252, F1253, F1254, F1255, F1256, F1257, F1258, F1259, F1260, F1261, F1262, F1263, F1264, F1265, F1266, F1267, F1268, F1269, F1270, F1271, F1272, F1273, F1274, F1275, F1276, F1277, F1278, F1279, F1280, F1281, F1282, F1283, F1284, F1285, F1286, F1287, F1288, F1289, F1290, F1291, F1292, F1293, F1294, F1295, F1296, F1297, F1298, F1299, F1300, F1301, F1302, F1303, F1304, F1305, F1306, F1307, F1308, F1309, F1310, F1311, F1312, F1313, F1314, F1315, F1316, F1317, F1318, F1319, F1320, F1321, F1322, F1323, F1324, F1325, F1326, F1327, F1328, F1329, F1330, F1331, F1332, F1333, F1334, F1335, F1336, F1337, F1338, F1339, F1340, F1341, F1342, F1343, F1344, F1345, F1346, F1347, F1348, F1349, F1350, F1351, F1352, F1353, F1354, F1355, F1356, F1357, F1358, F1359, F1360, F1361, F1362, F1363, F1364, F1365, F1366, F1367, F1368, F1369, F1370, F1371, F1372, F1373, F1374, F1375, F1376, F1377, F1378, F1379, F1380, F1381, F1382, F1383, F1384, F1385, F1386, F1387, F1388, F1389, F1390, F1391, F1392, F1393, F1394, F1395, F1396, F1397, F1398, F1399, F1400, F1401, F1402, F1403, F1404, F1405, F1406, F1407, F1408, F1409, F1410, F1411, F1412, F1413, F1414, F1415, F1416, F1417, F1418, F1419, F1420, F1421, F1422, F1423, F1424, F1425, F1426, F1427, F1428, F1429, F1430, F1431, F1432, F1433, F1434, F1435, F1436, F1437, F1438, F1439, F1440, F1441, F1442, F1443, F1444, F1445, F1446, F1447, F1448, F1449, F1450, F1451, F1452, F1453, F1454, F1455, F1456, F1457, F1458, F1459, F1460, F1461, F1462, F1463, F1464, F1465, F1466, F1467, F1468, F1469, F1470, F1471, F1472, F1473, F1474, F1475, F1476, F1477, F1478, F1479, F1480, F1481, F1482, F1483, F1484, F1485, F1486, F1487, F1488

UPSIDA कार्यालय उद्यमसहायक (सिरो), निर्माण आण-सूचीय
उपरोक्त राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
 कार्यालय, सेक्टर ६-३, ट्रांस दिल्ली सिग्नेचर सिटी, गांधीवादा, E-Mail-cds@upsida.co.in

सुविधाएँ
 एकाधिकार सुरक्षित किया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित औद्योगिक क्षेत्र के विकास कार्य हेतु
 ई-निविदाये आमंत्रित की गयी है, जिसका विवरण निम्नवत् है :-

S.No.	Name of Work	Tender ID.	Closing Date
1.	Annual Maintenance of Administrative Building in Sector B-3 of I.A. Trans Delhi Signature City, Ghazabad	2023_SIDC_852513_1	07.11.2023 upto 6:00 PM
2.	Painting & Maintenance of Gate No-1, 2 & 3 of I.A. Trans Delhi Signature City, Ghazabad.	2023_SIDC_852478_1	07.11.2023 upto 6:00 PM

उपरोक्त निविदाये दिनांक 08.11.2023 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे तक की जानी थी परन्तु अपरिहार्य कारणों से अब उक्त आमंत्रित निविदा दिनांक 15.11.2023 को सायं 6:00 बजे तक निविदा प्रवेश अवसर लिए जाने हेतु विस्तारित किया जाता है, जिसे दिनांक 16.11.2023 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे तक की जानी जायेगी। शेष नियम व शर्तें पत्रावली में हैं।

उप महाप्रबंधक (सिरो), उपरोक्त औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, सेक्टर-३, गांधीवादा।

OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITED
 Neelam & Heera asset, Mumbai
 3rd Floor, Vasudhara Bhawan, Bandra (E)
 Mumbai - 400051. Phone: 022-2226562316;
 Email: singh_vikash@ongc.co.in

NOTICE FOR INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

No.: ONGC/ MUM/ N&H/ ST/ EOI/ 2023
 General Manager (Production), ONGC, 3rd Floor, Vasudhara Bhawan, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051 invites Expression of Interest as per the details given below:

Brief Description	Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for integrated asset digital modelling of Neelam & Heera asset
Last Date of Submission	27.11.2023

Please login to our website <https://tenders.ongc.co.in> for details of Expression of Interest and downloading of brief scope of work.

Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited
 CIN U40102GJ2003SGC042909
 Regd. & Corp. Office : 'Urja Sadan',
 N. V. Road, Kapodara Char Rasta, Surat 395 006 GUJARAT
 Toll Free No.: 19123 (or 1800 233 3003)

Tender Notice

Details are available on www.dgvcl.com (for view and download tender documents) and www.tender.nprocure.com (for view, download and online tender submission).

Sr. No.	Tender No.
1	DGVCL/SP/ 2406 / 1-Ph. Static Meter
2	DGVCL/SP/ 2407 / 3-Ph. W.C. Static Meter
3	DGVCL/SP/ 2408 / CT Operated Meter-Cat-C1
4	DGVCL/SP/ 2410 / HT Static Trivector Meter
5	DGVCL/SP/2426 / 11KV Polymeric (Composite) Pin Insulator
6	DGVCL/SP/ 2411 / G I Plain Wire & G I Stay Wire

Note: Bidders may visit our website/s for regular updates till opening of the tender. **CE (P), DGVCL, Surat.**

Government of Maharashtra
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
 World Bank Project Division,
 Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar
e-TENDER NOTICE No. 06/2023-2024

Online Tender (e-Tender) in Form B-2 for the 01 work is invited by the Executive Engineer, World Bank Project Division, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Tele. No. 0240-2331342 through online procedure. The blank tender forms shall be issued by Executive Engineer, World Bank Project Division, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar through e-Tender procedure. Right to reject any one or all tenders are reserved details of tender is available on e-Tender site given below-
 1) <https://mahapwd.gov.in>
 2) <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

If any change made in this e-Tender is informed on above portal. (Sd/-) **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**
 World Bank Project Division,
 Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar
 (dgjpr/2023-2024/4703)

CROSSWORD 5203

ACROSS
 1 He requires staff for the spring (4-7)
 9 Vindication of French miscreant (7)
 10 Cool courage is never shattered (5)
 11 She's not improved by the golden touch (4)
 12 In use can turn into a problem (8)
 14 A ship wreck holds nothing for her (6)
 16 It checks the growth of population (6)
 18 Sense there's agreement among rowing men (8)
 19 Call used in boxing (4)
 22 Oft repeated ceremony on the third of October (5)
 23 Royal symbols from Algeria (7)
 24 Order for weapons now (7,4)

DOWN
 2 Refuse organic food? (5)
 3 Bird from another nest (4)
 4 Place to meet after a drive (6)
 5 They call out at court (8)
 6 Jobs for the boys (7)
 7 Young people arranged to see Scotland (11)
 8 It's selected by a backer (7,4)
 13 They share an item in a geometry set (8)
 15 PM has about a thousand in support (7)
 17 Greek ferry operator (6)
 20 Mails sorted for the Muslim world (5)
 21 Site of beautiful marble mausoleum in Panama graveyard (4)

Solutions Crossword 5202 Across: 1 Docked, 4 Hammered, 9 Acumen, 10 Mistrial, 12 Rule, 13 Divot, 14 Menu, 17 Buster Keaton, 20 Beat the count, 23 Ormen, 24 Touch, 25 Opal, 28 Keepsake, 29 Parrot, 30 Payments, 31 Presto Down: 1 Diatribe, 2 Clueless, 3 Eyes, 5 A bit of a shock, 6 Mite, 7 Railed, 8 Delius, 11 Ticket pocket, 15 Bevel, 16 Pouch, 18 Supports, 19 Stiletto, 21 Lock-up, 22 HERSHEY, 26 Isle, 27 Fair

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 clue.
 When you come to a **▲**, take a detour. - Mary Kay Ash (4,5)

RZAOR **ERUVCD**

CKNLO **AEMNBK**

SOLUTION: RAZOR, CLONK, CURVED, EMBARK
 Answer: When you come to a road block, take a detour. - Mary Kay Ash

6 GOVT & POLITICS

BJD leader Maheswar Mohanty dies at 67

Bhubaneswar: The BJD's Puri strongman and former speaker of the Odisha Assembly Maheswar Mohanty passed away while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar early Tuesday. He was 67. Mohanty was admitted to the hospital after he suddenly fell ill on November 1. According to a bulletin issued by the private hospital on November 2, Mohanty was initially admitted to the Neurology department and later shifted to the ICU. His condition remained critical. ENS

CASH-FOR-QUERY ALLEGATIONS: MEETING TOMORROW

Ethics panel meet deferred, Moitra and Dubey engage in war of words

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

TMC MP Mahua Moitra on Tuesday said that the meeting of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee was postponed to clash with a Congress member filing his nomination from Telangana so as to deplete Opposition numbers, prompting a rebuke from BJP MP Nishikant Dubey.

The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee, chaired by BJP MP Vinod Kumar Sonkar, was scheduled to meet on Tuesday to consider and adopt its draft report on the cash-for-query allegations against Moitra. The meeting is now on November 9. Moitra said no draft report of the committee was circulated to the members. She added that to adopt by majority. Chartered flight to fly in MP state president. How scared Adani & Modi are," Moitra said in a post on X.

Congress Lok Sabha member Uttam Kumar Reddy, a member of the committee, is contesting the upcoming Telangana Assembly elections. "What is there to fear about who will attend the Ethics Committee? Or whether the paper was circulated? What is in the report? Does this reflect fear or should we say that guilt conscience pricks the mind? One should be patient..." Dubey said on X. Opposition members are expected to submit dissent notes to the committee.

The 15-member committee has seven members from the BJP, three from the Congress, and one each from BSP, Shiv Sena, YSRCP, CPI(M) and JDU.



TMC leader Mahua Moitra

BJP leaders were reaching out to allies to ensure their attendance to adopt the report by majority. Dubey, whose complaint against Moitra to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla led to the Ethics Committee proceedings, took a dig at the TMC MP contending it was her guilty conscience that led her to worry about the parliamentary panel proceedings.

"No draft report circulated as is the norm but will be 'adopted' on Nov 9. Meeting postponed to clash with INC MP's nomination date so he can't come. BJP calling allies to ensure attendance

Ex-J&K minister arrested by ED in money laundering case

Directorate in a case of money laundering here, officials of the probe agency said.

Though there has been no official word about it, Singh's wife and ex-MLA Kanta Andotra along with her supporters assembled outside the ED's office here and insisted on meeting her husband. "We had planned to go to Kathua after dinner, but they did not allow him to take meals," she said.

The move comes after his application for anticipatory bail was rejected by Special Judge, Anti-Corruption (CBI cases) Bala Jyoti earlier in the day.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE RIHTAK CO OF HILK PRODUCERS UNDO LTD	2023_HRC_322531_1	DATE EXTENDED 14.11.2023 OPENING ON 15.11.2023	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	99657820 vitarohak@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	44/2023-24/HWP	PROVIDING OF RAIN WATER HARVESTING SYSTEM AT 33 KV S/STN. RAMBA. CLOSING DATE 15.11.2023 OPENING DATE 16.11.2023	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	9356063246 sencivilubnvgan@hry.nic.in
2	UHBVN	43/2023-24/HWP	RAISING OF HEIGHT OF ODC&T & OTHER CIVIL WORKS AT 33 KV S/STN. SEC-4, KURUKSHETRA. CLOSING DATE 15.11.2023 OPENING DATE 16.11.2023	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	9356063246 sencivilubnvgan@hry.nic.in
3	UHBVN	42/2023-24/HWP	RAISING OF HEIGHT OF ODC&T & OTHER CIVIL WORKS AT 33 KV S/STN. SEC-4, KURUKSHETRA. CLOSING DATE 15.11.2023 OPENING DATE 16.11.2023	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	9356063246 sencivilubnvgan@hry.nic.in
4	UHBVN	41/2023-24/HWP	LAYING OF PAVEMENT BLOCK BELOW FIRST H-POLE OF 11 KV FEEDERS AT 33 KV S/STN. GARHI BERBAL. CLOSING DATE 15.11.2023 OPENING DATE 16.11.2023	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	9356063246 sencivilubnvgan@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE? WE DIE.

THEY SAY THERE'S A LIGHT. AND THAT YOU GO TOWARD THE LIGHT. THEN WHAT?...

...DOES THE LIGHT TURN GREEN OR RED OR YELLOW? IT TURNS OFF.

WHAT PART OF THIS IS REASSURING?? IN HEAVEN, THEY HAVE NO FEAR. THAT'S WHY WE WALLOW IN IT HERE.

CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson

You're dead at recess, Twinky.

I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, MOE. YOU MUST HAVE SOME SERIOUS PERSONAL PROBLEMS IF THIS IS HOW YOU RELATE TO PEOPLE.

POW

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE HE'S JUST A WORLD-CLASS POOP HEAD.

MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT A GOLDFISH FOR THEIR SPIRIT ANIMAL? YOU JUST SWIM AROUND IN A TINY BOWL ALL DAY

HEY MINIMALISM IS VERY POPULAR RIGHT NOW! HAVEN'T YOU SEEN THAT SHOW "TINY HOUSES"?

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
 It's a romantic day, one when you'll be pursuing your highest ideals. The risky planetary situation is compounded by lunar influences which create confusion. One option you may wish to consider today is to turn down lively opportunities and go for peace and quiet.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
 Nobody understands better than you that sometimes, like now, it is prudent to walk away from upsetting situations. You should also observe the old adage that it is best to be magnanimous in victory. Turn your attention to domestic repairs.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
 Listen to experienced colleagues. Unless you follow cautious advice, you might find that plans or projects already in the pipeline may have to be abandoned because of others' lack of support and assistance. Still, it could be good for you to cut your reliance on partners.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
 Quite aside from the difficulties posed by planets influencing both domestic and professional sectors of your chart, others, influencing travel and adventure, are utterly favourable. Surprisingly, emotional complications may put you on the right track.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
 The correct way for you to go at the moment is towards ethical actions and high standards. Be graceful if others offend you and be charitable if you see that they are in need of your help. You may be annoyed and irritated with them, but you still need to do your best.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
 As Venus moves from one set of relationships to another, a number of points may be cleared up. For a start, older friends are the best, especially where money is concerned. Team up with people who are more experienced than you. And don't be too proud to ask for help.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
 However much you would like to be the centre of attention, if you are a typical Cancerian you will find it very difficult to be truly selfish this week. Something keeps pulling you back to the need to put others' interests first. Just don't allow your goodwill to be taken for granted.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
 No matter how hard you try to control your financial affairs, you always seem to end up somehow failing to maximise your profits. This is very much an all-or-nothing situation. Hopefully you've learnt well from recent lessons.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
 Mercury's position is still favourable, so what you are now told or discover could place an old situation in a new light. If at all possible, please do put extra energy into all professional aspirations. The time is coming for a change of job, or at least extra responsibilities.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
 I know that you may find it hard to believe, but something truly worthwhile will emerge from all the struggles you are going through. You can only go up if you've been down, first. Great things await! Plus, of course, you will soon be facing a profitable monetary choice.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
 Let others make the running. There is no need for you to dive in first if you feel that the waters of life are looking rather too risky. A Fish you may be, but you must still watch out for sharks. Above all, you now have to decide whether to face a deep emotional issue, or let sleeping dogs lie.

SUDOKU 5375

Difficulty Level 5s
 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.

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

Difficulty Level
 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
 5s = Very Hard;
 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5374

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

7 DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

ELECTION IN NUMBERS

3

The smallest victory margin in 2018 Mizoram polls, when MNF's Lalchhandama Ralte beat Congress's R.L. Piammawia in Tuivawl



BJP'S BACKWARD CLASS OUTREACH

'Telangana ready for CM from backward class': Modi

On the stage at the BC Atma Gourava Sabha was also Pawan Kalyan; their bonhomie signalled BJP, JSP may go for a seat-sharing deal for the polls

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 7

STEPPING UP the BJP's outreach to the BCs (Backward Classes) in Telangana ahead of the November 30 Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his party's promise about appointing a chief minister from the community should the BJP come to power in the state. He was speaking at the BC Atma Gourava Sabha (backward classes self-respect meeting) in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

"I can sense that Telangana is ready for a BC CM as the BJP will come to power in the state. The winds of change have started blowing," Modi said. His statement came 10 days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah first made such a declaration in the state.

Thousands of people attended Tuesday's mega public meeting at the LB stadium in the city. Actor-turned-politician K Pawan Kalyan, who heads the Jana Sena Party (JSP), an NDA ally, was also present on the stage. The bonhomie displayed by Modi and Kalyan is a possible signal that the JSP may be accommodated in a seat-sharing arrangement for the polls. The BJP has so far announced its candidates for 100 out of 119 Assembly seats.

All of the state's major BC faces of the party — Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Nizamabad MP Arvind Dharmapuri, BC Morcha president Dr K Laxman and MLA Etefa Rajender — were said to have been at the forefront of organising this meeting.

Modi said an "aadhi (wave)" in Telangana would blow in favour of the BJP after the event.

"In 2013, I was invited to address a public meeting at this place. The BJP had for the first time issued tickets and it was houseful. You laid the foundation



PM Narendra Modi with Union Minister and Telangana state BJP president G Kishan Reddy at the party's 'BC Atma Gourava Sabha' in Hyderabad on Tuesday. PTI

to bring BJP to power at the Centre and make me PM. I am very confident that just as you made me PM, you will also make a BJP BC CM," he said.

Referring to President Droupadi Murmu, PM Modi said the BJP was the only party which could make a member of the tribal community the Head of the State. The PM also said the BJP appointed the first Dalit Speaker of the Lok Sabha, GMC Bhalayogi, in 1998.

Hitting out at the K Chandrashekar Rao-led Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) government, which he termed was the "C team of the Congress", he said, "BRS leaders are linked to the Delhi liquor scam case. In all government recruitment exams, corruption and irregularities have become common. The TSPSC (Telangana State Public Service Commission) exams paper leaks

happened due to the utter failure of the BRS government."

Appealing to the people to bring in a "double-engine" government, the PM said the BRS had "looted people". He added that his government would "give free ration to all eligible beneficiaries".

The PM's speech evoked an enthusiastic response from the gathered crowd.

There are 134 BC castes in Telangana, and amidst the growing demand for a caste-based survey in the state, the rally assumes significance.

Also, notably, several BC community leaders met PM Modi backstage before he addressed the meeting. Among them was Telangana BC Welfare Association president Jajula Srinivas Goud. He says the party has created a "favourable impression" by giving 40 tickets to

BCs, claiming there would be "a strong pro-BJP wave" after the meeting.

But a question remains on whether the BJP would be able to bring together the BC communities, which have had varied voting patterns.

"The BCs have never voted en masse for any party. This is the reason they are never in a position to acquire political power to demand a BC CM or have enough representation in the legislature to push for a common agenda," said R Krishnaiah, president of the National BC Welfare Association.

He added that if the "BJP is committed to giving the CM's post to a BC community leader, then they should also commit to increasing quota according to BC population, undertake a comprehensive BC caste survey, and announce BC welfare budgets".

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INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS



KEY NUMBERS

BJP DOMINANCE IN MP SINCE 2003, CONG SLOWLY CHIPPING AWAY

FOUR REASONS WHY THREE TRIBAL GROUPS FIGURED IN PM'S MP SPEECH

I HEREBY DECLARE

ASHOK GEHLOT, 72

Congress's Rajasthan CM, contesting from Sardarpura

MOVABLE ASSETS

₹2.81 CRORE (including of spouse)

IMMOVABLE ASSETS

₹8.87 CRORE including agricultural, residential and commercial properties

LIABILITIES: None

CRIMINAL CASES:

Four pending cases for offences under IPC. Two cases pending in court

SOURCE OF INCOME:

CM salary, interest, rent

EDUCATION:

LL.B. from Jodhpur University

VASUNDHARARAJE, 70

Former Rajasthan CM, contesting for the BJP from Jhalrapatan

MOVABLE ASSETS

₹5 CRORE (Rs 4.1 crore in 2018)

IMMOVABLE ASSETS

₹50 LAKH including agricultural, residential and commercial properties

LIABILITIES: None

CRIMINAL CASES:

None

SOURCE OF INCOME:

MLA salary, interest and investments

EDUCATION:

BA Honors, Sophia College, Mumbai Univ

ONE PHASE TO GO

Ex-BJP CM Raman Singh voted on Tuesday in Chhattisgarh. PTI

'Let BJP leadership say why no ticket to Yunus Khan'

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 7

IN 2018, incumbent Cabinet minister Yunus Khan was the lone Muslim candidate fielded by the BJP in Rajasthan. A two-time BJP MLA, he was moved, though, out of his traditional Didwana turf and fielded in Tonk against sitting Congress state president and runner for the chief minister post, Sachin Pilot. Expectedly, Khan lost.

In the coming elections, for the first time in 25 years, the BJP has not given Khan, a former confidant of Vasundhara Rajee, a ticket. On November 4, Khan announced that he will contest as an Independent. Excerpts from an interview:



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH YUNUS KHAN
TWO-TIME BJP MLA FROM DIDWANA, RAJASTHAN

What was the response at your November 4 rally?

I have been a dedicated (BJP) party worker and always did what the party asked me to. But the worker isn't bound to a party. When I came to meet the people (in Didwana), the cavalcade was dozens of kilometres long and there was a crowd of 40,000-50,000 people. They said it was fine that the party has given you respect, but you won because of our votes and this *kshetra* (region) has been insulted... Hence you have to contest elections...

Because of the decision they (the BJP) took, the locals are angry. It is my helplessness that I have to follow their will.

Why do you think you were denied a ticket by the BJP?

The people who have taken this decision can give a better answer. Did I come across as a weak candidate in the surveys? Did the people not want me to contest? The results will make things clear.

I was in the BJP for 25 years. My hometown is Laxmangarh in Sikar, but the party asked me to go to Ladnun... Didwana. I established myself in Didwana, but then they sent me to Tonk. Still, I had no objection.

Are you saddened that the

party has treated a long-time leader like you thus?

Behad. I am immensely sad and upset. I'm not upset because I have been denied a ticket, but because in the last five years, the party leadership did not call me once and ask for the reasons behind the Tonk election loss.

But I would like to say through you that I fully respect and honour the party and thank the top leadership and the party for fielding me five times and making me a minister. I am not *ehsaan faramosh* (ungrateful)...

Of my 25 years in politics, I have been in the Assembly for 10... I spent these 25 years spotless and far from any controversy or any indulgence in *bayana baazi* (unnecessary statements)... So the party's top leadership should tell why they haven't given a ticket to Yunus Khan.

Last time you were the lone Muslim candidate from the BJP. And this time the party has not fielded any.

... Only the party can tell better about its policy, what's on their mind... They must explain why they didn't give a ticket or why they haven't given tickets to people of a particular religion. I don't have an answer to this.

CONGRESS-BRS FIGHT IN TELANGANA'S TRIBAL BELT

In Mulugu, daughter of slain Maoist takes on former Naxal

RAHUL V PISHARODY
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 7

TELANGANA'S MULUGU Assembly seat will see a direct contest between former Naxalite-turned-politician and the daughter of a slain Maoist leader.

Dansari Anasuya, known as Seethakka, 52, has been fielded by the Congress again from the Mulugu seat that she won last time. What has added buzz to the fight is the ruling Bharat Rashtira Samithi's (BRS) decision to go in for 29-year-old first-timer Bade Nagajyothi against her.

Nagajyothi, chairperson of the Mulugu Zilla Praja Parishad, is the daughter of late Maoist leader Bade Nageshwara Rao and ex-

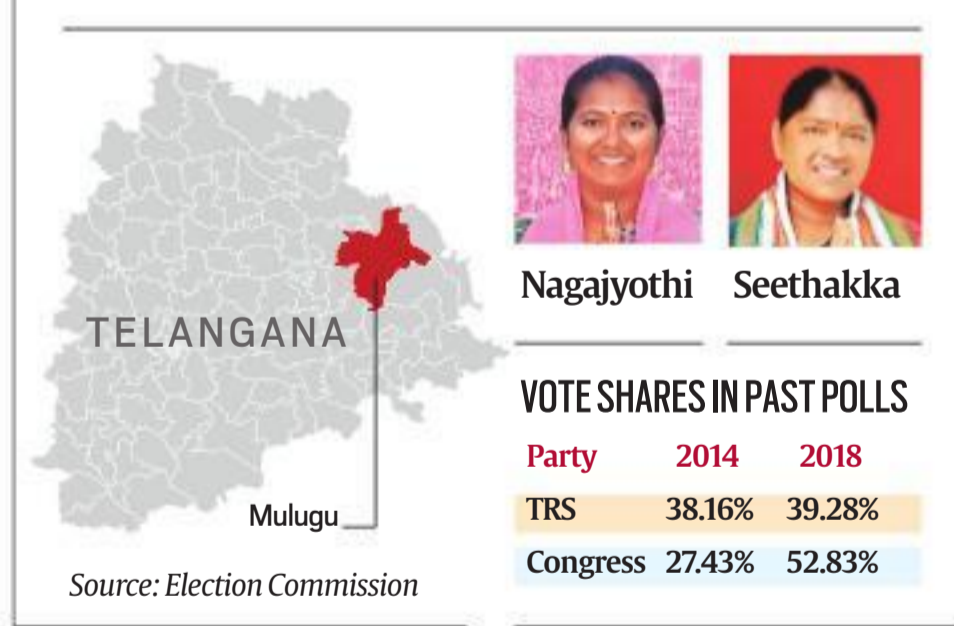
Maoist Rajeshwari.

The ST-reserved seat is the largest Assembly segment in the state and is dominated by tribals.

In the 2018 Telangana polls, Seethakka had won by 22,671 votes against Telangana Rashtira Samithi's (TRS, as BRS was known then) Azmeera Chandulal.

Seethakka joined the Janashakti Naxal group at just 14. Eleven years later, in 1997, she quit and became a lawyer and started her political journey in the 2004 Assembly polls as a Telugu Desam Party (TDP) candidate. She was first elected from Mulugu in 2009. In 2014, the first elections after the formation of Telangana, she lost to the TRS candidate. Three years later, she joined the Congress and won the seat in the 2018 polls.

MULUGU IN NUMBERS



Seethakka says she is confident of winning again, claiming a Congress wave in the state. "It has

been 10 years (of BRS rule), and people want the Congress. But the BRS is doing everything possible,

from distribution of money, liquor and freebies," she says. She cites her work in the seat, especially during the pandemic. She says she travelled to remote hamlets then to distribute food and groceries.

Seethakka says unemployment is among Mulugu's biggest issues. "I want to solve this with not only government jobs, but also in the private sector," she says.

On the challenge from her BRS opponent, she says, "It is not just about the candidate. The entire government is targeting me as I have been questioning them in the Assembly."

However, she admits she was surprised at the BRS's choice of Nagajyothi. Apart from their former Naxal links, both hail from the Adivasi Koya tribal community.

Nagajyothi lists the BRS's advantages as "transformation" of the district over the last decade. "Mulugu district was formed (in February 2019) even though the ruling party lost here last time. New mandals were carved out. The foundation for a medical college and hospital is already laid. Tribals have been given rights over *podu* lands. All welfare schemes are implemented without corruption. There is a positive sentiment towards the BRS," Nagajyothi says.

She is banking on the goodwill for her late father, who was killed in an encounter in 1999. "My father did so much for the people here in the 1990s. He could have become an MLA. I have taken the path of electoral politics to serve the people," she says.

KEY FACES

'Jai, Veeru' of Cong: A Kamal Nath-Digvijaya show that goes on

Cong leaders insist there are no villains in the pretty picture

MANOJ CG & ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 7

THEY ARE the power couple of the Madhya Pradesh Congress, earning them the Sholay moniker of "Jai, Veeru". As campaigning in the state enters the final week before the November 17 voting, the BJP, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has put the two in the cross-hairs.

However, the two past masters in politics are unlikely to be ruffled. Through thick and thin lasting decades, at the Centre or in the state, veteran Congress leaders Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh, both 76, have settled into complementary roles of flamboy-

ant leader and realpolitik practitioner, finding enough reasons to stay friends in the cut and thrust of Congress rivalries.

The BJP, which is facing a tough contest from the Congress, has seized on a video where Kamal Nath told some people angry over ticket distribution to "tear Digvijaya's clothes", as a sign of the rift between the two.

However, Congress leaders dismiss any such suggestion. Says a senior party leader, "In the list of candidates, Kamal Nath's choices prevailed. Digvijaya Singh, who toured the toughest 66 seats, also had a say. Obviously, there were going to be arguments over seats. There were 4,000 applicants."

Another Congress leader says the brouhaha may have been intended. "There was immense

pressure on Kamal Nath and Digvijaya over candidates. I think they got away by blaming each other. This is cinema directed, produced and acted in by Kamal Nath and Digvijaya... the BJP is a mere onlooker."

Following the video that set off the talk of a falling out, Kamal Nath and Digvijaya came together at the release of the Congress manifesto to quash the speculation. Digvijaya's son Jaivardhan, the sitting Raghogarh MLA who has got the ticket again, also denied any rift, speaking to *The Indian Express*.

A Congress leader says such disagreements are common between friends. "They talk to each other like that. But they should have maintained a bit more discipline as the BJP is looking for an



Kamal Nath, Digvijaya, long fixtures of Cong in Delhi, now MP

opportunity to show the Congress as a disunited house which may come down, like it did with the Jyotiraditya Scindia rebellion," the leader says.

The BJP has also wondered at the reason behind Digvijaya not being present at campaign rallies of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. A leader from Digvijaya's

camp replies that he is a target "over everything". "He didn't want to draw attention to himself. He is actively working with Kamal Nath to stem rebellions; they got at least 15 rebel candidates to withdraw."

Last week, Digvijaya put out a video denying differences with Kamal Nath.

A long history

Though Kamal Nath entered the Lok Sabha for the first time in 1980, till practically 2018 when he took over as Madhya Pradesh Congress chief, he was a permanent fixture of Delhi power circles. A nine-time MP, he was seen as not interested in politics in home state Madhya Pradesh — till the party made him state chief and then CM.

Digvijaya is three years senior to him in electoral politics,

having become an MLA for the first time in 1977. While he got elected as an MP twice — 1984 and 1991 — he remained at the heart of state politics. In 1985, the party made him state Congress chief at the young age of 38. In 1993, Digvijaya became the CM, helped to the post by Kamal Nath, even though he was not an MLA at the time.

Some Congress leaders believe Kamal Nath pulled the strings for Digvijaya with the blessings of the inscrutable P.V. Narasimha Rao, then the PM.

Even as Congress fortunes swung at the Centre, Kamal Nath and Digvijaya stuck together, and were on the same side of the many waves of factional feud in Madhya Pradesh in the 1990s — often in the camp opposite Jyotiraditya Singh's.

In 2018, Digvijaya paid back

for Kamal Nath's 1993 help, by backing the latter for the top post. Together, they shut out Jyotiraditya, who eventually rebelled.

The near future

The naysayers in the Congress are worried that the bonhomie between Digvijaya and Kamal Nath might not survive the strains of either a loss or win. They point to Chhattisgarh, where CM Bhupesh Baghel and his minister T.S. Singh Deo were once called Jai, Veeru. Their relationship soured after Singh Deo lost the CM's race to Baghel in 2018, and was repaired only now, in time for the polls.

But others say that there is a crucial difference, in that Digvijaya is not interested in being CM — his taste running more towards 'kingmaker'.

8 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Rahul Gandhi at Kedarnath temple on Tuesday. PTI

COUSINS MEET

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi, who is on a "personal and spiritual visit in solitude" to Kedarnath, had a rare meeting on Tuesday — with cousin and BJP leader Varun Gandhi. Accompanied by his wife Yamini and daughter Anasuya, Varun is also on a personal visit to Kedarnath. The two cousins, who are in rival parties and embraced two different ideologies, had a cordial and pleasant meeting, sources said. Earlier this year, asked about reaching out to his cousin, Rahul had said: "My ideology does not match with his ideology. I can never go to an RSS office. For that to happen, you will have to first slit my throat."

THE ICONS

THE ELECTION Commission's new national icons — Sachin Tendulkar and actor Rajkumar Rao — who will lead the voter awareness drives in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, made their first contributions on Tuesday by making social media appeals to electors in Mizoram and Chhattisgarh to come out to vote. Tendulkar and Rao were named ECI national icons in August and October, respectively. The ECI used Tendulkar's photo for its own polling day post on X, which implored electors to "vote wisely". According to sources, the cricket legend will be recording video and audio content for ECI to use in its advertisements as and when he gets time. Till then, Tendulkar's stock photos will be seen on EC media campaigns.

Gujarat-cadre IPS officer appointed CBI joint director

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

Gujarat-cadre IPS officer V Chandrasekhar was on Tuesday appointed as the joint director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), according to a personnel ministry order.

Nitish's remarks on women in Bihar Assembly come under fire

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, NOVEMBER 7

BIHAR CHIEF Minister Nitish Kumar's remarks on how education among women has helped control population prompted a sharp reaction from the BJP, which called it an "attack on dignity of women", as well as the National Commission for Women, whose chairman called the remarks "crass".

Nitish was speaking during the tabling of the caste census report in the Bihar legislative assembly. During his address, the CM suggested that an educated woman is able to ensure sex doesn't necessarily end in pregnancy, which helps keep the population in check.

Following his remarks, the NCW chairperson said: "NCW on behalf of every woman in this country demands an immediate and unequivocal apology from the CM. His crass remarks in the Vidhan Sabha are an affront to the dignity and respect that every woman deserves. Such derogatory and cheap language used during his speech is a dark stain on our society. If a leader can make such comments so openly in a democracy, one can only imagine the horror the state must be enduring under his leadership. We stand firm against such behaviour and call for accountability."

Bihar Deputy CM Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, however, defended Nitish, saying: "One must not take it in the wrong sense. People are sometimes embarrassed talking about it but sex education is taught in schools. It's biology, children study it. He was talking about population control, people should not misinterpret it." BJP national spokesperson Guru Prakash Paswan told *The Indian Express*: "What and how the CM said certain things in the Assembly is an attack on the dignity of six crore women. As a Bihari, we all are embarrassed and appalled. The CM must apologise."

MoS Ashwini Kr Choubey said that Nitish should "resign" and apologise to the nation.

RSS general secretary



ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS: Voters wait in a queue at a polling station in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday. PTI

Chhattisgarh phase I turnout 71% amid Maoist violence, boycott call

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
NARAYANPUR, NOVEMBER 7

CHHATTISGARH RECORDED a provisional turnout of 70.87 per cent in the first phase of Assembly elections Tuesday, a day that also saw several instances of violence by Maoists.

Of the total 90 seats, 20 went to polls in the first phase. All but two of the constituencies in which voting was held on Tuesday saw a decrease in polling as per the provisional data. An Election Commission official said the final figures would be released on Wednesday.

Dantewada and Bhanupratappur were the two seats that saw higher polling compared to last time. While Dantewada saw a turnout of 62.55 per cent this time, it was 60.64 per cent in 2018. Bhanupratappur saw 79.1 per cent polling this time, while it was 77.58 per cent in 2018.

Tuesday saw as many as 10 incidents of Maoist violence in the Bastar region, the Chhattisgarh Police said. As many as 12 of the 20 constituencies that went to the polls in the first phase were from Bastar region.

One jawan from the COBRA unit of the CRPF suffered a serious leg injury, and four others from his battalion suffered minor injuries in firing in the Maoist-affected areas of Elmagunda and Minpa in Sukma district. There were a total of six firing incidents on Tuesday.

In Bijapur, sources said Maoists allegedly forced people of some villages to boycott polling. There was also an encounter in Bijapur between CRPF and Maoists, leading to the death of two Maoists, police said. "At this moment, we cannot say if Naxal violence is less or more this time, compared to

last elections, because while the polling parties have returned by air, our security forces will return by road. Things will be clear by tomorrow," R K Vij, retired DGP and ex-chief of anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh, said on Tuesday.

Voters in Narayanpur district headquarters told *The Indian Express* they were hoping for peace and basic amenities, such as roads, doctors, a pond, and better irrigation.

While the atmosphere was calm in Narayanpur, some Congress workers were unhappy, claiming many voters could not vote either because their names were missing from the voting list or their booths were changed. A voter who did not want to be named, said: "Our first major demand is peace. We do not want a Manipur-like situation. Contradictory jobs must end and mining projects must come here."

Kanker blast: BSF jawan dies

Narayanpur: A BSF constable, Prakash Chandra Sewal, who was injured in an IED blast in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district succumbed Tuesday evening. Two polling team members who were also injured in the blast are said to be out of danger. The blast took place near Rengagondi village around 4 pm Monday, when they were on their way to set up a polling booth for Tuesday's first phase of Assembly elections.

Four teams of BSF, state police and a polling team had left the Marbeda police camp in the Chotetbiya police station limits for Rengaghati, where the polling station is situated. BSF constable Sewal (36) and the two polling team members suffered injuries in the blast. Sewal was airlifted to Raipur for better treatment. **ENS**

Voting peaceful, Mizoram sees over 76% turnout

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 7

MIZORAM VOTED for all 40 seats of its legislative Assembly on Tuesday, with the polling taking place without any untoward incident.

The state witnessed a high voter turnout in the morning, with 49.2 per cent of registered voters casting their votes by 11 am. By 4 pm, the figure had gone up to 76.53 per cent. The final turnout figure was not available as of 9.05 pm, with state election officials saying polling was not yet closed in six polling stations.

Chief Minister Zoramthanga experienced a glitch when he first tried to cast his vote at Ramhlun Venglai Primary School in Aizawl North II in the morning. He said he was unable to register his vote because the EVM was not working. Later, he returned to the polling booth and was able to vote.

Speaking to reporters, he expressed confidence that voters would bring another Mizo National Front government to power in the state. "From the political atmosphere, I believe that we should be able to form the government..."

We have finished only one term. Normally, (in Mizoram, a party forms government for) at least two terms — 10 years. But the most important thing is how you perform... I certainly believe we shall be able to form the government on our own," he said.

The man seen as his primary challenger, Lalduhoma from the Zoram People's Movement, did not vote on Tuesday as he spent the day in his constituency Serchhip, around 90 km away from Aizawl, where he is registered to vote. "Not only in my constituency, the turnout is quite good throughout the state, which is a good sign for us. The better the turnout, the higher our chance, because it means that not only are party people voting, but also that the neutrals are coming forward to vote for change," he told *The Indian Express*.

This election has been seen as a triangular contest between the MNF, the ZPM and the Congress, which is trying to recover from its poor performance in 2018 when it was knocked out of power and brought down to third place. The BJP is also aiming to expand its presence in the state, largely by focusing on areas that have sizeable Bru and Chakma minority voters.



Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga after casting his vote, in Aizawl district on Tuesday. PTI

In Rajasthan, Shah slams Gehlot govt over 'appeasement politics'

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 7

ADDRESSING HIS first rally in Rajasthan ahead of Assembly polls, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday targeted the Congress government in the state over "appeasement politics" and issues such as the murder of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal, as well as allegations of corruption.

He also praised the Narendra Modi government at the Centre for the abrogation of Article 370, the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and the success of Chandrayaan-3.

Shah said at the rally in the town of Nawana in Nagaur, that CM Ashok Gehlot has crossed all limits when it comes to "politics of appeasement". He said since 2019, there has been communal violence in Tonk, Dungarpur, Baran, Jhalawar, Karauli, Jodhpur, Chhabra, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Nohar, Mewat, Malpura, and Jaipur.

Mentioning the killing of Kanhaiya Lal, he said, "I want to ask, what are you doing Gehlot ji? What did you do? You imposed restrictions on Ram Navami and Mahaveer Jayanti, but on the other hand, the PFI takes out a rally

openly," he said. On Tuesday, Shah said, "God bless Modi saheb, who banned PFI and lodged them in jail". If the Congress comes back to power in the state, he said, there would be no safety from organisations like the PFI. Criticising what he termed "politics of appeasement", he also mentioned instances from last year, such as razing of a 300-year-old temple in Alwar, and the suicide of Sant Vijay Das who had demanded the termination of mining activities in the hills in Bharatpur, as well as the murder of a Dalit man, Krishna Valmiki, in Jhalawar in 2021.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

At Cong Guarantee Yatra, Gehlot: Our fight in polls is against ED, CBI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 7

CHIEF MINISTER Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday attacked the BJP for raids on Opposition parties by central agencies. He said the Congress' fight in the Rajasthan Assembly elections is against the ED and the CBI instead of the BJP, which is using Central probe agencies to "harass" other parties.

On the day of the launch of the 'Congress Guarantee Yatra' in Jaipur, Gehlot said, "Congress is taking the seven 'guarantees', announced ahead of the Assembly polls, to the masses." The 'guarantees' include providing laptops to government college students, English medium education to every student and an annual honorarium of Rs 10,000 to the woman head of a family, among other things.

"They don't have an answer to our seven guarantees. So instead of BJP, our competition is with ED, Income Tax and CBI. Instead of going after people who are economic offenders you topple governments, form governments, and to threaten and arrest people you send ED. It is a danger to democracy. The Constitution is

SHAH'S 'RATH' TOUCHES POWER LINE

Jaipur: Union Home Minister Amit Shah had a narrow escape Tuesday when a 'rath' in which he was travelling came in contact with a power cable in Nagaur. The incident occurred when Shah's cavalcade was moving to Parbatsar from Bidiyad village. While passing through a lane in Parbatsar, the upper portion of his 'rath' touched the power line which led to a spark and the snapping of the wire. **PTI**



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses a rally ahead of Rajasthan Assembly elections, in Nagaur on Tuesday. PTI



Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot along with Malviya Nagar constituency candidate Archana Sharma during the 'Congress Guarantee Yatra' in Jaipur on Tuesday. Rohit Jain Paras

being blown to bits," he said. On October 26, the ED had raided the properties linked to Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra in Jaipur and Sikar as part of an exam paper leak case and summoned Gehlot's son and Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) president Vaibhav Gehlot in a foreign exchange violation case.

Gehlot, along with Congress' local candidates, led the road show which passed through various constituencies of the capital. The yatra is scheduled to

cover 140 Assembly constituencies, covering over 4,400 km. Addressing a rally at Ghat Gate for party's Adarsh Nagar candidate Rafeek Khan, Gehlot said that credibility is everything. He said the state government is promising seven guarantees while 10 guarantees have been implemented, "So the government's credibility was established. If there is credibility of the family, in the society, then it helps you in life."

(WITH INPUTS FROM PTI)

Cong denied existence of Lord Ram, Krishna: Yogi

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 7

UTTAR PRADESH CM Yogi Adityanath launched an attack on Congress for "seeing the country through the lens of slavery" and "denying the existence of Lord Ram and Krishna", while giving the country the problems of "terrorism, extremism and Naxalism".

At Shajapur district in Madhya Pradesh, Adityanath said, "in this election (in Madhya Pradesh), it has become clear that on one hand there are Ram devotees and on the other, there are Ram opponents."

When BJP came to power in UP, he said, "The 500-year-old dispute was resolved to pave way for the construction of Ram Temple (in Ayodhya)." "During Congress regime, (they said) Akbar is great in history. They do not consider Maharana Pratap to be great. BJP says Maharana Pratap and Chhatrapati Shivaji are great. Congress sees the whole country from the lens of slavery..." Adityanath said. "They said the existence of Lord Ram and Krishna is a myth," he said.

Caste census demand: RSS for 'Hindu unity' via social project

DEEPTIM TIWARY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

AGAINST THE backdrop of the Opposition parties making their caste census demand a key issue in the state Assembly elections in five states, the RSS has come up with a "samajik samrasta" (social harmony) project under which its workers are fanning out to villages across the country to foster the spirit of "Hindu oneness".

As part of this project, the RSS activists would reach out to people, schools and temples in villages to spread awareness against caste discrimination and untouchability.

Dattatreya Hosabale said Tuesday that this issue was discussed during the two-day Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal Baithak (All India Executive Committee Meeting) of the Sangh, which was held at Bhuj in Gujarat. The meeting, which discusses work to be taken up by the RSS, sees all the top RSS leaders besides the representatives of all its 45 prants (regions) and other affiliates in attendance.

"There is a five-point programme that we have discussed in the meeting that needs to be completed in view of centenary celebrations of the Sangh. These include samajik samrasta, i.e. doing away with untouchability and caste discrimination... We

are all together and one society... We take the message that discrimination based on birth has to be banished," Hosabale told the media on the concluding day of the RSS meet.

Apart from engaging with people, Hosabale said, "We are also going to temples, schools and other social institutions to discuss with them how we can work on samajik samrasta in their own domain."

RSS sources said that in the last one year the Sangh has studied the cases of more than 13,000 villages to track the prevalence of caste discrimination in terms of separate wells and crematoriums and restriction on entry of Dalits into temples.

95,528 shakhas are currently operational in the country, which have 37 lakh regular participants. During the meeting of its Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS) in March this year, the Sangh passed a resolution promoting the idea of "swa" (national self), putting focus on crafting the "correct narrative" of India and stressing on bridging social faultlines in Hindu society.

"While it is evident that people are increasingly voting for Narendra Modi rising above caste lines, there are forces that think that the only way to defeat him is by dividing the Hindu society on the basis of identity. So, it is important that the RSS continues its grassroots work on cre-

ating a sense of one national identity with greater vigour," an RSS leader said.

Since the emergence of social justice parties in the late 80s, around the same time that the Ram Temple movement began taking shape, there has been a conflict between the ideologies of Mandal and Kamandal, with one trumping the other through various phases of national politics since.

In recent months, top Sangh leaders have consistently broached the subject of caste, with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat saying in September that people should be prepared for 200 more years of reservation to deal with 2,000 years of caste discrimination.

To a question, Hosabale said India is already a Hindu Rashtra and that the Ram Temple in Ayodhya is an expression of that consciousness. "We are already a Hindu Rashtra and we will remain a Hindu Rashtra in future. (RSS founder) Dr Hedgewar said as long as even a single person on this land is Hindu, it will remain a Hindu Rashtra," he said.

Hosabale, however, clarified this was not in the context of the Indian State as defined by the Constitution. "State system is different, as defined by the Constitution. But as a nation we are a Hindu nation. For example, when the British were here, it was British Raj but Hindu Rashtra," he said.

EXPLAINED
Why it matters

THE GROWING chorus of demands for a national caste census from the Opposition camp again threatens to reignite that battle in the Hindi heartland and so the Sangh's cognisance of the issue is significant.

Sources said the responsibility of the social harmony project has been devolved to the Sangh shakhas. According to the RSS, its

Madras High Court temporarily restrains OPS from using AIADMK symbol

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 7

THE MADRAS High Court Tuesday issued an interim injunction against the expelled AIADMK leader O Panneerselvam (OPS), prohibiting him from using the party's official symbol, flag, and letterhead until November 30. The interim order came on civil suit filed by AIADMK's current general secretary and the leader of the opposition, Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS), seeking a permanent injunction against OPS to prevent him from using the party symbols and paraphernalia.

During the hearing, OPS's counsel informed Justice N Sathish Kumar about an appeal before the Supreme Court challenging the High Court's previous decision which had upheld OPS's expulsion from AIADMK. The appeal is yet to be numbered. Following this, the judge granted interim relief to OPS's faction and set the next hearing for November 30.

If the legal battle underscores the deep rift within the AIADMK, following a power struggle that saw the party divided between the factions led by EPS and OPS, the EPS faction was seen successfully proving their decisions legitimate with the expulsion of OPS from the party with the support of almost the entire party leadership. The Election Commission had also recognised their authority in the party under clause 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotments) Order, 1968.

EPS's petition contended that OPS had no legal standing to use AIADMK name, symbols, or materials since the court had already finalised OPS's ouster from the party.

To take schemes to target audience, Govt to advertise on social media

DIVYA A NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

TO ENHANCE the reach of its various schemes and better target the desired audience, the government is planning to go beyond traditional media — print, radio, TV and outdoor hoardings — and advertise also in websites and social media platforms like YouTube.

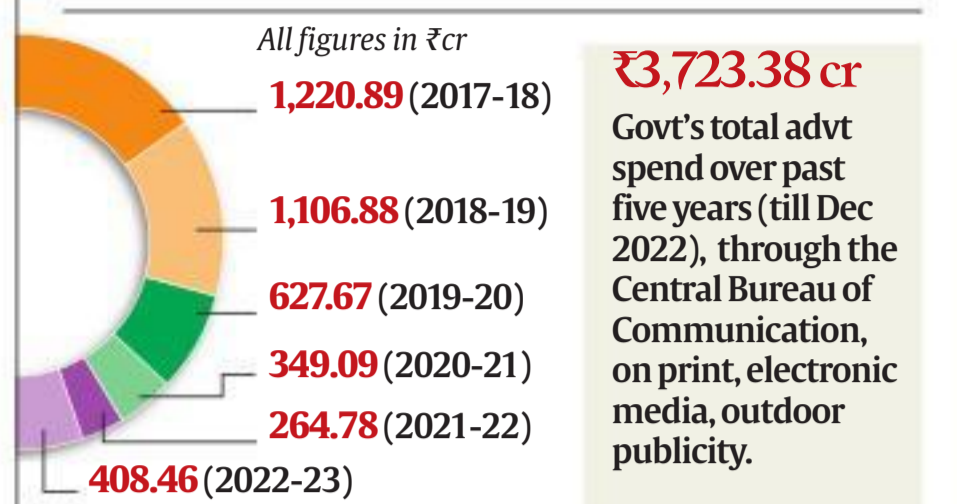
The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), the I&B Ministry's arm responsible for government advertising, is working on rates and preparing guidelines for this new media. "These will be notified over the next few weeks," I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra told *The Indian Express*.

The government's spending on traditional media has sharply declined over the last five years — from Rs 1,200 crore in 2017-18 to Rs 264.78 crore in 2021-22.

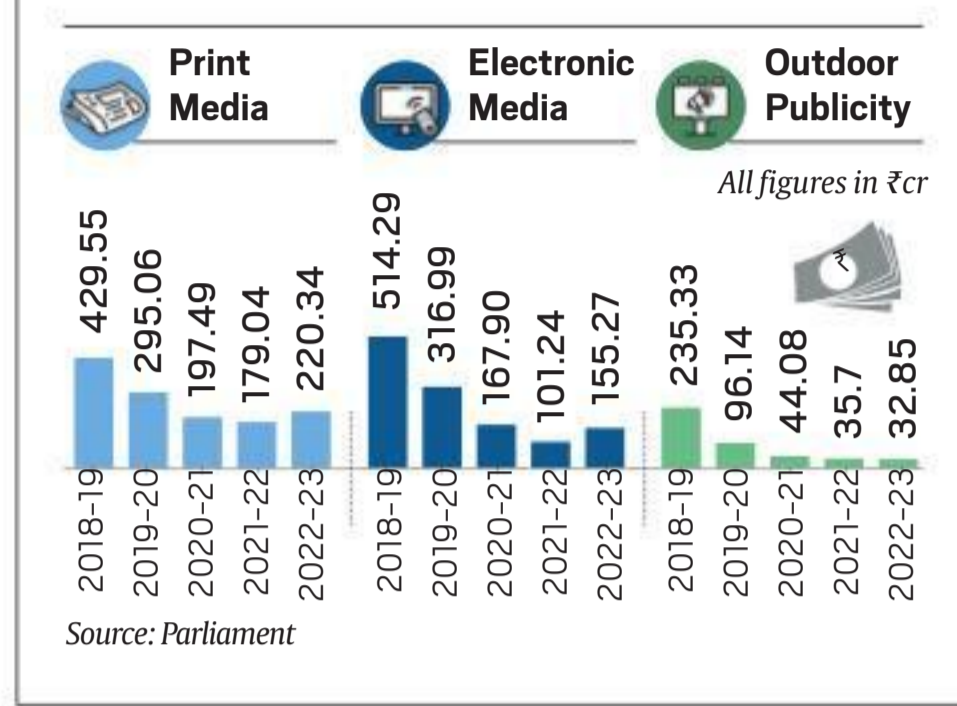
As a practice, 2 per cent of the outlay of various government schemes is kept aside for publicity and outreach activities, and it is from this kitty that the CBC releases funds for advertisements and publicity campaigns.

One of the key reasons for looking beyond legacy media, of-

HOW GOVT AD SPEND HAS DIPPED



THE ADVERTISEMENT SQUEEZE



ficials said, was the ability of social media to better reach the target audience for particular schemes.

For instance, women-oriented schemes such as Ujjwala, Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao or Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (to extend maternity benefits) will be advertised on various digital platforms and YouTube channels that have women as the main audience. These may include shopping, cookery or parenting channels, or other spaces where women make up a majority of the audience.

Similarly, for schemes pertaining to youth, YouTube channels and non-news websites that have 18-28 year old youngsters as the main content consumers, will be targeted. "The idea is to ensure that the information about the schemes reach the person they are meant for," Apurva Chandra said. Campaigns for schemes would be directed towards platforms based on their regional reach, and type of audience — urban or rural, he said.

Between 2017 and 2022, the government spent over Rs 3,700 crore on advertisements, according to information provided by I&B Minister Anurag Thakur to Parliament in December 2022.

This includes advertisements released to the print media, electronic media, and outdoor publicity campaigns.

The CBC, set up in 2017 by the integration of the erstwhile Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Directorate of Field Publicity, and Song & Drama Division, has the mandate to provide communication solutions to various government ministries, departments, public sector undertakings, and even autonomous bodies. Its primary responsibility is to advance the Centre's image as the prime facilitator of people's empowerment by positioning messages through various media.

Over the past five years or so, there has been a push to tap the potential of the ever-growing digital space, and ad spend on legacy media has seen a declining trend. "The policy guidelines at the bureau are adapted to keep pace with the emerging media scenario. Non-traditional digital mediums can be utilised as a great cohort in today's times," said a senior official. This will be a first when non-news mediums will also be involved structurally in publicity of government campaigns as part of policy and with notified ad rates.

Pick-and-choose must stop: SC to govt on judges' appointments

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

THE SUPREME Court Tuesday reiterated its displeasure over the government "selectively picking" names from those recommended by its Collegium for elevation as High Court judges and said that a lawyer's political affiliations should not be a reason to disqualify them from being appointed as judges unless there is a "deep-rooted political aspect that affects their judicial work".

A two-judge bench presided by Justice S K Kaul also told Attorney General R Venkatarmani to ask the government to notify transfers recommended by it, saying that failure to do so "creates an anomaly in the system".

The bench, also comprising Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, was hearing a petition filed by the Advocates Association, Bengaluru and another by NGO Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL) seeking contempt of court proceedings against the Centre for alleged delay in deciding on the recommendations of the Supreme Court Collegium in the matter of appointment and transfer of judges.

"This selective business... This pick-and-choose must stop," Justice Kaul said while referring to some recent appointments to the Punjab and Haryana HC where the government cleared only three names out of a total of five advocates recommended for elevation by the SC Collegium.

Referring to the pendency of transfer proposals, the court said that "once a judge has been appointed, where they perform their judicial function is a matter of no concern to the government".

Cautioning the government, he said, "Tomorrow, the collegium can collectively advise to not assign judicial work to a particular bench. Don't make us take this step, but it is not beyond our powers to do it. This is not an off-hand remark, but something I have discussed with the collegium."

Pointing out lawyers should not be shut out from being considered for judgeship solely based on their political preferences, the court said, "you have a system of governance where different parties govern different states" and "some lawyers whose names are recommended, even if they are not politically very active... may have some connections with the government or the ruling dispensation" but the collegium still clears it.

Justice Kaul said it is obvious that if someone is holding a law officer post, they have some connection with the ruling dispensation. "But they should not have a deep-rooted political aspect that affects their judicial work," he said.

"You have to balance these factors... Forty per cent of states are governed by opposition parties. There will therefore be people holding law officer positions or otherwise who have some association," Justice Kaul said.

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet meeting in Ayodhya tomorrow

MAULSHREE SETH LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 7

THE UTTAR Pradesh Cabinet will on Thursday hold a meeting in Ayodhya and visit the under-construction Ram Temple in the city to oversee work progress at the site. The Cabinet meeting will be held two days before the state government is going to organise a grand Deepotsava in the city

with a target of lighting a record number of 21 lakh diyas at 51 ghats of the Saryu river.

Officials said the objective of holding the Cabinet meeting in Ayodhya is to emphasise the government's focus on the development of the temple town ahead of the "Pran Pratishtha" (consecration) of Ram Lalla at the temple in January 2024. Before the meeting, CM Yogi Adityanath and his Cabinet col-

leagues will offer prayers at the Hanuman Garhi Temple and Ram Lalla's makeshift temple in the city, officials said.

While the agenda of the Cabinet meeting will be finalised Wednesday, decisions like clearance to the formation of the Uttar Pradesh Inland Waterways Authority and including the Saryu riverbank for waterways projects are likely to be taken, the officials said. Besides decisions

related to the development and beautification of Ayodhya before the consecration event in January, the Cabinet is also likely to announce a hike in the MSP of sugarcane in the state.

Sources in the government said the meeting is likely to be held around 11:30 am at the International Katha Dham. After Ayodhya, Cabinet meetings are likely to be held in Varanasi and Mathura in the future, sources said.

The state government had held a Cabinet meeting outside the state capital for the first time in Prayagraj in 2019 ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, with focus on Kumbh Mela. "As per schedule, the Cabinet ministers will first offer prayers at Hanuman Garhi temple and Ram Lalla's makeshift temple and then visit the construction site. They will conduct the Cabinet meeting thereafter," said Ayodhya DM Nitish Kumar.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

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

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
03255	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Thursday, Sunday	23.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
03256	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Patna Jn	17:20	Friday, Monday	24.11.2023 to 11.12.2023
02391	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Saturday	25.11.2023 to 09.12.2023
02392	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Patna Jn	17:20	Sunday	26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
03635	Gaya Jn	14:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Mon, Wed, Fri	20.11.2023 to 08.12.2023
03636	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:00	Gaya Jn	20:45	Tue, Thu, Sat	21.11.2023 to 09.12.2023
05557	Jaynagar	06:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Tuesday	21.11.2023 to 05.12.2023
05558	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:30	Jaynagar	06:30	Wednesday	22.11.2023 to 06.12.2023
04678	Firozpur Cantt Jn	13:25	Patna Jn	17:00	Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
04677	Patna Jn	18:45	Firozpur Cantt Jn	22:40	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04012	New Delhi	19:20	Darbhanga Jn	16:45	Tue, Friday	upto 28.11.2023
04011	Darbhanga Jn	18:00	New Delhi	16:40	Wednesday Saturday	08.11.2023 to 29.11.2023
04518	Chandigarh	23:15	Gorakhpur	18:20	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04517	Gorakhpur	22:05	Chandigarh	14:10	Friday	upto 01.12.2023
04530	Bhatinda Jn	20:55	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Sunday, Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
04529	Varanasi Jn	20:40	Bhatinda Jn	19:10	Monday, Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	Tuesday, Friday	upto 28.11.2023
04059	Jaynagar	17:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:55	Wednesday, Sat	08.11.2023 to 29.11.2023
04488	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Gorakhpur	14:00	Saturday	upto 25.11.2023
04487	Gorakhpur	17:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:40	Sunday	upto 26.11.2023
04010	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
04009	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:05	Thursday	09.11.2023 to 30.11.2023
01664	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:10	Saharsa Jn	11:20	Monday	upto 27.11.2023
01663	Saharsa Jn	14:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:55	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
03257	Danapur	07:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Sunday	26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
03258	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Danapur	20:45	Monday	27.11.2023 to 11.12.2023
05577	Saharsa Jn	19:10	Ambala Cant Jn	23:15	Friday	24.11.2023 to 08.12.2023
05578	Ambala Cant Jn	03:40	Saharsa Jn	09:45	Sunday	26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
05531	Raxaul Jn	22:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:00	Sunday	26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
05532	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:00	Raxaul Jn	14:30	Monday	27.11.2023 to 11.12.2023
05273	Muzaffarpur Jn	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Wednesday, Saturday	22.11.2023 to 09.12.2023
05274	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:25	Muzaffarpur Jn	07:00	Thursday, Sunday	23.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
05005	Gorakhpur	14:40	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Friday	upto 01.12.2023
05006	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Gorakhpur	08:50	Saturday	upto 02.12.2023
04049	New Delhi	23:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:25	Monday, Saturday	upto 27.11.2023
04050	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	18:30	New Delhi	06:25	Tuesday, Sunday	upto 28.11.2023
04080	New Delhi	19:20	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Mon, Thu, Sat	Upto 30.11.2023
04079	Varanasi Jn	18:35	New Delhi	09:00	Tue, Fri, Sun	upto 01.12.2023
01654	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:20	Varanasi Jn	23:55	Sunday	upto 26.11.2023
01653	Varanasi Jn	06:20	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:20	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
04646	Jammu Tawi	05:45	Barauni Jn	12:10	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04645	Barauni Jn	15:15	Jammu Tawi	22:30	Friday	upto 01.12.2023
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Spl.)	15:30	Purnea Jn.	16:05	Wed, Sat, Tue, Fri	08, 11, 14 & 17.11.2023
04047	Purnea Jn. (Unreserved Spl.)	16:55	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:50	Thu, Sun, Wed, Sat	09, 12, 15 & 18.11.2023
04052	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Spl.)	22:45	Saharsa Jn.	03:30	Wed, Sat, Tue, Fri	08, 11, 14 & 17.11.2023
04051	Saharsa Jn. (Unreserved Spl.)	07:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Fri, Mon, Thu, Sun	10, 13, 16 & 19.11.2023
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Spl.)	08:30	Jaynagar	07:00	Thu, Sun, Wed, Sat	09, 12, 15 & 18.11.2023
04057	Jaynagar (Unreserved Spl.)	11:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:00	Fri, Mon, Thu, Sun	10, 13, 16 & 19.11.2023
04066	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:00	Patna Jn.	16:00	Monday, Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04065	Patna Jn.	17:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:35	Tuesday, Friday	upto 01.12.2023
04062	Delhi Jn.	08:05	Barauni Jn.	06:30	Sunday	upto 26.11.2023
04061	Barauni Jn.	08:00	Delhi Jn.	05:50	Monday	upto 27.11.2023
01676	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Muzaffarpur Jn.	21:15	Monday, Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
01675	Muzaffarpur Jn.	23:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Tuesday, Friday	upto 01.12.2023
01678	New Delhi	08:10	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Monday, Friday	Upto 27.11.2023
01677	Gaya Jn.	07:35	New Delhi	23:35	Tuesday, Saturday	upto 28.11.2023
02250	New Delhi (Rajdhani Spl.)	19:10	Patna Jn.	07:30	Fri, Mon, Wed, Fri	10, 13, 15 & 17.11.2023
02249	Patna Jn. (Rajdhani Spl.)	09:00	New Delhi	21:00	Sat, Tue, Thu, Sat	11, 14, 16 & 18.11.2023
04002	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:55	Patna Jn.	15:45	Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Thu	10, 11, 13, 14 & 16.11.2023
04001	Patna Jn.	18:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:20	Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Fri	11, 12, 14, 15 & 17.11.2023
04022	New Delhi	15:30	Saharsa Jn.	16:30	Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Thu	10, 11, 13, 14 & 16.11.2023
04021	Saharsa Jn.	19:00	New Delhi	20:20	Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Fri	11, 12, 14, 15 & 17.11.2023
05283	Muzaffarpur Jn.	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Wed, Sat	11.11.2023 to 18.12.2023
05284	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:25	Muzaffarpur Jn.	07:00	Thursday, Sunday	12.11.2023 to 19.12.2023
02252	New Delhi (Vande Bharat Festival Spl.)	07:25	Patna Jn.	19:00	Sat, Tue, Thu	11, 14 & 16.11.2023
02251	Patna Jn. (Vande Bharat Festival Spl.)	07:30	New Delhi	19:00	Sun, Wed, Fri	12, 15 & 17.11.2023

09097	Bandra Terminus	21:50	Jammu Tawi	08:35	Weekly	Sunday	12.11.2023 to 26.11.2023
09098	Jammu Tawi	23:20	Bandra Terminus	10:10	Weekly	Tuesday	14.11.2023 to 28.11.2023
09523	Okha	10:00	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	10:10	Weekly	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
09524	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	13:20	Okha	13:50	Weekly	Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
03435	Malda Town	09:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	12:30	Weekly	Monday	13, 20 & 27.11.2023
03436	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:30	Malda Town	23:30	Weekly	Tuesday	14, 21 & 28.11.2023
02246	New Delhi (Gati Shakti Spl.)	23:45	Patna Jn.	15:50	Date wise	Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri	10, 11, 14, 15, 16 & 17.11.23
02245	Patna Jn. (Gati Shakti Spl.)	19:00	New Delhi	10:30	Date wise	Sat, Sun, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	11, 12, 15, 16, 17 & 18.11.23
04494	Anand Vihar Terminal (Gati Shakti Spl.)	08:30	Lucknow	18:00	Date wise	Friday	10.11.2023
04493	Lucknow (Gati Shakti Spl.)	08:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:15	Date wise	Sunday	12.11.2023
04498	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:30	Varanasi Jn.	23:30	Date wise	Saturday	11.11.2023
04497	Varanasi Jn.	04:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:10			



THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE
IT'S BETTER TO FADE AWAY LIKE AN OLD SOLDIER THAN TO BURN OUT.
— JOHN LENNON

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Steady in a changing world

Despite several challenges, Indian economy has been resilient



DHARMAKIRTI JOSHI AND DIPTI DESHPANDE

THE INDIAN ECONOMY appears to have done quite well in the first half of this fiscal year amid rising global risks. After a strong growth of 7.8 per cent in the first quarter, the second quarter may surprise on the upside, the RBI governor noted last week. High-frequency data such as the Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for manufacturing and services remain in strong expansion zone, in contrast to weak manufacturing PMI globally. Tax collections are robust, public investment push continues and financial conditions have been supportive. Healthy private corporate sector balance sheets and well-capitalised banks add to India's resilience.

So far, the domestic momentum and strengths seem to have offset the headwinds from high food inflation and weak exports in the second quarter. Consumption has held up, too. Urban India leads here with about two-thirds of service sector activity. Bank credit growth remains strong at over 15 per cent, with retail credit growth at over 18 per cent, fuelling consumption. Inflationary conditions, which created some instability in the July-September quarter due to transitory spike in food inflation, have calmed down. Fresh food supplies entering the market and timely government intervention to tame food price spikes have brought the headline consumer price inflation (CPI) within the RBI's upper comfort limit of 6 per cent.

In contrast, non-food inflation has been quite subdued, benefitting from lower commodity prices and easing supply chain pressure. Core inflation, calculated by stripping food and fuel from headline inflation, dropped to 4.5 per cent in September. Headline CPI, however, remains above the monetary policy committee's target of 4 per cent. In the base case, we expect CPI inflation to average 5.5 per cent this fiscal, down from 6.7 per cent in the last, and the RBI to start cutting rates by the first quarter of the coming fiscal. India's external account has continued to display relative resilience. The current account deficit is in the safe zone and foreign exchange reserves remain sufficient at over \$580 billion. India's resilient performance in

the first half of the fiscal has played out in the backdrop of mixed trends in key economies. While Europe and China are experiencing a growth slowdown, the likes of the US have exhibited resilience.

Economic prospects will be shaped by interaction of local and global developments, which can take the shape of cyclical factors, shocks and structural changes. We use this framework to assess India's outlook in the near and medium terms.

Cyclical aspects such as high interest rates, slowing global growth and persistent shocks (the latest is the Middle East conflict) have a more pronounced impact on the near-term outlook. These are set to test the resilience of the domestic economy in coming quarters.

Globally, inflation remains the dominant concern and threatens to keep already high interest rates higher for longer. S&P Global believes this will result in sub-par growth in the US next year and the year after. Europe is on weak footing this year and weakness will persist. Data for four decades show domestic growth cycles have got synchronised with advanced countries because of greater integration of trade and financial flows.

The share of India's exports to the European Union (EU) and the US have risen and those to the Asia Pacific region have fallen over the last four years. Greater trade exposure to the US/EU means a cyclical slowdown there will have a bearing locally. Then, there are two ongoing geopolitical conflicts — the Middle East and Russia-Ukraine. Escalation can lead to a flare-up in crude oil prices and create stress points for growth, inflation, public finances and external accounts. If we overlay this on domestic developments such as the adverse impact of erratic weather on agriculture and the lagged impact of interest rate hikes by the RBI on interest rate-sensitive segments, growth is likely to be moderate in coming quarters. PMIs for services and manufacturing, while still in strong expansion zone, have come down in October.

That said, even with a slowdown to 6 per cent from 7.2 per cent last year, India will be the fastest-growing large economy this fiscal.

Our medium to long-term growth narrative will be influenced by structural developments taking place on an unprecedented scale, such as shifting globalisation, technological disruptions, climate action and demographic transitions. Shifting globalisation — which includes supply-chain diversification, tariff wars — together with an ageing population is pulling down global growth potential.

According to a recent World Bank report, global growth is expected to fall to a three-decade low of 2.2 per cent a year between now and 2030, down from 2.6 per cent between 2011-21 and 3.5 per cent in the preceding decade. While India's economic cycles have got synchronised with those of advanced countries, its long-term trend rate of growth follows a divergent path. The trend growth in advanced countries has been moving down even as India's has moved up due to opening up and economic reform since the early 1990s.

As growth potential across advanced countries slows, India can retain and perhaps improve its growth prospects by building infrastructure — both digital and physical — and undertaking growth-enhancing reforms to improve ease of doing business, besides latching on to the tailwind from diversifying global supply chains. However, India will have its own challenges.

For instance, India is trying to make infrastructure and manufacturing — both carbon intensive — its key growth engines. Climate change-related action will, therefore, pose a unique challenge. The second challenge is making growth labour-intensive, with focus on improving women's participation.

On balance, we believe India can sustain about 6.7 per cent per year growth till the end of this decade, only a tad higher than 6.6 per cent per year in the decade preceding the pandemic. This will make India a \$6.7 trillion economy and catapult it to middle-income status by 2030-31.

Joshi is Chief Economist and Deshpande is Principal Economist, CRISIL Limited. Views are personal

ODD-EVEN, AGAIN

In implementing road rationing, Delhi must learn from its past. Its experience could help other cities with air pollution burden

THE DELHI GOVERNMENT'S announcement that it will implement the odd-even scheme from November 13 — a day after Diwali — is a step in the right direction. The city has been registering severe on the Air Quality Index since the past four days and experts do not anticipate an imminent release from the chokehold of particulate matter. Records of recent years show that air pollution takes a turn for the worse after Diwali. The city's earlier trysts with road rationing show that it does not reduce the airborne toxins below permissible limits. But there are at least two reasons that the measure should still be a part of Delhi's pollution mitigation arsenal. For one, the pollutant load on Delhi's air is such that no feasible step to bring relief to the city's residents should be kept out of the policymaker's book. Two, several studies indicate that vehicular emissions contribute about 30 per cent to the cocktail of toxins in the city's air. The odd-even scheme could keep about 12 lakh vehicles off the roads. It, therefore, raises hopes of fewer traffic jams and less emissions from idling engines.

The AAP government will have to coordinate with other environmental management bodies — especially the National Green Tribunal (NGT) — and agencies in charge of the NCR's transport. In 2017, a disagreement between the Delhi government and the NGT over exemptions stalled the introduction of the odd-even scheme at the eleventh hour. While the modalities of this year's scheme have not been worked out, two-wheelers have reportedly been kept out of its purview. A repeat of the confrontation will only make people's lives more difficult. The Delhi government has done well to increase the city's bus fleet in the past five years. The Metro network has also expanded. However, by all accounts, the system is still not able to adequately cater to all the people who commute on a daily basis. An arrangement where different modes of transport in the city are efficiently linked with each other is still in the works. As an immediate measure, Delhi's authorities would do well to improve the last-mile connectivity of people who use the Metro.

In several of Delhi's — and now Mumbai's — bad air episodes, the judiciary has nudged the authorities into action. The origins of most emergency measures in the capital — including the Graded Action Plan and the odd-even scheme — lie in interventions by the country's apex court. These plans may not have resolved the capital's longstanding misery. But they offer invaluable lessons on environmental management, especially when the effects of air pollution are being felt across the country. That's why Delhi's latest tryst with odd-even — as well as other emergency measures — will be closely watched.

DEEPAKE CHALLENGE

Tech majors, governments must find ways to check use of AI tools that create fake images, like that of Rashmika Mandanna

A VIDEO OF actor Rashmika Mandanna has recently gone viral on social media. The problem: It's not she who is in the video. The woman on whose body her face has been morphed has also been violated. This video is not a one-off. Of late, there have been quite a few such fake videos. Deepfakes, as they are known, employ artificial intelligence tools to create fake images, audio and videos. The dramatic spread of Artificial Intelligence platforms has made it easier to create such persuasive deepfakes. There is a deepfake video of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy asking his soldiers to put down their weapons. The relative ease with which such deepfakes can be created and quickly disseminated and consumed, made possible by the wide reach of social media platforms, has become a matter of global concern. More so in times of polarised politics.

Such concerns were acknowledged at Bletchley Park in the UK last week during the first AI safety summit. The Bletchley Declaration, signed by 28 countries including the US, UK, France, China, Japan and India, noted the risks "stemming from the capability to manipulate content or generate deceptive content", and called for global action to address the potential risks stemming from AI. Across the world, countries have opted for different approaches when it comes to regulating AI. While some are in favour of strict oversight and regulation, others are veering towards a lighter touch. For instance, last week, US President Joe Biden issued an executive order to establish "new standards for AI safety and security". The order requires that companies share the results of their safety tests with the US government. It also involves the setting up of standards for "extensive" testing in order to ensure that they are safe before they are publicly released. In India, TRAI had in July outlined the broad contours of a regulatory framework could take. It proposed a risk matrix (high or low risk) to classify AI use cases and also called for setting up a statutory authority and a multi-stakeholder body to advise it.

The critical role, however, is that of technology companies. For instance, tech majors such as Alphabet, Meta and OpenAI are taking steps such as watermarking AI-generated content to allow users to identify deepfakes. India is poised to play an important role in the development of the AI ecosystem. That's why it must also help shape the global AI regulatory framework. However, even as policymakers raise the regulatory guardrails and address concerns ranging from privacy to discrimination, and intellectual property rights, among others, they must seek to foster innovation, not stifle it.

NOW, LIKE THEN

Last Beatles song is reminder of why the world fell in love with the four mop-topped boys from Liverpool

WHETHER OR NOT the last two Beatles, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, should have gone ahead, without explicit consent from their late bandmates, John Lennon and George Harrison, to release a brand new song as the coda to their collective legacy may now be a moot question. The track in question, 'Now and Then', is well on its way to becoming a chart-topper, having been embraced by fans, along with a music video, directed by filmmaker Peter Jackson and a mini-documentary on the making of the new single. There's no denying it — the last Beatles song is a hit.

One might wonder, though, where exactly the track fits into the Beatles' vast and hugely influential body of work. Is it a mere commercial project, a venture designed to cash in on the most storied names in pop music? Is it an attempt to give the Beatles the end that they deserved, but never got? Perhaps McCartney and Starr, both over 80, are trying to ensure that the Beatles stay relevant, six decades after this particular foursome came together to make music history.

'Now and Then' is all of this but also something more. It is an offering — from Paul and Ringo to John and George, certainly, but also to their fans, old and new. The new song may not become a mainstay of many Beatles playlists, being a lovely, wispy morsel rather than one of the tight, perfect compositions that the band produced at its peak, like 'A Day in the Life' or 'Strawberry Fields Forever'. But in its simple invocation of love, friendship and regret, effortless harmonising of voices — one of them recorded in 1977 — and sampling from favourites like 'Here, There and Everywhere' and 'Eleanor Rigby' is a reminder of why the world fell in love four mop-topped boys from Liverpool.

PRIVACY, SAFETY & AI

Regulation of emerging tech should be an interplay between the platform and policy



AISHWARYA GIRIDHAR AND NIDHI SINGH

ON NOVEMBER 5, fact-checker *Alt News* posted that a viral video of actor Rashmika Mandanna entering a lift was a deepfake. The video sparked much debate, with other actors calling for the legal regulation of deepfake videos. In response, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar talked about regulations under the IT Act, which could tackle the spread of such videos. However, a holistic approach to the regulation of deepfakes should focus on the interplay between platform and AI regulation, and ways to incorporate safeguards for emerging technologies more broadly.

Deepfake content is created using advanced AI technology. While it may be used to generate fake videos, it can also be used to impersonate friends or loved ones to trick individuals into sending money to scammers. But there may also be legitimate uses for the underlying technology — for instance, to anonymise the voices and faces of journalists and help them remain safe in oppressive regimes. Therefore, a regulatory response that aims to draw a blanket ban is likely to be disproportionate and possibly ineffective.

The life cycle of deepfakes can be divided into three parts — creation, dissemination and detection. AI regulation can be used to mitigate the creation of unlawful or non-consensual deepfakes. One way countries such as China are approaching such regulation is to require providers of deepfake technologies to obtain consent of those in their videos, verify the identities of users, and offer recourse to them. The Canadian approach to prevent harm from deepfakes includes mass aware-

ness campaigns and possible legislation that would make creating and distributing deepfakes with malicious intent illegal. While there is no simple way to fix the problem, measures like adding watermarks to all AI-generated videos could be a good first step.

Detecting deepfake videos is becoming increasingly difficult. Due to advancements in AI content generation, the new generation of deepfakes is almost impossible to spot. This can significantly harm people in the videos, and reduce trust in the credibility of video evidence. This is complicated by the fact that creating deepfakes or false content in general is not by itself illegal, and may be protected speech under the Constitution. Some content may be clearly unlawful — for example, identity theft or publishing content that violates intimate privacy. In other cases, it is unclear whether a video would be considered obscene, defamatory or satirical. So, many regulations around deepfakes focus on the sharing and dissemination of such content.

In India, the IT Act and related regulations address the content moderation obligations on online platforms. Although this framework would also apply to deepfakes, it is not entirely clear what actions platforms are required to take in this context.

Typically, platforms must remove unlawful content within 36 hours of being notified by a court or government. If an individual is depicted in sexual acts or partial nudity or otherwise impersonated complaints, platforms are required to remove such content within 24 hours. They are also required to publish terms of service that prohibit users from up-

loading content that impersonates other persons, and content that knowingly communicates "misinformation". Platforms must also "make reasonable efforts to cause the user" to not upload such content on their platforms, and "act on" user complaints within 72 hours. "Making reasonable efforts" to cause users to not upload such content is vague and ambiguous. Presumably, undertaking some kind of content moderation efforts would satisfy this requirement, meaning that most large social media platforms would be in compliance. Similarly, it's not clear what "acting on" user complaints would mean, and whether actions such as down-ranking would suffice. This is important because the consequence of not complying with these rules could potentially make the platforms liable for such content.

Ultimately, the use of deepfakes echoes the issues we are likely to have with image-based generative AI and the scale and speed of how other kinds of problematic content can spread online. It may be best to avoid reactionary calls for specialised regulation targeting the dissemination of deepfakes, and instead consider a multi-pronged regulatory response that engages with both AI and platform regulation. The upcoming Digital India Act, which will reportedly regulate AI and emerging technologies along with online platforms, provides an opportunity to address some of these issues.

Giridhar is project manager and Singh is programme officer, Centre for Communication Governance, National Law University, Delhi

NOVEMBER 8, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

GAUHATI BLAST

AT LEAST 14 persons were killed and 60 injured when a powerful time bomb exploded on the crowded main platform of the Gauhati railway station. Nine persons died on the spot and five in hospital. Among those killed were a woman and her baby. The injured have been admitted to the Gauhati Medical College Hospital. The condition of several injured is reported to be critical.

ANDROPOV'S ABSENCE

PRESIDENT YURI ANDROPOV'S absence from the Bolshevik Revolution Anniversary has

sparked rumours that he may either be seriously ill or on his way out. Soviet officials have simply repeated Communist Party Central Committee head Leonid Zamyatin's statement that the President was suffering from a cold. Their version differs from East European diplomats' hush-hush remarks that he had recently undergone surgery for an unspecified ailment.

BAN ON TALLOW

THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT has taken all measures to ensure that beef tallow or any other animal fat "in any form" is not used in the manufacture of vanaspati. This was stated by the Food and Supplies Minister, Bhagwat

Jha Azad, at a meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution. Voicing the Centre's concern over the issue, Azad revealed that all state governments had been alerted.

ASIAD FLAT PRICES

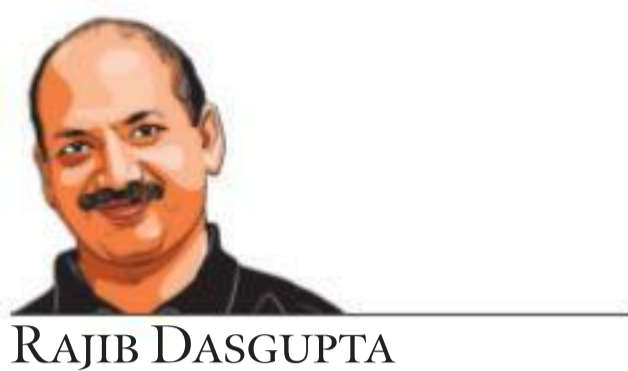
THE PRICES OF Asiad flats in Siri Fort in South Delhi range from a minimum of Rs 7.20 lakh for a two-bedroom flat to a maximum of Rs 15.65 lakh for a three-bedroom suite. The flats will be sold to non-resident Indians and Indian nationals serving in international organisations either in India or abroad or to Indian nationals who were employees of international organisations until recently.



THE IDEAS PAGE

The sickness in the air

Air pollution plays a key role in the genesis of chronic diseases and cancer. It affects poorer people and countries more



RAJIB DASGUPTA

DELHI'S AIR QUALITY Index (AQI) is touching 500. The prevailing air pollution crisis in India in general and the National Capital Region (NCR) in particular is a concern for everyone — and AQI has firmly established itself in the household vocabulary. A range of restrictions including the odd-even scheme have been enforced in Delhi by the local administration while the Bombay High Court has taken suo motu cognisance of the poor air quality in Mumbai.

Pollutants of major public health concern include particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), a mix of solid and liquid droplets arising mainly from fuel combustion; nitrogen dioxide from road traffic; ozone at ground level caused by the reaction of sunlight with pollutants from industrial facilities and vehicle emissions; and sulphur dioxide, an invisible gas from burning fossil fuels like coal. Air pollution is generally on the decline in advanced economies and rising in emerging and industrialising economies. In the aggregate, the WHO cautions that nearly 90 per cent of the global population breathes air that exceeds prescribed limits and contains high levels of pollutants. The worst affected are the low- and middle-income countries.

Recognising a growing global concern about deteriorating air pollution, the World Health Assembly Resolution 68.8, "Health and the environment: Addressing the health impact of air pollution", was endorsed by 194 member states in 2015. An estimated eight million deaths globally were attributed by the WHO to air pollution. Delhi was flagged as the most polluted city with an annual mean of fine particulate matter of 153 µg/m³ compared to 17 µg/m³ in Paris and 8 µg/m³ in Toronto. India featured among the top 15 countries with the highest annual mean of fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, and Pakistan also figured in this list, highlighting the vulnerability in this part of the world. The Resolution called for better policies to promote cleaner public transit and clean-energy sources, and reduction of emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and black carbon.

Measurement of AQI is done by air monitors and air pollutant concentration over a specified averaging period. The results are then grouped into ranges; each range is assigned a descriptor, a colour code, and a standardised public health advisory. Multiple pollutants may be measured at a monitoring site, in which case the biggest AQI value in one hour on average is reported for that location. The US-EPA AQI is divided into six categories — 0-50 (green) represents "good" air quality and 301 and higher (maroon) represents "hazardous". India's National Air Quality Index Standard (NAQI) has a range of six categories with "severe" representing values of 430 and above. PM2.5 levels in Delhi are about 15 times higher than the prescribed WHO guidelines.

India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched in 2019 to achieve a 20-30 per cent reduction in concentrations of PM10 and PM2.5 by 2024 (base year, 2017). It encompasses a wide range of specific inter-



CR Sasikumar

ventions including reduction of vehicular pollution through regulatory norms, promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and bridges; tackling industrial emissions; notification of eight waste management rules; monitoring of ambient air quality; and prevention and control of paddy stubble burning.

Associated with oxidative stress and inflammation in human cells, air pollution plays a key role in the genesis of chronic diseases and cancer. Public health consequences include cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory diseases, diabetes mellitus, obesity, and reproductive, neurological, and immune system disorders. A third of the deaths from stroke, lung cancer and heart disease have been linked to air pollution; an equivalent effect to smoking tobacco, and higher than the effects of over-consumption of salt. Air pollution has been linked to higher chances of developing several neurological disorders including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and other dementias.

Children are especially vulnerable owing to a set of unique reasons: Air pollution affects their developing lungs; they are less capable to metabolise, detoxify, and excrete air pollutants; neurotoxic compounds in air pollution can affect children's developing brains and cognitive development; they inhale more air per unit of body weight than adults; they are physically more active and breathe in more air pollution; and, babies born to women who exposed to air pollution during their pregnancy are more likely to be premature and low birth weight.

It is often somewhat naively argued that air pollution is a great leveller, affecting the rich and the poor alike since everyone breathes the same air. A recent study in Delhi had observed that PM2.5 levels inside richer homes were not significantly lower than those found in poorer homes. Well-designed ecological studies in the UK and Europe found that like most other health events, air quality often exhibits a social gradient — higher deprivation indices and low economic position are usually linked with higher levels of pollutants such as particulate matter. Differences in exposure between groups lead to differences in morbidity and mortality. An important learning from these studies is that there are no safe thresholds, particularly for particulates and ozone; effects seem to be linked to the level

The NCAP recommends the odd-even scheme with minimal exemptions for Delhi in case of Severe+ conditions. There seems to be a consensus among engineering experts that this may not be a good long-term measure. Experience from other megacities such as Beijing, Jakarta and Mexico City suggest that air quality is not significantly improved as gaming measures such as substitution to relatively older vehicles on restricted days and cover or borrow licence plates come into play. The scheme continues to be popular with politicians and bureaucrats.

studied. This explains the need to evolve more stringent air quality standards and find ways to implement those. The Parma Declaration 2010 by the European governments is instructive in this context.

The NCAP recommends the odd-even scheme with minimal exemptions for Delhi in case of Severe+ conditions. There seems to be a consensus among engineering experts that this may not be a good long-term measure. A study of the 2016 restrictions observed an average reduction of PM2.5 by 5.73 per cent and that of PM10 by 4.70 per cent. Another study observed substantial reduction in tailpipe emissions without any improvement in overall ambient air quality. Experience from other megacities such as Beijing, Jakarta and Mexico City suggest that air quality is not significantly improved as various gaming measures such as substitution to relatively older vehicles on restricted days and cover or borrow licence plates come into play. The scheme continues to be popular with politicians and bureaucrats. An analysis of city-level clean air action plans found that transport and road dust together covered 50 per cent of action points.

The One Health approach has traditionally focussed on infectious diseases in relation to zoonoses, food safety and antimicrobial resistance. The Berlin Principles on One Health, 2019, recognise that decisions regarding land, air, sea, and freshwater use directly impact the health and well-being of humans, animals and ecosystems. Alterations in ecosystems paired with decreased resilience generate shifts in communicable and non-communicable disease emergence, exacerbation and spread. It, therefore, urged that actions be taken to eliminate or mitigate these impacts. There is also an emerging consensus on transitioning from city-centric to airshed-centric air quality management. An airshed is an area where local topography and meteorology limit the dispersion of pollutants. The Leaders' Declaration under the Indian G20 Presidency focussed on addressing pollution in the context of climate action and promoting the One Health approach. As a leader of the global South, India's NCAP should build on these synergies.

The writer is professor, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU, New Delhi and editor, Indian Journal of Public Health. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Other countries must press Pakistan to halt these removals; they have leverage since it needs international support to prop up its failing economy. But the rest of the world must make good on its promise to aid vulnerable Afghans."

— THE GUARDIAN

How to kill industry

Exorbitant tax demands with no basis in law are crippling blows to companies, hurt India's image as a reliable investment destination



ARVIND P DATAR

IN AUGUST 2009, the then Minister of State for Finance S S Palanimanickam informed the Rajya Sabha that the top 100 defaulters owed Rs 1.41 lakh crore as income tax. Of this amount, the stud farm owner, Hasan Ali, owed Rs 50,345 crore and the late Harshad Mehta owed Rs 12,000 crore. Four years later, Union Minister of Finance P Chidambaram informed the Rajya Sabha that, as on December 31, 2012, the total arrears of income tax were Rs 4.18 lakh crore of which the dues of Hasan Ali amounted to Rs 1,16,778 crore and the dues of Harshad Mehta had risen to Rs 17,000 crores. (This was reported in *Mint*, March 12, 2013)

Just three years later, *The Indian Express* (April 8, 2016) reported that the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal delivered a ruling that the total amount due from Hasan Ali was just Rs 3 crore as the Income Tax Department had failed to establish its claim. Clearly, the amount stated by the then Finance Minister was unsustainable in law. In 2012, the CAG report on the 2G scam famously claimed that the loss to the public exchequer was Rs 1.76 lakh crore. The actual loss has never been established, and all the accused were eventually acquitted in the 2G scam, most spending several months in jail.

In the recent past, the Directorate-General of Goods and Service Tax Intelligence (DGGI) has reportedly issued show-cause notices to several gaming companies demanding GST of Rs 1.5 lakh crore for the period 2017-2022. The basis of these demands is that all the amounts pooled are for "betting and gambling" and every rupee is subject to a whopping 28 per cent GST.

These claims are not only misleading but without legal foundation. Section 12 of the Public Gambling Act, of 1867, expressly states that any game of mere skill will not amount to gambling. Thus, for over 150 years, it has been settled law in India that any winning on a game of skill cannot be treated as amounting to betting or gambling. Even though dozens of 19th-century laws were repealed as part of legal reforms, this vintage law continues to be binding.

In the case of online gaming, several high courts have repeatedly held that games of skill do not amount to betting and gambling even if winners are rewarded in cash. Therefore, if a game of rummy, poker or bridge is played online and if there is a winner, it will not amount to betting and gambling. In *State of Andhra Pradesh v Satyanarayana* (1968), the Supreme Court held that rummy is preponderantly a game of skill, and in *Jungle games*, the Madras High Court held that poker is a game of skill.

In its 276th Report, the Law Commission of India examined this issue in detail.

Starting with a 1915 judgment of the Madras High Court, the Commission considered not only other high court and Supreme Court decisions, but decisions from Canada and the US as well. The Report concluded: "3.37. Analysis of the aforementioned decisions brings out two principles. Firstly, prize competitions and contests, where the winner is determined by draw of the lots are in the nature of gambling and cannot be extended protection under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution. Secondly, games where preponderance of skill dominates cannot be considered gambling and are protected under the Constitution."

Recently, a show cause notice issued to GamesKraft Technologies for over Rs 20,000 crore was quashed by the Karnataka High Court, although this was later stayed by the Supreme Court. It is indeed unfortunate that these staggering amounts are once again made without regard to earlier court rulings and contrary to a central law.

The other reason for these huge demands is the retrospective application of the law. From October 1, the GST Council decided to amend the law and treat winning on games of skill as also amounting to betting and gambling. But the claim of Rs 1.5 lakh crores from the online gaming companies is for the period 2017-22, when such a law did not exist.

In the case of gaming companies, service tax was always paid at 18 per cent on the platform fee. Thus, if 20 persons paid Rs 500 each to play a game of skill, the total amount pooled is Rs 10,000. The gaming companies typically collect 10 per cent as their service charges and the balance sum of Rs 9,000 is then to be shared amongst the winners. From 2017, the balance amounts have been paid to thousands of winners. These payments were perfectly legitimate in view of the central law and rulings of high courts. It is difficult to understand how a GST demand of 28 per cent can now be made on the entire amount which has been disbursed to thousands of winners over the last six years. Several gaming companies will close because of the retrograde levy of 28 per cent on the gross amount; indeed, no country which permits online gaming has such a regressive tax.

What is worse is that the staggering amounts demanded do serious damage to India's image as a safe investment destination. Several foreign companies had invested substantial amounts in gaming companies generating employment for thousands of people. It does no credit to a country if tax authorities can make demands contrary to their own laws and decisions of high courts and the Supreme Court.

If past experience is any indication, a few years down the line, the gaming industry will be almost dead with little or no recovery of GST. But the collateral damage to India's reputation as a country which respects the rule of law will be even greater. It is time to rethink the widespread practice of making staggering demands which have very little hope of any recovery.

The writer is a senior advocate and has appeared for some of the gaming companies. Views are personal

An important punctuation

India-US 2 plus 2 meeting will be crucial in taking on Chinese revisionism



C UDAY BHASKAR

INDIA WILL host the next 2+2 ministerial dialogue with the US tomorrow (November 9) wherein the Indian Defence and External Affairs ministers Rajnath Singh and S Jaishankar will receive their American counterparts Lloyd J Austin and Antony J Blinken.

After arriving at a modus vivendi over the contentious nuclear issue in late 2008, the India-US partnership has acquired a strategic underpinning and become more robust in recent years. The agenda of the current meeting will seek to build on the progress already made in defence, diplomacy and technology.

While the wars in Gaza and Ukraine are urgent issues, the more abiding challenge for both the US and India relates to China and its revisionist orientation. Recent developments in the South China Sea (SCS) that have pitted the Philippines against Chinese intimidation are illustrative. This is a matter of considerable relevance to ASEAN as also to the four Quad nations — Australia, India, Japan and the US.

If the proposed Quad summit is convened in Delhi in January 2024, the current 2+2 meeting will have to address a prickly nettle: When and how to pick up the gauntlet apropos China's not so subtle creeping maritime assertiveness in east Asian waters.

In the current context, Manila accused Beijing (November 2) of "intruding" into its part of the SCS. This was in response to an earlier Chinese claim that a Philippine naval vessel had "illegally entered" the Scarborough Shoal — a water-body that China has unilat-

erally included in its ten-dash-line.

The trigger for the current tension is what is perceived to be a deliberate collision by a Chinese Coast guard vessel with a Philippine logistics boat on October 22 in those waters. Both nations accuse the other of transgression and violation of sovereignty. In unusually firm language, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs added that the Chinese assertion had "no legal basis and only serves to raise tensions" in water spaces over which both nations have staked their claim since 2012.

At that time, Manila took its case to international arbitration and when the Philippine claim was upheld in the Hague in 2016, Beijing brusquely rejected the verdict. Subsequently, it imposed de facto physical control over its claims in the SCS that include the disputed Scarborough Shoal and the Spratly Islands. Claimants to different sectors of SCS include China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia.

If the current situation were to escalate either by accident or pre-meditated design, the US could also be drawn into this dispute and thereby expand the scope of the conflict. This is an exigency that must be avoided — one more war would exacerbate an already bleak global security scenario and a US-China war would be very costly for the world.

Over the last decade, domestic politics in the Philippines have resulted in Manila, which was an ally of the USA during the Cold War, moving closer to China when President Duterte was in power. Consequently, Manila

remained muted about its 2016 award and sought to downplay the Chinese claims and the creeping assertiveness in both the Scarborough Shoals and the Spratlys.

However, under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, the Philippines is slowly distancing itself from China and has revived its military cooperation with the USA, including joint naval exercises. Japan has also increased its military engagement with the Philippines and has supplied 12 patrol vessels to Manila. In a symbolic visit, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida boarded a Japanese built vessel in Manila on November 4 and reiterated Tokyo's commitment to a "free and open Indo-Pacific".

This normative reference to a FOIP and respect for international law has become a mantra but it remains rhetorical and an elusive aspiration in the face of China's belligerence in the SCS. India also upholds this formulation but has been reticent about naming China explicitly. PM Modi, in his address to the US Congress in June noted, "The dark clouds of coercion and confrontation are casting a shadow in the Indo-Pacific."

The dilemma for China's interlocutors is the trade dependency on one hand and the security-strategic dissonance on the other. Australia, which pushed back against Chinese interference in its domestic politics, was subjected to a costly trade boycott by Beijing, forcing Canberra to repair its ties with China. The Philippines could face this dilemma.

India is in a similar conundrum and the Galwan setback has to be managed with the

huge trade deficit in China's favor (\$ 77 billion) — in both domains, Beijing remains intransigent. It is either the Chinese way or the highway.

The maritime domain provides alternate options to deal with Chinese belligerence and the trilateral partnership between Australia, UK and the US (AUKUS) is one such nascent initiative. China's "Malacca dilemma" may provide options to ensure compliance through compellence but these will have to be calibrated in a careful and collective manner.

While reaching for the scabbard is not a prudent option in dealing with China, the degree to which Beijing's intimidation is to be either accommodated or appeased is problematic for policy makers. While the US has voiced its support for the Philippines and reaffirmed its "iron-clad" defence commitment, no other nation has been as forthcoming.

The US-China dyad has acquired a distinctive framework, combining trade dependency, technology competition and strategic discord, wherein both nations are jostling for global primacy. The US seeks to preserve the current status quo while China is on a revisionist path.

The ultimate denouement of this US-China contestation will be shaped by the contour and content of the bilateral relationship that both these nations have with India and the current 2+2 meeting leading to the Quad summit could be an important punctuation.

The writer is director, Society for Policy Studies, New Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TAXES AND FREEBIES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Sway of populism' (IE, November 7). The indiscriminate announcement of freebies at the cost of public finance exhibits the apathy of politicians towards the hard-earned money of taxpayers. It seems that our politicians are vying to offer a bigger pie from the government treasury to garner votes and thus exploit the system for power, which may both taxpayers, who pay for nation-building. The onus falls on the Election Commission and the judiciary to keep a tab on the misuse of public funds by politicians who consider public money as a tool to further their own interests.

Devendra Awasthi, Lucknow

DATA PRIVACY ISSUE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'From predator to prey' (IE, November 7). By now, it is quite clear that neither the social media companies nor the governments around the world are concerned about the netizens' interests. The companies want to just milk the consumers' data whereas the governments feel threatened by the free flow of information among people through social media. It's the conflict of respective interests which is pitting the social media companies and the governments against each other. In such a scenario, there is an urgent need to safeguard the users' privacy and free flow of genuine information among people.

Manish Mishra, Bhopal

FREEBIES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Sway of populism' (IE, November 7). Freebies, are not good for the country's economic health. Taxpayers ultimately bear the cost of freebies, which can lead to a fiscal deficit. It is concerning that 81.35 crore people still depend on food aid, as this shows that half of the country's population is unable to meet their basic needs. Freebie culture is creating a moral hazard where people come to expect the government to provide for them rather than supporting themselves. Political parties are using freebies as a tool to gain votes instead of working on core issues. The government should maintain an equitable balance between the social security of the vulnerable group and the economic health of the country.

Zaid Wazi, Varanasi

SNOOPING CLAIMS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Apple's alert' (IE, November 2). Snooping of opposition political party leaders' mobile phones is a very serious matter and a gross violation of our fundamental rights. Though all ruling parties try to do the same in their own way, nowadays it seems the frequency has increased. Governments across the globe are spending huge amounts of money to buy modern and sophisticated software for the purpose of spying on their opponents. It is a grave intrusion and the government must conduct a fair and independent investigation in this matter and come clean. Otherwise it will set a wrong precedent for future ruling regimes.

Rakesh Kumar, Faridabad

12 EXPRESS NETWORK

FRIENDSHIP WITH BOY FROM ANOTHER FAITH

Kerala engineer forces teen daughter to drink herbicide, she dies a week later

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
NOVEMBER 7

ANGRY OVER her friendship with a boy of another faith, a 43-year-old engineer in Kerala allegedly killed his daughter by assaulting her with an iron rod and forcing her to drink herbicide.

The girl, identified as Fathima, had been battling for life since October 29, the day her father allegedly poured herbicide into her mouth, and died on Tuesday.

Police said the girl's father Abee Muhammed, 43, an engineer with Vallarpadam container transshipment terminal in Kochi, was arrested by Aluva West Police after the incident and has been in judicial custody since then.

Quoting the FIR, police said that Abee was irked over Fathima's friendship with a boy who studied at her school. He

had repeatedly warned his daughter, the eldest of three children, against the relationship.

After she was found to be in touch with the boy over the phone, Abee took the device and destroyed it. However, the girl continued to speak to the boy using another phone, police said.

Police said that on October 29, Abee severely beat his daughter with an iron rod. After inflicting grave injuries, he allegedly forced her to drink herbicide.

She was taken to hospital by her mother, a homemaker.

Police had, at the time, registered a case against Abee under sections 342 (wrongful confinement), 324 (hurting using a dangerous weapon), 326-A (causing grievous injury) and 307 (murder attempt) of the IPC and section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act. Following the girl's death, other relevant sections pertaining to murder will be slapped against him, police said.

ADVISORY AFTER RASHMIKA DEEPFAKE VIDEO

Take down misleading AI content: Centre to social media platforms

SOUMYARENDRABARIK
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

THE MINISTRY OF Electronics and IT has sent advisories to social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, asking them to take down misleading content generated through artificial intelligence – deepfakes – within 36 hours.

The advisory comes after a deepfake video of actor Rashmika Mandanna has gone viral on social media platforms. The ministry had issued a similar advisory to the platforms in February this year.

According to government sources, the advisory has reiterated existing legal provisions that platforms have to follow as online intermediaries. It has mentioned Section 66D of the Information Technology Act, which entails punishment for cheating by impersonation by

using computer resources with imprisonment up to three years and fine up to Rs 1 lakh. The advisory is also understood to have mentioned Rule 3(2)(b) of the Information Technology Rules, under which social media platforms are required to take down content in the nature of impersonation, including artificially morphed images of an individual, within 36 hours of the receipt of a complaint.

As the clip went viral, actor Amitabh Bachchan has called for legal action against the deepfake of Mandanna.

Union Minister of State for Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar had said on X (formerly Twitter) that "deepfakes are the latest and even more dangerous and damaging form of misinformation".

Speaking on the issue, Mandanna said on X that she was "really hurt" and that such videos are scary for one and all.

Police horse dies of 'trauma' after Eden Gardens fireworks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 7

WHEN SPECTATORS cheered roarily to mark India's victory over South Africa in the ongoing Men's Cricket World Cup at the famous Eden Gardens on Sunday night, little did they, and the match organisers, know what lay in store for the horses of the Kolkata Police's mounted division deployed just outside the stadium for crowd manage-

ment. As soon as a massive fireworks display started around 8:30pm in the stadium, Voice of Reason, as it was named, and other horses of the Mounted Police went into distress and started running around the place with their handlers left clueless.

Voice of Reason, a mare aged 5 years, succumbed late in the night due to "trauma", said a senior police official, citing post-mortem examination of the animal. The firecrackers display went on for nearly 10 minutes.

India had highest number of TB cases globally in 2022: WHO

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, NOVEMBER 7

INDIA ACCOUNTED for the highest number of tuberculosis (TB) cases in the world in 2022, representing a staggering 27 per cent of the global burden, as revealed by the new World Health Organization (WHO) 2023 Global TB report released on Tuesday.

Overall, 30 high burden TB countries accounted for 87 per cent of the world's TB cases in 2022. Among the top eight high burden countries, Indonesia (10 per cent), China (7.1 per cent), the Philippines (7.0 per cent), Pakistan (5.7 per cent), Nigeria (4.5 per cent), Bangladesh (3.6 per cent), and the Democratic Republic of Congo (3.0 per cent) are included.

recorded 2.8 million (28.2 lakh) TB cases in 2022, with a case fatality ratio of 12 per cent. Officials stated that "The best estimate of the number of deaths in India from TB was 3,42,000 (3.31 lakh) among HIV-negative people and 11,000 among those with HIV."

The report highlights that multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) remains a public health crisis, with 1.1 lakh cases recorded in India in 2022. Dr Tereza Kasava, Director of WHO's Global TB Programme, pointed out a major global recovery in the number of people diagnosed with TB and treated in 2022, after two years of COVID-related disruptions.

"The increase is attributed to a good recovery in access to and the provision of health services in many countries. India, Indonesia, and the Philippines, which together accounted for over 60 per cent of the global re-

Army plans to start replacing Chetak, Cheetah helicopters in next 3-4 years

Set to induct indigenous Light Utility Helicopters; to ramp up UAV fleet within next five years

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

THE ARMY plans to start replacing its old Chetak and Cheetah helicopters within the next three to four years with the indigenously-made Light Utility Helicopters (LUH) and other alternate helicopters which could be leased for a fixed period, according to officials familiar with the matter.

The entire process of replacing the Chetak and Cheetah helicopters is likely to take 10-12 years, they said.

The officials also said that the Army is looking to significantly ramp up its Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) fleet within the next five years with a range of new UAVs such as the Israeli Heron Mk 2 and Hermes Starliner among others, while also upgrading the existing fleet of Heron Mk 1 UAVs to make them satellite communication-enabled.

An official privy to the modernisation plans said the force requires 250 light helicopters for reconnaissance and surveillance activities. "We will buy the Light Utility Helicopters, but given the



One squadron of Light Combat Helicopters has been inducted and more will be procured. *Twitter/@IAF_MCC*

capacities that HAL has today, we have to look at alternate means to replace the entire Chetak and Chetak fleet," the official said, adding that the total technical life (overall lifespan) of the Chetak and Cheetah fleet will start getting over within three to four years. The helicopters have been the primary workhorse of the Indian Armed Forces.

"We are looking at a couple of other options such as leasing a few helicopters for a few years. Subsequently, if HAL can manu-

facture the numbers required, we might go for that too," the official said, adding that the focus will remain on getting indigenous helicopters for the force.

Around four months ago, the Army had published a Request for Information (RFI) to lease helicopters. The official said the Army has received several responses and is currently in the process of analysing them after which the Request for Proposal would be floated and other procedural issues will be completed. "We are

EXPLAINED

Timely push

THE ARMY Aviation's modernisation plan is critical and comes at the right time in the wake of its Chetak, Cheetah fleet nearing completion of their total technical life and a number of helicopter crashes in recent years. Considering all options, the Army has decided to replace them both with LUH and by leasing other alternate helicopters, with preference to indigenous platforms.

hopeful of leasing a certain number of helicopters in the future."

Talking further about the LUH, officials said the helicopter has been fitted with an auto pilot, the trials for which are going on and the first lot of the choppers are expected to be delivered by December 2024. Every year,

around 30-35 such helicopters are expected to be manufactured all the three services.

The official said that currently Cheetahs are the only helicopters that are operated at the Siachen glacier regularly with ease and there is no major issue with the chopper at present.

He said the LUH is a good helicopter and is 25-30 per cent better than the Cheetah in terms of load-carrying capability. The auto-pilot fitted LUH will have phenomenal load carrying capability in high-altitude areas and will be a good platform to replace Chetak and Cheetahs.

On the planned inductions of other helicopters, the official said while one squadron of the Light Combat Helicopters for the Army has already been raised, the delivery of the rest of the helicopters is expected to start in 18-20 months. The Army is looking to procure 90 LCH, which will have the same weapon component as the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)-WSI called Rudra. The Army is also preparing to induct six Apache attack helicopters from the US early next year onwards under a February 2020 deal.



Meitei community members stop an Army vehicle from moving towards a gunfight site, in Imphal, on Tuesday. *Reuters*

Soldier's family members abducted; gunfights mark tense day in Manipur

SUKRITA BARUAH & JIMMY LEIVON
GUWAHATI, IMPHAL, NOV 7

THE PERIPHERAL areas of Manipur's Kangpokpi and Imphal West districts were volatile on Tuesday, with five members of the Kuki-Zomi community being abducted from the area and at least nine people – including two police personnel – from the Meitei community being injured in exchange of gunfire later on Tuesday.

Four out of the five Kuki-Zomi people who had been abducted are relatives of a soldier in the Indian Army.

The first incident of exchange of fire took place early in the morning in the area near Maphou, on the periphery of Imphal East and Kangpokpi district.

According to a security official,

HC: LIFT INTERNET BAN IN PEACEFUL AREAS

Imphal: The Manipur High Court has directed the state government to operationalise mobile towers, on a trial basis, in all those district headquarters which have not been affected by ethnic strife. The Manipur government had extended the mobile internet ban till November 8. *PTI*

five people from the Kuki-Zomi community were travelling in a vehicle when they were abducted by unknown miscreants around 8:45 am, close to Kangchup Chinkhong, which is at the border of the Kuki-Zomi dominated Kangpokpi and Meitei-dominated Imphal West district.

The official stated that while one of the five was rescued, the location of the rest continued to be unknown. According to Kuki-Zomi community organisations, the missing people include two women – aged 60 and 55 – and two men, aged 40 and 25.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum held Meitei radical group Arambai Tenggol responsible for the abduction and issued a statement appealing that a search operation be launched by central security forces to rescue them.

The group also stated that the firing that took place in the area later that day was initiated by Kuki-Zomi "volunteers" angered by the incident. At least nine persons, including two police personnel and two women from the Meitei community, were injured in the exchange of gunfire in that area on Tuesday.

Order on firecrackers applies to all states, not only NCR: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

AHEAD OF Diwali, the Supreme Court on Tuesday clarified that its order banning the use of barium and banned chemicals in firecrackers are applicable not just to the National Capital Region but to the entire country.

A bench of Justices A S Bopanna and M M Sundresh was hearing an application that sought directions to the Rajasthan government to comply with the top court's orders banning the use of banned chemicals and regulating noise levels.

"At this juncture, no specific order will be necessary in as much as this Court, in the course of hearing the petitions, has passed several orders, where steps have been indicated to minimise and avoid air as well as noise pollution. Hence the said orders will bind every state in the country, including the state of Rajasthan. Therefore, we make it clear that the state of Rajasthan would also take note of this and take all steps to minimize air and noise pollution, not only during the festival

season, but even thereafter," the bench said.

The counsel appearing for the applicant told the bench that there appeared to be a perception that the SC order is restricted to Delhi-NCR while the fact is it applies across the country. He urged the court to issue some direction to clear the air.

In October 2018, the apex court had banned the production and sale of all crackers except 'green crackers' and those with reduced emissions (improved crackers). It also banned the manufacture and sale of 'joined crackers', prohibited the use of barium salts in fireworks and said their noise levels should be within permissible limits. The court also banned their online sales and directed that they can be sold only through licensed traders and laid down the time schedule for bursting on various occasions.

The court reiterated this in its October 29, 2021 order.

The court also made it "clear that there is no total ban on use of firecrackers" and that "only those firecrackers are banned, as directed... which are found to be injurious to health."

GIFT CITY IN GUJARAT'S GANDHINAGAR

Deakin varsity starts admission process, to charge Rs 10.7 lakh per annum for masters courses

RITU SHARMA
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 7

AUSTRALIA'S DEAKIN University, the first foreign university to set up an international campus at GIFT City in Gandhinagar, started seeking applications on Tuesday for its two postgraduate programmes – session starting July 2024 – at an annual fee of AUD 19,000 (around Rs 10.7 lakh).

This was announced during the second day of the visit by the Australian delegation to Gujarat, led by Education Minister Jason Clare.

Australia's University of Wollongong, meanwhile, announced that it will start seeking applications at its GIFT City branch for Masters in Computing (data analytics) from January next year for the July 2024 session. The university will open admission for its undergraduate programme in computing in 2025.

"Today marks a historic milestone in India's journey in the field of higher education, as we celebrate the announcement of two campuses, Deakin and University of Wollongong in GIFT City," Union Education Minister



Construction work underway on Deakin campus. *Express*

Dharmendra Pradhan said.

He was speaking at the 'Arambh (The Beginning): Australian University Campuses in India' programme at Gift City. The Australian delegation, along with Pradhan, also visited the under-construction sites of both Deakin and Wollongong campuses. The 25,000 sq ft campus of Deakin University is set to be inaugurated in January 2024, likely during the Vibrant Gujarat Summit. Applications for admission will be accepted till March 31.

"We will charge AUD 19,000, which is nearly Rs 10 lakh per annum. The cost of living will be

Four days after he was booked for kidnap, UP man's mother, sister found dead

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 7

FOUR DAYS after a 25-year-old man was booked for allegedly kidnapping a minor girl from his neighbourhood, his 52-year-old mother and 20-year-old sister were found hanging from the ceiling of their house in Uttar Pradesh's Badaun district, local police said on Tuesday.

Police claimed it to be a case of suicide, while the family alleged that the mother-daughter duo was murdered and then hanged by the accused to make it look like suicide. On Monday evening, according to police, a villager entered the victim's house for some work and spotted the bodies hanging. The bodies have been sent for the postmortem and the reports are awaited, said police, adding no suicide note was found. Villagers claimed that the women took the extreme step after "being harassed by police who would regularly visit their house in connection with their probe into the kidnapping case". Police, however, denied the charges. The accused and the kidnapped girl are untraceable, police said.

On Tuesday morning, the kidnapping accused's father and younger brother (20), who had gone underground, returned home. "The accused's father alleged that they were murdered and then hanged. The father alleged that the family members of the girl who eloped with his son were behind the deaths and demanded action against them," the village pradhan told *The Indian Express*.

Change Aligarh to 'Harigarh': Civic body's resolution

Aligarh: The Aligarh Nagar Nigam has passed a resolution seeking a change in the city's name to 'Harigarh'.

The resolution, which was passed on Monday, will be sent to the Uttar Pradesh government for consideration, said BJP corporator Sanjay Pandit.

The proposal in this regard was moved by Pandit. In 2021, a similar resolution was passed by the District Panchayat and sent to the state government for further action.

Some senior ministers of the state raised the issue during the visit of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to Aligarh on August 21 this year. Aligarh, which houses Aligarh Muslim University, was earlier called Ramgarh, according to the UP government website. *PTI*

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel/Fax:-0680-240287)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No. Online Tender/76-2023-24/BPR

Identification No	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 76-2023-24/BPR	Bridge Works (BSY) for 2023-24	05-No	From Rs. 306.04 lakhs to Rs. 619.41 Lakhs	"A" Class and "Special" Class as applicable	09 (Nine) to 12 (Twelve) & 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer Identification No. 76-2023-24/BPR From 13-11-2023 at 10.00 A.M. To 28-11-2023 upto 3.00 P.M.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur

(i) EMD Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.

Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W. Circle, Berhampur

OIPR-25071/11/0081/2324

MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, RANCHI.

e-Tender e-Procurement Notice

e-Tender Reference No. WRD/MID/RANCHI F₂ - 01/2023-24

1. Name of the work	Residual work of Karanji M.I. Scheme, Block:- Bero, Dist- Ranchi.
2. Estimated Cost	Rs. 1,97,49,831.26
3. Time of Completion	(11 months)
4. Date of Publication of E-Tender on website	10.11.2023 at 2.00 pm
5. Last date/Time for submission of E-Tender BID's	30.11.2023 up to 5:00 pm
6. Submission of tender fee and EMD	e-Procurement Portal (jharkhandtenders.gov.in) 30.11.2023 up to 5:00 pm
7. Date of Opening Tender	01.12.2023 at 2:00 pm
8. Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Ranchi, Room No. 302, Abhiyantran Bhawan, Kutchery Chowak, Ranchi
a. Contact no. of e-Procurement officer	9431190681
b. Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-3512781/Email ID- cemidran-cemr-jhr@nic.in

Note :- (1) Only e-Tenders will be accepted. (2) Published Estimated Cost may be Increase or Decrease

Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation Division, Ranchi.

PR 310831 (Minor Irrigation) 23-24 (D)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG-39 of 2023-24, Letter No 3211 /Dtd. 06-11-2023

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work :- Road with Bridges(MSVC-TRIP)
2. Class of Contractor :- As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion :- As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects :- As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost :- As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-39 of 2023-24	13-11-2023 11.00 A.M.	23-11-2023 5.00 P.M.	24-11-2023 5.00 P.M.	24-11-2023 10.00 A.M.	will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

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

OIPR-25133/11/0052/2324

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

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Rakesh Beniwal S/o Lt. Sh. Mahender Beniwal R/o E-145/1/13, gali No.16, Rama Vihar Sector-22, Rohini, Delhi** have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under case. **Reg. 9875/16 U/s 138 NI Act.**, has been registered at **P.S. South Rohini, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Rakesh Beniwal** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Rakesh Beniwal** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, **Rakesh Beniwal of under cases. Reg. No.9875/16 U/s 138 NI Act.**, registered at **P.S. South Rohini, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **07.12.2023.**

By Order
Ms. Deepali Srivastava, MM.
(NW) Room No.107, Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/12751/RD/2023

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) **Anil @ Ravi, S/o Raj Kumar, (2) Shyam Sunder, S/o Mool Chand, (3) Manu Yadav @ Mantee, S/o Rajender Yadav, R/o 549, Gali No.13, Budh Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Case FIR No.451/15 U/s 380/457/411 IPC, P.S. North Rohini, Delhi.** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused (1) **Anil @ Ravi (2) Shyam Sunder (3) Manu Yadav @ Mantee** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) **Anil @ Ravi (2) Shyam Sunder (3) Manu Yadav @ Mantee** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) **Anil @ Ravi (2) Shyam Sunder (3) Manu Yadav @ Mantee** of **Case FIR No.451/15 U/s 380/457/411 IPC, P.S. North Rohini, Delhi.** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.12.2023.**

By Order
Deepali Srivastava
Metropolitan Magistrate (North West)
Room No-107, 1st Floor
Rohini, Courts, Delhi

DP/12641/RD/2023 (Court Matter).

IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH

FORM-18
[Sub-rule (2) of rule 20]

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION BY APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT/COLLECTOR
(UNDER SUB-SECTION (1) OF SECTION 11 OF THE ACT)
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH

IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH

NOTIFICATION
October 17, 2023

No.205/VIII-S.L.A.O./Notification/Moradabad/2023- Under sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013, Whereas the Government of Uttar Pradesh/ Collector (for the purpose of Appropriate Government) is satisfied that a total of 2.0450 hectares of land is required in the Villages Rafipur, Bahita Jaysingh, Pargana, & Tehsil Chandausi, district SAMBHAL and Villages Nasheerpur, Azimabad, Edalpur, Panwasa, Nandanpur, Muzaffarpur, Aadhol, Chiroli-Bhagwantpur Pargana & Tehsil SAMBHAL, District SAMBHAL is required for public purpose, namely, project MADHYA GANGA CANAL PHASE 2nd through IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MADHYA GANGA CANAL CONSTRUCTION DIVISION-7, BIJNOR (name of acquiring body).

2. Social impact Assessment study was carried out by the State Social Impact Assessment agency and submits its recommendations to the Appropriate Government which has approved its recommendation on dated.....

3. The summary of the Social Impact Assessment Report as follows:
SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS NOT APPLICABLE

4. A total of ZERO families are likely to be displaced due to the land acquisition. The reason necessitating such displacement is as under:-
Deputy Collector/Assistant Collector..... Is appointed as administrator for the purpose of rehabilitation and resettlement of the project affected families.

5. Therefore the Governor is pleased to notify for general information that the land mentioned in the Schedule below is needed for public purpose.

SCHEDULE

District	TEHSIL	PARGANA	VILLAGE	PLOT NO.	AREA TO BE ACQUIRED (IN HECT)				
Sambhal	Chandausi	Chandausi	Rafipur	202	0.0144				
				Total	0.0144				
				Baheta-jaysingh	202	0.2044			
					217	0.0466			
					203	0.0048			
				Total	0.2558				
				G. Total	0.2702				
				Sambhal	Sambhal	Sambhal	Nasheerpur	163	0.0720
								165	0.0020
								176	0.0024
Total	0.0764								
Sambhal	Sambhal	Sambhal	Edalpur	334	0.0024				
				272 mi	0.0108				
				159	0.0780				
				158	0.0468				
				Total	0.1380				
				Sambhal	Sambhal	Sambhal	Muzaffarpur	186	0.0733
								159	0.1686
423	0.0470								
332	0.0735								
406	0.2400								
402/1	0.1890								
Total	0.6660								
Sambhal	Sambhal	Sambhal	Aadhol	73	0.0112				
				Total	0.0112				
				Sambhal	Sambhal	Sambhal	Azimabad	128	0.0960
127	0.0416								
Total	0.1376								
Sambhal	Sambhal	Sambhal	Nandanpur	185	0.0180				
				Total	0.0180				
				Sambhal	Sambhal	Sambhal	Chiroli Bhagwantpur	586	0.2912
587	0.0016								
Total	0.2928								
Sambhal	Sambhal	Sambhal	Panwasa	1719	0.0140				
				1720	0.0070				
				1986	0.0352				
				1220	0.0120				
				1961	0.0024				
				1738	0.0040				
				1722	0.0120				
				1725 mi	0.0160				
				1755	0.0600				
				1958	0.0384				
Total	0.2394								
G. Total	2.0450								

6. The Governor is also pleased to authorize the Collector for the purpose of land acquisition to take necessary steps to enter up on and survey of land, take levels of any land, dig the sub soil and do all the acts required for the proper execution of work as provided and specified under section 12 of the Act.

7. Under section 15 of the Act, any person interested in the land may within 60 (days) after the publication of this notification, make an objection to the acquisition of land in the locality in writing to the Collector.

8. Under section 11(4) of the Act no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, specified in the preliminary notification or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such time as the proceeding is completed, without prior approval of the collector.

NOTE:- A Plan of Land may be inspected in the office of the Collector for the purpose of Acquisition.

(Sd) ILLIGIBLE
District Magistrate
Sambhal

UPID-197306 Date 06/11/2023
www.upgov.nic.in

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-02, रोसड़ा शुद्धि-पत्र

योजना एवं विकास विभाग, विहार सरकार के अंतर्गत स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-02, रोसड़ा, के निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-01(SBD)/2023.24 एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग का AD. ID-125795, (PR. NO.-010267/Planning) 2023-24 के द्वारा दिनांक 18.10.2023 को निविदा का प्रकाशन हुआ है, जिसमें क्रमांक संख्या 11 पर अंकित योजना (समस्तीपुर जिला अंतर्गत शिवाजीनगर प्रखंड के दक्षिण रस्ता पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य) को अपरिहार्य कारण से रद्द किया जाता है। इस निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना को इस हद तक संशोधित समझा जाय।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन
कार्य प्रमंडल-02, रोसड़ा

PR- 011429 (Planning) 2023-24

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

Office of The Principal
Bakhtiyarpur College of Engineering,
Champapur, Dedaar, Bakhtiyarpur-803212
(Under Department of Science, Technology and Technical Education Patna, Govt. of Bihar)
Email-Id-bcebakhtiyarpur@gmail.com, Website-bcebakhtiyarpur.org

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR GUEST ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Advt. No.- BCE/BIO/2023-24/08

Bakhtiyarpur College of Engineering, Bakhtiyarpur is going to conduct a walk-in-interview for the empanelment of GUEST ASSISTANT PROFESSOR in BIOLOGY for the current academic session. Interested and eligible candidates may appear for the walk-in-interview with all their original academic certificates, Category Certificate, Residential Certificate, Hard copy of CV, 02 sets of photo copies of original documents/certificates, and 02 recent passport size photographs per the following schedule:-

Sr. No.	Post	Subject/ Department	Academic qualification and Experience	Date and time of interview	Venue
1.	Guest Assistant Professor	BIOLOGY	As per AICTE/DSTTE Notification No.-565, Dated-13.02.2020	25-11-2023 AT 11:00 AM	Bakhtiyarpur College of Engineering, Champapur, Dedaar, Bakhtiyarpur -803212

Important Instruction:-

- Essential qualifications are as per AICTE/DSTTE Norms.
- Ph.D/NET qualified candidates will be preferred.
- Retired Professor will get preference.
- This engagement will be purely temporary and remuneration-based.
- Remuneration for Guest Assistant Professor will be as per existing rules and directives of DSTTE, Government of Bihar.
- The Institute reserves the right to withdraw the partial or full advertisement/ notification w.r.t walk-in-interview without assigning any reason.
- The services of Guest Assistant Professor will be terminated without notice if found unsatisfactory. No claim will be entertained in this regard.
- No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.
- Reservation as per existing state government rules and departmental letter no-897, Date-31.03.2022
- The advertisement is based on the departmental Sankalp no. 3016/Patna dated 02.12.2021

For further details please visit website www.bcebakhtiyarpur.org

Principal,
Bakhtiyarpur, College of Engineering,
Bakhtiyarpur

PR. No. 011364 (Science & Tech.) 2023-24

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Govt. of Bihar

BIHAR MUSEUM, PATNA
(An Autonomous Society under the Department of Art, Culture & Youth, Government of Bihar)
Nehru Path (Bailey Road), Patna-800001

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING SECURITY SERVICES (EX-ARMY PERSONNEL AND CIVILIAN SECURITY) FOR BIHAR MUSEUM SOCIETY, PATNA AND FOR PATNA MUSEUM, PATNA.

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed agencies under "Two-bid" system - Technical Bid (un-priced) and Financial Bid (priced) to provide SECURITY SERVICES (Ex-Army Personnel and Civilian) for Bihar Museum Society, Patna (An Autonomous Organization under the Department of Art, Culture & Youth, Govt. of Bihar, Registered under Societies Registration Act, 21, 1860) and for Patna Museum, Patna.

Detailed information of the Tender Document can be downloaded from the website <http://biharmuseum.org> / <http://prdbihar.gov.in> / <https://state.bihar.gov.in/yac>. The bidder has to submit non-refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees five thousand only) and Bid Security Fee of Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Only) through demand draft in favour of BIHAR MUSEUM SOCIETY, PATNA, payable at Patna along with the Technical Bid. Bid Security money will be returned to the all unsuccessful Agencies after 30 days of finalization of the tender. Tender Document complete in all respects in a sealed envelope is to be submitted by Speed Post/Registered Post only at the Office of the Director General, Bihar Museum, Nehru Path (Bailey Road), Patna - 800001. **No tender will be accepted by courier or by hand.** The tenders received late/tenders without Processing Fee/Conditional tenders/Incomplete Tenders in any respect would be rejected. The Director General, Bihar Museum, Patna reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Important Dates for the selection process:

(i) Date for pre-bid conference - 22/11/2023 at 3.30 p.m.
(ii) Last date for submission of Tender - 06/12/2023 up to 03.00 p.m.
(iii) Date of opening Technical Bid - 06/12/2023 at 04.00 p.m.
(iv) Date for Presentation - Will be informed.
(v) Date of opening Financial Bid - Will be informed.

Venue for pre-bid Conference: Pre-bid Conference for appointment of Agency for providing Security Services (Ex-Army Personnel/Civilian) for Bihar Museum Society, Patna and for Patna Museum will be held at the office of the Director General, Bihar Museum, Nehru Path (Bailey Road), Patna-800001.

(Ranbeer Singh Rajput)
Additional Director-Admin (I/c)
Bihar Museum

PR. No. 011365 (Art & Culture) 2023-24

This information is available on website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also.

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF TENDER
E-Tender Notice No. SNT-JP-18-2023-24 Date: 06/11/2023 DRM (S&T)/North Western Railway / Jaipur, for and on behalf of the President of India, **Cancel E-Tender No. SNT-JP-18-2023-24** of the following work due to administrative reason: **Name of work with its location:** Replacement of power supply equipments for OFC equipments at 50 stations over Jaipur Division.

Divisional Railway Manager(S&T),
North Western Railway,
Jaipur

1155-AC/23

Office of Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad

E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tender
No.- 5200/Nivida-Moradabad/23-24 Dated : 26-10-2023

On behalf of the Governor of UP, tender for following work are invited by the upertending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from registered contractors In column No-8 from 10.11.2023 at 10.00 am to 25-11-2023 at 12:00 pm. Amount mentioned in column no. 5 & 7 shall be mandatory deposited by Net Banking Only through E-tender portal. Technical bid /Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 25-11-2023 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.

Sr. No.	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.in lacs)	Bid Security (Rs.in lacs)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Cost of tender documents including GST (RS.)	Category of road contractor eligible
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	MBD	Construction work of new mini bridge 1/85/0 (box culvert) in place of narrow bridge on Rapti river located at Km 96 of Bahsuma-Chandpur-Thakurdwara-Jaspur (S.H-147) road in Moradabad district.	127.00	8.35	9 Month	300+2000+54=2354	A,B Bridge Category
2	MBD	Construction work of new mini bridge 1/85/0 (box culvert) in place of narrow bridge on Dunda river located at Km 94 of Bahsuma-Chandpur-Thakurdwara- Jaspur (S.H-147) road in Moradabad district.	131.00	8.55	9 Month	300+2000+54=2354	A,B Bridge Category
3	MBD	Construction work of new mini bridge 2/33/0 (box culvert) in place of narrow bridge on the drain located at Km 112 of Bahsuma-Chandpur-Thakurdwara-Jaspur (S.H-147) road in Moradabad district.	70.00	5.50	9 Month	300+2000+54=2354	A,B,C Bridge Category

Rules/conditions & details of the tender are available at website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Bidder have to login Prahari URL <http://wms.upwd.gov.in/prahari/> and upload their documents As per G.O No.-879 (1) / 23-7-2020 dated 25-08-2020 and E-IN-C (Vikas) and Head of Department letter-4650 / 4NL-0C / 2020 dated 27.08.2020.

(Er. Mohd. Naved Ahmad Khan)
Executive Engineer
Provincial Division,
PWD Moradabad

(Er. S.P. Singh)
Superintending Engineer
Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad
For and on behalf of Governor of UP

UPID No. 197294 Date: 06.11.2023
www.up.gov.nic.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY

ONE STATION ONE PRODUCT

Applications are invited under scheme of 'One Station One Product' for setting up:

A. Stall at Panipat, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, Samalkha, & Pataudi Road stations.

B. Temporary stall at: Shamli, Baraut, Ballabgarh, Partapur, Faridabad New town, Tapri, Sahibabad, Noli, Narela, Tughlakabad, Palam, Tilakbridge, Khatauli, Okhla, Sampla, Asaoti, Delhi Safdarjung, Julana, Mangolpuri, Naya Ghaziabad, Muradnagar, Sakoti Tanda, Vivek Vihar, Delhi Azadpur, Shivaji Bridge, Badli, Modinagar, Deoband & Garhi Harsaru stations in leading newspapers.

- The period for setting up of stall at Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, Samalkha & Pataudi Road, stations per spell will be 90 days.
- The period for setting up of temporary stall at stations mentioned in (B) above will be 30 days per spell.
- Registration fee will be charged @ rate of Rs. 2000 for each spell of thirty days and for **NSG 4** (Pataudi Road, Baraut, Ballabgarh, Faridabad New town, Sahibabad, Noli, Narela, Tughlakabad, Palam & Modinagar) **NSG 5** (Samalkha, Shamli, Tapri, Tilak Bridge, Khatauli, Okhla, Sampla, Asaoti, Julana, Mangolpuri, Muradnagar, Vivek Vihar, Shivaji Bridge, Badli, Deoband, Garhi Harsaru & Delhi Safdarjung) & **NSG 6** (Partapur, Naya Ghaziabad, Sakoti Tanda & Delhi Azadpur) registration fee will be charged @ rate of Rs. 1000 for each spell thirty days.
- The following are the eligibility criteria for participant viz.
 - Holder of Artisans/Weaver ID card issued by Development Commissioner Handicraft, Development Commissioner Handloom, or by the requisite state/ Central Government Authority.
 - Individual artisans/weavers/craftsmen enrolled/registered with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)/National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)/Khadi/Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/associated with Social Organizations, State Govt. bodies and associated with registered micro enterprises on the Udyam Portal of the Ministry of MSME and NGOs etc.
 - Self Help Groups registered with PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme).
 - Marginalized or weaker sections of society.
 - No separate logo shall be allowed.
- The applicant will have to submit an undertaking to the Station Superintendent indicating that no activity would be undertaken to adversely affect the train operations, passenger safety and image of the Railways.
- Applications should be addressed and can be submitted to Station Superintendent at station by the applicant till 15:00 hrs. of 09.11.2023, which will be opened on same day.
- Station Superintendent will make priority roster of all approved participants and priority will be established through a draw of lots conducted at the station in the presence of all approved applicants by the Station Manager/Sectional CMI and nominated Finance representative.
- The One Station One Product scheme shall be governed by Railway Board's Commercial Circular No. 12 of 2022 and 09 of 2023 respectively available at website: www.indianrailways.gov.in & URL: https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic_comm/Comm_Cir_2022/OSOP%20Policy.pdf & https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic_comm/Comm_Cir_2023/CC%20%2009%20of%202023.pdf
- For any queries applicant may contact Station Superintendent or CMI of the respective stations.

3485/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

14 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Meenakshi w/o Joginder Singh Gahlot, R/o H.No.7, Road No.51, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Meenakshi Gahlot, for all purposes. 0040697633-1

I, Mahesh S/o Matru Lal R/o H.N.93/5, Opp. Chandergeri Sehol, Near Ansh Hospital, Bawri Gate, Bhiwani (Haryana)-127021, have changed my name to Mahesh Kumar Mittal. 0040697711-6

I, MOHD SAJJID, S/O JAMALUDDIN, R/o T-378-A, Fourth Floor, Bara Hindu Rao, Chamelian Road, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to MOHAMMAD SAJJID, for all purposes. 0040697639-1

I, MANTI DEVI W/o Moti Ravidas, R/o Vill-Bathani, Post-Bathani, PS-Nimchak Bathani, Gaya, Bihar-823311, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUMITRA DEVI. 0040697634-1

I, Joginder Singh S/o Raghib Singh, R/o H.No.7, Road No.51, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Joginder Singh Gahlot, for all purposes. 0040697633-2

I, Deepika Ghai, W/o Saurabh Mahajan R/o Flat No-310, Lakeview Apartments, Sector-9, Rohini, Prashant Vihar, Narela, North West Delhi-110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Deepika Ghai 0070872753-1

I, Athrv Aggarwal S/O Anil Aggarwal, R/o C-39, Friends Colony East, New Delhi, Srinivaspuri, S.O, South Delhi-110065, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vedant Aggarwal. 0070872754-1

I, AVDRESH KUMAR S/O Sh. Krishna Swaroop R/o 2364-AB, Raja Park, Delhi-110034 Declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Avadhesh Kumar in my 10th and as Abdhesh Kumar in my 12th class educational documents and Abdhesh Kumar in my service record. The actual name of mine is AVDRESH KUMAR which may be amended accordingly. 0040697616-1

I, Surennder Gaba S/o Purshotam Gaba R/o H.No.D1/59-60, Second Floor, Back Side, Jeevan Park, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed the name of my minor son from Dhruvin Gaba to Gaurvit Gaba for all purposes. 0040697601-2

I, Suman Surabhi W/o Aashutosh Kumar D/o UPENDRA NARAYAN R/o H.No.D2, Third Floor, Arya Samaj Mandir Road, Reliance Mall, Vikaspuri, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Suman Surbhi for all purposes. 0040697601-4

I, Savita D/o Bhagwan Singh Dalal and W/o Mukesh Vyas R/o House No 971, Radhika Apartment, sec 14 Pocket, 1 Dwarka, New Delhi-110078, have changed my name to Savita Vyas 0070872731-1

I, Sanjeev Singh S/O Rohit Kumar Sinha R/o B-110, Parasvnaht Prestige Sector-93A Noida Gautam Buddha nagar U.P-201304 Have changed my name from Sanjeev Singh to Sanjiv Singh for all future Purposes 0070872763-1

I, Nandnee Gaba D/o Sh.Surender Gaba R/o H.No.D1/59-60, Second Floor, Back Side, Jeevan Park, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Garema Gaba for all purposes. 0040697601-1

I, Geetanjali Semwal Arora W/O Rishi Arora R/O B-229 Sector 92 Noida 201305 have changed my name to Geetanjali Semwal for all future purposes. 0070872725-1

I, Geeta W/O, Deepak Thapa R/o A-135, Ground Floor, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Geeta Thapa. 0040697625-1

I, Gautam S/o Sh.Sunil Bansal R/o B-131, B-Block, Near India Post, Sector-19, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name to Gautam Bansal for all purposes. 0040697601-3

I, Bhuvnesh kumar Gupta S/O Anil Gupta R/O G-34A/TF Dilshad Colony jhilmil H.O East Delhi Have changed my name to Bhuvnesh kumar to Bhuvnesh kumar gupta for all future purposes 0070872802-1

I, Vidya W/O Vicky Khanna R/O S-2/177, Second Floor, Old Mahavir Nagar, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Vidya Khanna 0070872765-1

I, Sabumon Puthenchira Chandra Sekharan S/O Chandra Sekharan R/O D-701 Trident Embassy, Sector-01 Greater Noida west distt. Gautam budh nagar U.P-201306 Have changed my name to Sabu Mon for all future purposes. 0070872786-1

My name is Rajni in all documents, but in my son's DOB certificate my name is stated as Rajni Dubey, now I am officially updating my name from Rajni Dubey to Rajni to update my name in school records. 0040697711-10

My name is Rajesh Kumar in all the official documents such as Aadhar Card and Pan Card, but at the time of admission of my child the documents may state my name as Rajesh, now I am officially updating my name from Rajesh to Rajesh Kumar to update my name in school records. 0040697711-9

I, Siddhant Singh C/O Arti Singh born on 16-09-2003 Residing at H.No.11/9 Flat no.B-3 First Floor Pratap Niwas Kishangarh Village Vasant Kunj South West Delhi 110070, have changed my name to Siddhant Tokas vide affidavit dated 31-Oct-2023 at Delhi 0130038000-1

I, Ishant Singh C/O Arti Singh born on 15-09-2005 Residing at H.No.11/9 Flat no.B-3 First Floor Pratap Niwas Kishangarh Village Vasant Kunj South West Delhi 110070, have changed my name to Ishant Tokas vide affidavit dated 31-Oct-2023 at Delhi 0130038001-1

It is for general information that I, Varsha Kumari, D/O Rambali Paswan, R/O H.No-12, Gali No-11, Samaypur Badli, Delhi-110042 declare that name of my mother has been wrongly-written as Sarla Devi in my 10th and 12th educational documents. The actual name of my mother is Shaila Devi. 0040697711-8

It is for general information that I, Poonam Gupta, D/o Vinod Gupta, W/o Lalit Goyal, R/O 345/22, Gali.No.-2, Roop-Nagar, Sonipat Haryana-131001, declare that my correct-name is Poonam Gupta according to my graduation and post-graduation marksheet/certificate and adhar no.488493307674. And in my-10th & 12th certificate/marksheet my-name is mentioned as Poonam. I affirm and declare both names of myself i.e.Poonam Gupta & Poonam. 0040697726-7

It is for general information that I, MOHD AFZAL S/O MOHD. IQBAL R/O A-2/12, DDA FLAT, INDER LOK ANKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110035 declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as AYESHA in her 10th educational documents. The actual name of my minor daughter is AIYSHA which may be amended accordingly. 0040697619-1

I, Mohinder Singh, S/o late Kapoor Singh, H.No.7901, katra-maliwara roshanara Road Deena nath-road sabzi-mandi, delhi-110007, have changed my name to Mahinder Singh 0040697680-1

I, Deepak S/O, Lal Bahadur Thapa R/O A-135, Ground Floor, Hari Nagar, New Delhi have changed my name to Deepak Thapa. 0040697626-1

I, Mohinder Singh, S/o late Kapoor Singh, H.No.7901, katra-maliwara roshanara Road Deena nath-road sabzi-mandi, delhi-110007, have changed my name to Mahinder Singh 0040697680-1

I, Deepak S/O, Lal Bahadur Thapa R/O A-135, Ground Floor, Hari Nagar, New Delhi have changed my name to Deepak Thapa. 0040697626-1

I, hitherto known as RAHUL MEHROLIA, son of JAIRAJ MEHRA, residing at D-98, 3rd Floor, Sita Puri Part-1, Dabri-Extn., Raghu-Nagar, Dabri, Delhi-110045, have changed my name and shall hereinafter be known as RAHUL MEHRA. 0040697726-4

I, Zahir Khan, S/O Safi Ahmad, R/O New F-215, Near-Gurdwara Mandir, Raghubir-Nagar Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Zaheer Ahmad 0040697712-4

I, VISHAL S/O NAND KISHORE, R/O 2994/5C SECOND-FLOOR, BACK-PORITION RANJIT NAGAR, NEAR-SHIV CHOWK-CENTRAL DELHI-110008, have changed my name to VISHAL SOLANKI, for all Purposes. 0040697711-4

I, Sumit Kumar S/O Chandra Bhushan R/O C-6/20, 01st-floor, platinum courts apartments, Ardee City, Sector-52, Gurugram, (Haryana)-122003, have changed my name to Sumit Kumar Shukla. 0040697711-5

I, Sukhvinder Singh Lamba, S/o Tejinder Singh, R/O-4/5, near Kirpal Ashram-Vijay Nagar Double Storey, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to Sukhvinder Singh. 0040697675-6

I, Sudhir Taneja, S/O Jagdish Chandra Taneja, R/O-Flat No.1507, Tower SEM-B, Shipra Shrishti, Ahinsa Khand-1, Indrapuram, GZB, have changed the name of my minor son Gunit, to Gunit Taneja, forever. 0040697730-4

I, Sudhir Taneja, S/O Jagdish Chandra Taneja, R/O-Flat No.1507, Tower SEM-B, Shipra Shrishti, Ahinsa Khand-1, Indrapuram, GZB, have changed the name of my minor son Yatish, to Yatish Taneja, forever. 0040697730-3

I, Shehnaaz Parveen W/o Mehboob Ahmed R/O, K-67, Abul Fazal Enclave-I, Jamia-Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Shahnaz Parveen. 0040697730-5

I, Shakeel S/O Habeeb Urrahaman, R/O S-221/43, Upper-Ground-Floor Gali.No.01-S-Block, Vishnu Garden, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Shakeel Ahmed. 0040697680-3

I, Seema Rani Bhardwaj, W/o Pradeep Kumar R/O D-1/24 Budh, Vihar Phase-1, Rohini Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Seema. 0040697675-5

I, QAYUM MOHAMMAD, S/O AMANAT HUSAIN, R/O R-266, Gali no.12, RAMESH PARK, LAXMI NAGAR, EAST DELHI-110092 have changed my name to MOHD QAYUM 0070872732-1

I, Rajeev Kumar Garg S/o Hari Shankar Garg R/O C-235, Top Floor, Anand Vihar, New Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Rajeev Garg. 0040697711-10

I, Saurav Jain S/o Virender Kumar Jain R/O-316, Gali No.1, Opp.Samudai Bhwan Shalimar, Village Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, changed my name to Saurav Virender Jain 0040697712-5

I, SURESH GOEL, S/O SAT NARAYAN, R/O H.N.136, 137, PCKET-3, SEC-24, ROHINI DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SURESH CHAND GOEL 0040697711-3

I, SUNITA GULATI W/O GULVINDER KUMAR R/O WZ-126, GALI NO.29, SANT-GARH, TILAK-NAGAR, DELHI-110018, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNITA RANI. 0040697675-9

I, Ruchika, W/o Ayush Nagpal, Add-E-202, Antriksh Apartment, Sector-14, Rohini, North West-Delhi, changed my name to Ruchika Nagpal. 0040697680-7

I, Rajinder Kumar Aggarwal, S/o Trilok Chand R/O-OP-63, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Rajender Kumar 0040697675-4

I, Mehboob S/o Mehmoob Ahmed R/O, K-67, Abul Fazal Enclave-I, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Mehboob Ahmed. 0040697730-6

I, RAVI KUMAR VIJHANI, S/O MADAN LAL, ADD-A-3/208, IIND-FLOOR, SEC-13, PRINTER AAPPARTMENT, ROHINI, NEW DELHI-110085, changed my name to RAVI VIJHANI. 0040697730-1

I, RAMESH KUMAR SHARMA, FATHER OF, SURENDRA SHARMA, R/O, H.NO-2/212 RHB-COLONY, NEAR AZAD VATIKA HANUMANGARH RAJASTHAN-335512, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM RAMESH KUMAR SHARMA TO RAMESH CHANDER VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED IN- DL93230306456729V 07/11/2023 BEFORE NCT DELHI. 0040697726-9

I, RAJENDRA AHUJA S/O-GURU DUTTA MAL AHUJA, R/O-A-74, NAYA BAZAR NAJAFGARH, DELHI-110043, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJENDRA AHUJA. 0040697680-2

I, Priya Prasher, D/o Deepak Kumar Sharma, W/o Robin Dhawan, R/o, B-1382, 4th Floor, Palam-Vihar Choma mandi, delhi-110007, have changed my name to Mahinder Singh 0040697680-1

I, Deepak S/O, Lal Bahadur Thapa R/O A-135, Ground Floor, Hari Nagar, New Delhi have changed my name to Deepak Thapa. 0040697626-1

I, PINKALBEN KAMLESHKUMAR PATEL, W/O KRUNALBHAI SURESHBHAI PATEL, R/O 10/A, SHIVNATH BUNGLOWS-2, KHERALU ROAD, VISNAGAR, Gujarat-384315, have changed my name to PINKALBEN KRUNALBHAI PATEL, permanently. 0040697675-1

I, PAWANKUMAR VIMLESH PANDEY, S/O VIMLESH PANDEY, ADD-K-733, 3RD-FLOOR, KH.No.826/16D, K-11 BLOCK, MAHIPALPUR EXTENSION, SOUTH-WEST, DELHI-110037, changed my name to PAWAN KUMAR PANDEY. 0040697742-1

I, PARKASH SINGH, S/O KARNAIL SINGH BHULLAR, ADD-BE-120, GALI NO.2, HARI NAGAR, WEST-DELHI-110064, changed my name to PARKASH SINGH BHULLAR, for all, future purposes. 0040697730-2

I, PALLAVI ALIAS PALLAVI SINGH, W/O Shakti Kumar Singh, R/O Flat.No.261, J-Block, DLF Capital-Green Shivaji-Marg, Moti Nagar, Delhi-110015, changed my name after-marriage i.e PALLAVI SHAKTI. 0040697742-2

I, Neelsh Saxena, W/o Ritu Ranjan Kumar Saxena, R/O RZF-486, A/2, Gali.N.20, Sadh Nagar-2, Palam colony, Delhi-110045, changed my Name to Nilesh Saxena. 0040697675-7

I, Mohammad Naem S/o, Mohammad Saffeq R/o, F-3, Basement West-Side, Vishwakarma Colony, Badarpur, Delhi-110044, that my-father's name has been wrongly-written as Mohmmad Saffeq in my-Passport No.L7257144. But my-father's correct name is Mohammad Saffeq. 0040697730-8

I, Mohammad Naem S/o Mohammad Saffeq R/o F-3, Basement West-Side, Vishwakarma Colony, Badarpur, Delhi-110044, have changed my name to Mohammad Naem. 0040697730-7

I, Mohini Sharma Khanna, W/o Rahul Khanna R/O-Vp-204C, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my minor daughter name Ashnoor Khanna aged 5-years to Nitara Khanna 0040697675-3

I, Mohini Sharma Khanna, W/o Rahul Khanna R/O-Vp-204C, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my minor daughter name Ambreena Khanna aged 5-years to Yashika Khanna. 0040697675-2

I, MUSTREEF, S/O ALIMUDDIN, R/O A 12/1, GALI NO.8, CHATTAR PUR, SOUTH DELHI-110074, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MUSTREEF AHMAD. 0040697711-2

I, Satish Kumar Sharma S/O Babu Lal Sharma, R/O RZ-1103, Gali No.14 Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, South West Delhi-110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Satish Kumar Kaushik. 0070872760-1

I, MOHAMMED RAHIF, S/O MOHAMMED ZASHEED, R/O Flat.No.172/3-B KH.No.131, Right Portion 4th-Floor, Street.No.9, Near Amina, Masjid-Village, Wazirabad, Delhi 110084, have changed my name to UZAIR RASHEED, permanently 0040697711-3

I, REKHA KUMARI, W/O JITENDER KUMAR LUTHRA, R/O, UGF-1, KHASARANO, 480-481, LAKE VIEW-APARTMENT, SHAKTI-ENCLAVE, BURARI, DELHI-110084, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JANAVI REKHA. 0040697675-9

I, Lalit Kashyap, S/O Sahab Singh R/O, CD-154, Sector-C-1, East End Ansh Tronica City Loni Dehat Ghaziabad, UP-201102, have changed my name to Lalit Kumar Kashyap. 0040697712-3

I, LALITA DEVI, MOTHER OF, SURENDRA SHARMA R/O H.NO 2/212 RHB COLONY NEAR AZAD VATIKA HANUMANGARH RAJASTHAN-335512, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM LALITA DEVI TO LALITA SHARMA, WIDE-AFFIDAVIT IN-DL93224532461173V, DATED-07/11/2023, BEFORE NCT-DELHI. 0040697268-8

I, Kamleshwar Prasad, S/O Bhagti Prasad R/O, H.No.22 & 23, street, no.6 Sainik-vihar phase-1, Mohan-Garden, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059, have Changed my name to Kamleshwar Prasad Semwal. 0040697680-5

I, KAVITA VERMA, D/O, UPANDER LAL VERMA, R/O, ROOM.No.302-E-24, IGNOU Main Rd, Paryavaran Complex, Saket, New Delhi, Delhi-110030, have changed my name to "SADHVI KALYANI GIRI" for all purposes. 0040697680-8

I, KAMLA DEVI, M/O RADHESHYAM MUNDEL, RESIDENT OF, VP-C-KHANGTA, DISTT-JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN-342606, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM KAMLA DEVI TO KAMALA DEVI, WIDE-AFFIDAVIT, DATED, 07-NOV-23. 0040697726-10

I, GULVINDER KUMAR GULATI, S/O DARSHAN LAL GULATI, R/O WZ-126, GALI NO.29, SANT-GARH, TILAK-NAGAR, DELHI-110018, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GULVINDER KUMAR. 0040697726-10

I, Ayush Nagpal, Add-E-202, Antriksh Apartment, sector-14, Rohini, North West Delhi, changed my minor child name Yohaana to Yohaana Nagpal. 0040697680-6

I, Ayub Ansari, S/O Rustam Mian, R/O Village Baghashola Po-kundahit Jharkhand -815359, have changed my name to Md. Ayub Ansari, permanently. 0040697675-10

I, Ashok Kumar Agarwal S/o Omkar Prasad Agarwal R/O 2431 Upper Ground Floor, Sector 46 Gurugram (Haryana) 122002, have changed my name to Ashok Kumar 0040697711-7

I, Ajatul Jarina, W/O Md Munir R/O V-84B, Sector-D, Bhagwati Vihar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Ajamtul Jarina. 0040697712-2

I, ATTAR SINGH, S/O KISHAN SINGH, R/O HNO.5499/9, GALI.No.115/18, B-BLOCK, SANT-NAGAR, BURARI, DELHI-110084, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ATTAR SINGH. 0040697675-8

I, ANUPRIYA SHARMA, W/O JAYANSH GUPTA, R/O B-3, KALINDI COLONY, DELHI-110065, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANUPRIYA SHARMA GUPTA. 0040697680-4

I, ANIKA SINGH SACHDEVA, W/O Sh.Harmeet Singh Sachdeva, R/o, House.No.12, Road.No.68, 2nd Floor, Punjabi-Bag West, New-Delhi-110026, have changed my name to ANIKA SINGH. 0040697680-9

I, ABHISHEK RATHEE, R/O HOUSE NO.221, VASANT ENCLAVE, VASANT VIHAR-1, SOUTH WEST, DELHI-110057, CHANGED MY MINOR SON NAME VARDAAN TO VARDAAN SINGH RATHEE. 0040697711-1

I, narendra Kumar S/o Sumer Singh R/o 46, Industrial Area, Phase-3, Tahliwal, Una, Himachal Pradesh, have changed my name Narendra Kumar chauhan to Narendra kumar 0070872801-1

I, Gursheen Kaur W/o Harmander Singh Syal R/O, H.No.9/15, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-15, have changed my name to Gursheen Kaur Syal. 0040697680-10

I, Vikas S/O Santram R/O House No 231, Chauhan Mohalla Rangpuri, South West Delhi 110037, Delhi have changed my name to Vikas Sehrawat. 0070872784-1

I, Susheela Sharma, W/o Late Lt Col Onkar Nath Retd, R/o Village Jadrangal, Tehsil Dharamsala, District Kangra, HP 176052, have changed my name to Sushila Devi for all future purposes 0050229966-1

I, Sharique Mohammad S/O Yaqoob Ali R/O 448, Sec-44, Gali No.2, Chhalera Bangar, Noida Sec-37, G.B.Nagar, UP-201303, have changed my name to Mohd. Sharique for all future Purposes. 0070872762-1

I, Purshottam S/o B.R.Verma R/O A-3/81, HARSH VIHAR, North East, Delhi-110093. I have changed my name to Purshotam for future purposes 0070872756-1

I, Priyanka Sen W/o Abhishek Sen R/O 303, Tower-C1, Supertech Livingston, Crossings Republik, Ghaziabad, UP-201016 have changed my name to Priyanka Saxena for all future purposes. 0040697617-1

I, Pradeep Kumar S/O Jaipal Singh, R/o L-40 A Upper Ground Floor, Vijay Vihar, Gali No-5, Phase-2 Rohini Sector-4, Ritahla, North West Delhi-110085. I have changed the name of my minor Son Aarav aged about 13 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Aarav Kumar 0070872759-1

I, Neeru Arora W/o Mr. Neeraj Suri R/O 446, S.F., Niti Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014 have changed my name from Neeru Arora to Neeru Suri for all future purposes. 0040697614-1

I, Neera D/o. Dinesh Munjal R/O, EC-2/ D-102, Essel Towers M.G. Road, Near IFCC Chowk, Gurugram-122009 (HR) India State that Neera and Neera Munjal is one and same person. Now I have changed my name from Neera to Neera Munjal for all future purposes. 0040697653-1

I, Mohammadali Anoop Singh Panwar S/O Anoop Singh Panwar, R/O Kh No. 87, Block B Rajeev Nagar, Bhalswa Dairy, New Delhi, Animal Hospital, Bhalswa Dairy, Badli, North West Delhi-110042, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mohammad Ali. 0070872751-1

I, Chanchal Agarwal, w/o Lake Shri Pramod Kumar Gurusganj Kali Nadi Road BSR -203001, Lost my-Property ownership documents of plot Purchased on 31/12/1984 With Sr.No.10364, Page no. 94-96, Jild.No.1926, From Jaswant Singh s/o Kartar Singh. 00406997712-9

I, (Naresh Kumar) have lost my builder buyer agreement of my Greater Noida Flat No.604, Tower C,3, Spring Meadows, Sec-Technozone-4, Greater Noida. 0040697712-8

I, ANIL GUPTA AND SUNIL KUMAR GUPTA, S/O-RAMROOP GUPTA, R/O, C-7/19 YAMUNA-VIHAR, DELHI-110053, have lost my-PROPERTY ORIGINAL-DOCUMENT D.D.A LETTER D.D.A PHYSICAL POSSESSION LETTER. Finder, Contact-9911846999. 0040697742-6

I, Archana Khandelwal, D/o Sh.Om Prakash Khandelwal, W/o Sh.Anil Khandelwal, R/O CP-68, Maurya-Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, archanakhandelwal78@yahoo.com have lost my Original approval Map of CP-68, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, somewhere around Pitampura. Finder Please-Contact at above said-Address or (Mob.)9899381399. 0040697712-10

LOST AND FOUND
Lost Original Property Documents i.e. Agreement to Sale and Will execute by Sh. J.S. Bathia in favour of Mr.H.Balagopal dated 09/04/1999. General Power of Attorney execute by Sh.J.S. Bathia in favour of Mrs. Nitu Balagopal dated 09/04/1999 in respect of E-9E, MIG Flats, G-8 Area, Rajour Garden, New Delhi-110064. An FIR to this infact has been Lodged vide LR.No. 1112264/2023 dated: 06/11/2023. Finder/Informant at above address.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for information of General Public that our client is negotiating with Tomorrow Land Developers Square LLP (LLP No.ABB-2075), registered office at TLD House, 4A/60, Third Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060 (as the Owner) for purchase of the Commercial Space i.e. the entire 13th Floor having covered area measuring 16900 sq. ft. (super area 26000 sq. ft.) in IT/ITES Complex known as "MindSpace", Sector 62, Gurugram Haryana alongwith 26 car parking spaces which is presently in possession of the Tenant Technip Energies India Limited. Any person having any claim/s or interest in the said commercial spaces, are hereby requested to inform in writing with supporting documents on the address given hereinbelow through post and email, within 15 days from the date of this publication, failing which, it will be deemed that there is no claim against the said Commercial Spaces and our client may proceed with the transaction. No further claim of any person in any nature will be entertained thereafter.

Sd/ KAMAL SINGH
Advocate
Regn. No. D-748/14

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to public at all that my clients namely Sh. Kundal Lal Nagpal and her wife Smt. Sheela both residents of A/718, Sector-18

MUMBAI RAILWAY VIKAS CORPORATION LTD.
2nd Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Mumbai-400 020

Notification No. MRVC/E/AM/4/2023, Dated 07.11.2023

Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. invites application for engagement as **Assistant Manager (Planning)** on contract basis. **Last date for submission of application by mail is 30.11.2023.** For further details, please visit website <https://mrvc.indianrailways.gov.in>. Corrigendum, if any, will be posted on the website only.

UJVNL Limited
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866
Website: www.ujvnl.com

R.O. No.: 1101 Tender Notice Date: 07.11.2023

Office of the Executive Engineer (Generation) Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below:

- Tender No.: 03/EE (G)/TPH/2023-24 for Annual contract for General Cleaning and up keeping of Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi.
- Tender No.: 04/EE(G)/TPH/2023-24 for Annual Contract for Gardening, Plantation & other associated miscellaneous works at Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi

Estimated cost: Rs. 13, 43,014.00 + GST extra and Rs. 7,53,286.00 + GST extra respectively.
Date of availability of bid document on website: 08.11.2023 at 16:00 hrs.
Last date for submission of bids: 29.11.2023 up to 15:00 hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com" **Executive Engineer (Generation)**

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Sonu Sagar S/o Lt. Shri Hari Shankar Sagar R/o J-4/12, 4th Pusta Kartar Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CT Case No. 19191/2016 U/s 138 NI Act at PS: Mangolpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sonu Sagar** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sonu Sagar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sonu Sagar of CT Case No. 19191/2016 U/s 138 NI Act at PS: Mangolpuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **12.12.2023.**

By order
Rishabh Kapoor
Metropolitan Magistrate
North West District, Room No. 105,
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/12655/OD/2023

NAGPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
(Transport Department)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (SECOND CALL)

Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC), invites bids for Selection of **Integrated Bus Transport Management (IBTM) operator for Project Development Services for Public Bus Service in Nagpur Urban Region.** Availability of Bid Documents : From 06/11/2023 to 07/12/2023 up to 4:30 pm. on www.mahatenders.gov.in RFP Document fees : Rs.11,800/- (Including GST) and EMD Rs. 50,00,000/- (paid online). Bid Submission date: 07/12/2023 up to 5:00 pm. Technical Bid Opening date : 8/12/2023 at 05:30 pm. The NMC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason there of in the interest of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

Transport Manager
NMC, Nagpur

Advt No : 635/PR, Dt : 07/11/2023

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited
(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)

Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004,
Telephone :-0651-2400799 & Fax : 0651-2400799
<https://www.jbvn.co.in> Email- cecr2018@gmail.com

e-procurement Notice
NIT No. -227/PR/JBVNL/2023-24

E-tender for selection of full turnkey contractor for development of distribution infra structure in Electric supply Circle, **Dhanbad** for an estimated cost Rs 282.32 Crores under Loss Reduction of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) sanction by Ministry of Power, GoI and approved by GoI.

SN	Details of Work
1	Development of distribution infrastructure like replacement of LT Conductor to AB Cable Erection of LT & 11kv line, installation of New DTR, etc
2	Estimated Cost- Rs 282.32 Crores(all inclusive)
3	Calendar of Events :
i.	Date of Publication of NIT on website 10.11.2023
ii.	Last date for sending pre-bid queries/suggestions through Email- cecr2018@gmail.com and hard copy at Office of General Manager (Coml.),JBVNL 16.11.2023 till 18:00 hrs
iii.	Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time:Venue-Conference Hall,JBVNL HQ,Engineering Building,Dhurwa Ranchi 17.11.2023 at 13:30Hrs
iv.	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids(online) 4.12.2023 at 15:00Hrs
v.	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids(in hard copy in the office of GM(Coml.) 4.12.2023 at 17:00Hrs
iv.	Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid 5.12.2023 at 16:30 Hrs

The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site <http://jbvnl.com> and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/website <http://jbvnl.com>.

Save Energy ,Save Nation for Better tomorrow Sd/-
General Manager (Coml.)
PR.NO.310904 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(23-24):D

UJVNL Limited
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun -248006
Phone No. 0135-2763808, Fax : 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

R.O. No. 1100 Date Extension Notice No-02 Date: 07.11.2023

Due to unavoidable reason, under the office of Executive Engineer (Civil-I), Srikot Srinagar, the dates of bids invited against NIT No. 10/EE (Civil-I)/Srikot/2023-24 is hereby extended as follows:
Last date for submission tender: 20.11.2023 up to 16:00 Hrs
Last date for opening of tender: 22.11.2023 at 14:00 Hrs
All other terms & condition of the Bid document shall remain unchanged. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com" **Executive Engineer (Civil-I)**

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

ICAR-CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON GOATS
MAKHDOOM, P.O. FARAH-281 122, MATHURA U.P.
Phone: 0565-2763380 (Director), 0565-2763327 (Admin. Officer)
Fax No. 0565-2763246

F. No. 2-3(9)/R&P/2023 Dated: 7th November 2023

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

One (01) contractual position of Skilled Worker/ Labour in the AICRP on Goat Improvement (PC Unit) is proposed to be filled through walk-in-interview on 16.11.2023 from 11:00 AM onwards. Corrigendum if any will be published/uploaded on the Institute website only.

Interested candidates may visit our website www.cirg.res.in for details.

Sd/-
Asstt. Admin. Officer

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited
(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)

Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004,
Telephone :-0651-2400799 & Fax : 0651-2400799
<https://www.jbvn.co.in> Email- cecr2018@gmail.com

e-procurement Notice
NIT No. -228/PR/JBVNL/2023-24

E-tender for selection of full turnkey contractor for development of distribution infra structure in Electric supply Circle, **Chas** for an estimated cost Rs 156.16 Crores under Loss Reduction of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) sanction by Ministry of Power, GoI and approved by GoI.

SN	Details of Work
1	Development of distribution infrastructure like replacement of LT Conductor to AB Cable Erection of LT & 11kv line, installation of New DTR, etc
2	Estimated Cost- Rs156.16 Crores(all inclusive)
3	Calendar of Events :
i.	Date of Publication of NIT on website 10.11.2023
ii.	Last date for sending pre-bid queries/suggestions through Email- cecr2018@gmail.com and hard copy at Office of General Manager (Coml.),JBVNL 16.11.2023 till 18:00 hrs
iii.	Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time:Venue e-Conference Hall,JBVNL HQ,Engineering Building,Dhurwa Ranchi 17.11.2023 at 13:30Hrs
iv.	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids(online) 4.12.2023 at 15:00Hrs
v.	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids(in hard copy in the office of GM(Coml.) 4.12.2023 at 17:00Hrs
iv.	Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid 5.12.2023 at 16:30 Hrs

The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site <http://jbvnl.com> and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/website <http://jbvnl.com>.

Save Energy , Save Nation for Better tomorrow Sd/-
General Manager (Coml.)
PR.310906 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd (23-24)_D

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Uvesh @ Owesh S/o Niral Hassan R/o K-1707, Gali No.19, Sangam Vihar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 1103/14 28/09/14 U/s 379/411 IPC at PS: Madhu Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Uvesh @ Owesh** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Uvesh @ Owesh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Uvesh @ Owesh of FIR No. 1103/14 28/09/14 U/s 379/411 IPC at PS: Madhu Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.12.2023.**

By order
Udbhav Kumar Jain
Metropolitan Magistrate-04
Room No. 31, Shahdara
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/12580/ED/2023

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 55 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, ID Mark : Left Hand Cut mark, a mole on stomach and a mole left leg Injury Mark: Train Accident two lag damage Wearing: Green T-Shirt and Black half shorts with white border on both sides found dead at ITO Bridge from 600 meters ahead to Tilak Bridge Railway Station, the line going to Ghaziabad. In this regard, a **DD No. 6A, dated 06.11.2023** has been lodged at PS New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body was preserved in the mortuary of LNJP Hospital for 72 hours for identification. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., New Delhi Rly. Station, Delhi
DP/12805/RLY/2023 Ph. : 011-23744073, 8750871305

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Rohit Khanna S/o Sh. Rajan Kant Khanna R/o H. No. 659, Pocket-I, Paschim Puri, Delhi** has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 257/2014 U/s 354/354B IPC, PS Mundka, Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Rohit Khanna** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Rohit Khanna** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Rohit Khanna** of case **FIR No. 257/2014 U/s 354/354B IPC, PS Mundka, Delhi** are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **08.12.2023**

By Order
Aneez Bishnoi
Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (Mahila Court)
West Distt., Room No. 353, 3rd Floor
(Court Matter) Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/12690/OD/2023

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that this girl namely **Himanshi D/o Surender R/o H.No. 184, Pkt-7, Sec-A10, Narela, Delhi** Age : 19 years, Height : 5', Face: Round, Complexion : Wheatish, Build: Thin, wearing grey colour suit-salwar and hawai chappal in feet, has been missing since 09.10.2023 from her house. In this regard **DD No. 94-A dated 09.10.2023** has been lodged at P.S. Narela, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO: P.S. Narela, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. : 011-27282350, 27280435,
Fax: 24368639, 09315759393, 9971915029
Tel.: 24368638/24368641 DP/12663/ON/23

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE ROHTAK CO OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED	RATE CONTRACT FOR PEST CONTROL SERVICE TO MILK PLANT ROHTAK	08.11.2023 25.11.2023	AS PER DNIT	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-276302 vitarohitak@gmail.com
2	THE ROHTAK CO OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED	ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF PACKING MATERIAL FOR PACKING OF GHEE (EXCEPT GHEE FILM), POWDER FOR ALL MILK PLANT IN HARYANA.	06.11.2023 27.11.2023	AS PER DNIT	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-276302 vitarohitak@gmail.com
3	THE ROHTAK CO OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF RICE HUSK FOR MILK PLANT ROHTAK	08.11.2023 22.11.2023	AS PER DNIT	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-276302 vitarohitak@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH

FORM-18
[Sub-rule (2) of rule 20]

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION BY APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT/COLLECTOR
(UNDER SUB-SECTION (1) OF SECTION 11 OF THE ACT)
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH
IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT,
UTTAR PRADESH
NOTIFICATION
OCTOBER 17,2023

No.206/VIII-S.L.A.O./Notification/Moradabad/2023- Under sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013, Whereas the Government of Uttar Pradesh/ Collector (for the purpose of Appropriate Government) is satisfied that a total of 2.0450 hectares of land is required in the Villages Lehrawan, Saidpur, Jaroi - Hayatnagar, Raipur kala, Dhadhol, Manjhola, Bisaru, Bhartara, Pargana & Tehsil SAMBHAL, District SAMBHAL and villages Babaina, Lehra-Kamangar is required for public purpose, namely, project MADHYA GANGA CANAL PHASE 2nd through IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MADHYA GANGA CANAL CONSTRUCTION DIVISION-7, BIJNOR (name of acquiring body).

- Social impact Assessment study was carried out by the State Social Impact Assessment agency and submits its recommendations to the Appropriate Government which has approved its recommendation on dated.....
- The summary of the Social Impact Assessment Report as follows: SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS NOT APPLICABLE
- A total of ZERO families are likely to be displaced due to the land acquisition. The reason necessitating such displacement is as under:- Deputy Collector/Assistant Collector..... Is appointed as administrator for the purpose of rehabilitation and resettlement of the project affected families.
- Therefore the Governor is pleased to notify for general information that the land mentioned in the Schedule below is needed for public purpose.

Sambhal	Sambhal	Chandausi	Jaroi - Hayatnagar	55	0.0072
				116/1	0.0160
				115/1	0.1322
				114	0.0650
				56	0.0058
				57	0.0132
				90	0.0060
				120	0.0095
				Total	0.2549
				261	0.0440
				105 me	0.1052
				252 me	0.0600
				259 me	0.0169
				Total	0.2261
				20	0.0110
				6	0.0070
				4	0.0400
				172	0.0080
				147	0.0012
				Total	0.0672
				498	0.0017
				501 me	0.0105
				49	0.0053
				Total	0.0175
				14	0.0097
				66	0.0057
				Total	0.0154
				587	0.1064
				631	0.0616
				77/2	0.0672
				78 me	0.0424
				Total	0.2776
				14	0.0327
				482	0.0173
				135	0.0148
				83 me	0.1600
				133 me	0.1584
				84	0.0096
				293	0.0050
				86	0.0300
				Total	0.4278
				1227	0.0704
				1230	0.0182
				1229	0.0208
				1083	0.0360
				1029	0.1152
				786	0.0256
				1223	0.0100
				1226	0.0480
				360	0.0416
				Total	0.3858
				Total Of Tehsil Chandausi	1.2456
				Total Of Tehsil Sambhal	0.8136
				Grand Total	2.0592

"IMPORTANT"

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION PANCHKULA	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE/ REPAIR OF VARIOUS POLICE STATION BUILDINGS IN DISTRICT FATEHABAD. + 2 WORKS	02.11.2023 16.11.2023	2.37 CRORES	www.hphc.org.in	dtpanchkula@yahoo.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

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

No. CE/CW/31/2023-24/03

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Roads), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for one work, under SOPD (G) for the year 2023-24 in Kamrup (Metropolitan) district of Assam. Scheme is not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non- sanction of the scheme, bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders

Details may be seen at website- assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of the under- signed in the "City Works Cell", from 09.11.2023 during office hours.

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

JANASANYOG/CF/3459/23/8-NOV-23

झारखण्ड सरकार
सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क निदेशालय
(सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग)

विभागीय स्टाॅल के निर्माण हेतु अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार दिनांक 14.11.2023 से 27.11.2023 तक नई दिल्ली स्थित प्रगति मैदान में आयोजित हो रहे भारतीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेला, 2023 में झारखण्ड पेवेलियन के अंतर्गत विभाग को आवंटित 9 (3x3) वर्गमीटर स्पेस में स्टाॅल फॅब्रिकेशन, सुसज्जीकरण एवं मीडिया मैनेजमेंट कार्यों को संपन्न करने हेतु टर्न की आधार पर ख्यातिप्राप्त इवेंट मैनेजमेंट कंपनी/पी आर कम्पनी से दिनांक 10.11.2023 के अपराहन 2.00 बजे तक मुहरबंद लिफाफे में (तकनीकी) बीड एवं वित्तीय बीड अलग-अलग निविदा आमंत्रित करती है। निविदा को उसी दिन अपराहन 3.00 बजे निदेशक सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग के कार्यालय कक्ष में खोला जाएगा। इस निविदा से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी यथा पात्रता, मापदण्ड, नियम एवं शर्तें, कार्य की विवरणी इत्यादि की सूचना विभागीय वेबसाईट www.prdjharkhand.in पर उपलब्ध है।

निदेशक
सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग

PR310948 (IPRD)23-24'D

SCHEDULE

District	TEHSIL	PARGANA	VILLAGE	PLOT NO.	AREA TO BE ACQUIRED (IN HECT)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Sambhal	Chandausi	Chandausi	Lehrawan	164 me	0.2400
				481	0.0228
				509	0.0017
				129	0.0106
				523	0.0396
				Total	0.3147
Sambhal	Chandausi	Chandausi	Saidpur	337	0.0560
				275	0.0018
				341	0.0018
				514	0.0126
				Total	0.0722

UPID-197305 Date 06/11/2023
www.upgov.nic.in

(Sd) ILLIGIBLE
District Magistrate
Sambhal

16 THE WORLD

OVER LITHIUM, HYDROGEN CORRUPTION PROBE PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER QUILTS

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa resigned on Tuesday, hours after prosecutors detained his chief of staff in a probe into alleged corruption in his handling of lithium mining and hydrogen projects. Costa announced the decision after meeting President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. **REUTERS**

TOP OF THE WORLD



Chinese Premier Li Qiang with Australian PM Anthony Albanese

CHINA Albanese meets Li as annual meetings restart

Beijing: Australia's PM Anthony Albanese met Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Beijing Tuesday, restarting an annual leaders' dialogue that Albanese said will continue as relations between the trading partners stabilised. China is willing to work with Australia to strengthen dialogue, deepen mutual trust, handle differences and make cooperation the main feature of bilateral ties, Li told Albanese. "The fact that these meetings are now going to continue is very important for our relations," Albanese told Li at Great Hall of the People.

PAKISTAN PML-N, MQM-P to contest Feb 8 polls together

Lahore: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Karachi-based Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) on Tuesday announced they would be jointly contesting the general elections scheduled on February 8. On Monday, top leaders of PML-N and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) declared they would work together for the betterment of the country. It came after ex-PM Nawaz Sharif and ex-president Asif Ali Zardari held a telephone conversation and discussed the political situation among others. **PTI**

MYANMAR Rebel troops capture central Myanmar town

Naypyidaw: Opposition troops have captured a town in central Myanmar that is a district administrative headquarters after beating back the military, shadow government and local media said Tuesday. The shadow National Union Government (NUG) hailed it as a key victory, although an analyst cautioned that fighters may struggle to hold Kawlin, which has a population of 25,000. Opposition troops attacked junta soldiers in Kawlin last week, before overpowering them on Monday and taking over the town, the NUG said. **REUTERS**

GAZA CITY RESIDENTS GIVEN 4 HRS TO FLEE, Israel says open to little pauses to facilitate aid

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR ENTERS ONE MONTH, UN official calls it month of carnage, bloodshed

Israel to take up Gaza's overall security after war: Netanyahu

For first time in decades, IDF is fighting in heart of Gaza City: Israeli military

NAJIB JOBANJAN & SAMY MAGDY
KHAN YOUNIS, GAZA STRIP
NOVEMBER 7

ISRAEL WILL take "overall security responsibility" in Gaza indefinitely after war with Hamas, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, the clearest indication yet that Israel plans to maintain control over the coastal enclave one month into a conflict that has claimed thousands of lives and leveled swaths of the territory.

In an interview with ABC News that aired late Monday, Netanyahu expressed openness to "little pauses" in the fighting to facilitate the delivery of aid to Gaza or the release of some of the more than 240 hostages seized by Hamas in its October 7 attack into Israel that triggered the war. But he ruled out any general cease-fire without the release of all the hostages, and the White House said there was no agreement on the US President Joe Biden's call for a broader humanitarian pause after a phone call between the leaders.

Israel said on Tuesday its forces were pushing deep into Gaza City, where residents said tanks were positioned on the outskirts for a potential storming of Gaza's urban heartland. "For the first time in decades, IDF is fighting in the heart of Gaza City. At the heart of terrorism," Major General Yaron Finkelman, commanding officer of the Southern Command of the Israeli Defence Forces, told reporters near the Gaza border.

Israel gave residents a window from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm to leave Gaza City Tuesday. The war has already come at a staggering cost, and Israel unleashed another wave of strikes across the territory on Tuesday.

In southern Gaza, where Palestinians have been told to seek refuge, an Israeli airstrike



Palestinians look for survivors under the rubble of a building destroyed by an Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis refugee camp. **Reuters**

DEATH, DESTRUCTION	
ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	
1,400+	10,300+
TOTAL INJURED	
5,400+	20,000+

Blinken seeks G7 consensus on Gaza fighting at Japan summit

MATTHEW LEE
TOKYO, NOVEMBER 7

FRESH FROM a whirlwind tour of the Middle East, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken shifted his intense diplomacy on Israel-Hamas war to Asia on Tuesday with an appeal for the Group of Seven leading industrial democracies to forge consensus on how to deal with the crisis.

As he and his G7 counterparts began two days of talks in Japan, Blinken said it was critically important for the group to show unity as it has over Russia's war in Ukraine and other major issues and prevent existing differences on Gaza from deepening.

"This is a very important moment as well for the G7 to come together in the face of this crisis



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken with Fumio Kishida at the PM's official residence in Tokyo, on Tuesday. **Reuters**

and to speak, as we do, with one clear voice," Blinken told Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, shortly after talks with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

The devastating monthlong conflict in Gaza and efforts to ease the dire humanitarian impacts of Israel's response to the October 7 Hamas attack will be a major focus of the meeting. Yet with the Russia-Ukraine war, fears North Korea may be readying a new nuclear test, and concerns about China's increasing global assertiveness, it is far from the only crisis on the agenda.

In Tokyo, Blinken and foreign ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan and Italy will be seeking common ground in part to prevent the Gaza war.

Kamikawa said Japan "unequivocally condemns" the Hamas' attack on Israel, supports US efforts to find a way forward and said that "solid unity between Japan and the US is especially critical at this point." **AP**

UN Security Council fails again to agree on resolution to stop war

ASSOCIATED PRESS
UNITED NATIONS, NOVEMBER 7

THE UN Security Council has failed again to agree on a resolution on the Israel-Hamas war.

Despite more than two hours of closed-door discussions Monday, differences remained. The United States is calling for "humanitarian pauses" and many council members are demanding a "humanitarian ceasefire" to deliver desperately needed aid and prevent more civilian deaths in Gaza.

"We talked about humanitarian pauses and we're interested in pursuing language on



Wanted an immediate ceasefire: United Nations Secy-Gen Antonio Guterres

that score," US deputy ambassador Robert Wood told reporters after the meeting.

"But there are disagreements within the council about whether that's acceptable."

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres earlier Monday told reporters he wanted an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza and a halt to the "spiral of escalation" already taking place from the occupied West Bank, Lebanon and Syria to Iraq and Yemen.

Guterres said international humanitarian law, which demands protection of civilians and infrastructure essential for their lives, is clearly being violated and stressed that "no party to an armed conflict is above" these laws.

He called for the immediate unconditional release of the hostages Hamas took from Israel to Gaza in its October 7 attack.

BRIEFLY

South Africa recalls ambassador, envoy mission to Israel

SOUTH AFRICA'S government has recalled Monday its ambassador and diplomatic mission to Israel in condemnation of the bombardment of Gaza Strip, calling it a "genocide." It also threatened action against the Israeli ambassador to South Africa over his recent remarks on the African country's stance on the war. No further details were given about the remarks. Minister in Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni said the position of the ambassador in the country is "untenable." **AP**

Israeli troops arrest Palestinian activist Tamimi

ISRAELI TROOPS Monday held a Palestinian activist, regarded in the occupied West Bank as a hero since she was a teen, on suspicion of inciting violence, but her mother denied the claim and said it was based on a fake Instagram post. The military said it apprehended Ahd Tamimi, 22, in the village of Nabi Saleh. Tamimi rose to prominence in 2017 when, at age of 16, she slapped an Israeli soldier who raided her village. She has for years protested against Israeli land seizures. **REUTERS**

'GOD DID NOT LEAVE ANYONE FOR ME TO CRY WITH': 40-YEAR-OLD UDAY, WHO LOST SEVEN FAMILY MEMBERS IN FRIDAY'S EARTHQUAKE

Inside Nepal's quake-hit village, where almost every house has lost someone

ASAD REHMAN
BHERI, NOVEMBER 7

WHEN UDAY Kami reached his village after scaling over 3,000 km on Monday evening, his family members had not exactly told him what had happened. But the 40-year-old sensed that something was amiss. "From the tone of people who called me, I sensed something really bad had happened," he said.

Kami had rushed back from Malaysia after a crisis phone call from his neighbours and extended family. He works as a loader at a port there.

In the deadly earthquake that jolted Nepal on Friday night,

every house in his village of Kolchour under Bheri municipality, has lost someone.

When he reached his village, he was in for a shock.

All his family members — wife Januka Shonar (37), daughters Sharmila (13), Anjalika (9), son Ujjwal (4) and mother Astha Kumari (61) — had died and his house reduced to rubbles.

"I have lost everyone and everything," said an inconsolable Kami. "God didn't leave anyone for me to cry with."

Three months ago, Kami had bagged a job and went to Malaysia. Before leaving, he had borrowed around Rs 10 lakh — for travelling, and to repair his house. Now, all his belongings lie

under the debris. "I didn't think I would lose everyone," he said, "I have no will to live anymore."

He is survived by his brother Mohan who also lost his 11-year-old daughter Neerita in the quake. Their sister, Lalmati too lost her eight-year-old daughter Bisnu Tirwa. Overall, the family has lost seven members.

On Tuesday, they had all gathered to mourn.

In the neighbouring village of Rawatgaon, the stories were similar.

In a makeshift tent, neighbours grieve for a mother-son duo, whose family are undergoing treatment at a hospital in Bheri. Framed photographs of



(L to R) Uttam Kami, Uday Kami, Mohan Kami mourn death of seven family members in Kolchour village; (right) A boy picks out belongings from the debris of his house. **Asad Rehman**



Khiuri Rawat (70) and her son Kali Bahadur Rawat (40) are kept. At least three of her family members survived.

"Their family is away, so we are mourning for them. It is necessary for the peace of the soul," said Prakash Rawat, a farmer.

In the interiors of Kolchour village, locals complain that aid

has not yet reached them. "People supplying aid are delivering it to the villages and areas that are connected with roads, but here, no aid has reached," says Bishnu Vikas, who had come to Nepal from Chandigarh to celebrate Diwali.

"Thankfully, I did not sleep in the house on that fateful night. I don't know if I should be happy or sad that I survived. But I was lucky. Many weren't. I have lost so many people I grew up with," said Bishnu (35), a homemaker who lives in Chandigarh.

She left her children, aged five and eight, at their home back in Chandigarh.

"It is good they were not here," she said. "They may not

have returned after seeing what I am seeing."

Sri Jung, a 23-year-old student, had a similar story. "We have been left here to fend for ourselves," he said. "We are sleeping in tents because someone said that another earthquake is likely to come within five days. No relief has reached here, since one has to walk uphill," he added.

However, authorities claim relief material is reaching the remote corners of Nepal. Harish Chandra Sharma, Assistant Chief District Officer for Jajarkot, in the country's Karnali Province, said: "We have been working for three days. Things have been difficult, but rescue and relief work is more coordinated this time."

Some of the conservative justices questioned the scope of the administration's argument that, under the Second Amendment,

people who are not law-abiding and responsible — categories that include domestic abusers — may be barred from possessing firearms.

Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, defending the law on behalf of the Biden administration, told Roberts that she was not using the term "not responsible" in a colloquial sense, instead asserting "the principle of responsibility as being intrinsically tied to the danger you would present if you had access to firearms." **REUTERS**

EXPLAINED Grave dangers

ADVOCACY GROUPS for victims of domestic violence have warned of the grave danger posed by armed abusers, citing studies that show that the presence of guns increases the chances that an abused intimate partner will die. Violating the law initially was punishable by up to 10 years in prison but has since been raised to 15 years.



Most of NATO's 31 allies have signed Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces, which was aimed at preventing Cold War rivals from massing forces at or near mutual borders. **Reuters file**

NATO formally suspends Cold War-era security treaty as Russia pulls out

LORNE COOK
BRUSSELS, NOVEMBER 7

NATO ON Tuesday announced the formal suspension of a key Cold War-era security treaty in response to Russia's pullout from the deal just hours earlier. The alliance also said its members who signed the treaty are now freezing their participation in the pact.

Most of NATO's 31 allies have signed the Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which was aimed at preventing Cold War rivals from massing forces at or near mutual borders. It was signed in November 1990, but not fully ratified until two years later.

NATO said its action was required because "a situation whereby Allied State Parties abide by the Treaty, while Russia does not, would be unsustainable."

Earlier in the day, Moscow said it had finalized its withdrawal from the treaty, also

known as CFE. The long-expected move came after both houses of the Russian parliament approved a bill proposed by President Vladimir Putin denouncing the CFE. Putin signed that bill into force in May this year.

The treaty was one of several major Cold War-era treaties involving Russia and the US that ceased to be in force in recent years. Russia suspended its participation in 2007, and in 2015 announced intention to completely withdraw from the agreement.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said the process of the formal withdrawal from the treaty has been completed, without elaborating what that entailed. It blamed the US and its allies for the withdrawal and the West's allegedly "destructive position" on treaty.

NATO said that its members will continue to "consult on and assess the implications of the current security environment and its impact on the security" of the alliance. **AP**

17 ECONOMY

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹61,500	₹83.26	\$87.23	₹74,550

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of November 6

SENSEX: 64,942.40 ▼ 16.29 (0.03%) NIFTY: 19,406.70 ▼ 5.05 (0.03%) NIKKEI: 32,271.82 ▼ 436.66 HANG SENG: 17,670.16 ▼ 296.43 FTSE: 7,421.83 ▲ 4.07 DAX: 15,143.65 ▲ 7.68

International market data till 1900 IST

Govt begins process of constituting Sixteenth FC

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

THE GOVERNMENT has started the process of constituting of the Sixteenth Finance Commission, appointing the officer on special duty for the advance cell on Monday. The Finance Commission, which mainly decides the tax sharing formula between Centre and states, is scheduled to be formed before the end of this year.

Terms of Reference and members are also expected to be announced soon after state elections. States have already given their suggestions for terms of reference.

On Monday, the government announced the appointment of Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey, a 1998-batch IAS officer of the Karnataka cadre serving as Joint Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, as Officer on Special Duty for Advance Cell of 16th Finance Commission in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary. Earlier in 2009-10, as Deputy Secretary, he had also been part of the Thirteenth Finance Commission.

The Sixteenth Finance Commission will cover the five-year period beginning 2026-27, the report for which is expected to be taken up by the government at the time of presentation of Budget 2026-27. The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under article 280 of the Constitution, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the states and amongst the states themselves.

TOTAL VALUE OF INDIA'S OIL IMPORTS FOR APRIL-SEPTEMBER WAS \$63.86 BILLION

Cheaper Russian oil helped Indian refiners save \$3.3 bn in H1 of FY24

SUKALP SHARMA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

INDIAN REFINERS are estimated to have saved around \$3.3 billion in the first half of the current financial year (FY24) through their purchases of discounted Russian crude oil, shows an analysis of India's official trade data for April-September. Russia, which used to be a marginal supplier of crude to India before the war in Ukraine, was New Delhi's largest source of oil in April-September, accounting for almost 39 per cent of India's overall oil imports by volume and nearly 36 per cent by value.

India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil and depends on imports to meet over 85% of its requirement. Crude oil also tops the list of India's merchandise imports by value. With Western buyers cutting oil imports from Russia in the wake of its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Moscow started offering deep discounts on its crude. Indian refiners have been lapping up these discounted barrels, catapulting Russia to the top spot among New Delhi's oil suppliers.

The total value of India's oil imports for the first six months of the ongoing financial year was \$63.86 billion. Had Indian refiners paid for Russian oil the average per-barrel price they paid for crude from all other suppliers put together, the oil import bill



The average landed price of Russian crude for Indian refiners for the April-September period was \$71.83 per barrel. File

INDIA'S TOP FIVE CRUDE OIL SUPPLIERS (APRIL-SEPTEMBER)

Supplier	Oil Import Volume (mn barrels)	Oil Import Value (\$ mn)	Average Landed Price (\$/barrel)	Share by Volume Percent
Russia	317.96	22839.71	71.83	38.9
Iraq	166.33	12749.83	76.65	20.4
Saudi Arabia	117.01	10410	88.97	14.3
UAE	36.26	3207.5	88.46	4.4
USA	33.43	2960.84	88.56	4.1

Based on analysis of data from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Ministry of Commerce

would have been \$67.14 billion, shows the analysis by *The Indian Express*. The value of oil imports from Russia for the period was \$22.84 billion. In terms of volumes, India imported a total of 111.51 million tonnes, or 817.35 million barrels, of crude oil in April-September. Oil imports

from Russia for the period stood at 43.38 million tonnes, or 317.96 million barrels. The average landed price of Russian crude for Indian refiners for the April-September period was \$71.83 per barrel, \$10.32 lower than the average landed price of non-Russian barrels, as

per the analysis. It translates into an effective discount of 12.6 per cent to the average price of oil imported from other supplying nations.

In the overall scheme of India's foreign trade, \$3.3 billion may not appear to be a significant amount, but the savings are substantial for the country's major oil importers—Indian refiners like Indian Oil Corporation, Reliance Industries, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Hindustan petroleum Corporation, and Nayara Energy. The government releases commodity-wise and country-wise trade data with a lag, and so far, data till September has been made available. While the price of crude oil depends on grades and their prices can vary substantially, the average landed price of crude and import volumes from the supplying countries were used for computations as the government does not release grade-wise data.

In April-September, Iraq was India's second-biggest oil supplier with a market share of 20.4 per cent by volume, followed by Saudi Arabia with a 14.3 per cent share. Prior to the war in Ukraine, Iraq was India's top supplier of crude oil, followed by Saudi Arabia. In the corresponding six months of last year, Iraq and Saudi Arabia accounted for 24.2 per cent and 17.9 per cent, respectively, of India's crude oil imports by volume. Russia was in the third spot with a share of 15.8

per cent.

Compared to the next four major suppliers of crude to India during the first half of the current financial year, the landed price of Russian oil was at discounts ranging between 6.3 per cent—in the case of Iraq—and 19.3 per cent—in the case of Saudi Arabia. The United Arab Emirates was the fourth-biggest supplier of crude to India during the period and Russian crude was 18.8 per cent cheaper than oil supplied by the former. In the fifth spot was the United States (US), and Russian oil supplies to India were at an average discount of 18.9 per cent to US crude, the computations show.

The effective discounts, while significant from the point of view of Indian refiners, are not as high as what had been initially anticipated. Relatively higher cost of freight and insurance for Russian crude as compared to oil from other suppliers is seen as the most likely reason. Most of Russian oil bought by Indian refiners is on delivered basis, which means that shipping and insurance is arranged by the seller. With Moscow facing Western sanctions over the Ukraine war, freight and insurance costs for ferrying Russian oil shot up. This suggests that while the discounts might have been deeper on the actual price of oil, the effective discount on landed price, which includes freight and insurance costs, was much lower.

RBI body raises concern over rise in bank borrowing by the NBFCs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 7

THE CENTRE for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRL), set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has raised concern over the rise in the bank financing for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).

Banks' exposure to NBFCs rose by 25.8 per cent to Rs 13.83 lakh crore as of August 2023 as against Rs 10.99 lakh crore a year ago, latest RBI data showed.

Following the market correction prompted by the IL&FS default and a brief pause due to the Covid-19 pandemic, bank financing for NBFCs has begun to rise again, it said. "This raises concerns about systemic contagion and underscores the need for tighter preventive measures to mitigate potential systemic fallout," CAFRL, a not-for-profit organisation, said in its India Finance Report.

There is a large fall in secured borrowings and a marginal increase in unsecured borrowings, showing increased exposure to riskier finance, it said. Both secured and unsecured bank borrowings fell and unsecured debentures increased. "There is also a significant fall in reserves and surplus indicating that buffers grow thinner," the report said.

"The evidence also shows

risk build-up on the assets sides on the NBFC balance sheet following a contractionary monetary policy shock," it added.

On the assets side, the shrinkage is due to a fall in secured loans and advances even as unsecured ones see a marginal increase. There is also an increase in capital market exposure driven by increase in equity holdings, CAFRL said. After rapid expansion, the NBFC sector in India suffered two significant shocks - the fall of IL&FS in September 2018 and the DHFL collapse in June 2019 - which adversely affected market confidence in the sector.

CAFRL also warned against the many fake/illegal lending apps in the marketplace, stating that these apps pose to be legal and collect information which they could use maliciously.

"Users downloading a lending app cannot verify whether it is legal or not. Similarly, there are fake customer care call scams that collect personal and sensitive information from users and misuse them," CAFRL said.

The report said there are concerns about the spill over of losses from the online lending activities to the traditional banking sector. "The stronger the linkages between the traditional lending and online lending sectors, the larger the spill over," it said. **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

DGCA issues notice to Air India over non-compliance of norms

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

AVIATION REGULATOR Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a show cause notice to Air India after observing that the airline was not compliant with stipulated norms on facilities to be provided to passengers affected by boarding denials, flight cancellations, and delays. This is the second such instance in the past 18 months.

In June 2022, the DGCA had imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on the Tata group airline over violation of regulations pertaining to boarding denials.

"In order to ensure compliance of passenger-centric CARs (Civil Aviation Requirements),

DGCA carried out inspections of scheduled domestic airlines at various major airports on a continuing basis since May 2023...it was observed that Air India was not complying with the provisions of the relevant CAR. Accordingly, a show cause notice has been issued to Air India seeking their response for non-compliance to the provisions of the CAR," the regulator said in a statement.

The DGCA said that it considers it essential to continuously strengthen the rights of passengers and ensure that carriers operate under "harmonized conditions" in accordance with global best practices. Air India has so far not commented on the DGCA statement.

"It may be recalled that similar inspections had earlier been

carried out at major airports last year also and on ground of similar non-compliance by Air India with the provisions of CAR on denied boarding to passengers, a penalty of Rs 10,00,000 was imposed on Air India for violations," the DGCA said.

The CAR relevant to the new show cause notice is titled 'Facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellation of flights and delays in flights', which was issued in 2010 and has been revised from time to time over the years.

As per the regulator, the CAR was issued to ensure appropriate protection for air travellers in case of flight disruptions, "in particular, denied boardings, flight cancellations and delays".



E-LAUNCHING GST SERVICES

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman e-launched 12 GST Seva Kendras of Gujarat from Vapi as a pilot project. @PIBAhmedabad

Pay equal attention to tax collection and enrollment: Sitharaman

AVINASH NAIR AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 7

UNION FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday asked tax officials to pay "equal attention" towards Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection and enrollment of the tax-net.

Sitharaman was speaking at the inauguration of 12 GST Seva Kendras at Vapi, where state Finance Minister Kanu Desai as well as state and central GST officials were present.

"From now, I would want equal attention to be given to the collection of tax - the numbers are going up every month - but equally more establishments and businesses should get enrolled. The country should benefit from having a transparent tax regime in which everybody participates," she said. The minister added that "staying out of the system is not good for the country". "By staying out, you believe - and that is a wrong belief - that you benefit, you do not come into the (tax) net

and you are not noticed. But you are losing out on potential buyers of your products," she said.

Sitharaman also said not providing bills to consumers making a purchase was not in "national interest". "A consumer should make sure that he participates in the nation-building process. You are buying a product and demanding a bill, is a big step forward in transparency. It is a big step forward to make sure that the money that has to go for public causes, goes for it... So, to not bill a customer or to not give the bill to the customer - having obtained his money for the product - is not in the national interest," Sitharaman said.

She further said that "rates" of essential goods and services have come down compared to the pre-GST era. "Consumers know today that, post-GST, the rates that they pay in tax does not have double taxation. Therefore, they are paying far less tax today for essential goods than what it was in the pre-GST era," Sitharaman said.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

GMDC posted revenue from operations at ₹1,148 crore

New Delhi: State-run mining major Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (GMDC) reported standalone net profit of Rs 460 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2023, from Rs 592 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. The company's standalone revenues from operations stood at Rs 1148 crore for the quarter versus Rs 1794 crore reported in the same quarter last year. **ENS**

Centre okays release of tax devolution

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday authorised release of tax devolution of Rs 72,961.21 crore to states for November. "The Union Government has authorised the release of tax devolution of Re 72,961.21 crore to state governments for the month of November 2023, on 7th November instead of the usual date 10th November," the Union finance ministry said. **PTI**

IndiGo expects plane groundings in 'mid-thirties' in Q4

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

INDIA'S LARGEST airline IndiGo expects aircraft groundings in the "mid-thirties" in the January-March quarter (Q4 FY24) due to engine inspections in view of the powder metal issue with Pratt & Whitney (P&W) engines. The

'India will not accept unfair taxes on steel, aluminum'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

EXPRESSING SERIOUS concerns over the European Union's move to impose carbon tax on imports from certain sectors like steel, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday assured the domestic industry that India will not accept such unfair taxes and will fight to get a fair deal for producers and exporters.

He said India has already flagged its concerns over the carbon tax with the European Union and in the World Trade Organization. The carbon tax will come into effect from 2026 but from October 1 this year, domestic companies from seven carbon-intensive sectors will have to share data with regard to carbon emissions with the EU.

groundings due to this issue will be in addition to the 40-odd IndiGo planes that are grounded due to earlier issues with P&W engines.

IndiGo, however, reiterated that despite the additional groundings, it is confident of meeting its capacity growth guidance of "north of mid-teens" for 2023-24 (FY24) due to the miti-

SoftBank's WeWork seeks US bankruptcy protection

REUTERS BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 7

WEWORK, THE SoftBank Group-backed startup whose meteoric rise and fall reshaped the office sector globally, sought US bankruptcy protection on Monday after its bets on companies using more of its office-sharing space soured.

The move represents an admission by SoftBank, the Japanese technology group that owns about 60 per cent of WeWork and has invested billions of dollars in its turnaround, that the company cannot survive unless it renegotiates its pricey leases in bankruptcy. A WeWork spokesperson said about 92 per cent of the company's lenders had agreed to convert their secured debt into equity under a restructuring support agreement, wiping out about \$3 billion of debt.

The company, which also in-

gation measures it is implementing. The airline is also confident of meeting its long-term capacity guidance of doubling its fleet by 2030.

"We have recently received additional information on the powder metal issue from Pratt & Whitney and based on our preliminary assessment of this, we anticipate Aircraft on Ground

(AOG) in the range of mid-thirties in the fourth quarter (Jan-Mar 2024) due to accelerated engine removals. These groundings will be incremental to the current AOGs," the airline said in a statement on Tuesday. As of September 30, IndiGo's total fleet size stood at 334 planes, including 176 A320neo jets. In July, P&W said that a powder metal defect

could lead to cracking of some engine components in its geared turbofan engines for the A320neo aircraft, and called for accelerated inspections of the engines and shop visits globally. These inspections and shop visits are expected to lead to the grounding of scores of aircraft all over the world.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

TRAI asks entities to take urgent steps to onboard DCA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

IN LINE with its drive to curb spam and pesky messages, TRAI on Tuesday asked banks and other entities sending out commercial messages to telecom subscribers via SMS or voice calls to take "urgent" steps to be onboard Digital Consent Acquisition (DCA) system as per stipulated timelines.

The DCA has the facility to seek, maintain, and revoke the consent of customers for commercial and promotional messages and calls. The crackdown on spam messages had seen TRAI issuing direction in June this year to all the access providers to deploy DCA facility for creating a unified platform and process to seek, and register customers' consent digitally across all telecom operators and 'Principal Entities'.

'India business will not be impacted'

New Delhi: Coworking major WeWork India on Tuesday said the Indian business will not be impacted in any manner, as it is not part of the bankruptcy proceedings filed by WeWork Global in the US court.

In WeWork India, Bengaluru-based real estate firm Embassy Group has a 73 per cent stake, while WeWork Global has a 27 per cent shareholding. WeWork India has 50 centres, comprising around 90,000 desks, across seven cities. **PTI**



92% of the company's lenders had agreed to convert their secured debt into equity. Reuters

tends to file recognition proceedings in Canada, said it expected to have the financial liquidity to continue business normally and that its locations outside of the US and Canada, as well as its franchisees around the world, were not affected by these proceedings.

WeWork had office space available at 777 locations worldwide as of the end of June.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
 Tender No: SW/2023/2456 PHD-RKD
 51. JUM-Anthaspalappu GP- Augmentation and gap filling using GI pipe of distribution network in Anthaspalappu GP, 52 Kottapadam GP, 53 WSS Alathur, 54 WSS to Thachanathur, 56 WSS Agali, 57 WSS to Vaniyankulam, 58 WSS to Mathur and Priyayi GP, 59 WSS to Thirakadavil GP, 60 CWSS to Karamba, Kongad and Mundur -providing distribution system- additional work laying parallel line in PWD roads and uncovered areas of the panchayath including: LSD road restoration 61. Augmentation of CWSS to Peruvemba GP, 62. JUM - Augmentation of CWSS to Anakkara, Pattithara and Kappur Design, construction of 12 MLD WTP, 63. JUM - Augmentation of CWSS to Anakkara, Pattithara and Kappur Design, construction of OHSR at Parakkal, Kappur, Balanra FHTCs, rider main and distribution, road restoration. EMD :Rs. 200000 & 500000 Tender fee : Rs. 11025 & 16540 Last Date for submitting Tender : 29-11-2023 03:00pm Phone : 0491-2544923 Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
 Tender No : SE/PHCM/PM/197 to 2023/2023-24
 JUM-Malappuram District - UWSS to Anakkayam- Construction of Pumping Main, Pumpsset, road restoration, WSS to Pothukallu and adq, GPs- Construction of OHSR, Gravity Main, WSS to Chekkodi and adq, GPs-Providing Distribution, FHTCs, Road restoration in Cheruvavu GP- Providing Balance Distribution, Road restoration to Cheruvavu GP, WSS to Tiriprangoth and adq, GPs-Providing Distribution FHTCs, Pumping Main, OHSR in Purathur GP- Laying Pumping Main, OHSR, CWSS to Morayur and adjoining GPs providing Balance distribution for Zone 1. EMD : Rs. 200000, 500000, Tender fee Rs. 11025 & 16540. Last Date for submitting Tender : 30-11-2023 03:00pm. Phone : 0492-2734871 Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

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 Aspiring candidates may apply for admission to Ph.D programme. Hard copy of the application along with relevant documents must reach to Joint Registrar (Academics), DIAT (DU) Ginningar, Pune - 411025 latest by 1730 hours on or before 8th Dec 2023.



(From right) Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan with Jyoti Sharma Bawa, Online Entertainment Editor, indianexpress.com and Devyani Onial, National Features Editor, The Indian Express

“I’m married, have kids and am getting amazing work... earlier, people wouldn’t even talk about their relationships”

At a recent Adda held in Mumbai, actor Kareena Kapoor Khan spoke about her OTT experience, challenging herself in an evolving film industry and navigating the pressures of social media

On her streaming debut

Whether OTT or theatres, I think it's an exciting time for cinema. After the post-COVID lull, everyone is back with lots of energy. So, I thought it was a good time. I had a lot of offers but I've always loved watching crime thrillers. So, I thought, I'll be convincing and people will enjoy watching me in *Jaane Jaan*. When Sujoy (Ghosh) came with the script (of *Jaane Jaan*, Netflix), it was just perfect.

On her OTT experience

When you're watching at home, somehow you see a performance a lot more clearly than when you're watching it in a theatre where it's a cinematic experience. You're having popcorn, looking forward to the songs. OTT is an intimate experience, so I was a lot more nervous.

On being in her 40s

I think being in the 40s is just the best part. Personally, I think I feel a lot more relaxed, and after having my children, I think I'm having a lot more fun than I did earlier. It's so important to have fun because that's what keeps you going, that's what keeps you happy. And, you know, longevity, everything is so important. It's all about just having fun, rather than constantly thinking that I should look like this or I should do this. I've never been like that.

On the pressures of social media

On social media, there is this certain look that everybody wants to have, every girl wants to look like that. I think it's very

scary but you just have to be strong and say, 'no, this is it, I can't get carried away'. Everyone has to learn to love themselves the way they are. Friends, family should keep telling their children the same so that they have a certain kind of security. So parents, friends, uncles, aunts, they all should give confidence to the child. Being a parent, I've realised that this confidence starts at home.

On parenting in the time of social media

I think it has been quite tough but what made it easy was that we didn't really cover his (Taimur's) face, or stopped people from taking pictures because both Saif and I felt that if we started covering our child's face, it would reflect on his mind a lot more like 'why are my parents doing this to me?' So Saif said, 'just let it be, and we'll deal with it', we'll request them (photographers) as much as we can. And, of course, when Taimur started noticing that he's being photographed when he was four, he asked us. I told him that we do movies and he just turned around and told me 'but I'm not famous so why are they clicking my pictures'. I have to keep telling him 'just relax. It's okay. Yes, you are not famous, but because we are...' So now if you notice, he just puts his head down and runs off but he doesn't like it. But I just thought that hiding him and doing all of that would impact him negatively, may scar him, make him shy or maybe say that he does not want to go out because his parents are constantly shielding him. I want him to have as nor-



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DR SANJAY KAPOTE
General Surgeon, Apollo Clinic



CATHERINE BARNES
Deputy Head of Mission, British High Commission



ADIL GANDHI
Partner, Chemould Frames



RA SHAH
Senior Partner, Crawford Bayley & Company

mal a life as possible.

On being trolled over her son's name

I think we have freedom of speech, freedom of what we want to do. Also, my son's name is Taimur, which means iron. Saif's first friend was called that and he really liked the name. He said if I have a son, I'd like to name him Taimur and that's exactly how he was named. I was in a shock when the trolling over his name happened. But luckily, because we were strong, resilient and silent, I think it just kind of died down. It was a traumatic time, it was very difficult, but I think both Saif and I handled it with a lot of dignity.

On her childhood

I think it was very different and organic at that time because you never really knew your parents were famous till you grew up to nine or 10. You'd go on a movie shoot, and

it used to be like the most special treat to actually get to a set and watch my father and Mr Amitabh Bachchan shoot together. It was a treat. Today everything's out there. In those days, it was not about the paps (paparazzi), how you looked, where you went or what you did, or which restaurant you ate at, it was more humane in some way. So my childhood was a lot more organic and exciting, going to movie shoots obviously, because that's where I grew up... But there was a time that I broke away from that and went to boarding school, Welham Girls' in Dehradun, and enjoyed the best three years of my life. I can't thank my parents for actually exposing me to that. It is there that I learned to be independent, because being a boarding school girl is very different. And for our family, it was a first because I came from a very protected home. I'm very happy that I had that exposure, and because of which I even thought of becoming a lawyer! I went to the Government Law



SOMSHEKHAR SUNDARESAN
Advocate



SUSIL JIWARAJKA
Chairman, Artheon Group of Companies



PUSHKAR GUPTA
Director, The Good Edge Advisory



BRENDA SOYA
Public Affairs Officer, US Consulate



ARVIND PARANJPYE
Director, Nehru Planetarium



BHARAT KHANNA
Managing Director, Bentall Green Oak



KARTIK KINI
COO & Brand Custodian, Waterfield



AAKASH SACHDEV
Director, ASG Eye Hospital



Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, in conversation with Kareena Kapoor Khan

● **With so much social media, do you feel that being accessible is something which is hurting stardom, or is it making it bigger and better?**

It's a double-edged sword. We somehow need to find a balance. I do get irritated sometimes. People comment that she was looking like this or she looked tired. But maybe I was tired. It wasn't time to be photographed. There is now accessibility because people are dissecting photos. But also the best way to be is to just put your head down and walk.

● **Paparazzi, yay or nay.**

In today's time, it's difficult to run away from it. So please accept it in all your glory. I have accepted it.

● **The one thing that's changed in the Kapoor family in the past 23 years.**

The actors have become better. There's Ranbir Kapoor.

● **If you were making a debut today, what would you do differently?**

I'm really proud of my debut. It wasn't a typical commercial song-and-dance potboiler. I wouldn't want to change that at all. Let's keep that for posterity.

● **The one thing that's remained the same in Bollywood since you began working 23 years ago.**

Competition.

● **The one thing that should have changed in Bollywood, but hasn't in the last 23 years.**

Maybe better working conditions, more organised timings.

● **The one thing in Bollywood you**

think shouldn't have changed.

Privacy of actors.

● **The power of the star: has that increased or decreased?**

It's on a roll.

● **The clout and value of the last name. Has that increased or decreased in Bollywood?**

Decreased.

● **Are Indian audiences more or less starstruck than they were 23 years ago?**

More, because of the accessibility.

● **The first thought that comes to your mind when you hear the word award shows**

Sponsors.

● **First thought when you hear the word beauty pageants.**

Sponsor.

● **When you hear the word item song.**

Fevicol se.

● **When you hear the word documentary.**

Saif, because he loves watching documentaries.

● **When you hear the word paparazzi**

Stress, because they are all over me. I literally wake up in the morning and worry about paps.

● **First thought when you hear the word polarised.**

Bollywood.

● **Jaane Jaan is an adaptation of the Devotion of Suspect X. If you could start another book adaptation, what would it be?**

Since I love all crime thrillers, any one of Jo Nesbo's thrillers. One of those slightly dark books.

● **Which film of yours would you make your sons watch first?**

Any of the comedy and fun ones like *Golmaal*. Let them start slow. Let's ease them into all the movies.

and innocence, or rather expose the child to the harsh realities of the world?

I would say harsh realities of life. In the times we're living in, I think it's important that they know. If I have to jump somewhere, I'd like to know how far I'm going or how deep I'm jumping. My children should know that too.

● **If you have to pick another country to live with your family, outside of India, which one would you choose and why?**

I can't imagine the comfort of living anywhere else other than Mumbai. Somehow it's given me security and some sort of mental peace.

● **How would you tell your child why Uncle Jack is married to a man.**

Because he loves him. And love doesn't come in any particular gender or size or form, and you know it's not that *amma* always has to love *abba*. Sometimes Jack can love John. Trisha can love Brisha. And that's just the way it is. And he has to know that love has no boundaries.

● **Should schools have male, female and other bathrooms?**

They should.

● **If your child asked why his nanny has to eat at another table, what would you tell him?**

I've already been asked that. She sits with us. That's just the way both Saif and I have addressed it because Taimur has asked and Jay is already asking. He says, "*idhar baitho*". And this is the rule now because they look after my children like their own, and that is something that I cannot just overlook.

RAPID FIRE WITH KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN

● **Saif is closest to which of his on-screen characters.**

Salaam Namaste.

● **Of all of Saif's ensemble casts, who do you think he shares the screen best with?**

Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgan or John Abraham?

I would say Akshay Kumar. I like watching them together.

● **The one female lead who you think Saif makes a good pair with on screen.**

Deepika (Padukone).

Here are a few questions that I have been asked in school interviews

● **The one trick in making your child get along with his newborn sibling.**

The one trick with two boys is, just buy two of everything. Whether we're at the airport or anything, if Saif buys one Hubba Bubba, I tell him to buy two.

● **Would you like the school to cherish the child's naivete**

shot, it just comes across as so much more fun and natural. (We are) Not really competing. I just somehow feel male actors compete more. Women don't, trust me.

College in Mumbai and thought I could become a criminal lawyer but obviously when I saw the size of the books, I said forget it, let me just do what is my calling.

On changes in the industry from the time she made her debut

I think everything in cinema has changed since then. A lot more people are now also watching our cinema than before. Of course, I do believe that even in the '60s and '70s, everyone was watching Satyajit Ray's films, my mother-in-law's (Sharmila Tagore) films were popular, Raj Kapoor's films were popular in Russia. Now, of course, it's considered one of the biggest industries in the world after Hollywood. In fact, I would say we're making a lot more movies than them. We're trying to match up in budgets as well, with the South film industry contributing a lot and the credit has to be given to them. But I think the world is also opening up to a lot of actors. Cinema has changed in so many ways. I think I have grown since the time I was a 19-year-old girl. But I still don't want to lose that excitement. If I lose that, I feel then I should hang my boots.

On working in films helmed by women

I think we kind of inspire each other. It's a different vibe when your co-star is a woman. I think there's a lot more relatability, we also bounce off each other's energies, because women are, I think, a lot more easier. Somehow I just feel that we're all comfortable with each other. When you're making an all women kind of movie, it just works because we're a lot more relaxed. So when you're giving the



Kareena Kapoor Khan at Express Adda

WHO IS THE EASIEST AND THE MOST DIFFICULT ACTOR TO WORK WITH AND WHY?

THE EASIEST ACTOR would be Akshay Kumar. I think he is very relaxed. He's like a typical Virgo. He likes to have lots of fun. Difficult — I think everyone's process is different. Because people like to do a lot of retakes or get into character. It would be unfair to take someone's name because acting is a process.



SAURABH SEKHSARIA
Deputy General Manager - Group Strategy, Writer Corporation

IF YOU HAD A CHOICE TO PLAY ANY CHARACTER FROM A CLASSIC BOLLYWOOD FILM, WHICH ONE WOULD YOU CHOOSE AND WHY?

THIS IS A DIFFICULT one because I'm such a movie buff and I've seen so many of the classics. I would love to have been a part of a Satyajit Ray film, like my mother-in-law because I think the way he showed his women... I wish I would have had that opportunity in maybe a black-and-white one.



VIVEK JAIN
Managing Director, DCW Limited

HOW DO YOU ADJUST TO THE ROLE OF A FAMILY MEMBER AS COMPARED TO YOUR SCREEN ROLES? IT MUST BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE THE SUDDEN SHIFT FROM BEING ON THE SCREEN PLAYING A PARTICULAR CHARACTER AND THEN COMING BACK TO REALITY?

I'VE NEVER REALLY taken myself too seriously as an actor or as a person. I've seen that a lot of actors find it difficult but I find it very easy because I wear my stardom, my success and my failures, very easy. And I



JANAK DWARKADAS
Advocate, Bombay High Court

am like, *theek hai, chalta hai, dekhre hain kya hoga* (okay, it's fine, let's see what happens). I am happy to leave my characters at work and rush home to be a wife to Saif, to be a mother. I wait for that actually.



SNEHA KABRA
Founder, The Little Box

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR ME-TIME?

TAKE A NAP. I love my naps and they are sacrosanct. If I'm at home, and I have some time alone, then I just want to be with myself and literally just stare at the wall and put myself to sleep. That's my time.



The audience at Express Adda



Kareena Kapoor Khan meeting advocate Janak Dwarkadas

EXPLAINED ENVIRONMENT

How ignored landslide alert led to Subansiri running dry

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

ON OCTOBER 27, the long delayed Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project on the border of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam suffered its latest setback after a large part of the hill on the left side of the dam collapsed into its reservoir. The deposits blocked the only functional diversion tunnel and stopped the flow of water downstream of the dam into the Subansiri river, a major tributary of the Brahmaputra.

Construction of the project, which when complete will be India's largest, began in 2005, but suffered a long stoppage between December 2011 and September 2019 due to local opposition and major changes in the dam design.

After work resumed, the deadline for commissioning the first two of the project's eight 250-MW units has been extended five times: to March 2021, August 2022, March 2023, June 2023, and now March 2024.

How a dammed river flows

Typically, once a location is selected for a dam, a temporary earthen barrier (a coffer dam) and a few diversion tunnels are built immediately upstream to bypass the dam construction site. (See illustration)

Once the dam is ready, the diversion tunnels (DTs) are closed, and water starts to flow through the multiple spillways — which are gated holes in the dam wall that ensure regulated release.

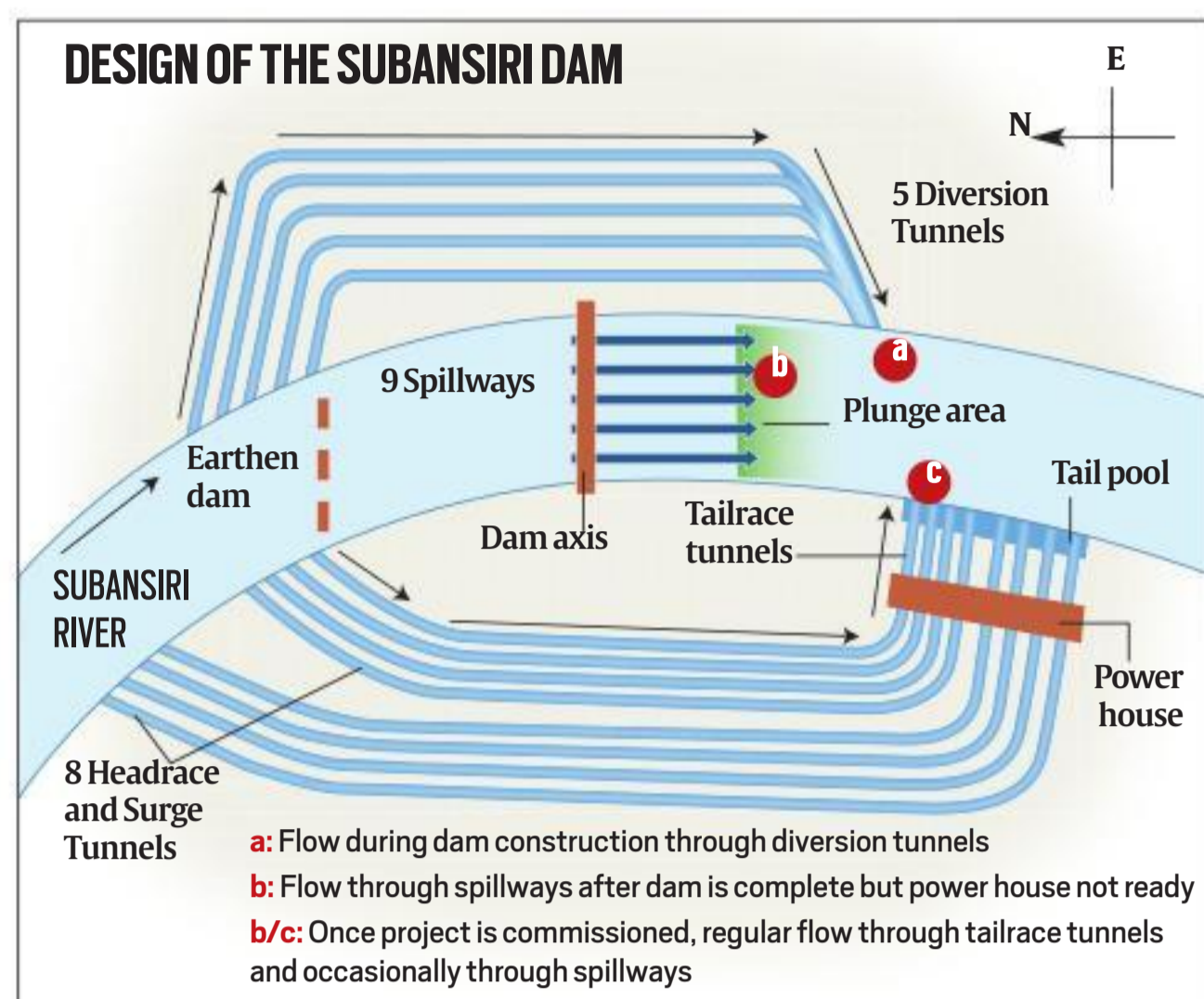
In a hydel project, a set of tunnels is also built to carry water from the reservoir to the powerhouse. The water turns the turbines, and then goes back into the river. Once the powerhouse is operational, this becomes the main path of the water, and the spillways are used occasionally.

What happened at Subansiri

On October 27, a spokesperson for the Subansiri Lower Project said the flow downstream was "highly reduced" — to an estimated 5-10 cubic metres per second (cumecs) — after a landslide "at about 11.30 am" blocked the only DT in use.

"The dam spillway bay level is at 145 m [above] msl (mean sea level). At 1 pm, the water level reached 139 m msl. At the present river flow of 997 cubic m/sec, the water level of the reservoir is expected to reach 145 m msl this evening and the river will again flow through the spillway...normally," the spokesperson said. The water eventually started flowing out of the spillways around 11 pm.

As of now, "three spillway gates are complete and the remaining six were to be ready



by December. It was perhaps a mistake to depend on a single DT," an engineer associated with the project said.

The 'mistake' NHPC committed

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the statutory body that advises the government

on policy relating to electricity systems, had recommended in April 2022 that the impact of the DTs on the slope stability of the project site should be examined.

NHPC Ltd, which is implementing the Subansiri Lower Project, ignored the recommendation. In April 2023, it said that "no more assessment of landslide hazards and their impact was needed", and that "necessary stabilisation measures have been carried out".

The site's history of landslides

The landslide on October 27 was the sixth to hit the dam site since the CEA sounded the warning last April. Major landslides took place in June, September, and October 2022, and in April and September 2023.

There had been landslides before the CEA's alert as well — this was probably the reason why the CEA raised a flag in the first place.

"A landslide blocked the outlet of one diversion tunnel in 2020. Another tunnel wall collapsed last June. In all, four of the five diversion tunnels suffered damage, or were blocked or sealed over the last two years," a project official said.

Yet, the project authority relied on the sole functional diversion tunnel to release water downstream, and to lower the dam reservoir level to complete the construction of the spillway gates.

What happens here onward

A team of the NHPC's board of directors, and top officials of the CEA and Geological Survey of India visited the site last week. The project will now focus on slope stabilisation, NHPC project consultant A N Mohammed said.

Biswajit Basu, project director of NHPC, said, "We will complete the work before the (March 2024) deadline." He declined to comment on how the spillway gates would be built, and the potential time and cost overruns.

The likely option would be to build a temporary sheet pile dyke — a metallic barrier with steel bracing — inside the reservoir to isolate the under-construction spillway gates, and to finish the work after the slope stabilisation process is over, a project official said.

Basu also declined to comment on the potential impact on the riverine ecosystem and aquatic life forms. "Whenever DTs are closed, the water level goes down. But a river is never dry and water levels anyway fall in the winter," he said.

While the Subansiri's lowest-ever winter discharge on NHPC records was 188 cumecs in 1979, for almost 12 hours on October 27, the flow went down to 5-10 cumecs. The project clearance conditions require Subansiri Lower to maintain a minimum downstream flow of 240 cumecs at all times.

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

WHY PALESTINE SUPPORTERS USE THE SYMBOL OF A WATERMELON

YASHEE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

IN THE many posts showing support for Palestine on social media, a popular symbol is the watermelon.

Why a watermelon

A watermelon when sliced shows the colours of the Palestinian flag — red, green, black, and white. As carrying and displaying the Palestinian flag has often been barred by Israeli authorities, a watermelon is used to symbolise it instead. On social media, many allege that posts with overt Palestinian symbols are restricted by the US-headquartered bigger platforms, and hence, the sliced watermelon comes in useful here too. The watermelon is also widely cultivated in Palestine, from the West Bank to Gaza, and features prominently in Palestinian cuisine.

Its use in protests

Palestine has been on the boil the whole of this year, much before the Hamas attack that triggered the blood-bath in Gaza by Israel. In January, Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir claimed he had instructed the police to tear down Palestinian flags flown publicly, after a terror convict waved the flag after his release from prison, *The Times of Israel* reported. Displaying the Palestinian flag is not legally banned in Israel, but the police often crack down, claiming the flag could "disturb peace". As the arrests con-



A taxi with the image of a watermelon in Tel Aviv, as part of a protest in June. x/zazim_org_il

tinued, in June, an organisation called Zazim began adding images of sliced watermelons on taxis plying in Tel Aviv, with the accompanying text reading "This is not a Palestinian flag".

Another prominent example is the work of Palestinian artist Khaled Hourani, who in 2007 painted a slice of watermelon for the *Subjective Atlas of Palestine* project. His work received wide viewership, and served to associate the watermelon with the Palestinian cause strongly.

It is not clear how the watermelon first came to be used in protests. While some Western media organisations have reported it was a prominent symbol of resistance during the First Intifada, Arab news websites and blogs have contradicted this.

EXPLAINED HEALTH

India's hypertension map

A new study finds significant variations in the occurrence and treatment of hypertension among Indian states, and also in districts within the states. How are different regions faring? Why is this significant?

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

THERE IS a significant variation in the level of prevalence, diagnosis, treatment, and control of hypertension within Indian states, and even within districts in states, an analysis of the recent National Family Health Survey data published in the journal JAMA said.

The researchers said that the national mean values of hypertension "hide considerable" variation at the district level, and recommended "targeted, decentralised solutions."

What does the study tell us about hypertension care in India?

The national-level data shows what doctors across the country already know — a larger number of those with hypertension do not get diagnosed; among those who get diagnosed, many do not initiate treatment; and among those who do initiate treatment, few are able to control their blood pressure. Only one in three receives a diagnosis, one in five gets treated, and one in twelve achieves blood pressure control.

The interesting find is the inter-state and inter-district variability of the levels of continuum of care.

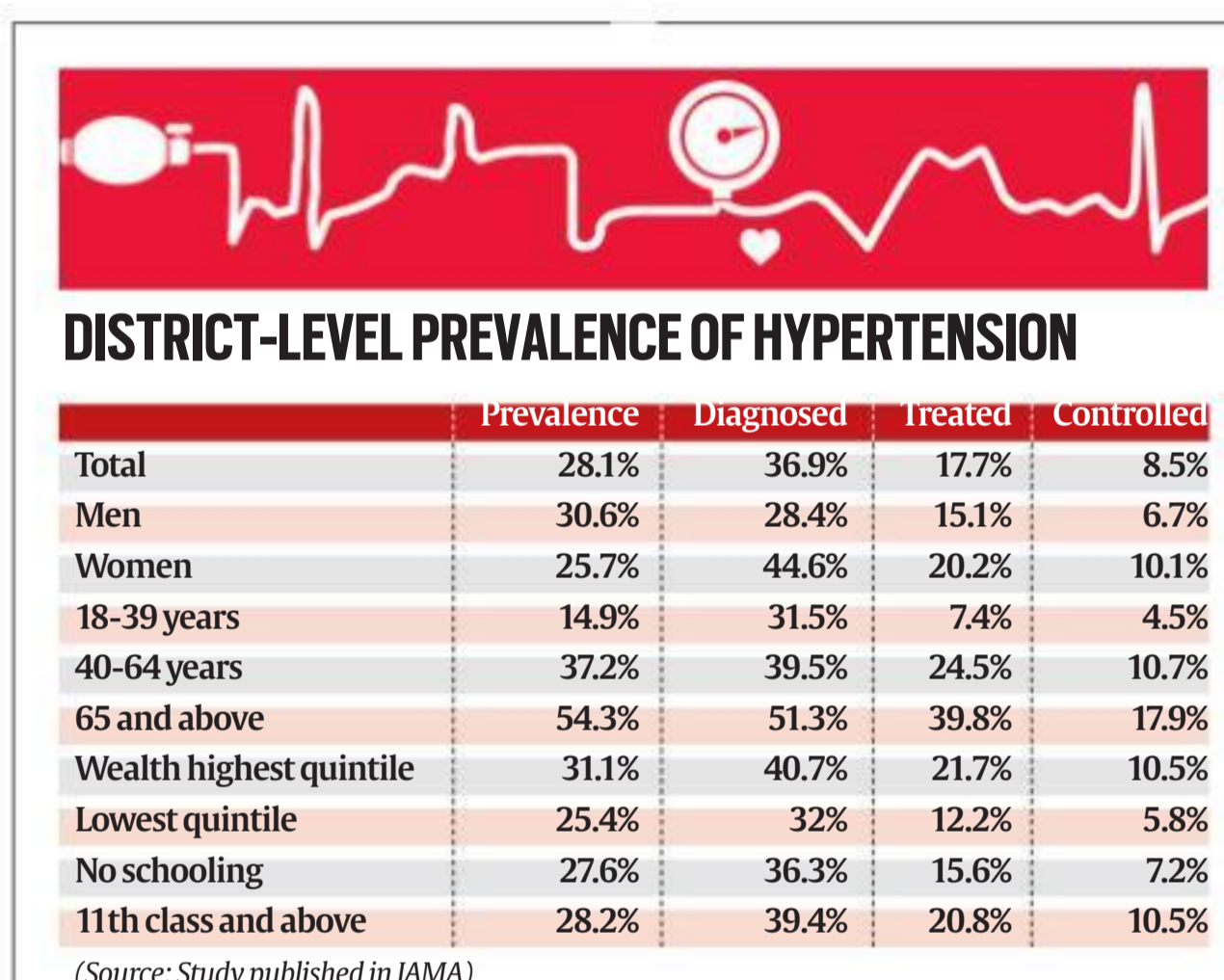
What is the status at the state level?

The study found that the prevalence of hypertension was similar among the southern states but it was higher than the national average — 29.9% of the population in the southern states as compared with 26.8% across India.

The proportion of people diagnosed with hypertension in the southern states was similar to the rest of India, but the proportion of people on treatment and under control was higher in these states, the study showed.

What is the status at the district level

Not only at the state-level, there were significant variations within states as well. The researchers cited the example of two states to demonstrate this.



In Meghalaya, the prevalence of hypertension was similar in the districts of Garo Hills (21.8%), Jaintia Hills (19.8%), and Khasi Hills (23.1%). However, the proportion of those diagnosed was lower in Garo Hills at 18.6% as compared with 29.4% in Khasi Hills and 41.1% in Jaintia Hills.

In Karnataka, four districts — Chikmagalur, Shimoga, Udupi and Chitradurga — have a similar prevalence of hypertension, but the proportion of people who received treatment and successfully controlled it was higher in Chikmagalur and Udupi.

What's the role of age, gender, education?

Even at the national level, there were significant variations in the levels of continuum of care depending on the gender, age, socio-economic conditions, and education level of the person.

While it is well-known that men are more likely to have hypertension than

women, surprisingly, the data show that women are much more likely to be diagnosed, be on treatment, and have their blood pressure under control.

The prevalence, diagnosis, treatment, and control were all higher among those over the age of 65 years when compared with youngsters. When it comes to socio-economic conditions, the prevalence, diagnosis, treatment, and control of hypertension were found to be highest among the wealthiest fifth of the population. While the prevalence of hypertension was similar among those who had had no schooling and those who had passed Class 11, diagnosis, treatment, and control was higher among those who had completed schooling.

Why look at inter-state and inter-district variability?

This district-level break-up of data can help state governments plan where and which level of care needs more resources,

said Dr Nikhil Tandon, one of the authors of the paper and professor of endocrinology and metabolism at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi.

He said: "It is essential that healthcare systems are planned differently for the management of chronic conditions like hypertension than for acute diseases. For an acute disease, the patient is likely to seek out care, and the treatment is also finite. Once they seek care and are prescribed medicines, they are likely to take it for the recommended duration because they want to feel better. But we know this does not happen with hypertension."

Take, for example, a district where medicines are not available at regular intervals. The local government then has to ensure that the medicines are available regularly and at centres close to people's homes. Or, a push towards digitisation of records is needed, which can help health workers ensure regular follow-ups and stock-taking of medicines.

For hypertension, Dr Tandon said, continuum of care, and not just screening and diagnosis, is crucial. "This data will help local governments understand where the problem lies — whether there is high prevalence in a certain district, whether a particular district needs more screening or diagnostic facilities, whether medicines are accessible and available at regular periods, etc."

What needs to be done to control hypertension in India?

A recently released WHO report on hypertension said nearly 4.6 million deaths can be averted in India by 2040 if just half of the hypertensives are able to control their blood pressure. Towards this, the government this year launched an ambitious initiative to put 75 million people with hypertension or diabetes on treatment by 2025.

Controlling hypertension, however, would not merely require an increase in infrastructure, but also a focus on active screening of people, putting them on treatment, ensuring availability of medicine close to their homes, and ensuring follow-ups.

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NFSA and PM's free grains promise for 5 years: what it means, costs

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

AT ELECTION rallies in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh over the weekend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the central government's free foodgrains scheme under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 would be extended "for the next five years".

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY), the pandemic-time relief measure under which an additional 5 kg of foodgrains was supplied free to all beneficiaries of the NFSA from April 2020 onward, was stopped with effect from January 1, 2023. However, the already heavily subsidised foodgrains being supplied under the NFSA were made free until the end of 2023.

The Prime Minister has now committed to this free supply of grains for another five years. It will benefit at least 80 crore people, and is likely to be used as a selling point by the BJP in its Lok Sabha election campaign. The PM had earlier mocked the "freebies"

offered to voters by other parties as "rewadi".

The PM-GKAY

PM-GKAY was launched in April 2020, after the Covid-19 pandemic hit. Under the scheme, 5 kg of foodgrains were provided free to all beneficiaries of the NFSA. This relief was in addition to their entitlement of 5 kg of subsidised foodgrains under the law.

The scheme was initially announced for three months, until June 2020. On July 8, 2020, it was extended until November 2020. After the second (Delta) wave hit in April 2021, the government restarted PM-GKAY, and approved a third phase of the scheme for May and June 2021.

Subsequently, the scheme was extended until November 2021 — and on November 24, 2021, the fifth phase of PM-GKAY was announced until the end of March 2022.

The decision was widely seen as a response to the coming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. While the results were declared in March 2022, a sixth phase of the scheme was approved until September 2022.

On September 28, 2022, as elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh approached, the government announced phase 7 — until the end of December 2022. Finally, on December 24, 2022, the Cabinet announced the discontinuation of PM-GKAY, and the decision to give free foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under NFSA for all of 2023.

Food Security Act

The NFSA was enacted by the UPA-2 government, and came into effect on July 5, 2013. It guaranteed "access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices" under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to 50% of the urban and 75% of the rural population of the country. The overall national coverage of the NFSA is about 67.5% of the population.

The number of beneficiaries in the rural and urban areas of a state are calculated based on the latest available (2011) Census data, according to which about 81.35 crore people can be covered.

The subsidised prices are specified in Schedule-1 of the NFSA, which the government can change by executive order. Until the end of 2022, NFSA beneficiaries paid Rs 3, Rs 2, and Re 1 per kg of rice, wheat, and nutri-cereals (millets) respectively. These prices were not changed for years, even though the economic cost of foodgrains and the food subsidy bill grew steadily.

The quantity of grains to which a beneficiary is entitled is also laid down in the law, and cannot be changed without Parliament's approval.

There are two categories of beneficiary households under the NFSA — Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, and Priority Households (PHs). Each AAY household is entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains every month irrespective of the number of members in the household.

PHs are entitled to receive foodgrains according to the number of family members. Each member is entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains every month; so, the bigger the family the greater is the quantity of foodgrains it gets.

Cost of programmes

The economic cost of foodgrains has four main components — pooled cost of grain, procurement incidentals, acquisition cost, and distribution cost. All of these have increased over the years. The economic cost of rice was Rs 2,615.51 per quintal in 2013-14, and had risen to Rs 3,670.04 in 2022-23. The economic cost of wheat rose from Rs 1,908.32 per quintal in 2013-14 to Rs 2,588.70 in 2022-23.

The government's food subsidy bill peaked at Rs 5,41,330.14 crore in 2020-21 before falling to Rs 2,86,469.11 crore in 2021-22. For 2022-23, the government budgeted a subsidy bill of Rs 2,06,831.09 crore, and said that the cost of distributing free grains under NFSA would be around Rs 2 lakh crore.

As of the beginning of this calendar year, the government's expenditure on the PM-GKAY was about Rs 15,000 crore per month. The expenditure until the end of the seventh phase of the scheme was around Rs 3.91 lakh crore.

The government's December 24, 2022

decision to provide foodgrains for free under NFSA was expected to put an additional burden of Rs 13,900 crore on the exchequer, and the total food security bill for the 2023 calendar year was estimated to be around Rs 2 lakh crore.

Beneficiaries' saving

For AAY families, who are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains per month, the government had allocated 99.75 lakh tonnes for the financial year 2022-23. This meant these families were estimated to cumulatively save Rs 2,705 crore for the entire year.

For PHs, the government allocated 423.86 lakh tonnes foodgrains, enabling them to together save about Rs 11,142 crore in the year.

The NFSA is a rights-based scheme under a law of Parliament, while the PM-GKAY was a scheme announced by the executive as a top-up to the entitlements of beneficiaries covered under the NFSA.

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How Big Show lifted Australia from the abyss

Australia's No.6 scored 68.6% of the runs during the successful chase against Afghanistan. His innings from the fall of the 7th wicket

91/7 MAXWELL: 22 OFF 26 B (3X4) 11 ● 200001 ● 002401 ● 4001 ● 411 ● 01 ● 0401 ● 121 ● 41 ● 661 ● 402221 ● 11 ● 00461 ● 21 ● 44001
18.3 ovs CUMMINS: 0 ● 0111 ● 0461 ● 11 ● 01 ● 61 ● 0441 ● 41 ● 004040 ● 406401 ● 60001 ● 1001 ● 06646

MAXWELL: 201* OFF 128 B (21X4, 10X6) 293/7
CUMMINS: 12* OFF 68 (1X4) 46.5 ovs

Limping Maxwell helps Australia sprint past finish

Team mates and rivals acknowledge 'greatest ODI knock' as Australia win tight game to book semi-final slot against South Africa

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 7

"CANT MOVE but hits a six over the third man. He's a freak, different universe." Australian captain Pat Cummins has been around for a long time to know Glenn Maxwell is a 'freak'. But even then, as he watched the 'greatest ODI innings', the Australia captain could scarcely believe what had transpired.

Cummins wasn't the only one left with that feeling. "World-class innings," Afghanistan's English coach Jonathan Trott, a victim of many such Australian comebacks, said in admiration. Rashid Khan, their talisman, walked up to a hobbling Maxwell and gave him a bear hug.

Deep within, Trott, Rashid and the rest of the Afghanistan players must be deeply disappointed. The stage was set for them to record their biggest win ever. The final confirmation, if it was ever needed, of the underdog's arrival on the big stage. And a giant leap towards the World Cup semifinals.

None of that happened. Instead, they're at the receiving end of an innings that will go down in cricketing folklore.

Afghanistan set Australia a target of 292. They had them pinned at 91 for 7. And then came Maxwell, who made a mockery of the run chase. Wounded and unable to even stand on his feet, he went on to score an unbeaten 201 to lead Australia to a three-wicket win, which secured their spot in the semifinals. At what point it stopped being a mere Afghanistan vs Australia match and turned into a full-blown Maxwell show is hard to say. The second ball of the 22nd over is a good reference point.

Australia were four down and, suddenly, Afghanistan's par score seemed like an insurmountable peak. And the umpire had adjudged Maxwell leg before off a Noor Ahmad delivery.

Afghanistan began celebrating as if they'd already won the match. The Australian dugout sat there mourning their humiliation. And Maxwell began his march back, convinced it was all over. Then, he glanced at the stadium screen as the review played out. The ball had missed the inside edge, and pitched in line with leg stump. But ball-tracking suggested it was bouncing over the stumps.

Maxwell quickly turned back and returned to the crease. Three balls later, he got another life – this time, dropped by Mujeeb ur Rahman at short fine leg.

The two lifelines were all he needed. And Afghanistan, who had so far in the tournament shown impeccable emotional balance, lost the plot.

Unable to walk, let alone run, for half of his innings due to Cramp, Maxwell went berserk as he hit a total of 21 fours and 10 sixes. Cummins held the other end – he faced 68 balls for 12 runs – and ensured Australia



Glenn Maxwell, struggling because of cramps, takes off for a single during his boundary-filled unbeaten 201 at the Wankhede Stadium. Deepak Joshi

did not lose wickets any further.

It felt like Maxwell was batting on a different pitch in different conditions compared to all his teammates who couldn't deal with the swing that the Afghan bowlers extracted from the surface.

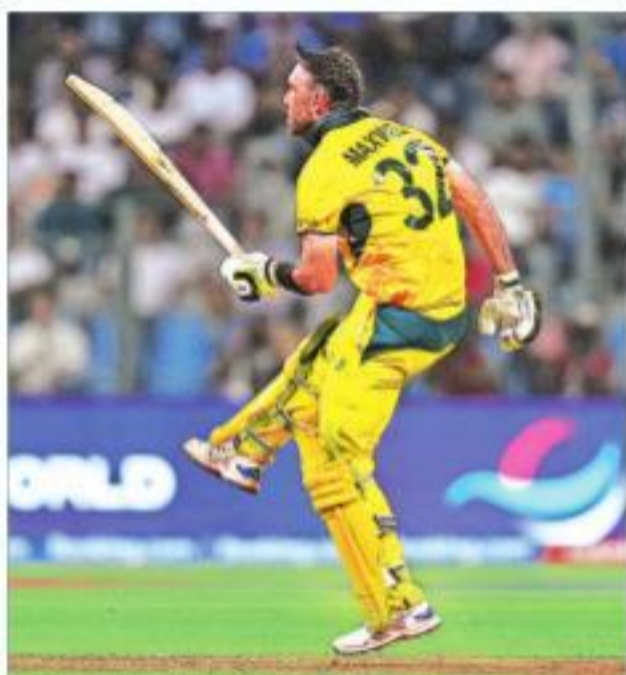
Wobbly start

The demons at Wankhede come out at night, under lights. In the three matches here before Tuesday, the scores of the chasing team at the end of the first powerplay have been thus: 67/4, 35/3 and 14/6.

When David Warner drove Mujeeb ur Rahman through the covers off the first ball, it felt like Australia would buck the trend. By the time the 10th over was bowled, however, the former champions were reeling at 52/4. And they never recovered.

Sensing blood, Afghanistan players circled the wounded Aussies like eagles. And for once, Australia looked vulnerable.

It was Naveen ul Haq who triggered Australia's remarkable meltdown. Two days ago, the speedster tried to get under the thick Australian skin by passing a snarky remark over the team's refusal to play them in a bilateral series, citing the human rights violation under the Taliban rule. "Two points or human rights," Naveen's barb read.



Despite his mobility being affected, Glenn Maxwell pivots on one leg to dispatch one into the stands at the Wankhede Stadium. AP

History suggests it's never a smart move to rile up the Aussies, especially before a big match. But Naveen walked his big talk. He found the perfect line with his second ball – angled into the left-handed Travis Head and then swinging away from the off, just

enough to catch the outside edge, safely held on by Ikram Ali Khil.

A couple of overs later, Naveen pitched the ball full and got it to nip back to beat the inside edge and crash into Mitch Marsh's pads. The Afghan players didn't even wait for the umpire to raise his finger, confident that it would crash into the middle and leg stumps, and Marsh seemed to agree with their conjecture.

Suddenly, what looked like a par score given the conditions started looking like a mountain for Australia to climb. And there would be no respite.

The third and fourth wickets were even more beautifully constructed, this time by Azmatullah Omarzai. The 23-year-old pacer, playing only his 20th ODI, put Warner on the back foot, forcing him to defend with his consistent line and length around the off.

The maiden seventh over further stifled the already-rattled Australians and when Omarzai returned to bowl the ninth over, he castled Warner with a ball that was fuller and in-swing sharply. He got the next ball to swing the other way, which caught the outside edge of Inglis and Ibrahim made no mistake at slip.

A little later, after Marnus Labuschagne's desperate dive wasn't enough to save him

from getting run out – pushing Australia further to the abyss – the talk was no longer about whether Ibrahim had been too slow to get to his hundred or if Rashid Khan's six-hitting spree was too little, too late. It was, instead, about the margin by which Australia would lose.

Nearly retired hurt

Perhaps, Afghanistan's players too got a little carried away – as Trott admitted later – and did not do enough to dismiss Maxwell.

Cummins feared the big-hitter would have to retire hurt when he collapsed to the ground with around eight overs left. He even asked Adam Zampa to pad up but the physio convinced Maxwell to stay on and from that moment on, Australia were happy simply to let Maxwell deal in boundaries, not bothering to run between wickets.

And when, on the last ball of the 47th over, Maxwell shuffled the leg he could barely move and unleashed an almighty heave to send the ball flying into the stands over deep square leg, he spread his arms open and for the first time, smiled.

At the other end, all Cummins could do was stand and applaud. It was a freak show. And he had the best seat in the house to watch it.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA vs AFGHANISTAN

WANKHEDE STADIUM, MUMBAI

Toss: Afghanistan elected to bat

AFGHANISTAN

R Gurbaz c Starc b Hazlewood 21 (25b, 2x4)

I Zadran not out 129 (143b, 8x4, 3x6)

R Shah c Hazlewood b Maxwell 30 (44b, 1x4)

H Shahidi b Starc 14 (36b)

A Omarzai c Maxwell b Zampa 22 (18b, 1x4, 2x6)

M Nabi b Hazlewood 12 (10b, 1x6)

R Khan not out 35 (18b, 2x4, 3x6)

■ Extras (lb 5, nb 1, w 10) 16

■ Total 50 Ov (RR: 5.82) 291/5

■ FoW: 1-38 (Rahmanullah Gurbaz, 7.6 ov), 2-121 (Rahmat Shah, 24.4 ov), 3-173 (Hashmatullah Shahidi, 37.2 ov), 4-210 (Azmatullah Omarzai, 42.3 ov), 5-233 (Mohammad Nabi, 45.3 ov)

■ Bowling: Mitchell Starc 9-0-70-1, Josh Hazlewood 9-0-39-2, Glenn Maxwell 10-0-55-1, Pat Cummins 8-0-47-0, Adam Zampa 10-0-58-1, Travis Head 3-0-15-0, Marcus Stoinis 1-0-2-0.

AUSTRALIA

D Warner b Omarzai 18 (29b, 3x4)

T Head c Alikhil b Naveen-ul-Haq 0 (2b)

M Marsh lbw b Naveen-ul-Haq 24 (11b, 2x4, 2x6)

M Labuschagne run out (Rahmat Shah) 14 (28b, 2x4)

J Inglis c Zadran b Omarzai 0 (1b)

G Maxwell not out 201 (128b, 21x4, 10x6)

M Stoinis lbw b Rashid Khan 6 (7b, 1x4)

M Starc c Alikhil b Rashid Khan 3 (7b)

P Cummins not out 12 (68b, 1x4)

■ Extras (b 4, lb 1, w 10) 15

■ Total 46.5 Ov (RR: 6.25) 293/7

■ FoW: 1-4 (Travis Head, 1.2 ov), 2-43 (Mitchell Marsh, 5.4 ov), 3-49 (David Warner, 8.1 ov), 4-49 (Josh Inglis, 8.2 ov), 5-69 (Marnus Labuschagne, 14.1 ov), 6-87 (Marcus Stoinis, 16.4 ov), 7-91 (Mitchell Starc, 18.3 ov)

■ Bowling: Mujeeb ur Rehman 8.5-1-72-0, Naveen ul-Haq 9-0-47-2, Azmatullah Omarzai 7-1-52-2, Rashid Khan 10-0-44-2, Noor Ahmad 10-1-53-0, Mohammad Nabi 2-0-20-0.

MAXWELL'S FEATS

201*

■ Maxwell's is the highest score ever made in an ODI run chase

■ The highest score ever made by an Australian in an ODI

■ The 10th-highest individual score in ODI history

■ The highest score by a batsman coming in at No.6 or lower.

1 First batsman to make an ODI double-hundred not to be an opener

3 Third-highest individual score in World Cup history

202* Highest partnership for the seventh-wicket or lower in ODIs. Maxwell made 179 of those runs.

UNCONVENTIONAL ONE

Rashid's uncanny wrist-work keeps spirit of gully-cricket alive at top level

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 7

NO OTHER batsman bottles the spirit of gully-cricket and sprays it gleefully in the international arena like Rashid Khan. Much of modern-day T20 batting has become refined appropriation of gully-shots, but Rashid can make even the most adventurous tennis-ball street cricketer gasp in awe.

Of all the dazzling shots he hit against Australia at the Wankhede – the snake shot, the tennis-smash – a brace stood out for its inventive thrill. He had just run down the pitch and improvised, after offspinner Glenn Maxwell had fired it wide outside off, with a square slash – limbs and body stretched out like a yoga practitioner. But the best was to come next ball.

He perhaps anticipated that Maxwell was going for a yorker-length ball and stood still. The delivery kept traversing and at the last instant, Rashid tapped it between his legs for two to fine leg. Nothing else but his hands and bat moved. It was not a freaky accident or an inside-edge but deliberately constructed from the most zany cricketer brain out there.

Nineteen months ago, he had put up a similar shot from the nets on his Instagram

account with the caption 'Name shot???' There is also a lovely chuckle and 'Sahi hai, Sahi hai' presumably from the person shooting the video.

He likes crowd-sourcing to name his shots. Understandably so, as nothing like them exists out there in conventional cricket.

The snake shot is where he picks a full-length ball from a pacer and swats it up and over square-leg with minimum fuss but with a flourish – the hand would retrace the path back to its original position. Just a short swish of the wrists – the bat moves to connect with the ball and the ricochet on impact would get the hands to travel back to their original spot – that snaky movement made it the snake shot.

In the final over of the Afghanistan innings, Mitchell Starc tried a slower short ball. Rashid was, as ever, ready. He waited to flat-bat it over long-off.

The stroke on the fifth ball was even more of a stunner.

It was a bouncer, and Rashid was crouching but somehow put up his bat to wallop it like a tennis shot over square-leg for a six that made even Starc smile. It's a shot he has played in the Big Bash League before, and had described it thus: 'I knew he was going to try to hit my helmet and the tennis shot came out'.



With his innovative strokeplay and technique, Rashid Khan is dangerous. PTI

Smart cookie

With all these wristy swishes, Rashid's brain is always ticking and he is always trying to read the bowler's mind.

He doesn't move around too much in the crease, has a sort of a crouch, and then lets his wrist and by doing that, he just changes the angle of that and then spins it with his fingers," Zampa once told ESPNcricinfo. "So he actually locks it [his wrist] rather than like a traditional leg-spinner."

The palm usually faces skywards when a leg-spinner bowls the googly and faces the batsman for the traditional leg-break. Not with Rashid. As Zampa explains: "His doesn't change, it pretty much faces the batsman the whole time. Depending on which way he wants to spin the ball, he just uses his fingers. He holds onto the ball really loosely, right until the end."

The fingers tweak the ball this way and that while bowling. The wrist snaps this way and that while batting. Rashid, the man who retains the infectious energy of an adventurous boy in international cricket. A true original of our times.

should just stick being himself and not try to ape Rashid.

"He's not a wrist-spinner, he's actually a finger-spinner. So as a traditional wrist-spinner, you have a loose wrist and you use your wrist to spin the ball. He actually has a locked cocked wrist to do the job. If it's the fingers that do most of his job while bowling, the wrist takes over while batting. It's quite something to watch how he gets them to snap to extract power and crazy directions.

Of all the dazzling shots he hit against Australia at the Wankhede – the snake shot, the tennis-smash – a brace stood out for its inventive thrill.

A full ball outside off can be sliced with minimal follow-through to the point boundary. He can cut shot his follow-through mid-way and retrace back to the original point as he does with the snake shot.

In 18 balls, Rashid entertained the crowd, stunned Australia, upped the run rate, and indulged himself.

It's difficult to say which is more unorthodox – his batting or bowling. Once Adam Zampa, the Aussie leg-spinner, asked Rashid after a Big Bash game if he could join him for a bowl. Zampa had wanted to learn to bowl like him. After the session he came back happy with the knowledge that he

TIMED-OUT CONTROVERSY

Mathews' video evidence versus fourth umpire's version

Sri Lanka batter shares a video on X with time stamps, which shows him gesturing to the dressing room for a change of helmet within the time limit

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 7

THE CONTROVERSY surrounding Angelo Mathews being timed out during the game against Bangladesh continued well after the match with the Sri Lankan player sharing video evidence on Tuesday which shows he made it to the middle within two minutes — the cut off time for the next batsman to be ready to take strike after the fall of a wicket.

Mathews' video evidence

Speaking to the media after Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka by three wickets, Mathews said he had visual evidence to prove that he had made it to the centre on time. The day after the game, he shared a video on X, with

time stamps, which shows him standing at the crease and gesturing to the dressing room for a change of helmet (broken strap) within the time limit. There were still five seconds for him to be ready to face the ball, according to the video. This was when Bangladesh appealed for 'timed out'.

Fourth umpire's version

The fourth umpire Adrian Holdstock, who has timer with him, told Star Sports on Monday, "In the instance this afternoon (sic), the batter wasn't ready to receive the ball within those two minutes even before the strap became an issue for him." But according to the broadcast visual, which Mathews put out, the helmet strap came off with still five seconds to go the clock. Holdstock also added that it was the responsibility of the



There's a question mark over whether Angelo Mathews told the umpires that he needed to change the helmet. According to the video, it doesn't seem so. PTI

batter to have "all your equipment in place."

Mathews lashes out

According to Mathews, Bangladesh appealed only after he asked for a replacement helmet. Apart from blaming Shakib and his team, Mathews also put the blame on umpires for not checking with the third umpire about when exactly his helmet strap malfunctioned. "So, we talk about player safety. And a wicket keeper for the spinner... they don't let him keep without his helmet. So how can I take my guard without my helmet? It's a complete equipment malfunction."

What was Shakib's defence?

Shakib was at the centre of controversy by appealing for timed out dismissal. Post-match Shakib claimed that it was one of his team-

mates who told him about the rule. "It is in the laws. I don't know if it is right or wrong. But I felt like I was at war. I had to take decision to make sure my team wins," he said. When asked what would be his reaction if the boot was on the other foot, Shakib retorted: "I will be careful so that it doesn't happen to me."

What is not clear?

As the video shared by Mathews suggests, he still had five seconds on the clock when he reached the centre and asked for a helmet change. While Bangladesh were well within their rights to appeal, the question is why the umpires didn't factor in the equipment malfunction. Also did Mathews tell the umpires that he needed to change the helmet? According to the video Mathews put out, it doesn't seem like he did that.

WORLD CUP SCENARIOS

Why Afghanistan's loss is good news for Pakistan

VENKATA KRISHNA B
NOVEMBER 7

GLENN MAXWELL'S double hundred has put Australia in the semifinals. With 12 points in the bag, none of the teams below them can match their tally. It means they will take on South Africa in one of the semifinals. There is a three-way race for the lone remaining semi-final spot. Here is a look at those in with a chance as the World Cup enters the final stretch...

Afghanistan: 8 points, one match remaining against South Africa.

It has become all the more challenging for Afghanistan, who need a lot of help to go through. If they beat South Africa on Friday, they will end up on 10 points, a tally that New Zealand and Pakistan can also match. But with their net run rate (NRR) being the lowest among the three teams still with a chance of making the semi-finals, they not only need to win big against South Africa but also hope New Zealand and Pakistan face crushing defeats.

If New Zealand lose to Sri Lanka or Pakistan lose to England, a win against South Africa will put Afghanistan in the semifinals. In the case of all three losing, they will struggle to go through as their NRR is in the negative (-0.338).

Pakistan: 8 points, one match remaining against England

The good thing for Pakistan is that by the time they take the field against England in Kolkata, they will know what exactly to do. The ideal scenario for them will be for New Zealand to not walk away with two points and also South Africa to beat Afghanistan. In that case, Pakistan only have to beat England to qualify as NRR won't come into the picture. But if New Zealand

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	PTS	NRR
Ind	8	8	0	0	16	+2.456
SA	8	6	2	0	12	+1.376
Aus	8	6	2	0	12	+0.861
NZ	8	4	4	0	8	+0.398
Pak	8	4	4	0	8	+0.036
Afg	8	4	4	0	8	-0.338
Ban	8	2	6	0	4	-1.142
SL	8	2	6	0	4	-1.160
Ned	7	2	5	0	4	-1.398
Eng	7	1	6	0	2	-1.504

New Zealand: 8 points, one match remaining against Sri Lanka

After the rain-curtailed game against Pakistan, which they ended up losing despite having 401 runs on board, the Black Caps' fate is not in their own hands. They need to beat Sri Lanka on Thursday in Bengaluru, where there is a forecast of rain. If New Zealand lose to Sri Lanka, the only way they go through is if both Afghanistan and Pakistan also lose, bringing the NRR into picture. If the Kiwis' game is washed out, they will have nine points and can go through if Afghanistan and Pakistan lose on Friday and Saturday respectively. If all three end up winning or losing, New Zealand have a good chance of progressing as they have a healthy NRR (+0.398).

win and Afghanistan lose, Pakistan will have to post a big win over England to make it through as the Kiwis have the best NRR among the three. If both New Zealand and Afghanistan win, they have to beat England with an eye on the NRR.

Zadran, the game changer

Opener turned Afghanistan from hit-or-get-out T20 side into a formidable ODI batting unit

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 7

PAT CUMMINS believes he's released the ball just fine. He charges in smoothly, in perfect rhythm and at a good speed. The ball, when it comes out of his hand, is even faster, touching the 140 kmph mark, short of length and around the off.

The field on the off-side is packed and there's seemingly no space for the batsman to hit. Certainly not Ibrahim Zadran, the calm accumulator of runs who swears by the textbook.

But Zadran chooses to try something risky. Although it's a different matter it's executed so beautifully that it hardly feels like he's taking a risk.

Very casually, Zadran rocks back, lifts his bat to the shoulder, opens the bat-face at the last instant and hits a stunning ramp shot. The ball flies over 'keeper Josh Inglis's head, one bounce and to the fence.

Cummins simply stands there, smiling wryly.

Like his captain, Mitchell Starc too thinks the ball has come out alright. It's fast, aimed at the leg-stump and is dipping awkwardly at Zadran's feet. The Afghan opener just flicks his wrist and the ball flies into the top tier of the Vijay Merchant Pavilion beyond square-leg.

Starc, now, simply stands there, smiling wryly.

Those two shots, played 34 overs apart, captured the minimalist nature of Zadran's batting. In between that four and six, he held together Afghanistan's innings against an Australian side that was unbeaten in 5 matches coming into this tie.

He did so by putting in the hard yards — running 46 singles, and six 2s on another day of sapping humidity and moderate air quality in Mumbai. And for that, he was rewarded with a superb century — the first by an Afghan player in a World Cup.

It can be argued that Zadran's unbeaten 129 off 143 balls came at a slow pace that never allowed Afghanistan to go beyond the third gear until Rashid Khan provided fireworks towards the end. But those will be countered with the same defence that Andy Flower put up for Jonathan Trott — now the Afghanistan coach — during the 2011 World Cup when he too was accused of being too slow.

"He stabilises our innings," Flower had said of Trott in 2011. The same can be said for Zadran who, in many ways, remains an anomaly in Afghan cricket.

Unlike most of his teammates, Zadran is



Ibrahim Zadran became the first Afghanistan centurion in a World Cup with an unbeaten 129 against Australia. PTI

among the first few homegrown players to be selected for the Afghanistan national team. Like his cousin Mujeeb ur Rehman, who opened the bowling under lights, he wasn't born in Pakistan and did not learn to play in the refugee camps like a bulk of his teammates.

Instead, Zadran began playing at the academy set up by his uncle — Noor Ali Zadran — on a 2000 square metre family farm in Khost in Southeastern Afghanistan.

Zadran was nine when he saw Noor, himself an Afghan international, score a half-century against India at the T20 World Cup in the West Indies. That was the beginning of a lifelong affair and Noor himself became his nephew's coach, teaching him the art on a land that was meant for cultivating crops and sheltering cattle.

Tuesday's moment has been a decade in the making but Zadran wasn't alone in this journey. All along, he was accompanied by Mujeeb who was the first to become a household name due to his exploits in the IPL. However, those who had seen Zadran

from close quarters were never in doubt about his quality.

In a side that's brimming with power hitters, Zadran relies on his technique and has the mindset to bat for long periods. He gave a glimpse of his abilities in the Under-19 World Cup in 2018 when, as a 16-year-old, he was Afghanistan's top scorer.

By the time he was 17, Zadran had cemented his place in Afghanistan's Test, ODI and T20 teams and post-pandemic, he's shown his full potential, scoring at an average of a little more than 60.

Zadran has been central to Trott's quest to turn Afghanistan from a temperamental, hit-or-get-out T20 side into a formidable ODI unit that can adjust to the pace of the 50-over game.

He has provided steadiness at the top of the order while his opening partner Rahmanullah Gurbaz does the power-hitting. Zadran spent 73 minutes on the crease to score 28 runs off 48 balls to lay the ground for a winning score against England.

In the tense run chase against Pakistan,

he played for two-and-a-half hours and scored a match-winning 87 and in another successful run chase against Sri Lanka, Zadran was out in the middle for 73 minutes, facing 57 balls and scoring 39 important runs.

He might not be obsessed with the idea of clearing the boundary off every ball but Zadran's ability to constantly rotate the strike has taken the pressure off his teammates, like it happened early on in their innings against Australia.

In the sixth over, Gurbaz tried to pull Josh Hazlewood but the ball whizzed past his shoulder. It was the first wild shot attempted by either of the batsmen and Zadran immediately walked up to his partner to calm him down. The next ball, he sprinted for a quick single to get Gurbaz off the strike and minimise the risk.

This doesn't mean Zadran lacks the firepower to hit. As he showed with those two shots off Cummins and Starc, Zadran can clear the fence. Just that the non-violence stroke maker that he is, he does it with minimum fuss, and impeccable timing.

Wounded England look to avoid more humiliation, plot for the future

SHIVANI NAIK
PUNE, NOVEMBER 7

RYAN VAN NIEKERK, the Netherlands assistant coach, tried to summon the best wildlife imagery while being respectful to his next opponents, England. "From where I come from in South Africa, there's a saying 'Never underestimate a wounded buffalo'."

In a fast-forgetting world that has quickly taken the crown off English heads to polish it and keep it ready for the next champions, the Dutch wanted to pay obeisance to the fading power. "England are world champions. It's a similar group to the one that won. And England are preparing as they know how," Van Niekerk would add.

The World Cup title is England's pride. The Dutch are about to find out if the buffalo is wounded enough.

There must be remnants of giddy glee at having won the World Cup finally in 2019; dredges of pride in having played unapologetic attacking cricket at a point in time, and snatches of memory of having been white-ball overlords just last November. But all of that lies mothballed and unused somewhere in England, and certainly didn't travel to India this time

around.

It was going to be crickety impossible to top the drama of the 2019 triumph, secured after playing easily the most exciting final in World Cup history. But England didn't need to make their title defence completely burlesque for the watching world.

New Zealand landed up in Ahmedabad for the first match of the World Cup and swatted them aside in such a clinical manner that it couldn't even be dignified as revenge. Afghanistan, who don't share a colonial past like most of the countries in this tournament, coolly showed them up in Delhi proving one didn't even need vestiges of the game's history to be good at it.

India teased England in Lucknow, but no one had the heart to taunt the unravelling side by then. And it was old foes Australia who casually knocked them out, again in a game that couldn't even be called a fracas, let alone a battle.

Ben Stokes owned up to the team being 'crap'. One felt bad for the English press pack who would struggle to find more than two-three words of a silly hashtag, for there was nothing gloriously gone wrong to pen lilting laments. It was just inglorious and prosaic losses of a bottom-placed team that sleep-walked across India, like zombies who aren't even subject matter for a cine-



England skipper Jos Buttler during a training session on Tuesday. PTI

matic apocalypse.

Look to the future

The poor run could end against The

Netherlands, who cleaved open South Africa's festering chase-wounds. But the clutch Dutch offer no respite in their penultimate outing to the stragglers. England

England basically landed up in India, banking on having been brilliant in the past, hoping the world would continue in the same vein of playing its bit-part, while a shadow of their attacking cricket flailed about hoping to recreate those times.

have a Champions Trophy 2025 spot — for which they need a top-8 finish — to fight for, as their stay in India prolongs.

They were asked about four-year plans, because that's the English thing to do — draw out long-term plans. Assistant coach Carl Hopkinson, assigned to explain the inexplicable implosion, stressed they'd like to first think of the match against the Dutch.

"And we want to think about Pakistan next. These are two important games we need to win," he'd say waving away the morose, trading it for a bit of meaning to life.

Hopkinson's go-to phrase was England "haven't executed under pressure when they needed to in key moments." For a

team that didn't want to label this the title 'defence' because it didn't have an attacking ring to it, Hopkinson's defence was all about what they had done in the past, albeit wretchedly the most recent past.

"We were a team known for executing under pressure, skillful and talented." Note: were.

England basically landed up in India, banking on having been brilliant in the past, hoping the world would continue in the same vein of playing its bit-part, while a shadow of their attacking cricket flailed about hoping to recreate those times. Literally, no one else was frozen in time, and got a move-on.

Ben Stokes is due for surgery on his left knee, and Hopkinson was asked if he would push off early to be ready in time for the Tests against India. "Ben is about winning games for England. That's what he's about," the coach would say, adding he wouldn't go back.

The Netherlands might not be terribly afraid or quake in their boots upon hearing that, though Stokes will best strap on the sharp horns of a wounded buffalo. Just how much fight is left in Jos Buttler, no one knows. But England is literally fighting to stay eligible to turn up for the next one. Did they really win the World Cup once upon a time?