



Legislature can enact fresh law, can't directly overrule court judgment: CJI



Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

SPEAKING ON the separation of powers between the executive, legislature and judiciary, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said on Saturday that while the legislature can enact a fresh law to "cure the deficiency" in a law, it cannot "directly overrule" a court judgment.

"There is a dividing line between what the legislature can do and what the legislature cannot do when there is a judgment of the court. If there is a judgment of the court which decides a particular issue and that judgment points out deficiencies in the law, it is always open to the legislature to enact a fresh law to cure the deficiency. What the legislature cannot do is to say we think this judgment is wrong and therefore we overrule the judgment. A judgment of the court cannot be directly overruled by the legislature... that's completely impermissible... but if a judgment takes a particular view of a legislation, it is always open to the legislature to cure the defect," he said at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit.

The CJI said that in 1951, when the SC held that provisions for reservation would not extend



TAKING GUARD

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan during a practice session in New Delhi on Saturday. Bangladesh, who play Sri Lanka Monday, had cancelled Friday's practice session. PTI

DELHI-NCR AQI 'SEVERE' FOR THIRD STRAIGHT DAY PAGE 4

WHAT ED CHARGESHEET CLAIMS Mosquito coil firm to diamond exporter, how Goyal 'diverted' Jet funds

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

FROM A mosquito coil manufacturing company hired to manage salaries and a railways infra company to advise on aircraft spare parts to a diamond exporter for financial consultation — these are some of the ways in which Jet Airways India Ltd (JIL) promoter Naresh Goyal allegedly siphoned off airline funds leading to the eventual demise of the company, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has said in its chargesheet.

In what also suggests siphon-



Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal

ing of funds, the ED chargesheet noted that over Rs 1,000 crore was paid as agent commission to companies linked to the promoter himself. Goyal also allegedly siphoned off funds by making JIL grant loans worth over Rs 4,057 crore to Jet Lite Ltd but adjusted a large part of it against

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SPORT

INDIA FACE SOUTH AFRICA IN KOLKATA TODAY PAGE 17

EXPRESS NETWORK



AFTER ROW, ISRO CHIEF WITHDRAWS MEMOIR PAGE 9

THE WORLD

PAK AIR FORCE BASE ATTACKED, ALL 9 MILITANTS DEAD P 14

INDIA OFFERS 'ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE' 157 killed as quake hits Nepal, toll likely to rise



YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
 KATHMANDU, NOVEMBER 4

AT LEAST 157 people, including 89 women, were killed and 190 injured when a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck western Nepal a little before midnight on Friday.

While the epicentre was at Ramidanda in Jajarkot district, about 550 km from Kathmandu, the tremors were felt in New Delhi and parts of north India too.



Army personnel evacuate an injured child from Jajarkot district, the quake epicentre. Nepal Army RELATEDREPORT, P14

The two districts of Jajarkot and Rukum West were the worst-hit. At least 105 people were killed and an equal number injured in Jajarkot; Rukum West reported

52 deaths and 85 injured. Friday's quake, which struck at 11:47 pm (Nepal time), was the country's deadliest since 2015. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Filing FIRs to getting convictions, legal process stacked against women: study

APURVA VISHWANATH
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

DOES THE gender of the person filing a First Information Report (FIR) determine the outcome of the case?

A study of over 4 lakh FIRs in Haryana has found that male complainants who register cases on behalf of their woman friends

STUDY OF OVER 4 LAKH FIRs IN HARYANA

IN THE POLICE STATION
 Women's FIR registration lags a month behind men's
Women reporting violence wait 2 hrs longer to file FIR
Women's cases probed slower, less likely to be sent to court

IN COURT
 Women face higher case dismissal rates
5% conviction when complainants women, 17.9% when men
For case registration, male proxy complainants face fewer burdens



EXPLAINED

Day after ED's claim, Modi targets Baghel: 'Not spared Mahadev name'



PM Modi in Chhattisgarh's Durg district Saturday. PTI

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
 NARAYANPUR, NOVEMBER 4

SPEAKING AT a rally in Chhattisgarh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday took aim at Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and the Congress government in the state, saying that "they have not even spared the name of Mahadev".

He was referring to the Enforcement Directorate's allegations the previous day that the CM had received kickbacks to the tune of Rs 508 crore from the promoters of the Mahadev app, an online betting platform.

Reacting to Modi's comments, Baghel hit back, accusing the BJP of using central agencies against its political opponents.

Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh will be held in two

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
MODI IN MP: CONG LEADERS ARE LIKE ACTORS PAGE 6

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DRIVER DETAINED, SAY POLICE

Man killed after DTC bus driver 'suffers seizure', hits vehicles



The accident captured on CCTV showed the DTC bus crashing into at least 10-12 vehicles. ANI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

One person was killed and another sustained injuries after a DTC electric bus suddenly went off course and rammed into at least 10 to 12 vehicles, including two-wheelers parked in a row, in Rohini Saturday.

According to DCP (Rohini) Guriqbal Sidhu, the accident took place near Mother Divine School and a police team rushed to the spot after receiving a PCR call. They learned that the injured persons had been shifted to Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital where a 30-year-old man was declared dead on arrival.

The accident was captured on CCTV and the accused driver, Sandeep, a Rohtak resident, was detained. "As per the initial inquiry, the DTC bus driver lost control of the vehicle and hit a car and some two-wheelers. He has been detained and necessary legal action is being initiated," said the DCP.

A senior officer said that the deceased is yet to be identified. "But the person was on foot when the bus approached from the opposite side... The injured man, Ram Sharma, was on his two-wheeler when the bus crashed into him. He is a resident of Sector 3 in Rohini and is undergoing treatment," the officer further said.

"During questioning, the driver told us that he was heading to the bus depot when he suddenly had a seizure and lost control of the vehicle... we are still investigating the cause be-



hind the incident as he is constantly changing his statements," said another officer. "A probe is on to check if the accident took place due to brake failure," the officer added.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Transport Department in a statement said, "The driver suddenly fell unconscious and lost control of the bus and hit the vehicles parked on the left side of the road."

It added that the conductor called PCR and the injured were taken to the hospital. "A senior officer visited the accident spot as well as Dr BR Ambedkar Hospital to enquire about the injured persons," the statement said.

"As far as malfunction of machines is concerned, the Delhi government has its set of standard procedures to ensure safe and hassle-free travel in the city," added the statement.

FAMILY, FRIENDS HOLD REMEMBRANCE MEETING

'Tried calling him, whoever stole phone kept disconnecting': Kin of biker killed in accident

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

ON SATURDAY evening, around a dozen people gathered at CR Park's market number 2 to remember a dear friend, an obedient colleague, and a doting son — 30-year-old Piyush Pal.

Piyush succumbed to head injuries last week after his bike allegedly crashed into another bike at South Delhi's Panchsheel Park. This after he lay on the road for 30 minutes, with no passerby stopping to help till four people finally came to his aid. In the meantime, his phone and GoPro camera were allegedly stolen by a passerby.

Piyush's sister Preeti told *The Indian Express*, "He had recently turned 30 and bought a bike during Navratri... Before leaving the house on the day of the incident, he told my mother he was going to meet a friend... we kept calling his phone later but whoever stole it kept disconnecting it..."

She said Piyush dropped out of his engineering course to pur-



Piyush died of head injuries last week; (left) at the meeting in his memory at CR Park

sue his passion, filmmaking. "He worked on several projects for WHO and UNICEF and made a documentary on the life of a Covid patient during the first wave... I spoke to the doctor who treated him and he said the first 30 minutes after the incident were very crucial for Piyush as his brain stem was badly impacted and resulted in brain haemorrhage."

Preeti said they wanted the correct facts about the incident to come out as they believed Piyush was not the one who rammed into the other person's bike as alleged in the FIR. DCP (South) Chandan Chowdhury said the family's allegation that the other biker, Bunty, is the of-

fender is being investigated.

Also at the gathering was Jaya, who goes by her first name, who recalled how Piyush and his colleagues had come to her house to shoot a documentary and recalled him greeting her and asking about her health. "He was so full of life, passionate about work... a bright life cut short..." she said.

Swamendu Bose, Piyush's colleague and close friend, who led the gathering, said, "If it was not for the callous onlookers who simply shot videos and didn't bother to get our friend medical help, Piyush would still be here with us..." He added that they chose the market for the gathering as Piyush was a regular here.

"He was an avid traveller... he used to go to hill stations with an NGO, Healing Himalayas... he was into cleanliness and ensured that dry and wet waste was separated at his house," he added.

He said he and Piyush had made several documentaries and described the latter as a gifted cinematographer. "Piyush used to carry a bag with his GoPro, monopod, and lighting equipment... even that got robbed apart from his phone... He also used to carry a separate bag for his helmet and didn't let anyone ride pillion on his bike without one," Bose said.

"... there should be justice for our friend... we will again approach police," he added.

3 held for trying to courier drugs worth Rs 2.5 crore to Israel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, NOVEMBER 4

THE GURGAON unit of the Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau arrested three men after drugs worth Rs 2.5 crore were recovered while it was being sent to Israel through a courier company, officers said.

According to ASI Sandeep who conducted the raid in August, 512 grams of amphetamine was found in a package at an Udyog Vihar courier company with an address in Israel's Ramat Gan in Tel Aviv. "Though the drug was seized on August 9, we were able to trace it to three men, Zubair Khan and Rajeev Tripathi from Jaipur and Ram Lal from Himachal Pradesh, only

later. While Khan and Tripathi were arrested on Thursday, Lal was nabbed on Friday," he said.

Officers with the Gurgaon unit said other individuals involved in this case will be arrested soon. ASI Sandeep said drugs being seized from courier companies have become increasingly common in the district.

In the FIR, the ASI said they were called by the company staff after a narcotic substance was suspected in a box during X-ray examination. It had an Israeli address written on it. "On opening the box, we found a bedsheet, two pillow covers, and a wristband... inside. In the bedsheet, we found a polythene packet, which turned out to be amphetamine," it said.

2 men held for befriending women online, duping them

New Delhi: Police have arrested two persons who allegedly posed as Navy officers, doctors, or engineers and cheated several women by promising to send them gifts and getting them to pay customs charges for the items.

DCP (Dwarka) Harsh Vardhan said on October 25, a woman lodged a complaint at the Dwarka Cyber Police Station, alleging that she received a request from an unknown Instagram ID, where the person introduced himself as a sea engineer from Norway. A few months later, the person proposed marriage to her and said he wanted to send her gifts and Euros. But to receive these, the woman would have to pay customs clearance charges.

"Further, the accused asked the complainant to pay for his air tickets to India. She sent him

Rs 11,39,000 to various bank accounts," the DCP said. Police arrested two men — Sunder Singh and his Nigerian partner, Harmony Samuel. Singh said he received the cheated amount in his bank accounts, deducted his commission of around 10%, and gave the rest to Samuel. **ENS**

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STAGE	AQI	CITIZEN CHARTER	HEALTH ADVISORY
STAGE I	POOR AQI between 201-300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep engines of your vehicles viz. cars/ bikes/ scooters etc. properly tuned. Maintain proper air pressure in tyres of your vehicles. Keep PUC certificates of your vehicles up to date. Do not idle your vehicle, also turn off the engine at red lights. Do not dispose waste /garbage in the open spaces. Report air polluting activities through Green Delhi App, 311 App, SAMEER App. Prefer Hybrid vehicles or EVs to control vehicular pollution. Plant more trees. Celebrate festivals in an eco-friendly manner – avoid firecrackers. Do not drive/ply end of life /10/15 years old Diesel/Petrol vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid outdoor physical activities
STAGE II	VERY POOR AQI between 301-400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People to use public transport and minimize use of personal vehicles. Regularly replace air filters at recommended intervals in your automobiles. Avoid dust generating construction activities during months of October to January. Use technology, take less congested route even if slightly longer. Avoid open burning of solid waste and bio-mass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid outdoor physical activities, especially during morning and late evening hours. Remain indoor and keep activity levels low#
STAGE III	SEVERE AQI between 401-450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk or use cycles for small distances. Choose a cleaner commute. Share a ride to work or use public transport. People, whose position allow working from home, may work from home. Do not use coal and wood for heating purpose. Individual house owners may provide electric heaters (during winters) to security staff to avoid open burning. Combine errands and reduce trips. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid outdoor physical activities. Remain indoor and keep activity levels low#
STAGE IV	SEVERE+ AQI >450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children, elderly and those with respiratory, cardiovascular, cerebrovascular or other chronic diseases to avoid outdoor activities and stay indoors, as much as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid outdoor physical activities. Remain indoor and keep activity levels low#

AQI can be seen at CPCB WEBSITE/SAMEER APP

* As per citizen charter of Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas.

For vulnerable population – Children under 5 year age, old age groups, pregnant women, predisposed health conditions ie illness of respiratory, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular systems, outdoor working people

Health advisory of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI is available at ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/cpbaqi.php

Member Secretary

OBITUARY

Supriya Bhattacharyya
(10 September 2023)

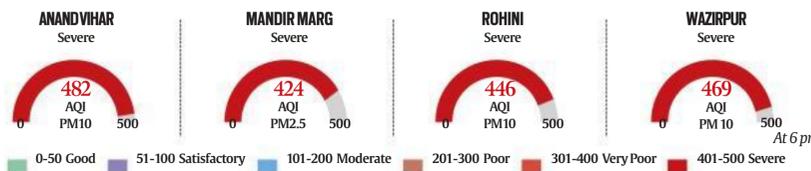
Supriya Bhattacharyya passed away on 10 September 2023 at A-7 Chirag Enclave, New Delhi. She was born in Kolkata on 20 November 1947 in newly independent India to parents who had survived the ravages of war in Burma and were rebuilding their lives in India. She was a first child to parents who had not expected to have children and was deeply loved by them throughout their lives even as she was subsequently joined by a younger sister, Usasi and a much younger brother, Arjun.

Supriya followed her parents through their postings in Kolkata, Delhi and Vienna, Austria, attending the Jesus and Mary Convent School in Delhi, the English School in Vienna and the Hall School in Somerset, England. She went on to qualify as a teacher at the Froebel Institute in Roehampton, England and later did her B.Ed at McGill University and her M.Ed at the University of Maryland. Her love of teaching small children and early education led to her teaching stints in Jamshedpur, at the Head Start program in Virginia in the United States and Bluebells International School in Delhi. She was treasured at all those institutions not only for her teaching competencies but also for her care and compassion towards colleagues in all walks of life who became her lifelong friends. In recognition of her outstanding teaching and mentoring, she was appointed to the Management Board of Bluebells International School.

After she returned to India from the United States in 1994 to help look after her ailing mother, whom she singlehandedly cared for, she lived in the family home at A-7 Chirag Enclave in Delhi. A gifted watercolour and oil painter and singer, her greatest skill lay in growing a magnificent garden at that family home. The resilience that marked her early life at an English boarding school remained her hallmark as she continued to live alone at Chirag Enclave after her mother passed away and as she continued to be a supportive mother to her son Deep.

Left to mourn her are her devoted sister and brother-in-law Usasi and Barun, nieces Nabeena and Jaya, brother and sister-in-law Arjun and Ruchira and nephew Krishna. The outpouring of grief of friends across three continents, whose paths had crossed with Supriya's, are testament to her character and person.

As we reflect on Supriya's life we are reminded of the words of the novelist John Green :
"She gave us a forever within numbered days, and for that we are truly grateful."



FORECAST: November 5
Clear sky. Shallow fog in the morning.
AQI forecast: Likely to be severe

MAX: 30
0.5°C below normal

MIN: 17
1.7°C above normal

NO RESPIRE FOR A WEEK

Delhi's AQI 'severe' for 3rd day in a row



Amit Mehra



DEATH BY BREATH

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

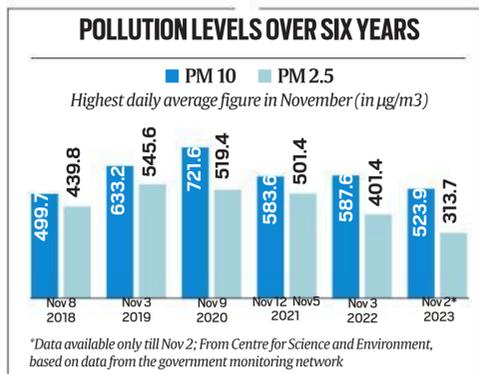
FOR THE third consecutive day on Saturday, Delhi's air quality remained in the 'severe' category, shrouded in a haze of pollutants. A forecast issued by the Air Quality Early Warning System on Saturday said the AQI is likely to remain 'severe' till November 7. The outlook for six days thereafter is that it is likely to be in the 'severe' to 'very poor' category.

Data shows this 'severe' air spell in the first week of November has persisted at least from 2019 onwards. The 24-hour average AQI at 7 pm on Saturday was 433, having deteriorated from 407 at 9 am. This was only slightly lower than the peak of 475 seen on Friday, the highest so far this season.

Meteorological factors that have prevented the dispersion of pollutants and kept visibility poor from Thursday onwards, remained unchanged Saturday.

According to an IMD scientist, calm conditions prevailed at the Safdarjung weather station, where the visibility was only 500 m at 7 am and improved only marginally to 600 m around 4 pm. Low wind speed of 4 kmph from the Northwest direction prevailed at Palam, where the visibility was 400 m at 7 am and 1,000 m at around 4 pm.

'Severe' AQI is likely to continue since low wind speed, along with winds from the northwest



Highest daily average figure in November (in µg/m³)

*Data available only till Nov 2; From Centre for Science and Environment, based on data from the government monitoring network

or north of Delhi that could bring stubble-burning smoke into the national capital, is set to prevail at least till November 7, the forecast indicates.

Meanwhile, instances of stubble burning in Punjab remained above 1,000 for the seventh consecutive day on Saturday, with a fire count of 1,360, according to data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). The count in Haryana is down to 33, having peaked at 127 on October 15.

How previous yrs fared

Last year, in the first week of November, the AQI remained 'severe' on November 1, 3 and 4, going by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) bulletins.

In 2021, there was a three-day spell of 'severe' air days in the first week of November, from the 5th to 7th. In 2020, there was a similar three-day spell from November 5 to 7 and this extended into the second week, till November 10. In 2019, there were three 'severe' air days in the first week of the month — November 1, 3 and 4. In 2018, there was just

one such day on November 5. The average AQI in November 2022 (320) was lower than in 2020 (328) and 2021 (377).

While pollution levels spike in winter, the sharpest rise is usually seen in November. Data from the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on the daily average PM 10 and PM 2.5 levels for the winter (October to January) from 2018-19 onwards shows the daily average particulate matter level hits the highest daily figure in November, except for 2018 when December recorded a higher PM10 level.

From 2019 onwards, Diwali — when firecracker emissions also contribute to rise in pollution levels — has fallen in the first week of November only in 2021, while it was on November 7 in 2018.

"Broadly, around this time, the levels begin to increase. This kind of sudden spiral and trapping of pollutants happens because of the meteorological conditions and then you have crop residue burning," said Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, CSE.



Hospitals across the city said they are seeing many patients, including those with chronic conditions, coming in with lung-related issues. Praveen Khanna

'DPCC chairman didn't reopen smog tower': Rai calls for action against him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

A FRESH tussle appears to be brewing between Environment Minister Gopal Rai and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) Chairman Ashwani Kumar over smog towers.

While Rai last week said a study to find the reasons behind Delhi's polluted air has been stalled, allegedly because Kumar first questioned the project cost and then the findings of the study, the minister Saturday wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asking for the suspension of and disciplinary action against Kumar for "not reopening the smog tower after monsoon".

Rai's letter noted that the Supreme Court had directed the Delhi government to set up a smog tower. This was done at Connaught Place. While the smog tower is closed in the monsoon to prevent damage to equipment, DPCC Chairman Kumar "has prevented the restarting of the smog tower after the monsoon in blatant violation of the Hon'ble Court's orders," the letter stated.

In 2020, the Delhi Cabinet decided to set up the smog tower;



Environment Minister Gopal Rai; (left) CP smog tower Amit Mehra

it began operating in 2021. The total sanctioned cost for the installation and the study by IIT Delhi and Bombay was Rs 20.4243 crore, excluding electricity and other costs, with NBCC being the project management consultant.

When a proposal for the replacement of the smog tower's filters was put up by the project in charge in January, "Mr Ashwani Kumar commented... that it is a white elephant, and questioned if it was leading to any results or less pollution. He noted that Anand Vihar remains one of the polluted places (where another smog tower was installed by CPCB)," Rai's letter noted.

He also pointed out that the

project in-charge said in January that the tower's performance was being analysed and uninterrupted operation was necessary for which payment was required to be made immediately.

While IIT-Bombay submitted its report on September 30, Rai's letter noted that instead of building upon the findings and drafting a policy or action plan accordingly, a note was put up on October 10 "stating that the impact of the smog tower at certain distances is very low, and the project should be closed." Rai added: "As a consequence, an asset... is now lying idle and unused in the peak pollution season."

The letter added that action should be taken against Kumar "for not implementing the deci-

sion of the Council of Ministers, arbitrarily stopping... payments, not making decisions on merits of the study and bringing the same before the Cabinet."

Rai has also asked for the suspension of and disciplinary action against the project manager who, according to the letter, initially said the tower helps create clean air zones, and later said it does not have any impact. "His change of opinion was not backed by any change in scientific data..." the letter said.

Rai called for the immediate reopening of the tower and release of funds, in addition to placing the IIT-Bombay report before the Cabinet and Supreme Court for further action.

The pollution control body wrote to the Environment Department last month and said the reduction in particulate matter was only around 12%-3% at a distance of 100 m from it. An official who didn't want to be named said the impact of the tower was not significant enough to merit more expenditure.

"Based on the data, it is clear that smog towers have an impact only under a distance of 100 metres. It is not a viable solution for Delhi's problems. This is why the assessment asked that the tower be shut," the official said.

10k fines on vehicles in 13 days for pollution violations

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

OVER THE past 13 days, the Delhi transport department's Enforcement Wing has issued challans to over 9,200 vehicles for offences ranging from parking in an unauthorised manner to driving without a pollution under control (PUC) certificate.

In just two days since November 2, 1,153 fines worth over Rs 2.3 crore were slapped on drivers behind the wheels of BS III Petrol and BS IV Diesel vehicles since the implementation of the stringent provisions of GRAP III with each amounting to Rs 20,000 under section 194 of the MV Act.

As part of its Winter Action Plan to tackle pollution, the department's enforcement drives have picked up across the city, with a special focus on 13 hotspots.

Starting October 22, when Stage II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) kicked in, over 10,295 fines were issued and more than 600 vehicles impounded according to departmental records. While over 5,400 challans were issued for no parking violations, over 3,600 drivers were prosecuted for driving without PUC certificates.

Government sources said Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, in a meeting Saturday regarding mitigation of air pollution in Delhi with special focus on hotspots, had issued directions to ensure intensified action for the checking and returning of non-destined trucks from the capital by the Transport department. He has also ordered intensive action against overloaded trucks and buses violating permit conditions and directions issued by the CAQM, officials added.

According to a senior transport department official, enforcement teams are being deployed across Delhi focusing on Rohini, Dwarka, Okhla, Punjabi Bagh, Vivek Vihar, Wazirpur, Jahangirpuri, RK Puram, Bawana, Narela, Mundka, Mayapuri and Anand Vihar.

How can CAQM manage pollution better? Experts offer tips — go beyond regulation, better coordination

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

AS THE NCR sees its annual spike in pollution levels, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai flagged what he said was non-compliance by neighbouring states with directions issued by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).

Rai wrote to Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav asking that compliance with a ban on entry of BS III and BS IV diesel buses into Delhi be ensured. "I went to Anand Vihar yesterday and all UP buses are polluting ones... the BJP governments are not listening to CAQM's

directions," Rai said Saturday.

When asked about the implementation of its directions, an official at the CAQM said, "Ensuring compliance to the desired levels is difficult, but it is not an issue... For enforcement, we have been engaged with CPCB and PCBs. There are flying squads... Besides restrictions, temporary closures of units are ensured till they comply with norms. We just implemented GRAP and are yet to get figures on compliance. State governments must ensure compliance. For other directions, there is a procedure for review. There are sub-committees, subject-specific meetings are held, and periodic reports are sought

on level of compliance." Experts, meanwhile, have a to-do list for the Commission. Mukesh Khare, professor emeritus at IIT-Delhi, who was part of the CAQM in 2020, said, "Measures being taken now are ad-hoc ones, which will never help. The immediate task should be to delineate an airshed, which involves research, and create an airshed administration cell — which can even be a unit within the CAQM — with qualified, technical experts. An airshed is an area where the sources of pollution work together — it will help us understand from where pollutants are being transported to Delhi, and

to where they are traveling. The CAQM could look into such measures. The CAQM works like a regulator now and implements the Graded Response Action Plan. It has a more important role to play in managing pollution."

He added: "Emission inventory (which quantifies pollutants from different sources) is very important. The forecast model (of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology's Air Quality Early Warning System) failed — it said air quality would remain 'very poor' when it turned 'severe' a few days ago. The reason for this is emission inventory data being used for the model is from 2018. Every year, sources and their emission potential will change. A protocol would have to be created

for a uniform emission inventory," Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, CSE, said, "Even though you may have stabilised the situation and several things have been done, we need a much deeper cut in pollution. The question is what more the Commission, states, and the Centre need to do, and how quickly they need to do that to speed up action across sectors — transport, waste management. The Commission came up with a policy for the entire region in 2022 and gave an action plan. Based on this, it's also been issuing directives from time to time, like ban on coal use. Detailed coordination on each action point would now be critical..."

There is no city in the world like Delhi," said Hashmi. The Mehrauli Archaeological Park, adjacent to Qutub Minar, houses 54 historical ruins and monuments in the 199-acre park. Balban's Tomb, which was earlier totally buried in weeds, Quli Khan's Tomb, a pigeon house that was turned into a boat house during the British reign, are part of the project. "We are already seeing up to 1,000 visitors a day. We are now

planning cultural events at these heritage sites to attract more people. More heritage sites are also being readied," said a senior Delhi government officer.

Over the past few years, several heritage sites such as Safdarjung Tomb, Humayun's Tomb and parts of the Red Fort have been opened for visitors in the evening. "Once footfall increases, we plan to open sites under the Delhi government in the evenings too," the officer added.

There is no city in the world like Delhi," said Hashmi. The Mehrauli Archaeological Park, adjacent to Qutub Minar, houses 54 historical ruins and monuments in the 199-acre park. Balban's Tomb, which was earlier totally buried in weeds, Quli Khan's Tomb, a pigeon house that was turned into a boat house during the British reign, are part of the project. "We are already seeing up to 1,000 visitors a day. We are now

'PLAN TO OPEN SITES IN EVENINGS ONCE FOOTFALL INCREASES'

With cultural events, govt to bring to light lesser-known heritage sites

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

A HINDUSTANI classical music night in the backdrop of the newly renovated tomb of Quli Khan in Mehrauli, a Sufi night at the Bhooli Bhatiyari ka Mahal in the Ridge forest: With such events, the Delhi government's Art, Culture and Language department is set to bring the lesser-known monuments of the city to life.

In the first step towards resurrecting people's interest in Delhi's rich archeological heritage and India's Sufi tradition, an event at the recently renovated Mehrauli Archaeological Park hosted a cultural evening on Saturday.

A discussion around acquainting people with Delhi's heritage, which has been inhabited for 1,000 years, was also held, with historian Swapna Liddle and author Sohail Hashmi talk-



A cultural evening on Saturday at the Mehrauli Archaeological Park. Express



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05 NOVEMBER 2023

FINAL

08:30 PM ONWARDS

FOR 3rd /4th PLACE

06:00 PM ONWARDS



VENUE: MARANG GOMKE JAIPAL SINGH MUNDA
ASTROTURF HOCKEY STADIUM, RANCHI

STADIUM ENTRY FOR SPECTATORS - 04:00 PM ONWARDS



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6 GOVT & POLITICS

REAL SCENE OF CONG INFIGHTING WILL EMERGE AFTER BJP WINS: MODI

PM dig at Cong: Leaders, their speeches are filmy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 4

TAKING A jibe at the "tear clothes" remarks by Congress leaders in Madhya Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said that they are like "actors and their speeches sound like lines from a movie script" while claiming there is infighting in the state's senior leadership.

Speaking at a rally in Ratlam, Modi said, "The competition between two Congress leaders in Madhya Pradesh, tearing each other's clothes, is just a trailer. The real picture of the Congress will be seen after the BJP's victory on December 3."

The BJP has been claiming that there is infighting in the Congress after a video surfaced in which former Chief Minister Kamal Nath is seen telling disgruntled party workers seeking

tickets for their leaders to tear the clothes of former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh and his son, Jaivardhan Singh.

The Congress has said that relations between the two former CMs is cordial and compared their friendship to that of Jai and Veeru from the classic Sholay.

There is infighting in the Congress because they know they are going to lose, said Modi. "The fight is not just for a chair but to secure the future of their own sons. They are fighting to decide who will control the Madhya Pradesh Congress in the future... The Congress is not going to accommodate everyone," he said.

The PM also promised to extend the free ration (food grains under the public distribution system) scheme for "80 crore poor people of the country" for five years beyond December, and said that "fulfilling the people's dreams is Modi's resolve."

"Under the Pradhan Mantri

Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, free ration has been provided to the poor in the country over the past three years. Even though the one-month free ration scheme is coming to an end, Modi's commitment is to extend it for the next five years. For the next five years, the stoves of 80 crore people in my country will keep burning. This is Modi's guarantee," he said.

Attacking the Congress over its track record in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, he said, "Look at Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, what have they (Congress) done in the past five years? Congress means scams worth thousands of crores, criminals gaining prominence, the poor losing trust, and atrocities on Dalits, tribals, and backward classes. Congress means making the state sick."

Modi also said that no one in the country was left who has not been deceived by Congress. "In every election, the Congress comes up with loan waiver promises, but it's not the farmers who benefit. It's the Congress and its cronies who benefit," he said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a campaign rally in Ratlam district on Saturday. PTI

Rahul targets PM: Refers to tribals as *adivasi* now, but no change in thinking

JAYPRAKASH SNAIDU
NARAYANPUR, NOVEMBER 4

HITTING OUT at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for referring to the tribals as 'vanasis' instead of 'adivasis' in the past, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi promised to protect "Jal, Jungle and Zamin" (water, forest and land) during a rally in Jagdalpur city in Maoist-affected Bastar region Saturday.

Days before Chhattisgarh goes to polls, Rahul said, "You will get the benefits of Jal, jungle and zamin. We are with you. We will not move an inch. Let them help Adani or any industrialist. Gram Sabha permission will be needed to acquire your land."

Rahul also alleged that BJP will create a future for tribals where the forests will be cleared, forcing them to either "beg or work as labourers in the city".

Rahul emphasised on his massive promise that Gram Sabha permission will be needed for land acquisition, an issue which was raised by Arvind Netam, who was a former Union minister in the Indira Gandhi cabinet.

Netam resigned from the Congress some months ago, and formed a new political party Hamar Raj which is contesting in 46 seats. He is also the president of the Sarva Adivasi Samaj, an umbrella organisation of adivasi groups in Chhattisgarh.



Rahul Gandhi in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, on Saturday. PTI

Netam had alleged that the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) rules by the Congress government last year weakened the law and now only consultation is required. Earlier, permission was required.

During his address, Rahul pointed out that earlier Modi used to refer to tribals as vanasis, but now he has stopped using it and instead calls them adivasis. Rahul explained that adivasis mean the oldest owner of the jal, jungle and zamin while vanasis simply means someone who stays in forest. "Now Modiji says adivasis and not vanasis like he used to say earlier. But his thinking towards tribals has not changed."

Rahul alleged that the BJP

does not want adivasi to learn English. "If adivasi learn English they (BJP) fear the jobs their (BJP) children get will go to the adivasis' children. If BJP remains in power, then in the next 15 years, they (BJP) will say you people are from forests, but there will be no forests left. So go to cities and beg for work as labourers. But we opened English schools so that your children can get jobs, set up businesses and go abroad. We ask adivasi to learn English, Hindi and Chhattisgarhi. All BJP leaders send their kids to English schools and they do not want your children to progress like theirs. I assure you BJP will not have the courage to use the word vanasis."

Cong sent the British back... ED, I-T raids can't deter us: Kharage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 4

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Mallikarjun Kharage on Saturday said his party sent back Britishers and that the recent raids by central agencies in Chhattisgarh can't demoralise its workers. He was addressing a rally at Katangi town in Balaghat district of MP, which goes to polls on November 17.

Kharage was referring to the ED allegations that Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel had received kickbacks to the tune of Rs 508 crore from the promoters of Mahadev app, an online betting platform. The ED has claimed that "high-ranking officials connected with the CMO (Chief Minister's Office)" in Chhattisgarh received kickbacks to allow the illegal gaming app to run its operations in the state. Kharage stated that both Modi



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharage in Dindori, MP. ANI

and Shah want to win elections through the ED and I-T raids, suppressing Congress workers.

"I was in Chhattisgarh yesterday (Friday) and the force of (PM) Modi and Shah (Union home minister Amit Shah) was also there. Through ED, CBI and I-T raids they want to terrorise our party workers so that they sit in their homes," he said.

Kharage said that the government was under the impression this would deter Congress workers, but it won't happen. "What is Modi for the Congress that fought against the British government? We chased away the Britishers... Jawaharlal Nehru strengthened the democracy. We are not going to be scared of Modi, Shah and their disciples."

Tharoor: 2024 a battle to save India's soul, polls in Mizoram its rehearsal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AIZAWL, NOVEMBER 4

CONGRESS LOK Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor Saturday exuded confidence that Mizoram will be the first state in the northeast where his party will return to power after 2014, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections next year. Calling the Mizoram Assembly polls "dress rehearsal" for the big battle, which the Thiruvananthapuram MP described as a "struggle for saving India's soul".

"The idea of India that everyone is equal irrespective of language, religion, caste, creed, region and culture is our right enshrined in our Constitution. That idea is under threat. In many ways, the Mizoram election is a dress rehearsal for the Lok Sabha polls. It is an opportunity for the people of Mizoram to say this is the India we want to preserve. We want you to think very seriously

about the larger meaning of this election," he said.

The time to end the politics of hatred is here, Tharoor said, referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's statements.

Attacking the Mizoram ruling dispensation, Tharoor alleged that there has been corruption and lack of development for five years during the MNF rule, which has resulted in high unemployment, adding that only 2,200 jobs were created against 7,900 jobs promised by the MNF government over the last five years.

He said the Congress will create 1 lakh jobs if it comes to power and offer a health insurance cover of Rs 15 lakh to each family for cashless treatment.

Tharoor said he was concerned about the special provisions under Article 371 G and wondered if it will meet the same fate as Article 370. "BJP's track record is such that nothing is sacred or untouched," he said.



Shashi Tharoor in Aizawl, Saturday. @INCMizoram

3 days ahead of polls, BJP leader killed by Maoists in Chhattisgarh

JAYPRAKASH SNAIDU
NARAYANPUR, NOVEMBER 4

MEMBERS OF the banned Communist Party of India (Maoists) killed a BJP leader in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Saturday, police said, in the sixth such incident this year in the poll-bound state.

Police said Ratan Dubey, a poll coordinator and deputy chief of the BJP's Narayanpur district unit, was attacked with sharp weapons around 5.30 pm during a campaign in Kosalnar village.

A local police team along with security forces rushed to the spot immediately after the attack, police said.

The two-phase Assembly election in Chhattisgarh is scheduled to begin November 7.

Condemning the attack, senior BJP leader and former CM Raman Singh said, "With an intention to influence Vidhan Sabha elections and to scare our party, our partners are being targeted. They must understand that the BJP will not be intimidated and the people of Chhattisgarh are with us. Very soon, along with the Naxals, every criminal would be hung upside down and made to pay for their crimes."

Dubey was the sixth BJP member to be killed this year.

Following the earlier killings, 24 party leaders in the Maoist-hit Bastar region were given 'X' category security after the previous attacks. Dubey was not among them.

Shah: Cong disrespected Ambedkar, ensured he didn't reach Parliament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIVPURI, NOVEMBER 4

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Congress follows "4Cs, namely corruption, commission, communalism and criminalisation" and said the party disrespected eminent jurist and social reformer Babasaheb Ambedkar.

Addressing a rally in Karera area in Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh, where elections will be held on November 17, Shah said the Congress will stop welfare schemes if it came to power.

"The Congress follows 4Cs, namely corruption, commission, communal riots, and criminalisation. The Congress disrespected Babasaheb Ambedkar but roams around carrying his photograph. The Congress did not give him Bharat Ratna and always conspired to ensure he never reached Parliament," Shah said.

"Our government came to power and we bestowed Bharat Ratna on Babasaheb Ambedkar (in 1990 when a non-Congress National Front government also including the BJP under VP Singh was in place)," Shah said.

Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah said surgical strikes were carried out in September 2016 on terror camps

in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir to avenge the Uri attack in which 19 soldiers lost their lives.

Shah said the Congress-led UPA government under Manmohan Singh used to remain mum in the face of such attacks but the Modi dispensation carried out air and surgical strikes to hit back at terror. Attacking MP Congress chief Kamal Nath, Shah said the former would not become CM after the Assembly polls.

"And if he becomes CM, then the BJP government's Ladli Behna Yojana (in which women get Rs 1,250 per month as aid) and welfare schemes meant for farmers will be stopped," Shah claimed. In 2002 (after a decade of Congress rule), the budget outlay of the state was Rs 23,000 crore, while it is now Rs 3.18 lakh crore, he said.

"The Congress government is an anti-development government. When they ruled for 15 months they stopped many welfare schemes. They stopped the scheme meant for the Sahariya tribe. They also halted the sickle cell anemia mission for tribals. But BJP revived all the schemes," he said. Shah said previous Congress governments had made MP a "BIMARU" state, while the BJP brought about development by working for farmers, Dalits, tribals, OBCs, women and youth.

Raje confidant quits BJP, to contest polls as Independent

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 4

TWO DAYS after the BJP denied a ticket to Yunus Khan, considered a confidant of former CM Vasundhara Raje, the former Rajasthan cabinet minister said Saturday he was resigning from the party. He also announced to contest the Assembly polls as an independent from Deedwana constituency, a seat from where he was elected twice as MLA.

Khan took the decision after holding a massive rally in Deedwana Saturday.

Earlier this week, BJP had announced Jitendra Singh Jodha as the candidate from Deedwana. Jodha was also the BJP candidate in the 2018 polls.

Rajnath: Can eliminate those into nefarious acts on both sides of border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 4

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Saturday said if someone tries to carry out any nefarious act, India can eliminate them on this side of the border, and if necessary, on the other side as well. Singh was addressing a rally while campaigning for BJP candidate Lal Singh Arya at Khaneta village under the Gohad assembly seat in Bhand district of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh.

"India's pride is soaring all over the world. During the Congress rule, people abroad would say India is a weak country. The world did not take our words very seriously but the situation has changed now, and if

India says something on international forums, the world listens with open ears," he said.

Now, India is not a weak country. No power in the world can dare threaten India, he said. "If someone tries to carry out any nefarious act, India can eliminate them on this side of the border, and if necessary, it can strike them on the other side of the border as well," he said.

Lauding the works of CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, he said Madhya Pradesh was earlier a BIMARU (laggard) state. "But people are now saying if one has to see growth, one must go to Madhya Pradesh," he said. Singh said MP is the only state where the government gives Rs 6,000 per year from its treasury to farmers.

Cash to liquor to narcotics, poll-linked seizures up three times from 2018

ANJISHNU DAS
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

IN THE five poll-bound states, election-related seizures, ranging from cash to liquor to narcotics, have more than tripled this time as compared to the 2018 Assembly elections.

According to the Election Commission officials, Rs 953.34 crore in cash and other "poll inducements" have been seized so far from Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram since the Model Code of Conduct kicked in on October 9. Apart from cash, seizures include jewellery, precious metals, liquor, drugs, gadgets and household items. In con-

trast, over the entire 2018 poll campaign period in these states, seizures worth Rs 288.58 crore were made. Seizures this time have thus already risen by over Rs 660 crore as compared to the previous polls, even as the campaigning will continue through this month in most of these states.

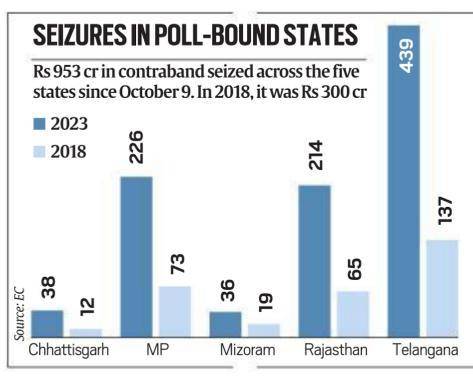
While Mizoram and Chhattisgarh's first-phase seats go to polls on November 7, the second-phase constituencies of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are scheduled on November 17. Rajasthan and Telangana will vote on November 25 and November 30, respectively.

CHHATTISGARH
Officials in Chhattisgarh have

so far seized Rs 38.34 crore in cash and other items, as of October 31. Among the recovered items are Rs 10.11 crore in cash, nearly 31,000 litres of illicit liquor worth Rs 90.87 lakh, and 184 kg of ornaments and precious stones worth Rs 14.82 crore. The state has deployed "flying squads" to track election contraband.

In the 2018 polls, such seizures amounted to Rs 11.85 crore across the entire campaigning period, including Rs 4.47 crore in cash, Rs 1.3 crore in liquor, and Rs 5.77 crore in items like laptops, vehicles, pressure cookers and other things.

MADHYA PRADESH
As of November 1, Madhya Pradesh has racked up poll



seizures of over Rs 226 crore since October 9. The seizures were made through joint efforts of the

state's Flying Surveillance Team, Static Surveillance Team and the police. The recoveries include

Rs 25.05 in cash, illicit liquor worth Rs 36.99 crore, Rs 11.7 crore in narcotics, and precious metals worth Rs 75.06 crore, as per the state poll body.

In the 2018 polls, the total seizures amounted to Rs 72.93 crore.

MIZORAM
Over Rs 36 crore have been seized in Mizoram as of October 25, as per state election officials. The state has stood out in terms of the contraband recovered, which includes only about Rs 8,000 in cash and largely involves drugs and liquor.

Officials have found Rs 19 crore in heroin, Rs 4.28 crore in methamphetamine and Rs 57 lakh in poppy seeds, aside from

Rs 8.84 crore in cigarettes and Rs 1.16 crore in liquor. Incidentally, Mizoram is a dry state, with prohibition in effect since 2019, though a local variety of wine has been excluded from this ban since August.

The seizures have almost doubled since the 2018 polls, when about Rs 19 crore in contraband was recovered.

RAJASTHAN
As per the latest report from officials in Rajasthan on October 28, the state has seized about Rs 214 crore in cash and other inducements. The recoveries include Rs 25 crore in cash, Rs 20 crore in liquor, Rs 20 crore in gold, and Rs 60 crore in drugs. Other items like petrol, diesel and fer-

tilisers have also been recovered.

In the 2018 polls, the total seizures amounted to Rs 65 crore. This time, seizures have almost tripled.

TELANGANA
In Telangana, officials have so far seized Rs 439 crore as of November 2, with nearly a month left to go before voting. Officials have recovered Rs 156 crore in cash, over 1,300 kg of gold, silver and other metals worth Rs 165.2 crore, Rs 49.4 crore in liquor, and Rs 24.7 crore in marijuana.

In 2018, Rs 137 crore in contraband was seized over the course of the elections, including Rs 125 crore in cash.

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Chief Guest

Smt. Droupadi Murmu

Hon'ble President of India

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Growth Story of India's Food Processing Sector

- Since 2014, processed food export reached over ₹1 Lakh Crore from ₹30 thousand Crore; a remarkable increase of more than three times.
- One of the largest employers of the registered manufacturing sector with a share of over 12% in total employment.
- Under PMFME scheme, loans amounting to over ₹4300 crore sanctioned for nearly 57 thousand beneficiaries to help micro food processing enterprises.
- Capacity for processing and preservation has been increased to over 190 Lakh Metric Tons from the completed projects under PMKSY scheme in last 9 years.
- Since 2014, the industry has attracted Foreign Direct Investment worth over ₹43 thousand crore; giving boost to India's food processing sector.
- Total number of approved Cold Chain units, Mega Food Parks and other projects at an all-time high of 1345.
- Seed capital support given to over 1 lakh SHGs; empowering the food processors at grass root level.



Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Khurram Rafi Khan S/o Mohammad Rafi R/o 1594, Gali Taj Ran, Siwalan, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002 hereby declare that on dated 03/11/2023 through affidavit I have changed my name from Khurram Rafi Khan to Khurram Rafi Khan and Khurram Rafi are same Person. For all future purpose my name will be used as Khurram Rafi.

I, Aditya Kumar S/o Suresh Kumar, R/o-107, Tilak-Khand, Gali Nagar, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, Inform That names of mine, my father, and my mother have been mentioned as Aditya Kumar, Surendra Prasad, and Sharmila Devi Prasad in my passport-No.U06185774. The Actual correct name of mine, my father and my mother may be considered as Aditya Kumar, Surender Kumar, and Sharmila Devi, for all purposes

I, Vivek Kumar Mittal S/o Yogesh Kumar Mittal R/o Flat No. 908, Mahagan Mansion, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Vivek Mittal

I, RAJEEV Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Dashrath Singh R/o Vill-Samsuddinpur Post-Dehari, P.S.-Sarpataha, Tehsil-Shahganj, Distt-Jaunpur, UP 223103 have changed my name to Sanjeev permanently

I, Zubin Sharma S/o Sanjay Kumar Sharma R/o Barahi Mandir Wali Gali, Surajpur, GB Nagar, UP-201306 declare that my name incorrectly mentioned as Bobby in my LIC Policy No.330738810 instead Zubin Sharma. Both Bobby & Zubin Sharma are one and same person.

I, Udhav Singh Solanki S/o Bhura Singh R/o Flat No.E-404, Emerald Tower, La Royale, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, UP-201014 have changed my name to UDHAM SINGH for all future purposes.

I Farha Khan W/o Deepak R/o-B-262, Bhagya Vihar, Rani Khera, Madanpur Dabas, Delhi-110081 have changed my name to Jyoti

I, Laxmi Narayan Sharma S/o Madan Mohan Shastri R/o H/no. 573, Sector-22A, Palam Vihar Road, Mohahera(65) Gurgaon HR-122015 have changed my name to Laxmi Narayan Shastri infuture for all purpose.

I, Geeta Devi W/o Laxmi Narayan Shastri R/o H/no. 573, Sector-22A, Palam Vihar Road, Mohahera(65) Gurgaon HR-122015 have changed my name to Geeta Sharma infuture for all purpose.

I, Ishwar S/o Harchand R/o-145, Fateh Pur Beri, Delhi-110074 have changed my name to Iswar Chand

I, Jitender Kumar, S/o Sh. Deep Chand Sharma, R/o-H-34, M.S. Park, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name, from Jitender Kumar to Jitender Sharma, for all, future purposes.

I, JATINDER KAUR, W/O. PARKASH SINGH BHULLAR, ADD-BE-120, GALI.NO-2, HARI NAGAR, WEST DELHI 110064, changed my name to JATINDER KAUR BHULLAR, for all, future purposes

I, PARKASH SINGH, S/O. KARNAL SINGH BHULLAR, ADD-BE-120, GALI.NO-2, HARI NAGAR, WEST DELHI-110064, changed my name to PARKASH SINGH BHULLAR, for all, future purposes.

I, PANKAJ, S/O LATE. RAMESHWAR DAYAL, R/O FLAT.NO-A1/003, EASTERN HEIGHT APARTMENT NYAY KHAND-3 INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UP-201014, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PANKAJ SAGAR, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, VISHALI W/O-RAJIV NARULA R/O-125, MANTOVA MAHAGUN MANSION -1.1/5, VAIBHAV KHAND INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UP-201014, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VISHALI NARULA, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSES

I, HEENA PARVEEN, W/O IMRAN KHAN, R/O-661, FIRST-FLOOR, NITI KHAND-1 INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD UP 201014, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HEENA KHAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, Santosh W/o Sh. Sohanvir, R/o-Corp Sahyog Apartment, Plot.No.-40, Flat.No.-303, Shalimar Garden Extn.-1, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005, inform that Santosh and Santosh Kumari, both names are same person.

I, CHANDER PAL, S/o Late Shri. Babu Ram, R/o-B-145, Nehru Camp, Govind Nagar, South Delhi-110019, inform that CHANDRAPAL & CHANDER PAL, belongs to one and the same person.

I, K.M. SONAM, D/O RAJU KUMAR, R/O L-807, 8TH-FLOOR, JASMINE GROVE, NH-24, MEHROLI GHAZIABAD, UTTAR- PRADESH-201002, changed my name to SONAM.

I, Ramesh CHANDRA SINGH KATHAYAT, S/O LATE DAN SINGH KATHAYAT, R/O G-20 ANSARI-NAGAR NDMC-SOUTH WEST-DELHI-110029, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAMESH CHANDER SINGH KATHAYAT, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

I, Jagjit Singh S/o Inderpal Singh R/o G-4/87, Near Jain Bharti Public School, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089 have changed my minor son namely as Navye Singh age about 13 yrs from Navye Singh to Karan Singh for all future purposes & hereafter be known as Karan Singh.

I, Anjali Shukla W/o Gangesh Mishra, R/o near lucky telecom, EWS 102/3, panki-ganganj-Kanpur nagar Utter-Pradesh-208020, My 10th and 12th certificate my name has been written as Anjali. I shall be called and known by the name of Anjali Shukla in future for all purpose.

I, Ram Murti Sharma S/o Babu Ram, R/o Q1/30, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Ram Moorti Sharma, permanently.

I, KAVITA, W/O SUDHIR KUMAR, R/O MUNDLANA, MUNDALANA, HARIDWAR, UTTARAKHAND-247656, changed my name to KAVITA CHOUDHARY, for all purposes.

I, Vanika Malik W/o Nimish Malik, R/o 15-A/41, West Punjabi Bagh, Delhi-26, have changed my name to Vanikka Malik, Permanently.

I, VINOD KHANDELWAL, S/O JAGDISH PRASAD KHANDELWAL, R/O A-1/152A, KESHAV-PURAM, DELHI-110035, have changed my name to VINOD KUMAR KHANDELWAL.

I, RITU YADAV, D/o Lal Babu Prasad Yadav, R/o-J-22, Shiv Vihar Karala, Delhi-110081, declare that name of, my father has been wrongly written as LAL BABU YADAV in my 10th-class educational documents, The actual name of, my father is LAL BABU PRASAD YADAV.

I, JITENDER SINGH SHARMA, S/O GURMIT SINGH R/O-F-11, 3rd-Floor, Gali Number-30, Adarsh Nagar, Azadpur, Delhi-110033 have changed my name to JITENDER SHARMA.

I, hitherto known as Ashish, S/o Amresh Sikder, residing at, H.No. A-119/102, Street No.-3, Mukund-Vihar, Karawal-Nagar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ashish Sikder.

I, FARMAN AHMAD, S/O. ANEES AHMAD, ADD-A-67, NEAR RAJDHANI DAIRY, NEW SEELAMPUR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053, changed my name to FARMAAN AHMAD, for all, future purposes.

I, SANDEEP alias SANDEEP LOHCHAB, S/O RANBIR SINGH R/O-Bupania(59), Bahadurgarh Jhajjar, Haryana-124507, have changed my name to SANDEEP LOHCHAB.

I, PRADEEP alias PRADEEP LOHCHAB, S/O RANBIR SINGH, R/O-Mohalia, Ratyan P.O., Bupania(59), Bahadurgarh Jhajjar, Haryana-124507, have changed my name to PRADEEP LOHCHAB.

I, AMARDEEP SINGH S/O INDERPAL SINGH LAMBA R/O 219-220, FIRST FLOOR POCKET-2 SECTOR-25 ROHINI DELHI-110085 have changed my name to AMARDEEP SINGH LAMBA

I, VIJAY KUMAR BAIRWA S/O SHRI LAXMAN SINGH BAIRWA R/O B-771 AMBEDKAR BASTI SECTOR 1 R.K PURAM NEW DELHI-110066 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIJAY KUMAR.

I, Partiksha D/o Yogesh Kansal R/o House No. 1027A, Second Floor, Maruti Vihar, Sector-28, Gurgaon Pin-122002, Haryana, India have changed my name to Partiksha Kansal.

I, Rinku Kumari, W/o Mr. Santosh Kumar Singh, R/o Plot-28, FH-8, Vikram Enclave, Shalimar Garden Extn-1, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad-201005, UP, have changed my name to Rinku Singh for all future purposes.

"IMPORTANT"

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Man gets 26-yr RI for raping minor

Draug: A court here sentenced a 50-year-old man to 26 years of rigorous imprisonment for abducting and raping a three-year-old girl around 2 years ago, officials said on Saturday. The court imposed a fine of Rs 50,500 on the convict Rajesh Jatav, government advocate Naveen Dubey said. **ENS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to the general public that my client **SH. SURENDER SINGH S/O SH. SUBE SINGH** and his wife **SMT. KRISHNA DEVI** both R/o HNO-B-11 GALI NO.10, NEAR PEPPAL WALA ROAD, MOHAN GARDEN EXTN., UTTAM NAGAR, D.K. MOHAN GARDEN, NEW DELHI have disowned and disinherited their grandson **DEV RUIHAL** and Granddaughter **RITIKA** from their all movable & immovable property/assets whatsoever/wherever situated and sever all their connections with them and whoever dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her own risk & consequences and my clients shall not be held responsible for any of their acts and deeds."

Sd/-
VINAY KUMAR SHARMA
Advocate
Ch. No. 650, Lawyer's Chambers
Dwarka Courts Complex, N. Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client **Smt. Imarti Devi** and her husband **Sh. Krishan Lal**, R/o H.No. 120, Banjara Basti, Bhor Garh, Narela, Delhi-40 have disinherited their son **Anil Kumar**, hence forth from claiming any share right or interest in their movable and immovable properties due to non-cooperating conduct and behavior. Anyone dealing with said Anil Kumar will do so at their own risk and responsibility.

Mohan Shyam (Advocate)
Ch. No.1 Rohini Court Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"This is to inform to the general public that my client **SH. SURENDER SINGH S/O SH. SUBE SINGH** and his wife **SMT. KRISHNA DEVI** both R/o HNO-B-11 GALI NO.10, NEAR PEPPAL WALA ROAD, MOHAN GARDEN EXTN., UTTAM NAGAR, D.K. MOHAN GARDEN, NEW DELHI have disowned and disinherited their son **PARVEEN SINGH** and daughter-in-law **MANITA** & Grandson **CHIRAG** from their all movable & immovable property assets whatsoever/wherever situated and sever all their connections with them and whoever dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her own risk & consequences and my clients shall not be held responsible for any of their acts and deeds."

Sd/-
VINAY KUMAR SHARMA
Advocate
Ch. No. 650, Lawyer's Chambers
Dwarka Courts Complex, N. Delhi

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Sd/-
VINAY KUMAR SHARMA
Advocate
Ch. No. 650, Lawyer's Chambers
Dwarka Courts Complex, N. Delhi

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given to the Public that the Sale Deed dated 21st July 2001, executed between Mrs. Asha Rani Jain (THE OWNER) and Mr. Sirajuddin Qureshi (The Purchaser) for the property bearing a d r e s s e d a t B-451, 2nd Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi - 110065, has been lost/misplaced. The Report of the same has been lodged at the Crime Branch Police Station on Date 03.11.2023 vide report no. 1102277/2023. If found, kindly inform to the undersigned.

Mr. Sirajuddin Qureshi
B-3, Friends Colony,
West Main Mathura Road,
New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all the General Public that my client **Mrs BHAVISHYA NIRMAAN REALTY** is the intending purchaser of **LAND** measuring 500 Sq yards comprised in khazra no. 774/8 situated in the extended Avadi of Lal Dora of village Dera Mandi Tehsil Mirzapur New Delhi purchased above said property from Mr. Rajeev sharma (300 Sq yards) Sq yards smt. Asharfi Devi (200 Sq yards) Any claim or oppositions to the said Property must be lodged within 15 days from the date of this publication, failing which will be presumed that there are no claims or oppositions and my client shall complete any transactions. Claims or oppositions received after the said 15 days shall not be binding on my client. Please contact to Gagandeep Singh, Adv. within 15 days from the date of Publication of this notice.
Note: Original Deed lost 300 Sq yards and seller assure that he didn't keep original deed for any bank loan or security purpose. Sd/- Gagandeep Singh, Advocate 202 Narain Complex, Sarita Vihar New Delhi-110076

LOST & FOUND

I, Anoop Agrawal, S/D/W/O P K Agrawal, B-4/230, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110029 have lost my HDFC BANK FD CERTIFICATE No. DE/4549219 in the name of Sarla Agrawal. Place of Loss Green Park Market. May found anybody. Please Contact (M) 9810627361 or Mentioned Address.

LOST AND FOUND

We, S/Shri Kulktej Singh, Deepinder Singh, Inderpreet Singh and Damanyoj Singh are the owners of the property bearing No. 3/19A, Kirti Nagar Industrial Area, New Delhi -15 and had agreed to sell the same to Shri Sanjeev Arora vide Mediation Settlement dated 06.08.2015 in CS(OS) No. 2860 of 2013. Pursuant to the Mediation Settlement dated 06.08.2013, the original Lease Deed dated 31.03.1965; the original Sale Deed dated 16.09.1967 registered on 22.09.1967; the original Mutation letter dated 13.05.2013; the original Special Power of Attorney dated 29.04.1963 and originals of other ownership documents were given for conversion of Property No. 3 / 19A, Kirti Nagar Industrial Area, New Delhi-15 from leasehold to freehold but they are not traceable and are misplaced and have not been returned back to us. We have also lodged an FIR with the police in this regard. If anyone finds these documents kindly contact us at mobile No. 9815274674, 9888800247, 9814300117 & 9814000070 and return the same to us else we will have to comply with the orders of the Court by obtaining certified copies of these ownership documents.

DAY AFTER ASSAULT, EXTORTION CASE

Gujarat town shuts down in support of AAP leader

ADITI RAJA
VADODARA, NOVEMBER 4

AAM AADMI PARTY (AAP) working president and MLA Chaitar Vasava's constituency Dediapada in Narmada district on Saturday saw a complete bandh in his support and in protest against the FIR lodged against him and his wife by the Gujarat Police on Thursday, even as BJP MP Mansukh Vasava alleged that the bandh was "supported by BJP leaders on the sly".

The MP made vain attempts to convince traders to open their shops on Saturday, offering them support from the state administration, claiming that "they were scared (of being assaulted)".

Chaitar, his wife Shakuntala, his personal assistant Jitendra, farmer Ramesh Vasava and four others, were booked for allegedly threatening and assaulting forest department officials and opening fire, at the MLA's residence in Dediapada on October 30. They also face charges of rioting and extortion. Shakuntala, Jitendra and Ramesh were arrested Friday while Chaitar is untraceable.

A local court at Dediapada on Saturday rejected the police ap-



A shutdown in Dediapada in support of Chaitar Vasava (left)

plication seeking 10-day remand for the three arrested persons, as also the bail application moved by them. They were instead sent to judicial custody. The Narmada district police has now moved a revision petition in the district sessions court seeking 10-day remand of the three accused.

Mansukh Vasava alleged that several BJP leaders were supporting Chaitar in the bandh.

According to police, forest officials had asked farmer Ramesh Vasava and other villagers to clear

encroachments. A day later, Chaitar allegedly summoned the officials to his home, intimidating them in a bid to "obstruct them from clearing the encroachment".

AAP national joint secretary Gopal Italia, representing Shakuntala in the local court, termed the FIR as "fabricated".

"The FIR raises several questions about the BJP-administered state machinery... Why did the forest officials take four days to file a complaint after the alleged incident? The FIR does not describe any involvement of Shakuntala Vasava but merely states that she was present in her house. Is it an offence to be present in the house?"

—INPUTS FROM KAMAAL SAHYED

Naval sailor dies in Kochi chopper crash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOCHI, NOVEMBER 4

A NAVAL SAILOR was killed here on Saturday when a Chetak helicopter was involved in a "ground accident" at a naval air station here, the Indian Navy said.

The Navy ordered a probe into the matter. The incident occurred at INS Garuda of the Southern Naval Command during routine maintenance taxi checks, Defence sources said.

Yogendra Singh, who was a leading airman, died when the helicopter met with the accident while taxiing at INS Garuda of the Southern Naval Command, officials said.

"Adm R Hari Kumar #CNS (chief of naval staff) & all personnel of #Indian Navy mourn the loss of life & pay tribute to Yogendra Singh... and extend condolences to his family," a Navy spokesperson said on X.



Yogendra Singh.

With five-year CM claim, Siddaramaiah hits reset amid Congress' OBC push

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 4

"OUR GOVERNMENT will be in power for five years. I am CM now and will continue as CM," Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asserted earlier this week in response to claims that his six-month-old Congress government would collapse soon due to the CM race in the faction-riven party.

"People who have no value will speak (about a change of guard). There is no need to pay heed to such persons who speak," the 75-year-old CM said.

His statement came in the wake of the Congress high command intervening to halt a growing feud between the factions of Deputy CM and state Congress chief DK Shivakumar, 61, and the Congress working president from Belagavi, Satish Jarkiholi, the 61-year-old PWD Minister and Siddaramaiah's ally.

Siddaramaiah's assertion also came following weeks of an intense face-off between Jarkiholi and Shivakumar.

The Congress leadership had to intervene twice over the last month to curb factional fights, with party general secretaries K C Venugopal and Randeep Surjewala and party president Mallikarjun Kharge making visits to the state to hold talks to several leaders.

"There is space for your voice in the party. You can give your suggestions, complaints and opinions to the CM, party president or me inside the party fo-



Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar

rum, and not publicly," Surjewala warned factional leaders and their supporters this week.

The standoff between the two Congress groups was seen as a challenge mounted by Jarkiholi, with the possible support of Siddaramaiah, to Shivakumar's claim to be next in line to be the CM. It was also seen as a consequence of Shivakumar's insistence on being the sole DCM (Deputy CM) in the Congress government when it was formed in May this year. Siddaramaiah had then wanted three more DCMs to balance caste equations alongside Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, but the latter, who lost out in the CM race, was placated by the leadership by acquiescing to his demand.

Siddaramaiah's assertion about his continuance as the CM for a full term might be a signal that three more DCMs would be appointed alongside Shivakumar in the coming months. Jarkiholi has said he wants to be a DCM in this term of the Congress government and not the CM. "It is true that I have a desire to become the CM but that is after a few years, not immediately," he had said

ahead of the Dasara festival. "There is a discussion to make three DCMs and not me alone. It has to be discussed. I have not made a claim to be made a DCM. I am a minister and have a big portfolio and this requires a lot of time," he had said amid speculation that he might even take a group of Congress MLAs on a tour to Dubai.

A Congress MLA KN Rajanna, who is allied to Siddaramaiah and Jarkiholi, had written to the party high command a few months ago, seeking the appointment of three more DCMs to balance castes in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls slated for April-May 2024.

Sources in the Congress government said the party is likely to appoint three new DCMs ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, who are expected to be Parameshwara, a Dalit, Satish Jarkiholi, a member of the Scheduled Tribe Valmiki Nayak community, and MB Patil, a Lingayat. This move would put in place a second rung of state Congress leadership in the event of replacement of Siddaramaiah as CM, rather than just banking on Shivakumar alone, who has been

BJP wants to finish us, we will only get bigger: AAP Gujarat president

AAP GUJARAT chief **ISUDAN GADHVI**, spoke to **SOHINI GHOSH** and **AVINASH NAIR** on a range of issues. Excerpts:



Isudan Gadhvi

Why are so many Gujarat AAP leaders jumping ship and joining other parties?

When AAP Gujarat in-charge and AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak took charge, there was an organisational overhaul. Naturally, there would be some members who may not be happy with the reconstitution. We go by the individual's performance. If someone is not working, they are removed. That gives parties like Congress opportunity to induct them. But say even if 70-80 leaders left, 200 others joined AAP in tum... many were from the Congress. Some from the BJP have joined, but the BJP has its own scare tactics.

Do you think latest criminal proceeding against AAP MLA Chaitar Vasava is an attempt by the BJP to poach him?

Definitely. Because his seat can be an easy win in Lok Sabha polls (for AAP). We have informed our MLAs that we have to be clean at our end. This FIR against Chaitar is false and what he did was a natural reaction. I too would have done the same.

—INPUTS FROM KAMAAL SAHYED

How do you think the cases

against AAP's top leaders, now with Kejriwal also facing the possibility of arrest, will play out in the poll season?

Whosoever they (BJP) have put in jail has only become a bigger leader. I believe all political leaders must be prepared to face possible jail time. They are trying to put Arvindji in jail with a view to ending AAP's existence. But they do not understand that it will only make AAP bigger.

How do you view the alliance with the Congress in Gujarat?

We got 26-27 per cent vote share, that too in the first state polls contest. Congress got a 27-28 per cent vote share. So this will be kept in view of seat-sharing. Right now our fight is against the BJP, which is destroying the democratic fabric. For us, it is the country first and then the party. I believe the alliance will benefit both parties.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

In Punjab's Bathinda, farmers force official to set paddy stubble on fire; FIR registered

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 4

A GROUP OF farmers in Punjab's Bathinda district allegedly forced a government official, who was part of a team working to prevent farm fires, to set on fire a heap of paddy stubble on fire, sparking a sharp condemnation from Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann who termed the incident as an "inhuman crime" against the people of the state.

Police lodged an FIR in the matter after Mann issued an order. Bathinda Deputy Commissioner Showkat Ahmad Paray too had written to the senior superintendent of police, asking him to register an FIR against the farmers for preventing the official from discharging his duty.

The incident took place in Mehma Serja village Friday afternoon when a Public Works Department team led by a subdivisional engineer Harpreet Sagar reached the village to stop farmers from setting the paddy stubble on fire.

However, as soon as the team reached the village, a group of nearly one hundred farmers—all members of Bharatiya Kisan



A farmer burns paddy straw stubble in a field on the outskirts of Jalandhar, Punjab, on Saturday. ANI

Union Sidhupur — gheraoed it, and raised slogans against the government. The farmers then took the officials to a nearby farm and forced Sagar to set on fire a heap of paddy stubble. They also made a video, which was shared widely on social media.

In the video, farmers could be heard saying that those who came to stop stubble burning were made to set the crop residue on fire. The video also shows that the official's hand was held by two farmers, as they force him to set the stubble on

fire with a matchstick. "When he (official) was mobbed, what option he could have. He had no choice," said an official from the DC office.

The team was allowed to leave only after Harpreet Sagar lit the heap of straw. Farmers also asked Sagar to give it in writing that he won't stop the farmers ever again from burning paddy stubble, something that the PWD official refused to do.

The DC said an FIR has been lodged in the matter and those who were behind the incident

will be put behind the bars. "Lawlessness is not something that we will tolerate," said the DC, adding that the BKU Sidhupur union leaders met him, disowned the act and apologised to the officials.

Bathinda SSP Gulneet Singh Khurana said a case has been registered under sections 342 (wrongful confinement), 353 (assault or deter against a public servant from performing duty), 186 (voluntary obstruction of public servant), 506 (criminal intimidation), 188 (disobedience of a law duly promulgated by a public servant), and 149 (unlawful assembly) of the Indian Penal Code in the matter. The FIR has been registered against nine persons by name and several unidentified people, the SSP said, adding the case has been filed based on a complaint by SDE Sagar. He said further probe into the case was underway.

Earlier, taking cognisance of the video, CM Mann, in a strongly worded post on X, said: "Dear Punjabis, which way are you heading? Guru Sahib ji has given air the status of Guru... to destroy this, we are ending oxygen meant for our children by taking matchsticks in our hands".

Two arrested for sending multiple threat mails to Mukesh Ambani

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

9 EXPRESS NETWORK

J&K Police first in country to use GPS ankle for UAPA accused out on bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 4

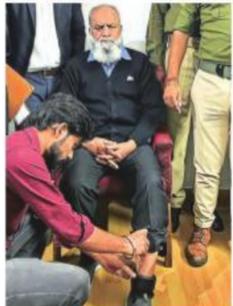
THE JAMMU and Kashmir Police has introduced GPS tracker anklets for monitoring the terror accused out on bail, becoming the first police force in the country to do so, officials said on Saturday. The GPS tracker anklet is a wearable device affixed around the ankle of the person to be monitored and tracks their movement.

The device is already being used in the USA, UK, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand to track the movement of accused persons on bail, parole and house arrest and accordingly de-congests prisons to a large extent.

State Investigation Agency officials of the J-K Police have introduced the GPS tracker anklet for monitoring of bail-out terror accused, the officials said. They said the J-K Police is the first police department in the country to introduce such a device.

The officials said the devices were introduced after a Special NIA Court, Jammu, passed an order directing the police to affix a GPS tracker anklet on a terror accused—the importance of which was highlighted by the prosecution department of the police.

Giving details of the case, the officials said in an FIR filed under various sections of UAPA, accused Gulam Mohd Bhat had applied for bail. During the pendency of the bail hearing, the accused sought to be released on interim bail. The accused is undergoing trial for being associated with different terrorist organisations and being involved in terror financing



Police show the GPS tracker ankle to monitor terror case accused. *PTI*

at the behest of proscribed terrorist organisation Hizbul Mujahideen, they said.

Bhat was arrested in the current FIR while attempting to transport the proceeds of terrorism to the tune of Rs 2.5 lakh at the behest of HM. The accused is also convicted by the NIA Court Patiala House, Delhi, in another case for being associated with a terrorist organisation and for conspiracy for a terrorist act, the officials said.

In the Special NIA Court, Jammu, the importance of close monitoring of the terror accused and the stringent conditions for grant of bail under the UAPA, 1967, was highlighted by the prosecution department of Zonal Police Headquarters, Jammu, the officials said.

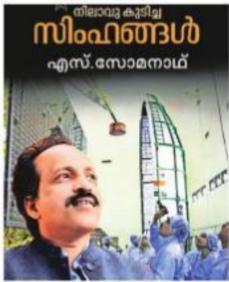
"Finding merit in the submissions of the prosecution, Special NIA Court, Jammu, was pleased to pass an order directing J-K Police to affix a GPS tracker anklet on the accused," they added.

ISRO chief Somanath withdraws publishing of his autobiography

PTI & ENS
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 4

ISRO CHAIRMAN S Somanath on Saturday said he was withdrawing from the publishing of his upcoming autobiography, after a controversy erupted over some of his alleged critical remarks about his predecessor K Sivan in the book.

Somanath confirmed that he had decided to withdraw the publication of the book 'Nilavu Kudicha Simhangaal' (loosely translated as Lions that drank the



The book jacket of 'Nilavu Kudicha Simhangaal'

moonlight), in the light of the controversy. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, he said, "Yes, I have withheld publication and release."

Earlier in the day, while responding to a report that claimed his autobiography had some critical remarks about his predecessor Sivan, Somanath denied he had targeted "any particular individual".

"Persons holding such key positions may have to go through several challenges. One among them is the challenges with regard to getting positions in an organisation," he said, adding that

these are challenges that everybody has to go through. "More persons might be eligible for a significant post. I just tried to bring out that particular point. I didn't target any particular individual in this regard," he added. He admitted that he mentioned in his book the lack of clarity in connection with the announcement of the failure of the Chandrayaan-2 mission.

The ISRO Chairman reiterated that his autobiography was an attempt to inspire people who wish to achieve by fighting challenges and obstacles in life and not criticise anyone.

Union Minister Puri hails PM for development in Northeast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOHIMA, NOVEMBER 4

PETROLEUM MINISTER Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday visited Tuensang district in Nagaland and interacted with the beneficiaries of the Ujjwala Yojana.

Puri said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Northeast is witnessing development, according to an official statement.

He said that he was happy to see so many beneficiaries of the Ujjwala Yojana in Tuensang.

To make liquified petroleum gas (LPG) available to rural and deprived poor households, the government launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in May 2016, to provide deposit-free LPG connections to adult women of poor households.

Puri said that during the pandemic, the Centre launched



Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri at the inauguration of a multi-specialty hospital in Sivasagar, Assam, Saturday. *PTI*

many schemes that raised the living standards of the people, especially women, of the country.

Puri, who is also the housing and urban affairs minister, said he will take up the shopping mall and parking project in Tuensang town, according to the

statement.

During the visit, he was accompanied by state Housing Minister Bashangmongba Chang, Youth Resource & Sports Advisor Keoshu Yimkhiung, MLAs Imtichuba and Benei M Lamthui, and state BJP president Benjamin Yephthomi.

Ex-UP MLA gets 15-year jail for raping singer

Third case in which Vijay Mishra has been sentenced, 21 cases still pending

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 4

A BHADOHI court on Saturday handed down 15 years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 lakh to former Uttar Pradesh MLA Vijay Mishra after finding him guilty of repeatedly raping a 28-year-old singer.

This is the third case in which the 70-year-old politician has been sentenced, with 21 more cases pending against him in various courts.

"Vijay Mishra was brought to the court under tight security and justice Subodh Singh sentenced him to 15 years of imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on him," Bhadohi District Government Counsel Dinesh Pandey said.

The verdict came a day after the court declared Mishra guilty under IPC sections 376-2(N) (repeatedly committing rape on the same woman) and 506 (criminal intimidation). The court, however, acquitted Mishra's son Vishnu and his nephew Jyoti alias Vikas.

According to the prosecution, the rape case dates back to October 18, 2020, when the victim alleged that in 2014, Mishra had called her to perform at a programme at his house and raped her. She further claimed that after the assault, Mishra asked his son and nephew to drop her home, where they allegedly raped her again. She alleged that Mishra repeatedly raped her since then and threatened her, said the prosecution.

Mishra had a total of 83 crim-



Bhadohi court fined Mishra ₹1 lakh

inal cases against him on various charges, including murder, robbery, kidnapping, rape, and forgery, in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Currently, he has 21 cases pending in different courts, including 15 in Bhadohi district court. On October 17, a Bhadohi court sentenced Mishra to two years of imprisonment in an Arms Act case registered against him in 2011.

On March 18, a Prayagraj court handed down a five-year prison sentence to Mishra in another Arms Act case from 2009.

In August 2020, Bhadohi police arrested Mishra in Agar Malwa district of Madhya Pradesh in connection with a land-grabbing case. Mishra's wife Ramlali Vishnu were also booked based on a complaint from their relative Krishna Mohan Tiwari, who accused them of grabbing his property in Bhadohi.

In May last year, police booked Mishra, his wife, their daughter, and three others for an alleged conspiracy to murder Gyanpur MLA Vipul Dubey. Mishra, who contested from jail on a Pragatisheel Manav Samaj Party ticket, lost to NISHAD Party candidate Dubey in the 2022 UP Assembly polls. Bhadohi police have reportedly seized properties worth over Rs 50 crore linked to Mishra and his family.

Leopard kills woman in Odisha, second death in a week

SUJIT BISOI
BHUBANESWAR, NOVEMBER 4

IN A second such incident, a woman was mauled to death by a leopard at Siliari Bahara village under Dharamabandha police limit in Nuapada district in Odisha.

The victim, Rameswari Bai (45), went to a nearby forest Friday evening to answer nature's call, said forest officials. When she did not return home, villagers launched a search for her. The village is located in the fringe area of Sunabeda wildlife sanctuary in Nuapada district.

On Saturday morning, the villagers found a leopard eating her body parts in a jungle few metres away from the village. They informed the forest officials, who rushed to the spot.

"The body has been sent for postmortem. A compensation of Rs 6 lakh will be given to the victim's family," said divisional forest officer Sushil Kumar Tripathy, adding that patrolling has been intensified in the region, and all range officers, including Nuapada and Komna, have been put on alert. On Saturday, another minor boy sustained injuries to his neck in a leopard attack in Kodapalli village in the region under the Dharamabandha police limit. On October 30, a seven-year-old boy was mauled to death by a leopard while he was playing in front of his house.

DEHRADUN'S KABUL HOUSE 'Daughter's wedding in Dec... no house': Man after eviction

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 4

THE 17 FAMILIES evicted from Dehradun's Kabul House got temporary respite from the Uttarakhand High Court, which has given them until December 1 Friday to vacate the premises. While the decision gives the families some breathing room, they remain unsure where they will spend the winter as they prepare to leave, in less than a month, the house they have lived in for decades.

"My daughter's wedding is scheduled on December 11, but now I have no house. I have already spent over Rs 3 lakh for her marriage. I have no idea what to do now. The administration and police came Thursday and removed everything from the house. The sofa, the fridge, and the dressing table that I purchased as a gift for my daughter's wedding are all lying in the open outside my house. We have no place to go. We spent the last two nights in the open," said Sanjay Chauhan, a Kabul House resident.

However, some residents continued to live with their families in the house, which is located in an upscale area on Dehradun's EC Road. The house, spread over 19 bighas, is estimated to be around Rs 400 crore. Two weeks ago, the Dehradun

DM court issued orders to vacate Kabul house in 15 days. This follows a 40-year legal battle between district authorities and the residents. This week, authorities started vacating the residents and sealing up the houses.

Among those who will be rendered homeless include five families from the Valmiki community, whose ancestors worked as sweepers for Yaqub Khan. "We were not educated, and the ruler gave our ancestors a place to live in their horse stables here in the Kabul House. When the Afghans left after Partition, we stayed here. My family has been living here for more than 100 years," said Chauhan, sitting outside the house on a broken plastic chair.

He said residents were first informed of the eviction on October 21, and four days later, he received a notice asking him to vacate by November 1. "On Wednesday, the administration and police officials came to our houses asking us to vacate by the next morning. They cut our water and power connections too," Chauhan said. The residents moved the HC against the eviction coming during the festive season, and during a hearing on Thursday, the court allowed an extension until December 1.

However, according to another Kabul House resident, Niti Singh, the administration has not reopened all the doors.



DIWALI RUSH

Shoppers throng a market in Thane, Maharashtra, ahead of Diwali on Sunday. *Deepak Joshi*

Seven killed in Maharashtra pharmaceutical factory fire, 46 rescued

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

SEVEN PERSONS died while several others were left injured after a series of explosions triggered a fire at a pharmaceutical company's factory in Maharashtra's Raigad district.

Officials said that the plant in the MIDC at Mahad belonged to Blue Jet Healthcare and the blast

was reported around 10.30 am Friday.

According to the police, there were around 57 persons present inside the plant when the fire broke out and 46 of them were rescued safely.

Superintendent of Police Somnath Garge said, "We have found seven bodies and four persons are still missing. We believe that all of them are workers at the plant. Some of the bodies are

burnt beyond recognition and we are trying to identify them."

"The fire was brought under control by late evening and the bodies were found Saturday morning," said an officer.

The Raigad police said that they have registered a case of accidental death and a probe is underway. "We will investigate and try to ascertain the cause of the accident and then decide on the case," said Garge.

Odia film producer held for assaulting woman journalist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, NOVEMBER 4

THE COMMISSIONERATE Police in Bhubaneswar on Saturday arrested Odia film producer Sanjay aka Tutu Nayak for allegedly assaulting a woman journalist in the city a day before.

Nayak was arrested after being detained by the police for interrogation at a police station in the city. "Based on the statement of the complainant and the witnesses and CCTV footage, we found prima facie evidence against the accused. Hence, he has been arrested and forwarded to court," said a police officer.

Nayak has been arrested under section 341 (wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 294 (using obscene words) and 354 (outraging modesty), said police sources.

He was sent to judicial custody after a local court rejected his bail.

Nayak allegedly assaulted and slapped the woman journalist on Friday while the latter was deputed outside a theatre here to cover the premiere of an Odia movie. She later lodged a complaint against the film producer.

Journalist unions across Odisha condemned the film producer's behaviour and lodged complaints against him in different police stations. Members of Odisha Women in Media - a forum of women journalists - also lodged a complaint with the deputy commissioner of police (DCP), Bhubaneswar seeking a fair probe into the matter.

Meanwhile, the State Commission for Women also filed a suo motu case in this connection and sought a report from the police on action taken within 15 days.



Rescue personnel at the site in Raigad on Saturday. *Express*

IIT-Kharagpur study: India's surface temp may increase by up to 5.1°C by 2100

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 4

SURFACE TEMPERATURES over India were likely to increase by 1.1 to 5.1 degree Celsius by the year 2100, a new study by IIT-Kharagpur has indicated.

In a research paper titled "Enhanced surface temperature over India during 1980-2020 and future projections: causal links of the drivers and trends" published in a Nature journal last month, said in high emission scenarios temperature rise over the Indian region could go up to as high as 5.1 degree Celsius, almost at par with the upper-end estimates for the global average rise in tempera-

tures. The actual rise in temperatures over the Indian region till now has been significantly lower than the global average.

"The Earth's surface temperatures have increased significantly since the beginning of industrialisation. The high emissions of greenhouse gases have contributed to global warming and climate change, which is expected to continue. We have investigated the long-term trends of surface temperature in India using surface, satellite and reanalysis data for the period of 1980-2020, and assessed the influence of geographical drivers on temperature change using the causal discovery," the research by the Centre for Ocean, River, Atmosphere and

Land Sciences (CORAL) at IIT Kharagpur says. The study, titled "Enhanced surface temperature over India during 1980-2020 and future projections: Causal links of the drivers and trends", found increasing temperature trend during the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon seasons in the northwest, northeast, and north-central regions of India.

"Analyses with the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project 6 results show that temperature can increase up to 1.1-5.1°C by the year 2100 under the Shared Socioeconomic Pathways-8.5 scenario. The increasing trend of temperature in India is a big concern, which calls for adaption and mitigation measures to alleviate



The team behind the study took more than two years to arrive at the projections. *File*

adverse effects of accelerated warming and regional climate change," it said. The study was conducted in association with the Indian Institute of Tropical

Meteorology in Pune which provided meteorological data based on which the research paper was made.

"We have looked into the surface temperature in India in the last 40 years and then made projections for the same till 2100. We have used a lot of data, especially from the IMD which was provided by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune. We have also used global data. We have made projections for different scenarios," lead researcher and associate professor at IIT-Kharagpur's CORAL, Jayanarayanan Kuttip-

purath told *The Indian Express*.

"Under moderate emissions scenarios, the average surface temperature over India as a whole is likely to be about 1.2-2°C by 2100. These are the inter-

mediate greenhouse gas emissions at current levels. Under the high emission scenario (emissions increasing by 3 times by 2075), the average temperature is likely to increase by 3.5-5.1°C by 2100. These numbers agree with the global average and the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) evaluation. However, the high emission scenario could be

unlikely because so many measures are being taken to bring down the emissions. But it can come up to maybe 3°C, if the emissions do not come down," the professor elaborated.

The IIT-Kharagpur professor along with his three PhD students and a scientist from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune worked on the study. It took them more than two years to arrive at these projections. The study also said that temperature increases in the last four decades in the country have ranged from 0.1 to 0.3°C per decade during pre-monsoon and 0.2-0.4°C per decade during post-monsoon.

According to the study, post-monsoon season displayed in-

creasing temperature trends across the entire country, with the most significant values in the western Himalayan region (0.2-0.5°C per decade) and northeast India (0.1-0.4°C per decade).

It further said that the average surface temperatures over north-west India, the west coast of India and peninsular India have increased by about 0.01 to 0.03°C per year in the last four decades during the October and November period. During the December-February period in the past four decades, parts of extreme north India, extreme north-west India, the temperatures in west coast of India and south peninsular India have increased by about 0.01 to 0.02°C per year.

RATION 'SCAM' ED searches homes, mills owned by Bengal minister's aides

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 4

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) conducted searches at the homes and rice mills of two aides of state minister Jyoti Priya Mallick on Saturday in North 24 Parganas district in connection with the alleged irregularities in ration distribution. The probe agency also searched multiple premises in Kolkata, Howrah and Nadia districts which continued by the time this story went to press.

ED officials said the names of Mallick's two aides, Montu Saha and Kalidas Saha, surfaced during the interrogation of the minister and Kolkata-based businessman Bakibur Rahman. Mallick, who held the food and supplies portfolio between 2011 and 2021, was arrested on October 27 over alleged corruption in the public distribution system. He is currently in ED custody. Rahman, considered to be a close confidante of Mallick, was also arrested by the ED.

Sources said the ED teams raided a flour mill in Kalpur village in Bongaon city of North 24 Parganas district. Apart from North 24 Parganas, the search operations were conducted at the house of rice mill owner and PDS dealer Nitai Ghosh in ward No. 17 of Ranaghat and the home of Siddheshwar Biswas in Ward No. 1 in Nadia. A flour factory and godown by the name 'Ankit India Limited' in Jalan Complex in Domjur town of Howrah was also searched, they added.

The ED has also alleged that huge quantities of wheat seized in 2020 were shown as "unclaimed" rather than "stolen". The wheat was then sent to Radhakrishna Flower Mill in North 24 Parganas, it added.

"In October 2020, police seized a total of 5,101 tonnes of wheat loaded in 175 trucks from Ghojodanga in Basirhat subdivision of North 24 Parganas. Of this, 1,652 tonnes of wheat were sent to Radhakrishna Flower Mill in North 24 Parganas 'Bangaon', an official said. In Kolkata, the searches were conducted at premises in the Salt Lake area.

Doubts will remain till entire Maratha community gets reservation: Patil

Hails govt move to expand scope of Shinde panel

MANOJ MORE CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJI NAGAR, NOVEMBER 4

MINUTES AFTER a state government delegation met him in hospital on Saturday morning and handed him a copy of the government resolution (GR), which widens the jurisdiction of the Shinde Committee to cover the whole state, activist Manoj Jarange Patil, while terming it as a step in the right direction, said that till the time the entire Maratha community is given reservation, doubts will continue to linger in their minds.

"The state government's move to include entire Maharashtra in the jurisdiction of the Shinde Committee is a historic one. I don't

think such a thing has happened in the past," Patil told The Indian Express during a brief conversation at the private hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, where he was admitted on Thursday after he ended his fast demanding reservation for the Maratha community.

Speaking in a feeble voice from his hospital bed, unlike his aggressive tone during his fast-unto-death, Patil emphasised that though the government had moved fast, only the act of ensuring reservation for the entire Maratha community will remove all doubts about the government's intention and actions.

On Saturday morning, a government delegation led by Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar District Guardian Minister Sandeepan Bhumre that also included Jalna District Guardian Minister Atul Save met Patil in the hospital and handed over a copy of the GR passed on Friday night. Bhumre read the GR, which ex-



Manoj Jarange Patil recuperating at a private hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar on Saturday. Manoj More

pands the jurisdiction of the Shinde Committee to include entire Maharashtra instead of being restricted only to Marathwada.

Patil, speaking to The Indian Express, said chain hunger strikes by the Maratha community will continue. "No, we have not withdrawn the chain hunger strikes.

EXPLAINED Win-win situation

WITH THE state government expanding the scope of the Justice Sandeep Shinde Committee to include all districts of Maharashtra — the panel's earlier jurisdiction limited its work only to Marathwada — Manoj Jarange Patil has won the first round in a hard-fought battle to get quota for the Maratha community. The state government too can breathe easy as it gets time and opportunity to get more Marathas under OBC category by issuing them Kunbi certificates.

They will continue in all villages," he said. To a question whether he was targeting Deputy Chief

Minister Devendra Fadnis as alleged by BJP leaders, he said, "I have nothing to do with politics, but yes, if someone says something against us, then we will hit back. The subject no more exists for me... I don't want to discuss anything about it."

Asked whether he was impressed by the delegation's promise which made him withdraw his fast, Patil said, "We have given the Shinde Committee two more months to complete its work... I can't say anything more."

On whether he was firm on his deadline of December 24, he said, "I have given them the time-limit. The deadline is December 24. The delegation will vouch for it."

Meanwhile, NCP leader Prakash Solanke, whose house and vehicles were torched by agitators in Beed district, also met Patil in the hospital, and conceded that he erred while speaking to a caller on the phone about the issue. He was referring to an audio clip that had gone viral.

NIA files chargesheet in Pune ISIS module case, three days after court denies extension

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

THREE DAYS after the special court designated under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act rejected the central agency's plea seeking further 69-day extension to file chargesheet in the Pune ISIS module case, it filed the chargesheet on Saturday, a copy of which is not made available yet. On November 1, special judge AM Patil rejected a "premature" plea by one of the accused Simab N Kazi seeking default bail plea on the grounds of delay by NIA in filing the chargesheet.

The court noted that since the completion of the 90-day stipulated period was to expire on October 25, it had extended time to file chargesheet by 21 days on October 16. It was to expire on November 5. On the same day, the

special court rejected a second application by the agency seeking to extend time for filing chargesheet by 69 days, a detailed order of which was made available on Saturday.

Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Sandeep Sadawarte for NIA referred to the special report to seek further time to complete the investigation, without which it was unable to file the chargesheet. The NIA lawyer claimed that considering nature of criminal conspiracy related to ISIS and its active members "having repercussion on the integrity, sovereignty and security of India", the agency be given sufficient time to unearth evidences against arrested persons.

However, advocate Tahira Qureshi for the accused opposed NIA's application arguing that the court in its earlier order had considered all these grounds.

Hague court rejects India's plea against \$111 million award to Devas investors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 4

THE DISTRICT court of The Hague, in the Netherlands, has rejected a plea by the Indian government to set aside a compensation award of \$111 million made by a tribunal in favour of foreign investors in the Bengaluru satellite services start-up firm Devas Multimedia over the cancellation of a 2005 satellite deal with ISRO's Antrix Corporation in 2011.

Three Mauritius-based investors in Devas Multimedia — CC/Devas Mauritius Ltd, Telcom Devas Mauritius Ltd and Devas Employees Mauritius Pvt Ltd — were awarded \$111 million in compensation by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) tribunal in The Hague on October 13, 2020 over the failed Devas-Antrix satellite deal.

The Indian government approached the district court of The Hague in March 2022 for cancellation of the final arbitral award of 2020 by citing a January 2022 Supreme Court order which upheld the liquidation of Devas Multimedia on the charge of fraud brought by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and probe agencies CBI and ED.

The district court, in an October 25 order, rejected the government's plea to consider the Supreme Court order as fresh evidence of wrongdoing by Devas Multimedia in the process of securing the 2005 satellite deal with Antrix Corp.

It ruled that the charges of deceit, fraud and corruption brought against Devas Multimedia by India had already been dealt with by the Court of Appeal of The Hague while considering a challenge by India of an interim arbitral award for compensation.

"In this judgment, the District Court concludes that there are no grounds for setting aside the Final Arbitral Award. An important factor here is that the Court of Appeal of The Hague already assessed India's assertions regarding the al-

leged fraud in the earlier setting aside proceedings concerning the Interim Arbitral Award and dismissed them (rightly so, in the court's view)," the district court of The Hague said in its judgement last week.

In the proceedings, India had sought a "declaratory judgment that the Indian Supreme Court's judgment should be recognised in the Netherlands". The district court, however, turned down the plea and said no independent significance can be accorded to the order of the Supreme Court of India and that many aspects of the fraud allegation had already been considered.

The district court of The Hague also rejected a plea by India against a move by the Mauritius investors in Devas to assign the rights to claim the compensation to their parent companies in the US — CDM Holdings LLC, Devas Employees Fund US, LLC and Telecom Devas, LLC — on account of Mauritius authorities moving to liquidate the Mauritius registered firms.

The setback in the district court of The Hague comes after recent wins in US courts in the legal dispute with the Devas investors over the failed 2005 deal.

In August this year, ISRO's Antrix Corp was provided some major relief by the US court of appeals for the ninth circuit which reversed orders of a US federal court confirming a \$1.2-billion compensation award made by an International Chamber of Commerce arbitration tribunal in favor of Devas Multimedia and its investors.

Under the failed 2005 Antrix-Devas deal, ISRO was supposed to lease two communication satellites for 12 years at a cost of Rs 167 crore to Devas Multimedia.

The deal was annulled by the UPA government in February 2011 amid the 2G crisis by citing the requirement of the S-band spectrum for security purposes of the country.

After the NDA government came to power in 2014 the CBI and ED began investigating the deal.

Jaishankar on Hamas-Israel conflict: Situation very complex

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

AS THE Israel-Hamas conflict intensifies, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday described the situation as "very complex", and conveyed to his Israeli counterpart Eli Cohen India's firm commitment to countering terrorism, observance of international humanitarian law and for a two-state solution to the Palestinian issue.

After a phone conversation with Jaishankar, Cohen, in a post on X, thanked New Delhi for its "support of Israel and of its war against the Hamas terrorist organisation, adding "our war is the entire democratic world's war against a despicable terrorist organisation" that is worse than ISIS.

On his part, Jaishankar said: "Appreciated his sharing the



Israeli assessment of the current situation. Reiterated our firm commitment to countering terrorism, observance of international humanitarian law and for a two-state solution." India had described Hamas's multi-pronged attack on Israeli cities on October 7 as terror strikes but at the same time called for strict observance of the international humanitarian law following concerns over civilian casualties in Gaza in view of Israel's counter-offensive.

In an interactive session at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit in the evening, Jaishankar described the situa-

tion arising out of the Hamas-Israel conflict as "very complex". He also strongly justified India's recent decision to abstain on a UN General Assembly resolution calling for a humanitarian truce between the two sides.

Jaishankar called the October 7 strikes on Israeli cities by Hamas as "terrorism" even as he asserted India's long-standing support for a negotiated two-state solution to the Palestine issue.

"I clearly conclude that it is a very complex situation with a lot of possibilities which are not fully apparent — possibilities not in a good way," he said. Asked if the current crisis will impact initiatives under the I2U2 grouping and implementation of the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) project, Jaishankar said it is too early to make any "conclusion".

Meet the man Patna dials in time of need

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, NOVEMBER 4

DURING THE peak of the pandemic, when treatment and even cremations became hard to arrange, there was one man many in Patna turned to.

Mukesh Kumar Hissariya, known as the 'blood donation man of Patna', has arranged blood and platelet donations for scores of people. He himself has donated blood 53 times. And during the pandemic, he arranged cremations for 375 people who died from Covid and had no one to conduct last rites.

He has also arranged bone marrow transplants for 45 children suffering from thalassemia and haemophilia, and he facilitated 32 eye donations.

His fervour for social service also extends beyond emergencies. He has organised mass weddings for as many as 539 couples from poor backgrounds.

The 51-year-old's phone rarely stops ringing. Since 2022, he has been running a blood bank called Maa Blood Centre, which has so far given 8,601 units of blood to 6,667 people.

"I was primarily in blood donation services. In 2020, during the first wave of Covid, I got a call from a child who said that some-



Mukesh Kumar Hissariya is known as the 'blood donation man of Patna'

one in his family had died because of Covid and no one was willing to take the body for cremation for fear of getting infected. I talked to some crematorium workers who agreed to arrange some people to take the body for cremation for a price," Hissariya said of how he started helping in cremations during the pandemic. With his organisation, Maa Vaishno Devi Seva Samit, he helped cremate 375 bodies in similar circumstances.

"I was there at Baans Ghat to ensure the body is cremated with proper rituals and with dignity. This is how it all began. On one end, I had been providing blood and platelets to ailing people, and I would also be at crematoriums to cremate unclaimed bodies," said Hissariya, who sells Ayurvedic medicine for a living.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck during a visit to Kaziranga National Park, in Assam's Golaghat district, on Saturday. PTI

■ The 43-year-old monarch had arrived in Guwahati on Friday for a three-day stay in the state. He is on an eight-day visit to India and will leave for Delhi on Sunday.

■ The king also attended a cultural programme, followed by a dinner hosted by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at the convention centre in Kaziranga.

UP: Protest in village over suicide of minor girl, 19-yr-old arrested

MANISH SAHU LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 4

TWO DAYS after a 17-year-old girl was found hanging in her home in a village in Lakhimpur Kheri district, residents on Saturday held a protest that turned violent, prompting police to arrest the 19-year-old "prime accused".

Police said that enraged villagers pelted stones at a shop belonging to the accused's family and set fire wooden furniture found on the roadside, demanding the immediate arrest of all accused and the demolition of the accused's house. The protest subsided after additional police forces were called in.

Protesters alleged that the girl, who belonged to the Hindu community, ended her life after the accused, hailing from a minority community, made explicit video clips of her public. According to police, the victim's family alleged that the accused had blackmailed the girl using the objectionable video and forced her into a sexual relationship.

Additional Superintendent Naipal Singh said, "We have arrested the prime accused and efforts are on to nab the others."

Kheri Circle Officer Aditya Kumar Gautam said as of now, no FIR has been filed in connection with the protest.

"The family has not yet shared the video they claim the accused made public. They have assured us that they possess the video, and we will obtain it through the appropriate legal process," a police officer said.

In her complaint to the police, the victim's mother stated that her elder daughter and she had gone out on November 2 and returned in the evening to find the door of their house opened and her younger daughter hanging from a ceiling fan.

The victim's mother further alleged that the accused had posted her daughter's explicit video on social media. On November 1, she and the victim confronted the accused and his family, but they were humiliated, abused and assaulted, the mother alleged.

A case has been registered against four individuals: the arrested youth, his two brothers, and their father on several IPC charges including rape and abetment of suicide, as well as under the Prevention of Children Sexual Offences Act, the Child Conversion Act and the IT Act.

Axe 'communal' videos: NBDSA to Times Now Navbharat

New Delhi: The News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA) has asked Hindi news channel Times Now Navbharat to remove from YouTube and its website a broadcast that gave "communal colour" to the issue of encroachment in Uttarakhanda's Haldwani. It has also asked another Hindi news channel, Aaj Tak, to avoid using terms that gave a "totally different" dimension to an "otherwise valid issue".

The orders by NBDSA, an industry body headed by former SC judge Justice A K Sikri, came on complaints filed by a Mumbai-based rights group.

In a November 2 order, the NBDSA said the channel's show, which was broadcast on January 2 and used the phrase "Zameen jihad", was a violation of its 'Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards' and guidelines on reportage relating to racial and religious harmony. The NBDSA asked the channel to remove the videos as well as "all hyperlinks, including access, which should be confirmed to NBDSA in writing within 7 days of the order".

In an order to Aaj Tak over its April 6 broadcast on illegal encroachments in Uttarakhanda, the NBDSA said it had "decided to advise the broadcaster not to use the term 'Mazraa Jihad' so lightly". ENS

Can't be at Ram temple inauguration? RSS plans to 'make whole country Ayodhya'

Offering from Ayodhya to be carried across country, distributed door to door to reach 5 lakh temples on D-day, culminating in live screening of inauguration

LALMANI VERMA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

NEARLY A thousand volunteers of different RSS affiliates from each of its 45 prant (regional) units across the country, will be distributing "akshat (holy offering)" door-to-door, urging them to attend celebrations at their nearest temple on January 22, to mark the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Leaders of the RSS, VHP and the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi

Teerth Kshetra Trust has started holding coordination meetings with affiliate organisations, including the BJP, in their respective prant units. Recently, such meetings were organised in Kashi, Awadh, Braj, Meerut prants (in Uttar Pradesh) and Uttarakhand prant.

Champat Rai, the international vice president of the VHP and the general secretary of the temple trust, held a meeting of the Kashi prant in Varanasi on October 29. Likewise, trust member Anil Mishra addressed



The prana pratishtha ceremony will take place on Jan 22

the meeting of Awadh prant in Lucknow earlier this week, while a senior VHP leader recently addressed the Uttarakhand prant meeting virtually.

"Since prominent temples are located across Uttarakhand, which is mostly hilly, we will require more than 1,000 workers to distribute akshat, organise the puja and also the live-streaming (of the consecration ceremony) at these temples on January 22," said an RSS functionary in Dehradun.

The offering of akshat — rice

grains mixed with turmeric and ghee — will be sent in brass urns to nearly 200 VHP and RSS volunteers at Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya on Sunday. They will then leave for their prant headquarters.

"Each prant will be given 5 kg akshat. They will take it to their respective prant headquarters for distribution. They will mix more rice and turmeric in it. Akshat will reach villages and wards across the country by December-end. It will be distributed door-to-door from January 1 to

January 15. Our target is to also have 5 crore households light diyas," said a member of the temple trust, adding that the plan was "to turn the whole country into Ayodhya, with such programmes at over 5 lakh temples".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be present at the prana pratishtha ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22, apart from over 4,000 sants and 2,500 "eminent citizens".

Later, volunteers of RSS affil-

iates from different prants will also visit the Ram temple. Nearly 25,000 volunteers of the Kashi region are slotted to visit Ayodhya on January 30.

Besides, BJP leaders of Ayodhya have been assigned the task of "sewa karya (service)". "We have started making a list of social organisations that would distribute free food starting January 1. The party's medical cell is finalising a list of doctors to provide medical assistance to devotees and volunteers," a BJP functionary in Ayodhya said.

ACROSS
THE AISLE

PCHIDAMBARAM

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CASTE AND reservation are back in the headlines. Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution enabled 'reservation' for SC, ST and socially and educationally backward classes. Reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) was added in 2019. As long as 'reservation' is the policy, it is logical that caste must be counted to have accurate data.

In the midst of a clamour for reservation, the goal of a casteless society is fading. BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr Fadnavis, was reported to have said, "I cannot change my caste". The statement was made in the context of his unenviable position in the middle of the agitation for reservation for the Maratha community. Prima facie, the statement is unexceptionable.

THEY TRANSCENDED
CASTE

On a closer examination, I wondered why the caste of Mr Fadnavis became an issue. Without taking names, I maintain that the caste of some leaders is irrelevant to most Indians whereas the caste of some leaders is central to their politics and how people generally regarded them. I cannot recall anyone asking about the caste in which they were born of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru or Vallabhbhai Patel. I do not recall having read anywhere about the caste of Subhas Chandra Bose or Rajendra Prasad. They were respected

Caste may not be annihilated, but caste-identity and caste-affinity can be weakened by sustained effort. If common citizens and social and political leaders make a determined effort, the impact of caste on the social and political life of India can certainly be diminished. If this is an idealist view of life, I am happy to be an idealist

"I cannot change my caste"

as great human beings. No one — not even their political rivals — attempted to cage or crib them in a caste; that would have been blasphemous.

Unfortunately, in India, every one is born in a caste except those lucky ones who are offspring of inter-caste or inter-faith couples. I am glad that many educated young people, especially in the cities, no longer identify with any caste. It is also encouraging to know that though the couple may belong to the same caste, they allow their children to marry any one of his or her choice irrespective of caste. More inter-caste marriages are taking place than is the general perception. All these bode well for a truly secular — and that word is used here in a non-religious sense — and egalitarian society.

ABSENT STRUCTURES

I am conscious that caste is deeply ingrained in the Indian psyche. One of the reasons why the caste structure has not weakened is because there are no alternative structures. We need to build common-to-all structures that will defend the rights of the people, come to their aid in times of distress, rejoice with them during their moments of happiness and assure them of 'equality before the law and the equal protection of the laws' (Article 14 of the Constitution). Look around us: are there any such structures? Absent such structures, the people, es-

pecially the poor and oppressed, seek refuge in a caste.

People-based and people-promoted organizations are few and far between in India. Gandhiji tried to build such organizations but after his death those organizations have weakened and faded away. The community organizations that he built have lost their vibrancy or their autonomy. Look at the challenges faced by Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Political parties are the biggest voluntary associations/bodies of the people.

Unfortunately, the people (members) bring their caste identities into the political parties. Many political leaders are obliged to be identified with the caste in which he or she was born. This is the dilemma of Mr Fadnavis. I am willing to believe that Mr Fadnavis is secular and does not identify with his caste. But caught in the middle of a raging controversy about reservation for Marathas, Mr Fadnavis has to extricate himself by pleading that "I cannot change my caste".

ESCAPE THE CAGE

There are ways for an individual to escape the caste trap. A first step is to drop caste names and surnames. Another step is to not associate with caste-specific organisations. Social and political leaders can lead the way. Political parties should not identify national icons with caste: remember, they are icons because they

worked for all the people and not for any particular caste group.

I concede that it is not possible to 'change' one's caste. It is enough if one does not patronise or promote any caste. An average person can refuse to enter his/her caste in any form or document. The person can choose to live in a building that has residents belonging to different castes. The person can choose a spouse from another caste and encourage his/her child to choose a spouse from any caste. At the workplace, the person may be without 'affection or ill will' — no affection to persons of one's own caste or ill will towards persons of another caste. We can also consciously avoid stereotyping people based on their caste.

These are simple steps. Some may think they are too simplistic and will not erase the tendency to identify with one's caste. That may indeed be true, but we have to make a beginning somewhere.

Babasaheb Ambedkar prepared but did not deliver a lecture titled *Annihilation of Caste*, but none knew better than he that caste cannot be annihilated so easily or so soon. Caste may not be annihilated, but caste-identity and caste-affinity can be weakened by sustained effort. If common citizens and social and political leaders make a determined effort, the impact of caste on the social and political life of India can certainly be diminished. If this is an idealist view of life, I am happy to be an idealist.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

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Gaza
will affect
Kashmir

IT WAS not my intention to go to Kashmir within days after Hamas perpetrated its barbaric attack in Israel. It just happened that way. I planned months ago to travel to Srinagar to witness firsthand what the abrogation of Article 370 had done to the Valley but could not, due to a sudden flu. I managed to cancel my air ticket, but not my hotel room. A refund was not possible, they said, but I could keep my booking in suspension till my next visit. This was easier said than done. This summer, Kashmir has enjoyed such a booming tourist season that hotels have been full. It was months before my hotel room became available.

So, I arrived in Srinagar almost exactly a week after Hamas sent its jihadis into Israel to massacre unarmed civilians and take hostage old people, women and babies. I went expecting to see the fraught atmosphere that I had seen once on a long ago visit, during the first *intifada* in Gaza. I remember that it inspired Kashmir's secessionist groups to believe that it was time to intensify what they called their "freedom movement". On the walls of the old city, slogans in big black letters appeared that said, "Indian Dogs Go Home". And in darkened rooms in this part of Srinagar, I interviewed masked militants armed with automatic weapons.

It surprised me this time to find that not only were there no signs of protest anywhere, but I was able to drive through the old city after dark without fearing encounters with masked terrorists. Narrow streets once patrolled by armed men were filled with shoppers wandering into brightly lit shops. Everyone I talked to in Srinagar agreed that the "security situation" has improved hugely in the past couple of years. This is not to say that the massive paramilitary presence in the city has lessened, but when I asked my young taxi driver, Muzaffar, what he felt about this, he said, "They are here to keep us safe." This is something I never heard in the old days before Article 370, and the special privileges it guaranteed, was rescinded by Parliament on August 5, 2019.

On my wanderings in Srinagar, I asked everyone I met if they were angry about the revocation of Article 370 and did not meet anyone who said that it mattered to them. The politicians I talked to said the special privileges that it allowed had been whittled away long before it was abrogated, so nobody mourns its loss. What people do mourn, though, is the suspension of their political rights and the reduction of the state of Jammu & Kashmir to a union territory governed by Delhi. Whatever reason there was for this to happen, it is imperative that statehood be restored as soon as possible.

What is also important is for elections to happen so that ordinary Kashmiris do not once more feel that they will forever be denied basic democratic rights. The longer democracy remains in suspension, the more difficult it will become to control our only Muslim-majority state. What I picked up on this brief trip was that there is a semblance of peace and prosperity in the Valley, but beneath the calm surface there are tensions. I have little doubt that what is happening in Gaza will cause these tensions to bubble over and little doubt that only elected political leaders will be able to control the situation. Most Indian Muslims are already speaking out loudly and clearly against Israel's indiscriminate bombing of Gaza and if Kashmiris are not, it must be because they dare not.

The media is totally unfree and cannot reflect the vox populi, but how long before there is an explosion? The first political story I did in Kashmir was the 'coronation' of Farooq Abdullah in August 1981, when at a massive rally in Srinagar's Iqbal Park, Sheikh Abdullah told his son that he was placing on his head a "crown of thorns". Ten years later, I had witnessed political developments in Kashmir so closely that I wrote a book on the subject. So, when I say that the calm that I detected on this visit is fragile, I know what I am talking about.

It has long been my view that most of the political turmoil in the Kashmir Valley has been caused, not by Pakistan, but by mistakes made by myopic political leaders in Delhi. I very much fear that the current belief that Kashmiris can continue to be denied their democratic rights is not just shortsighted, but dangerous. With democracy in suspension, the meddling by bureaucrats who believe profoundly in their own infallibility has continued and it is on their advice that the Modi government seems to be making policy. This is not just worrying, but against our national interest.

During my visit to Srinagar this time, I heard rumours that Imams had been warned not to talk about the Middle East in their Friday sermons. They do not need to. As we have seen among Muslim communities in the rest of India, there is already huge sympathy for the Palestinian cause and for the people of Gaza. Most Indian Muslims seem to see Israel as a 'colonial power' which is planning 'genocide' in the Gaza strip. The brutalities of Hamas they dismiss as Israeli propaganda. It is hard to believe that Kashmiri Muslims will remain unaffected for long.

inside
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



PRE-POLL PLOTTING

THE BJP is conscious that much brainstorming is needed to work out the strategy for the 2024 elections, especially in light of fresh challenges thrown up by the Opposition in the last six months. The demand for an all-India caste census, the agitation in Maharashtra to include Marathas as OBCs (which could lead to a domino effect among other landowning cultivator castes like Jats, Patels and Kapus) and the Opposition's lavish promises of freebies (*revdi* culture) need to be handled carefully. The Hindutva card, strengthened by the Israel-Palestine conflict, and the new Ram Mandir may not be enough to counter these movements.

As the general elections approach, the government is interacting more frequently with the RSS. This month, party president J P Nadda, Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh met the top five RSS functionaries, other than Mohan Bhagwat. Another meeting was organised in Delhi between ministers holding important economic portfolios and those in charge of RSS-affiliate organisations like the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and Bharatiya Kisan Sangh.

INDIA'S FLAW

Leading poll strategist Prashant Kishor has astutely pinpointed a flaw in the I.N.D.I.A. bloc's strategy for 2024. Rahul Gandhi is focusing on capturing the 30 per cent (plus) vote share Narendra Modi normally wins, rather than concentrating on the more than equal number of votes that Modi did not get in the 2014 and 2019 polls.

In fact, the index of Opposition unity for consolidating the anti-Modi vote has decreased after I.N.D.I.A.'s formation. In the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, Opposition divisions are more pronounced. In UP, Akhilesh Yadav has hit out at the Congress for humiliating his party and completely ignoring the SP's claims. In retaliation, Yadav announced unilaterally that the SP would fight 65 of 80 parliamentary seats in the state. The Left parties, used to playing second fiddle to the Congress, are contesting the Assembly elections on their own. Also ominous is the formation of two new Opposition combinations. Mayawati's BSP has tied up with the Gondwana Gantantra Party in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, while Chandrashekhar Azad's Azad Samaj Party has aligned with Hanuman Beniwal's RLP, which banks on Jat and farmer votes, in Rajasthan.

FIREFIGHTING ALONE

On Monday, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde came to Yavatmal in Vidarbha to preside over the 'government at your doorstep' programme. To his shock, he discovered that neither of his two deputies had shown up. Ajit Pawar said he was down with dengue, while Devendra Fadnavis was campaigning in Chhattisgarh. Shinde suspected that his unreliable allies, BJP and NCP (Ajit), were trying to foist the entire burden of resolving the mounting crisis in the state over reservations for Marathas on him. The state is a tinderbox that could explode any moment, particularly with unknown activist Manoj Jarange Patil announcing a fast unto death. Shinde, however, proved his detractors wrong by taking on the challenge singlehandedly and averting an imminent showdown. Three of Shinde's Maratha MLAs, who are in any case under notice for disqualification, offered to resign for the Maratha cause and more would have followed suit. To appease Jarange Patil, Shinde called an all-party meeting on the reservation issue. He pointedly did not invite Uddhav Thackeray, but such is the emotive appeal of the cause that Thackeray's two lieutenants, Ambadas Danve and Anil Parab, could not afford to stay away from the meet because it would have sent the wrong signal. Jarange Patil has suspended his agitation temporarily.

GANDHI'S POLL STAR

Congress poll strategist Sunil Kanugolu is riding high and has been given credit for the party's recent successful campaigns — from Bharat Jodo campaign to Karnataka Assembly elections. Kanugolu seems to be the current Rahul Gandhi favourite and the Congress leader's aides.

Randeep Surjewala and KC Venugopal, find their noses slightly out of joint. Kanugolu, on the strength of his poll surveys, often gets to decide the Congress candidate for a particular constituency. A professional who hails from Karnataka, Kanugolu has worked for many political parties. He was the survey in charge of Kishor's Citizens for Accountable Governance in the 2014 elections. Kanugolu has worked for both the DMK and AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, and was associated with Amit Shah in the Association of Billion Minds, which handled many successful BJP campaigns. He has even advised the Akalis.

In the present five-state Assembly polls, Kanugolu is focusing largely on Telangana. A win for the Congress from this state would be a feather in his cap, since the leaderless state Congress was trailing in third place, behind the BJP, till two years ago. In the Karnataka campaign, Kanugolu coined catchy slogans against former BJP CM Basavaraj Bommai, dubbing him and his government as "Pay CM" and "40 per cent *sarkar*" respectively. In the 2024 parliamentary polls, he has reportedly suggested that the theme slogan should be "Go Modi Go".

history
HEADLINE
CHAKSHUROY

INDIA, AUSTRALIA and South Africa are currently the top three teams in the cricket World Cup. All three are former British colonies with a rich cricketing history and a spirited following. And wherever there are people and passions involved, politics and policy follow close behind. The political part of it is opaque, but when it translates into law making, it highlights the role of sports in shaping society.

Let's start with Australia, where in the April of 2013, its national cricket team desperately sought a spinner. Earlier that year, they had suffered a 4-0 defeat while touring India. Next up for the Baggy Greens was the Ashes. The feeling in the Australian Cricket Board was that a capable spinner would strengthen the team for the matchup in England.

The board had the perfect candidate, Fawad Ahmed, a 30-year-old refugee from Pakistan. Fawad had made an impression while playing in Australia during the pendency of his asylum case. Former batsman Damien Martyn (instrumental in the Australians winning the Test series in India in 2004) had declared Fawad the best spinner in Australia since Shane Warne. There was just one small problem. Fawad could not play an international match for Australia.

According to the International Cricket Council, for a player to represent a country, the individual had to be either born there, resided there for a specified number of days or held the country's passport. Fawad was born in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan, was falling short of the residency requirements, and, under Australian law, was yet to be eligible for a passport. And since Cricket Australia couldn't do anything about the first two criteria, they set their sights on getting Fawad an Australian passport before the Ashes.

For the spinner to get the passport, it required a change in the citizenship law. The Australian cricket administration lobbied intensely with the government and convinced it to introduce the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Special Residence Requirements) Bill 2013 in Parliament. This Bill empowered the immigration minister to ease the requirements for an individual to become an Australian citizen.

The minister, in his speech on the Bill, specified that an "international cricket competition" was one of the activities for which the government could ease citizenship requirements, and Cricket Australia could support such an application. The proposal received support across the political spectrum. Participating in the debate, MPs observed that "Representation in

Cricket & policies: When
countries got bowled over

South Africa's Clive Rice celebrates a wicket at Eden Gardens, 1991. File

Australian sporting teams can be limited if citizenship requirements are not met before selection processes occur" and that "This can result in outcomes inconsistent with Australia's national interest". It took 21 days for the Bill to become law, and in another two weeks, Fawad got his passport, making him eligible to play for Australia.

Cricket has also been the focus of debate in the Indian legislature. Legislators were using cricketing metaphors as early as 1901, and by 1927, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was discussing issues like the Australian government imposing anti-dumping duty on Indian cricket balls. Post-Independence, Parliament questioned the government on the cricket team's losses and celebrated its victories. MPs also raised matters like the non-inclusion of cricketers (Bishen Singh Bedi and Sourav Ganguly) in the playing eleven, betting in cricket, and the safety of cricketers after reversals faced by the team.

MPs also formed cricket teams and organised friendly matches against each other or with the press. Parliamentarians like Madhu Danavate could not only dive into the nuances of a complex piece of legislation but also exhibit sporting prowess on the cricketing field. One of the earliest matches which saw the participation of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs occurred in 1953. In this game, the Prime Minister's XI played against the Vice-President XI to raise money for flood victims in different parts of the country. After the match, bats and scorebooks were auctioned. Prime Minister Nehru also participated in the game, and part of the auction was a signed bat that a visiting West Indian team had gifted him a few years ago.

The popularity of cricket led to professional cricketers entering the halls of Parliament. A light-hearted fallout of this

was that the Indian MPs defeated their British counterparts in a friendly outing in 2005.

Parliament has also debated and passed laws on sports. For example, in 2008, Parliament passed a law which required private broadcasters to share signals for national sporting events with Prasar Bharti. The idea was to ensure that a cricket-crazy nation could watch the matches free of cost on Doordarshan.

A critical discussion in our Parliament on sports was on the Prevention of Apartheid in Sports Bill, 1988. India was one of the first countries to cut sporting ties with South Africa because of its apartheid policies. The purpose of this Bill was to give more teeth to the sporting isolation of South Africa. Participating in the debate on this Bill, MPs decried the apartheid policies of the government in Pretoria and urged the government to make the provisions of the Bill even more stringent.

And when the dismantling of race discrimination policies started in South Africa, in 1991, India became the first country to welcome the multi-racial South African team to play in India. A year later, the Indian cricket team led by Mohammad Azharuddin toured South Africa, becoming the first international team to play in the country since 1970.

The Indian team met with Nelson Mandela, a believer in the power of sports. A few years later, Mandela said, "(Sports) has the power to unite people in a way that little else does... It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination."

The writer looks at issues through a legislative lens and works at PRS Legislative Research

She
SAID

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SOMETIMES WE mistakenly assume that traditions are static. In reality, they survive because of their fluid and dynamic nature, coursing ahead of our consciousness.

This has become very apparent to me as a Durga Puja organiser for my housing society over the last nine years. Though primarily seen as an acknowledgment of women empowerment, Puja rituals are deeply rooted in patriarchy. But if our society's Puja is an indication, then it is the ordinary women who have upturned them — not because they are professedly liberal or

The ritual of change

had a light-bomb moment, but because it came naturally to them.

It all began in 2015, when I lost my husband and was dealing with the trauma of the numbing suddenness of death. A group of women residents came to me and through many sessions of healing conversations, co-opted me into their Puja committee, saying they needed an extra hand. Convention meant abstention from Puja in a year of mourning. Besides, I was hardly in the right mindset for a celebration.

But the women, very generously, found a reasonable logic to divert my mind and helped me socialise again. Collectively, they appealed to my sense of volunteerism, "The children need help with their performances, we need help with the dé-

cor, the bhog kitchen..." They even bought a new sari and had me open the *dhunuchi* dance with them. I remember Purnima Aunty, 75, who had never performed on stage, reciting a poem thunderously with me, just to restore my self-confidence and nudge me to a life that had to be lived regardless. She never performed after that.

In 2015, a neighbourhood priest, a bank employee who had no scholarly ambitions, told me that all women were connected to the sacred feminine and immediately assigned me the responsibility of assembling the deity's main *bhog* platter.

Cut to 2022. This was the first time the same women roped me into playing the *sin-door khela* (the ritual of smearing vermilion on each other's foreheads) before the

immersion of the goddess on Vijay Dashami. Truth be told, for all my liberalism and independent spirit, I had not been able to overcome my self-consciousness regarding this ritual. I had been tentative, for fear of being judged wrongly. I would make myself scarce during this joyful ceremony.

But last year, the same group of women decided that enough was enough and put that red dot on my forehead. One of them, a meditation counsellor, made it seem effortless. "You are just concentrating your cosmic energy with that dot, so focus on it," she said. Needless to say, this year, I had no issue with vermilion dribbling down to my cheeks like Holi colours. Sometimes you need others to power your self-belief. The Navami or the ninth day Puja has

a havan ritual, traditionally performed by male members of the Puja committee. Considering that the women did all the work for the Puja but never conducted a ceremony, the senior-most founder changed the rule and asked them to do the *havan* instead. An octogenarian and a former professor, he told the priest, "The scriptures talk about souls, not gender."

Meanwhile, unknown to us, Kunti, the help we hire every year to wash our *bhog* utensils, filmed us, made a reel with music and posted it on Instagram. Turns out she has 10,000 followers — all from Malda district in Bengal, where she comes from. She became our *kathakar* (storyteller) of change and sent a message to a dot that was her village.

12 ECONOMY

NET INTEREST INCOME GREW BY 12.27% TO ₹39,500 CRORE

SBI posts 8.03% rise in Q2 profit on net interest income boost

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

STATE BANK of India, the country's biggest lender, on Saturday reported an 8.03 per cent jump in its profit after tax (PAT) at Rs 14,330 crore in the quarter ended September compared to Rs 13,265 crore in the year-ago period even as net interest margin declined.

However, net profit is down by 15 per cent from Rs 16,884 crore in the June quarter of FY2024.

Its net interest income (NII) grew by 12.27 per cent to Rs 39,500 crore compared to Rs 35,183 crore. The rise in NII was on the back of improvement on yields and continuing credit off take. Domestic net interest margin (NIM) declined by 12 basis points (bps) to 3.43 per cent due to an increase in cost of deposits during the quarter.

Gross NPA stood at 2.55 per cent compared to 3.52 per cent, and net NPA stood at 0.64 per cent against 0.8 per cent.

The bank's domestic advances grew at 13.21 per cent and deposits at 11.80 per cent.

SBI chairman Dinesh Khara said he expects a credit growth of 13-14 per cent for the bank in the current fiscal.

"Normally, this is going to be a busy season and so we will see



The bank's domestic advances grew at 13.21% and deposits at 11.80%. File

an uptick in credit growth. We are seeing growth in all the sectors, right from retail to SME and to agriculture," he said.

In the September quarter, the lender's corporate book grew by 6.62 per cent. Khara said he expects corporates to start availing credit limit soon, which will help the bank in improving its growth in corporate loan book.

SBI's corporate lending pipeline stands at Rs 4.77 lakh crore, of which Rs 1.5 lakh crore is awaiting disbursement and the remaining is the amount of proposals that are under consideration for sanction.

Khara said the outlook on the domestic activities is brightening on account of sustained buoyancy in services, consumer

and wages optimism, public spending on infrastructure and the underlying strength of the financial sector's balance sheet, even as the corporations deleverage and post strong bottom lines.

"Consumer confidence has improved with uptick in most of the macro-economic conditions. The growth is expected to get momentum through the rest of the year, especially from the impetus on festival spending," he said.

Khara said the bank is cautious in terms of the evolving global situations. He believes that the geo-political tensions might not have much impact on India as the domestic demand is quite robust.

No concerns over unsecured loans, says SBI chairman

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

STATE BANK of India Chairman Dinesh Khara on Saturday said there are no concerns over the bank's unsecured loan portfolio and the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) in the segment is at just 0.69 per cent.

The comment from SBI comes even as Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das, last month, raised concerns over very high growth in certain components of personal loans.

"For us, it (unsecured loans) is not a concern at all. I have said it in the past and I still maintain my stance that our unsecured book is better than secured loans," Khara said when asked about the outlook on unsecured loans.

He said the bank's unsecured loan book is about Rs 3.2 lakh crore, with gross NPA only at 0.69 per cent. Close to 86 per cent of the bank's unsecured loans is given to those who are maintaining a salary account with it and they are all from the government sector. If



SBI's Dinesh Khara. File

armed forces, para military and public sector entities are included, then the number goes up to 94 per cent, he said.

Just about 6 per cent of the unsecured loans are offered to well-rated corporates, where salaries are very high.

"I think as far as unsecured (loan) apprehensions are concerned in the minds of many, there is nothing," he said.

Many analysts have said that there are risks of increase in delinquencies in the unsecured retail loans, especially in below Rs 50,000 category of loans.

Khara clarified that SBI doesn't have any unsecured loans below Rs 50,000.

'We are starting talks with India to find a framework to go for CEPA or FTA'

ASINDIA and Chile work towards building a fresh framework for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) or Free Trade Agreement, there will be inclusion of both goods as well as services and a focus on issues like energy, facilitation of commerce, technology, innovation and environment, CLAUDIA SANHUEZA, Under-Secretary for International Economic Relations for Chile said.

In an interview with SOUMYARENDRA BARIK and ANCHAL MAGAZINE, Sanhueza said they would like to advance the trade pact talks given that elections are approaching in India, with "infinite possibilities for collaboration" between the two nations on several areas including lithium mining and exploration of mineral reserves. Excerpts:

You met Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. What were the key areas of discussion?

We met him... we had this meeting to explore the possibility of expanding and increasing our trade relation. We have a bilateral trade agreement signed in 2006. That hasn't seen an expansion. But there is always the case and the preamble of this trade agreement says that the parties were looking for ways to continue the conversation towards a CEPA or a free trade agreement. So, this is something which is on the table for a long time and we are very interested in doing something like that with India.

Well, India has become and is becoming a relevant player in the world. It is the biggest country and the expectation is that its economy will grow at a faster rate than everyone else. And we have a lot of complementarities and similarities as well in the challenges we have.

For example, with respect to the energy use, with respect to what India needs for producing electric cars, we have lithium, for example, the batteries. And also the pharmaceutical industry of India and Chile are very important as well. So, we met him, it was a very good meeting. And we are starting the conversations to find a framework to go for CEPA or FTA.

Is there a timeline in mind for the CEPA or the FTA?

It will depend on the framework really, but the sooner the better. We know you have elections here next year. So it will be good to advance the conversation a lot before that. But it will depend actually on the framework. We



want to do something relevant as well for India and for Chile as well. We know India, you had this conversation here with Latin American countries last August and we know there is a suggestion of being present in Latin America. So that is a win-win relationship but it will depend on the list of issues we are talking about.

On energy transition, which is an area where Chile can really help India with, specifically on lithium, etc. What's the nature of conversation with India?

I think India is similar to Chile in the sense that we not only need lithium, but need to add value to that industry. I mean to go downstream and produce batteries at the end... So, that is something that is interesting for India as well to have technology, to add value to that industry. At the same time, it has the possibility of exploring and mining lithium.

India is interested in exploring mining?

I think so they are. They are sending various people to see, experience and I think they are interested in doing so. And there are other spaces, more in the agricultural sector, for example, in the wine sector... so that's something we need to explore to identify why this benefits.

We think the benefits, I mean Chile is a small country, we don't have the size even of the smallest

state in India but we are very important in the sense that we are integrated to the global value chain in a very intense way. We also usually are seen as a door for the rest of Latin America. It's a country that is very wholesome, has certainties and experience... we have 33 trade agreements with 65 economies and over. So you can export from Chile to the rest of the world. And those are the kind of benefits like indirect benefits of a trade relationship.

When you talk about exploration, last time, Chile had shown interest in exploring the reserves in Jammu & Kashmir for lithium reserves. Has there been any progress on it?

We have a working group that has a conversation. It's more general on critical minerals. But they have this working group part, and they are exploring the conversation and see what are the ways to collaborate. And maybe move towards a memorandum of understanding or something like that.

Does it include only people from Chile, or does it also include people from India?

Yes. Both parties.

The working group is discussing how there could be a collaboration between India and Chile. Has there been a big movement?

Yes. I think the final collaboration will depend on the parties. If we are committed to collaborate, we will. Then there are infinite possibilities of collaboration.

There's a convention in Chile, with the President saying that there was a plan to nationalise the lithium reserves in Chile.

The national lithium strategy that he presented... before that, lithium is a national good. It has been nationalised since 1979. So it is not about nationalising lithium because it's already a national mineral. But it's about how we extract, explore and produce. And, in that sense, the National Strategy has a lot of components. We are proposing a public-private collaboration with the private sector from all over the world.

It's open to the rest of the world. It has also created a national estate company and it has also created the research institute... on lithium and salars. So those are the main components of doing this in a sustainable way.

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

DGCA proposes less work, more rest for pilots: Draft norms

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

INDIA'S AIR safety watchdog proposes reduced night work hours and more rest for pilots, among measures to address rising complaints of pilot fatigue, according to draft regulations seen by Reuters on Saturday.

The proposal from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) come more than two months after it decided to conduct a review of pilot fatigue data collected during spot checks and surveillance of airlines.

The review was launched after an IndiGo pilot collapsed and died in August before his flight.

Changes would include cut-

ting the maximum flight duty period to 10 hours from 13 hours for pilots operating at night, and increasing the minimum weekly rest period to 48 hours from 36 hours. The directorate did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the draft.

Such rule changes are usually circulated for comments from airlines, pilots and other stakeholders before being finalised.

While pilot fatigue is a global problem, India is at the heart of the matter as the world's fastest-growing aviation market, with hundreds of planes on order by IndiGo and Tata group-owned Air India. IndiGo, India's biggest airline, has said the pilot who died had a 27-hour break before duty and was in good health.

Samsung leads smartphone shipments in Sep quarter

Smart devices maker Samsung continued to lead the smartphone market in the country for the fourth consecutive quarter, as per Counterpoint report



"Aggressive push in offline through better incentives and price parity across channels, focus on the fastest growing premium segment and innovation are some of the strategies helping Samsung keep ahead of the competition," Counterpoint Research, research analyst, Shubham Singh said.

JULY-SEPTEMBER MARKET SHARE

17.2% Samsung

16.6% Xiaomi

2.5 million units: Apple

53% Share of 5G smartphone shipments

44% Growth in ultra-premium segment

Increasing demand for foldables in the ultra-premium segment due to their different form factor

The premium segment and 5G were the two focus areas and saw multiple launches

OnePlus was the top brand in the affordable premium segment

Source: Counterpoint/PTI

BRIEFLY

Vedanta posts net loss at ₹1,783 cr in Q2

New Delhi: Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Ltd on Saturday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 1,783 crore in the second quarter ended September 2023, citing an one-time exceptional item in its balance sheet as a result of adoption of new tax rate. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,808 crore in the year-ago period, Vedanta Ltd said in a BSE filing. Vedanta Executive Director Arun Misra told PTI over phone that net loss is on account of one time write down that the company has taken and that is the correction the mining conglomerate has taken so that in the future the tax burden is lesser. PTI

Bank of India Q2 net profit jumps 52%

New Delhi: Bank of India on Saturday reported a 52 per cent jump in the net profit at Rs 1,458 crore in the September 2023 quarter. The bank had reported a post tax profit of Rs 960 crore in the year-ago period, Bank of India said in a release. Its core net interest income climbed 13 per cent to Rs 5,740 crore. PTI

Musk's xAI set to launch first AI model to select group

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

ELON MUSK'S artificial intelligence startup xAI will release its first AI model to a select group on Saturday, the billionaire and Tesla CEO said on Friday.

This comes nearly a year after OpenAI's ChatGPT caught the

imagination of businesses and users around the world, spurring a surge in adoption of generative AI technology. Musk co-founded OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, in 2015 but stepped down from the company's board in 2018.

"In some important respects, it (xAI's new model) is the best that currently exists," he posted

on his X social media platform.

"As soon as it's out of early beta, xAI's Grok system will be available to all X Premium+ subscribers," Musk posted.

X rolled out two new subscription plans last week, a \$16 per month Premium+ tier for users willing to pay for an ad-free experience and a basic tier priced at \$3 per month.

Bank of Baroda terminates digital official after mobile app deficiencies

REUTERS
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 4

STATE-RUN Bank of Baroda said on Saturday it terminated the employment of its chief digital officer as part of a larger action against its employees after the central bank found deficiencies in its mobile app.

"We have taken action on a large set of people on the field," managing director and chief executive officer Debadatta Chand told reporters. He did not specify the nature of the action.

"As far as the (former) CDO (Chief Digital Officer, Akhil Handa) is concerned, it is a cessation of service induced by the bank and that is a termination."

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last month said Bank of Baroda would need to correct



Bank of Baroda is engaged with the RBI on multiple counts in connection with issues linked to the mobile app. File

certain deficiencies before it can be allowed to onboard new customers to its 'bob World' mobile app. The RBI did not say what those issues were.

Chand, however, said that RBI's concerns were largely related to the customer onboarding process via the app and that

there were gaps in adequacies in documents along with wrong data being fed.

Earlier this week, Bank of Baroda informed exchanges about Handa's cessation of employment. Handa was closely associated with building 'bob World'

BYJU's core business operational loss narrows to ₹2,253 crore in FY2021-2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

EDTECH FIRM Think and Learn Private Ltd, which operates under the brand name of BYJU'S, on Saturday reported narrowing of operational losses in core business to Rs 2,253 crore for the 2021-22 fiscal.

The EBITDA, or the operational loss in core business, was down from Rs 2,406 crore in the year-ago period, the company said. The core business of the company comprises its K12 offering, application and tuition centres.

BYJU'S said its core business revenue grew 2.3 times to Rs 3,569 crore in FY22 from Rs

1,552 crore in the previous year.

"The core business has demonstrated good growth, underlining the potential of edtech in India, the fastest-growing major economy. I am also humbled by the lessons learnt in the post-pandemic world of readjustments," BYJU'S founder and group CEO

Byju Raveendran said in a statement.

"BYJU'S will continue on the path of sustainable and profitable growth in the coming years," he said.

The financial numbers released by the company excludes the financial performance of all acquisitions made by the company.

70-hour work week violates labour laws, compliance: TeamLease VP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

A 70-hour work week could raise compliance issues as it violates labour laws, a senior official of staffing company TeamLease said on Friday.

"If somebody is spending 70 hours (in office), they are going beyond 9 hours. There is a fundamental disconnect, when you are an employee labour law allows you to work 9 hours," Vice President and Business Head for TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship Dhriti Prasanna Mahanta said.

Former Infosys CEO N R Narayana Murthy had recently advocated for a 70-hour work week, drawing reactions from across the spectrum.

The cost of employment, if a 70-hour work week is made possible, will also increase, and in a

lot of places you are not allowed to pay overtime, he said.

He pointed that this works for entrepreneurs and self-motivated individuals but cannot be accepted due to labour law compliance norms in place.

Speaking to PTI on hiring trends, Mahanta said around 65 per cent of the demand is coming from non-tech sectors for job roles in AI, machine learning and blockchain, especially from sectors like telecom, aviation, retail commerce, fintech, and electronics. The reason for the increase in the requirement of these profiles is primarily due to investment from both government and the private sector and also the change in customers' buying behaviours post-Covid, TeamLease noted.

"Indian companies have made a beeline to adopt AI tools like fish takes to the water, and the demand for talent familiar with AI is going to come from sectors

ranging from finance, healthcare, transportation, logistics, etc. resulting in a 51 per cent skill gap for AI talent, which needs to be addressed via work-based learning programs like apprenticeships," Mahanta said.

The IT profiles requirement in non-tech sectors will have a strong multiplier impact in FY-24 and virtual global mobility will also add to the growth, Mahanta added.

While cloud engineer jobs have seen 25 per cent upward trends, AI, blockchain and ML-certified professionals are seeing 35 pc upward trends in their hiring, whereas for network and computer systems administrator, there is a 10 per cent uptick.

For network security engineers, the company predicts 20 per cent upward trends as per approximations that were derived from various reports, and primary and secondary research.

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI
Sector 14, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078
Website: <https://nationallawuniversitydelhi.in>
Helpdesk contact No. 011-40787555, Email: aliettsupport@nludelhi.ac.in

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT - 2024-25
The University invites online applications for admission to **B.A.LL.B.(Hons.), LL.M. and Ph.D. Programmes** for the Academic Year 2024-25 latest by Monday, November 13, 2023. All India Law Entrance Test will be conducted on Sunday, December 10, 2023.
For category wise reservation, seat matrix, Test City and other details relating to Online Application Forms, Admit Cards, Eligibility Criteria, Pattern of Test etc., please visit <https://nationallawuniversitydelhi.in>
PROF. (DR.) RUHI PAUL
REGISTRAR

PUNJAB REMOTE SENSING CENTRE
(A Government of Punjab Enterprise)
PAU Campus, Ludhiana-141004, www.prsc.gov.in
(Advertisement No. 11/2023, Dated 05.11.2023)

Applications are invited for the Posts of **Mobile App Developer; Java Web Application Developer; Junior Research Fellow (Web Developer); Junior Research Fellow (Mobile Application) and Lab Executive on Contractual Basis** for a period of Six Months likely to be extended based on candidate's performance review and Project Scheme/Centre's requirements. For further details visit website www.prsc.gov.in.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

Prime Ministers Museum and Library
cordially invites you to a Talk
on
Satire and the Transformation of a Colonial Text and Context
by
Dr. Maryam Sikander
Junior Fellow, PMML
Monday, 06 November 2023 at 3:00pm
Venue:
Seminar Room, Library Building
Prime Ministers Museum and Library
All are Welcome.
Those wishing to have their names added to the email list may please email us at: ccs2nmml@gmail.com
CBC-09142/12/0044/2324

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-mail ID: cebbuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in, cebbuildings@rediffmail.com, Tel. (0674)- 2391523

File No. B-I-Tourism-26/2023 Lr. No. 46007 Dt. 1st Oct. 2023
Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 39/2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer, Buildings, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works (1) "Renovation, Restoration & Beautification of Panchalingeswar Temple, Oupada in Balasore District" amounting to Rs.12,95,13,000/- (Approximate), (2) Development of Public Utility and Social Infrastructure of Maa Hingula Temple Complex at Gopal Prasad, Talcher, Odisha, amounting to Rs.12,26,23,000/- (Approximate) as detailed below.

2. Nature of work :- Building work
3. No. of work :- 02 Nos.
4. Bid Cost. :- Rs. 10,000/- (Each)
5. Class of Contractor :- 'A' / Special Class
6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website :- From dt. 06.11.2023 to 17.00 Hours of dt. 20.11.2023
7. Date of Opening of Bids :- Dt. 21.11.2023 at 11:30 AM.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Buildings,
Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34117/11/0081/2324

EXPRESS Careers

DRAVIDIAN UNIVERSITY
Srinivasavanam, Kuppam-517 426

Limited Recruitment Notification for SC/ST Backlog Vacancies
(Notification No.1/DU/ Backlog-SC&ST/2023, Dt.30.10.2023)

Online applications in the prescribed format are invited for the following Associate Professors positions for the following Departments on direct recruitment basis: **Commerce & Management - SC - 01; History, Archaeology & Culture - ST - 01.** The detailed information of the above posts relating to qualification, experience, pay scales, reservation, link for submission of filling online application etc., can be obtained from the University website www.dravidianuniversity.ac.in or <https://recruitments.universities.ap.gov.in>

The last date for submission of online application is **20.11.2023 (by 5.00 pm. IST)**. The last date for the submission of hardcopy of application along with the self-attested relevant documents is **27.11.2023 (by 5.00 pm. IST)**.

NOTE : 1. The above notification is issued in consonance with the directions given by a Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh in W.A. No.214, 251; 264-267; 268; 272; 276; 277; 279; 282; 413 and 452 of 2021, dated: 11.07.2023 vide common order and subject to result of SLPs pending adjudication by Hon'ble Supreme Court against the said common orders. 2. The University reserves the right to fill or not to fill any of the post(s) without giving any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

"IMPORTANT"

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GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI: TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION
5/9 UNDER HILL ROAD, DELHI-110054
PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject :- Implementation of Action under Stage – III ('Severe' air quality of revised GRAP in Delhi NCR steps to be taken

The Sub-Committee for operationalisation of the revised GRAP has reviewed the air quality scenario as well as the forecasts for meteorological conditions and Air Quality Index in Delhi. The Sub-Committee vide order No.120017/27/GRAP/2021/CAQM dated 02.11.2023 has invoked all the actions as envisaged under Stage – III of the GRAP – 'Severe' Air Quality (Delhi AQI ranging between 401 -450), with immediate effect in the NCR, with immediate effect, in addition to all the actions under **Stage – I and Stage – II** of the GRAP.

As per directions as provided under **Stage – III** of the revised GRAP and under Section 115 of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, it is hereby ordered that there shall be restrictions to ply BS-III, petrol and BS-IV, diesel LMVs (4 Wheelers) in NCT of Delhi, from 02-11-2023 till further orders with the exception to vehicles deployed in Emergency Services, Police vehicles & Govt. vehicles used for Enforcement duty. In case of violation, vehicle will be prosecuted under Section 194(1) of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, which provides a fine of **Rs.20,000/-**.

Further, the petrol vehicle which are older than 15 yrs old and diesel vehicle more than 10 years old are not permitted on roads of Delhi as per NGT order in Vardhaman Kaushik Vs UOI further affirmed by Supreme Court in MC Mehta Vs UOI. Such vehicle will be seized and handed over to RVSF as per RVSF rules 2021.

General Public is hereby advised to use public Transport including Metro and adopt car pooling for commuting as a part of their effort to mitigate air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

Spl. Commissioner (Transport)
DIP-SHABDARTH-CLASSIFIED-0216-23-24

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains in addition to normal regular 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	Weekly	Thursday, Sunday 23.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
03256	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Patna Jn	17:20	Weekly	Friday, Monday 24.11.2023 to 11.12.2023
02391	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Weekly	Saturday 25.11.2023 to 09.12.2023
02392	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Patna Jn	17:20	Weekly	Sunday 26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
03635	Gaya Jn	14:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Weekly	Mon, Wed, Fri 20.11.2023 to 08.12.2023
03636	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:00	Gaya Jn	20:45	Weekly	Tue, Thu, Sat 21.11.2023 to 09.12.2023
05557	Jaynagar	06:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Weekly	Tuesday 21.11.2023 to 05.12.2023
05558	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:30	Jaynagar	06:30	Weekly	Wednesday 22.11.2023 to 06.12.2023
04678	Firozpur Cantt Jn	13:25	Patna Jn	17:00	Weekly	Wednesday upto 29.11.2023
04677	Patna Jn	18:45	Firozpur Cantt Jn	22:40	Weekly	Thursday upto 30.11.2023
04012	New Delhi	19:20	Darbhanga Jn	16:45	Weekly	Tue, Friday 07.11.2023 to 28.11.2023
04011	Darbhanga Jn	18:00	New Delhi	16:40	Weekly	Wednesday Saturday 08.11.2023 to 29.11.2023
04518	Chandigarh	23:15	Gorakhpur	18:20	Weekly	Thursday upto 30.11.2023
04517	Gorakhpur	22:05	Chandigarh	14:10	Weekly	Friday upto 01.12.2023
04530	Bhatinda Jn	20:55	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Weekly	Sunday, Wednesday 05.11.2023 to 29.11.2023
04529	Varanasi Jn	20:40	Bhatinda Jn	19:10	Weekly	Monday, Thursday 06.11.2023 to 30.11.2023
04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	Weekly	Tuesday, Friday 07.11.2023 to 28.11.2023
04059	Jaynagar	17:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:55	Weekly	Wednesday, Sat 08.11.2023 to 29.11.2023
04488	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Gorakhpur	14:00	Weekly	Saturday Upto 25.11.2023
04487	Gorakhpur	17:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:40	Weekly	Sunday 05.11.2023 to 26.11.2023
04010	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Weekly	Tuesday upto 28.11.2023
04009	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:05	Weekly	Thursday 09.11.2023 to 30.11.2023
01664	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:10	Saharsa Jn	11:20	Weekly	Monday upto 27.11.2023
01663	Saharsa Jn	14:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:55	Weekly	Tuesday upto 28.11.2023
03257	Danapur	07:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Weekly	Sunday 26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
03258	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Danapur	20:45	Weekly	Monday 27.11.2023 to 11.12.2023
05577	Saharsa Jn	19:10	Ambala Cant Jn	23:15	Weekly	Friday 24.11.2023 to 08.12.2023
05578	Ambala Cant Jn	03:40	Saharsa Jn	09:45	Weekly	Sunday 26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
05531	Raxaul Jn	22:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:00	Weekly	Sunday 26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
05532	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:00	Raxaul Jn	14:30	Weekly	Monday 27.11.2023 to 11.12.2023
05273	Muzaffarpur Jn	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Weekly	Wednesday, Saturday 22.11.2023 to 09.12.2023
05274	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:25	Muzaffarpur Jn	07:00	Weekly	Thursday, Sunday 23.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
05005	Gorakhpur	14:40	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Friday upto 01.12.2023
05006	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Gorakhpur	08:50	Weekly	Saturday upto 02.12.2023
04049	New Delhi	23:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:25	Weekly	Monday, Saturday upto 27.11.2023
04050	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	18:30	New Delhi	06:25	Weekly	Tuesday, Sunday upto 28.11.2023
04080	New Delhi	19:20	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Weekly	Mon, Thu, Sat 06.11.2023 to 30.11.2023
04079	Varanasi Jn	18:35	New Delhi	09:00	Weekly	Tue, Fri, Sun 07.11.2023 to 01.12.2023
01654	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:20	Varanasi Jn	23:55	Weekly	Sunday upto 26.11.2023
01653	Varanasi Jn	06:20	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:20	Weekly	Tuesday upto 28.11.2023
04646	Jammu Tawi	05:45	Barauni Jn	12:10	Weekly	Thursday upto 30.11.2023
04645	Barauni Jn	15:15	Jammu Tawi	22:30	Weekly	Friday upto 01.12.2023
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:30	Kathihar Jn.	15:00	Weekly	Wed, Sat, Tue, Fri 08.11, 14 & 17.11.2023
04047	Kathihar Jn.	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:50	Weekly	Thu, Sun, Wed, Sat 09.12, 15 & 18.11.2023
04052	Anand Vihar Terminal	22:45	Saharsa Jn.	03:30	Weekly	Wed, Sat, Tue, Fri 08.11, 14 & 17.11.2023
04051	Saharsa Jn.	07:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Weekly	Fri, Mon, Thu, Sun 10, 13, 16 & 19.11.2023
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:30	Jaynagar	07:00	Weekly	Thu, Sun, Wed, Sat 09.12, 15 & 18.11.2023
04057	Jaynagar	11:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:00	Weekly	Fri, Mon, Thu, Sun 10, 13, 16 & 19.11.2023
04066	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:00	Patna Jn.	16:00	Weekly	Monday, Thursday 06.11.2023 to 30.11.2023
04065	Patna Jn.	17:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:35	Weekly	Tuesday, Friday 07.11.2023 to 01.12.2023
04062	Delhi Jn.	08:05	Barauni Jn.	06:30	Weekly	Sunday 05.11.2023 to 26.11.2023
04061	Barauni Jn.	08:00	Delhi Jn.	05:50	Weekly	Monday 06.11.2023 to 27.11.2023
01676	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Muzaffarpur Jn.	21:15	Weekly	Monday, Thursday 06.11.2023 to 30.11.2023
01675	Muzaffarpur Jn.	23:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Weekly	Tuesday, Friday 07.11.2023 to 01.12.2023
01678	New Delhi	08:10	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Weekly	Monday, Friday 06.11.2023 to 27.11.2023
01677	Gaya Jn.	07:35	New Delhi	23:35	Weekly	Tuesday, Saturday 07.11.2023 to 28.11.2023
02250	New Delhi	19:10	Patna Jn.	07:30	Weekly	Fri, Mon, Wed, Fri 10, 13, 15 & 17.11.2023
02249	Patna Jn.	09:00	New Delhi	21:00	Weekly	Sat, Tue, Thu, Sat 11, 14, 16 & 18.11.2023
03576	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:55	Asansol Jn.	10:20	Weekly	Saturday upto 04.11.2023
04002	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:55	Patna Jn.	15:45	Weekly	Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Thu 10, 11, 13, 14 & 16.11.2023
04001	Patna Jn.	18:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:20	Weekly	Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Fri 11, 12, 14, 15 & 17.11.2023
04022	New Delhi	15:30	Saharsa Jn.	16:30	Weekly	Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Thu 10, 11, 13, 14 & 16.11.2023
04021	Saharsa Jn.	19:00	New Delhi	20:20	Weekly	Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Fri 11, 12, 14, 15 & 17.11.2023
05283	Muzaffarpur Jn.	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Weekly	Wed, Sat 10.11.2023
05284	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:25	Muzaffarpur Jn.	07:00	Weekly	Thursday, Sunday 12.11.2023 to 19.12.2023
02252	New Delhi	07:25	Patna Jn.	19:00	Weekly	Sat, Tue, Thu 11, 14 & 16.11.2023
02251	Patna Jn.	07:30	New Delhi	19:00	Weekly	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	23:45	Patna Jn.	15:50	Weekly	Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 10, 11, 14, 15, 16 & 17.11.23
02245	Patna Jn.	19:00	New Delhi	10:30	Weekly	Sat, Sun, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat 11, 12, 15, 16, 17 & 18.11.23
04494	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:30	Lucknow	18:00	Weekly	Friday 10.11.2023
04493	Lucknow	08:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:15	Weekly	Sunday 12.11.2023
04498	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:30	Varanasi Jn.	23:30	Weekly	Saturday 11.11.2023
04497	Varanasi Jn.	04:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:10	Weekly	Sunday 12.11.2023
05734	Kathihar	07:50	Amritsar	00:05	Weekly	Saturday Upto 25.11.2023
05733	Amritsar	12:45	Kathihar	03:30	Weekly	Monday 06.11.2023 to 27.11.2023
04525	Saharsa Jn.	19:00	Ambala Cantt.	22:20	Weekly	Thu, Sun, Wed, Sat 09, 12, 15 & 18.11.2023
04527	Saharsa Jn.	19:00	Ambala Cantt.	22:20	Weekly	Fri, Tue, Fri, Mon 10, 14, 17 & 20.11.2023
04526	Sirhind	11:25	Saharsa Jn.	16:00	Weekly	Wed, Sat, Tue, Fri 08, 11, 14 & 17.11.2023
04528	Sirhind	11:25	Saharsa Jn.	16:00	Weekly	Thu, Mon, Thu, Sun 09, 13, 16 & 19.11.2023
02260	New Delhi	18:15	Bhagalpur	15:15	Weekly	Tue, Fri 14 & 17.11.2023
02259	Bhagalpur	20:00	New Delhi	17:00	Weekly	Wed, Sat 15 & 18.11.2023
04490	New Delhi	19:35	Darbhanga	16:45	Weekly	Wed, Sat 08, 11, 15 & 18.11.2023
04489	Darbhanga	18:00	New Delhi	16:40	Weekly	Thu, Sun 09, 12, 16 & 19.11.2023
04115	Prayagraj Jn.	21:25	Anand Vihar (T)	08:15	Weekly	Tue, Thu, Fri 09, 14, 17, 21 & 23.11.23
04116	Anand Vihar (T)	10:15	Prayagraj Jn.	20:00	Weekly	Wed, Fri, Sat, 10, 15, 18, 22 & 24.11.23
05023	Gorakhpur Jn.	20:55	Delhi Jn.	12:30	Weekly	Sunday 05.11.2023 to 03.12.2023
05024	Delhi Jn.	14:30	Gorakhpur Jn.	07:30	Weekly	Monday 06.11.2023 to 04.12.2023
05115	Chhapra	17:45	Anand Vihar (T)	11:50	Weekly	Wednesday 08.11.2023 to 29.11.2023
05116	Anand Vihar (T)	14:45	Chhapra	09:30	Weekly	Thursday 09.11.2023 to 30.11.2023
05306	Lal Kuan	22:00	Chhapra	07:10	Weekly	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun 07.11.2023 to 29.12.2023
05305	Chhapra	08:55	Lal Kuan	18:00	Weekly	Wed, Thu, Sat, Mon 08.11.2023 to 30.12.2023

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
09075	Mumbai Central	11:00	Kathgodam	14:30	Weekly	Wednesday 08.11.2023 to 29.11.2023
09076	Kathgodam	17:30	Mumbai Central	20:55	Weekly	Thursday 09.11.2023 to 30.11.2023
07651	Jalna	23:35	Chhapra	05:30	Weekly	Wednesday upto 29.11.2023
07652	Chhapra	22:15	Pune	04:00	Weekly	Friday upto 01.12.2023
05063	Chhapra	16:15	Lokmanya Tilak	07:25	Weekly	Friday upto 24.11.2023
05064	Lokmanya Tilak	12:45	Siwan Jn	03:15	Weekly	Sunday upto 26.11.2023
09417	Ahmedabad Jn	09:10	Patna Jn	21:05	Weekly	Monday upto 27.11.2023
09418	Patna Jn	23:45	Ahmedabad Jn	11:20	Weekly	Tuesday upto 28.1

TOP OF THE WORLD



Donald Trump

UNITED STATES
Anonymous jury in defamation trial of Trump

New York: A New York federal judge cited former President Donald Trump's "repeated public statements" Friday among reasons why a jury will be anonymous when it considers damages stemming from a defamation lawsuit by a writer who says Trump sexually abused her in the 1990s. Judge Lewis A. Kaplan issued an order establishing that the jury to be chosen for the January trial in Manhattan will be transported by the US Marshals Service. Lawyers for Trump did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. AP

GUINEA

Gunmen storm jail, free former dictator Camara

Conakry: Gunmen stormed the main prison in Guinea's capital early Saturday and freed former dictator Moussa "Dadis" Camara, the country's justice minister said, announcing the closure of the West African nation's borders. "We will find them. And those responsible will be held accountable," Wright said. Camara, who came to power in a 2008 coup, had been detained in connection with a stadium massacre during his brief time in power. He had lived for years in exile after surviving an assassination attempt before returning home in late 2021. AP

UNITED KINGDOM

Motion against anti-Hindu hate crimes in House

London: A British-Indian London Assembly member tabled a motion calling on the Metropolitan Police to include the breakdown of hate crimes by religion to tackle growing instances of anti-Hindu hate. Krupesh Hirani addressed the assembly, which deals with issues affecting Londoners as part of the Mayor of London-run Greater London Authority, to highlight instances of "Hinduphobia". His motion, tabled on Thursday and agreed unanimously, called for the Met Police to work with local Hindu communities to encourage confidence in reporting hate crimes targeting Hindus. PTI

PAKISTAN

Former minister and ex-PTI leader arrested

Islamabad: Fawad Chaudhry, a former federal minister and an ex-member of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party, was arrested from his residence here and "taken to an unknown place" on Saturday, according to media reports. "Chaudhry, who is currently a member of the Isteqdam-i-Pakistan Party, was arrested on Saturday," the Dawn newspaper reported quoting his wife, Hiba Fawad Chaudhry. PTI

Nepal: Injured shifted to foothills, some may be sent to India

QAZI FARAZ AHMAD
NEPALGUNJ, NOVEMBER 4

EVEN AS search and rescue operations continued in the mountainous Jajarkot district in western Nepal hit by a powerful 6.4 magnitude earthquake on Friday night, authorities shifted scores of injured persons to multiple hospitals in the foothills and some of them may be airlifted to India.

The epicentre was in Jajarkot district, about 500km northwest of Kathmandu. Nepalgunj, which is at the Himalayan foothills, close to the India-Nepal border, is nearer to the quake-affected region as compared to Kathmandu.

Around 30 injured persons, including children, were brought to Bheri Hospital here from the quake-affected areas. This is the nearest big hospital to Jajarkot. Scores of near and dear ones of the injured made a beeline outside the emergency department of the



An earthquake-affected area in northwestern Nepal, on Saturday. AP/PTI

Bheri hospital. The doctors and the health care professionals had a hectic time attending to the injured brought to the hospital as the emergency ward ran full of injured. "Of those brought in here, one elderly person succumbed

and two are critical," nodal officer and cardiac Dr Vipin Acharya said.

Meanwhile, Prashant Bishta, the local mayor, who was also present at the hospital, said his team had reached here to help the families and relatives of those in-

jured in the earthquake.

The mayor also said that some of the injured were referred to Surkhet. "The quake affected a whole lot of remote villages. It is difficult to reach here so soon and hence we are expecting more in-

jured may be brought here tomorrow. Our local administration is helping the hospital to deal with the situation," he said.

"As and when we get more people, some may be referred to Kathmandu and some even to Lucknow (in India) so that just one hospital is not overloaded with patients. We are planning to airlift them," he said.

Soon after the quake, the Nepal Army mobilised its personnel to carry out rescue works and through Saturday army personnel and other rescue workers dug through the rubble of collapsed houses to find survivors. The Jajarkot and Rukum districts of western Nepal were worst hit by the quake.

Meanwhile, seven people injured in the earthquake in Jajarkot district have been transported to Kathmandu from Chaurjahara.

The Nepalese media reported that seven injured people are now under treatment at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital. PTI

NEPAL'S DEADLIEST EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes are common in mountainous Nepal. Here are some of the strongest in recent history

JULY 29, 1980: At least 200 die and thousands are injured after a 6.5 magnitude earthquake hits Nepal-India border

AUG 20, 1988: The Himalayan nation's capital is rocked by a 6.9 quake, killing at least 1,000 people and injuring thousands.

APRIL 25, 2015: A 7.8 magnitude earthquake kills some 9,000 people, the worst in Nepal's history, and damages about 1 million structures. The previous deadliest earthquake that struck the region was in 1934 with

over 8,000 fatalities.

MAY 12, 2015: One among about two dozen aftershocks of the April 25 earthquake kills over 200 people and injures more than 2000.

NOVEMBER 10, 2022: A 5.6 magnitude earthquake rocks the mountains of west Nepal.

NOVEMBER 3, 2023: A 5.6 magnitude earthquake hits northwestern Nepal, killing more than 150 and injuring dozens. Source AP

U.S. STATE SECY PRESENT, JORDAN & EGYPT
ministers say killing of civilians not self-defenceARAB STATES REFUSE TO DISCUSS WHAT
comes next for Gaza after the war ends

Blinken rejects Arab states' push for ceasefire: 'Will benefit Hamas'

Says such a halt right now will allow Hamas to regroup and attack Israel again

REUTERS
AMMAN, NOV 4

ARAB LEADERS on Saturday urged an immediate ceasefire in Israel's military offensive in Gaza, pressing US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to convince Israel, but the top US diplomat said such a halt right now would only allow Palestinian militant group Hamas to regroup and attack Israel again.

In a rare public disagreement at a news conference in Amman, foreign ministers of Jordan and Egypt, standing alongside Blinken, repeatedly pushed for a cessation of hostilities, saying the death of thousands of civilians could not be justified as self-defence. They also refused to discuss in-depth what comes next for Gaza, when and if Hamas is eradicated, saying the immediate focus should be on the effort to establish a cessation of hostilities.

Blinken is on his second trip to the region since Israel and Hamas went to war on October 7. The growing number of civilian deaths in Gaza has intensified international calls for a ceasefire but Washington, like Israel, has so far dismissed them, even though it has sought to persuade Israel to accept localised pauses — an idea rejected by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after he met Blinken on Friday. "A ceasefire now would simply leave Hamas in place, able to regroup and repeat what it did on Oct. 7," Blinken said. "No nation, none of us would accept that... So it is important to reaffirm Israel's right and its obligation to defend itself," he said.

Blinken earlier met with Saudi, Qatari, Emirati, Egyptian and Jordanian foreign ministers as well as Palestinian representatives in Amman. The Jordanian Foreign Ministry said the meeting would emphasise the Arab stance calling for an immediate ceasefire, delivering humanitarian aid and ways



A UN-run school sheltering displaced people in the northern Gaza Strip on Saturday after an air strike by Israel. Reuters

DEATH, DESTRUCTION

ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	
1,400+	9,488
TOTAL INJURED	
5,400+	20,000+

of ending "the dangerous deterioration that threatens the security of the region." "The international community's responsibility always is to seek the cessation of hostilities, not promote the continuation of violence," Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said at the same press conference. Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said, "Right now we have to make sure that this war stops." Arab states and international organisations on the future of Gaza but both Shoukry and Safadi appeared reluctant to discuss openly those conversations

What happens next — how can we even entertain what will happen in Gaza when we do not know what kind of Gaza will be left, after this war"

— AYMAN SAFADI
JORDANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

to ensure the focus remains on the need for a ceasefire.

Arab states are also concerned by the risk of the conflict spreading to the region. Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iraqi Shi'ite militias backed by Iran have both launched attacks on Israel since Oct. 7, while Tehran-backed Iraqi Shi'ite militias have been firing on US forces in Iraq and Syria.

Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, stressed the urgent need for a ceasefire in Gaza during a meeting with Blinken. Mikati also said "Israeli aggression" in southern Lebanon must stop.

Palestinians say Israeli strike hits UN-run school

Gaza: Palestinians reported a deadly Israeli air strike on a UN-run school in northern Gaza serving as a shelter on Saturday.

Palestinian witnesses said Israel hit Al-Fakhoura school in Jabalia, where thousands of evacuees were living in the morning.

At least 15 people died and dozens more were wounded, said Gaza health ministry official Mohammad Abu Selmeiyah.

Juliette Touma, director of communication for the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), confirmed to Reuters that the UN-run school, which is in the Gaza City area, had been hit. She said there were children among the casualties, but that UNRWA had not yet been able to verify the exact death toll. REUTERS

BRIEFLY

'Biden backing genocide, we will remember in '24'

Washington: US House Representative Rashida Tlaib, Democrat of Michigan and an outspoken voice for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war, released a video on Friday that accused the genocide of Palestinians.

"Mr. President, the American people are not with you on this one," Tlaib says in the video. "We will remember in 2024." "Biden supported genocide of the Palestinians. The American people won't forget. Biden, support a ceasefire. Or don't count on us in 2024." Tlaib is the only Palestinian American in the Congress. NYT

Turkey recalls ambassador to Israel

Ankara: Turkey has recalled its ambassador to Israel due to the humanitarian crisis and ongoing Israeli attacks in Gaza, the foreign ministry said. Israel's envoys to Turkey left the country last month due to security reasons.

9 militants killed in attack on Pak Air Force training base

TTP affiliate claims responsibility

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 4

NINE HEAVILY armed terrorists attacked a Pakistan Air Force training base in Punjab province early Saturday and all of them were "sent to hell", the army said, a day after 17 soldiers were killed in three separate terror strikes in the country.

The Mianwali Training Air Base of Pakistan Air Force was attacked by nine terrorists, the Pakistan Army said in a statement, confirming that three some damage was done to three already phased-out non-operational aircraft during the attack.

The military confirmed that the "combing and clearance operation at PAF Training Airbase Mianwali has been concluded and all nine terrorists have been sent to hell". The operation was launched to "eliminate any potential threat in the surrounding area following the cowardly and failed terrorist attack on the base this morning", the statement said. The army said while no damage had been done to any of the PAF's functional operational assets, some damage was done to three already phased-out non-operational aircraft during the attack.



A NGO worker gives food to Afghans who are travelling back to their country on a truck in Peshawar on Saturday. Reuters

Help those fleeing Pak: Taliban appeal to Afghan pvt sector

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 4

THE TALIBAN on Saturday appealed to Afghanistan's private sector to help people fleeing Pakistan's mass deportation drive.

Pakistan is arresting and expelling all foreigners it says are in the country illegally, but the policy mostly affects Afghans because they are the biggest group of undocumented foreigners in the country. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Kabul urged Afghanistan's private sector to step forward and help.

Afghans forcibly expelled from Pakistan are facing the worst situation of their lives, with no opportunities, the ministry said. "The ministry invites the private sector to take action because of the profound humanitarian disaster caused by the forced migra-

tion of hundreds of thousands of the poor and needy. It is the duty of Islam and Afghans to stand up for their fellow countrymen." Afghanistan is overwhelmed by challenges, including years of drought, a beleaguered economy and the aftermath of decades of war.

Millions are already internally displaced, raising concerns among the humanitarian community about the impoverished country being unable to support or integrate those leaving Pakistan.

Taliban social media accounts have shown senior officials at the Torkham border, in eastern Nangarhar province, shaking hands with returning Afghans and welcoming them home. Temporary camps are providing people with food, shelter, and health care, according to Taliban authorities.

'No place is safe': UN official says average Gazan living on two pieces of bread a day, scarce water

ASSOCIATED PRESS
UNITED NATIONS, NOV 4

THE AVERAGE Gazan is living on two pieces of Arabic bread made from flour the UN had stockpiled in the region, yet the main refrain now being heard in the street is "Water, water," the Gaza director for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said Friday.

Thomas White, who said he travelled "the length and breadth of Gaza in the last few weeks," described the place as a



Palestinians leave their homes following an Israeli attack. AP

"scene of death and destruction." No place is safe now, he said, and people fear for their lives, their future and their ability to feed their families.

The Palestinian refugee agency, known as UNRWA, is supporting about 89 bakeries across Gaza, aiming to get bread to 1.7 million people. White told diplomats from the UN's 193 member nations in a video briefing from Gaza.

But, he said, "now people are beyond looking for bread. It's looking for water." UN deputy

Mideast coordinator Lynn Hastings, who is also the humanitarian coordinator for the Palestinian territories, said only one of three water supply lines from Israel is operational.

"Many people are relying on brackish or saline ground water, if at all," she said. In the briefing, UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths also said intense negotiations are taking place among authorities from Israel, Egypt, the United States and United Nations on allowing fuel to enter Gaza.

Bank of Baroda Zonal Office, Lucknow Zone, "Baroda House" V-23, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010 TENDER NOTICE Bank of Baroda, Zonal Office, Lucknow invites sealed pre-qualification-cum-tender for selection of contractor for construction of Baroda Swarozgar Vikas Sanshan (BSVS/R-SET) building in District Ayodhya. Interested bidders may visit our website www.bankofbaroda.in/zonal-regional-offices-tenders.htm for complete details. Corrigendum/Addendum (if any) will be issued on Bank's website only. Last date of submission of tender is 28.11.2023 upto 03:00 p.m. GENERAL MANAGER

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice Tender No. E-1 No. 2017/2023-24/52/PH/CHN Jal Jeevan Mission (JMJ)- PWD Road Restoration works for Karumalloor and Kunnuvara Panchayaths-Road Restoration works- General Civil Work EMD: Rs. 50000/- Tender fee: Rs.19517.2 Last Date for submitting Tender: 22-11-2023 03:00:pm Phone: 0484-2360645 Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in Superintending Engineer PH Circle Kochi KWA-JB-GL-6-1500-2023-24

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, लोहरदगा शुद्धि पत्र एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय से आमंत्रित ई-अल्यकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सं 01/2023-24/RWD/ LOHA RDAGA दिनांक 27.10.2023 PR No. 310076 (Lohardaga) 23-24*D द्वारा प्रकाशित ई- अल्यकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना के क्रमांक- 2 में वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 04.11.2023 के स्थान पर 17.11.2023, क्रमांक- 3 ई- निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 16.11.2023 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे के स्थान पर 29.11.2023 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे एवं क्रमांक- 4 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 17.11.2023 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे के स्थान पर 01.12.2023 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे पढ़ा जाय। अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगे। कार्यपालक अभियंता ग्रा 0 का वि कार्य प्रमण्डल, लोहरदगा PR 310634 Lohardaga(23-24).D

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED No. SEDC/HPHC/CCTV/2K23-11889 e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Supply and Installation of CCTV Cameras in the High Court of Himachal Pradesh & District Judiciary of Himachal Pradesh Including Oversight Terminal at High Court of Himachal Pradesh-Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 17/11/2023 (11:30AM) through Video Conferencing. Last date for online e-bid submission is 11/12/2023 (upto 02:30 PM) and shall be opened on 12/12/2023 at 2:30PM. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website www.hpsecd.in and https://tenders.gov.in. 0830/HP General Manager (Technical)

यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कांस्ट्रक्शंस लि. (उपरोक्त प्रोजेक्ट का अंश) CIN: U15209UP19765G004285 कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबंधक, निर्माण इकाई-12, 129, के.के.पुरी, आवास विकास, झारसी-284003. E-mail: pm12upppcl@gmail.com, GSTIN: 09AAAACU3393F1Z8 पत्रांक: 778/पीसीएल/पीएम/झारसी/ दिनांक: 04.11.2023 अति अल्य कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना जनपद झारसी में बुन्देलखण्ड विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में बुद्धा हॉस्टल के 04 नम टायलेट ब्लाक का पुनरोद्धार कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा सूचना सं 09/PM-12/UPPCL/2023-24 दिनांक 04.11.2023 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा http://etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 07.11.2023 से दिनांक 16.11.2023 के अपराह्न 12:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण, नियम एवं शर्तें कार्यालय की वेबसाइट www.upprojects.org पर दिनांक 06.11.2023 से देखी जा सकती है। परियोजना प्रबंधक, निर्माण इकाई-12, झारसी

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Salim S/o Lalchi R/o Rashid Ka Makan, Near Madni Hospital, Faislabad, Shikar Pur Road, Distt. Bulandshahar, U.P. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 773/22 u/s 376/376D/506 IPC P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Salim cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Salim has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said Salim accused of FIR No. 773/22 u/s 376/376D/506 IPC P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on 07.12.2023. By Order: Sh. Navdeep Gupta Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate-North West Room No. 109, 1st Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi DP/12618/RD/23

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr. P.C. Where as complaint has been made before me that accused Nikhil Malhotra S/o Sh. Sanjeet Malhotra, R/o- 24/03, IInd Floor, Indra Vikas Colony, Dr Mukherjee Nagar, New Delhi has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 229/2021 U/s 420/34 IPC PS Hari Nagar, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Nikhil Malhotra can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Nikhil Malhotra has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Nikhil Malhotra of case FIR No. 229/2021 U/s 420/34 IPC PS Hari Nagar, New Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of 04.12.2023 By Order Swati Gupta-II Metropolitan Magistrate-06 West Distt., Room No.355, 3rd Floor, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi DP/12621/WD/2023 (Court Matter)

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement System Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railways, New Delhi-110001 for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-Tenders through E-Procurement System for the supply of the following items:- S.N. Tender No. Brief Description Qty. Closing date 01 19234426A Roller Bearing NU-326 184 Nos. 29.11.2023 02 77236029 Running Contract for Procurement of Glued Joints 17210 Nos. 30.11.2023 03 19230912A Blower for Traction Motor 15 Nos. 30.11.2023 04 77235967 Joggled Fish Plate 60 KG 18260 PAIR 04.12.2023 05 07231133A Wearing Piece for Side Bearer 5331 Nos. 04.12.2023 NOTE: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No manual offer will be entertained. Tender Notice No. 66/2023-24 Dated: 03.11.2023 3438/2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that an unidentified girl (depicted in the photo) Namely: Soni D/o: Shiv Shankar, R/o: Unknown, Age: Unknown, Height : 4'10", Complexion : Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing : Unknown was found in unattended condition at in the area of PS Chitranjan Park, New Delhi on 27.08.2022. In this regard a case vide DD No. 63A dated 27.08.2022 has been lodged at PS Chitranjan Park, New Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this unknown girl may kindly inform to the following:- SHO : P.S. Chitranjan Park, New Delhi South Distt., Delhi Tel. No. 8750870830, 7065569300, 9896756730 DP/12448/SD/2023

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 Kapil S/o Jagdish Singh R/o H.N. No.1376-2 V.P.O Sampla Distt- Rohtak, behind police Station, Haryana. have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under cases. No.7733/2018 U/s 138 NI Act., has been registered at P.S. Rajender Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, Kapil cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, Kapil has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, Kapil of cases. No.7733/2018 U/s 138 NI Act., registered at P.S. Rajender Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 19.12.2023. By Order Ms. Sakshi jaiswal, MM-05, Central District Room No. 2, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi DP/10175/CD/2023

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED See Section 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Vishwapal S/o Sh. Ram Prasad R/o F-78/1, Laxmi Park, Nangloi New Delhi-41 also at: RZG-194, First Floor Kharsa No. 77/11, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi-41 has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case EX. No. 96/2021 U/S 12DV Act, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Vishwapal cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Vishwapal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Vishwapal of case Ex. No. 96/2021 U/S 12DV Act, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before 14.12.2023. By Order Ms. Akansha Gautam Metropolitan Magistrate, Mahilla Court-04 Room No. 252, Second Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi DP/12307/OD/2023(Court Matter)

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 Aman s/o Balmukhi Bhagat R/o H. No.B-1/68 Nand Nagari Delhi. have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under FIR.No. 323/2018. u/s 457/380/34 IPC. has been registered at P.S. Jyoti Nagar Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, Aman cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, Aman has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Aman of FIR. No. 323/2018, u/s 457/380/34 IPC. registered at P.S. Jyoti Nagar Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 07.12.2023 DP/12571/NE/2023-Court matter By Order Ms. Preeti Parewa OMM, Room No.59 Karkardooma Court, Delhi

IMPORTANT! Whist care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

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 Kapil S/o Jagdish Singh R/o H.N. No.1376-2 V.P.O Sampla Distt- Rohtak, behind police Station, Haryana. have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under cases. No.7733/2018 U/s 138 NI Act., has been registered at P.S. Rajender Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, Kapil cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, Kapil has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, Kapil of cases. No.7733/2018 U/s 138 NI Act., registered at P.S. Rajender Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 19.12.2023. By Order Ms. Sakshi jaiswal, MM-05, Central District Room No. 2, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi DP/10175/CD/2023

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED See Section 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Vishwapal S/o Sh. Ram Prasad R/o F-78/1, Laxmi Park, Nangloi New Delhi-41 also at: RZG-194, First Floor Kharsa No. 77/11, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi-41 has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case EX. No. 96/2021 U/S 12DV Act, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Vishwapal cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Vishwapal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Vishwapal of case Ex. No. 96/2021 U/S 12DV Act, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before 14.12.2023. By Order Ms. Akansha Gautam Metropolitan Magistrate, Mahilla Court-04 Room No. 252, Second Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi DP/12307/OD/2023(Court Matter)

STORES E-PROCUREMENT Tender Notice No.: S/29/2023-24; Dated: 02-11-2023. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:- SN. 1: Tender No. 37/23/0575/OT/22/2023-24; Closing/ Opening Date: 06-11-2023 Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Adapter AAR Standard wide JAW class 'E' RDSO's SK-78527, Alt No-4 (Four). Specn: Specification: As per drawing. (i) Qty- 1000 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal), P.L. No- 38106425. SN. 2: Tender No. 50/23/5214/OT/23/2023-24; Closing/ Opening Date: 13-11-2023 Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Supply of Transceiver Handheld 5 WATT DMR VHF Set as per RDSO specification No RDSO/SPN/TC/107/2018 along with One set of OEM approval rechargeable Ni-MH-Li-ion battery of 2300 m Ah or superior, impress battery charger, Helical antenna and bell clip with each set. Additional accessories:- (1) Tuning kit with software to program and connecting cables 2 sets. (2) One no additional spare battery with each set. Make: Motorola, kenwood and HYT only Bidder shall be OEM or authorized Dealer of OEM. (i) Qty- 250 Nos for SSE/Teel/ Rangiya, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 52200311057. SN. 3: Tender No. 30/23/1749B/OT/22/2023-24; Closing/ Opening Date: 20-11-2023 Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Kit for LHB Brake Caliper/Knorr Bremse as per Annexure. (i) Qty-200 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). (ii) 230 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L. No- 33687006. SN. 4: Tender No. 30/23/5010A/OT/25/2023-24; Closing/ Opening Date: 29-11-2023 Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Axle Box Housing (Finished Machined) BG-ICF, as per Drg. No Drawing No. T-O-2-602 alt V/14, Item-2 as per Specn. specification No RDSO/2007/CG-08, Amendment slip No 1. (i) Qty- 316 Nos for SSE/WTH/DBWS, NFR (Assam). Item Code. No- 3002N002. SN. 5: Tender No. 37/23/0466/OT/22/2023-24; Closing/ Opening Date: 29-11-2023 Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Air brake hose coupling for Brake pipe. Spec: Mat Specn:- As per drawing. Drg. No. RDSO Drawing No : SK-73547, Alt-14. (i) Qty- 1601 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam). (ii) Qty- 1819 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). (iii) Qty- 1181 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal). P.L. No- 38164681. SN. 6: Tender No. 37/23/0563/OT/22/2023-24; Closing/ Opening Date: 04-12-2023 Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Modified Elastomeric Pad complete. RDSO's specn No WD-20 MISC-95 (Rev-4) with amendment No.1 of July 2002 & BIS Spec. IS 2062:2011 Drg.No RDSO s Drg No-WD-95005-S-1, Alt-7. (i) Qty- 3000 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). (ii) Qty- 6000 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam). (iii) Qty- 16000 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). (iv) Qty-10000 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal). P.L.No. 38106322. SN. 7: Tender No. 60/23/5042/OT/22/2023-24; Closing/ Opening Date: 04-12-2023 Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing & commissioning (without machine room) of Passenger Lift for 13 Nos. Passengers (884 kg capacity) complete with hand rail, voice announcement system in the Car [to announce the position of the elevator in the hoist way as the car passes or stops at floor served by the elevator/Lift] along with all associated accessories as per CPWD system/ Specifications (2003) or latest at stations of Rangiya division. Supply cost includes warranty period of twenty four months from date of commissioning. Makes: M/s OTIS, M/s Kone, M/s schindler, M/s Johnson lifts Pty Ltd or equivalent. (i) Qty- 2 Nos for SSE/ELECT/BG/New Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). (ii) Qty- 2 Nos for SSE/ELECT/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). (iii) Qty- 8 Nos SSE/P/Rangiya, NFR (Assam). (iv) Qty-8 Nos for SSE/ELECT/Rangapara North, NFR (Assam). (v) Qty-10 Nos for SE/ELECT/P/North Lakhimpur, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-479016880026. 2. CAMC for 5 years. (i) Qty-2 Nos for SSE/ELECT/BG/New Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). (ii) Qty-2 Nos for SSE/ELECT/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). (iii) Qty-8Nos for SSE/P/Rangiya, NFR (Assam). (iv) Qty-8 Nos for SSE/ELECT/Rangapara North, NFR (Assam). (v) Qty- 10 Nos for SE/ELECT/P/North Lakhimpur, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-479016880026. SN. 8: Tender No. 30/23/1181A/OT/22/2023-24; Closing/ Opening Date: 04-12-2023 Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: High Tensile AARH Type Tight Lock CBC for BG LHB Passenger Coaches: MAT Specification: RDSO/ 2011/CG-03 (Rev.3) (i) Qty- 120 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). (ii) Qty- 120 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). (iii) Qty- 120 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD NFR (West Bengal). P.L. No- 33681200. SN. 9: Tender No. 37/23/0759/OT/23/2023-24; Closing/ Opening Date: 04-12-2023 Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Constant contact polyurethane side bearer pad assembly for NLB bogies as per Drg. No.AAL-021101/N, ALT No-1 & as per Spec: RDSO's Specn No WD-38, Misc-2004 (Rev-1) of Jan'2008 with amendment no-1 of march 2008. (i) Qty-131 Nos Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). (ii) Qty- 385 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam). (iii) Qty-3006 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). (iv) Qty-1173 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD NFR (West Bengal). P.L. No-38106462. NOTE:- For full details of Tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-II Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders. PCMM/ Malignaon NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "Serving Customers with a smile"

navi GENERAL INSURANCE Notice of relocation of branch Navi General Insurance Limited IRDAI Registration No. 155 Registered Office: Vaishnavi Tech Square, 7th Floor, Iballur Village Taluk, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560102 CIN No: U66000KA2016PLC148551 Website: https://navi.com/insurance All our customers/policy holders and public at large, are hereby informed that the company's branch office is under relocation, and we shall be available at the new address after 60 days from the date of this notice: Present Address 7th Floor, Office No. 701, ITL Twin Towers, Plot No B-9 Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, North West, Delhi- 110034 New Address OYO Workspaces India Pvt. Ltd., 44, 2nd Floor, Regal Building, Connaught Place, Delhi- 110001 You may reach us on 18001230004 (toll-free) or email at insurance.help@navi.com

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai e-mail : maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com MMGPA, 1st Floor, Arogya Bhavan, St. Georges Hospital Compound, MUMBAI-400 001. TENDER NOTICE Advt. No. 4 Date : 01.11.2023 CHIEF Executive Officer, Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai invites tender in Two Envelope system from the eligible bidders for the following items for purchase of medicines. Sr. Tender No. Name of Item(s) Pre-bid Meeting Period of sale, download & submission of bid Bid Opening 1 E-9 to E-16 Homophilia Factors Dt. 06.11.2023 at 1430 Hrs. Dt. 02.11.2023 at 10.00 AM to Dt. 20.11.2023 up to 14.00 PM. Dt. 21.11.2023 at 1401 Hrs. 1. For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the web site https://mahatenders.gov.in 2. The Chief Executive Officer reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity to be purchased and also reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without giving any reason to. For e-tendering help/information, please contact. Web site : https://mahatenders.gov.in Contact No. : 022-22621886 / 022-22621973 E-mail : maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com Signature/- Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai. DGIPR/2023-2024/4669

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL DIVISION, CHATRA Expression of Interest EOI No.: -RDD/SD/CHATRA/EOI-23/2023-24 The Executive Engineer, Rural Development Special Division, Chatra invites proposals thereafter referred as bid(s) from eligible bidders for entering into a rate contracts for the supply and installation of Medical Equipment Appliances/Accessories etc. OF CHILD CARE WARD AT ITKHORI, G.P ITKHORI OF BLOCK ITKHORI IN CHATRA,district as per details hereunder. Sl. No. Particulars Details 1 Name of Work Rate Contracts for the S supply and installation of Medical Equipment/Appliances Accessories etc. OF CHILD CARE WARD AT ITKHORI, G.P ITKHORI OF BLOCK ITKHORI IN CHATRA. Rs.23750117.00 2. Estimated BOQ Amount Rs.23750117.00 3. Completion Period of work 06 Months 4. Tender fee-(to be deposited with the bid through DD issued in favour of the Executive Engineer, Rural Development Special Division, Chatra, payable at Chatra)-non refundable. Rs. 10,000.00 5. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Performance Guarantee - The successful bidder will have to execute & submit EMD, before finalization of the tender, through Bank Guarantee/FDR in the favour of Executive Engineer, R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra for the amount equivalent to approx. 2% of the estimated value of work before issue of the work order and the work order will be issued after submission of the EMD Rs. 475003.00 6. Date of publication of Tender on Website 11.11.2023 Time: 11:00AM 7. Start Date/time for Online Submission of bid 11.11.2023 Time: 11:00AM 8. Last date of submission of Bid online/Time for receipt of bids 18.11.2023 Time: 17:00PM 9. Last date and time of submission of hard copy of cost of Tender, EMD and Other documents. 21.11.2023 Time: 03:00PM 10. Technical Bid Opening Date and Time 22.11.2023 Time: 02:00PM 11. Place of Opening Bid O/o the E.E. R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra. Suresh Ram, Executive Engineer, R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra. 12. Name & Address of inviting EOI Officer 87091-84201 13. Contact No. of Inviting EOI Officer Note:- 1. The specified dates and time may change due to declaration of holidays or any other un fore seen circumstances. The same shall be informed through web portal and when required. 2. The detailed tender notice terms and conditions can be obtained from the website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & copies of technical bid and financial bid can be downloaded there from. Executive Engineer, R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra. PR.NO.310670 Rural Development(23-24):D

SECTION 1 Executive Engineer, Chopal Division HPPWD Chopal NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) No. PW.CHD.CB.E-9/2023- Dated : The Executive Engineer,Chopal Division, HPPWD Chopal on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the Percentage Rate Bids, in electronic tendering system, for following work(s), from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD. Sl. No. Name of the work Estimated Cost (Rs.) Period of Completion Bid Security (Rs.)(Online) Cost of tender form (Rs.) (Online) 1. C/o link road from Nanhar to Malkot km. 0/0 to 4/650 (SH: Cutting, R/B walls, HPC 900mm dia and Grading)-L. 14511482/- Three months 290500/- 5000/- 1. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement:03/11/2023. 2. Cost of Bid Form: As per package/job (non-refundable) shown against each (Online) in favour of Executive Engineer,ChopalDivision,HPPWD, Chopal. 3. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.hptenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). *Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in State Head may obtain the same from the website: www.hptenders.gov.in.Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender. 4. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering:15.11.2023upto 1700 hrs. 5. The site for the work is available. 6. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.hptenders.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 1100 Hours on 16.11.2023in the office of Executive Engineer, Chopal Division HPPWD Chopalbytheauthorizedofficers.Iftheofficehappenstobe closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time. 7. The work shall have to be started within fifteen days from the date of award. If the contractor fails to start the work within fifteen days, the work shall be cancelled and earnest money deposited will be forfeited and the work shall be awarded to the L-2 contractor on the rates at par with L-1, if he agrees to do so. All the required materials like Cement/Steel/Bitumen/Explosive etc. shall be arrangedbythe Contractor at his own level. 8. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts. 9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender. Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Chopal 3691/HP

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL DIVISION, CHATRA Expression of Interest EOI No.: -RDD/SD/CHATRA/EOI-23/2023-24 The Executive Engineer, Rural Development Special Division, Chatra invites proposals thereafter referred as bid(s) from eligible bidders for entering into a rate contracts for the supply and installation of Medical Equipment Appliances/Accessories etc. OF CHILD CARE WARD AT ITKHORI, G.P ITKHORI OF BLOCK ITKHORI IN CHATRA,district as per details hereunder. Sl. No. Particulars Details 1 Name of Work Rate Contracts for the S supply and installation of Medical Equipment/Appliances Accessories etc. OF CHILD CARE WARD AT ITKHORI, G.P ITKHORI OF BLOCK ITKHORI IN CHATRA. Rs.23750117.00 2. Estimated BOQ Amount Rs.23750117.00 3. Completion Period of work 06 Months 4. Tender fee-(to be deposited with the bid through DD issued in favour of the Executive Engineer, Rural Development Special Division, Chatra, payable at Chatra)-non refundable. Rs. 10,000.00 5. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Performance Guarantee - The successful bidder will have to execute & submit EMD, before finalization of the tender, through Bank Guarantee/FDR in the favour of Executive Engineer, R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra for the amount equivalent to approx. 2% of the estimated value of work before issue of the work order and the work order will be issued after submission of the EMD Rs. 475003.00 6. Date of publication of Tender on Website 11.11.2023 Time: 11:00AM 7. Start Date/time for Online Submission of bid 11.11.2023 Time: 11:00AM 8. Last date of submission of Bid online/Time for receipt of bids 18.11.2023 Time: 17:00PM 9. Last date and time of submission of hard copy of cost of Tender, EMD and Other documents. 21.11.2023 Time: 03:00PM 10. Technical Bid Opening Date and Time 22.11.2023 Time: 02:00PM 11. Place of Opening Bid O/o the E.E. R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra. Suresh Ram, Executive Engineer, R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra. 12. Name & Address of inviting EOI Officer 87091-84201 13. Contact No. of Inviting EOI Officer Note:- 1. The specified dates and time may change due to declaration of holidays or any other un fore seen circumstances. The same shall be informed through web portal and when required. 2. The detailed tender notice terms and conditions can be obtained from the website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & copies of technical bid and financial bid can be downloaded there from. Executive Engineer, R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra. PR.NO.310670 Rural Development(23-24):D

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL DIVISION, CHATRA Expression of Interest EOI No.: -RDD/SD/CHATRA/EOI-23/2023-24 The Executive Engineer, Rural Development Special Division, Chatra invites proposals thereafter referred as bid(s) from eligible bidders for entering into a rate contracts for the supply and installation of Medical Equipment Appliances/Accessories etc. OF CHILD CARE WARD AT ITKHORI, G.P ITKHORI OF BLOCK ITKHORI IN CHATRA,district as per details hereunder. Sl. No. Particulars Details 1 Name of Work Rate Contracts for the S supply and installation of Medical Equipment/Appliances Accessories etc. OF CHILD CARE WARD AT ITKHORI, G.P ITKHORI OF BLOCK ITKHORI IN CHATRA. Rs.23750117.00 2. Estimated BOQ Amount Rs.23750117.00 3. Completion Period of work 06 Months 4. Tender fee-(to be deposited with the bid through DD issued in favour of the Executive Engineer, Rural Development Special Division, Chatra, payable at Chatra)-non refundable. Rs. 10,000.00 5. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Performance Guarantee - The successful bidder will have to execute & submit EMD, before finalization of the tender, through Bank Guarantee/FDR in the favour of Executive Engineer, R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra for the amount equivalent to approx. 2% of the estimated value of work before issue of the work order and the work order will be issued after submission of the EMD Rs. 475003.00 6. Date of publication of Tender on Website 11.11.2023 Time: 11:00AM 7. Start Date/time for Online Submission of bid 11.11.2023 Time: 11:00AM 8. Last date of submission of Bid online/Time for receipt of bids 18.11.2023 Time: 17:00PM 9. Last date and time of submission of hard copy of cost of Tender, EMD and Other documents. 21.11.2023 Time: 03:00PM 10. Technical Bid Opening Date and Time 22.11.2023 Time: 02:00PM 11. Place of Opening Bid O/o the E.E. R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra. Suresh Ram, Executive Engineer, R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra. 12. Name & Address of inviting EOI Officer 87091-84201 13. Contact No. of Inviting EOI Officer Note:- 1. The specified dates and time may change due to declaration of holidays or any other un fore seen circumstances. The same shall be informed through web portal and when required. 2. The detailed tender notice terms and conditions can be obtained from the website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & copies of technical bid and financial bid can be downloaded there from. Executive Engineer, R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra. PR.NO.310670 Rural Development(23-24):D

BRIDGE

Dealer: East Vulnerable: Both

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ AKJ8	♠ 53	♥ 863	♥ 104
♦ Q754	♦ 104	♣ KQJ62	♣ A73
♣ A73			

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2D	pass	3H	pass
pass	4H	pass	pass
pass			

West starts with the ace of diamonds and leads a diamond to East's jack. Normally leading aces is not a good idea, but West got a little lucky in this case. East came through with the king, something their auction did not promise. In any event, East wins trick two and returns the ten of clubs. How good is this contract?

The West hand: S-974 H-J92 D-A7653 C-54
The East hand: S-Q1062 H-A10 D-KQJ8 C-1098

This is one of those hands that have lots of winners. Unfortunately, there is a problem. The trumps are a little thin. One thing is clear. You cannot make 4H if the trump suit is divided 4-1. You need a 3-2 division. Further, if you lead to one of the heart honors and it loses to the ace, you will have a second loser. The only way to make 4H is to use the Obligatory Finesse. You have to make the wish that one of your opponents has the doubleton ace of hearts. Then you have to lead a heart through that defender. They will play low and you will win with your honour. Then return the suit and duck the trick completely. If that defender has a doubleton ace, the ace will fall on air. East opened the bidding and West has already shown up with an ace. West cannot have another ace in his hand. This means East has the ace of hearts and you must hope that it is doubleton. Take the club lead in dummy and lead to your king of hearts. It wins. So your deduction that East has the ace is correct. Now to part two. Lead another heart towards dummy. West will play a firm jack of hearts but you should not fall for this whimsy. If you cover, you know East will win and whoever has the missing heart will take a trick. Play low on this trick. East does have two hearts and your plan works out. Lucky, but well thought out.

Dealer: South Vulnerable: Both

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ 9763	♠ A84	♥ QJ1092	♥ A5
♦ AK4	♦ Q5	♣ AK5	♣ A76
♣ A76			

West	North	East	South
pass	1H	pass	4H
pass	2H	pass	pass
pass	pass	pass	pass

West leads the queen of diamonds and South observes that 3NT is cold and 4H is not. So much for always playing your eight card fits in four of a major. Where can a tenth trick come from?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2450

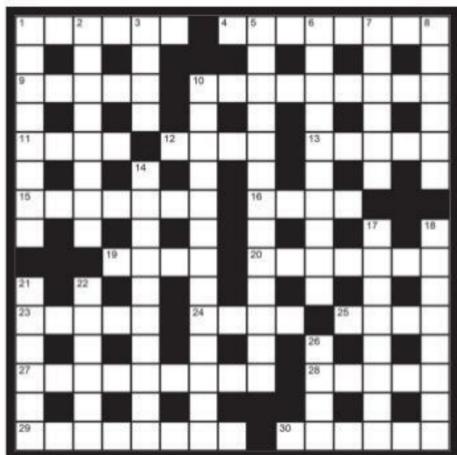
QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- "Aw, dine" out for the girl's name (6)
- Followed (8)
- Periods of time at school (5)
- Rheumatic (9)
- Reverberate (4)
- Mown grass (4)
- Gains or procures (5)
- Pacific hurricane (7)
- Children's game (1,3)
- Opera heroine (4)
- Religious house (7)
- Ethnic grouping (5)
- Auctioneer's cry (4)
- Walk lamely (4)
- Provisional (9)
- Part of a long poem (5)
- Baptize (8)
- Alignment of three celestial objects (6)

DOWN

- Plea (8)
- Reveres (8)
- Inquisitive (4)
- Purposefully (13)
- Communicate by letter (10)
- Explosive device (6)
- More than is necessary (6)
- Very slowly (2,1,6,4)
- Crying out noisily (10)
- Forbearance or perverseness (8)
- Harmony of sounds (8)
- Stationary (6)
- Definitely less brighter (6)
- Sore, as muscles (4)



- A source of native parental humour (6-3)
- Getting caught on small island is a certainty (5)
- They'll tell you when the time has come to act (1-4-4)
- Five hundred over paper money, for a change, indicates inaction (6)

- a head-piece (5,3)
21. A cat is in charge of such energy? (6)
22. Dry champagne also half rough (6)
26. To company, in short, for a change, it begins to show some value (4)

Solutions to 2449

- QUICK CLUES Across:** 1 Disabled, 5 Scarab, 9 Trembled, 10 Gandhi, 12 Nepal, 13 Ironed out, 14 Adding, 16 Propose, 19 Exposes, 21 Cashed, 23 Afternoon, 25 Erred, 26 Tithes, 27 Pub-crawl, 28 Remote, 29 Defeated
Down: 1 Dating, 2 Stepped up, 3 Babel, 4 Evening, 6 Chaparons, 7 Radio, 8 Bristles, 11 Group, 15 Insurgent, 17 Overcast, 18 Decarion, 20 Slow, 21 Conjure, 22 Adlected, 24 Totem, 25 Emcee
CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Defiance, 5 Swivel, 9 Litigate, 10 Espies, 12 Esher, 13 Eco-sphere, 14 Onuses, 16 Spinoza, 19 Die-hard, 21 Cut off, 23 Mad hatter, 25 Whelp, 26 Erases, 27 Deloused, 28 Ensure, 29 G-strings
Down: 1 Deliver, 2 Fat chance, 3 Augur, 4 Cutters, 6 West Point, 7 Volle, 8 Las Vegas, 11 Mals, 15 Shamateur, 17 Offseason, 18 Adam Bede, 20 Dots, 21 Corners, 22 Spades, 24 Drags, 25 Woocer.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday November 5

Your chart favours loyal relationships, so you'll do best if you stick close to people you know best and feelings which are tried, tested and understood.

Monday November 6

You'll be developing new friendships, starting a new hobby or interest and will be making a substantial change of direction.

Tuesday October 7

You're able to focus on the bigger picture. Not only is today filled with positive trends, but so is the coming year. You'll be seeking to expand your horizons and broaden your experience.

Wednesday November 8

Venus is now about the best celestial symbol you could hope to have. Now is no time to sit at home moping. You must get out and make the most of your extraordinarily attractive attributes.

Thursday November 9

Let go of the past and look to the future. Only then will you be truly able to concentrate on new opportunities in your most personal affairs.

Friday November 10

There's an optimistic flavour to the day's proceedings, and I have little doubt that you'll make the best of whatever comes your way.

Saturday November 11

Your hopes are high, and getting higher all the time. There's no reason why you shouldn't dream, but fantasy is one thing, reality another.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Mars' changing position is about as good an indication of a successful, though intense, week as you could hope for. Its new location means that the odds are firmly stacked in your favour. Do not let anyone get the better of you or pull the wool over your eyes.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Mercury and Venus are both supporting you this week. You will therefore get whatever you want in personal matters, mainly because other people are bound to fall for your undoubted charms. The only cloud on the horizon is your tendency to be provoked by people who let you down - but, then, who can blame you?

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

There definitely seems to be a lot going on behind the scenes. You may be right in insisting that something needs explaining, but what exactly? The air of general mystery is such that you may have to wait a little while longer for the dust to settle, or the fog to clear. Plus, set aside some time for pleasure.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Jupiter is still offering its assistance, as is Saturn. This is a dynamic combination which presents you with the opportunity to set routine chores to one side and pursue some of your intensely personal ambitions, especially romantic ones.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Career-minded Leos are making good progress. For once in your life you're getting on well both because of what you know and who you know. However, for all Leos the chances of emotional and irrational confrontation are strong, especially on Tuesday and Wednesday. Watch out for the warning signs and take evasive action.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You have another week of pleasure, although some of your enjoyment will come from pursuing activities which are sensible, worthwhile and designed to help others as much as please you. Be prepared for the sparks to fly at home early in the week, but expect plenty of fun.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Tuesday and Wednesday emphasise your financial affairs. The Moon indicates a reluctance to increase your expenses, but there are other signs that domestic costs may be about to escalate. This may be no bad thing, especially if you are reaping the rewards of a partner's worldly success.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You stand to benefit most from this week's stunning Martian movements. Those areas of your life which will receive a fresh shot of inspiration include all overseas connections, higher education and legal questions. Partners will share your good fortune.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

Your financial stars have been strong for a number of months now, so much so that your attitudes to money may have been through a complete U-turn. You're now entering a brief period when you'll be much better at giving money away than earning it.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

A rare moment of inspiration is coming your way but, like a mirage, it may disappear as soon as you try to grasp it. The next weekend may be the ideal romantic moment, but please don't expect your hopes to work out in the way you planned. The stars may have different ideas.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You may feel a little overburdened with responsibilities. However, astrology is all about changing attitudes, so try to see this phase of your life as a valuable one to be of service to other people. Your turn to be waited on will come soon. Make sure that you consolidate every single gain you've made.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Your romantic and social stars are exquisite, perfect, marvellous and wonderful. And if that's not enough, let me remind you that relations with children are about to improve - and that artistic Fish will soon be discovering their forte. Just don't get in a Piscean muddle.

JUMBLLED WORDS

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

Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and _____ - Benjamin Franklin (4,3,4)

IRAE	IIWLTT
FLIOO	DEEKSW

SUDOKU 5372

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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

SUDOKU 5371

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5371

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

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD
GUWAHATI BUILDING CIRCLE-II, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3
PRESS NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Guwahati Building Circle-II, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for the following works having experience of similar nature of work from APWD registered contractors. Details of the bids may be seen at e-procurement portal website: www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in for participating in the bidding process.

Name of work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs.)	Category of APWD (B) registered contractor
Redevelopment of Secretariat Complex at Dispur, Guwahati-06 (Package 1 Construction of Playground and Road along with Horticulture work and Parking facilities)	1,81,11,579/-	Class-1 (A/B/C)

Note:-
1. Any modification of tender may be seen in the portal www.assamtenders.gov.in.
2. The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Document.
3. Value of work may vary according to the detail NIT.
4. The prospective bidder must visit the work site before submission of tender. The bidders have to submit evidence of site visit in the form of a certificate duly certified by the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Capital Construction Division, Dispur, Guwahati-6 with geo-tagged photographs.
5. This tender is invited as an advance action in anticipation of obtaining Administrative Approval from concerned authority and the work will be allotted on receipt of Administrative Approval only.

Superintending Engineer, P.W.D.
JANASANYOG/C/11798/23/05-NOV-23
Guwahati Building Circle-II

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender Notice No. TM / T/Unit/Overhauling/2023, Date: 02.11.2023. On line (through e-tendering) Tender for the following work is invited by Dy. Chief Engineer (Track Machine), Plant Depot, East Central Railway, DDU for and on behalf of the President of India, from reputed Firms. E-Tender Closing Date: 23.11.2023.

1. Name of the work with its Location : TM_T/Unit/Overhauling_2023- Overhauling of Tamping Units of Plasser make CSM/DUO (12 Sets), Unimat-3S-(03 Sets), Unimat-4S (03 Sets), Dynamic Tamping Express (DTE)/Tamping Express- (03 Sets) and MFI-(03 Sets)- 02 sets for overhauling and 01 set for supply and assembly. Tender Cost - Nil. 2. Approx. Cost of the work : ₹12,63,88,495.16. 3. Earnest money : ₹7,82,000/-. 4. Date and time for submission of e-tender : 23.11.2023 upto 15.00 hrs. 5. Website particulars of e-tendering : www.ireps.gov.in.

Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Plant Depot/ ECR/PT. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya PR/001556/PDDU/Engg./T/23-24/36

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel/Fax:-0680-2404287)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/74-2023-24/BPR

Identification No	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 74-2023-24/BPR	Road Works including 05 years Post Construction maintenance under MMSY-TRIP for the year 2023-24	01 No	RS- 561.39 Lakhs	"A" Class applicable	11 (Eleven) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender online for bidding
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur	Online Tender/74-2023-24/BPR	From 07.11.2023 at 10.00 A.M. To 21.11.2023 upto 3.00 P.M.

(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-25071/11/0079/2324

SALUTE THE SOLDIER
A tribute to Brave Hearts
05th November

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On 05-11-1990, they laid down their lives while saving the lives of employees of MGCC, Nagothane (Maharashtra) during massive fire at Gas Cracker plant. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deed.

मुख्य चुनाव अधिकारी कार्यालय, दिल्ली
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI
Old St. Stephen's College Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006.

Corrigendum

In partial modification of this Department's advertisement no. DIP/Shabdarth/Display/0087/23-24 published in various Newspapers on 04-11-2023, the information regarding Form - 6 may be read as under:-

फार्म-6
नये मतदाता के पंजीकरण हेतु

Further, the information regarding Form - 6B may be treated as withdrawn and hence may be ignored. The other information will remain the same.

Sd/- Addl.CEO, Delhi

DIP-SHABDARTH-CLASSIFIED-0215-23-24

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (BUILDING)
ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-03
No. 1/327694/2023

PRESS NOTICE

In cancellation of the earlier press notice vide E-file letter No. 1/274962/2023 Dated: 11-09-2023, on behalf of the Governor of Assam, the chief engineer, P.W.D (Building) re invites the "Expression of Interest" (EOI) for consultancy services from empanelled architects under PWD(B), Assam, preferably from A & B category who has wide experiences of similar nature of works for the following project:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approx. project cost	Approx. consultancy fees including GST
1	Conservation, Restoration & Up gradation of Amguri Inspection Bunglow Complex at Amguri	710.30 Lakhs	Rs. 24.73 Lakhs

Chief Engineer, PWD (Bldg.),
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
JANASANYOG/C/11787/23/05-NOV-23

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

Bid Identification No. Building Tender Online RWCSBP-41/2023-24 No: 3253 Dated: 03.11.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate Bid from experienced & eligible bidders for 02 (Two) nos of road works under SACI for the year 2023-24.

- Name of work : Road works under SACI for the year 2023-24.
- No of work : 02 (Two) nos of Road works Details as per DTCN.
- Estimated cost : Approximately cost Rs. 179.45 lakhs to Rs. 249.02 lakh
- Class of Contractor. : 'A' 10,000/- per set. (to be deposited On-line) in favour concerned Superintending Engineer.
- Cost of tender paper and mode of deposit. : Rs. 1000/-
- Mode of submission of tender : Tender should be submitted only On line in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in (<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>)
- EMD and mode of deposit : 1% of estimated cost of the work to be remitted online as mentioned in DTCN.

Summary of key dates are provided below :						
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last date & time for seeking clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur	Road Tender Online RWCSBP-41/2023-24	09.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	23.11.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	22.11.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	24.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated later

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

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur
OIPR-25091/11/0062/2324

CUTTACK DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ARUNODAYA BHAWAN, LINK ROAD, CUTTACK-12
CAD-2704 TEL: (0671) 2312299, FAX: 0671-2312299, Mail CDA.cuttack@nic.in

No.11761/CDA,Cuttack Dt. 03.11.2023
PLN-MS-3/23

ADVERTISEMENT

Sub: Accreditation of Architects and Registered Technical Persons under the provisions of Odisha Development Authorities (Common Application Form) Rules, 2016.

Applications are invited for Accreditation of Architects and registered Technical Persons under Rule 35 of the Odisha Development Authorities (Common Application Form) Rules, 2016. For complete information regarding qualification, eligibility criteria, application form and other details, interested persons may download the notice from the Cuttack Development Authority's website (cda.cuttack.ori.nic.in) Applications are also available in the CDA Office, Arunodaya Market, Cuttack between 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday. The complete application in all respect along with a fee of Rs.5000/- (Rupees Five thousands) only, in shape of a crossed demand draft of a nationalised bank or bank having financial transaction with Government of Odisha, issued in favour of Cuttack Development Authority payable at Cuttack. The application can be submitted in person at the CDA Office, Arunodaya Market, Cuttack or through registered post to "The Planning Member, Cuttack Development Authority, Arunodaya Market, Link Road, Cuttack-753012, Odisha. The applications shall be received within 15 days from the date of issue of this notice.

Sd/-
Planning Member,
Cuttack Development Authority.
(OIPR-13037/11/0157/2324)

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.



To choke? I don't know how to answer that... I don't think it'll be a matter of choking. I doubt you would say that about India as well if they come unstuck. You got two teams who are in-form and I think it's just a matter of who breaks first.

TEMBA BAVUMA, SOUTH AFRICA CAPTAIN ON HIS TEAM'S TENDENCY TO 'CHOKE'

Classic in offing

World Cup's two most watchable, skillful and in-form teams — India & SA — meet at iconic Eden Gardens in a top-of-the-table clash

SANDIP G

KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 4

THE STEEL barricades at the entrance of the Eden Gardens creaked as hundreds of fans pushed each other to capture the photographs of South Africa cricketers de-boarding from the team bus. The fans waved banners and newspaper cutouts of Quinton de Kock and Kagiso Rabada, and chanted their names in the forenoon frenzy.

Some of the South African cricketers, delightfully shocked, waved them back and the bunched-up crowd roared in joy. "Cheer us, tomorrow too," shouted one of the support staff members.

The undulating fanfare was such that it seemed like the most awaited match of the World Cup, bigger in the quality-scale than when India and Pakistan meet.

A big match it is indeed, as high-flying South Africa duel unstoppable India, on a seven-match unbeaten streak.

The locals have a phrase for big games, or rather the biggest game of the city, the Kolkata Derby between East Bengal and Mohun Bagan, called 'boro match'. Boro literally means big, but contained in the simple world are complex layers of politics and history, passion and affection for the sport. That they have dispensed, they rarely do, the India-South Africa game with this label is a glowing recognition of the significance of the encounter. Can South Africa bell India, finally? Can India's polished seamers defuse the flash of South Africa's power-lit batting firm? Who will finish as leaders?

But this is not merely a clash of teams placed one and two on the table, grappling to top the group stages or gain psychological edge, or produce a statement performance before the knockouts that makes the game theoretically appealing.

It's the blending of the rich array of talents that renders the game as unputdownable. Even if you remove the context and backdrop, the match still has a staggering standalone value.

This is a game laden with narrative and meaning; with characters and themes. No other contest in the tournament could boast such a unique exhibition of skills, catering to all varieties of viewers.

There is the modern classicism of Virat Kohli, the spunk of Rohit Sharma and Quinton de Kock; the belligerence of Rassie van Der Dussen and Shreyas Iyer; the languid stroke-play of Aiden Markram and Shubman Gill; and the unique craft of Jasprit Bumrah, the rare wizardry of Tabraiz Shamsi and Kuldeep Yadav, the understated guiles of Keshav Maharaj and Ravindra Jadeja; the seaming geniuses of Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Shami. Every over, every ball, every stroke holds the capacity to be an event in itself.

Fiery duels

The personal duels are riveting too — Rabada and Kohli resuming their storied exchanges; Bumrah revving it up against his former Mumbai Indians colleague, de Kock. KL Rahul against Keshav Maharaj, Markram pit-



Eden Gardens in all its glory on the eve of the big match between India and South Africa on Sunday. Partha Paul

ted against Kuldeep, bouncer-savvy Gerald Coetzee against the compulsively pulling Rahul.

Every other match-up looks enticing; every other cricketer looks capable of producing match-defining performance. These have been easily the best teams of the tournament, and these could again meet in the final.

It is only fitting that Eden Gardens is hosting a match of such magical quality. The most romanticized venue of the country, though it might not be the most important one these days, the Eden has watched history unfold like few other stadiums in the country.

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma could not hide his excitement either.

"There is a lot of excitement within our group. The excitement of the occasion of playing here at Eden Gardens. There is quite a lot of history about the ground, and I think the more important one is coming up against India," he would say.

'Special place'

Later, India coach Rahul Dravid would talk about the pride and privilege of playing at the Eden Gardens: "I have always enjoyed playing here, the history, crowd and the atmosphere. It's a special place." Here, three decades ago South Africa played their first game upon reintroduction; here Bavuma's predecessors tasted their first Test victory on Indian soil; here Australia lifted their first ever World Cup; here Carlos Brathwaite slammed four sixes in a row in the last over of the final against England to lift the T20 World Cup; here VVS Laxman orchestrated one of the greatest comebacks in the game's history. Here, South Africa and India hope to add more sheets of history to the turf and stands of the grand old stadium of Indian cricket.

Menace in the nets, a panda out of it: Bengal teammates on 'subtle' Shami

PRATYUSH RAJ
NOVEMBER 4

ON SATURDAY afternoon, Shreevats Goswami went to meet his Under-19 teammate Virat Kohli for lunch. The two friends were catching up after a long time but the talk of the table was Mohammed Shami. Goswami couldn't help himself and asked Kohli about his former Bengal teammate Shami.

"Virat explained to me why Shami is so difficult to face. He said 'Shami makes a subtle change with his fingers. It is easy to read Jasprit (Bumrah) but with Shami, you don't know which ball is coming in and which is going away,'" Goswami tells *The Indian Express*.

"Virat is true also. Shami is a menace to face in the nets. I remember after his first India call-up. He was training with us in an indoor facility at Eden. Dada (Sourav Ganguly) was also present there and Shami was strictly told by the coaches not to bowl bouncers. But Shami bhai will end up bowling a couple after every six or seven balls. I remember Dada was so excited that he later gave Shami the green light to bowl three bouncers in six balls," says Goswami, who has recently announced his retirement from first-class cricket.

It was under Manoj Tiwary that Mohammad Shami made his first-class debut in 2010. Tiwary still remembers how he was smiling grin to grin after he watched Shami bowl for the first time at the Eden Gardens in Bengal's Ranji Trophy camp.

"The first time I saw him in the nets, there was a smile on my face. You suddenly feel like, oh we have got a real deal. My first impression was that he will play for India. He has been the kind of bowler, who will never hesitate to bowl bouncer in the nets. He is still the same. Generally, the newcomers used to be scared to

Shami used to sleep all the time, but you give him the ball in the match, and all of a sudden, we used to see a different Shami."

SHREEVATS GOSWAMI
SHAMI'S ROOMMATE WITH BENGAL TEAM

bowl a bouncer against a senior batsman or the captain but not Shami. For him, he was preparing for the match," said Tiwary.

"Uska kehna tha ki batsman apna practice kar raha hai toh bowler bhi toh khud ka practice karega. Match mey ja ke bouncer toh khelna hi hai na (If batsmen are training for the match then bowlers will also do the same. A batsman will have to face bouncers in the match then why not in the nets). He was very clear with his thought process. The first time you will face Shami, you will immediately realise how good your feet movement is," he says.

Shami moved to Kolkata in 2006-07 after he was overlooked for the Uttar Pradesh U-19 team. He started playing cricket at Dalhousie Athletic Club, a year later, he moved to Town Club. The next destination was Mohun Bagan, for whom he has been playing for the last three-and-a-half seasons. "It was not easy to convince Shami to join Mohun Bagan," recalls Abdul Monayem.

Monayem was the coach of the Mohun Bagan team, and a good friend of Shami's childhood coach, Mohammed Badruddin. "Badr bhai always used to talk about Shami from the time he was 13 or 14. During a match against Town Club, I lured him to come and join Mohun Bagan. But he declined straightaway saying he can't betray Debaratna Das, who back then was Town Club's secretary (He is now CAB's joint secretary).

"Badr bhai convinced him that if he would play for Bagan, he would come on the

radar of Bengal selectors. Badr bhai also played with his ego, saying he is happy taking wickets against lower-division teams. Within a year, he was part of the Bengal team and if I am not wrong, he was roped in by KKR in 2011," says Monayem.

Monayem credited legendary Pakistan pacer Wasim Akram for Shami's rise. "Wasim Akram has worked a lot with him. He had a very good wrist position but Wasim bhai worked on his release. He was not getting much game time for KKR, but he was always around Wasim. It was Wasim Akram, who made him the bowler he is, and of course, he has worked hard too," he says.

The way Akram helped Shami, exactly the same way he is helping the current Bengal pace crop. Akash Deep, who is yet to share the new ball with Shami shares his experience of bowling with him at India's camp in Bengaluru before the Asia Cup.

"Shami bhai explains things without complicating it. His advice to me was that if you can swing the ball from a good length area, you will be successful in all three formats. He told me it has been his mantra since the time he has started playing cricket. Yes, he has gone for runs but you will not see him missing his length very often," says Akash. Tiwary says Shami's biomechanics is in discussion nowadays but it is his control on the length that made him the best Indian bowler in any condition.

Goswami, who was Shami's roommate when the pacer first came into the Bengal side, says, "At nets, he was a menace to face but of it, he was like a panda. He was always on his phone. He will have breakfast for breakfast, lunch and dinner. He was laid back, not too excited to train in the gym, used to sleep all the time, but you give him the ball in the match, and all of a sudden, we used to see a different Shami," laughs Goswami.

Hardik's fate was sealed at NCA nets, out of World Cup

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

IT WAS his fourth and fifth deliveries in the nets at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) on Friday that decided Hardik Pandya's destiny in the World Cup.

The Indian Express understands that Pandya was asked to bowl in the nets with strength and conditioning coaches advising him to increase his speed slowly. As he was coming after injury, the support staff didn't want him to put too much pressure on his ankle. It is learnt that Pandya didn't face any problem in the first three balls he bowled. He decided to increase the intensity of his bowling for the next delivery. It was during the fourth ball he felt a bit of pain in his leg.

Pandya informed the support staff about the pain he felt on his right ankle. He ran and bowled the fifth ball with 80% of intensity but the pain increased. The NCA medical team decided to get another round of scans done. "The result showed that his bone still has swelling and it will take a few more weeks. It was then that the BCCI informed the Indian team management and selection committee to pick a replacement," a BCCI official said.

On Saturday morning, the ICC confirmed that Pandya is out of the World Cup and the Indian board has sought his replacement in Prasidh Krishna.

Pandya had limped off after putting his right foot to stop a drive from Bangladesh's Litton Das in Pune. The Baroda all-rounder lost his balance while trying to stop and dragged his right boot while landing on the pitch. He got up and looked in discomfort as he stood on his haunches. Pandya was rushed to the NCA for his rehabilitation. On Saturday morning, Pandya penned down a heartfelt message on the X: "Tough to digest the fact that I will miss out on the remaining part of the World Cup. "I'll be with the team, in spirit, cheering them on every ball of every game."

Hardik had picked up five wickets from four matches in India's campaign and had batted only once against Australia in Chennai.

Rahul named vice-captain

The BCCI appointed KL Rahul as the vice-captain for the Indian team for ongoing World Cup game after Hardik Pandya was ruled out due to ankle injury. "The BCCI has appointed KL Rahul as the vice-captain of the Indian team for the remainder of the World Cup. He was informed about it on Saturday morning by chairman of selection committee Ajit Agarkar, who is traveling with the team," a BCCI official told *The Indian Express*.

Rahul, who was attending bowlers meetings as a specialist wicket-keeper will now be attending all team meetings of bowlers, batsmen as a vice-captain and he will be consulted by the team management in all key decisions.



The tournament's Event Technical Committee has approved seamer Krishna as Pandya's replacement.

PACE CHALLENGE

Why left-armer Jansen could be biggest threat for Indian batsmen

SANDIP G

KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 4

A STOCKY left-arm net bowler with long strides had the longest spell of the evening. Every Indian batsman would face him, every Indian batsman would ask him to probe a variety of lengths and lines. Virat Kohli instructed him to bowl short and into his body; KL Rahul would tell him to bombard the fifth-sixth stump line. Shubman Gill would request him to bowl from 18-19 yards.

It's not hard to tell why the left-armer was in demand. Indian batsmen were readying for the toughest test they could face on Sunday, that is the beanpole Marco Jansen. The net bowler was neither as tall nor as quick as Jansen. He was barely getting the ball rear up to the chest or hurry the batsmen.

An hour ago, on the same pitch, Jansen had let it rip. The first ball he bowled kicked up at an awkward height from a good-length area, whizzing past the shoulders of the bemused batsman. In the next half an hour, he would keep the batsman literally on their

toes. He would seam the ball into them, make it kick away and then at the end of it, wear the pads again for another hit. The net bowler could conjure none of these evils.

But some simulation is better than nothing, Indian batsmen would have thought. For, from time to time, they have struggled to negotiate top-class left-handers capable of seaming the ball both ways.

The other afternoon, Dilshan Madhushanka had top-order sweating at times to measure the movement he was extracting with the new ball. In the past, Trent Boult, Shaheen Afridi and Reece Topley have tied them in knots. But Jansen is a vastly different devil.

He is the tallest among them, standing at 2.06m. It was the sudden inches he put on after turning 17 that prompted his father to convert his son from a rumbling fly-half to an all-rounder. He was a rugby player himself and desired his son to follow in his footsteps. But his son's height, he thought, would better suit a fast bowler.

The extra height gives him extra bounce off the pitch, more margin for error with his length. Batsmen become wary of driving him, so much so that even fed with drivable balls, they often fail to get fully forward, mak-



Marco Jansen rests during nets. Reuters

ing them more prone to nick one behind.

In a sense, he is the left-handed version of Kyle Jamieson, quicker and meaner than him, but with lither shoulders and narrower wingspan. Worse, he has been in the form of his life—in this World Cup, he is the joint second-highest wicket taker, grabbing 16 at 20.06, with an economy rate of 5.83, and striking every 20th ball.

Of them, 12 have arrived in the power-play, at an average of 13.08. At the start of the

He has been in the form of his life—in this World Cup, he is the joint second-highest wicket taker, grabbing 16 at 20.06, with an economy rate of 5.83, and striking every 20th ball

tournament he struggled, and admittedly lost his way in pursuit of movement by bowling fuller. He would soon correct it, and confess: "Previously, I was focusing a lot on something that was not always going to be there [swing]. Now, I constantly try and hit the wicket hard and through that get some purchase."

For many, the frightening bounce is his biggest gift. India's opening pair, Rohit Sharma and Gill are happy executors of the pull, but would they be as comfortable keeping the ball down or getting under when facing a quicker, taller and impeccably accurate quick?

In the past, Rohit has been hurried when pulling really quick bowlers. Gill could be

overeager and play one pull too many. Moreover, pulling a left-armer slanting the ball away at pace is more difficult than playing a similar stroke against a right-armer angling in. The angle could enhance the risk of them slicing the ball in the air.

Vulnerable to short balls

More than the openers, Kohli has been vulnerable to the short balls cannoning onto his neck at the start of the innings. Like the top-edge Josh Hazlewood induced at the start of his innings at Chepauk. Once his innings flows along and his feet get livelier, he douses them with more comfort. So has been Shreyas Iyer. Though he talked up his skill to deal with the short-ball, and walked it against Sri Lanka seamers, it still remains a weakness of his.

Then comes Rahul, riding a wave of form but with a harrowing past against Jansen. Thrice in India's Test tour to South Africa in 2021—in India's previous trip in 2018, he impressed Kohli in the nets—did he consume Rahul. The method of dismissals read thus: caught off a top-edged pull; snared at second slip off defensive poke, bounce again the culprit as the ball climbed onto him; caught

by the second slip after he edged a drive off a fuller length.

The three dismissals offered a peek into the mastery of lengths too. He could seamlessly interchange between short, full and back of length. He might not bowl as full as Boult, or curl the ball as deviously into the pads as Afridi, but the subtle deviation he coaxes would suffice.

After the New Zealand hammering, Kagiso Rabada would wax eloquent on his colleague: "He is hitting great lengths, he is swinging the ball both ways, and he has got a great bumper. Normally, if you have that in your artillery and you execute it more often than you don't, you will be successful. He is just a natural bowler. He has got a natural action, he can swing it, he can nip it, he is gifted with a talent of just bowling and making it look natural."

Jansen might not be the lone threat in South Africa's fleet of seamers. There is obviously a modern-day master in Kagiso Rabada, a new-age enforcer in Gerald Coetzee, a slippery Lungi Ngidi. But Jansen could pose them the stiffest test, not just in this game, but the biggest yet in the tournament.

STANDINGS

IND (Q)	W	L	T	PTS	NRRC	
Ind (Q)	7	7	0	0	14	2.102
SA	7	6	1	0	12	2.290
Aus	7	5	2	0	10	0.924
NZ	8	4	4	0	8	0.398
Pak	8	4	4	0	8	0.036
Afg	7	4	3	0	8	-0.330
SL	7	2	5	0	4	-1.162
Ned	7	2	5	0	4	-1.398
Ban	7	1	6	0	2	-1.446
Eng	7	1	6	0	2	-1.504

POLLUTED DELHI
Bangladesh train with masks, Lanka cancel practice due to bad air

A day after Bangladesh called off their training session, Sri Lanka, too, decided to stay indoors rather than practise on Saturday due to the rising air pollution in New Delhi. After refusing to go for practice on Friday, Bangladesh braved the pollution to hit the nets on Saturday evening. Coaches and players arrived to the practice areas for a light session in protective face masks. The two teams are set to play each other in their penultimate preliminary stage match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Monday. For the second consecutive day, Delhi's air pollution was declared as 'severe' on Friday, with the 24-hour average AQI (Air Quality Index) hitting a high of 475 at 11 am, and staying above 450 till at least 5 pm. At 9 am on Saturday, the AQI remained in the severe category and was marked at a high of 470, a very marginal improvement from Friday. Forecasts, as per an 'early warning system' of the Union Government, predict that the air pollution will remain at 'severe' levels up until Monday. Despite this, there has been no indication so far that the match will be moved out of the city. The International Cricket Council (ICC) and match officials, then, will need to take a call on whether the match can go ahead or must be abandoned on Monday. These conditions are not new for the national capital's cricket-watching population, or for the Sri Lankan team, after two bizarre stoppages in a Test match at the Feroz Shah Kotla between India and Sri Lanka back in 2017, when several players were declared unfit to be out in the field, with a few reportedly vomiting in the dressing room. While the prospect of having a 50-over international cricket match in a city that has had to shut down schools in the wake of choking air pollution may seem jarring, PSM Chandran, former Director (Sports Sciences), Sports Authority of India (SAI), believes the match does not need to be abandoned yet. "It is obviously not ideal, but had it been a marathon race, or a football or hockey match, there would be more cause for concern. Cricket is a sport that has inbuilt recovery in it, given how slow it is. There will be plenty of time for a bowler to recover after a spell or a batsman to recover after hard running," Chandran said

NAMIT KUMAR



Bangladesh coaching staff with masks during a practice session at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Amit Mehra

[England's title defence ends, Pakistan's semifinal race goes down to the wire]

A sixth defeat in seven matches has finally ended all mathematical possibilities of England making the last four, while Fakhar Zaman kept Pakistan in contention with a whirlwind century

PAKISTAN and New Zealand are now level on points with one league game to play. Whichever team gets a better result will finish higher.

PAKISTAN FACE England in their last league fixture while the Kiwis play Sri Lanka. NZ's are placed higher on the table at fourth on net run rate.

THEIR 33-RUN defeat at the hands of Australia, their sixth in seven games, finally ended England's title defence with two matches left to play.

A FIFTH straight win took the Aussies a step closer to the semis. Though their spot isn't sealed yet, with matches vs Afghanistan & B'desh remaining.

AFGHANISTAN ARE also in with a shout, but have to win at least one of their final two games against Australia and South Africa, and hope to benefit on NRR.

Pakistan hang by a thicker thread

Fakhar's attacking ton and kind weather gods help Pakistan keep their semis hopes alive with a 21-run win over NZ via DLS method

VENKATA KRISHNA B
BANGALORE, NOVEMBER 4

LOSING A thriller to an inspired South Africa, a huge win over Bangladesh and beating New Zealand on Saturday via the DLS method courtesy of an unbeaten, attacking hundred from an opener — brought back after sitting out because of injury. Pushed into a corner after four losses on the trot, Pakistan have not rolled over. Epitaphs can be put on hold for now.

They still need to win against England at Eden Gardens next Saturday to have any hope of making the semifinals. This campaign isn't a comeback of epic proportions yet but the Pakistan faithful can't be blamed for hoping the spirit of 1992 somehow rubs off on this team.

One thing is certain, there is still fight left in them — like Fakhar Zaman exhibited during his unbeaten 126 off 81, a knock which comprised 11 sixes. Keeping him company, when rain played spoilsport to what was looking like a brave and excellent chase of 402, was Babar with just over a-run-a-ball 66.

In pursuit of a revised target of 342 in 41 overs, Pakistan's charge was halted at 200/1 in 25.3 overs by heavy showers, which was 21 runs more than the DLS par score.

A week back Pakistan looked totally hopeless. So hopeless that their own cricket board threw them under the bus. But here they were in Bengaluru giving hope again to their die-hard but unforgiving fans. Chief selector Inzamam ul Haq resigned earlier this week following conflict of interest allegations, knives are out for Babar. After the win, Babar could afford to smile when 1992 was brought up post match.

New Zealand's must-win match against Sri Lanka on Thursday is at the mercy of rain Gods, so there is more reason for Pakistan to be hopeful.

"I think our team lacks a rhythm and when we get that rhythm then everyone plays well. Like in the last match our bowlers bowled very well. Even in this match at the end the bowlers made a very good comeback. The way the wicket was playing, I think we saved 30-40 runs. The main thing is rhythm, which I think we have got now," Zaman said.

Digging a hole for themselves

At every World Cup, Pakistan are known to make the campaign harder for themselves and this has been no exception. And even on Saturday, they did so, as after winning the toss they chose to bowl first and ended up conceding 401/6 that looked beyond them. Even though they had nothing to lose, the target seemed too steep for a batting line-up that doesn't have enough power-hitters in their ranks and play a brand of play that is outdated in the modern era.

However, DLS was going to be in play and Pakistan looked better prepared than New Zealand to adjust to the changing conditions. Though they ended up losing Abdullah Shafique early, it was Zaman who stole the thunder with an unbeaten 126. None epitomised the "nothing to lose" attitude more than Zaman, who came back into the XI only in their previous match against Bangladesh and scored 81.

Having missed five of their matches since playing the first one against the Netherlands because of a knee-injury, his arrival provided the spark that Pakistan have desperately needed at the top. Unlike the other two openers, Zaman is known to be destructive and can muscle the ball wherever he intends to as he showed in Bangalore, hitting 11 sixes that deflated the Kiwis.

SCORECARD

NEW ZEALAND vs PAKISTAN
M CHINNASWAMY, BENGALURU
Toss: Pakistan, elected to field

NEW ZEALAND
D Conway c Rizwan b Ali 35 (39b, 6x4)
R Ravindra c Shaheeb Wasim 108 (94b, 15x4, 1x6)
K Williamson c Zaman b Ahmed 95 (79b, 10x4, 2x6)
D Mitchell b Haris Rauf 29 (18b, 4x4, 1x6)
M Chapman b Wasim 39 (27b, 7x4)
G Phillips b Wasim 41 (25b, 4x4, 2x6)
M Santner not out 26 (17b, 2x6)
T Latham not out 2 (2b)
■ Extras (lb 8, nb 1, w 17) 26
■ Total 50 Ov (RR: 8.02) 401/6
■ FoW: 1-68 (Devon Conway, 10.5 ov), 2-248 (Kane Williamson, 34.2 ov), 3-261 (Rachin Ravindra, 35.5 ov), 4-318 (Daryl Mitchell, 41.1 ov), 5-345 (Mark Chapman, 44.3 ov), 6-388 (Glenn Phillips, 48.5 ov)

PAKISTAN WON(D/L)
A Shafique c Williamson b Southee 4 (9b, 1x4)
F Zaman not out 126 (81b, 8x4, 11x6)
B Azam not out 66 (63b, 6x4, 2x6)
■ Extras (lb 1, w 3) 4
■ Total 25.3 Ov (RR: 7.84) 200/1
■ FoW: 1-6 (Abdullah Shafique, 1.6 ov)
■ Bowling: Trent Boult 6-0-50-0, Tim Southee 5-0-27-1, Mitchell Santner 5-0-35-0, Glenn Phillips 5-1-42-0, Ish Sodhi 4-0-44-0, Daryl Mitchell 0-3-0-1-0

This wasn't blind slogging, but a calculated approach of him combining his brute strength and the familiarity of the attack, against whom he had scored three successive centuries earlier this year. Whenever something landed in his slot, which was fuller, he didn't think twice before clearing his front leg and opening up his shoulders and depositing it over the arc between mid-wicket and long-off. The line hardly mattered and sans Lockie Ferguson and Matt Henry — two quicks who can trouble him with short deliveries — Zaman went on a rampage. For a player, who has a history of struggles against spinners, Zaman had no trouble in depositing Mitchell Santner and Glenn Phillips over the fence. With dark clouds parking over the stadium, and DLS set in their pockets, Zaman and Babar would take calculated risks. They made it look ridiculously easy — ensuring they stayed ahead of New Zealand at the 20-over mark.

It is starting to look like a turnaround from Pakistan but net run rate could still come into play depending on how results go. As coach Mickey Arthur said on Friday, despite all the chaos, he has found this team calm at all times. Against all odds, Babar and Co. have not been knocked out of the World Cup yet. They didn't have the best of bowling days, but the batsmen didn't give up. New Zealand even struck an early blow when Kane Williamson chased the high ball which was going away from him and dived well to catch opener Shafique. Williamson was in contention for the catch of the tournament, the Kiwis looked pumped up and ready to turn the screws. Earlier, Rachin Ravindra had scored his third World Cup hundred and Williamson, making a return after fracturing his thumb, batted like only he can for a well made 95.

But Pakistan found a way. Their fate still hangs in the balance and they remain cornered but there is a glimmer of hope and most times Pakistan just need that to turn their fortunes around.



Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman after reaching his century as captain Babar Azam applauds in Bangalore. PTI

Will Buttler's captaincy come under fire after defending champions' exit?

SRIRAM VEERA
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 11

THE QUESTION that England need to ask apart from being mystified by their world cup campaign, and wagging their fingers at the unknown, is about their captain Jos Buttler. The way he threw his wicket against Australia, as England went down despite Ben Stokes's attempts to infuse some fight, captures his internal mess, and since he is the captain, that of his team's. Not that his poor form is puzzling. Buttler averages just 13.50 from 15 ODIs spread over ten years in India. In 57 Tests, he averaged less than 32 before he was finally let go. These days, he sparkles as an opener in T20's.

Pale eyes, whispery voice, a preference for monosyllables, all contribute to the overall sad-puppy visage he has carried but to be fair to him, even in his good times, that's the kind of body language he displays. It's what he does on the field that has been a let down.

On a pitch that had lost its sluggishness under the lights, England needed 181 runs from 25 overs with 7 wickets in hand to chase down a 287-run target. It was eminently doable, but Buttler wasn't in mood to stitch out a partnership with Ben Stokes. Down the pitch he went for the big heave-ho, but sliced it down the throat of long-off. The ball from Adam Zampa hadn't even turned that much. And he hung his head and trudged off. English Mediocrity was swirling in the Ahmedabad air. It can be interpreted by the Buttler-faithful about how it would have been seen a shot of intent had he connected with the shot and such romance, but his ten-year ODI record in the middle-order in Indian conditions doesn't lie.

It will be interesting to see if any pressure on his captaincy comes from former England



Buttler averages just 13.50 from 15 ODIs spread over 10 years in India. Reuters

players or even within the system from the selectors, but the general consensus seems to be that he will survive this mess as it's the T20 world cup next year. "No I won't say captaincy has had an effect on my batting, I have enjoyed the responsibility in T20 and ODI before this," he said at the end of the game. "I have played lots of cricket and IPL cricket in India, I know the conditions... I can't put a finger on why I am not playing at my level." The word "Frustrating" was used countless times in that media interaction.

And it was Zampa who would increase that English frustration when he took down Stokes with the equation needing 117 from 90 balls. Stokes had added a 63-run hope-lifting partnership with Moon Ali in just over 10 overs. Stokes had found his touch, biffing sixes and fours, and Moon too was far more composed than he has been in this tournament.

That's when Zampa intervened. Stokes was clearly edgy, as in a rush to go for the big hits. He jumped out too early second ball and Zampa dragged back the length and slid it

flatter. Stokes went hard for the sweep next ball, which was actually turning down leg and ideal for the shot in some ways, but he ended up tamely shovelling it to Marcus Stoinis at short fine-leg. And the bat slipped out of his hands. He spread his arms, looked at his gloved hands, punched the ground, and walked back, angry with himself. He would have known the game was over then for all purposes, and though the tail did wag and got it a lot closer, it was pretty much over when Stokes fell.

Zampa was pretty chuffed with his performance. "As good as it has been in ODIs" and considering "I bowled a lot to the left-handed batsmen". He deviated from his usual fizzy pace, and bowled it a lot slower than usual and it was commendable how he handled the soapy-wet ball under the lights.

However, Australia too would have reasons to worry from this win, as clearly they have played better than this. Their batting threatened to implode but they were rescued by Cameron Green (47), Stoinis (35) and more importantly by their No.10 batsman Zampa (29). They were 247 for 8 at one point but Zampa dragged them through to 286.

Zampa would talk about how he hasn't batted in the nets even once in this world cup, and he kept swinging merrily and connecting. He was heartbroken when Australia didn't select him for the Test series in India earlier this year. "I am still hopeful that I can play Test, but once I wasn't selected for that series in India that I wanted to play, I went about preparing for this world cup."

He remains Australia's big hope for the middle-overs control going ahead. Who does England have to invest their hope in?

Brief scores: Australia 286 (Labuschagne 71, Green 47; Woakes 4-54) beat England 253 (Stokes 64, Malan 50; Zampa 3-21) by 33 runs

ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Salima scores a beautiful goal in India's hard-fought 2-0 win over Korea

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
RANCHI, NOVEMBER 4

AFTER A five-star performance against Korea just two nights back, India were made to work hard, often forced to grind it out, but they eventually managed to hold on for a 2-0 semifinal win against the same opponents at the Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi on Saturday.

Salima Tete (30') and Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke (19') were on the scoresheet for India who will take on Japan in the final on Sunday. "Yes, we expect a different semifinal but I hope not, because that would mean we have a good game," is what India head coach Jannetje Schopman had said on Thursday. As it turned out, it was indeed a different game but the result was still in favour of the hosts.

The highlight of the match came early for India in the opening quarter. One of the most thrilling sights in hockey is a well-executed counterattack. They are like the mass mo-

ments we are used to in Indian cinema. Protagonist is pegged back. Odds are not in their favour. A sudden surge happens. Background score builds up to a crescendo. Then comes the payoff.

India's opening goal on the night was exactly that. They were pinned down in their defence but played the ball out down the left and got into space. Salima Tete — central, again, as she has been deployed in this tournament — was released with a smart pass. She turned on the heat. The crowd noise kept increasing with every passing moment as they saw what was unfolding. Salima then played a brilliant pass down the left channel to Vandana Kataria. The most capped Indian showcased her brilliant awareness to find Udita to her right. By this time Salima had continued her run to reach the box and applied the finishing touch to the final pass as the crowd roared in unison. Cue, decibel levels rising.

"We played the end-to-end passes, we transferred the ball as a team. This is what coach Jannetje tells us," said Vandana about



Salima Tete (30') & Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke (19') were on the scoresheet for India. HI

that move. "We train that a lot because we have the speed and the ability to move the ball forward quickly. That was a perfect execution. It was an amazing goal and I am pleased Salima scored again," Schopman added.

It was magical, but the rest of the night wasn't quite so.

India extended their lead in the second quarter through Vaishnavi lifting it home from close range off a penalty corner rebound. After

that, it was mostly a struggle. While the third quarter was the highlight two days back, it was the opposite this time around. Indiscipline was again a concern as India invited pressure in the final quarter with two yellow cards in succession. It was, briefly, 9 Indians against 11 Korean outfield players.

But, while India's offensive play was off the mark, the defence stood tall with Nisha having a fantastic match while captain Savita Punia stepped in whenever called into action.

"The whole game, we struggled a little bit to be honest," Schopman said. "From playing really well two nights back we had to really work hard. I watched a video of that night and that felt almost perfect. Today it felt like the engine really didn't go. I must say, defensively Nisha and Savi were outstanding. We weren't fluent today. Sometimes we have to win ugly, if you are a good team. We did that today. Maybe not in a brilliant way, but this is what top teams do and we learned. We took a step there."

Earlier in the day, Japan and China pro-

duced a thrilling game of hockey in the first semifinal that saw the former win 2-1. China took the lead in what was an even first half, but Japan were always in the hunt going close a couple of times. Coach Jude Menezes said at half-time that he believed in a turnaround, and Japan duly obliged with a storming third quarter, scoring twice to take the lead. The Asian Games gold medallists piled on the pressure in the end, taking off their goalkeeper with nearly 10 minutes left but Japan held on for what Menezes said was one of the best wins in his time as their coach.

On Sunday, Menezes — the goalkeeper who donned India's jersey at Sydney 2000 — will be in the dugout plotting a way to reverse his side's two heartbreaking defeats against Savita Punia & Co this month. "It will be surreal. Even though I have been away from India for 21 years, I still love that jersey once. I keep notes about staying calm... and I keep looking at them."

It's a note that both teams could use for what promises to be a close battle for the title.

eye



POINT OF VIEW, PAGE 2

Call for Justice

Almost 50 years on, a documentary on Pakistan's Operation Searchlight emphasises the need for accountability



BOOKS, PAGE 3

- Review of KR Meera's *Assassin*
- Review of Tejaswini Apte-Rahm's *The Secret of More*
- Review of SL Bhyrappa's *Scion*

'AS A HUMANIST, HE IS ALWAYS CONCERNED ABOUT PEOPLE'



AN INSPIRING educator and fiercely independent in his outlook, A Ramachandran's work always stood out from the mainstream. Assimilating non-European modernism, even his early works reflected his interest in oriental traditions. Be it the Mexican muralists he discovered in Santiniketan or the temple murals of Kerala. Critical of the social structures that modernity perpetuated, as a humanist he has always been concerned about the people at the bottom of the social pyramid and in some ways, disillusioned that modern art in India is not addressing that inequality. Though it is largely believed that his early period was strongly modern and later he moved away, one must realise that his work always had traditional elements, and when in the later period he is painting the Bhils and the lotus ponds that he encountered in Udaipur, he is also addressing their predicament. For instance, the lotus pond becomes a metaphor for what is happening across the world with regard to ecological degradation. He did not proclaim these insights but there are aspects of his work that are vastly overlooked. They are much more complex than they appear.

R SIVA KUMAR, ART HISTORIAN AND CURATOR (As told to Vandana Kalra)

Lighting Up the Darkness

As a retrospective of his sculptures is held in the Capital, A Ramachandran, 88, talks about his days at Santiniketan, finding images in the words of Dostoevsky and why his canvas changed from the dark to the lyrical

Vandana Kalra

WHEN PRIESTS at the Krishnaswamy temple in Attingal in southern Kerala summoned gods through rituals, a young A Ramachandran watched in quiet wonder. Years later, his sculptures still reflect those cosmic arrangements — the precision with which the sanctum was adorned for worshippers to be mesmerised by the idol that shone in the light of flickering lamps in the otherwise dark altar.

Ramachandran, 88, has evoked the *yantras* in his work every now and then. At the Vadehra Art Gallery in Delhi, his Buddha-like bronze is meditative in the centre of an assemblage of figures that come together to form a six-pointed star or *shatkona yantra*, symbolising the union of masculine and feminine energies in *Bahurupi* (2006). "This more or less is my last show," says the artist about the retrospective of his sculptures. Seated in his studio in Delhi, he rues that his vision has been severely impaired by multiple COVID infections. Among the incomplete projects is a series dedicated to the Eklingji temple complex near Udaipur. Its setting reminded him of the lakes around Mount Fuji in Japan. "I could complete only nine out of the set of 11 paintings that I had planned. I also wanted to write about them," adds the 2005 Padma Bhushan awardee.

It was a chance encounter with Ramkinkar Baij's iconic sculpture *Santhal Family* (1938) — depicting a Santhal couple with their child and a dog moving with their possessions in search of opportunities — that took Ramachandran to Santiniketan in the late '50s. "I had planned to go to Madras to study, when a professor (at Kerala University) recommended that I go to Santiniketan and showed me a photograph of *Santhal Family*. That was the first time I saw a work that had the qualities of an Indian sculpture and I was awed by how a great work can touch you even as an image. It was then that I decided to go to Santiniketan," recalls Ramachandran. Under the tutelage of stalwarts such as Benode Behari Mukherjee and Baij, he would discover his own artistic vocabulary. The principles of free expression that his teachers instilled have remained instrumental to his artistic endeavours. On a

scholarship to study Kerala mural art in Santiniketan, he recalls how students would learn all mediums. "The difference between Santiniketan and other art schools was that it never taught art. Students were exposed to all media and techniques and encouraged to wander, experiment, make their own discoveries and choose what interests them," says Ramachandran.

Though his philosophy of life was nurtured by academic training, the darkness he encountered on the streets of Kolkata teeming with refugees in post-partition Bengal was also to leave an indelible mark. The post-graduate in Malayalam literature was well-versed with the writings of authors such as Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, Saadat Hasan Manto and Fyodor Dostoevsky, and in the disquietude of their words he began to hunt for his imagery. "Dostoevsky's writings haunted me and I thought I would paint like Dostoevsky wrote," says Ramachandran.

Consequently, his dark and tortured images reflected pain and misery. In *Kali Puja* (1972) the terrorising figures responded to the Naxal movement, *End of Yadavas* (1973) warned of an apocalyptic future. His version of Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, in 1968, had headless men around a table with their hands raised and an emaciated Christ under the table. "In Calcutta, I was exposed to the miseries of life which I had never experienced in Kerala. At the Sealdah Station (Kolkata), in such a small area every activity of human life was happening — birth, death, people eating, sleeping. It appeared remarkable to me that human beings could live in such a degenerating atmosphere," he says.

The grotesque works of the young artist caught the attention of Virendra Kumar of Kumar Gallery at a group exhibition in AIFACS in Delhi in 1963-64. Ramachandran accepted his offer to

shift to Delhi and work for him for a stipend of Rs 1,000 a month. "At the time, my scholarship in Santiniketan was ending, and I could not have imagined making a career only as a professional practising artist," recalls Ramachandran. It took longer to find the comfort of home in the Capital. "There were a lot of artists in the city, including Ram Kumar, Tyeb Mehta, Krishen Khanna. None of us were earning much money as artists and all of them were very kind to me and helped me settle, but somehow I could not relate with their value system. They were all interested in the European avant-garde. Modernism was measured on the basis of how much you were adapting from the Western masters; an artist inspired by Indian aesthetics was looked down upon," says the artist.

In 1965, he joined Jamia Millia Islamia University as a lecturer in art education. "When I was selected, the vice-chancellor, professor Mohammad Mujeeb, said, 'Nair saab, you will help us to make Jamia another Santiniketan'.



COURTESY: MANISHA GERA BASWANI

Ramachandran's supervision, says, "A bright-eyed art student embarking on my BFA in visual arts at the Jamia Millia Islamia University in 1986, I, like most youngsters pursuing arts, was very influenced by the Western art movements. Ramachandran sir, a teacher and an institution in his own right, was a giant presence at the beginning of my student life. His own immersive art practice, in-depth knowledge and pride in our rich cultural heritage as well as the intuitive ability to weave it as a tapestry of artistic wealth and learn-

ing allowed for us to shift our gaze."

To inspire children to dream, with artist wife Chameli, Ramachandran illustrated several children's books inspired by traditional art forms. "As kids, we grew up in nature, surrounded by grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. I listened to stories from my grandmother, played near the river, climbed trees, collected flowers for festivals — these experiences influenced my sensibilities. Children growing up in nuclear families don't have these experiences. When Chameli and I started designing books, we took the role of a grandparent for our children," he says.

Widely regarded as one of India's foremost artists at the time, when Ramachandran decided to alter his oeuvre to paint a more lyrical imagery in the '80s, the pursuit was met with abundant criticism. The resolve itself was provoked by violence. During the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, standing on a terrace he saw a mob chasing a Sikh and thrashing him to death. "I had never seen anything like this. The violence I had witnessed was so brutal. I did not see any point in painting more violence, it wasn't useful for humanity. Instead of painting more darkness, I asked myself, why don't I paint more soothing images that would let people forget their miseries and lift up their spirits," recalls Ramachandran. It took him more than two years to create the monumental *Yayati*, also intended to provoke the art community to "look inward". A retelling of a story from the Mahabharata, with *Yayati* as a modern man's symbol, it was conceived as the inner shrine of a Kerala temple with 13 bronze sculptures surrounded on three sides by 60-ft painted murals. His inspirations included the

Ajanta murals, Harappan dancing girl, Hoysala sculptures, Kerala murals, miniatures and the nomadic Lohar tribe.

Disapproved for being overtly decorative, the work was condemned for its radical departure from his politically explicit works. "I was accused of taking modern Indian art 200 years backwards. It was as if I had done a criminal act. My works were described as decorative and people said my colours were gaudy and cheap. I was suddenly an outcast and was rarely invited for exhibitions," says Ramachandran. He adds, "The problem is we mix politics with art in an awkward manner. You can't sing a protest song and become Bhimsen Joshi. If you want to be Bhimsen Joshi, then you have to sing classical music with its own rhythm and pattern. It is the same with art. There is a distinction between propaganda and art and a painting does not become great because of its subject. *Guernica* (Pablo Picasso, 1937) is not a great painting because of its theme of war but because of how it has been painted."

After its debut in 1986, *Yayati* was shown in 2002. By this time, Ramachandran's mysterious women in natural settings, painted amidst green floral foliage and fauna had gained acceptance. He had also acquainted himself with the simple life led by the Bhil community and discovered the lotus ponds that also became his recurrent leitmotif. "People in the city are conditioned by societal norms. We live in an artificial society but among the tribals I found an open society. The Bhils, for instance, live in complete harmony with nature. I would attend their ceremonies, watch them closely, sketch their life and rituals; they became a part of my paintings."

Every year, Ramachandran would visit Udaipur and its villages. His last visit was in 2020-21, when he also painted his last set of lotus ponds, exhibited in Delhi in November 2021. On the easel in his studio is an incomplete *nayika*. Looking at her, he vividly recalls his first portrait and model, sketched on the walls of his home when he was seven or eight years old. "We had a help who treated me like her own child. One day, she asked me to make her portrait instead of scribbling on the walls. I referred to her as my Mona Lisa in my writing, even though she wasn't pretty like Mona Lisa. She was old, had drooping breasts and used to tie a turban on her head like a man. She was the first woman I drew," says the artist.



IN PLAIN SIGHT

(From top) A Ramachandran's *The Monsoon Wind*; the artist; his bronze installation *In Trance*

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND RANJIT LAL Author, environmentalist and bird watcher



IN FLIGHT Cormorant drying its wings

Between the Pages

A book on the seven biodiversity parks of Delhi shows how everything in nature is connected

WHAT STRIKES you as soon as you pass through the gates is the overwhelming sense of serenity and calm. This is one quality that the Yamuna Biodiversity Park has always had. Inside the office, I was delighted to meet Professor CR Babu of the Centre for the Environmental Management of Degraded Ecosystems, who along with his zealous team, has over the last 20-odd years transformed what was once a wasteland into a thriving wonderland, brimming and humming with life. This was not the only arid, devastated landscape they have rejuvenated around the city: Delhi now has seven biodiversity parks — each with its own habitat and ecosystem, which has been restored and, should we say, rewilded. All are works in progress, but the results are already plain to see.

Salmon Arab butterflies, compact in yellow and black with tinges of orange, sun themselves, and stay in the same spot for as long as you could wish. A perfect Peacock Pansy shows off its burnt orange wings and large mauve-touched eyespots beautifully in the bright sunlight. Suddenly it folds its wings and virtually vanishes! The undersides of the wings are the exact shade of the twig it is on. This could cause some confusion for an approaching predator: blink and it's gone!

Back in the office I meet Faiyaz Khudsar, the ebullient boots-on-the-ground man who, with an equally committed team, has overseen the development of this, and some of the other biodiversity parks. I asked him about how the recent floods affected the park and he grins and says, "They had zero effect! The grass went under and then just grew back again! No damage!" Which just goes to show how important a natural floodplain is: it knows how to deal with these matters. And then Faiyaz produced a surprise for me: a large, beautifully illustrated book on all of Delhi's seven biodiversity parks.

It is a heavy book and, outlining the history of the development of each park, has photographs showing flora and fauna, the seasons, and the habitat, as well as 'before-and-after' shots, which give you a true idea of what has been achieved. The text with clear diagrams and charts explains how they went about dealing with each park, which had their individual sets of challenges and problems. There were explanations as to how the different ecosystems work, and how everything in nature is connected, how the circle of life goes on. I then asked a fatal question. "So, is this going to be in every school and college library and be made mandatory reading?"

"No! Not yet!" This was just a prototype, and they had not been given the go-ahead or the funds to print and publish it. You think of all the current futile projects on which hundreds of crores are being dumped and want to curl up. There is so much negativity surrounding environmental issues. For any student, government official or anyone remotely interested in nature and the environment there could be no better encouragement than to hold on to some hope and get involved. To bury this book would be criminal.

I made this visit after a very long gap

A Peacock Pansy shows off its burnt orange wings and large mauve-touched eyespots, suddenly folds its wings and virtually vanishes

and quickly made my way to what's called the 'deep water body' which, in winter, plays host to a myriad of waterfowl. This morning, there are just a handful of birds paddling along in the serene waters. Cormorants glide around in pairs, their noses in the air like socialites at a party. On the island, in the middle of the lake, a bevy of spot-bill ducks quack in that comfortable contralto way ducks have when they are at ease. With their salt-and-pepper plumage, and yellow-tipped bills, and orange 'bindi', not to mention heavily Kohl-lined eyes, they look like classical dancers getting ready for a recital. A purple heron flies off towards the far bank. A snake swims right across the lake, only its head sticking out as it makes a beeline towards the shore. There are tiny-tot warblers playing hide-and-seek in the rushes.

So yes, there may be just a few species but suddenly you realise one thing: You are getting to spend quality time with them, to observe and appreciate them like you wouldn't have, had there been 20 or 30 species around.

Call for Justice

Almost 50 years on, a documentary on Operation Searchlight emphasises the need for accountability

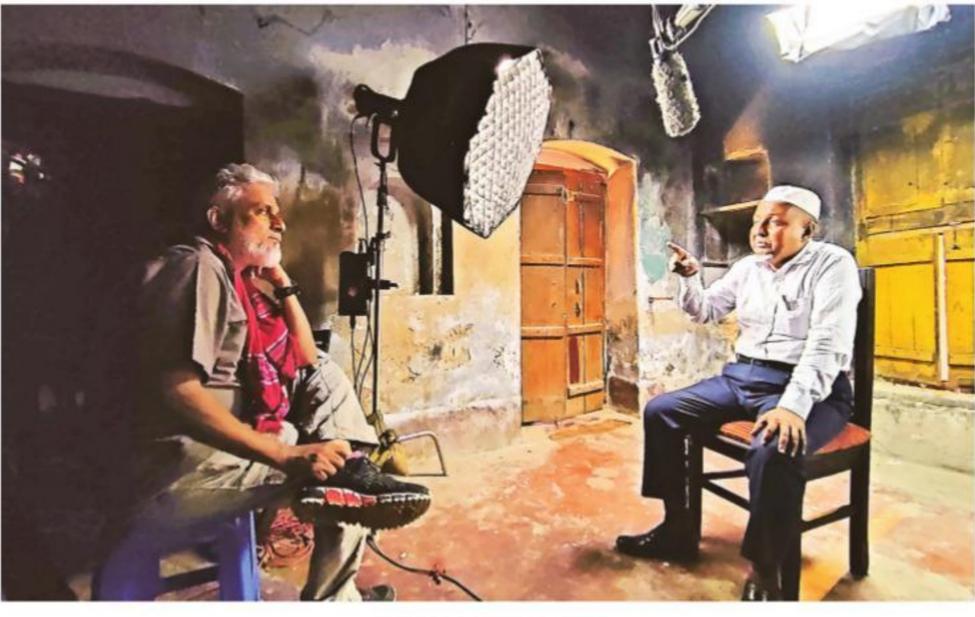
Aditya Vaddepalli

ON FEBRUARY 26, 1971, Raqibul Hasan, the bench-warmer for the Pakistan cricket team, was finally stepping out to bat against the Commonwealth side at Dhaka's Bangabandhu Stadium. All of 18, and the only player from East Pakistan in the team, he reached the striker's end, and with a glint in his eye, revealed a curious sticker on his bat — the words "Joy Bangla" written in Bengali. In a euphoric flash, the audience erupted in loud chants of the familiar war cry, resulting in disruptions to the game, which was cancelled. Little did Hasan know at the time that he would be "giving up the bat and picking up the Sten gun" to fight for the liberation of his country.

"Joy Bangla" was the war cry of the Mukti Bahini, a guerrilla resistance movement of military and civilian forces, fighting for the freedom of Bangladesh. Hasan narrates this story in Bay of Blood, a documentary by Delhi-based filmmaker Krishnendu Bose that was recently screened at the India Habitat Centre.

The Pakistani Armed Forces, under the command of the then-President General Yahya Khan, initiated Operation Searchlight in March 1971, a campaign of torture killings and rape to erase Bengali resistance. While the exact death toll is debated, independent researchers have pegged it at nearly three million people during the nine-month exercise. The operation was a result of years of cultural subjugation of the Bengali identity, including the Bengali language, and even discrediting a general election where the Awami League, a Bengali nationalist party of East Pakistan, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won by a majority. The film is a haunting retelling of the events leading up to West Pakistan's Operation Searchlight and the subsequent carnage and fight for independence.

Afatwa was issued during the Operation that declared women as "booty of war", which led to 200,000 cases of systematic rape, according to independent researchers. Pakistani Army soldiers captured numerous women and kept them as sex slaves. One of the rape survivors, who recalled the dreadful day in the film, says, "A Pakistan Army



THE FORGOTTEN BATTLE

Filmmaker Krishnendu Bose (left) with one of the survivors during the recording of his film Bay of Blood

general was 'compassionate' for not capturing me and instead instructed his troops to commit the horrific act at my home. My infant son, who saw the act, died of shock on that day." The film was structured as a deposition, where each contributor walked into the studio, sat on the chair and told their story. "The sources were authenticated by triangulating information, and only then were the stories presented," says Bose.

This process is captured by stories of witnesses, Pakistani and Bangladeshi journalists, freedom fighters, writers, academics, defectors and American diplomats. In the film, Scott Butcher, ex-US Foreign Service, who worked in Dhaka in 1971, recalls the then American Consul General to Dhaka, Archer Blood's 'Blood Telegram', where the latter expressed his dissent in the way the White House responded to Pakistan's attack on Bangladesh. "What we were witnessing was definitely a genocide," says Butcher, in

the film. Bose also got footage from international news agencies such as BBC and Associated Press, the Bangladesh Liberation War Museum and the National Film Development Corporation. Bose had earlier made several award-winning films on wildlife conservation and environmental justice. Visiting Kolkata as a boy of 10, Bose recalls witnessing a large influx of people coming from the neighbouring country. Like many Bengalis, he too learnt of the dark time through books, including Salil Tripathi's The Colonel Who Would Never Repent (2014), Garry Bass's The Blood Telegram (2013), and Srinath Raghavan's 1971 (2013). Fast forward to 2019, the filmmaker decided to revisit the past.

"The two rape survivors who we interviewed, travelled six hours from their village to Dhaka just to tell their story. When we were filming in Washington, a

Bangladeshi American, who had moderate means, travelled all the way from New York. I asked him how much we owe him for the commute and he said, 'If you can do so much for my country, why can't I do this little thing?,' says Bose.

The recently released White House tapes of former US President Richard Nixon and the then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger provided Bose clues into the events leading up to the genocide. "Who were the perpetrators and why were they doing it? This story had global players like Nixon, Kissinger, Yahya Khan, Mujibur Rahman and Indira Gandhi. There's China, Russia and the Cold War, which were pertinent to the events leading up to the genocide. What does all of this have to do with Bangladesh — some small little country in the Bay of Bengal? These are important questions. The world is on the verge of this kind of situation even today," he says.

Varsha Somaraj

The Cats Were Here

An art collective from Kerala is transforming the landscape of India's public spaces, one mural at a time

IMAGINE THE drab, lifeless walls of buildings across India. Now, envision them transformed into outdoor art galleries, bursting with life, telling stories, and invoking emotions through larger-than-life murals. Trespassers, an artistic collective from Kerala, has made this vision a reality.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, a group of six individuals — Ambady Kannan, 26; Vishnu Priyan, 28; Arjun Gopi, 29; Pranav Prabhakaran, 29; Jinil Manikandan, 28 and Jatin Latha Shaji, 26 — alumni of the Fine Arts Department of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, came together as a collective. What began as an initiative within the university has now expanded to cities and towns across the country.

Trespassers, with their distinctive cat logo, have rapidly garnered attention for their unique approach to art. Manikandan explains, "The cat logo, created by modifying the Malayalam letter 'Tr' (of Trespassers), symbolises our resilience as a group. We embrace all kinds of styles and acknowledge that street art doesn't need to conform to any fixed standards. We see each of our acts as a bridge to the other. This mindset is what drives us as a collective." They will present their work at Art Mumbai, from November 16 to 19, at the Mahalaxmi Racecourse.

Their murals depict ordinary people, the spirit of the place. Be it the hustle of trade in



BROAD STROKES

The Trespassers team painting a mural on the facade of the public library in Panangadu, Kochi

Calicut, the fervour of festivities in Thrissur, the politics of Kannur, the maritime heritage of Ponnani or the busy docks of Mumbai. In schools, their work bursts with bright colours, with depictions of houses, trees, intricate patterns and the wonder of childhood. "Before starting a project, we visit the site, interact with the public and immerse our-

selves in the essence and elements that could be depicted. Local legends and narratives often serve as a foundation, allowing us to capture the soul of the place," says Manikandan. They believe that working in a public space, as opposed to a closed studio, opens doors to endless possibilities. Trespassers also conducts workshops in

schools, particularly in underserved areas. Their workshops in Attappady, a tribal taluk, have inspired children to draw, imagine and dream. "Children are often scolded when they draw on walls, but once they are given the freedom, we see how creative they are," says Manikandan.

What sets Trespassers apart from other collectives is their ability to seamlessly merge individual styles into a harmonious whole. In a collaborative effort, their work is a conversation that flows organically. Manikandan describes it as a discussion, where one idea builds upon another, creating a complete narrative without a distinct start or end point. This lack of focus allows viewers to initiate their own story, ensuring that each viewing reveals something new.

"During workshops, students are given a shared piece of paper that circulates among them. So they draw what they perceive. If one draws a chair, the next might place a ball on it and this continues. Soon it transforms into something distinctive, where you can observe how each of their elements blend with the other," says Manikandan.

In 2021, they collaborated with St+art India Foundation in various projects across India, including in Calicut, Coimbatore, Chennai, Mumbai and Rajasthan. The collective believes that art belongs to everyone, not just to art enthusiasts. "We are eager to explore how artists from various places perceive the same location in different ways," says Manikandan.

The Bing Difference

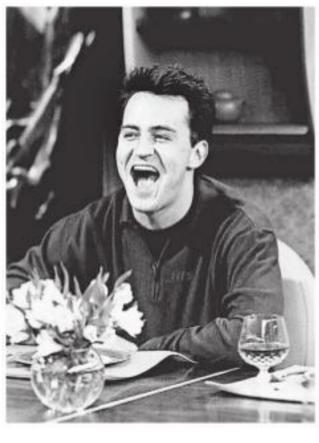
How Matthew Perry left behind a legacy of rehabilitation and hope

Udbhav Seth

IN A lavish New York apartment above a coffee shop, after taking unwarranted potshots at multiple scene-mates in the very first episode of Friends, Chandler Bing gets up from the table, walks over to the door, sighs, and says, "All right, kids, I gotta get to work. If I don't input those numbers..." Then he raises his eyebrows, considers the end of that sentence, flicks his head, and delivers what he knows is a veritable punchline, "It doesn't make much of a difference."

style, he told The New York Times last year. "At my audition I read the words in an unexpected fashion, hitting emphases that no one else had hit... I didn't know it yet, but my way of speaking would filter into the culture across the next few decades."

That's modest. Self-deprecation, irony, dark humour — whatever name you give it — has become the form of humour for my generation, those born after 1996. Chandler was of a different era — born in the 1970s, growing up in the free-market hullabaloo of Ronald Reagan, landing a lucrative job notoriously difficult to describe ("He's a transponder!" yells Rachel in Season 4 in a moment of crisis, forgetting that he deals with "statistical analysis and data reconfiguration.") But his job dissatisfaction and social anxieties — "Hi, I'm Chandler and I make jokes when I'm uncomfortable" or "I'm hopeless and awkward and desperate for love" — are universal and timeless. They are also, somehow, specific to my generation: widening income inequality, higher-than-ever property and college costs, irreversible climate crises and



MATTER OF SPEAKING

(Left) Matthew Perry as Chandler; a poster of the popular sitcom, Friends

current politics — all under the unrelentingly public gaze of social media — have made daily life for the under-30 urban Indian a little desperate. These concerns represent the failure of the dreams of India's educated class, a failure that Chandler — despite making all the right career moves in 1990s America to become the richest in his friend group — seemed to have internalised. His

only coping mechanism? Bleak and sarcastic jokes.

But surely Chandler's brand of humour cannot be laid claim to by just Gen Z (the generation born in the late 1990s and early 2000s). Dark humour can be traced back to at least fifth century BC playwright Aristophanes, and, more recently, the 18th century satirist Jonathan Swift. Irony became

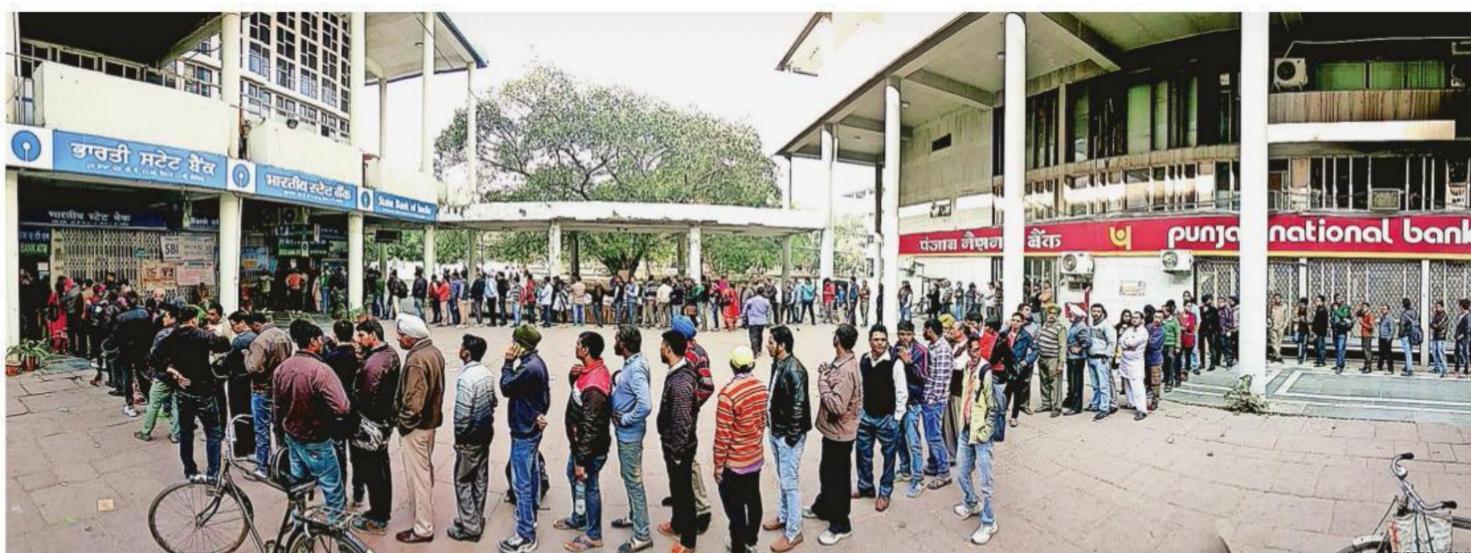
prominent after World War II to take down popular politics of the day. Even millennials (those born between 1981 and 1996) have claim to Gen Z's nihilistic and activist online humour, having experienced cataclysmic paradigm shifts like 9/11 and the 2008 financial crisis at a young age.

But here's the difference. Wherein Chandler often seeks refuge in irony ("I'm not

great at advice, can I interest you in a sarcastic comment?") Gen Z resorts to, as argued by critic Greg Guevara in a 2020 video essay, "post-irony" — a kind of irony that is only funny if you know the comedian or their body of work. For instance, suppose a comedian online makes an impassioned appeal to eradicate feminism, but you know their persona/work to be generally quite feminist, it may make their original appeal ("Let's eradicate feminism!") seem like a satirical portrayal of a character, funny only to those familiar with the persona/work. Does that sound disagreeable? Morally dubious? Risque? It is. The true intent behind this kind of humour becomes incredibly difficult to decipher. Chandler would have loved it.

In the 1990s, American writer David Foster Wallace warned of irony and post-irony as having outlived their usefulness in art and culture, with a more constructive coping/protesting mechanism necessary. "Few artists dare to try to talk about ways of working toward redeeming what's wrong, because they'll look sentimental and naive to all the weary ironists."

He might have found an interesting case study in Perry, a man famous for sarcasm but earnest in leaving behind a legacy of rehabilitation and hope. His on-screen persona may have worried about never escaping his traumas or making a difference, but I hope he didn't worry too much — off-screen, he did enough.



Living on the Edge

Set against demonetisation, KR Meera's *Assassin* seeks to respond to the socio-political complexities of contemporary India

Mini Chandran

THERE ARE times when segregating the political from the personal becomes difficult, and when we live through one such period, it is not surprising that it gets reflected in our myriad activities and more importantly, in the stories we tell. This happens because very often our stories are honest and ethical responses to the life around us. KR Meera's novel *Assassin* can be read as one such response to the complex socio-political scenario of contemporary India. Dedicated to Gauri Lankesh, the novel speaks of how the life of an ordinary 44-year-old woman begins to unravel in an India that is caught in the vortex of demonetisation. Satyapriya's life seems to reflect the chaos around her as she faces an unknown assassin. She is understandably disturbed by the unexplained attempts on her life but as she tries to find an answer to this enigma, her memories, like the currency notes that are rendered useless one fine day, pull the rug from beneath her feet.



ASSASSIN
 BY KR MEERA;
 TRANSLATED
 FROM THE
 MALAYALAM BY
 J DEVIKA
 Harper Perennial
 664 pages
 ₹699

Demonetisation, the violent ways in which dissent is suppressed, the Hindutva discourse, and increasing intolerance are the issues that provide the background while the detective story-like narration unfolds Satyapriya's life before the reader. It is a first-person narration that begins with a question — "Have you ever faced an attempt on your life? A pity, if your answer is no!" The reader, who is hooked, is taken on a journey that swings disconcertingly between the past and the present, to places that are spread across the country.

Satyapriya's story of the gendered treat-

ment and abuse of women in a patriarchal system is not unique. It is a sad but telling fact of women's existence in India that the dominating father and the abusive relationships she endures one after the other, are not unique to her. But what makes her story unique and worth listening to, are the ways in which she and her mother fight back against this system that has them in a deadly vice-like grip. This strand of female defiance of a patriarchal order is the gift edge to what is otherwise a grim story of survival.

Satyapriya's mother Vasanthalakshmi goes against the stereotypical image of a mother. She is strong, unsentimental, and completely devoid of self-pity. Trapped in a loveless marriage with a philandering husband who does not spare even young girls, she nonetheless becomes his primary caregiver when he falls literally and metaphorically. This is not because of any illusion of love but out of sheer magnanimity of spirit. She does not have any sympathy to spare for her daughters' follies and teaches them the pragmatic way to live and love. In fact, her daughter at one point bemusedly asks her: "Are you a mother, Amma?" Vasanthalakshmi is a testimony to the inner toughness of most women who cannot be beaten back, reminding you that it is not men but women who can be "destroyed but not defeated".

Meera has said that there are many autobiographical aspects to the novel, and that while Satyapriya "has a lot of me in her, her mother's quirkiness is borrowed from my own". Quirkiness is perhaps downplaying her ability to survive, laughing defiantly at all the brickbats that are thrown at her. Satyapriya's observation that her mother "stood for the very idea of freedom" is closer



LITTLE ACTS OF REBELLION

Queues outside ATMs in Chandigarh during demonetisation in 2016; (below) writer KR Meera

to the truth. Vasanthalakshmi's strength is not derived from external factors but from the depths of her own personality, and she is proof that only women's bodies can be bullied, raped and abused while their spirits can be unbroken.

Satyapriya is the true successor of Vasanthalakshmi; in a world that has grown more complex and difficult for women, she displays a rare courage of spirit that is simultaneously naive and reckless. She is the sleuth who attempts to decipher the intricacies of the murder attempts on her life. In the process, she descends into the murky depths of her past, only to arrive at unsavoury truths that manage to shake her to the core.

Truth seems to be at the heart of the novel which has a lot of characters named after "satya". Satyapriya is the protagonist who is haunted by the shadow of her antagonist, Satyaprakash. Their truths clash in a world where truth does not have any value at all,

where it is devalued like the currency notes which were arbitrarily withdrawn. This is where the figure of Gandhi and his adherence to truth become the subtext of the novel. The novel begins with the demonetisation drive that drives out the currency notes with his image, and becomes a quest for personal truth as well as a larger truth that affects the country.

Demonetisation is a leitmotif in *Assassin*, and the novel, according to Meera, is "my own humble experiment with the Indian political truth". It spans the length and breadth of a changing India, from the hi-tech city of Bengaluru, the *ashram* of a self-styled godman in Faridabad to the forests of Niyangiri. This broad range helps her cover many of the socio-political problems plaguing India at present from caste issues, the Kashmir problem, and religious extremism.

However, this attempt to encompass a plethora of issues threatens to destabilise the structure of the novel. At one level, it can be read as a fast-paced thriller which holds the reader in the grip of a compelling family saga that tells the story of horrible wrongdoings and their just punishment. At another level, it becomes a biography of a nation that is trying to cope with the injustices perpetrated by caste, class and gender. Meera has shown admirable craft in holding these two strands together but unfortunately it falters in places, and the pace flags. The reader is drawn into complicated labyrinths and traversing through the 600-odd pages appears tiresome after a point.

Devika's translation has done justice to the intense and poetic style of the author. The novel is strewn with references to Malayalam poems, songs and other local references; these are a translator's nightmare but Devika has managed to overcome these hurdles smoothly.

Mini Chandran is professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kanpur

The Limits of Ambition

Tejaswini Apte-Rahm's debut novel is an homage to the bildungsroman, telling a story at once fresh and familiar

Pooja Pillai

A 17-YEAR-OLD BOY from a village on the Konkarn coast arrives in Bombay in 1899, learns a thing or two about life and, over the years, through pluck and intelligence, builds the foundation of a happy, prosperous future for his family and himself. There are reverses and betrayals, of course. Things, in business and in love, don't always go according to plan. It might seem at the outset that in writing *The Secret of More*, Tejaswini Apte-Rahm has set herself the task of telling a story in the style of the great novelists of the 19th century, notably Charles Dickens. As it traces the story of Govind Abhyankar, aka Tatya, from where, along with his *dada* (older brother), he carries a letter of recommendation to a Bombay cloth merchant so that he may get started on a career, to the end where, surrounded by his large family — children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews — in a sprawling bungalow by the sea, he looks back on the long road behind him, *The Secret of More* is very much an old-fashioned bildungsroman in structure. But there is a lot more to commend this novel than the obvious literary homage.

In the hands of a writer with less control over her material, the vast canvas against which the action plays out could quite easily have made for a bloated mess. Consider everything that Apte-Rahm sets out to portray in this novel: Not only the story of one man, from early youth to old age, but also the birth of the film industry and the political and social changes rocking India in the 1920s and '30s, including the growing empowerment of women. Given the scope — and its heft, at nearly 450 pages — *The Secret of More* is a surprisingly pacy read. Apte-Rahm doesn't stint the reader as she sets the scene



THE SECRET OF MORE
 BY TEJASWINI APTE-RAHM
 Aleph Book Company
 462 pages
 ₹999

— whether it's the Mulji Jetha Market in Kalbadevi where Tatya makes his bones as a businessman, the crowded *chawl* which is his first home in the city and where his children are born, or the green, lush land in Borivali where he sets up a film studio.

One might complain, perhaps, that Apte-Rahm could have done more with the period and the setting of her story. Was there a more fascinating place on earth than Bombay in the early 20th century? But the intimate connection that she helps the reader maintain with the characters, letting them drive the story, makes up for it. Even as the focus of the story remains Tatya, this isn't just his story, with the women in his life emerging as com-

PELLING characters: Radha (*nee* Yamuna), married off to Tatya as a young girl, becomes the emotional anchor of a growing household; Durga, their daughter, who defies the expectations of society and her family to overcome great odds and make a life for herself; Kamal Bai, the bewitching star of the silent films produced by Tatya's studio, who becomes the unacknowledged, unnameable third in his marriage.

The Secret of More won the Tata Literature Live! Book of the Year Award for Fiction this year and it is also on the shortlist of JCB Prize for Literature. It is easy to see why. It creates a world that is hard to resist, populated with characters whose insecurities and flaws, joys and triumphs, the reader can easily identify with. Apte-Rahm's prose, particularly when it deals with long descriptive passages, is at once evocative and controlled. Yet, the one thing that could be considered as letting down this novel about the ambition of one man and where that leads him is perhaps that it is not ambitious enough. That it allows its story and characters to only go so far. At the end of the novel, one wonders how much Tatya really staked and how much he lost. The answer, unfortunately, is, not very much. It reduces a little from the dramatic potential of the story.

To be sure, Apte-Rahm must be commended for not allowing predictable melodrama to bog down the story, particularly in a scene in the final third of the book, where Kamal Bai confronts Tatya. It is a turning point in the novel, offering options that a lesser writer might be tempted to take up, but Apte-Rahm performs a feat of literary *legerdemain* that lifts the central love triangle entirely out of the realms of cliché — a delightful surprise in a novel that tries hard — succeeding to a large extent to tell us a story that is at once fresh and familiar.

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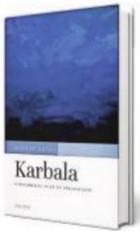
SHELF LIFE

Old Tale, New Bottle

PROPHET MUHAMMED'S younger grandson, Imam Hussain, was martyred with his family and clansmen by Caliph Yazid I in the desert of Karbala. This battle between good and evil is also a tale of heroic sacrifice and betrayal, making it a popular literary metaphor in the world of politics — used by everyone from Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to Mahatma Gandhi. Nishat Zaidi's translation is a new installment in a long tradition of retellings. Agha Shahid Ali's

prose poem, *Karbala: A History of the 'House of Sorrow'*, translated the story into a lament for his home in Kashmir. Ismat Chughtai devised a political allegory in *Ek Qatra Khoon*.

In her introduction, Zaidi says, "In Urdu *marziya*... poets have skillfully rendered the story of Karbala in all its lyrical poignancy... Premchand was neither the first writer to undertake a literary rendering of the historical event of Karbala, nor was he the first to indi-



KARBALA, A HISTORICAL PLAY
 BY PREMCHAND
 BY NISHAT ZAIDI
 Oxford University Press
 241 pages; ₹1,695

genise the characters of Karbala." In the early 1920s, when anti-colonial sentiments were on the rise, Premchand was already an established writer. He was appalled by communal discord and felt it his duty to sensitise Hindus to "the worthy aspects of Islam and Muslims." In the play's opening scene, we witness the corruption in Caliph Yazid's court. Yazid says, "... My grandfather embraced Islam because it fetched him wealth and esteem." In contrast, Imam Hussain doesn't tolerate lies and heads to the city of Kufa to keep his word to the people of the city, even when he finds out the odds of him and his family being killed on the way.

Premchand imagined a battle against injustice and corruption, and

transforms this event from the seventh century into a national allegory. He felt that identities should be defined by humanity rather than geography or rituals. He kept publishing all his writings in Urdu along with Hindi, despite facing resistance. None of his plays have been translated into English, and this first attempt by Nishat Zaidi is an important step to bridge that gap. In these polarising times, it is imperative that plays like these are read widely and appreciated for its humanism.

JONAKI RAY

Ray is the author of *Firefly Memories* (Copper Coin) and *Lessons in Bending* (Sundress Publications)

Time After Time

Scion, a new translation of SL Bhyrappa's Kannada classic *Vamshavrishtka*, documents the process of cultural transition wrought by post-Independence modernity

NS Gundur

SL BHYRAPPA has been a great success of our times despite all the criticism of his ideological stance. His commitment to the novel as a genre and the fact that his novels run into several reprints in no time with a wide readership across the country make him a unique novelist. He eluded literary trends of his time but is deeply rooted in Kannada's cultural milieu. *Scion* (2023), the third and the latest translation of his *Vamshavrishtka* (1965) by R Ranganath Prasad, narrates the story of two Brahmin families set in the south Indian towns of Mysore and Nanjangud after Independence.

Bhyrappa's afterword to the Kannada version, *Sahitya hagu maulya samvedane* (Literature and Perception of Values), which is not included in this translation, gives us some clue as to what the novelist is up to. As

Bhyrappa asserts, values change from epoch to epoch, giving rise to tension and tumult not only between different individuals but also between an individual and society and, above all, within the individual.

Accordingly, *Scion* explores the individuals caught in the vortex of what they value and the complex realities of life. Srinivasa Shrotri, a character brought forth with flesh and blood, upholds the value of *grihastha dharma*, believing that "man and woman unite in the name of marriage for the sole purpose of furthering the cause of the lineage." No carnal desire outside this aim shall serve the institution of marriage, he believes. When, therefore, a doctor advises him not to unite physically with his wife due to her health issues, he refuses to do it in spite of his wife's insistence. But he is disillusioned in the end when he discovers that he is not the biological son of his father, who had forced his wife to sleep with a wandering minstrel so as

to beget a child to avoid bequeathing his property to his brother's children. Shrotri's coming to terms with reality serves to critique the society that believes in the purity of family lineage, and it compels us to reflect on material practices versus ideals. Shrotri, as a fully developed character, is one of the most powerful delineations in Indian literature.

In contrast, Shrotri's widowed daughter-in-law Katyayani, a bold portraiture in Kannada literature of the time, sees a value in following instinct rather than social norms and marries a foreign-returned English teacher Raja Rao. Ultimately, she regrets deserting her in-laws and Cheeni, the son she had with her deceased first husband. She dies guilty. Though Katyayani was a bold creation, feminists found much to criticise as she met her tragic end. They seemed to ask, was Katyayani's end the logic of patriarchal society?

Then there's Raja Rao's brother Sadashiva, a man who believes in the value of scholas-



SCION
 BY SL BHYRAPPA,
 TRANSLATED
 FROM KANNADA
 BY R RANGANATH
 PRASAD
 Niyogi Books
 520 pages
 ₹950

tic pursuits. A historian, his ambition is to write the history of Indian civilisation in five volumes. He is attracted to his Sinhalese research assistant Karuna and marries her, abandoning his wife and son. But the same scholarly obsession affects his health and he dies of a heart attack.

As the characters are committed to specific values, they make choices only to get disillusioned. The narrative neither endorses nor negates either tradition or modernity. On the other, it explores the fragility of the human condition via familial relationships. The novel presents a tragic vision of life by showing human values as tentative binaries.

In the end, why should one read this novel written nearly six decades ago? First, Bhyrappa weaves the plot to make it interesting by giving twists and turns to the Shrotris and Raos; it is indeed an absorbing narrative that connects the dots marvelously. More importantly, it documents a particular kind of transition in our culture, especially the Brahminical society in its interaction with post-independence modernity. As Sadashiva Rao puts it at the novel's beginning, "It is when the fundamental values of a people clearly morph that a new era begins. Then, history, too, assumes a new form." Therefore, this work can be read as a

prologue to what followed in our social history and many of Bhyrappa's forthcoming narratives.

Though the novel may not be ranked as a masterpiece of Indian literature, it was adapted for the stage several times, and a movie based on it, directed by BV Karanth and Girish Karnad, bagged a national film award for the best direction. Two English translations of the novel have already gone before, first as *The Uprooted* (1992) by K Raghavendra Rao, and later by Bhyrappa and Sushma Chandrasekhar as *Scion* (1996). In this new translation, R Ranganath Prasad, for whom translation is a vocation, had an opportunity to improve upon previous endeavours. The labour of translation is quite visible here, but his rendering gives the feeling of reading a translated novel more than reading one in English. More work on the language would have been better. However, when a lot of *bhasha* literature in India is being made available in English, the manner of Indian English used in translations such as this intends to speak to fellow Indians — a good practice indeed.

The writer is professor and head, Department of Studies and Research in English, Tumkur University, Tumakuru, Karnataka

CAPSULES

[0-13 YEARS]

Probiotics can save premature babies

NECROTISING ENTEROCOLITIS (NEC) is a debilitating and deadly condition that affects infants who were born pre-term. In NEC cases, intestinal tissues become inflamed and in severe cases, there is ischemia and death of the intestinal tissue. Treatment for NEC often involves surgery to remove the dying tissue. Now researchers at the Center for Microbial Pathogenesis at Nationwide Children's have developed a novel probiotic system that harnesses the durability of biofilms to improve the administration of probiotics to patients. Their study describes the use of a biofilm formulation of *Limosilactobacillus reuteri* (Lr) to prevent NEC in a piglet model.

[13-18 YEARS]

Pandemic complicated earlier disorders

NEW RESEARCH from the NIH's Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Programme suggests that during COVID-19, some teens with a history of depression, anxiety, autism and ADHD experienced its severe impact more than those without. This study allowed researchers to identify the groups of adolescents with disabilities who are most vulnerable and may need additional support during future emergencies. Findings highlight the importance of interventions aimed specifically at increasing social connectedness, family engagement and access to medical support for adolescents, especially for those with disabilities.

[18-50 YEARS]

Intermittent fasting safe for diabetes

TIME-RESTRICTED eating or intermittent fasting can help people with Type 2 diabetes lose weight and control their blood sugar levels, according to a new study by the University of Illinois, Chicago. Participants who ate only during an eight-hour window between noon and 8 pm each day actually lost more weight over six months than participants, who were instructed to reduce their calorie intake by 25 per cent. "Our study shows that time-restricted eating might be an effective alternative to traditional dieting for people who can't do the traditional diet or are burned out on it," say researchers.

[50+ YEARS]

Improving deep sleep halts dementia

AS LITTLE as one per cent reduction in deep sleep per year for people over 60 years of age translates into a 27 per cent increased risk of dementia, according to a study which suggests that enhancing or maintaining deep sleep, also known as slow wave sleep, in older years could stave off dementia. Researchers from the Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health in Melbourne, Australia, say, "Deep sleep supports the ageing brain in many ways and we know that sleep augments the clearance of metabolic waste from the brain, including facilitating the clearance of proteins that aggregate in Alzheimer's disease."

A 70-hour work week landed him in ER

By the time he turned 40, this marketing professional had a heart attack brought on by 12-16 hour work days and frequent travel. Now he runs marathons

Rinku Ghosh

FOR THE first time, Karthik Melkote is happy being busy. He makes it a point to meet his cousins every alternate weekend, is practising his runs for yet another marathon, sleeps by 10 pm and has an hourly pop-up on his computer, reminding him to get up from his work station. Not only that, the 40-year-old marketing professional from Bengaluru chooses night flights instead of early morning ones so that he makes his sleep quota and gets time to exercise at whichever city he's visiting. It took a midnight heart attack to convince him that workaholicism of over 15 years, induced by the daily 14 to 16-hour routine at his office, had cost him the life he should have had. The constant alerts and to-and-fro on connected devices meant that he negotiated his health, his prime asset, to meet his company's productivity goals.

At a time when Infosys founder Narayana Murthy talked about how young adults should work 70 hours a week — which means around 12 hours for six days assuming Sundays are off — Karthik represents what pushing the body to extreme limits does at an individual level. In fact, his heart attack happened while he was finishing an assignment late night. He drove to the nearest hospital with a squeezing, sharp pain. With 100 per cent blockage in one artery and 90 per cent in the other two, he underwent an angioplasty procedure and had three stents implanted. "From my early 20s, I gave everything to my work. There are no fixed times when you are driving sales and making pitches and I was always on full throttle. I would travel 15 to 20 days a month. I had very little time to myself, never walked or exercised and slept a maximum of four to five hours. The only social life was about binge-eating or partying with colleagues after work," says Karthik.

A work-oriented lifestyle and performance anxiety meant that he never developed social companionships. That vacuum he filled with food addiction. "I would always order food at odd hours to beat stress. I was a heavy smoker, became obese, hypertensive, even took medication for my blood pressure given my family history of heart attacks, but I never went for a health check-up," adds Karthik.

Luckily for him, he met Dr Kumar



LIFE POSITIVE



NEED TO KNOW

Employees working 10-12 hours almost always report weight gain and elevation of blood pressure and heart rate

Kenchappa, Interventional Cardiologist at Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru, in the emergency room. Determined to prevent heart attacks among the young, Dr Kenchappa conducts heart awareness and lifestyle management workshops at corporate offices. The bulk of his patients are hypertensive IT professionals, with cholesterol and diabetes, who have no option but to log in long work hours. "Employees working long shifts of 10-12 hours, stretched further by commute, almost always report weight gain and elevation of blood pressure and heart rate. These weaken the lining of the artery walls and encourage plaque deposition. Then there are psychosocial factors like depression, anxiety and anger, which have been linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVD). There is now robust evidence that 'job strain', a combination of high job demands and low job control, is a risk factor for coronary heart dis-

ease and stroke," he says.

He first eliminated Karthik's behaviour-related risk factors like smoking, obesity, low physical activity and alcohol use, common among all people who work long hours. Sleep disturbances, particularly short sleep — although not always lifestyle-related — have also been found to be associated with increased risk of CVD. There is evidence, mainly based on cross-sectional studies, that people who work long hours sleep shorter hours. "We corrected Karthik's sleep pattern, taking it up from four to seven hours now. With cardiac rehabilitation, he began with slow walking of 45 minutes and increased the pace so that he could do brisk walking," says Dr Kenchappa. With moderate walking and a

What long hours do to your heart

ENDOTHELIAL DYSFUNCTION: Large blood vessels on the heart's surface constrict (narrow) instead of dilating (opening)

ATHEROSCLEROSIS: Associated with increased plaque rupture in myocardial infarction

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION: Irregular heart rhythms disrupt the flow of blood to pool in the left atrial chamber of the heart contributing to clot formation. A recent IPD-Work meta-analysis showed the risk of atrial fibrillation increased with working 55 hours or more per week, compared to 35-40 weekly hours

balanced, home-cooked diet, Karthik lost weight. Gradually, he was upgraded to weight training and jogging.

Then the doctor gave him some time management lessons. He made sure Karthik had that pop-up on his computer at work, asking him to take a five-minute walk after sitting for an hour. "We then got him to delegate more work to his team and not micro-manage everything. And no late nights for either work or pleasure," says Dr Kenchappa. But the most important part was getting Karthik to value a drop-down gateway, a self-created benchmark on when to stop and say no.

With these seemingly simple but necessary tweaks, he felt much more relaxed and in control of his life. "Now, I sleep by 10 pm, wake up at 5 am. Then I go for my walk, have breakfast, do some household chores and even some office prep work. I have made friends on my walks and one of them got me interested in marathons," says Karthik.

He took up running after his cardiac rehab consultant assessed his heart endurance. Karthik began with 3-km walks in 40 minutes. Then he took up mixed routines, alternating jogging with walking. Finally, he was ready, having completed the 5-km run-and-walk routine in 52 minutes. "Stents open up your arteries and keep them wide enough for the blood to flow to the heart properly. They are not a risk to any physical activity provided it is done in a graded manner," says Dr Kenchappa.

With all these tweaks, Karthik still manages to put in up to 10 hours of work every day without feeling the weight of the world on him. "I have never felt fitter," he says, spot-jogging for his warm-up.



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How researchers made new cancer therapy affordable

CAR T-cell therapies usually cost between Rs 2 to 4 crore but the one developed by IIT Bombay and Tata Memorial will be available for less than Rs 40 lakh

Anonna Dutt

OVER THE last six years, the cutting edge CAR T-cell therapy, which trains your immune system to target and kill cancer cells, has proven to be effective in terminal cases of blood cancers. But given its high cost and inaccessible technology, it was considered a Western privilege that India could hardly afford. Now, with the country's drug regulator approving the therapy developed by IIT Bombay and Tata Memorial Hospital, major hospital chains across India are likely to offer it to patients for as low as Rs 40 lakh. Currently, this treatment costs between Rs 2 and Rs 4 crore.

The IIT-Bombay startup, ImmunoACT, has realised the dream of making this personalised therapy "affordable and accessible" to Indians. "Not only will our cost make the therapy more accessible to Indians, it will ensure that personalised therapies such as this do not remain a niche anymore," says Shishir Arya, chief business officer, ImmunoACT.

What about trial results?

The results have been encouraging too. Almost half the people with lymphoma and 60 to 70 per cent of those with leukemia were "cured" after receiving the therapy, according to data from the phase I/II trial in 64 adult patients. Conventional therapies didn't work for these patients. A trial to study the therapy in 50 to 70 children is also under way. The yet-to-be published data was the basis for approval from the drug authority and will be presented at an international conference in December.

ImmunoACT further intends to use its technology platform to work out processes for the treatment of another blood cancer called multiple myeloma for which the trials are to start. In addition, the team will

look at developing therapies for difficult to treat neuroblastoma (cancer of nerve cells) and gastric cancers. "It can also be used for the treatment of other genetic conditions such as sickle cell anaemia," says Arya.

Nearly 40 per cent of the people who undergo chemotherapy and stem cell therapy for two types of blood cancers — B-cell leukemia and B-cell lymphoma — are either not cured or have a relapse. For them, the only answer is personalised medicine that can attack the remaining cancer cells.

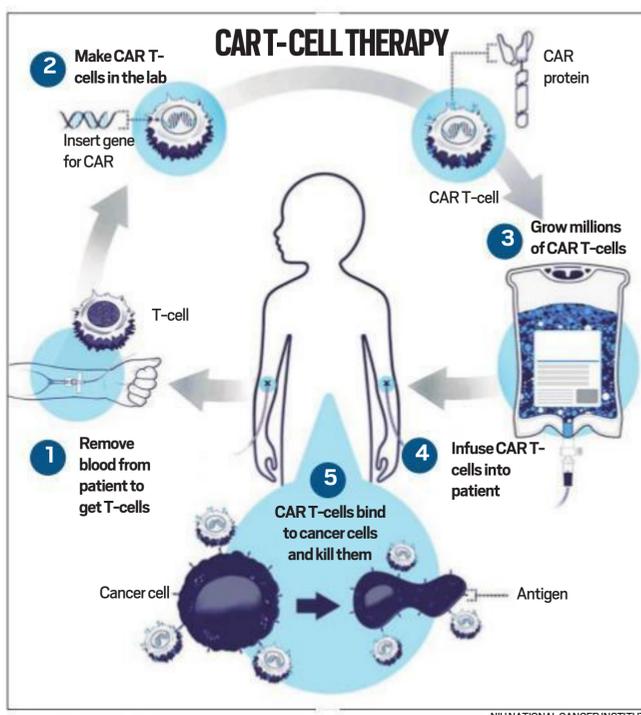
So this therapy collects T-cells from the patient and re-engineers them in the laboratory to produce proteins on their surface called chimeric antigen receptors, or CARs. These bind to specific proteins, or antigens, on the surface of cancer cells and then eliminate them.

ImmunoACT is looking to get almost 20 partner hospitals on board, particularly tertiary care chains like Apollo, Fortis and the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani group of hospitals.

How does the therapy work?

"The central lab in Mumbai genetically edits the T-cells from patients to multiply quickly and recognise a protein called CD19. When the infusion is given to the patients, the T-cells attach with the cancer cells that have the CD19 proteins on their surface and destroy them," says Prof Rahul Purwar, founder of ImmunoACT. The therapy uses redesigned Lentivirus, a family of viruses that includes HIV to transport the modified cells into the body. "Developing this lentivirus vector was one of the biggest challenges for my team. Once we cracked it, we found it easier to keep training the next batch of researchers," he adds.

The partner hospitals just need to collect the immune cells, send it to the ImmunoACT laboratory and infuse the modified concoction once it is sent back.



ImmunoACT is looking to get almost 20 partner hospitals on board, particularly tertiary care chains like Apollo, Fortis and the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani group

This "vein-to-vein" time is about 18 days, of which eight days are needed for gene editing. Unlike multiple rounds of chemotherapy, the 100 ml infusion is given to patients only once.

How did researchers bring down costs?

The team has lowered the treatment costs in two areas: clinical and manufacturing. The reduced clinical costs are attributed to fewer side effects of the therapy. "Usually patients go through a cytokine release syndrome (an aggressive immune response) and neurotoxicity with other therapies. These are less severe and milder with our therapy, bringing down the overall costs,"

explains Dr Hasmukh Jain from Tata Memorial Hospital and the principal investigator. "The adverse effects are usually seen within a month of infusion, with most occurring in the very first week. Longer hospital stays would also mean delays in treatment in India, where most hospitals are overburdened," he adds.

When it comes to manufacturing, Prof Purwar says the cost competitiveness comes from the fact that ImmunoACT has the IP rights for the technology platform as well as the processes. It is completely manufactured in India. Normally such therapy cannot be mass-produced, making it very difficult to bring down costs. Besides, many machines and consumables have to be imported, keeping the cost high.

The team is working to optimise processes and further reduce the cost to Rs 20 lakh. "Right now, it takes about eight days for us to process one sample. If we can bring down this time to four or five days, we can not only reduce the cost but use the lab for another sample in the same period," says Prof Purwar. The company has set up a foundation that can utilise CSR funds or any funding from the government to provide the therapy to those who are still unable to access it.

Who is eligible for therapy?

While the therapy is currently meant for those who have already received chemotherapy and stem-cell therapy for the two types of blood cancers, the doctors hope that it will get approval for use early in the course of the disease. "Initially, this line of therapy was allowed only after chemotherapy and stem cell therapies failed. Once these treatments failed, the survival prospect went down to about six months. That's when CAR T-cell therapy was given. It has now been approved as a second line of therapy in other countries. Starting the therapy early on also improved the odds of cure," says Dr Jain.

One of the important factors for the therapy to work well is the quality of T-cells. "If a person has been heavily treated, the quality of T-cells goes down," he adds. So the earlier the better.