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Our Initiatives



# THE WORLD

**TOP OF THE WORLD**



Joe Biden is to meet the Chinese leader today

**UNITED STATES**  
**Biden: Goal of meeting Xi is to resume military communication**

Washington: US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday his goal during talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping this week is to resume normal communications between the two superpowers, including military-to-military contacts. Speaking to reporters after remarks on climate change at the White House, Biden said he is trying to alter the US relationship with China for the better, after a period of strained ties. Biden and Xi are to meet on Wednesday in the San Francisco area during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. **REUTERS**

**UKRAINE**  
**Bombardment intensifies in Avdiivka: Kyiv**

Kyiv: Fighting gripped the area around the shattered eastern Ukrainian town of Avdiivka, Ukraine's military said on Monday, with Moscow's forces intensifying air bombardments and trying to move forward with ground forces. Officials said Russian forces had suffered heavy losses around the city. They also said Ukrainian forces had repelled Russian attacks in other areas of the 1,000-km front line. And with Ukraine engaged in a counteroffensive making only incremental gains in the east and south, its commander in chief spoke to the new US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of staff. **REUTERS**

**SRI LANKA**  
**'Gotabaya contributed to economic crisis'**

Colombo: Sri Lanka's top court ruled on Tuesday that former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his brother, former Prime Minister Mahinda, were among several government officials whose conduct contributed to the country's worst economic crisis in decades. The court was ruling on a petition filed against 13 former officials by rights group Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) which said the Rajapaksa brothers and others were responsible for the crisis. **REUTERS**

**INDONESIA**  
**Almost 200 Rohingya arrive by boat in Aceh**

Jakarta: Almost two hundred Rohingya, most of them women and children, arrived by boat at Indonesia's Aceh province on Tuesday, the chief of a local fishing community said, the latest batch of people to have fled Myanmar by sea this year. Miftah Cut Ade, chief of the local fishing community in Aceh, told Reuters 196 Rohingya arrived on one large wooden boat in Aceh's Pidie region, 128 of whom were children and women, adding they were "weak and in need of nutrition". **REUTERS**

**BODIES DECOMPOSING INSIDE AL SHIFA: GAZA HEALTH MINISTRY**

## Hospital encircled, Gazans dig a mass grave to bury the dead

Israel military says it has found signs of hostages held in children's hospital

**NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI & DAN WILLIAMS**  
GAZA, JERUSALEM  
NOVEMBER 14

PALESTINIANS TRAPPED inside Gaza's biggest hospital were digging a mass grave on Tuesday to bury patients who died under Israeli encirclement, and said no plan was in place to evacuate babies despite Israel announcing an offer to send portable incubators.

Israeli forces have surrounded Al Shifa hospital in Gaza City, which they say sits atop an underground headquarters of Hamas militants.

Hamas, Gaza's ruling Islamist group, denies fighters are present and says 650 patients and 5,000-7,000 other displaced civilians are trapped inside the hospital grounds, under constant fire from snipers and drones. It says 40 patients have died in recent days, including three premature babies whose incubators were shut down when power went out.

Ashraf Al-Qidra, Gaza's health ministry spokesman, reached by telephone inside the hospital compound, said there were about 100 bodies decomposing inside and no way to get them out. "We are planning to bury them today in a mass grave inside the Al Shifa medical complex. It is going to be very dangerous as we don't have any cover or protection from the ICRC, but we have no other options corpses of the martyrs began to decompose," he said.

A Hamas official in Beirut said 25 of Gaza's 35 hospitals were out of use because of Israel's assault.

The Israeli military shared video and photographs Monday showing what it said were weapons stored by Hamas in the basement of a children's hospital in Gaza where it also said hostages appear to have been held.

Military spokesperson said



A Palestinian girl injured in an Israeli air strike being treated at the Al Shifa hospital in Gaza City. Reuters

DEATH, DESTRUCTION	
ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	
1,200+	11,000+
TOTAL INJURED	
5,400+	20,000+

troops had found a command centre with weapons including grenades, suicide vests and other explosives stored by Hamas in the basement of Rantissi Hospital, a paediatric hospital with a speciality in treating cancer patients. He showed footage of what appeared to be rudimentary living quarters, including a small kitchen, as well as a nearby tunnel shaft which he said led to house of a senior Hamas commander. **REUTERS**

## Discussed releasing 70 hostages in return for 5-day truce: Hamas

**REUTERS**  
CAIRO, NOVEMBER 14

THE ARMED wing of the Palestinian militant group Hamas said on Monday it told Qatari mediators the group was ready to release up to 70 women and children held in Gaza in return for a five-day truce with Israel.

"Last week there was an effort from the Qatari brothers to release the enemy captives from women and children, in return for the release of 200 Palestinian children and 75 women detained by the enemy" Abu Ubaida, the spokesman for the armed wing of Hamas, al-Qassam Brigades, said in an au-

### Israel confirms death of soldier held by Hamas

Jerusalem: Israel's military on Tuesday confirmed the death of a soldier held captive in Gaza after Hamas issued video of her alive followed by images of what the Palestinian faction said was her body after she was killed in an Israeli strike. It appeared to be the first time Israel has confirmed such a claim by Hamas. **REUTERS**



Protesters outside UN headquarters in Jerusalem

dio recording posted on the group's Telegram channel. "The truce should include a complete ceasefire and allow aid and humanitarian relief everywhere in the Gaza Strip," he said.

He accused Israel of "procrastinating and evading" the price of the deal. **REUTERS**

## Sacked, Braverman hits out at Sunak: Your plan not working

**REUTERS**  
LONDON, NOVEMBER 14

FORMER BRITISH interior minister Suella Braverman criticised PM Rishi Sunak's leadership Tuesday after he fired her, saying his plan was not working and he needed to change course urgently.

Sunak sacked Braverman after a string of controversies involving the former Home Secretary, culminating in an article accusing police of double standards at protests.

"Someone needs to be honest: your plan is not working, we have endured record election defeats, your resets have failed and we are running out of time. You need to change course urgently,"



Ex-Interior Minister Suella Braverman. Reuters

Braverman said in a letter posted on X. She said it was disappointing but "for the best" Sunak had asked her to leave and accused him of breaking policy promises. Referring to policies on immi-

gration, Northern Ireland Protocol, she said: "You have manifestly and repeatedly failed to deliver on every single one of these policies." "Either your distinctive style of government means you are incapable of doing so. Or, as I must surely conclude now, you never had any intention of keeping your promises."

— SUELLA BRAVERMAN  
FORMER HOME SECRETARY, U.K.

## Taliban minister raises refugee assets issue in Pak

**CHARLOTTE GREENFIELD**  
ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 14

THE TALIBAN'S acting commerce minister met Pakistan's foreign minister in Islamabad this week, an Afghan embassy statement said on Tuesday, discussing trade and how the thousands of Afghan citizens Pakistan is expelling could take cash and other assets back to their homeland.

The visit takes place less than a week after Pakistan said that its move to expel hundreds of thousands of undocumented Afghans was a response to the unwillingness of the Taliban-led administration to act against militants using Afghanistan to carry out attacks in Pakistan. **REUTERS**

Taliban officials say militancy is an internal matter for Pakistan and have called on Islamabad to halt deportation of Afghans. "Bilateral trade, especially the stranded goods of (Afghan) traders in Karachi port, transfer of (Afghan) refugees' properties to (Afghanistan) and related issues were discussed," Afghanistan's embassy in Islamabad said, on acting commerce minister Haji Nouruddin Azizi's talks with Pakistan's caretaker foreign minister Jalil Abbas Jilani.

Afghan citizens returning to Afghanistan have said there are restrictions on the transfer of cash and property to Afghanistan from Pakistan, where many had built businesses and homes for decades. **REUTERS**

AN INVESTIGATION BY THE INDIAN EXPRESS WITH INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS - PART ONE

## Cyprus ignored sanctions to power Kremlin's financial machine

Under lens: PwC, Chelsea ex-owner, Putin's custodian of offshore wealth, his German biographer



Cyprus has been a favoured destination of the rich and famous evading the long arm of the law. ICIJ

**NEIL WEINBERG**  
NOVEMBER 14

CYPRUS PLAYS an even bigger role than was commonly known in moving dirty money for Russian President Vladimir Putin's autocratic regime and other dictators, reveals an investigation by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), Paper Trail Media and 67 media partners including *The Indian Express*.

### Under the Influence

Cyprus Confidential exposes how the island's economic system, known as the Cyprus model, relies on an oversized financial sector with some of European Union's weakest financial disclosure laws, an indulgent central bank – and a tsunami of more than \$200 billion in Russian investment that has bought its oligarchs vast influence.

The investigation reveals nearly 800 companies and trusts registered in secrecy jurisdictions that were owned or controlled by Russians who have been sanctioned since 2014.

While many of these entities are shell companies, some are subsidiaries of industrial giants – such as steelmaker Evraz, which supplies most of the train rails that Russia uses to transport arms and ammunition to troops in Ukraine.

In a response to questions from ICIJ partners, a Cyprus Finance Ministry official pointed to a recent International Monetary Fund study showing diminishing direct investment by Cypriot entities into Russia.

### The Enablers

The investigation also reveals how global accounting giant PwC, formerly known as PricewaterhouseCoopers, put its Cyprus office and its 1,100 employees at the service of Putin allies amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine. For example, PwC helped Alexey Mordashov, one of Russia's richest industrialists, transfer a \$1.4 billion investment out of his name the day after he was

slapped with Western sanctions.

The Cypriot Ministry of Finance is aware of the share transfers, and a criminal investigation is underway, a ministry official told ICIJ in November.

PwC Cyprus worked with at least 12 of the 25 Russians who were already subject to sanctions after Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and the war in Donbas. It took PwC until a few months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine to announce it was leaving Russia and ask its affiliates to stop working for sanctioned clients.

PwC Cyprus partners who left the firm to form a new provider also took over the administration of companies controlled by the pair of oligarchs the UK listed among Putin's "cabal." The firm, called Kiteserve, had office space in the same building as PwC's offices in Limassol, Cyprus.

### Owner of Chelsea

Worth \$9 billion, Roman Abramovich has been a member of Putin's inner circle since the late 1990s. Long based in UK, he became widely known for his fleet of yachts and as longtime owner of the UK's Chelsea Football Club.

The investigation shows a decade-long pattern of payments worth tens of millions of British pounds, routed through offshore vehicles belonging to Abramovich and apparently omitted from Chelsea's financial accounts.

### Putin's Author

Hubert Seipel, a German journalist and author, forged his brand as one of the country's leading analysts of Russia by touting his unparalleled access to Putin. He won awards and accolades for portraying Russia as something other than a world menace.

The investigation reveals that, in the past five years, Seipel, 73, has received about \$700,000 as a "sponsorship" from a shell company linked to Alexey Mordashov, a Russian oligarch currently under sanction in the US and Europe for his allegedly close ties to Kremlin.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
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**BILLIONAIRE FOUNDER OF MAJOR APPLE SUPPLIER HAS COLLECTED THREE TIMES THE SIGNATURES REQUIRED**

## Foxconn founder Terry Gou qualifies to run for Taiwan President

**JEANNY KAO & YIMOULEE**  
TAIPEI, NOVEMBER 14

TERRY GOU, the billionaire founder of major Apple supplier Foxconn, has collected three times the amount of signatures needed to qualify to run in Taiwan's presidential elections, the government said on Tuesday.

In a statement, Gou thanked his backers for their "enthusiastic support" and vowed to work hard to achieve "peace across the Taiwan Strait".

Gou announced his bid in August, saying he wanted to unite the opposition and ensure the island did not become "the next Ukraine", blaming the rul-

ing Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) for taking Taiwan to the brink of war by antagonising China which claims the island as its own territory.

Gou, who stepped down as Foxconn chief in 2019, had to gather around 300,000 voter signatures by Nov. 2 to qualify as an independent candidate, according to election regulations.

The election commission said he got more than 900,000 valid signatures. He now has until next Friday to formally register his candidacy with the election commission.

Gou, 73, is one of four candidates in the election, due to be held in January. Opinion polls show he is the least favoured can-

### The head of Taiwan's National Security Council said China 'definitely' did not want Gou running given he could split the Opposition vote

didate, well behind front-runner, Lai Ching-te of the DPP and who is currently vice president.

Gou has kept a low profile since a Chinese newspaper last month implied a tax probe into Foxconn's operations in China was due to Beijing's unhappiness with his campaign, given he



A poster of Terry Gou in Taipei, Taiwan, on Tuesday. Reuters

could split the opposition vote and ensure victory for Lai.

China's government detests Lai and views him as a separatist. He says only Taiwan's people can decide their future and has repeatedly offered talks with China which Beijing has rebuffed.

While China's government has not confirmed the Foxconn investigation, Lai has assailed Beijing for targeting the firm. Gou has not commented on the matter.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Wellington Koo, head of Taiwan's National Security Council, said China "definitely" did not want Gou running given he could split the opposition vote.

"Aren't we all waiting to see if Terry Gou will run until the

end?" he said.

The other two opposition candidates have shown little interest in wanting to work with Gou, and are instead talking to each other about cooperating against Lai.

Foxconn says Gou no longer has anything to do with the company's day-to-day operations, though he remains its largest single shareholder.

Asked on an earnings call on Tuesday about potential political risks from Gou's election bid, Foxconn Chairman Young Liu said Gou had the right to make his own decisions, but added that the company has "prepared for all possible cases".

"I wish him the best. That's all I can say," Liu added. **REUTERS**



## जनजातीय कल्याण के लिए समर्पित मोदी सरकार

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बुधवार, 15 नवम्बर, 2023, 11:15 बजे, जिला खूँटी, झारखण्ड

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- आयुष्मान भारत योजना, सिकल सेल अनीमिया उन्मूलन मिशन, टीबी उन्मूलन, सौ फीसदी टीकाकरण, पी एम सुरक्षित मातृत्व योजना, पी एम मातृ वंदना योजना, पोषण अभियान, जन धन योजना सहित विभिन्न योजनाओं के सम्पूर्ण कवरेज पर फोकस

### जनजातीय कल्याण के लिए अडिग प्रयासों के साढ़े नौ साल

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कार्यक्रम का सीधा प्रसारण DD न्यूज पर



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

In this image obtained by Reuters newborns can be seen after they were taken off incubators at al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City when power went off on Sunday.

## THIS WORD MEANS AL-SHIFA HOSPITAL

Gaza's biggest hospital, now without power, and under intense Israeli attack

ALIND CHAUHAN  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

THE GAZA Strip's largest and most advanced hospital, al-Shifa, is no longer functioning due to loss of power and water supply, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday. About 40 patients have died in recent days, and hundreds remain trapped inside premises with Israeli troops battling Hamas fighters nearby.

"The situation is dire and perilous. It's been 3 days without electricity, without water and with very poor Internet which has severely impacted our ability to provide essential care," the WHO's director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X.

### Why is al-Shifa hospital important?

Al-Shifa used to be the cornerstone of Gaza's healthcare system before the Israel-Hamas war broke out. Located in Gaza City, in the north of the tiny Palestinian enclave, the hospital comprises a group of six-storey buildings. It had between 600 and 900 beds and thousands of staff, and provided a range of services that almost no other hospital in Gaza offered. Since the start of the war, al-Shifa has also been serving as a shelter for those displaced by the fighting and incessant Israeli bombing.

### Why is al-Shifa in the crosshairs?

The hospital has been encircled by Israel's forces, who began their ground invasion of the enclave at the end of October. They have alleged that al-Shifa sits atop an underground headquarters of Hamas militants, who have been using the building, patients, and staff as human shields.

Hamas and officials of Gaza's health ministry, however, have denied the claims, saying Israel is making baseless accusations to justify attacks on health facilities.

Dr Ghassan Abu-Sittah, a British doctor working at al-Shifa described the Israeli claim as an "outlandish excuse", a report by *The Guardian* said. Human Rights Watch, the US campaign group, said it could not verify the Israeli allegations.

US President Joe Biden on Monday said Gaza's hospitals "must be protected". He added, "My hope and expectation is that there will be less intrusive action relative to hospitals and we remain in contact with the Israelis".

### What is the situation like at the hospital?

About 650 patients and 5,000-7,000 displaced civilians are trapped inside al-Shifa, and they are under constant fire from snipers and drones, according to Hamas. The militant group added that 40 patients have died, including three premature babies whose incubators were shut down when electricity went out.

Currently, there are 36 premature babies at the hospital who need incubators to survive. Israel on Tuesday said it was offering portable, battery-powered incubators so the babies could be evacuated. But Ashraf al-Qidra, Gaza's health ministry spokesman, said so far no arrangements had been made to move out the babies. Medics had to wrap babies in cellophane to keep them alive, Mohamed Abu Silmeyeh, director of al-Shifa hospital, said on Saturday.

Al-Qidra also added that there were about 100 bodies decomposing inside and the hospital staff had failed to get them out. "We are planning to bury them today in a mass grave inside the al-Shifa medical complex. It is going to be very dangerous as we don't have any cover or protection from the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), but we have no other options as the corpses of the martyrs have begun to decompose," he told *Reuters*.

Although Israel has denied that al-Shifa is under siege and said its forces allow routes for those inside to exit, medics and officials inside the hospital claim those trying to leave have come under fire.

### What does international humanitarian law say?

Under international humanitarian law, hospitals get special protections during war. However, they lose their protections in case combatants use the premises to hide fighters or store weapons, according to the ICRC. In such a situation, there has to be a number of warnings before attacks to allow for the safe evacuation of patients and medical workers, ICRC legal officer Cordula Droegge told *The Associated Press*.

Jessica Wolfendale, an expert in military ethics at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, said if Israel successfully proves that al-Shifa is used as a command centre by Hamas, even then the principles of international law will remain in place.

"It doesn't license an instant attack," she said. "Steps need to be taken to protect the innocent as much as possible."

# Secrecy and no tax — reason why Indians look at Cyprus

The Cyprus Confidential investigation reveals that entities with offshore residency were controlled from India, and instructions for financial transactions in these entities are given by individuals in India

SANDEEP SINGH  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 14

### What is Cyprus Confidential?

Cyprus Confidential is a global offshore investigation of 3.6 million documents in English and Greek, which lays bare a paper trail of companies incorporated in the tax haven of Cyprus by the rich and powerful from around the world.

The investigation, carried out in partnership with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), involves more than 270 journalists from more than 60 media houses in 55 countries and territories.

The data trove comprises documents from six offshore service providers in Cyprus. Besides information on Indian investors who became Cypriot nationals under the country's Golden Passport scheme, it also has documents relating to entities set up by leading business houses to take advantage of the liberal tax regime in the island country in the Eastern Mediterranean.

### What does the India investigation show?

The investigation attempts to lift the veil of secrecy for government and regulatory agencies. The documents reveal how entities with offshore residency were controlled from India, and instructions for financial transactions in these entities are given by individuals in India.

### Can Indian companies set up offshore entities in Cyprus?

It is not illegal to set up an offshore company in Cyprus. India has double-taxation avoidance agreements (DTAAs) with several countries, including Cyprus, which offer low tax rates. Companies use their tax residency certificates in such countries to enjoy tax benefits that are available legally. These jurisdictions are generally characterised by lax regulatory oversight and airtight secrecy laws.

### What is India's tax treaty with Cyprus?

India's tax arrangement with Cyprus has had three distinct phases over the last two decades.

**PRIOR TO 2013:** India and Cyprus had a tax treaty offering investors exemption from capital gains tax at the time of exit. Incidentally, Cyprus too didn't tax capital gains. Thus, investors paid zero tax on gains made from their equity investment in India. Cyprus also had a low 4.5 per cent withholding tax, and was hence a favoured destination for individuals/businesses to set up entities and invest in India.

Withholding tax is an effective way to ensure tax compliance by non-residents who may be subject to different tax regulations than residents. It is applicable in case of payments done to non-resident individuals. It is the payee's responsibility to deduct tax when depositing the payment in the account of the NRI.

The payee deposits the deducted withholding tax with the government, and the tax rate is decided as prescribed in the Income-tax Act, 1961, or Double Taxation Avoidance (DTA) Agreement, whichever is lower.

**SINCE 2013:** On November 1, 2013, India included Cyprus in a list of countries that refrained from sharing or exchanging valuable tax-related information. In technical terms, it was categorised as a Notified Jurisdictional Area (NJA) under Section 94A of the Income-tax Act.

NJA countries face consequences such as a higher withholding tax rate of 30 per cent for payments received by entities registered there. Further, transactions with entities in NJA are subjected to Indian transfer pricing regulations.

**SINCE 2016:** A revised DTA was signed with Cyprus on December 14, 2016. India rescinded Cyprus as NJA, and subsequently clarified that the rescission was with retrospective effect from November 1, 2013.

The text of the new DTA provides for source-based taxation of capital gains arising from alienation of shares. Alienation refers to voluntary sale/transfer or relinquishment of the asset by the owner.



## Offshore Leaks to Cyprus Confidential, a decade of offshore investigations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

OVER THE last decade, a series of investigations based on data leaks of service providers and banks operating in tax haven jurisdictions have helped governments go after tax evaders. Here is a list of the key investigations *The Indian Express* has carried out in collaboration with ICIJ and other media partners.

**OFFSHORE LEAKS (2013):** In this first offshore collaboration, data from 10 jurisdictions, including the British Virgin Islands and the Cook Islands, were leaked. It comprised 2.5 million documents — and 86 journalists, including a reporter from *The Indian Express*, worked on the investigation. The data yielded names and offshore investments of 612 Indians.

**SWISS LEAKS (2015):** This was based on leaked files of HSBC's Swiss private banking arm. It revealed 1,195 Indians as clients of the bank — roughly double the number of names (628) that French authorities gave to the government in 2011.

**PANAMA PAPERS (2016):** The investigation was based on offshore documents of companies set up by Panama-based law firm and corporate services provider Mossack Fonseca. The leak involved around 11.5 million files, including leaked emails between Mossack Fonseca and its cus-

tomers, as well as other data formats.

The documents revealed the setting up of shell entities that acted as a front for fraud, tax evasion, and money laundering. The documents showed the real owners hid behind nominees and other individuals, who simply lent their signature with no stake whatsoever.

**PARADISE PAPERS (2017):** This investigation was based on records from the Bermuda firm Appleby, as well as from Singapore-based Asiatic Trust.

The leak involved 13.4 million files that revealed the many ways in which companies and individuals avoided and evaded tax using artificial structures — incorporating shell overseas entities — to various ends. Internal communications showed that the majority of the companies with offshore residency were wholly controlled from India. The leaks initiated a debate around whether the tax haven structures should be banned.

**MAURITIUS LEAKS (2019):** This was based on data from Conyers Dill & Pearman, an offshore specialist law firm with several Fortune 500 companies as clients. The documents revealed how multinational companies around the world use the tax haven of Mauritius to avoid paying taxes to countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and even the United States.

**FINCEN FILES (2020):** *Buzzfeed News* revealed the suspicious activity reports (SARs) filed by global banks to the US

Treasury Department's intelligence unit, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, known as FinCEN.

The FinCEN Files reflected views by watchdogs within banks, known as compliance officers, reporting past transactions that bore hallmarks of financial crime, or involved clients with high-risk profiles or past run-ins with the law. In effect, they were crucial red flags raised by banks for law-enforcement agencies.

**PANDORA PAPERS (2021):** Documents revealed that banks around the world helped their customers set up offshore companies with the assistance of Alemán, Cordero, Galindo & Lee (Alcogal), a Panamanian law firm. The leaked papers revealed how powerful people, including heads of state, and many who were already on the radar of investigative agencies, set up complex multi-layered trust structures for estate planning in jurisdictions that are loosely regulated for tax purposes, but characterised by air-tight secrecy laws.

The documents showed the ultimate ownership of assets 'settled' (or placed) in private offshore trusts, and investments including cash, shareholding, and real estate properties held by the offshore entities.

**CYPRUS CONFIDENTIAL (2023):** A trove of 3.6 million documents from six offshore services providers in Cyprus, including DJC Accountants, ConnectedSky and Cypcodirect.

no estate duty is payable on the inheritance of shares in an offshore company.

There is no import duty on the purchase of cars, office or household equipment for foreign employees. It also assures anonymity of the beneficial owners of offshore entities.

**How does the India-Cyprus DTA work?**

It allows Cyprus — which has a low tax regime — to be used as a jurisdiction for tax planning. Many foreign investors set up their investment firms in Cyprus to invest in India to benefit from the DTA.

Cyprus is now an alternative to Mauritius for setting up an offshore entity for investment in India. As dividends paid out from India will be subject to withholding tax, no taxation will arise in Cyprus as this will be adjusted or credited against the 4.25 per cent tax in Cyprus.

**What are Offshore Trusts?**

As per Cyprus International Trust Law, offshore trusts are trusts whose property and income are outside Cyprus, and even the settlor and beneficiaries are not permanent residents of Cyprus.

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idents of Cyprus.

If the trustee is a Cypriot, the offshore trust is exempt from estate duty, and does not have to pay any tax on the income and gains. The trust need not be registered with any government or other authority, and confidentiality is enshrined in the new law.

In other words, the trust allows businesspersons to avoid tax that would have otherwise been paid by the settlor had she/he remitted the income arising from overseas operations, to the country of residence.

Offshore branches of companies not having management and control of their business in Cyprus are granted complete exemption from income tax in Cyprus in respect of their profits derived from sources outside Cyprus, whereas if the management and control is in Cyprus they are subject to a tax of 4.25 per cent. For offshore branches, there is no withholding tax on repatriation of profits.

### Can the Indian taxman still call to question entities in countries with which India has a DTA?

A DTA does not stop the I-T department from denying tax treaty benefits if it is established that a company has been inserted as the owner of shares in India at the time of disposal of the shares to a third party, solely with a view to avoid tax.

In such a situation, the taxman is entitled to question the entire transaction.

# Why Rahman's version of an iconic patriotic song has upset many in Bengal

SANTANU CHOWDHURY  
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 14

ROY KAPUR Films, the maker of *Pippa*, has apologised for any "unintended distress" that a song in the film, *Karar Oi Louho Kopat*, has caused. The song, written and composed by the Bengali poet Kazi Nazrul Islam in 1922 as a nationalist anthem against the British Raj, has been set to a new tune by A R Rahman, which has been criticised in West Bengal and Bangladesh.

The film tells the story of Capt (later Brig) Balram Singh Mehta, hero of the crucial tank battle of Garibpur, west of Dhaka, during the 1971 war with Pakistan. It premiered on Amazon Prime Video on November 10.

The "Statement from the Team of *Pippa*"

recorded the filmmakers' "deep respect for the original composition", acknowledged the "emotional attachment that audiences may have" to it, and said that "if our interpretation has hurt sentiments or caused unintended distress, we offer our sincere apologies".

### The song

*Karar Oi Louho Kopat* was published as a poem in 1922 in the magazine *Banglar Katha* (Stories of Bengal), and was later included in Nazrul's book *Bhangaar Gaan* (Songs of Breaking Free). Nazrul wrote the poem after the British threw Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das (1870-1925) in prison in 1922.

The refrain of the song is *Karar Oi Louho Kopat/Bhenge Phel Korre Lopat*, which translates to "Break down those iron gates of prison, make them disappear." The song

was recorded in June 1949, sung by the folk singer Girin Chakraborty.

### The poet

For Bengalis, *Nazrulgeeti* (Songs of Nazrul), Kazi Nazrul Islam's (1899-1976) oeuvre, constitutes a musical genre that is second in popularity to perhaps only *Rabindrasangeet*, the compositions of Rabindranath Tagore. Nazrul enjoys iconic status in West Bengal, Bangladesh, and the Bengali diaspora around the world, and is revered as the national poet of Bangladesh.

Nazrul is known as the *Bidrohik Kobi* (Rebel Poet) because most of the more than 4,000 songs that he wrote and composed are songs of protest and revolution, which inspired the

freedom fighters of Bengal. In 1923, the British arrested Nazrul because of the strong criticism of imperialism and the Raj in a magazine that he founded and edited.

### The problem

The song in *Pippa* uses Nazrul's lyrics, but with a tune that is different from the iconic original. This has offended many Bengalis who object to alterations or improvisations in *Rabindrasangeet* or *Nazrulgeeti*, which are seen as part of Bengal's cultural heritage and identity.

Many have described Rahman's version of the song as a light-hearted, folksy, romantic number, very different from Nazrul's rousing song of protest, infused with intense patriotic fervour. Besides the rhythm

and tune, Rahman has also changed the overall listening experience by introducing sounds of the flute and string instruments.

Painter Kazi Anirban, Nazrul's grandson, said his mother did give her consent to the makers of *Pippa* to use the song, but not to change the tune. "This is not the song that Nazrul Islam composed. I don't want our family's name in the film's credits," he said.

Anirban's mother, Kazi Kalyani, had given her consent for the use of the song in the film in 2021, months before she passed away. In its statement, Roy Kapur Films said "...Our agreement...permitted us to use the lyrics with a new composition".

### The protest

Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasrin wrote on X, "AR Rahman changed the mu-

sic of Bengali legendary poet, lyricist, composer Kazi Nazrul Islam's famous...anti-British song... Bengalis are furious. They demand for stopping Rahman's remake and keeping the original music of the song."

Hindustani classical vocalist Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty said: "I did not like it (Rahman's version). This is not expected from an eminent composer like him..."

Bengali singer Haimanti Shukla said the controversy had demonstrated that Rahman "has no real understanding of Bengali music".

Composer Debojyoti Mishra said, "We are all familiar with A R Rahman as a genius composer... It's distressing to discover that the iconic song of the legendary rebel poet...has been made this way."

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AN INVESTIGATION BY THE INDIAN EXPRESS WITH  
INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS - PART ONE

## Cracking Cyprus Confidential: EU state gave investors tax haven, secrecy – and a golden passport

Another veil lifts on offshore money flows involving global investors, Indian corporates too

RITU SARIN, SHYAMLAL YADAV, SANDEEP SINGH & JAY MAZOOMDAR  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

OFFSHORE LEAKS (2013), HSBC Swiss Leaks (2015), Panama Papers (2016), Paradise Papers (2017), Pandora Papers (2021) and now Cyprus Confidential.

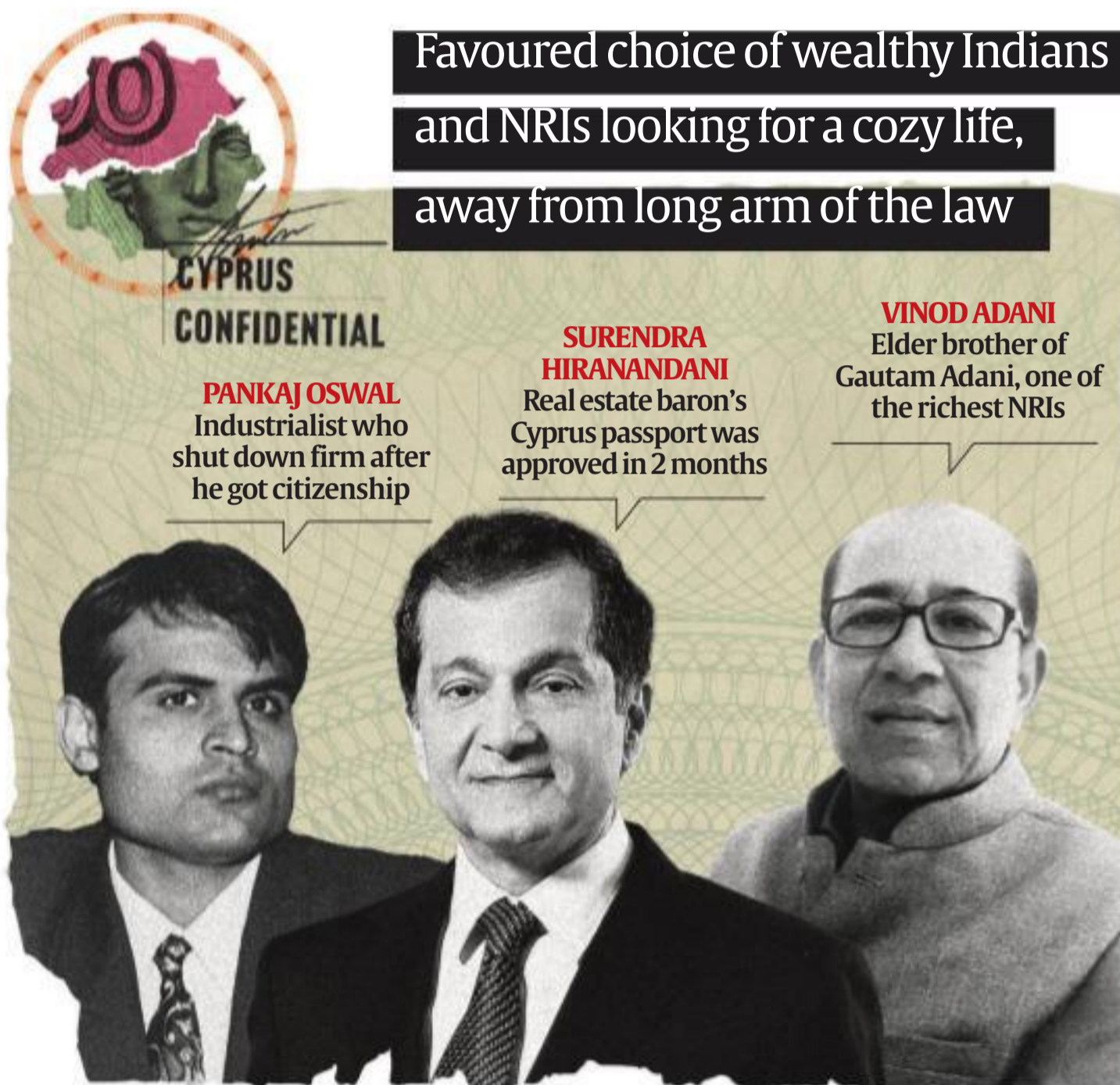
Even as governments worldwide scramble to plug regulatory holes, money flows of the global elite, from Russian oligarchs to Syrian warlords, UK football clubs to Indian investors, continue to pour into tax havens — the latest revelations come from the Mediterranean island of Cyprus that has earned the reputation of a shady financial hub washing dirty money.

Six financial service providers based on this island and a Latvian agency with an office in Cyprus have yielded a trove of over 3.6 million records that form the subject of the latest in the series of investigations by *The Indian Express*, in collaboration with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), into offshore tax havens.

Over eight months, *The Indian Express* analysed more than 20,000 documents — the India connection in the project — from the data trove comprising 3.6 million records. Dating from the mid-1990s to mid-2022, these include confidential background checks, organisational charts, financial statements, bank account

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORT  
THE WORLD



Favoured choice of wealthy Indians and NRIs looking for a cozy life, away from long arm of the law

### Vinod Adani, Pankaj Oswal among 66 Indians who got golden passport

RITU SARIN  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

WHAT'S COMMON to industrialist Gautam Adani's elder brother Vinod, businessman Pankaj Oswal and real estate baron Surendra Hiranandani?

Cyprus. And their quest for its "golden passport".

A destination for floating offshore companies, Cyprus is also the favoured choice of wealthy Indians and NRIs looking to acquire its citizenship for a cozy life on the Mediterranean or for keeping a safe distance from criminal charges and money-laundering cases back home.

Introduced in 2007, the "golden passport" scheme was also called the "Cyprus Investment Programme". It facilitated the grant of Cypriot citizenship to financially prominent individuals, thereby bringing in foreign direct investments into the country.

A 2022 audit by the Cyprus government showed that a total of 7,327 individuals were cleared for Cypriot passports, of whom 3,517 were "investors" and the rest, members of their families.

The scheme went through several changes — of the amount of investments the applicants had to show and so on — until 2020 when it was finally scrapped for

alleged misuse and for allowing persons with criminal charges, dubious character and PEPs (politically exposed persons) to acquire Cyprus passports.

The OCCPR (Organized Crime And Corruption Reporting Project), a partner in the Cyprus Confidential project, has unredacted the entire data of thousands of prominent individuals who obtained the "golden passports" as well as investigation reports prepared by the Cyprus government. These show that after 2020, 83 cases were recommended for revocation of passports.

The data shows that between

### Secrecy plus no tax, why Indians line up for Cyprus

SANDEEP SINGH  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

CYPRUS CONFIDENTIAL, a global offshore investigation of 3.6 million documents, lays bare a paper trail of entities incorporated by the rich and powerful in tax haven Cyprus.

The investigation reveals how entities with offshore residency were controlled from India and instructions for financial transactions in these entities were given by individuals in India.

It is not illegal to set up an offshore company in Cyprus — India signed a revised Double

Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Cyprus in December 2016. But

Indian companies use their Cyprus tax residency certificates to avoid paying tax.

The DTAA allows Cyprus, a low tax regime, to be used as a jurisdiction for tax planning. Many foreign investors set up investment firms in Cyprus to invest in India, and the country is now an alternative to Mauritius.

But the DTAA does not stop the I-T department from denying tax treaty benefits if it is established that a company has been inserted as the owner of shares in India at the time of disposal of the shares to a third party solely with a view to avoid tax.

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PROVISION IN DIGITAL INDIA BILL LIKELY

## Centre considers seeking access to anonymised data of big tech firms

A platform proposed by IT Ministry working group may hold this data

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

THE CENTRE is considering issuing a directive to big tech companies like Facebook, Google and Amazon to share anonymised personal data in their possession with a government-backed database, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The move, if finalised, could see these companies claim intellectual property rights over such data, and initiate discussions around the ownership of such data. The government has long been interested in this issue since such datasets form the bedrock of artificial intelligence (AI) models.

Under the upcoming Digital India Bill, the successor to the Information Technology Act, 2000, the IT Ministry is understood to have added a provision which will mandate big tech companies to deposit all the non-personal data they hold to the India datasets platform, a senior government official said, requesting anonymity since the draft is not public yet.

In its most basic form, anonymised personal data, or non-personal data, is any data

set that does not contain personally identifiable information. It could include aggregated information, such as the overall health data of a particular demography, weather and climate data of an area, and traffic data, among others.

"We all sign a contract with these companies when we join their platform, which includes their terms of service and privacy policy. The Digital India Bill will propose that under the terms of service, when a user agrees that a company can use their anonymised personal data, that particular information will mandatorily have to be deposited to the India datasets platform," the official said.

The Centre's idea is that big tech companies have reaped dividends by building algorithms on the basis of Indians' non-personal data, and that they cannot claim exclusive ownership over it.

The Digital India Bill is a key part of a comprehensive legal framework which encompasses various legislative measures such as the recently-notified Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022, and a policy addressing the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EC notice to Kejriwal: AAP tweets on PM derogatory, slanderous EC issues notice to Priyanka too

EC tells Kejriwal to explain by Thursday, 7 pm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) on Tuesday issued a showcause notice to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over two posts on X from the party handle, saying these were "derogatory", "disparaging" and built a "slanderous narrative" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Acting on a complaint filed by the BJP on November 10, the EC said it was "prima facie of the view that the tweets... violate the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct read with relevant election and penal laws."

It asked Kejriwal to "explain the statements/ allegations/ averments" made in the social media posts by 7 pm on Thursday.

In its two posts last week, the AAP had alleged that the PM and his government work for industrialist Gautam Adani.

"...the first upload and tweet further comprise imagery including animation, caricature and drawings and modified content superimposing the Prime Minister with the business person Shri Adani, creating a narrative that the Prime Minister is supplicating before Shri Adani or beseeching him for favours or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Hoskote quits panel over 'anti-Semitic' letter he signed in 2019

VANDANA KALRA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

MUMBAI-BASED POET, cultural theorist and curator Ranjit Hoskote has resigned from the Finding Committee for Documenta 16, the 2027 edition of one of the world's most prestigious art exhibitions that takes place in Germany once in five years.

Hoskote quit the committee on November 12, following an article published last week in the German daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, where he was accused

of "anti-Semitism" and sympathising with the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement. It was based on his signature on a BDS India petition in 2019 protesting a discussion hosted by the Consulate General of Israel in Mumbai on "Zionism and Hindutva". Documenta

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SPORT



INDIA TAKE ON KIWIS IN SEMIFINAL TODAY  
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THE CITY



AQI NEAR SEVERE, NO RELIEF IN SIGHT  
PAGE 4

## 60 hours & counting: Experts now try 'trenchless' rescue technique

AVANEESH MISHRA  
UTTARKASHI, NOVEMBER 14

AFTER LARGE excavators could not clear the rubble blocking an under-construction tunnel in Uttarkashi where 40 workers are trapped, rescuers are now using a "trenchless" technique, putting together passages made of mild steel pipes right through the debris so the men can crawl out. The process, though, is not without its challenges.

It was around 5.30 am on Sunday that the under-construction tunnel on the Yamunotri National Highway, meant to connect Silykara and Dandlagaon in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi dis-



trict, collapsed.

While officials say the men are safe — communication has been established on walkie-

talkies and they are being supplied food and oxygen via a pipe meant to supply water —

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THE WORLD



ISRAEL ENCIRCLES HOSPITAL, GAZANS DIG MASS GRAVE TO BURY THE DEAD

## Sahara Group chief Subrata Roy, who once ran an empire, dies at 75

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 14

SAHARA GROUP chief Subrata Roy died in a Mumbai hospital Tuesday of a cardiorespiratory arrest following, what a company statement said, had been an extended battle with complications arising from metastatic malignancy, hypertension, and diabetes. He was 75.

Roy, who called himself the Chief Guardian of Sahara India Pariwar, was known for his political connections and controversial ventures in the world of business and finance.

Making a modest start in 1978 with a capital of only Rs 2000, he built Sahara India over the decades. The Group, on its website, claims it has 9 crore investors and customers, a net-worth of Rs 259,900 crore, 5,000 establishments and 30,970 acres of land bank.

Roy built his empire by collecting deposits from millions of poor and rural Indians with limited or no access to formal bank-



Sahara Group chief Subrata Roy

ing services. The cookie, however, crumbled after market regulator SEBI moved against him. The case involved collection of over Rs 24,000 crore from three crore individuals.

An ambitious businessman, Roy once owned an airline, a Formula One team, an IPL cricket team, plush hotels in London and New York, and financial companies. He sold his airline, Air Sahara, to Jet Airways which itself collapsed later.

He hosted film stars at his events and had "friends" across political parties. But over the years, he came to be identified more with Mulayam Singh Yadav and his Samajwadi Party. When Mulayam Singh became the Chief Minister of UP again in December 1993, Roy's relationship grew

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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ANCHOR

## 'Biki' Oberoi, gold standard for Indian hospitality, dies at 94

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, NOV 14

IN THE 1970s, when Taj hotels ruled the roost of Bombay's luxury hotel industry, the Oberois arrived as the young upstarts on the scene. Taking up the business started by his father, Prithvi Raj Singh 'Biki' Oberoi turned those properties around — focusing particularly on the food, hiring foreign chefs and investing in new restaurants that created a unique brand recall.

Since then, Oberoi, 94, who died on Tuesday, has been considered instrumental in taking

The Oberoi Group (which runs the Trident Hotels and Oberoi Hotels & Resorts) further in the global luxury hospitality business. Along the way, he overcame a takeover threat nearly 13 years ago, and the 26/11 terror attack on the group's flagship hotel in Mumbai in 2008.

Oberoi took over as the Chairman of EIH Limited — the flagship of the Oberoi Group — in 2002, following the death of his father and founding chairman, Mohan Singh Oberoi. He remained the CEO till 2013, and became the 'Chairman Emeritus' after leaving the position of executive chairman.

"I have known him for two-and-a-half decades... when I was working as tourism secretary in the Government of Kerala... He was a perfectionist. By starting the Vilas chain — Amarvilas in Agra and Udaivilas in Udaipur — he created the best resort chain in India. He raised the profile of the Indian travel and hospitality sector," said Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa.

"He was so particular about each and every thing. Once, there was a meeting at an Oberoi hotel. He observed that a wall of the hotel was not perfect. He immediately asked the hotel manager to raze the wall and construct a new wall. He designed



P R OBEROI

1929 - 2023

the wall himself," Kant recalled.

The Oberoi Group made rapid strides as a luxury hotel chain during his tenure, becoming one of the top three hospitality chains in India. Founded in 1934, the group owns and operates 32 luxury hotels and two river cruise ships in seven countries, primarily under its Oberoi Hotels & Resorts and Trident brands.

"(He was) a true pioneer and icon, he leaves behind a legacy of impeccable hospitality that will be cherished forever," said Puneet Chhatwal, MD and CEO, IHCL. "He will be remembered for transforming the industry landscape and elevating Indian

hospitality on a global stage. The Oberoi Centre of Learning and Development founded by him has groomed generations of fine hoteliers, and he is deeply revered and respected by the many lives he touched," he said.

Remembering his eye for detail, journalist Vrinda Gopinath said: "For him, luxury was defined by the details, not opulent stuff that's the opposite of poverty. People were always surprised at the attention to detail he showed, from monogrammed stationery in the rooms to how guests were addressed by their names."

A family friend, Oberoi

named a luxury cruise in Kerala after her — *MV Vrinda*. "He had a very generous spirit. He always hit the ground running and went all over the place in his private jet. As a consequence, he barely had time for family and friends," she said.

London-based celebrity chef and restaurateur Vivek Singh, who worked with The Oberoi hotels between 1993 and 2000, shared how The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur, was one of his "passion projects" and "something that he considered his legacy." "He had an exact idea of how he wanted it to be perceived," he said. Singh,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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The Mahua Moitra case, possible solution to farm fires, report on TB

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FROM PAGE ONE

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Subrata Roy dies at 75

deeper. He was also closely associated with Amar Singh, a close associate of Mulayam Singh. Roy was sent to jail on March 4, 2014, for not paying an outstanding amount of Rs 10,000 crore. The court said he would not be released until he brought in Rs 5,000 crore in cash and Rs 5,000 crore by way of bank guarantee. In 2013, Sahara sent 127 trucks containing 31,669 cartons of over three crore application forms and two crore redemption vouchers to the SEBI office. He stayed in jail for over two years and was out on parole in 2016. The Supreme Court sent him back to jail on the issue of property status. Most of the properties in the auction list were attached by the Income Tax Department. The SEBI asked the Supreme Court to cancel Roy's parole if he didn't pay up Rs 62,600 crore in November 2020. Roy had a running battle with SEBI on the issue of Optionally Fully Convertible Debentures issued by the two companies of Sahara India. The SEBI ordered Sahara to refund the money to investors and banned two Sahara companies and Roy from raising money from the public in 2010. In 2014, it was reported that only 4,600 investors came forward to collect the refund. SEBI was unable to trace the investors. Following his death, Sahara India, in a statement, called "Sahasri ji, an inspirational leader and visionary."

Cracking Cyprus Confidential

applications, and email messages. Along with this newspaper, there are more than 60 media partners including Munich-based investigative newsroom Paper Trail Media, *The Guardian*, *Washington Post* and *Asahi Shimbun*, working on this ICJ investigation. The investigation lifted the wraps on a complex maze of investments made by prominent Indian businessmen in Cyprus who cashed in on its range of benefits: from preferential — and loosely controlled — tax rates to exemptions on income and gains of offshore trusts; zero estate duty, no trust registration requirements and the promise of beneficial owner secrecy. That's not all, many of the investors (see adjacent story) also procured Cypriot passports under the country's now-withdrawn golden passport investment scheme which ran from 2007 to 2020 — passports that, in return for an investment of 2 million Euros (the figure for 2016), gave them freedom of movement and another protective and, of course, secretive shield for their investments in that country. Responding to ICJ, the office of the Cyprus Presidency said Cyprus can be placed in the top quartile internationally on the implementation of the international standards as depicted in the FATF consolidated list of assessment ratings. Russian deposits in the banking sector stand at only about 4 per cent at the end of 2021 and thus the relevant direct risks have been contained. "I would like to stress that our government is unequivocally committed to fighting corruption and illicit finance and take all necessary actions to ensure full implementation of EU Sanctions," Konstantinos Letymbiotis, a spokesperson for the Cyprus government, said in a statement. "More specifically, as a result of the

restrictive measures around 1.1 billion Euros have been reported as frozen by CY investment firms and funds related to financial instruments. A large proportion of these funds are under the custody of EU financial institutions, the vast majority with Euroclear," the spokesperson said. For the Cyprus Confidential project, over 270 investigative reporters looked into records from six financial service providers: ConnectedSky, Cypcodirect, DJC Accountants, Kallias & Associates, MeritKapital and MeritServus. The Latvian company, Dataset SIA, maintains a website, i-Cyprus, through which it sells information about Cyprus companies, including Cyprus corporate registry documents. The MeritServus and MeritKapital records were obtained by Distributed Denial of Secrets. Leaked records from Cypcodirect, ConnectedSky, i-Cyprus and Kallias & Associates, were obtained by Paper Trail Media and ICJ. DJC Accountants' records were obtained by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP). The partner organisations shared all leaked records in the project with ICJ, which structured, stored and translated them from several languages before sharing them with the reporting partners, including *The Indian Express*. Taken together, the project's 3.6 million documents — despite representing a small fraction of Cyprus's offshore industry records — reveal how Cyprus, despite being a EU member state, has become a massive financial hub for Russian oligarchs. The documents also provide a glimpse into the oligarchs' lavish lifestyle — their super yachts, their priceless art collec-

tions of Matisse, Monet and Lucien Freud, and their private concerts featuring Amy Winehouse, Red Hot Chili Peppers and other famous rock stars. The ICJ-led investigation reveals how the EU-member state plays an even bigger role than was commonly known in moving dirty money for Russian President Vladimir Putin's autocratic regime and other dictators and anti-democratic actors. Among them: Syria's rulers, whose state-owned oil company attempted to evade the United States ban on doing business with it by using an intermediary on the island to disguise requests to purchase products from a Houston oil equipment supplier; and Kremlin operatives who channelled payments through Cyprus to a prominent German journalist known for producing fawning coverage of Russia's autocratic leader. The Russian money flow was a bonanza for Cyprus's powerful industry of bankers, offshore service providers, accounting firms like PwC and other Big Four firms, and an army of 4,000 lawyers — all deeply intertwined with a Cypriot political class that erected some of Europe's most stringent corporate secrecy and turned the Central Bank of Cyprus into a protector of the system rather than its regulator. Here, in India, Cyprus Confidential is expected to prompt regulatory and investigative agencies to lift one more veil as they have done with each of the earlier global investigations in which they have detected sizeable tax avoidance and evasion. Indeed, while announcing its probe into the Pandora Papers leak in October 2021, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) disclosed that Rs 20,352 crore of "undisclosed credits" had, till then, been detected by tax sleuths following the Panama Papers and Paradise Papers (2017) leaks. (WITH NEIL WEINBERG, ICJ)

66 Indians who got golden passport

2014 and 2020, 66 Indians managed to obtain Cyprus passports — the entire process, on an average, taking three months to a year. Among the early applicants granted Cypriot citizenship was Vinod Shantilal Adani, the elder brother of Gautam Adani, whose offshore holdings have been detailed in the January 2023 Hindenburg report. Vinod Adani, described as one of the richest NRIs, has been in Dubai since the early 1990s but carries a Cyprus passport. The OCCRP data shows him listed as an "investor" in the records who applied for the "golden passport" scheme on August 3, 2016. In barely three months, on November 25, 2016, his application was cleared and Cypriot citizenship granted. Vinod Adani figured earlier in *The Indian Express* — ICJ offshore investigations. First, in the 2016 Panama Papers for setting up a company named GA International Inc in the Bahamas in 1994 — just months after the formation of Adani Group's then flagship company Adani Exports. In the 2021 Pandora Papers, Vinod Adani was named for incorporating a British Virgin Islands company, Hibiscus RE Holdings Limited. These latest revelations about him assume added significance given his alleged role in managing a network of offshore entities as detailed in the Hindenburg report. The report had identified 38 Mauritius shell entities controlled by Vinod Adani or close associates; it also identified entities in Cyprus, the UAE, Singapore, and several Caribbean islands. Post Hindenburg, the role of Vinod Adani, who until then, mostly occupied the back seat in the business operations of Adani Group, came under the spotlight. Although he is part of the 'promoter group' of various listed entities in the Adani Group, the company has publicly maintained that "Vinod Adani does not hold any managerial position in Adan-listed entities or their subsidiaries and has no role in their day to day affairs". Another prominent Indian who acquired Cypriot citizenship was industrialist Pankaj Oswal along with his wife Radhika Oswal. The businessman is the founder of Burrup Holdings Limited, a liquid ammonium manufacturer, and recently made headlines for buying one of the most expensive houses in the world — in Switzerland for \$200 million. The Otis data has dozens of documents on Cypriot Limited, the company that Pankaj Oswal set up in Cyprus, as well as details of his citizenship application and final acceptance. According to the data, on April 28, 2017, the Oswals applied for citizenship and it took almost a year before it was granted — on April 4, 2018. Incidentally, once Pankaj Oswal obtained his Cypriot citizenship, he shut down Cypriot Limited — proof of this is the authorisation he signed as the Ultimate Beneficial Owner (UBO) of the company for ConnectedSky,

on March 22, 2019 to strike off the company from the Cyprus registry. On October 13, 2020, the Council of Ministers of Cyprus decided to phase out the "golden passport" scheme citing its "chronic weaknesses and the abusive exploitation of its provisions". They also commissioned two investigative reports, highlighting the misuse, and citing specific examples. The unredacted versions of these reports, also obtained by OCCRP, shows that the names of a total of 83 individuals were flagged for review and possible revocation. A majority of them were earlier citizens of Russia and, according to the data, most were marked for applications bearing "false statement by the investors". The recommendation for these 83 possible revocations was made by a Commission appointed by the Attorney General of Cyprus, Georgios Savvides, in September 2020 and headed by retired Supreme Court Chairman, Myron Nicolatos. The Government of Cyprus has not yet officially revealed how many of those under the scanner had their Cypriot citizenships revoked. In response to questions sent for the Cyprus Confidential investigation by OCCRP and other media partners, the Cyprus Ministry of Interior has clarified that they have decided on the deprivation of citizenship of 233 individuals and of them, 68 individuals are investors and 165 are family members of the investors. The Ministry has not, however, clarified if those listed for possible revocation by the Nicolatos Commission are included in the list of 233 individuals for which their investigations were "ongoing". The Ministry's response: "The current administration is determined to implement the legislation concerning the deprivation of Cypriot citizenship to the letter... The Ministry of Interior conducts its own investigations with the collaboration of the security forces of the Republic of Cyprus". There is only one Indian on the list of proposed revocations of Cypriot passports — Anubhav Aggarwal, a businessman whose 'golden passport' was approved within four months on November 2, 2016. The Nicolatos Commission's inquiry report states that Aggarwal was implicated in the National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL) scam and that he failed to mention his links with the suspect companies in his application for citizenship. Aggarwal is a "key accused" in the NSEL scam in which investors were duped of over Rs 3,600 crore. In August 2020, he was arrested in Abu Dhabi and in June 2020, his properties attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Aggarwal is not the only one on the list of Indians who acquired Cypriot citizenship and have had a brush with Indian law enforcement agencies but managed to obtain a Cypriot passport under the now defunct investment scheme.

Among them is Nesamanimaran Muthu, better known as MGM Maran, a Tamil Nadu-based businessman and former chairman of the Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Limited who acquired Cypriot citizenship in 2016 (his application was cleared in just two months). In 2017, his two children also got citizenship. MGM Maran and his company, Agrifurane Industries Private Limited, have been in the crosshairs of the ED in India. In December 2022, the agency issued a media release stating that assets to the tune of Rs 293 crore had been attached by them since an equivalent foreign investment had been made by Maran in two companies in Singapore without approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The ED also mentioned MGM Maran's Cypriot citizenship in an official release. "In order to escape the reach of Indian laws, MGM Maran surrendered his Indian citizenship. Not only that, it was also found that MGM Maran also started transferring his wealth from India to overseas in order to keep the same out of reach of the Indian law enforcement agencies in the garb of overseas direct investments from Southern Agrifurane Industries Private Limited (his flagship company)," the ED claimed. Early recipients of the "golden passport" and allegedly embroiled in criminal cases included Virkaran Awasthy, a businessman from Uttar Pradesh, and his wife Ritika Awasthy. They too acquired citizenship in 2016 (Ritika's was cleared in 20 days, the data shows) and had moved to London. But years later, first, the Uttar Pradesh police, then the Delhi Police and subsequently, the ED began tailing them. The charges against them were that as Directors of Bush Foods Overseas Pvt Ltd, the couple had duped farmers on the pretext of wheat and paddy purchase. They were declared "absconders" and in October 2019, they were arrested in London. In November 2020, the ED filed a chargesheet in the case, alleging an economic fraud to the tune of Rs 750 crore and finally, in December 2021, their extradition was allowed by courts in the UK. Other prominent Indians on the list included Mumbai-based real estate developer Surendra Hiranandani and several members of his family. While Surendra Hiranandani acquired his Cyprus passport (it was approved in two months) along with his wife Alka Bhatia Hiranandani on July 12, 2016, three other members of his family acquired the citizenship in 2018. Questions sent by *The Indian Express* to Vinod Adani, Pankaj Oswal, MGM Maran and Surendra Hiranandani did not elicit any response despite reminders. Questions dispatched to the New Delhi residence of Virkaran Awasthy remained unanswered and inquiries with relatives of Anubhav Aggarwal and at his former residence in Ludhiana gave no clue to his whereabouts.

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• EC notice to Kejriwal

reporting to him," the EC notice said. It said the AAP, its national convenor and candidates in the ongoing state polls "ought to have verified the facts and have proof in possession to justify the ex facie derogatory, insulting and disparaging animation, caricature, scam, nexus with a business person for a slanderous narrative against the star campaigner of another national party, who is a democratically elected PM of the nation." It said the two posts had prima facie violated the MCC provision against "criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the leaders... criticism of other parties or their workers based on unverified allegations or distortion..." "The spirit of the Model Code of Conduct is not just avoidance of a direct violation, but also prohibition on attempts to vitiate the electoral space through suggestive or indirect statements or innuendoes and consequently the democratic processes or harm public tranquility," the EC said. Meanwhile, the EC also issued a notice to Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for a statement made during a poll rally in Madhya Pradesh where she asked Modi why he had given BHEL to his "bade udyogpati mitron (big industrialist friends)". Citing the MCC provision against making unverified allegations, the EC asked her to explain her statement by 8 pm on Thursday. This is the second EC notice to Priyanka in the ongoing Assembly elections.

• Anonymised data of big tech firms

governance of non-personal data. The Bill, however, is unlikely to be released this year. As per a report released in October by a working group constituted by the IT Ministry, the India datasets program is a "unified national data sharing and exchange platform to enable various data sharing and exchange use cases of all stakeholders including but not limited to Central/State/UT Governments, public sector undertaking, private sector companies, industry bodies, MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) and startups, academia and researchers, civil society and media organisations, open technology communities, etc." Non-personal data held by the Indian datasets platform could also be monetised, the report suggests. The platform, as per the report, will play a crucial role in boosting the artificial intelligence ecosystem in India by providing a "robust foundation" for data-driven innovation and development. In May 2022, the IT Ministry had released the draft National

• 60 hours: Experts now try 'trenchless' rescue technique

two-and-a-half days have elapsed since they got trapped. According to a statement issued by the state government, consultations are being held with experts of the NHA, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, National Housing and Construction Limited, L&T, Tehri Hydro Development Corporation, BRO and National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. In the first two days, the plan to remove debris using heavy excavator machines, and prevent more debris from falling using the "shotcrete method", has only been partially successful. Under shotcreting, as soon as debris is removed, concrete is shot at high pressure to prevent more from falling. Along with this, on the advice of the experts, efforts were being made to prepare a safe passage to reach the trapped labourers by removing the debris

and installing setting plates, but more debris that kept falling from the tunnel's upper part hampered the plan. Now, the "trenchless" technique is being used to create a passage through 900 mm wide mild steel (MS) pipes. An auger machine, which consists of a helical screw blade known as an auger, attached to a rotating shaft, is already inside the tunnel. The basic principle behind its operation involves a spiral blade rotating and pushing material away from the hole being drilled. Once drilled, the MS pipes can be pushed through the pile of debris, creating a passage wide enough for those inside to crawl through. In total, eight pipes of 900 mm and 11 pipes of 800 mm are at the site. The "trenchless" techniques can be valuable in tunnel collapse rescue operations to access and rescue individuals trapped underground without ex-

acerbating the collapse or causing further harm. These methods offer a way to reach trapped individuals without significant excavation, reducing the risk of further structural instability. On Tuesday evening, when the rescuers were preparing the platform to carry the auger machine, more debris fell on the platform, hindering the process. "... the debris has been removed and the process of taking protective measures for the safety of the auger machine is in progress," said a statement issued by the Uttarakhand District Emergency Operation Center. Secretary (Disaster Management) Ranjit Sinha said: "Some debris fell on the place we had cleared earlier. This has caused some hindrance and has delayed the process to start drilling by a few hours. There are challenges in such rescue operations, but we will overcome them."

• 'Biki' Oberoi, gold standard for Indian hospitality, dies

who worked at Rajivas between 1998 and 2000, said that in the beginning, he didn't understand the "hoopla" around the hotel, considering it was "very expensive and the occupancy wasn't very great". "There was a joke that Rajivas spent more money than it made on watering the lawns. But PRS had a vision and in a short span of time, it became the most talked about property in the whole of India," he said. Another chef, India-born and Britain-based chef Atul Kochhar, who worked at The Oberoi, New Delhi, from 1990 to 1994, remembered his first employer. "He was the first to arrive at the 'Leading Hotels Of The World' conference, although he didn't reside within the hotel premises.

He would inspect all the arrangements with a keen eye and would be the last one to leave. As trainees, we would be worn out, but he would be standing tall. Everything had to be spick and span," he said. In 2010, Oberoi faced a takeover threat after Kolkata-based ITC bought around 15 per cent stake in EIH Ltd. He brought in Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries to offer an equity stake. Three EIH promoters — Oberoi Hotels, Aravali Polymers and P R S Oberoi himself — sold 5.54 crore shares amounting to 14.12 per cent to Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries for Rs 1,021 crore. RIL now reportedly owns around 19 per cent stake in EIH. The promoter holding in EIH is currently 32.85

per cent. This year, Oberoi Hotels said they would manage three luxury hotel properties of Reliance — the upcoming Anant Vilas Hotel in Mumbai, Stoke Park in the United Kingdom, and another resort in Gujarat. When terrorists attacked the Trident Hotel in Mumbai 15 years ago, Oberoi ensured that the hotel returned to normalcy within a short period. "His many achievements were never sufficiently recognised. He made 'Oberoi' a global byword for the Indian luxury hospitality and was the first to put an Indian hotel on the very top of global rankings. He also rallied the group quietly after the 26/11 attack on their Mumbai flagship. He was a class act," said Mahindra group's chairman, Anand Mahindra.

DWARKA E-WAY LAND CASE: OFFICER SAYS BID TO MALIGN ME

# Chief Secy complicit, remove him from post: Vigilance report

Bureaucracy hits back: What did CM, Revenue minister do about case till date?

MALLICA JOSHI, JATIN ANAND & GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

DELHI VIGILANCE Minister Atishi Tuesday submitted to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal a 670-page preliminary report on the alleged involvement of Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar in enhancing an "exorbitant compensation award" for a parcel of land in Southwest Delhi's Bamnoli village acquired for the Dwarka Expressway, government sources said.

Accusing the Chief Secretary of being instrumental in providing illicit profits to a company linked to his son, the report alleges "... prima facie appearance of complicity" of the CS with District Magistrate (Southwest) Hemant Kumar and owners of the land acquired.

"It is clear that business interests of the son of Naresh Kumar are closely aligned with beneficiary landowners through a web of companies... sequence of events... since Naresh Kumar took charge as Chief Secretary... indicates he may have used his authority to enable a huge enhancement of compensation to the beneficiaries who have close business relations with his son..." the report states.

Chief Secretary Kumar has termed the allegations and the inquiry an attempt by the AAP Delhi government to "defame" and "malign" him. He said he does not know the directors of his son's firm and it was he who took action against IAS officer Kumar. The latter, meanwhile, was suspended by the MHA and is facing a CBI inquiry with regard to his alleged role in the matter.

As reported by *The Indian Express* last week, compensation



Minister Atishi submitted a 670-page preliminary report on alleged involvement of Kumar (right) in enhancing an "exorbitant compensation award" for a parcel of land in Delhi

against the acquisition of the 19-acre plot was increased from Rs 41.52 crore to Rs 353.79 crore in May. This led to action against IAS officer Kumar following a complaint from a lawyer with the Centre and the Delhi government, alleging that the son-in-law of one of the landowners is the director in a firm that employs the son of the Chief Secretary.

The inquiry, which the Chief Minister had asked Atishi to take up last week based on this complaint, recommended immediate removal of Kumar from the post of Chief Secretary as well as Ashwani Kumar from the post of Divisional Commissioner so they "do not influence the probe". It also urged the CM to issue directions to seize files related to the matter from them "to prevent any tampering or destruction of evidence".

### What the report says

According to sources, the report alleges "a conspiracy by senior officers of the Vigilance Department", including Chief Secretary Kumar, to undervalue the "scale of the scam" at Rs 312 crore when the actual compensation award "would have resulted in an illicit gain of Rs 850

crore to the beneficiaries". It also states that the Vigilance Department inquiry had not examined how beneficiaries purchased land in Bamnoli village "at only 7% of the circle rate in 2015".

In her recommendation to the CM, Atishi alleged "a likelihood that the remaining 93% payment may have been done in cash".

"... it appears it is not only a case of corruption but might involve money laundering as well, making it a case fit for investigation by the Enforcement Directorate under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The Chief Secretary and the Divisional Commissioner despite being aware of these facts did not require DOV to inquire into this aspect," the report states.

Recommending disciplinary proceedings against both senior IAS officers, Atishi asked for the report to be sent to the CBI to provide the agency "a complete view of the facts" and expand the scope of its existing inquiry with regard to Hemant Kumar to investigate the "complicity of the Chief Secretary and Divisional Commissioner" with the suspended IAS officer and landowners. "... it is recommended that

the Chief Minister may directly send this report and make recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor, without involving the officers who are the subject matter of this report..." it states.

Responding to the allegations, the Chief Secretary's office said, "On what basis are such allegations being made?... If the landowners had purchased the land in 2015 at just 7% of the market rate, what was done by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Minister (Revenue), Minister (Vigilance), and officers concerned since 2015 till date? Whether there were any interests of these persons in such alleged undervalued sale/purchase?"

"The Government of India has already referred this case of passing awards by arbitrator Hemant Kumar to the CBI... is all this being done to save Hemant Kumar by his political bosses and other vested interests? Are they fearful (Kumar will) spill the beans before the CBI? Let the CBI/ED also investigate such conspiracy being done by vested interests, including public authorities, to malign the Chief Secretary... Let the CBI call Atishi, Minister (Revenue & Vigilance), who has all the documents and has done an alleged preliminary inquiry in this matter, so that the role of all conspirators can be brought out."

Atishi also alleged the Divisional Commissioner "repeatedly refused to provide files about this matter", which appeared "suspicious and raises questions about his complicity".

A day earlier, Ashwini Kumar had addressed a press conference defending the Chief Secretary and terming the entire episode "dirty politics".

# With aim to grow tulips in city, NDMC sets up special chamber at Lodhi Garden

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

WITH THE hope to grow tulip flowers in the city, instead of importing them from other countries, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) established a Tulip Growth Cum Storage Chamber at Lodhi Garden Tuesday.

This initiative was taken up after L-G VK Saxena stressed upon exploring means to ensure indigenous production of tulip saplings during his visits to NDMC's tulip plantations last winter, according to the civic body. Following brainstorming by officials from various departments, a decision was taken to initiate trials for indigenous tulip bulb multiplication.

The NDMC ritually imports the spring-blooming flower around this time of the year and plants them in various places.



The chamber is aimed at reducing tulip import costs. Express

The council had imported over 1 lakh tulip bulbs in 2022, and 65,000 in 2021. Establishing a Growth Cum Storage Chamber is aimed at reducing import costs, increasing tulip availability in the country, and providing a boost to the local floriculture industry, the agency said.

"By establishing a one-of-its-

kind Tulip Growth Cum Storage Chamber, we are making attempts to encourage production in India itself with the objective to promote indigenous bulbs

use, thereafter reducing dependence on imported bulbs being imported every year as the conditions/temperature is otherwise not suitable for multiplication/production of Tulips in Delhi region," the NDMC said in its statement to the press.

The newly established tulip chamber consists of a cold storage, which has the capacity to house 50,000 fresh bulbs that can be controlled in temperatures varying between 2 and 20 degrees Celsius. The set up also comprises a tulip propagation chamber with facility to grow around 2,000 bulbs, which can be further multiplied into 4,000 bulbs if kept within a temperature-controlled environment, according to the NDMC.

# Row over bursting crackers: Five beaten up inside hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, NOVEMBER 14

FIVE PEOPLE were assaulted by unknown persons at Sohna Civil Hospital where they were getting treated following a scuffle with the accused over bursting firecrackers on Diwali night, officials said.

According to DCP (South) Sidhant Jain, an FIR was registered under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act at

Sohna City police station on Tuesday.

The SMO of the hospital, Dr Inderjit, said that before they were admitted, the victims allegedly had an altercation with the accused over bursting firecrackers in front of their homes. "After the scuffle, three men had come and sought an MLC; later, two women came over, seeking the same. Since the women didn't sustain any injuries, we sent them back. The men were also discharged," he said.

Later, five other people, in-

cluding a woman, arrived at the hospital in an injured state and were admitted. "On Monday night, 10-12 people came with swords, sticks and other sharp weapons and barged into the hospital. They attacked the five patients," he said.

The victims are between the age of 20 and 40, said a staff member of the hospital.

Station House Officer of Sohna City police station said police were checking CCTV footage of the incident. No arrest has been made yet.

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[www.nationalfertilizers.com](http://www.nationalfertilizers.com) | CIN: L74899DL1974GOI007417

**EXTRACT FROM THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

S. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE			CONSOLIDATED			₹ Lakhs					
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended						
		30-09-2023	30-06-2023	30-09-2022	30-09-2023	30-06-2023	30-09-2022						
1	Total Income from operations	569120	505975	676458	1075095	1322691	2980914	2980914					
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) from operations before exceptional items and tax	(15283)	(19135)	3271	(34418)	18281	60977	(12683)	(16885)	2275	(29568)	18671	61200
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) before tax after exceptional items	(15283)	(19135)	3271	(34418)	18281	60977	(12683)	(16885)	2275	(29568)	18671	61200
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax	(11310)	(14393)	2475	(25703)	13635	45610	(8710)	(12143)	1479	(20853)	14025	45833
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/ (Loss) and Other Comprehensive Income for the period)	(11239)	(14334)	2590	(25573)	13867	45966	(8639)	(12084)	1594	(20723)	14257	46194
6	Equity Share Capital	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year						228325						205107
8	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each)*												
	(a) Basic	(2.31)	(2.93)	0.50	(5.24)	2.78	9.30	(1.78)	(2.48)	0.30	(4.25)	2.86	9.34
	(b) Diluted	(2.31)	(2.93)	0.50	(5.24)	2.78	9.30	(1.78)	(2.48)	0.30	(4.25)	2.86	9.34

\*Not annualised in case of quarterly/ half yearly figures

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchanges websites, [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and website of the Company [www.nationalfertilizers.com](http://www.nationalfertilizers.com).

For and on behalf of Board of Directors  
Sd/-  
**(U. Saravanan)**  
Chairman & Managing Director  
DIN : 07274628

Place : Noida  
Dated : November 14, 2023

**N.F.L.: Farmers' Friend, Nation's Pride**



Smog guns spray water on a road as part of the Delhi government's drive to control pollution levels in the Capital, Tuesday. Praveen Khanna

**NO RELIEF IN SIGHT FOR NEXT FEW DAYS**

# Delhi air 'very poor': Transport sector, secondary aerosols top contributors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

DELHI RECORDED a 24-hour average AQI of 397, in the upper end of the 'very poor' category, at 4 pm Tuesday, with the forecast indicating that it is likely to remain in the 'very poor' category from Wednesday to Friday.

At 10 pm Monday, the 24-hour average had hit the 'severe' category, standing at a figure of 403, with firecrackers having contributed to the city's pollution load.

The contribution of stubble burning to PM2.5 levels in the city was 11.31% Monday, well below the peak of 35.43% recorded on November 3 when the air quality was in the 'severe' category, according to the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology's Decision Support System.

At some monitoring stations in the city, the 24-hour average AQI was in the 'severe' (401 to 500) category at 7 pm Tuesday. These include ITO (424), Nehru Nagar (444), and Anand Vihar (433), going by data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).



Praveen Khanna

A forecast issued by the Air Quality Early Warning System Tuesday said the air quality is likely to remain in the 'very poor' category from Wednesday to Friday, as well as for six days after that.

The transport sector contributed the most to PM2.5 levels (42%) Tuesday, according to the real-time source apportionment study being done by IIT Kanpur, with data from a site at Rouse Avenue. This was followed by secondary aerosols (31%), which are particles formed by the interaction of gases in the atmosphere that travel long distances to reach the site where they are measured,

and biomass burning (18%).

Data from air quality monitoring stations of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) was not available on the CPCB's air quality app for a few hours on Tuesday.

At 3 pm, for instance, the 24-hour average AQI of 341 on the CPCB app only reflected data from nine stations, those of the CPCB, and the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Data from 4 pm, however, indicated that readings from 35 out of the city's 40 monitoring stations were used for an average.

A senior official in the DPCC said that data from DPCC monitoring stations had been

recorded but had not been updated live. "Data for seven hours was then retrieved and updated," the official said.

The temperature in Delhi has also seen a dip this week. Both the maximum and minimum temperature remained below normal on Tuesday, with the maximum temperature settling at 25.9 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature recorded at 12 degrees Celsius.

The maximum temperature is likely to range from 26 to 28 degrees over the next six days, while the minimum temperature could range from 11 to 13 degrees in the period, according to the IMD forecast.

## 215 SMOG GUNS HIT THE ROADS

New Delhi: In response to the escalating pollution levels in Delhi following the Diwali festivities, Environment Minister Gopal Rai Tuesday announced the initiation of a water sprinkling campaign, deploying 215 mobile anti-smog guns to spray water on city roads.

"Specifically, 70 anti-smog guns are allocated to match the number of Assembly constituencies in Delhi. Additionally, 60 units are strategically placed in hotspots with higher AQI levels," Rai said.

He also acknowledged the Punjab government's steps in curbing stubble burning. He reported a 60% reduction in stubble-burning incidents this year compared to previous years, attributing the achievement to the measures undertaken by the state. **ENS**

# BJP defends crackers in capital, AAP calls its reasons 'absurd'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

THE BHARATIYA Janata Party (BJP) Tuesday continued its defence of the usage of firecrackers on Diwali, accusing the AAP-Delhi government of failing to find solutions to the city's pollution woes and its administration in Punjab for being unsuccessful at reigning in stubble burning.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai hit back, saying people associated with the BJP are offering "absurd" justifications for supporting firecracker bursting during Diwali, which resulted in a sharp spike in pollution levels in the national capital.

Rai had on Monday, congratulated citizens who followed the Supreme Court directive to not burst firecrackers "as a matter of humanity" and accused BJP leaders of instigating people to use fireworks.

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

Northeast Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari had said, "... I believe very few crackers were



Delhi BJP vice-president Kapil Mishra; (R) AAP's Gopal Rai

used... but the problem with some parties is related to why the people of the country were celebrating Diwali... their problem is with devotees of the Sanatan Dharma celebrating their festival... Lord Ram seems to have intervened before Diwali by providing rain which washed all the pollution away..."

Delhi BJP vice-president Kapil Mishra, who had termed the sound of firecrackers "voices of resistance... freedom and democracy" against an "unscientific, illogical, dictatorial ban" on their usage on Diwali, asked, "Children bursting firecrackers on Diwali is part of our tradition... what about other sources of pollution and especially stubble burning which AAP has miserably failed to counter in Delhi and Punjab?"

Taking a dig at Rai, West Delhi BJP MP Parvesh Verma shared a video of foam floating

on the Yamuna and said phul-jadis or sparklers lit by children on Diwali must be responsible for the "poisonous" state of the river.

When asked for a response on the worsening air quality of Delhi after Diwali, he said when the AQI was "more than 900 for the last several days, the AAP did not say anything." "But now they got the excuse that it happened due to burning of firecrackers in Diwali," he said.

Rai said the primary causes for the escalated pollution levels in Delhi currently include firecracker bursting, stubble burning, and a lack of stringent enforcement of measures under the final stage of the Centre's air pollution control plan, known as the Graded Response Action Plan. He urged all states to collaborate in reducing the incidents of stubble burning. (with inputs from PTI)

## Man dies after cracker thrown at him: 1 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
 GHAZIABAD, NOVEMBER 14

GHAZIABAD POLICE Tuesday arrested a 22-year-old man for allegedly throwing a firecracker at another man during Diwali celebrations Sunday, which resulted in his death.

The accused, Pradeep, is from Bihar and currently resides in Jhandapur area in Ghaziabad. "Pradeep was using pipe firecrackers and it seems he threw it on the victim, Afzal. A vein in Afzal's leg burst and he started bleeding. He was immediately taken to a hospital, where he was declared dead by doctors," said ACP (Sahibabad) Bhaskar Verma.

Verma said the accused and victim were known to each other and they have not yet received any information about a dispute between the two. "The accused said he, along with his friends, was bursting firecrackers using a pipe to create a loud sound. Afzal was also with them. Around 9 pm, he (Pradeep) threw a firecracker on Afzal's back..." police said in a statement.

# How unusual polythene bag led cops to man who killed his wife, mutilated body

AISWARYA RAJ  
 GURGAON, NOVEMBER 14

AN UNUSUAL, expensive polythene bag, a black anklet, and a minor daughter's observation on her mother's dressing style — these three clues helped Gurgaon Police crack a blind murder case in which a woman was allegedly killed by her husband earlier this year.

On April 21, 2023, a man noticed smoke billowing out of a motor shed in Panchgaon Chowk in Manesar. He informed police who found a half-burnt torso on the premises. Post mortem threw up little information, except that the torso belonged to a woman, aged around 30, and someone who had given birth once. But at the crime scene, police chanced upon a peculiar clue: A plastic bag by a company called Poly Filmex.

"When we approached them (the company), they said their bags were too expensive and their clients largely government and defence forces as they had

floated tenders for the supply of the high-quality bags. We filtered out the customers after we got to know that the bag was manufactured in 2020 and discontinued thereafter. A supply company associated with the Indian Naval Forces in Visakhapatnam had purchased that line of bags. We came to know that an officer with the Navy had something to do with the murder," said police officer Lalit, in-charge of the Manesar Crime Branch unit.

Around the same time, a parallel investigation was underway after a man, Jitendra (35), approached police stating his wife Sonia (28) was missing. "We were going through several CCTV footage... and found Jitendra heading to various places from his Manesar home. We... found he always had a trolley bag in tow; the bag seemed heavy and stiff while he was lugging it, and light every time he returned. We interrogated him and in a bid to throw us off the course of the probe, he pointed to a woman's back in one of the



footage, declaring it was his wife," said Lalit.

However, his plan fell through after their eight-year-old daughter stated that her mother did not have any outfit like the one on the woman seen in the footage.

"Around this time, we also found the severed leg of the murder victim from Kherki Daula near the expressway. The body of the woman was cut into several pieces and left in different locations; the hands were recovered six km away from the location of the torso. We matched DNA samples to find out that the torso matched with

the limb. It also had a black anklet which the daughter identified as her mother's," Lalit added.

The police checked call detail records of Jitendra and found that he was involved with a woman from Jharkhand with whom he also had a child. Further, when police raided Jitendra's house, they found more plastic bags from the Navy along with blood stains in the trolley bag seen in the footage, Lalit said.

Police finally arrested Jitendra, and two days later, the head of the woman was recovered from the KMP highway.

During questioning, it was revealed that Jitendra was formerly employed in the Navy and had retired six months earlier. Jitendra allegedly confessed to the crime, citing marital discord arising from an extra-marital affair that led him to strangle his wife. He allegedly mutilated her body, placed it in plastic bags, and discarded the body parts in different locations.



## TRADE FAIR KICKS OFF

The 42nd edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2023 was inaugurated here on Tuesday. With nearly 3,500 exhibitors from both India and abroad, IITF 2023 occupies an expansive space of 1,10,000 square meters. Praveen Khanna

## L-G nod to 10 more family courts to combat pendency

New Delhi: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena Tuesday approved the creation of 10 more family courts in Delhi, according to a press release issued by the L-G office.

The total number of family courts now stands at 31.

According to the statement, the approval comes four years after a recommendation for the creation of at least 10 more family courts in view of the pendency of cases, in some cases between five and ten years. **ENS**

## AIIMS to provide free insulin

New Delhi: On World Diabetes Day, AIIMS Delhi started a free insulin distribution service Tuesday. According to officials, free insulin vials will be provided to poor patients with diabetes prescribed insulin from any OPD of AIIMS as well as those admitted to the hospital.

AIIMS has opened two new counters at Amrit Pharmacy, located in front of the New Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur OPD building, which will be open from 9 am to 5 pm every day. The counter will also provide written advice in Hindi and English for safe transport and storage of insulin vials. For patients likely to travel long distances, frozen ice packs will be provided to safely carry the vials.

Dr Nikhil Tandon, Professor and Head Department of Endocrinology, said, "The decision has been taken in context of WHO guidelines where it identified five core national targets for UN member states aimed at reducing diabetes risk and ensuring people with diabetes have equitable access to comprehensive and affordable care and prevention..." **ENS**



ARRESTS MADE AFTER VIDEO SHARED ONLINE

# Car rams into group celebrating Diwali in Noida, 8-year-old girl among 3 injured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

THREE PEOPLE, including an eight-year-old girl, sustained severe injuries after they were hit by a car in Noida's Sector 119 while taking part in Diwali festivities on Sunday. They were rushed to a hospital and admitted to the ICU.

The incident was reported from outside Reldeco Amantaran around 11 pm. Three people, including the driver of the red hatchback car have been arrested, police said.

Kamesh Khatana, a HR executive whose daughter was among the three mowed down, said she spent two days in intensive care.

"The incident took place on Sunday night while my minor daughter, my friend and his father-in-law were out on the road on Diwali. A vehicle came in a rash manner and rammmed all three... they were admitted to the ICU... my daughter has



Screengrabs from a video of the incident show a red hatchback hitting people outside a housing society. Source: X



been shifted to the general ward," Khatana, who shared a clip of the incident on X and appealed for help, said.

Khatana, in a post on X, appreciated the police for arresting the accused driver and the other two occupants of the

speeding vehicle within 24 hours.

"With God grace my daughter is out of ICU. My friend and his F-I-L is still in ICU, they need prayers. @Uppolice @DCPCentralNoida police has done a wonderful job, they

and two passengers, Golu Yadav and Pradyuman Kumar, were taken into custody. The driver has been arrested. An FIR under IPC section 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way) has been registered," said a senior police officer.

caught culprit in less than 24 hours. Thanks to both Pillar of democracy for helping us in this tough time" he said in a post. According to police, all three injured were now out of danger.

"The driver, Vikas Yadav,

# Court acquits trio in 2014 murder case: 'Deliberate bid to safeguard actual offender'

MAHENDERSINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

ACQUITTING THREE men of charges of murder in a nine-year-old case, a Delhi court said the investigation seems to be a "shoddy, manipulated and deliberate attempt" to safeguard the actual offender. It said the murder appears to be a case of "human sacrifice", and not an outcome of a row over drug consumption.

"This case prima facie appears to be related to 'human sacrifice', but the investigation officer of the case was negligent or smart enough to give (it) another direction... instead of investigating facts available on the crime scene right on the first day," the court said.

The case goes back to December 14, 2014, when the mutilated body of a man was found in Bawana. "...investigation was marked to Inspector Sanjeev Chahar. As per the crime team report, the deceased (had) injury marks on both shoulders, genital organ and on left leg. On December 17, one Mohan Lal

identified the body... as of his son Manjeet. He informed police that the last time he spoke with his son, he told him he was sitting with his friends... before disconnecting..." the order said.

ASJ/Special Judge, NDPS, Rohini Court, Dharendra Rana, said in his order that the lacuna left by investigating officer (IO) Chahar in probing the case are so grave that they create a serious doubt on the prosecution theory regarding involvement of accused Sanjay, Mohd Sameer and Naseem Khan in the murder. "...When the headless body was recovered, there was no investigation as to where the head had gone and for what purpose the deceased was beheaded... Going by the version of the accused, they had no purpose to conceal the head... and, therefore, it was the duty of the investigating officer to... trace the head of deceased Manjeet," ASJ Rana said.

"... When police reached the spot for the first time, there were many articles which reflected that some kind of tantrik worship or some religious act was performed at the spot... But the IO... opted not to investigate the matter..." he said

in his October 31 order.

"As per post-mortem report, the beheading of the deceased is a post-mortem injury. (If) the head of the deceased was chopped off at the time of murder, the injury ought to have been ante-mortem... In fact, the post-mortem report is suggestive of absence of heart. Usually, a dead body is not found in such mutilated condition in a murder case. IO ignored this fact and went ahead to solve the case on the basis of last seen theory," the judge said. ASJ Rana said the actual killer is still at large whereas "the innocents are put to trial" by IO Chahar. "The investigation carried out by IO is not only an injustice to the deceased but also to the accused persons, who are facing trial since 2015," he said.

"This case prima facie appears to be related to 'human sacrifice' instead of drug consumption theory," ASJ Rana said in his order, directing suitable action against Inspector Chahar. "An action-taken report may be shared with this court in four weeks... Copy of this order be sent to DCP concerned for necessary action at his end," it added.

# Blaze in five-storey building leaves one dead, nine injured

ARNABJIT SUR & SAMAN HUSAIN  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

A LATE-NIGHT fire at a five-storey building in East Delhi's Shakarpur Tuesday left a 35-year-old boutique consultant dead and nine people with burn injuries.

A total of 31 residents lived in the building — while 26 were rescued by the Delhi Fire Services, five people, including a 12-year-old, jumped from balconies. One of the injured, Anita Singh, died.

According to DCP (East) Amrutha Guguloth, they received information at 1 am regarding a fire in Ganesh Nagar. A police team reached and found the fire was in a building, which has eight flats and a parking lot on the ground floor. Said the DCP, "17 fire tenders reached the spot... The injured, including fireman Samay Singh, were taken to LBS, GTB and Hedgewar hospitals."

Police added that on initial inquiry, it appears the fire started due to a short circuit in the parking area. A case under IPC sections pertaining to causing death by negligence and hurt by endangering life and personal safety of others has been lodged against unknown persons.

Residents, meanwhile, woke up to the smell of smoke.

Priyanka Kaur, who lives on the first floor, immediately filled up buckets with water and poured it on her children, Shiva (3) and Shaurya (12). "She covered the kids with blankets and handed them out of the kitchen window to firefighters... she sustained burn injuries," said Kaur's brother-in-law, Kamal Tiwari.

Dharmendra Mathur, a garment shop owner who has been living as a tenant in the building



Fire broke out in East Delhi's Shakarpur. Abhinav Saha

for the last six years, said: "My Golden Retriever, Buza, got agitated due to the fire. DFS rescued him and my family safely... my daughter and son sustained burn injuries and are being treated." He also alleged BSES took time to cut electricity supply.

The BSES in a statement said, "Our condolences are with the family of the deceased. As per initial reports, the probable cause of the fire was a short circuit in the internal wiring..." A BSES source said power supply was switched off immediately.

A total of 50 firefighters were involved in the operation. A senior DFS official said, "The lane leading up to the house was very narrow and it took some time for fire tenders to reach..."

On how the fire spread, the official said, "The stilt parking should ideally be open from both sides. Since it was closed from the back, smoke spread to the other floors. The building shaft, connected to washrooms, also contributed to the fire spreading rapidly. The terrace door also has no mesh, which trapped the heat."

# Victim tried to run up the stairs, fainted

SAMAN HUSAIN & ARNABJIT SUR  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

WHEN THE fire broke out in the five-storey building in Shakarpur, 35-year-old Anita Singh tried to open the door of the 4th-floor flat to run up the stairs but eventually collapsed and died inside her house.

Anita worked as a consultant at 'Ose', a fashion boutique in GKII. A helpful colleague and a doting aunt. Anita was a favourite among both her office counterparts and neighbours.

Her nephew Ankush Singh told *The Indian Express*, "When the fire broke out, there were three people in the house — my aunts Anita and Veena Singh (57) and my cousin Piyush (25). They tried to get to the terrace but were unsuccessful as the door had heated up... my cousin sustained minor burns trying to open the door."

To avoid being suffocated, the family went to the only room with a balcony in the 3BHK house but eventually lost consciousness. "They fainted after being in the



Anita Singh

room for over half an hour... neighbours called me around 1.30 am and I immediately rushed from my house in Noida Extension," Singh said.

"Aunty Anita was pronounced dead on arrival," Singh said. Veena is currently under observation at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital while Piyush, a photographer, was taken to GTB Hospital.

Singh said his aunts' family was the last to be rescued. "Other residents were shouting for help from their balconies but in the case of my family, there was no visible movement in the flat since all the occupants had lost consciousness..." Singh said.



## Modi Government's Guarantee

### Spreading benefits of Welfare Schemes among all entitled



## Prime Minister Narendra Modi flags off

# VIKSIT BHARAT SANKALP YATRA

## to ensure saturation of flagship govt schemes from the land of Lord Birsa Munda

An initiative by Government to reach the benefits of all Schemes to every District, every village of the country

**Also, Transfer of ₹18,000 crore as 15th instalment of PM Kisan**

**More than 8 crore farmers to get the 15th instalment**

**₹ 2.61 lakh crore transferred in the previous 14 instalments**

**Jharkhand gets a Gift of Development Projects worth ₹ 7,200 crore**

Inauguration / Dedication to the Nation	Laying of Foundation Stone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 100% Electrification of Railways in Jharkhand Faster movement of trains, reduced carbon footprint</li> <li>■ Dual gauging of Hatia-Pakra, Talgaria-Bokaro and Jarandih-Patratu Sections To enable running of high speed trains like Vande Bharat</li> <li>■ Permanent Campus for IIM, Ranchi, New Student Hostels for IIT and IIM, Dhanbad Opportunities for the youth to develop their skills in ultra modern surroundings</li> <li>■ Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant (POL) Depot in Bokaro</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Four-laning of Mahagama-Hansdeeha Section of NH-133 Faster movement of minerals and development of tribal areas like Bahul</li> <li>■ Four-laning of Basukinath-Deoghar Section of NH-114A Reaching Basukinath and Baidyanath Dhams will become easier</li> <li>■ KDH Purnadih Coal Handling Plant Increased capacity for coal transportation and coal loading</li> <li>■ New Educational and Administrative Building for IIT, Ranchi</li> </ul>


Khunti, Jharkhand, 15 November 11:15 A.M.



#HamaraSankalpViksitBharat  
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# 6 DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

ELECTION IN NUMBERS

116

The number of sittings held by the outgoing Chhattisgarh Assembly, of which MLAs attended an average of 81 sittings.

## LACK OF JOBS, INFIGHTING, BJP BIGWIGS FACE CONG

# Clean sweep in 2018, hurdles this time: Cong in for a fight on Singh Deo's turf

JAYPRAKASH NAIDU  
AMBİKAPUR, NOVEMBER 14

THE CONGRESS had swept the tribal Surguja region in North Chhattisgarh bagging all its 14 seats in the 2018 Assembly elections, when the party had won 68 out of 90 seats to end the 15-year rule of the BJP.

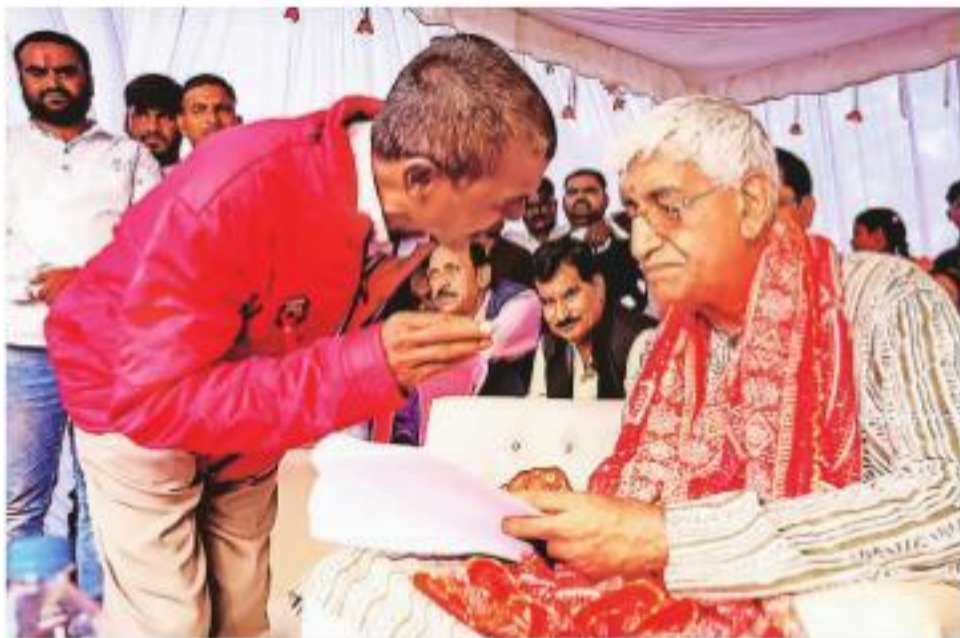
In the Assembly polls this time, the Congress is however facing various hurdles despite appearing to be ahead in the race in the region spread across six districts - Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur (MCB), Koriya, Surajpur, Surguja, Balrampur and Jashpur.

Among the biggest issues flagged by many local residents across the region are unemployment and lack of quality education. Congress sources admit that there has been a huge vacancy of teachers in schools and colleges, resulting in poor quality of education.

Even in Ambikapur, the headquarters of Surguja district, there is no government college that offers the B.Ed course despite the city being the most developed one in the division.

Many youths migrate to other states for jobs. The jobs crisis has now deepened as class 3 and class 4 government jobs are no longer reserved for the locals in tribal regions like Surguja in the wake of the Chhattisgarh High Court's 2022 verdict.

Several local residents call for the need for setting up more factories and industrial units in the region as it is rich in minerals and natural resources. They also said not enough money was being spent to meet the sports aspirations of the people and that the district minerals fund was also



Deputy CMT S Singh Deo in the village of Parsia Bajinathpur in Surguja division's Bhatgaon Assembly seat. Express

not being utilised properly for various development projects.

There has also been a public demand for a rail connection between Ambikapur and Uttar Pradesh's Renukoot, which would make the city a key junction in the region, which shares its borders with Madhya Pradesh, UP, Jharkhand and Odisha.

Deputy CM and scion of the erstwhile Surguja royal family, T S Singh Deo, the Ambikapur MLA, is leading the Congress's campaign in the region, which has nine ST (Scheduled Tribes)-reserved seats.

Deo told *The Indian Express* that the Congress had "created history by winning all 14 seats for the first time" in the Surguja division in the previous election. He exuded confidence about winning at least 10-11 seats in the region this time.

In the 2013 polls, the BJP and the Congress won seven seats each in the division. "In 2018, when Singh Deo was Leader of Opposition (LoP), locals voted for the Congress in the hope to see

him as the CM, which would have ensured more development in the region. It does not seem to be the case this time as CM Bhupesh Baghel is the party's face for the elections," said a local.

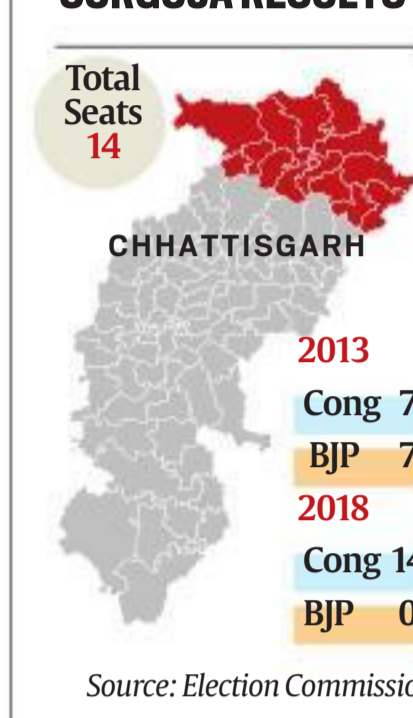
Observers said the Congress would "benefit from its pro-farmer policies", which it has pledged to scale up. The party, however, has been reeling from factionalism and infighting, especially involving the camps of Baghel and Deo over the CM post.

The party has denied tickets to four of its 14 sitting MLAs from the division - Brihaspat Singh in Ramanujan, former minister Prensai Singh Tekam in Pratappur, Vinay Jaiswal in Manendragarh, and Chintamani Maharaj in Samri.

In Ramanujan, Congress leader Ajay Tirke, a two-time Ambikapur mayor, has replaced Brihaspat who accused Deo of "conspiring to harm" him. Deo had said he was hurt and will not campaign for Brihaspat.

Chintamani has gone back to the BJP and is said to have

### SURGUJA RESULTS



some influence in other seats as well.

Two women Congress rebels are contesting against minister and four-time MLA Amarjeet Bhagat in Sitapur seat. Bhagat is taking on the BJP's new face, Ramkumar Toppo, 33, a former CRPF jawan who resigned after 13 years of service to contest elections.

The BJP has also fielded some of its heavyweights. Union Minister Renuka Singh is contesting from the Bharatpur-Sonhat constituency, while BJP MP Gomti Sai is contesting from Pathalgaon. The BJP has also fielded ex-minister Ram Vichar Netam from the Ramanujan seat and ex-Union minister Vishnu Deo Rai from Kunkuri.

Observers say the two seats in Jashpur district will also see a keen contest, given the influence of the family of the late Dilip Singh Judeo, who was a BJP satrap. Two members of the Judeo family are contesting from the adjoining Bilaspur division.

## Bit players wait in the wings: Jogi party to BSP-GGP alliance

JAYPRAKASH NAIDU  
RAIPUR, NOVEMBER 14

WHILE THE Chhattisgarh Assembly elections will be a direct fight between the Congress and the BJP, four smaller parties or their alliances are likely to make an impact in several seats. These smaller parties, including the BSP, Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP), Janta Congress Chhattisgarh-Jogi (JCC-J), and CPI - are hoping to win such seats or looking to play a role in determining their outcome.

The JCC-J was floated in 2016 by former Congress leader and first Chhattisgarh CM, late Ajit Jogi, which contested the 2018 polls in alliance with the BSP, winning seven seats together. While the JCC-J won five seats with a vote share of 7.61%, the BSP won two seats with a vote share of 3.87%. However, Jogi's wife Renu is the JCC-J's only sitting MLA now.

The JCC-J is going solo in this election, with Jogi's son Amit Jogi leading the party. Amit claims, "Next government will not be formed without us."

In 2018, the JCC-J won three seats in Bilaspur division and one each in Raipur and Durg divisions. The party is said to have eaten into the Congress's votes leading to the BJP's victory in five seats, including Rampur, Mungeli, Bilha and Beltara in Bilaspur division and Bhatapara in Raipur division. The JCC-J also

got more votes than the victory margin in 13 seats in Bilaspur, Durg and Surguja divisions.

However, the JCC-J and the BSP parted ways for the polls this time even though Amit met Mayawati in Delhi.

The BSP has instead chosen to align with the GGP, a tribal party, which will fight 33 seats with the remaining 57 being contested by the former.

When asked why the BSP did not join hands with the JCC-J, state BSP president Hemant Poyam said the latter became "inactive" following the demise of Ajit Jogi and has stirred into action only during the current election season.

In 2018, the BSP polled more votes than the victory margin in five seats, including three in Bilaspur division and two in Bastar division. The GGP did not win any seats but got 1.73% of vote share. It came second in the Scheduled Tribes (ST)-reserved Pali-Tanhakar seat in Korba, which was won by the Congress. The tribal party also polled more votes than the victory margin in five seats in Surguja and Raipur divisions.

The GGP is confident of winning at least one seat. The party's state executive president Kuldeep Prajapati said, "We can win Bharatpur-Sonhat where our national general secretary Shyamsingh Markam is contesting. We will give a tough fight in the Surguja tribal belt."



The Union Minister (above with his son Devendra) is facing MLA Ravindra Singh Tomar in Dimani, Morena. Facebook

## Amid tough poll battle, Union minister faces row over son's videos

Narendra Tomar alleges videos are fake and handiwork of Opposition

ANAND MOHAN J  
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 14

UNION AGRICULTURE Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who is already facing a tough Assembly poll battle in Dimani seat of Morena region, is now fending off heat arising out of three videos allegedly involving money deals.

While two of the videos purportedly feature Tomar's son Devendra Pratap Singh Tomar, another was released by the Congress on Tuesday, claiming it was of a Canada resident, Jagmandeep Singh, speaking to Devendra.

Devendra Tomar, who has been the associate vice-president, Hockey India, and president, Association of Mixed Martial Arts, Madhya Pradesh, has filed a police complaint, calling the videos fake.

On Tuesday, the Union minister broke his silence on the controversy, calling the "fake video" the handiwork of the Opposition. "This is part of a well-planned conspiracy being carried out by the Opposition at the time of elections with the aim of misleading the public... I demand the CFSL agencies to investigate this video, so that the truth can come out and the conspiracy can be exposed," Tomar wrote on X.

In the video released by the Congress, the Canada resident Jagmandeep identifies himself as a blueberry and marijuana farmer and claims he used to "give cash to" BJP leader and former Akali Dal Delhi MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa. "Manjinder Singh Sirsa used to take the cash and route it through wire transfers to the mantri's son," Jagmandeep says, in an alleged reference to Devendra, adding "this is not a matter of Rs 500 crore. It is a total Rs 10,000 crore".

Sirsa, a former chief of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, told *The Indian Express* that he was "targeted because I do press conferences against Kamal Nath". "This is an attempt to malign the Gurdwara Management Committee. The Congress is against the Sikh community and since I keep raising the

1984 anti-Sikh riots, they have targeted me. There have been no money transactions that are illegal. I will be sending legal notices to the Congress leaders who have circulated this video," he said.

The Congress also raised the matter at a press conference held in Delhi.

Tomar, who last contested an Assembly election more than 10 years ago, is facing incumbent MLA Ravindra Singh Tomar from Dimani. In 2018, the seat had been won by the Congress's Girraj Dandotiya, who switched over to the BJP during the defection of Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. In the bypoll that followed, Dandotiya lost to the Congress's Ravindra by 26,467 votes.

Union minister Tomar's task is also rendered more difficult by the presence of BSP candidate Balveer Dantodiya, who won Dimani in 2013, and who is expected to garner upper caste as well as the party's traditional Dalit votes.

In another setback, Tomar is facing his community's anger over the action against some of its members over the murder of a Gurjar. After protests by the Gurjar community, the home of one of the accused Tomar community members was demolished.

"The Tomar community believed the BJP stood for them. Some of our leaders could not visit the area (to placate them) because of the tension," a BJP leader said.

Another senior BJP leader said that Tomar's campaign got off to a sluggish start as well, after the Assembly ticket came as a surprise. "Narendra Singh Tomar was in no mood to contest... There was a delay in him hitting the ground, even as other parties began campaigning."

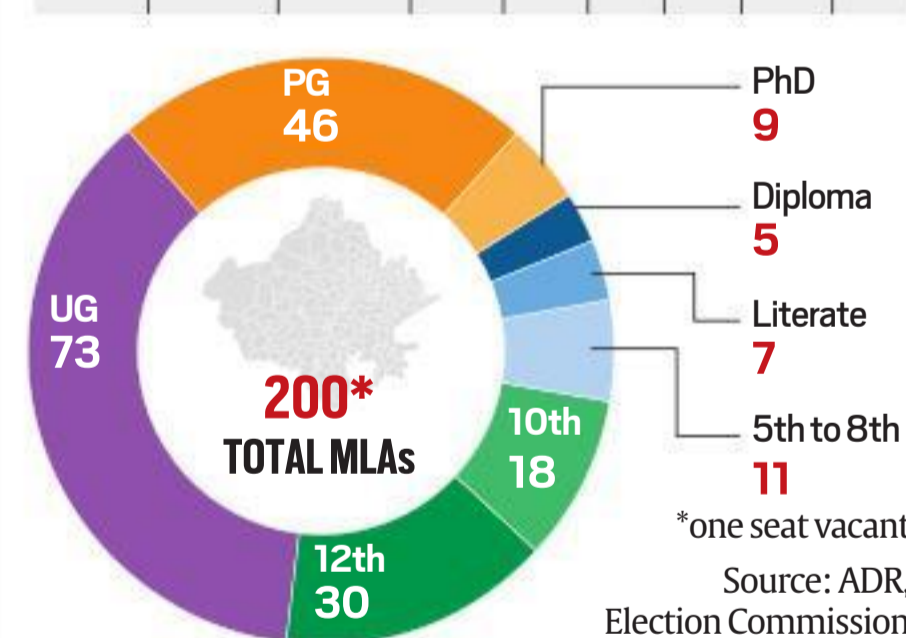
However, the leader added that Tomar will eventually pull through, given the caste factor in his favour, and that he is a tall leader. "But it will be a very tough fight."

After the killing, the CM had met Kanhaiya Lal's family and announced a compensation of Rs 50 lakh for the family along with government jobs for two of his sons.

## NUMBER SPEAK

### EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF MLAs IN RAJASTHAN'S OUTGOING ASSEMBLY

Party	Literate	5 to 8th	10th	12th	UG	PG	PhD	Dip
INC	4	4	9	18	42	25	6	0
BJP	2	7	6	9	23	16	2	4
Inde	0	0	1	3	5	5	0	0
RLP	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
CPI(M)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
BTP	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
RLD	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0



## Congress rolls out offensive in Rajasthan as BJP makes Kanhaiya Lal killing a poll issue

HAMZA KHAN  
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 14

AS THE BJP consistently raises the murder of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur last year, linked to his support for remarks by BJP leader Nupur Sharma on Prophet Mohammed, the Congress has started hitting back, with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot hinting "many mysteries" to the case.

At an election rally in Barwani in Madhya Pradesh on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to the Congress government in Rajasthan, saying: "What all didn't happen there in the last five years? Could we have even imagined that we will hear slogans like 'sar tan se juda (take someone's head off)' in Bharat?... This happened in Congress misrule in Rajasthan before a camera."

Apart from the PM, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Assam CM Himanta Biswa



PM Modi raised the issue in Barwani, MP, on Monday. PTI

Sarma and BJP state president C P Joshi, among others, have raised the killing.

Earlier, on November 9, addressing a rally in Udaipur, Modi called the killing a "terror incident" and said it happened as Rajasthan had a Congress government "which sympathises with terrorists".

Until then, the Congress top

leadership had refrained from joining the issue. But, a day after the PM's meeting, the Congress general secretary in-charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, addressed a press conference in Udaipur, while Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot lashed out at the BJP at back-to-back events, on November 10 and 12, directly blaming the party for the murder of Kanhaiya Lal.

"Kanhaiya Lal ka murder karwane waleey kaun log they? BJP ke log they (Who were the people who had Kanhaiya Lal murdered? It were the BJP people)," Gehlot said, adding "ismein kayi raaz hain (there are many mysteries to the case)".

Pointing out that the accused had been arrested in a separate case "four-five days" before Kanhaiya Lal was killed, and bailed out by BJP members, the CM wondered if Modi had been "properly briefed" on the issue.

The CM also talked about how, while the Rajasthan Police had caught the accused within four-

five hours, "even then the NIA took over the case that night itself". "We did not mind it because there could have been an international conspiracy... Now the NIA should reveal the progress in the case," the CM said, adding that if the Special Operations Group of the Rajasthan Police was involved, the status of the case would have been known and a challan filed by now.

Gehlot alleged the case was being "intentionally stretched" so that the BJP can make an issue out of it in the elections. "Maybe, he (Modi) is so worried about the (political) atmosphere in Rajasthan that he has become frustrated and is speaking this kind of language," he said, adding that Modi should not "provoke people in the name of religion".

The Congress has linked one of the accused, Riyaz Atari alias Mohammad Riyaz, to senior BJP leader Gulab Chand Kataria, who is now Assam Governor, with Rajasthan's MoS (Home) Rajendra Singh Yadav claiming that Riyaz had been Kataria's "polling agent".

## TELANGANA KEY CONTESTS

# Farmers to youths, KCR to face over 200 Independents

CM up against 'protest candidates' in both Gajwel and Kamareddy; several in fray to send message on youth unemployment

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 14

MORE THAN 100 candidates, including sugarcane farmers, in Telangana have filed nominations against Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) supremo K Chandrashekar Rao or KCR in the Gajwel Assembly constituency, from where the CM is seeking election for the third consecutive time.

Also, in Kamareddy, the second seat KCR is contesting, over 100 candidates, mostly Independents, have filed nominations against KCR.

On November 9, the last date for filing nominations for the November 30 Assembly elections, KCR along with over 100

Independents filed their papers in the Gajwel seat. A total of 154 candidates have filed nominations now from Gajwel.

Among the 154 candidates are sugarcane farmers from Muthyampet, who are demanding the sugar factory, popularly known as Nizam Deccan Sugars, be restarted in the Nizamabad district. Others who filed nominations in Gajwel include those protesting on behalf of jobless youth and against the government's failure to conduct state civil services exams, which have been mired in controversy over delays and paper leaks.

Some of the Gajwel "protest candidates" are also calling for government jobs and other services to be given to families of those who died during the movement



Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao won Gajwel the last two elections and is in fray from Kamareddy for the first time. File

for the Telangana statehood. KCR won the Gajwel seat in the 2014 and 2018 Assembly polls. In 2014, he won with

44.06% of the vote share with a 19,391 vote margin. In 2018, he polled 1.25 lakh votes or 60.45% of the vote share, defeating his

nearest rival by more than 58,000 votes. This time, KCR will take on the BJP's Etele Rajender, a former BRS member and the sitting Huzurabad MLA, and the Congress's Thoomkunta Narsa Reddy.

In Kamareddy, where KCR is contesting for the first time, 102 candidates have filed nominations. Many of those who filed their papers on November 9 are members of the Kamareddy Farmers' Joint Action Committee (JAC) who are angry over a development master plan of the Kamareddy municipality, under which many farmers would have lost their land. The draft plan, however, has already been scrapped by the municipality and the Municipal Administration and Urban

Development department.

However, at least a hundred farmers in the JAC said last month they will contest against the CM to convey their opposition to any future development plans that may result in such losses of farmers' land.

KCR's primary rival in Kamareddy is Revanth Reddy, the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief who is also contesting from Kodangal. Malkajgiri MP Reddy is a former Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader.

The BJP has fielded K Venkata Ramana Reddy in Kamareddy. The BRS won the seat comfortably in 2014 but faced a stiff challenge from the Congress's Mohammed Shabbir Ali in 2018.

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INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS

### NEW FACES

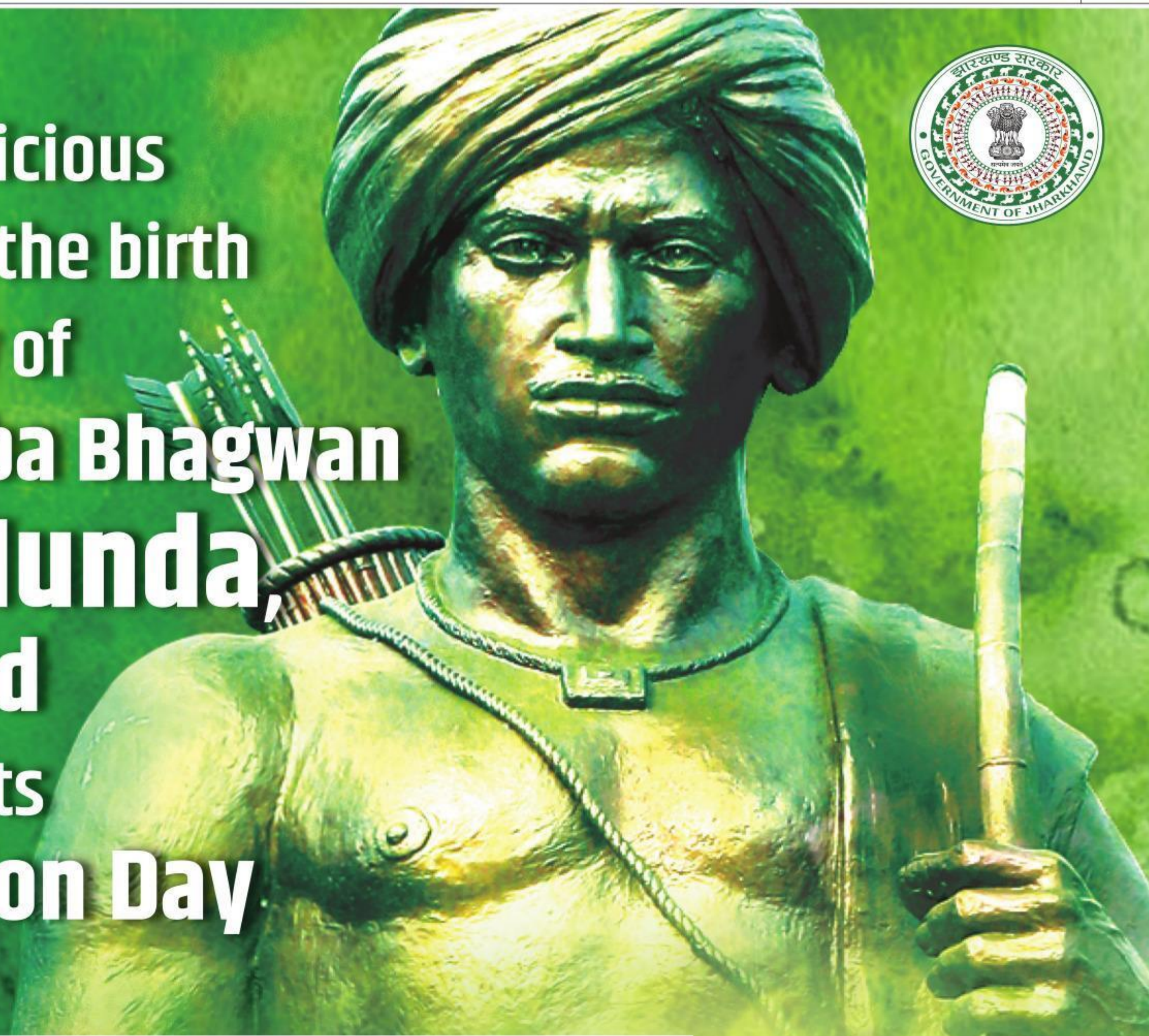
IN TELANGANA, IITIAN DASARI USHA TALKS OF WOMEN AND YOUTH ISSUES



DECODING POLITICS: WHY ERCP IS THE BUZZWORD FOR CONG IN RAJASTHAN



# On the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of **Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda**, Jharkhand celebrates its **Foundation Day**



Our heartfelt gratitude and homage to the valiant martyrs of Jharkhand for their struggle and sacrifice

# Johar

## Highlights of the event

- Inauguration of 229 projects worth ₹1,714 crores
- Foundation stone being laid of 677 projects worth ₹5,328 crores
- Launch of **Apki Yojana, Apki Sarkar, Apke Dwar** campaign
- Launch of **Abua Awas Yojana** and **Mukhyamantri Gram Gaadi Yojana**
- Offer Letter distribution to **18,034 youths** under the **Rojgar Mela**
- Under the **Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhi Yojana**, distribution of financial assistance worth ₹261 crores to **5.5 lakh girls** for the year 2023-2024
- Felicitation of 70 players with **cash rewards** worth ₹2 crores as per Sports Policy
- **Policies to be launched**
  - Jharkhand Startup policy 2023
  - Jharkhand M.S.M.E Promotion Policy 2023
  - Jharkhand Export Policy 2023
  - Jharkhand IT, Data Centre and BPO Investment Promotion Policy 2023

**Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan**  
Hon'ble Governor, Jharkhand

Date - 15 November, 2023 | Time - 02:00 pm Onwards  
Place - Morhabadi Ground, Ranchi

**Shri Hemant Soren**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jharkhand

# 8 GOVT & POLITICS



## BIG SCREENING

WITH PREPARATIONS underway for the Ram Mandir inauguration ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the Sangh Parivar is discussing whether it can telecast the 'Pran Pratishtha' (consecration programme) of the temple on digital screens across the country. The Sangh plans to put up giant screens in public places across the country so that more and more people can connect with the "historic event" that will see participation from PM Narendra Modi and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat. Earlier, there was also a plan to collect earthen lamps from all homes across the country, but that has been shelved now for being too cumbersome. Now, the shakhas will ask people to light lamps on their own on the day.

## JUSTICE WARRIORS

THE SUPREME COURT last week released its first monthly newsletter — The Supreme Court Chronicle. Apart from statistics on pendency of cases, snippets of activities by lawyers and judges, the newsletter had one interesting trivia — two Supreme Court judges served prison sentences for their participation in the freedom movement before their appointment to the judiciary. Justice B Jagannadhadas (1953–1958) was jailed for his participation in the 1942 Quit India Movement and Justice Jeevan Lal Kapur (1957–1962) was imprisoned for taking part in the 1930 salt Satyagraha.

## BEST FOOD FORWARD

Six Indian restaurants from around the world serving desi cuisine have been chosen for this year's Annapurna Certificate Programme, an initiative by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCT) to recognise Indian restaurants abroad that are contributing to the country's cultural cause the culinary way. Those which were shortlisted from a total of 115 nominations received from Indian missions abroad are Balaji Dosa, Kandy, Sri Lanka; Indian Street Food & Co., Stockholm, Sweden; Amber India Restaurant, San Francisco, USA; Naans and Curries, An Ethnic Indian Restaurant, San Jose, Costa Rica; Mumtaz Mahal Restaurant, Muscat, Oman; and Namaste Indian Restaurant, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

## Three years jail for possessing phone in draft prison law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

THE DRAFT prison law by MHA has suggested to DG/IG (prisons) of all states/UTs that a host of steps like three years jail for possessing a phone, segregation of inmates like drug addicts, first-time offenders, high-risk, foreigners and grant of leave on wearing electronic tracking devices for monitoring their movement and activities. In September, a parliamentary panel had informed MHA that their panel was informed about the bracelet/anklet tracker by the Odisha government. The committee is of the view that technology can be used to make cost-effective bracelet or anklet tracker for prisoners who have protracted bail. As per the draft law, technology will be used for surveillance, regular frisking of prisoner and

prisoners may be granted prison leave upon their willingness to wear electronic tracking devices and any violation shall attract cancellation of prison leave, in addition to disqualification from any prison leave in future. The draft suggested punishment for possessing or using mobile phones and contraband. According to draft, a prisoner, a visitor or a prison official, in contravention of any provisions or rules made thereunder, is found possessing or using such devices... or supplies or attempts to supply to a prisoner any prohibited item, and every officer or prison staff who, contrary to any such rule, knowingly allows any such item to be introduced to or removed from prison, to be possessed by any prisoner or to be supplied to any prisoner... on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.

## 'Unfair, contrary to norms': Patna HC on ambulance tender to JD(U) MP's kin

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, NOVEMBER 14

THE STATE Health Society of Bihar (SHSB), which comes under the state's health department, "acted unfair and contrary to norms" in accepting a bid by Pashupati Nath Distributors Private Limited (PDPL) to run emergency ambulances across Bihar, the High Court has noted. The company is owned by relatives of Jehanabad JD(U) MP Chandeshwar Prasad Chandravanshi.

On Friday, the Patna HC had cancelled a contract worth Rs 1,600 crore allotted to PDPL. In June, *The Indian Express* had reported how the RJD-JD(U) government in Bihar brushed aside remarks by the High Court and ignored a series of audits that flagged irregularities to renew, for another five years, the contract to run emergency ambulances across the state to the MP's relatives. As per the court order, the state did not comply with "Article 14 of the Constitution of India (equality before law), transparency and fairness in the entire bid process".

The contract, given to PDPL on May 31, was for running 2,125

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

The court said SHSB is a "state organisation/institution and its action... failed to satisfy the test of reasonableness".

A petition had been filed before the court by the consortium of BVG India Private Limited and Samman Foundation, who had lost out on the contract. The 68-page order was passed by the division bench of Justice P B Bajantnri and Justice Arun Kumar Jha. Disqualifying PDPL's technical and financial bid as well as the contract awarded to it, the court said: "... fairness in handling contractual matters is in the public interest. (From) perusal of records, it is evident that there is no fairness on the part of the second respondent (SHSB) in so far as rejection of the BVG bid application... Similarly, while handling bid application of PDPL (SHSB) failed to take note of its eligibility..."



The Indian Express report published on June 18, 2023

The court directed SHSB to "revisit from the stage of technical evaluation among the remaining bidders, including petitioner BVG India Limited and petitioner Ziqitza and others, and proceed to evaluate technical bid afresh and thereafter undertake further proceedings".

The court based its verdict on three core issues — whether the petition filed by BVG Limited and two others is maintainable or not; whether rejection of bid application of BVG India Limited and two others is in order or not; and if PDPL, its bid application, is

in consonance with eligibility criteria or not. Referring to previous judgements in similar cases, the court acknowledged that its interference "should be minimal" and "the courts will only interfere to prevent arbitrariness, irrationality, bias, mala fides or perversity".

The court order said PDPL was "not fulfilling" the condition of a turnover of Rs 100 crore per year for three consecutive years (2018-19 to 2020-21), nor did it have minimum three years' experience in run advanced life support ambulances. "These defects have been ignored by SHSB... (its) decision to favour PDPL is evident in ignoring criteria and eligibility..." the court observed.

Nirbhay Prashant, lawyer for petitioner BVG India and Samman Foundation, said: "While PDPL was the sole bidder, it had shown its turnover with its previous partner, Samman Foundation, which is now partner of BVG India Private Limited." The court also addressed the issue of an administrative officer sharing BVG India's email with PDPL, in gross violation of law of confidentiality.

PDPL lawyer Satyaveer Bharti did not respond to calls and messages by *The Indian Express*.

## Modi says Congress relying on luck, takes jibe at Rahul over 'made in China mobiles' remark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BHOPAL, NEW DELHI  
NOVEMBER 14

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi wound up his tour of poll bound Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday where he expressed confidence of the ruling BJP returning to power and said the Congress has accepted defeat and was now relying on luck.

Over the past 10 days, PM Modi addressed 14 rallies in the state, with most of them being held in tribal dominated Congress strongholds in the last leg of the elections. BJP is hopeful that with the help of its state leaders, the PM's rallies will help the party improve its performance in tribal seats.

PM Modi addressed rallies in Betul, Shahjapur, and Jabhua on Tuesday and ended his campaign with a road show in Indore. Modi said the state had made up its mind to elect him in the Lok Sabha elections and asked voters to elect a BJP government. He brushed off the Congress challenge saying it was "headed to a shameful loss" and now "they're relying on luck".

"The Congress got nervous and started threatening government employees. I assure government employees they don't need to be afraid of Congress threats. Please do your work honestly. MP has BJP and it will remain so after December 3," PM Modi said.

Modi mocked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his comment in Neemuch on November 13, where he had said he saw the



PM Narendra Modi, who wrapped up his Madhya Pradesh campaign on Tuesday, at a public meeting in Jabhua. PTI

'Made in China' tag on smartphones and t-shirts and not the 'Made in Madhya Pradesh' tag.

"Yesterday, a wise man from the Congress party, was saying that the people only have 'made in China' mobiles. *Arre moorkhon ke sardar* (chief of fools), which world do you live in? Congress leaders are afflicted with the mental disease of ignoring India's achievements. I wonder what foreign glasses they have worn that they are unable to see in India," he said. The PM said when the "Congress was in power, India's manufacturing of mobile phones was under Rs 20,000 crore but today, it has grown to over Rs 3.5 lakh crore. India is also exporting mobile worth Rs 1 lakh crore."

MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 14

CAMPAIGNING FOR the BJP in Madhya Pradesh, where Assembly elections will be held this week, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said the Ram temple in Ayodhya would not have become a reality if the Congress was in power, and urged the people to "wipe out" the party from the state.

Addressing a rally in Rewa, Adityanath asked people to vote for the BJP so that their MLAs could take them to Ayodhya to see the Ram temple.

"*Pehle Congressi humein chirhate they. Hum ko kehte they yeh log nara lagaate hain — Ram Lalla hum ayenge, mandir wahin banayenge, lekin tithi nahi batayenge* (Earlier, Congress leaders used to taunt us saying that we raise the slogan of Ram Lalla we will come, and construct the temple there, but won't tell the date)," he said.

"*Humnein jo kaha tha... Ram Lalla hum ayenge, dhancha bhi hatayenge, aur mandir bhi banayenge... sabhi kaam pure hue na?* (We had said... Ram Lalla we will come, remove the structure, and construct the temple... Has all the work been completed or not?)" Adityanath asked the crowd.

"*Ab bataiye, UP mein double-engine ki sarkar nahi hoti to kya Ram Mandir ka nirman ho paya hata kya?* (Now tell me, if there had not been a double-engine government in UP, was it possible to construct the Ram temple?)" he asked the crowd.

## Structure removed, temple delivered, says Yogi in MP

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## Security ramped up at 3 airports after terrorist's video threat

Delhi, Ahmedabad, Amritsar airports on alert ahead of ICC World Cup final

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

THE SECURITY at three airports, Ahmedabad, Amritsar and Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in Delhi, was increased after the Ministry of Home Affairs recently held a meeting with the multi-agency centre (MAC), a common counter-terrorism grid.

The meeting was held to discuss the recent threat by designated 'individual terrorist' Gurpant Singh Pannu, the founder of the banned Sikhs for Justice (SFJ). Pannu had earlier released a video where he urged Sikhs not to fly on Air India aircraft after November 19 as their lives could be under threat.

Sources said the intelligence agency received several threats regarding the final ICC Cricket World Cup match on November 19 in Ahmedabad.

Senior officials of the Bureau of Civil Aviation (BCAS), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Intelligence Bureau, Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), Delhi Police and National Investigation Agency were among those present at the meeting between the MHA and MAC last week.

"The latest threat issued by Pannu as well as the threat inputs about a World Cup Final match on the same day was the agenda of the meeting," an official said.

A senior official of the intelligence establishment said several issues were discussed at the meeting and multiple security-related inputs were shared. "BCAS has informed that a similar threat was issued by Pannu after the Hamas attack and an alert was issued by them. Now, they have extended the alert till November 30 and asked all airport authorities to



Khalistan terrorist Pannu urged Sikhs not to fly by Air India after Nov 19

conduct random baggage checks in Delhi, Punjab and Ahmedabad airports," the official said. The official added that employees of Indo-Canadian buses and Air-India were briefed. "All security personnel have been asked to check ticket bookings as well as last-minute cancellations. Special teams of Delhi Police have been formed for round-the-clock patrolling in the airports for anyone attempting to make Pro-Khalistani graffiti," the official said.

At the meeting, the CISF informed security of Delhi's IGI airport was increased and arrangements similar to that of the G20 Summit had been made. "During G20 Summit, two bag scanners were installed at T-3 airport, and now again one baggage scanner was installed at the departure gate where local police with the help of CISF were randomly checking passengers and their belongings," an official said.

The CISF also informed they were conducting a secondary ladder point check which involves a final round of checking passengers and their belongings once mandatory CISF checks were completed. Near the boarding point, another round of thorough frisking and hand baggage check is conducted, an official said. Khalistan separatist Pannu, was designated an 'individual terrorist' by India on July 1, 2020. In September, an FIR was registered in Ahmedabad against Pannu, over threats linked to the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.

## BJP purchased MLAs in MP, stole Cong govt: Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 14

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi Tuesday accused the BJP of toppling his party's government in Madhya Pradesh in 2020 by purchasing MLAs, and expressed confidence that his party would win around 150 seats in the Assembly elections. He was addressing an election rally in Vidisha, around 55 km from the state capital.

"A storm is going to come in favour of the Congress. The party will be winning 145 to 150 seats. Five years back, you (people) elected a Congress government

but BJP leaders Narendra Modi, Shivraj Singh (Chouhan) and Amit Shah purchased MLAs and stole your government," Gandhi said. By toppling that government, the BJP deceived labourers, farmers, small traders and unemployed people, he alleged.

The Congress ousted the BJP from power in Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh through love and not hatred, he said. People in Karnataka and Chhattisgarh are getting LPG cylinders for Rs 500 each, while people in other states are paying Rs 1,200-1,400, he said. Modi used to claim that he set up 500 industries in MP, the Congress MP said, and asked, "Do you know any of them?"

## Jaishankar, Cameron discuss West Asia, Ukraine conflict and Indo-Pacific

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar met newly-appointed UK Foreign Secretary, David Cameron and discussed the "situation in West Asia, the Ukraine conflict and the Indo-Pacific" on Monday. Jaishankar, who arrived in the UK over the weekend for a five-day visit, met Cameron who was British PM from 2010-2016, in what was the newly-minted Foreign Secretary's first bilateral meeting. In fact, 24 hours before that cabinet reshuffle took place, he had met British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly at the Indian High Commissioner's residence. And, a day later, after the Cabinet rejig, he met Cleverly again — this time, in his new role as British Home Secretary.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets British Home Secretary James Cleverly in London. PTI

this evening. Discussed the importance of mobility, skills and talent in the development of our bilateral cooperation. Exchanged views on addressing shared concerns on extremism, economic offenses, trafficking and security. Appreciate @JamesCleverly's continued support for our strategic partnership."

And, after meeting Cameron, he tweeted, "A pleasure to meet UK Foreign Secretary

@David\_Cameron this afternoon on his first day in office. Congratulated him on his appointment. Held a detailed discussion on realizing the full potential of our strategic partnership. Also exchanged views on the situation in West Asia, the Ukraine conflict and the Indo-Pacific. Look forward to working with him closely."

A British Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office spokesperson said, "For his first bilateral meeting as Foreign Secretary, David Cameron welcomed Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar in London today." "They discussed shared global challenges, including the concerning situation in Israel and Gaza and Russia's illegal war in Ukraine. In the meeting they also covered the importance of the Indo-Pacific region to global growth and prosperity," the spokesperson said.

"They also reflected on the strength of the UK-India relationship — including meeting the ambition of the UK-India 2030 Roadmap. The Foreign Secretary

and Dr Jaishankar also discussed progressing a free trade agreement and partnerships on defence, science and technology," the spokesperson said.

Jaishankar, who also addressed the Indian diaspora, said that the free trade agreement (FTA) is very much the focus of the India-UK relationship today and India is hopeful of finding a "landing point" in the negotiations that works for both sides.

"Today to realise the Agenda 2030, we are focusing on what is officially called an Enhanced Trade Partnership, in common terms it's called an FTA or free trade agreement. And that is today very much the focus of what the Indian and British systems are negotiating, and we hope that we will find a landing point that works for both of us," Jaishankar said.

India and the UK have been negotiating an FTA since January last year. The talks have undergone 13 rounds of negotiations, with officials hopeful of clinching a deal ahead of general elections in both countries in 2024.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

THE OPPOSITION on Tuesday sought to corner the Narendra Modi government over an advisor of the Adani Green Energy Ltd being appointed as a member of the Centre's Expert Appraisal Committees (EAC) under the Environment Ministry.

"Adani Pradhan Sevak appointed Adani employee Janardan Choudhury as a member of EAC under Environment Ministry. This committee has to approve 6 Adani projects (10,300 MW). Eej of doing business," the Congress's Kerala unit posted on X.

Senior RJD leader Manoj Kumar Jha when contacted by *The Indian Express* said, "What can I say? He (Adani) is the government." Shiv Sena (UBT) and TMC too attacked the government.

Janardan Choudhury, an advisor to Adani Green Energy Limited, as a member of the EAC for hydroelectricity and river valley projects before which the company's hydro project proposals come up for clearance.

The Adani Group's alleged proximity with the Narendra Modi government has been made into a poll issue by the Opposition following the Hindenber report controversy. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has consistently attacked the government and PM Narendra Modi for alleged favours given to the group.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi posted on X, "AGEL projects before the EAC include: 850 mw Raiwada, Andhra Pradesh, 1800 mw Pedakota Andhra Pradesh, 2100 mw Patgaon, Maharashtra, 2,450 mw Koyanivakane, Maharashtra, 1500 mw Malshaj Ghat Bhorande, Maharashtra, 1500 mw Tarali, Maharashtra (approved by EAC on 17th Oct 2023)."

## Opp corners govt over Adani advisor's role in environment ministry panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
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# Sub-inspector mowed down in Bihar, sand mafia role suspected

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, NOVEMBER 14

A POLICE sub-inspector was mowed down by a tractor transporting illegally mined sand during a raid in Jamui district of Bihar Tuesday morning. A home guard who was part of the raiding team was injured in the incident, police said.

While the police were still looking for the tractor driver, two of his accomplices were arrested later in the day.

The incident took place around 7.30 am at a village under Garhi police station along the Jamui border with Jharkhand's Giridih. Following a tip-off about a sand-laden tractor, a police team led by sub-inspector

Prabhat Ranjan (28) reached the village to seize it. Police sources said after spotting the tractor, Ranjan and home guard Rajesh Kumar Sah chased it on a motorcycle and after some distance overtook it.

"When S-I Ranjan and home guard Rajesh Kumar Sah tried to intercept the tractor, its driver Krishna Ravidas ran the vehicle over them. While the S-I died during treatment at the Sadar Hospital in Jamui, the injured home guard is undergoing treatment," said Jamui Superintendent of Police Saurya Suman, adding that crackdown on the illegal sand mafia would continue.

Hours later, the police arrested Mithilesh Thakur and Pankaj Ravidas, two accomplices of the absconding tractor driver

Krishna. According to the police, all three belonged to adjoining Nawada district. They were involved in several cases of illegal sand mining in Nawada, Jamui and Giridih districts, they said.

A 2018 batch sub-inspector, Ranjan, who hailed from Bhagwan Khajuri village in Vaishali, was posted at Garhi police station seven months ago and made the additional police station in-charge. He has a four-year-old daughter and an infant son.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav said: "We have taken note of the incident and are seeking its full details."

Education Minister Chandrashekhar, known for his controversial remarks, said: "Is it a new incident? Such things have happened in Madhya Pradesh and

some other states as well. The culprits will be brought to book."

According to a National Green Tribunal order, sand mining was banned in Bihar rivers for three months till September 30. The ban was later extended till October 15 because of the changing pattern of rainfall this year.

A mines and geology department official said: "As riverbeds have shrunk due to illegal mining, we started a crackdown to stop sand mining even after the NGT ban period. The police have been assisting us."

This is the second incident of attack on government officers involved in the crackdown on illegal sand miners. In April, 3 mining officers were injured during a raid when sand miners pelted them with stones in Bihta near Patna.

# 40 Myanmar army personnel who fled to Mizoram amid conflict sent back

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI,  
NOVEMBER 14

A TOTAL of 44 personnel from the Myanmar army and police have fled across the international border to Mizoram amid fierce fighting between guerrilla fighters and military junta in Myanmar's Chin state since Monday evening.

Of them, around 40 Army personnel have been evacuated by the Indian Air Force's Mi-17 V5 helicopters from a border village in Champhai at the Mizoram-Myanmar border, it is learnt.

They had been taking shelter along with other Myanmar nationals following attacks by insur-



Since Sunday night, 5,000 people from Myanmar's border villages have crossed over to seek refuge in Mizoram. Express

over to the Indo-Myanmar border seeking refuge in Mizoram's Zokawthar area in Champhai district. Zokawthar is just a few kilometres from Rikhawdar and Khawmami, the latest theatre of an offensive against the junta by resistance fighters in different parts of Myanmar.

According to local Refugee Relief Committee chairman Robert Zoremthuaga, Champhai district was already housing over 19,000 refugees before the events of Sunday night. "We thought on Monday evening the movement had stopped but then from last night, lots more people started coming again. Some have gone to other parts of Champhai as well," he said.

gents on military camps. While there was no official word on their evacuation, sources confirmed to *The Indian Express* that the Myanmar soldiers were

flown to Moreh in Manipur to provide them a "safe passage".

Since Sunday night, around 5,000 people from border villages in Myanmar have crossed

## FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORT ON  
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

### Hoskote quits Documenta panel over 2019 'anti-Semitic' letter

denounced Hoskote for signing the letter that had "explicitly anti-Semitic content". BDS is an international movement that aims to mobilise pressure on Israel in solidarity with Palestinians. The German Parliament in 2019 passed a resolution designating the movement as anti-Semitic.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Hoskote said: "My heart breaks for Germany, a country I love and have long regarded as a second homeland. In the aftermath of World War II and the end of the Nazi regime, Germany committed itself to openness, to understanding the Other, to sustaining a cultural life that was welcoming of diverse ideas and perspectives. Documenta embodied these ideals. I am saddened beyond words to see how swiftly this has changed in recent years, with the alarming ascendancy of far-right forces and the normalisation of

their divisive, polarising rhetoric. I am aghast at the cynical way in which some German politicians are instrumentalising the Shoah to decree absolute impunity for the Israeli state."

"Germany, a state that was looked up to for wisdom and leadership in international affairs, today stands nearly isolated in its intransigent refusal to call for a ceasefire in Gaza. I deeply regret to say that this unconditional embrace of Israel and the branding of any critique of Israel as 'anti-Semitic' masks a rising Islamophobia. Can these political leaders not see that this is the road to strife, because it will marginalise and place at risk Germany's considerable immigrant-origin population, people of Turkish, Arab, Iranian and West African heritage?"

"In the art world, the imposition of such ideas has already legitimised censorship and arbit-

rary exclusion. Imagine a future edition of the Documenta where every curator and artist is sworn never to question Israel and never to articulate sympathy for Palestinian civilians. That immediately counts out a wide swathe of countries where such a guarantee is impossible to undertake. It also counts out all cultural practitioners who would prefer to retain their freedom of conscience and criticality," Hoskote said.

In his resignation letter, Hoskote said: "It is clear to me that there is no room, in this toxic atmosphere, for a nuanced discussion of the issues at stake. And now... I am being asked to accept a sweeping and untenable definition of anti-Semitism that conflates the Jewish people with the Israeli state; and that, correspondingly, misrepresents any expression of sympathy with the Palestinian people as support for

Hamas." Referring to the 2019 petition, he wrote: "My reason for signing this petition was because the event clearly posited an equivalence between (Theodor) Herzl and (V D) Savarkar, and was intended to develop intellectual respectability for an alliance between Zionism and Hindutva... No member of the German commentaryariat who denounced me has asked herself or himself why the Israeli Consulate General thought it appropriate to equate Zionism with Hindutva in the first place."

In a release, Andreas Hoffmann, Managing Director of documenta und Museum Fridericianum gGmbH, stated: "I would like to thank Ranjit Hoskote for his willingness to stand by us in these difficult times and believe that his decision to resign is a logical and respectable one... We need to consistently distance ourselves from all forms of anti-Semitism."

Format C-7 (For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)		
Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)		
Name of Political Party	: Indian National Congress	
Name of the Election	: Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State	
Name of State/UT	: Rajasthan State	
(1) Name of the Constituency	: LADNUN - 106	
Name of the candidate	- MUKESH KUMAR BHAKAR	
Sl No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	1. Criminal - 283 IPC 2. Criminal - 283, 143, 435 IPC 3. Criminal - 147, 341, 323 IPC 4. Criminal - 504 IPC 5. Criminal - Section 3 of Rajasthan Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2006
b.	Case No.	1. FIR No. 370/2014 IPC PS Gandhi Nagar 2. FIR No. 340/2010 IPC PS Gandhi Nagar 3. FIR No. 449/2007 IPC PS Gandhi Nagar 4. FIR No. 548/2015 IPC PS Gandhi Nagar 5. FIR No. 217/2009 PS Gandhi Nagar
c.	Name of Court	1. ACJM 2 Jaipur Metro 1 2. ACJM 2 Jaipur Metro 1 3. ACJM 2 Jaipur Metro 1 4. ACJM 2 Jaipur Metro 1 5. ACJM 2 Jaipur Metro 1
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	1. Yes 2. Yes 3. Yes 4. Yes 5. Yes
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	1. N/A 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A 5. 02.09.2009
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	1. N/A 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A 5. Rs. 500 Fine
g.	Any other information required to be given	1. N/A 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A 5. N/A
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is one of the dynamic young faces of Rajasthan politics. The candidate is well known for his commitment towards the people of Ladnun. The candidate never leaves any stone unturned when it comes to making efforts for betterment of the people of Ladnun. The candidate has been raising issues related to public welfare since his college days. The candidate is socially connected to all the people of Ladnun.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The cases pending against the candidate are nothing but an attempt to put a scar on the illustrious political career of the candidate. The candidate was far ahead in the internal survey of the party which was conducted before ticket distribution. The candidate enjoys huge popularity among the people of Ladnun.
(2) Name of the Constituency- LADNUN - 106 Name of the candidate- MUKESH KUMAR BHAKAR		

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Name of Political Party	: Indian National Congress	
Name of the Election	: Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State	
Name of State/UT	: Rajasthan State	
(1) Name of the Constituency	: WEIR (SC) - 75	
Name of the candidate	- BHAJAN LAL JATAV	
Sl No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	1. Criminal - Sections 143,283,188,120-B, IPC 2. Criminal - Sections 8B NHA I ACT 1956
b.	Case No.	1. FIR No. 285/2017 IPC PS BHUSAWAR BHARATPUR
c.	Name of Court	1. CID CB COURT JAIPUR
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	N/A
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	N/A
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	N/A
g.	Any other information required to be given	N/A
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is sitting MLA and currently serving as minister in the Rajasthan government. He has done a lot of development work not only for his constituency but also for the entire state. The candidate is known for his close connect with the people of his constituency. The candidate has earned respect from the people of his constituency by working tirelessly for the people and being available for them 24/7.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The majority sections of the pending cases against candidate are bailable offenses and remaining sections which have been levied upon candidate are politically motivated.
(2) Name of the Constituency- WEIR (SC) - 75 Name of the candidate- BHAJAN LAL JATAV		



(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)  
General Secretary (Organisation)  
Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee



(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)  
General Secretary (Organisation)  
Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee



# THE EDITORIAL PAGE

**WORDLY WISE**  
IT'S NOT WHAT A MOVIE IS ABOUT,  
IT'S HOW IT IS ABOUT IT.  
— ROGER EBERT

## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
**RAMNATH GOENKA**

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Arms and the Man and AI

India must help shape the global rules  
on responsible military use of AI



**RAJA MANDALA**  
BY C RAJA MOHAN

## DAL-ROTI INFLATION

It's the more sticky components of food inflation that should worry the RBI and the government

**R**ESERVE BANK OF India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das, last week, said that headline consumer price index (CPI) inflation remains vulnerable to "recurring and overlapping food price shocks". He couldn't have been more right. The latest CPI numbers for October show overall annual retail inflation at 4.87 per cent, falling for a third successive month from 7.44 per cent in July. Moreover, "core" CPI inflation, which excludes price rise in food and fuel, was at a 43-month-low of 4.28 per cent in October. And given negative fuel and light inflation (minus 0.39 per cent), it is food prices that are the problem. At 6.61 per cent, food inflation was higher than the general CPI inflation. Within food, however, there are volatile components such as vegetables, that are prone to seasonal supply shocks, translating into high inflation as seen for tomato in July-August and for onion more recently. These often self-correct with fresh crop arrivals; vegetable inflation has already plunged, from 37.4 to 2.7 per cent between July and October.

It's the more sticky components of food inflation that should really worry the RBI and the government ahead of next year's national elections. These specially pertain to cereals and pulses — in other words, dal-roti. Retail cereal inflation, at 10.65 per cent, has been ruling at double-digits for 14 consecutive months since September 2022. It has been similarly so for five months in pulses, with the current inflation of 18.79 per cent the highest since August 2016. This clearly has to do with a not-too-great monsoon. The Agriculture Ministry's estimates show cereal production in the recent kharif season to be 6.6 million tonnes (mt) lower than last year's, with rice output alone down from 110.5 mt to 106.3 mt. Production of kharif pulses is pegged to be the lowest since 2015, with shortfalls in tur (pigeon pea) as well as urad (black gram) and moong (green gram).

With the post-monsoon season (October-December) rainfall turning out 26 per cent below normal so far and El Niño's effects projected to last through the spring and beyond, one shouldn't place too much hope on the rabi crop either. The Narendra Modi government has managed the just-about comfortable wheat and rice stocks with the Food Corporation of India well, by restoring the original 5 kg/person/month quota for ration cardholders (from 10 kg during the Covid period) and stepping-up open market sales to cool prices. It must do more to augment supplies by scrapping the 40 per cent import duty on wheat and also those on yellow/white peas and chana (chickpea), now at 50-60 per cent. Cutting tariffs may encounter farmer opposition, but double-digit dal-roti inflation should be a greater government concern — both economic and political.

## BANS & BLAME-GAMES

Asking people to mellow down on Diwali festivities requires building groundswell on pollution. That's the work of politics

**R**AIN AND WIND brought by the western disturbance in the run-up to Diwali had raised hopes that Delhi's residents would breathe a little easier after the festival. Delhi's AQI on the morning of November 12 was the lowest the city has experienced on Diwali in eight years. But the respite was short-lived. Levels of particulate matter soared in several parts of the city Sunday night as firecrackers were set off in defiance of a Supreme Court ban. At some monitoring stations, PM 10 levels were 15 to 16 times the 24-hour standard. The spike in pollution has sparked a familiar war of words between the BJP and Delhi's AAP government. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai has accused BJP leaders and BJP-ruled states of "instigating" people to burst firecrackers in a "targeted manner". Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, and BJP MLA Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, responded by criticising the Delhi government for its failure to impose the cracker ban.

In 2018, the SC directed the Delhi government to ban firecracker sales in the capital. This directive has never had the desired result. Rai has accused Delhi's neighbouring states, UP and Haryana, of non-cooperation. "If the BJP had banned firecrackers in UP and Haryana after the Supreme Court's order, pollution would not have increased in NCR," he says. It's well-known that pollution control measures in the capital have remained ineffective for want of a coordination mechanism between Delhi and its neighbouring states. That shouldn't, however, detract from the AAP government's own failures. Every year before the festive season, it issues appeals and sends out advisories. This is too little, too late. Requiring people to mellow down on festivities requires persuasion on a sustained basis — it should not seem akin to another emergency pollution control measure. Delhi's education department has enormous goodwill amongst large sections of the city's population. It needs to do much more than issue circulars to schools, on the eve of the festival, asking teachers to "sensitise" students about the ill-effects of crackers. Building an anti-pollution groundswell also requires engaging with RWAs. The Kejriwal government has scarcely undertaken any meaningful initiative in this respect.

Cleaning the capital's air requires the involvement of multiple actors, including the main Opposition party in the Delhi Assembly and municipality. That's why the BJP's responsibility doesn't end with pulling up the AAP government. It's time its legislators and councillors in Delhi tap into the party's roots in the city — and the social capital the party enjoys — to take the anti-pollution message across to the people. Addressing pollution should not be about mudslinging and empty rhetoric.

## SUPERZERO

Erosion of franchise cinema's dominance could open up space for films that don't just feature spandex-clad superheroes

**W**HEN IRON MAN — a comic book adaptation about an alcoholic billionaire playing dress-up, starring an actor who was considered a liability by most in the business — released in 2008, few might have predicted the success that would spawn a world-conquering franchise. But 15 years and 32 blockbusters later, the failure of the most recent offering from the Marvel Cinematic Universe, *The Marvels*, along with the cool reception of its other big release of the year, *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania*, has prompted speculation about whether this juggernaut is finally grinding to a halt — and what it might portend for the global entertainment industry that had begun to orient itself to "tentpole" cinema.

There is no question that the fantastical universes spun by MCU, the Star Wars franchise and others have shown the heights of ambition that can be scaled by filmmakers — particularly in visual effects. At a time when there is a deluge of content competing for viewership, these films also offered a model of cinema that, thanks to elaborate plots unfolding over several films, could guarantee audience loyalty. This is a lesson not lost on Indian production houses; some, such as YRF — which has created its own "spyverse" with five films (so far) — have banked on the model to take them through recent bad patches.

Many, though, might welcome its demise, among them filmmakers who will see a space opening up again for the kind of character- and plot-driven films that, in the face of franchise cinema's marketing budgets and fanbase, were starting to be deemed too risky. The development might also please members of the audience fatigued by the relentless onslaught of franchise content on big and small screens. If the franchise model is, indeed, in its endgame, it could clear the way for an entertainment landscape that is more visibly diverse, with more than just endless iterations of the same plot featuring spandex-clad heroes saving the world.

**LIKE ALL MAJOR** technological advances, artificial intelligence (AI) poses major challenges in developing responsible use in civil and military domains. There is a growing global sentiment, on the one hand, for a severe limitation of the military applications of AI, especially autonomous weapons that can operate without human control. On the other hand, major powers are already investing in the accelerated development of greater autonomy, based on AI, for weapons systems.

As the two trends play out, India has its tasks cut out in devising an effective national military strategy for AI and a credible international approach to limiting its dangers.

At the beginning of this month, the UN General Assembly voted with an overwhelming margin — 164 in favour, five against, and eight abstentions — to address the challenges presented by lethal autonomous weapons and requested the UN Secretary-General to produce a report taking into account the views of governments and civil society groups. This is the first time a UN resolution has addressed this issue; the question of autonomous weapons will be taken up again in the next UNGA session in September 2024. It marked the culmination of an important phase in the campaign by human rights and arms control activists to ban autonomous weapons. They argue that "killer robots" violate the basic principles of international laws of war and raise fundamental ethical questions.

If you think the world will move quickly towards banning these weapons, think again. The expansive use of drones in the Ukraine war has begun to press military planners around the world to focus on the development and use of unmanned systems that have greater autonomy. The major military powers did not vote along similar lines on the resolution. The US and its allies all voted for the resolution; China abstained, and India voted against. As always in the UNGA, how a country votes does not necessarily reveal what it means. That is where the "explanation of vote" comes in. Explanations often override the simple meaning of the vote.

If you look beyond the diplomatic positioning in the UN, the US, China and India are all engaged in developing autonomous

Beijing has put AI at the centre of building an 'intelligentised' PLA. It is deploying AI for various functions from inventory management, maintenance, and logistics and in developing unmanned systems for a full range of functions, including reconnaissance, surveillance, and combat. China's massive industrial capacity and the state power to direct resources means it can turn out autonomous weapons faster than the US. The success of America's asymmetric strategy, then, rests on staying well ahead of China in the development of AI and its integration into armed forces. The US is also trying to slow down China's AI progress by controlling the export of high-end chips and the equipment to make them. It is also strengthening its technology partnerships with allies to race ahead of China.

weapons. They are very much part of the diplomatic jousting in the UN on the definition of autonomous weapons and the interpretation of their legitimacy. There is also contestation on the right forum to negotiate and, of course, on what exactly will be prohibited.

This summer, the US sent out a naval squadron of four uncrewed ships to sail across the Pacific, from the American West Coast to Japan. During their transit, the ships interacted with crewed US warships operating in the Pacific. The US Navy has ambitious plans to build 150 uncrewed ships in the years ahead. The US Navy, Air Force and Army are experimenting with combined operations with manned and unmanned systems. The Pentagon is also developing new institutions to integrate AI into defence management. The Chief of its Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office, set up last year, is responsible for the acceleration of the Pentagon's "adoption of data, analytics, and artificial intelligence (AI) to generate decision advantage from the boardroom to the battlefield". Earlier this month, US deputy secretary of defence Kathleen Hicks explained the initiative for the Indo-Pacific, called the Replicator, to develop and deploy thousands of unmanned systems across domains within two years. Two assumptions underline the Replicator initiative.

One is that the US can't match, one-to-one, China's military advantage in mass — more men, more ships, and more missiles. What it needs instead is innovation. The other assumption is that building many small, cheap, and easily replicated autonomous systems is the right innovation to deal with China's growing military power. Even as it steps on the pedal, the Pentagon insists on human control over the use of autonomous weapons. Its directives demand that all autonomous systems be designed to "allow commanders and operators to exercise appropriate levels of human judgment over the use of force".

Meanwhile, Beijing has put AI at the centre of building an "intelligentised" PLA. It is deploying AI for various functions from inventory management, maintenance, and logistics and in developing unmanned systems for a range of functions, including reconnaissance, surveillance, and combat. China's massive in-

dustrial capacity and the state power to direct resources means it can turn out autonomous weapons faster than the US. The success of America's asymmetric strategy, then, rests on staying well ahead of China in the development of AI and its integration into armed forces. The US is also trying to slow down China's AI progress by controlling the export of high-end chips and the equipment to make them. It is also strengthening its technology partnerships with allies to race ahead of China.

For India, the negative vote at the UNGA is part of an unfolding pragmatic turn in the engagement with global issues. There was a time when Delhi would support calls for banning things in the name of a commitment to disarmament. Today, India is signalling a balanced approach to national security, ethics, and global governance. Given the massive military imbalance with China and the kind of challenges Delhi confronts from Beijing in both the Himalayan and maritime frontiers, AI should be an important part of India's defence plans. Although India has considerable strengths in AI, it is way behind the US and China in its military application.

What about India's blossoming technological partnership with the US? To take full advantage of the US partnership, Delhi must invest in its national capabilities. This is not just about building a few drone systems, but investing big in the core AI sciences, developing the full range of technological capabilities, operational military doctrines, and the institutions to effectively integrate AI into Indian defence management and armed forces.

Even as it builds national AI capabilities for defence, Delhi can't give up on its tradition of shaping international norms. India had limited success in the past in developing global governance of emerging technologies. With growing technological capabilities today, it can have a bigger say in global outcomes by working with like-minded countries on the responsible military use of AI and ensuring that humans remain in the loop when using autonomous weapons.

*The writer is senior fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, Delhi and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express*



**RISHABH BHANDARI**

## SUNAK'S NEXT STEPS

While voters value competence, they also need a hopeful vision for future

**AN INCENDIARY FEW** weeks have culminated in a cabinet reshuffle in Westminster. Sloganeering citizens, an embattled police force and a vitriolic Home Secretary contributed to chaos and confusion. Faced with a perceived loss of authority, Rishi Sunak had little choice but to sack a brazen Suella Braverman. The ensuing reshuffle marking the unexpected return of former PM David Cameron as Foreign Secretary has set the scene for some passionate conversations within the Tory party and the wider electorate.

In just over a year as PM, Sunak has ushered in much-needed calmness to government. But with Labour on the rise, an agitated Tory backbench and voters fatigued after nearly 13 years of a Tory government, he has a difficult battle ahead. The reshuffle is an attempt to reset the political narrative.

The fact that Braverman was sacked should not have surprised many observers. From inception, she was intent on shoring up support within the right of the party rather than focusing on collective responsibility. The final straw came in a polarising piece in *The Times* last week — not approved by Downing Street — when she accused the police of bias and double standards in allowing pro-Palestinian marches to proceed.

By moving James Cleverly from the Foreign to the Home Office, Sunak hopes to inject moderation on safety and security. But

the risk he runs is inflaming Tory right-wing backbenchers and Johnson supporters. The return of Cameron as Foreign Secretary may be part of a process to trumpet competent "grown-up" politics where seeking consensus is seen as a strength. But the spectre of a "remainer" former PM back in high office is also likely to galvanise Brexiteer discontent.

What Sunak hopes is for the Tory party to cease petty inward dialogue and focus on electoral priorities. This matters because voters are increasingly impatient. Warning signs surfaced when the Tories lost over a thousand seats in local elections earlier this year. Labour has leaptfrogged ahead in opinion polls. Keir Starmer is expected to benefit from anti-incumbency. His challenge is to keep the trade unions aligned with his centrist leanings.

To recall, the path to Sunak's elevation arose after Liz Truss' brief and disastrous premiership came to a close. A year later, how has he fared? At the start of his tenure, Sunak made five key pledges focused on halving inflation, growing the economy, reducing national debt, cutting down NHS waiting times and combating illegal migration. On each measure, progress has been slower than he'd have liked. Inflation continues to be a key concern. The looming winter looks to be a troublesome one for the NHS with elongated waiting times. The government's policy of deporting illegal migrants to a "third country", Rwanda,

is up for scrutiny before the Supreme Court imminently. National debt continues to rise while the IMF forecasts just 1 per cent growth.

For all that, Sunak deserves a measure of appreciation for restoring stability to government. But what should he prioritise? First, combating inflationary headwinds by focusing on continued fiscal responsibility. Second, targeted investment in infrastructure and education. But these should not spawn open-ended costs. In this context, Sunak has shown he can be decisive — by announcing the cancellation of the northern leg of the high-speed 2 (HS2) line in favour of local investment, he has taken a calculated gamble. A competitive British tax regime to boost entrepreneurship and a fit-for-purpose approach to immigration would be core as well. Alliances with like-minded democracies such as India will need to be cemented. Rebuilding relationships with European allies should also be factored in.

After three terms, the public mood is shifting against the party. Voters have signalled that while they value competence, they also need a hopeful vision. A focus on stability and a push for growth are not mutually exclusive. Sunak needs to articulate this vision. If the Tory party continues to bicker, it may find itself seeing renewal on the opposition benches.

*The writer is a London-based lawyer and political commentator*

## NOVEMBER 15, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

### ANDHRA BYPOLLS

THE CONGRESS (I) and the Telugu Desam shared one seat each in Andhra Assembly by-elections, polling for which took place recently. In a keenly-contested battle, the Congress (I) wrested the Peddapalli seat by a margin of 3,260 votes over the ruling party while the Telugu Desam managed to retain the Martur seat by defeating the Congress (I) by a margin of 4,552 votes.

### PM ON COMMUNALISM

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi warned the nation against communal disharmony being

perpetrated by the organisers of the proposed Ekamtata Yagna Yatra, and "jealous" neighbours on our borders anxiously waiting to step in. Mrs Gandhi was addressing a rally of several thousand Congress Seva Dal workers: "We must fight these disruptive and threatening elements with the same determination with which we fought for the independence."

### HOMAGE TO NEHRU

A NUMBER OF functions were held all over India for the 95th birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru. President Zail Singh and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi paid floral tributes at his samadhi at Shanti Vana. Others

who visited the samadhi included Union ministers, chief ministers and diplomats. The PM released a Children's Day stamp at Teen Murti House.

### BEFORE THE HOUSE

THE SENSATIONAL BANGALORE tapes which allegedly unravel the brazen attempts being made by the Congress (I) to topple the Hegde government, the tagging controversy over adulteration of Vanaspathi with animal tallow and the situation in Assam and Punjab are some of the issues which are likely to dominate the proceedings when the winter session of Parliament opens.



# 11 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Nine things to do for clean air

Piecemeal approaches will only lead to the annual cycle of panic and shutdowns. With coordinated and sustained actions, we can address not only air pollution but also urban climate and health goals



AROMAR REVI

AIR POLLUTION IS the fifth-largest cause of death in India — it led to premature deaths of 1.6 million Indians in 2019. This is more than three times the official number of Covid deaths during the pandemic. Poor air amounts to about Rs 7 lakh crore of economic loss annually, more than a third of our annual GST collection. This does not account for the human impact and routine disruption of life, work and study. Even worse, it discounts the impact of poor air on the health of rural Indians, who make up two-thirds of the air pollution-led premature deaths, despite their limited contribution to emissions that lead to severe air days across the country.

Why have we failed to improve this situation despite awareness of the problem and solutions? The answer both is simple and complex. Air pollution is a systems problem that cuts across state and regional boundaries, spanning rural and urban areas, sources of emissions, and is linked to interconnected economic factors and interests. But our responses to this crisis are often fragmented, addressing symptoms and not root causes. A few smog towers, some dust suppression by spraying roads, knee-jerk construction bans, haphazard odd-even restrictions, and shutting down schools cannot address this wicked problem. Unless we address root causes across a fractured system of governance, financing and implementation, we have little hope of tackling a deepening air pollution crisis.

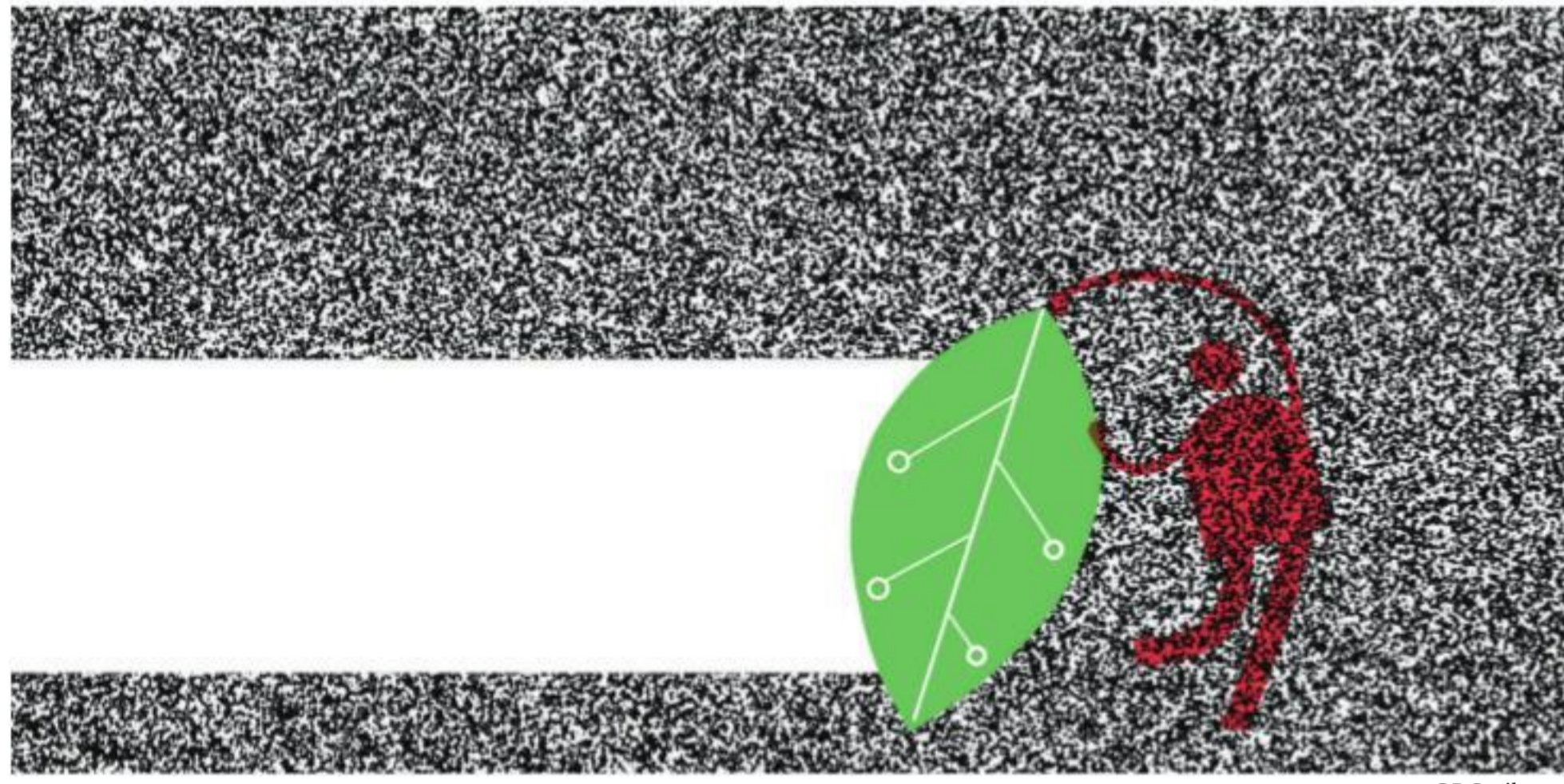
To begin, we need to acknowledge that this is a human-induced problem. Secondly, we have to realise that those most vulnerable — like children and older people, rural communities, and the urban poor — have contributed the least to the problem. Finally, we have to learn lessons from other countries that have successfully tackled this challenge, and act on evidence-backed options to address it.

While constraints like population growth and increasing urbanisation will persist, we have to focus on changing our production, transportation, consumption and waste management systems to address this challenge. Beijing, Mexico City, and even London did just that to address even worse air pollution than what we are facing. Closer home, Delhi's poor air also improved following a fuel switch from diesel to CNG in public transport in the 2000s.

We need to examine nine tightly coordinated interventions (listed below) that can enable a successful campaign against air pollution, over decades.

First, we need an integrated approach to limit emissions and reduce exposure across the value chain from production to consumption to recycling of goods and delivery of services. This means limiting emissions from coal-fired power plants, polluting industries and brick kilns as well as limiting wood, cow dung and garbage burning for cooking and heating for half a billion rural and some urban residents. We have made progress on this with the PM Ujjwala Yojana, but its recent impact is reported to have slowed.

Simultaneously, we need to limit crop residue burning by implementing known so-



C R Sasikumar

lutions like shifting to less water-intensive crops, altering irrigation arrangements, timing, harvesting, baling practices and building a wider year-round market for straw. Even though these solutions exist, livelihood imperatives, limited access to technology and economic distress of farmers push back against them. The challenge is to establish coherent cross-sectoral policies and coordinated local to regional governance, along with monitoring systems, to enable them to work in practice, rather than just on paper.

Second, there must be a dramatic increase in the availability of affordable green urban public transport that enables universal last-mile connectivity like in Singapore, Hong Kong and most Chinese million-population cities, but at a fraction of their costs. If we can do this, it will be a win-win for climate, air quality, economic productivity and jobs that this industry would create. The shift of many metro systems in India to renewable power is a step forward in the right direction. Expanding metro ridership, and improving and electrifying viable bus services can help limit the exponential growth of private two-wheelers and cars that are a key driver of urban air pollution.

Third, we need widespread electrification of buildings, vehicles and production processes, where possible. Fuel switching to renewables can both curb pollution and meet climate goals. However, the transport fuel switch is complex and requires large investments in new electric charging infrastructure and enhanced rail services across the country. China made such huge investments in the late '90s to create the most efficient land-based transport infrastructure in the world. This will provide it significant competitive advantage for the rest of the century.

Fourth, adopting a regional or airshed approach is crucial to address pollution sources and impacts across an entire region rather than individual cities and towns. This approach was successfully deployed in Los Angeles, Mexico City and many mega-urban regions in China. India faces big challenges in doing this, as our systems of governance are fragmented both within urban areas and across states, with coordinated action an administrative nightmare.

Fifth, end-to-end construction and waste management is pivotal to reducing tonnes of dust and waste released in the air and water bodies. Recycling concrete, brick and stone from existing buildings will also limit the min-

There must be a dramatic increase in the availability of affordable green urban public transport that enables universal last-mile connectivity like in Singapore, Hong Kong and most Chinese million-population cities, but at a fraction of their costs. If we can do this, it will be a win-win for climate, air quality, economic productivity and jobs that this industry would create. The shift of many metro systems in India to renewable power is a step forward in the right direction. Expanding metro ridership, and improving and electrifying viable bus services can help limit the exponential growth of private two-wheelers and cars that are a key driver of urban air pollution.

ing of our rivers of irreplaceable sand and the expansion of illegal quarries. Tackling 150 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste generated annually, of which only one per cent is being recycled, could make a tangible difference to some cities.

Sixth, strong legislation and enforcement of regulations are necessary throughout the year, not just around Diwali. This is possible if courts stay determined, and the executive resists the temptation to dilute environmental regulation in the face of special interest group pressures.

Seventh, there must be wide-scale citizen mobilisation for awareness and education, which can influence lifestyle choices over decades. This helped turn the tide in Los Angeles in the 1960s and Mexico City in the 1990s and 2000s. We also have to rethink whether our "western" lifestyles are sustainable in our context, which the government's LIFE initiative challenges us to do.

Eighth, the amount of funds needed to implement these coordinated actions and to strengthen the local government's capacity to deliver them is not trivial. The precedent set by the Fifteenth Finance Commission by investing in health and solid waste management should extend to financing of climate change and air pollution reduction interventions in the Sixteenth Finance Commission.

Ninth, there is a need to deploy the best science and technology available to establish real-time monitoring systems that can even provide advance weekly forecasts. To this end, expanding and improving the System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) network, managed by IITM Pune, across airsheds of major cities in the country, can help us make rational decisions on alerts, interventions and investments.

Implementing all these measures together seems an impossible mountain to climb. But this is exactly what Mexico City did in much worse meteorological conditions between the 1990s to 2010s, and many Chinese regions have tried to do in the 2010s. Piecemeal approaches will only lead to the annual cycle of panic and shutdowns. With coordinated actions, we can address not only air pollution but also our urban climate and health goals together. The choices before us are relatively clear, the question is when we choose to act.

The writer is director, Indian Institute for Human Settlements

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The West should give Ukraine the leverage to drive the best possible bargain if the time comes. And that leverage means preserving Ukraine's chance to survive and grow as a thriving European democracy, not a vassal of the Kremlin."

— THE WASHINGTON POST

## At the crossroads of history

An imagined letter to countrymen from India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru



MANOJ KUMAR JHA

IT HAS BEEN a long journey since the dawn of Independence and our beloved country has traversed many challenges, transformations and triumphs. As I pen down these words, my heart swells with pride about all that we have achieved. The milestones of this journey include schemes for financial inclusion, direct benefit transfer as well as laying the foundation of a digitally empowered society. I am happy to note that successive governments have given impetus to various infrastructure projects, including the construction of highways and the expansion of the railway network. Yet, there are unmistakable signs of despair. The architecture we devised for this great nation based on the values of inclusion, harmony and justice has developed some cracks.

In the initial sittings of the Constituent Assembly, my colleague Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan had said that India is a symphony where, as in an orchestra, there are different instruments, each with its tone and texture, coming together to create a beautiful sound. The images coming from different parts of India do not reflect the spirit of "mile sur mera tumhaara to sur bane hamaara". All of you have to roll up your sleeves and engage in repairing the cracks to retrieve the sense of togetherness and unity. It is too important an exercise to be left to just political parties and politicians.

Dehumanisation of Dalits and other marginalised communities continues unabated. During the last decade or so, Muslims have been demonised and hate has been normalised to a great extent. I still believe that the idea of India shall prevail and there will be necessary course correction. So mark my words: Feel sad but do not lose hope.

At the time of Independence, we knew that India's diversity should not only be protected but celebrated. Despite the pain of Partition, the hope of a united, progressive and prosperous India energised our attempts to build the young country as a shining example for all the erstwhile and until then still colonised countries. We believed that we should not give in to bitterness but move forward to chart a course where we would neither cause pain to others nor endure any kind of exploitation. The ideological bloc that did not participate in the freedom struggle, that did not want to build India into a modern nation, was rejected by the people. This ideological bloc could not succeed during our lifetime, but, over the years, has created a space for themselves through lies and preying on people's insecurities. However, it gives me great happiness, that when faced with a deficit of legitimacy they can only resort to appropriating some of our most towering heroes, including Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Bhagat Singh, who had castigated these ideologies for their narrow-

mindfulness. Recently, you must have been pleasantly surprised to hear a reference to my speech on the eve of Independence — "the trust with destiny" — from the current Prime Minister while moving from the old to the new Parliament Building. After denigrating "Nehru" and "Nehruvians" for years, if the outfit's biggest leader had to make a reference to that speech on the day of transition, it tells you that the idea of India has innate resilience.

We fought for freedom with unity and dedication, transcending barriers of caste, creed and religion. Our collective struggle laid the foundation for a democratic India. Today, as we stand at the crossroads of history, where history itself is besieged, I urge you to uphold these core principles.

You remember, I had quoted the "Oath of Tennis Court" as a metaphor for the spirit required to guard against any potential attack on democratic ethos and republican values. Democracy is not merely a system of governance. It is also not about periodic elections. It is a way of life that demands active participation from every citizen. The power lies in your hands to shape the destiny of our nation. I implore you to exercise your right to vote wisely, keeping in mind the welfare as well as fraternity across all communities — from Manipur to Madhya Pradesh and from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Choose parties and leaders who prioritise the betterment of common people, uplift the marginalised, and work tirelessly for progress and social justice and say a bold no to agendas based on insular and violent imaginations. I wish to reiterate that a polarised and divided society shall weaken this beautiful civilisation. If you don't look at fellow countrymen with dignity and in the spirit of fraternity, you shall fail even the gods you worship and the religions you follow.

In our pursuit of progress, let us not forget that our society still believes in what my former cabinet colleague B R Ambedkar called "graded inequality", because it assigns different levels of inequality and privilege to different castes. Instances of violence, humiliation, unspokeable dehumanisation are becoming commonplace. Ask yourself a question: Should you be comfortable and accommodative of these disturbing images? If your answer is not affirmative, you and millions of others must act.

Lastly, my dear friends, never lose faith in the democratic values that have guided our nation. Let us foster harmony and unity, including among rival political ideologies and belief systems. Embrace the richness of our cultural heritage and respect the differences that make us uniquely Indian. Let us resist the forces that seek to divide us and undermine the very essence of our unity.

As I conclude this letter, I wish to express my unwavering belief in the potential of each and every one of you. Your energy, intellect, and passion are the driving forces that will shape India's destiny. Together, let us strive to re-build an India that embodies the dreams of our freedom fighters and the aspirations of our future generations.

With warm regards,  
Jawaharlal Nehru

Jha is a Rashtriya Janata Dal MP, Rajya Sabha

## The power of simple pleasures

A Hrishikesh Mukherjee lesson for IT magnate: How to manage duty with self-care



RAMA SRINIVASAN

INFOSYS FOUNDER NARAYANA Murthy recently advocated 70-hour work weeks for the Indian youth — an already beleaguered lot, bogged down by large-scale unemployment and the exacting terms of the gig economy. While parts of the world are reporting rising poverty levels among senior citizens, the overwhelming perception in popular culture worldwide is of a fattened, complacent "boomer" generation that remains unsympathetic to the plight of the young. Far from the sentimental tropes of 20th-century popular media that glorified the hard work and sacrifices made by parents "who would do anything to secure their children's future" are the portrayals of an ageing population that is extractive of its young, but does not offer the illusion of a better future in return.

The prime minister, who is said to work 18 hours per day, and an IT magnate, who proposes 10-14 hours per day, hope to be role models to this battered-down youth that faces both an imminent existential threat in the form of climate catastrophes and a more immediate one in the form of job insecurity. The economic model during this Kartavya Kaal or the age of obligatory duties appears to divide the world into those who suffer from a lack of work-life balance, too afraid to sound ungrateful for the opportunities bestowed upon them by complaining about their miserable lives, and those besieged by periods of idleness and spiralling anxiety about their future.

A generational divide in terms of values

and sensibilities is not new to either the political or cultural spheres. Popular culture in India has been replete with these clashes, where the young ultimately win meagre privileges from an older generation that learns to make certain accommodations in exchange for continuing fealty and gratitude. In one of the early examples, *Kal Aur Kal* (1971), the rebellious young grandson agrees to sacrifice his happiness only to be surprised by an unexpected burst of generosity from his grandfather. In the more recent reiteration, Rocky aur Rani ki Prem Kahani, the sheltered son similarly decides to glorify his sacrifice but is ultimately rewarded by a hastily reformed patriarch. There have been many sons and daughters in between who have not been above tricking their parents into believing that there need not be a mismatch between the call of duty and their own well-being/aspirations but such figures have often been suitably chastened for this revolutionary idea.

One filmmaker who had consistently, although gently, ridiculed parental figures who were unable to distinguish between their dictatorial will and their offspring's well-being, was Hrishikesh Mukherjee. In several of his films, the dictatorial or eccentric impulses of a parent function as a central plot device. Utpal Dutt's Bhavani Shankar in *Golmaal* (1979) or Dina Pathak's Nirmala Gupta in *Khoobsurat* (1980) are not just caricatures that otherwise populated several Bollywood films of the time; these parents were also turned into figures so comically out-of-touch

that you can barely reason with them. The key conflict in these films, unlike many of its contemporaries, is not the choice of a romantic partner but that of a larger worldview, of which marriage forms a small part. The figure of authority proposes to turn the youth into humourless slaves to their designated role in family and society. They perceive the world largely in binaries — order versus chaos, pleasure versus work and selfless duty versus self-indulgence — and prophesy doomsday scenarios in case of non-compliance. An interest in the simple pleasures of life ("nirmal anand") is seen as a threat to the very fabric of the traditional Indian family.

The quiet rebellion of these films was the representation of young women and men who have passions, hobbies and even fleeting indulgences that can co-exist with hard work and dedication. When faced with a parental figure who is unlikely to comprehend that people can contain multitudes, these characters indulge in deception and lead secret yet defiant lives. Their web of lies inevitably unravels, but it is the eccentric parent who must sheepishly accept defeat and offer unconditional surrender. Ultimately, the films were not about challenging societal norms or class inequality, but rather to show that developing independent personalities as well as indulging in some self-care is not antithetical to a healthy work ethic or patriarchal family structures. The women in these films are educated and possess an independent voice, but are often not ambitious. Even the unfortunate

Dr Ramola Sharma of *Kissi Se Na Kehna* (1983) does not mourn the career she has abandoned to successfully dupe her eccentric father-in-law — who had become virulently opposed to women's education. What is unsustainable for her is that she must hide her true self.

Societies will remain hierarchical and patriarchal beyond dictatorial parental figures who demand selfless labour from the young. But the least the subjugated can demand in any world order is to not live in a humourless world with no time for the simple pleasures of life.

An underlying current in many of Mukherjee's films is a pushback against the complacent social elite. Mukherjee chose to gently mock an intelligentsia that takes itself too seriously (for example, in *Chupke Chupke*, 1975), arguing that different forms of artistic expressions and lifestyles can co-exist and should be perceived as equally legitimate. We still live in a world where old, powerful individuals — especially men — take themselves too seriously and advocate a life of humourless drudgery for others. Mukherjee revealed how we can gently but firmly show them the mirror while also, simultaneously, finding the time, energy and resources to indulge in the simple pleasures of life. Seeking nirmal anand in the kartavya kaal will represent a silent rebellion of sorts.

The writer is an anthropologist and the author of *Courting Desire: Litigating for Love in North India*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A SHARED VISION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Affirming priorities' (IE, November 14). The Indo-US "2+2 Dialogue" comes at a crucial juncture in the landscape of international relations. The talks between top Cabinet members from both nations, spanning foreign affairs and defence, underscore the imperative to fortify collaboration in the face of pressing global challenges. Against the backdrop of concurrent global conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine, the discussions hold significance, projecting a forward-looking approach. Their importance lies not just in the agreements signed but in the shared vision articulated by leaders.

**Khokan Das, Kolkata**

### PUSH FOR SOLAR

THIS REFERS TO the article, "With a little help from the Sun" (IE, November 14). The Union government's climate combat plan seems realistic, given India's imperatives, but needs plenty of effort and commitment. India's installed renewable capacity of solar and wind power is about 100 GW. The private sector owns about 48 per cent of the capacity. For India to meet its 2030 targets, private investors need incentives to keep at it. India's power distribution system is broken and repeated attempts over 20 years to fix it have failed. While India has shown a strong commitment towards a clean energy transition, deployment of rooftop solar technology

has been slow.

**Sanjay Chopra, Mohali**

### SEE, DON'T TAX

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A bond of secrecy' (IE, November 14). Political parties should be treated the same way public authorities are under the Right To Information Act. The anonymity for electoral bonds should be scrapped and regular auditing of the accounts should be encouraged. But setting expenditure limits for parties and taxing their collections would amount to cutting their jugular vein. Even as a number of amendments are required to introduce transparency in the funding, measures must not be so harsh as to harm the true spirit of democracy.

**Siddharth Srivastava, Ghaziabad**

### SOUND AND FURY

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Firecracker ban flouted, Delhi air quality worsens day after Diwali, triggers AAP-BJP blame game' (IE, November 14). Although, the NGT and Supreme Court had announced that firecrackers would only be allowed for two hours from 8-10 pm on Diwali night, the ground reality was different. The smoke and sound from firecrackers made life difficult for citizens, particularly old people and toddlers — and also made birds and animals restless. Above all, it led to immense air pollution.

**Vandana, Chandigarh**

# 12 EXPRESS NETWORK

**Karnataka: Head covering banned in job exams, hijab allowed with a rider**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 14

THE KARNATAKA Examination Authority (KEA) has issued a new dress code for recruitment exams to be conducted in November which bans wearing any head coverings in the exam hall.

The prohibition on head coverings will not prevent Muslim women candidates wearing hijabs — as permitted earlier by the KEA — from attending the exam if candidates arrive at their exam centres an hour earlier to be frisked, KEA officials said.

The new dress code comes in the wake of over 20 candidates being arrested after they were caught using Bluetooth devices at Kalaburagi and Yadgir exam centres on October 28 when they wrote their tests for recruitment as first division assistants (FDA) in government departments.

In its November 9 notification, the KEA outlined the dress code for exams to be conducted from November 18 to 25 for the recruitment of staff for various state run boards and corporations and has banned head coverings being worn in the exam hall.

"We had given out these instructions earlier to students wanting to attend the exam with head coverings that they should come to the exam centres an hour early and get thoroughly frisked. It will not be allowed if they come at the last moment," executive director of the Karnataka Examination Authority S Ramya said.

The dress code from the KEA comes in the wake of allegations by right wing groups that mangalsutras and toe rings worn by Hindu women were being prohibited in exam halls. The KEA stated in its dress code that women cannot wear any ornaments except for mangalsutras and toe rings. "In order to prevent the use of Bluetooth devices in the exam halls, caps or clothing that cover the head and clothing or material that covers the mouth, ears and head is prohibited," the notification stated.

**TA withdraws letter ordering manpower cut in eco battalions**

**MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA**  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 14

THE DIRECTORATE General of Territorial Army (DGTA) has withdrawn a letter through which it had ordered that all such Ecological Task Force (ETF) personnel, who had completed four years of embodied service, were to be discharged.

The DGTA in a new letter addressed to all TA Group Headquarters in the country has said that letter dated October 13 now stands cancelled. The DGTA has also stated that fresh instructions regarding extension/retention in service of personnel serving in ETF battalions will be issued later.

The fresh letter has been submitted with the Chandigarh bench of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), where 58 TA personnel belonging to 133 Infantry Battalion (TA) Eco Dogra, located in Kufri, Himachal Pradesh, have filed an application against the alleged arbitrary policy/discharge order issued by DGTA on October 13.

## Airports to Metro, how non-core businesses bring firms more money

**AGGAM WALIA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

MEGA AIRPORTS LIKE Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport and Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport should not just be seen as airports, but also mega shopping, hospitality centres and integrated real estate developments. Reason: their non-aeronautical revenues have steadily grown over the past few years, and now account for the lion's share of their overall revenues.

Similarly, Delhi Metro is also

## Father trapped inside Uttarkashi tunnel, son gets a word in: 'He told me they are doing okay'

**AVANEESH MISHRA & ABHISHEK ANGAD**  
UTTARKASHI, RANCHI, NOV 14

AS THE operation to rescue 40 men trapped in a tunnel in Uttarkashi makes steady but slow progress, anxiety levels among their families are rising.

Uttarakhand resident Maharaj Singh Negi, whose brother Gabbar Singh Negi is trapped inside, arrived at the site late Monday night with his family, including Gabbar's son Akash.

Akash managed to communicate with his father using a walkie-talkie. During the conversation, Gabbar reassured him about their well being and told him they were in continuous communication with the rescue team. "He mentioned that they are doing well and receiving regular food packets. After our conversation, I immediately contacted my mother, who was

deeply concerned," Akash said. Maharaj, however, is more sceptical of the rescue efforts. "We've spoken with company officials and workers who have assured us that essential supplies like food, water and medicines are regularly reaching them," he told



**800-900 mm diameter MS pipes being inserted through the rubble inside Silkyara tunnel to prepare an escape passage for trapped workers in Uttarkashi district on Tuesday. PTI**

The Jharkhand government hopes on an audio recording sent to them from the site of the collapse. The recording contains Mahadev's muffled voice from inside the tunnel — he can be heard speaking in Odia to a friend, who is outside, saying that he is safe.

Nayak hails from Chelabeda village in West Singhbhum district, and his family is yet to come to terms with the news they received on Diwali.

His brother Bonu Nayak, who runs a grocery store, said the family was deeply distressed till they received the recording at 6 pm on Monday. "My mother broke down... said that her son is safe. There was a sigh of relief," he said, adding that his brother left for this job three months ago. Bonu and Mahadev have three younger sisters and ageing parents. "I received a call from the Jharkhand State Migrant Control Room on Tuesday morning and they assured us of all help," he said.

The Jharkhand government has sent a three-member team that reached the collapse site at 5.30 pm on Tuesday. Its member, Bhuvnesh Pratap Singh, told *The Indian Express*: "Through iron pipes inserted in the collapsed tunnel via the ventilations shaft, we spoke to Vishwajit Kumar Verma and Subodh Kumar Verma from Giridih district, and we assured them and all other trapped workers from Jharkhand that the government is with them and will take them home safely with us."

Back in Giridih, Vishwajit Verma's son Rishi Kumar, a student of class 11, is holding his family together. "Along with my father, my cousin is trapped too. We spent Diwali in shock; we will rejoice once my father is back."

## Four out of five organ recipients in country are men: NOTTO data

**Experts say this flags gender disparity, call for more awareness to reverse trend**

**ANONNA DUTT**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

FOUR OUT of five organ recipients in India between 1995 and 2021 were men, according to data collated by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) — numbers which indicate the prevailing gender disparity among those seeking healthcare.

Out of the total 36,640 patients who underwent the transplants, 29,695 were men, according to the data available on gender break-up. "What the data of recipients shows is that the number of women undergoing transplants is disproportionately low. We have to assume that prevalence of conditions leading to the need for transplants affects men and women at a similar rate. If women who need transplants are not getting treated, it is definitely an issue," said Dr Anil Kumar, director, NOTTO. "There is a need to create more awareness to reverse the trend."

Although studies show that the number of women donors is higher, apparently because families want to protect earning male members, Dr Kumar said there are enough safeguards within the law to ensure that consent is not

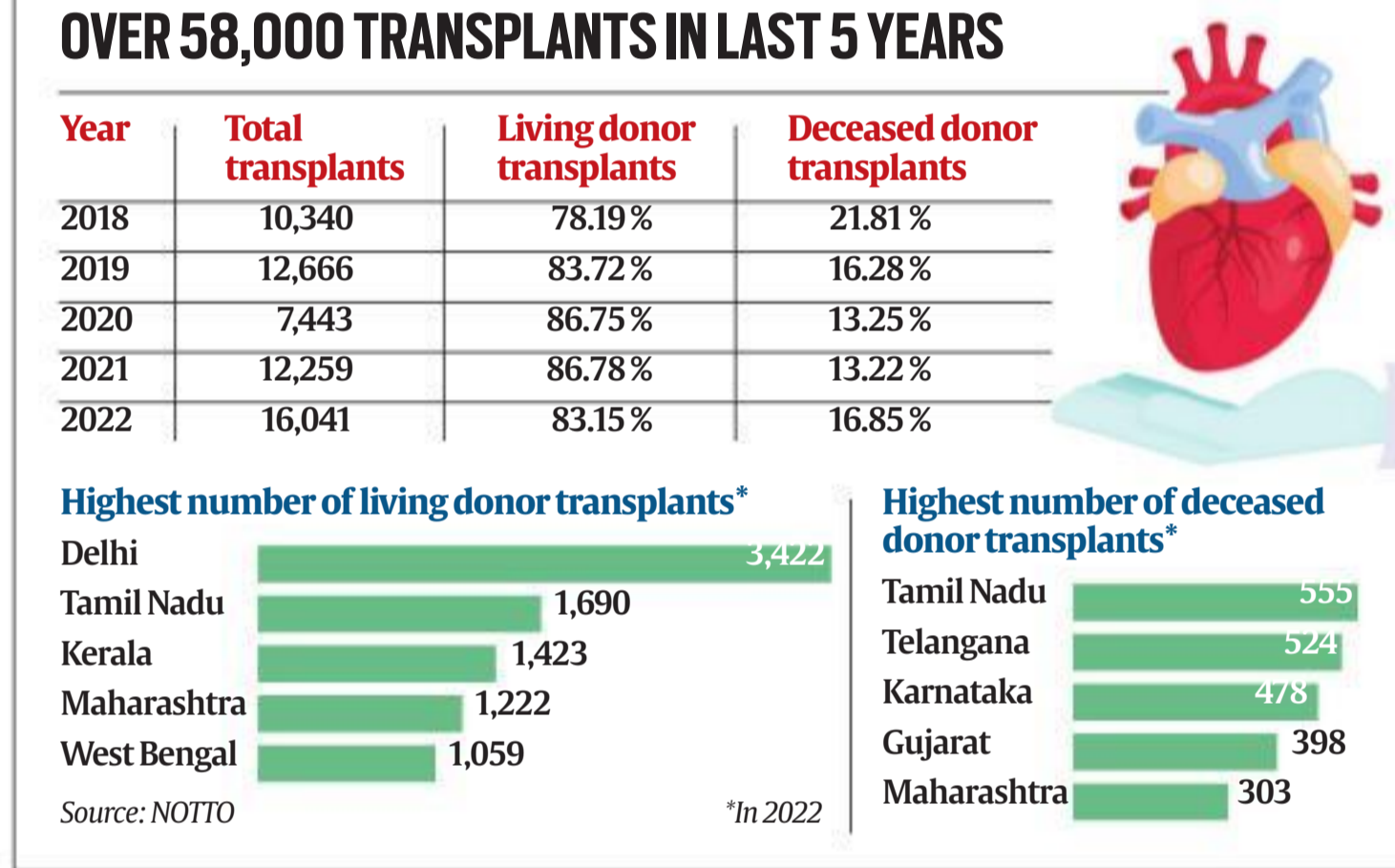
forced upon them. Dr Anupam Sibal, paediatric liver transplant surgeon at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, said, "There is definitely a gender bias when it comes to recipients as well as donors."

The senior surgeon, who is involved in Apollo's liver transplant programme that was started in 1998, however, said the gender gap among donors is narrowing, largely because of counselling. "If we look at data from our programme, 75% of the donations came from moms and 25% from dads till about 2021. The trend is changing and now 51% of the donations come from moms and 49% from dads," Dr Sibal said. "While women by nature are more willing donors, who do not think too much about their own

recovery, the increase in donations from men has happened through counselling. They tend to have more questions and it is our job to make them feel comfortable donating the organ."

When it comes to recipients, Dr Sibal said, "As a doctor, my question is why should gender matter? If a person needs a transplant, they should get it. But the fact is when it comes to surgeries such as transplants — or even open heart surgery or surgery to correct congenital defects in children — more men than women receive it. Again, awareness is key to changing this trend."

"Take for example, parents of a girl child in need of a liver transplant are worried whether she will have normal puberty, and whether she will be able to have



babies. And, when they learn that she will be able to live a normal life, they are willing to get the transplant," he said.

According to the NOTTO data, there has been an overall increase in the number of transplants in the country, with a record high of 16,041 such procedures in 2022.

Among living donor transplants, where organs from family members are used, Delhi topped the table with 3,422 transplants, overtaking Tamil Nadu (1,690 transplants). Tamil Nadu, however, remained the leader in another category — that of deceased donor transplants where organs from brain-dead patients are used — with 555 transplants in 2022.

There were 243 heart transplants in 2022, the highest so far, and 144 lung transplants.

## L-G: J&K civic polls will be delayed

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 14

IN THE first official confirmation that municipal elections are unlikely to be held any time soon in Jammu and Kashmir, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday said that the polls to urban local bodies (ULBs) would be held after delimitation, as well as after the process to reserve seats for Other Backward Classes was completed.

While the term of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation ended on November 5, the Jammu civic body completed its five-year



**Lt Governor Manoj Sinha in Jammu on Tuesday. Express**

tenure on Tuesday. Other municipal bodies across the Union Territory will finish their tenure by the end of this month. The Assembly polls in J&K are

already delayed, and were last held in 2014. Political parties have been demanding resumption of electoral activities in J&K, which has now been under President's Rule since its government was dissolved in 2018.

The LG was speaking at an event to felicitate councillors of the Jammu Municipal Corporation at the end of their five-year term. Sinha said: "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Urban Local Bodies of J&K are provided with greater financial resources for strong and accountable self-government."

## Odisha allows STs to sell their land to non-tribals

**SUJIT BISOI**  
BHUBANESWAR, NOV 14

THE ODISHA Cabinet on Tuesday decided to amend a law allowing the scheduled tribe people (ST) to transfer their land to non-tribals in scheduled areas with a written permission from the sub-collector. The Odisha Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by STs) Regulation, 1956, got a cabinet nod for this purpose.

"Now, an ST person can gift, exchange for public purposes or obtain a loan by mortgaging a plot of land in a public financial institu-

tion for agriculture, construction of residential house, higher studies of children, self-employment, business or establishment of small-scale industries or transfer in favour of a person not belonging to ST community for these purposes," said chief secretary PK Jena after the cabinet meeting.

The last amendment to this act was made in 2002 after which a person belonging to the ST category can transfer his/her immovable property only to STs while he/she was allowed to mortgage his/her land to any public financial institution for agricultural purpose only.

## Kerala: 110 days after he raped, killed 5-yr-old, man gets death

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 14

A KERALA court on Tuesday sentenced to death a 28-year-old man from Bihar, who was found guilty of raping and murdering a five-year-old girl, also a native of Bihar, in Emakulam district in July.

The incident that took place in Aluva, near Kochi, on July 28 had shaken the state, and hundreds had turned up for the child's funeral.

The accused, Asafak Alam, was found guilty last week by the Ernakulam additional district and sessions court for the trial of cases relating to atrocities and sexual violence against women and children. He was convicted under multiple IPC sections, including those for murder and rape, as well as relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The verdict in the case came just 110 days after the incident. The investigation was completed in 30 days and the trial was done in the next 60 days.

Police said Alam abducted the girl, who was the daughter of migrant workers from Bihar, and then raped her and strangled her to death.

Judge K Soman sentenced the convict to death for murder, and also handed him five life terms, another 49 years of rigorous imprisonment, and a fine of Rs 5.20 lakh for other offences. The death sentence can only be executed after confirmation from the High Court.

"Such a person cannot be expected to be reformed or rehabilitated by the passage of time. Instead, he was becoming worse in his actions..." the court said, referring to another criminal



**Accused Asafak Alam after being convicted by a POCSO court in Kochi, Tuesday. PTI**

case he was involved with in Delhi in 2018.

ADGP (law and order) M R Ajith Kumar had said earlier that the police probe revealed the convict was involved in similar cases in Delhi and Bihar. "When such persons get involved in crimes, we need a system in the country to track their movement," the ADGP said.

Alam is a native of Pararia village in Bihar's Araria district. He was working as a labourer and lived near Aluva in rented premises close to the house where the five-year-old lived with her parents and siblings.

On July 28, at around 3 pm, Alam told the girl he would buy her a sweet drink and took her to a nearby shop, where he bought juice for her. Then he took her to a market in Aluva, and after making her drink liquor, he raped her, and strangled her to death in a corner behind the market.

The court observed that the incident sent shivers in society and upset the collective conscience of the community.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the verdict would be a warning to all those who commit atrocities against children.

## Kanpur woman dies, kin allege rape and murder

**ASAD REHMAN**  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 14

A WOMAN in her mid-30s died at a hospital in Kanpur city on Monday where she was taken after she was found bleeding by her teenage daughter, who alleged that she was raped and murdered, police said on Tuesday.

The police, however, have registered a case under IPC section 302 (murder), pointing out that

the sections for sexual assault would be added if the family gives a written complaint. One man, in his thirties, has been arrested. Police said on Tuesday that the accused delivered tiffin boxes for the woman, who ran a hostel at her residence.

The woman's daughter said "When I came, the door was locked. The accused opened the door only after I sought help from someone who lives nearby. There was blood on his shirt."

## Naveen govt reaches out to minorities with Rs 45 cr grant

**Bhubaneswar:** Amid the allegation of Odisha government's overdrive on temple renovation, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has sanctioned Rs 45 crore for construction of 150 multipurpose cultural-cum-community centres for the people belonging to minority communities.

The amount will be spent for construction of community centres for Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Sikh communities,

which have a sizable population in 22 districts. The announcement came after people from minority communities submitted a memorandum to CM's erstwhile secretary VK Pandian, during the district visit programmes.

According to the 2011 census, Hindus comprise over 93% of Odisha's total population while the percentage of Muslim and Christian population is 2.17% and 2.77%, respectively. **ENS**

### EXPLAINED Maximising income

FROM AIRLINES to theme parks, from airports to metros, Indian companies have over the years realised how best to leverage assets and expertise, to maximise income. If airports make the most of real estate space, Delhi Metro uses its expertise to offer consultancy.

cent, it made Rs 1,021 crore in net profit from e-ticketing services compared to Rs 204 crore from catering and Rail Neer sales.

IGI Airport's operator Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), in which GMR Group owns a majority stake, generated an operating revenue of Rs 3,990 crore in FY23, of which Rs 938 crore was from aeronautical services and charges, Rs 2,477 crore from non-aeronautical services and charges, and Rs 575 crore from licence fees in connection with commercial property development activities at the airport. DIAL's aeronautical revenue share dropped to 24 per cent in

FY23 from 30 per cent in FY19 as the share of revenue generated through commercial property development increased to 14 per cent from 6 per cent in the same years. DIAL's non-aeronautical revenue share has remained relatively stable, averaging around 58 per cent in the last five years, and includes revenue streams like duty free, land and space rentals, advertisements, cargo, F&B, and retail.

Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, operated by Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), in which Adani Enterprises now holds a major-

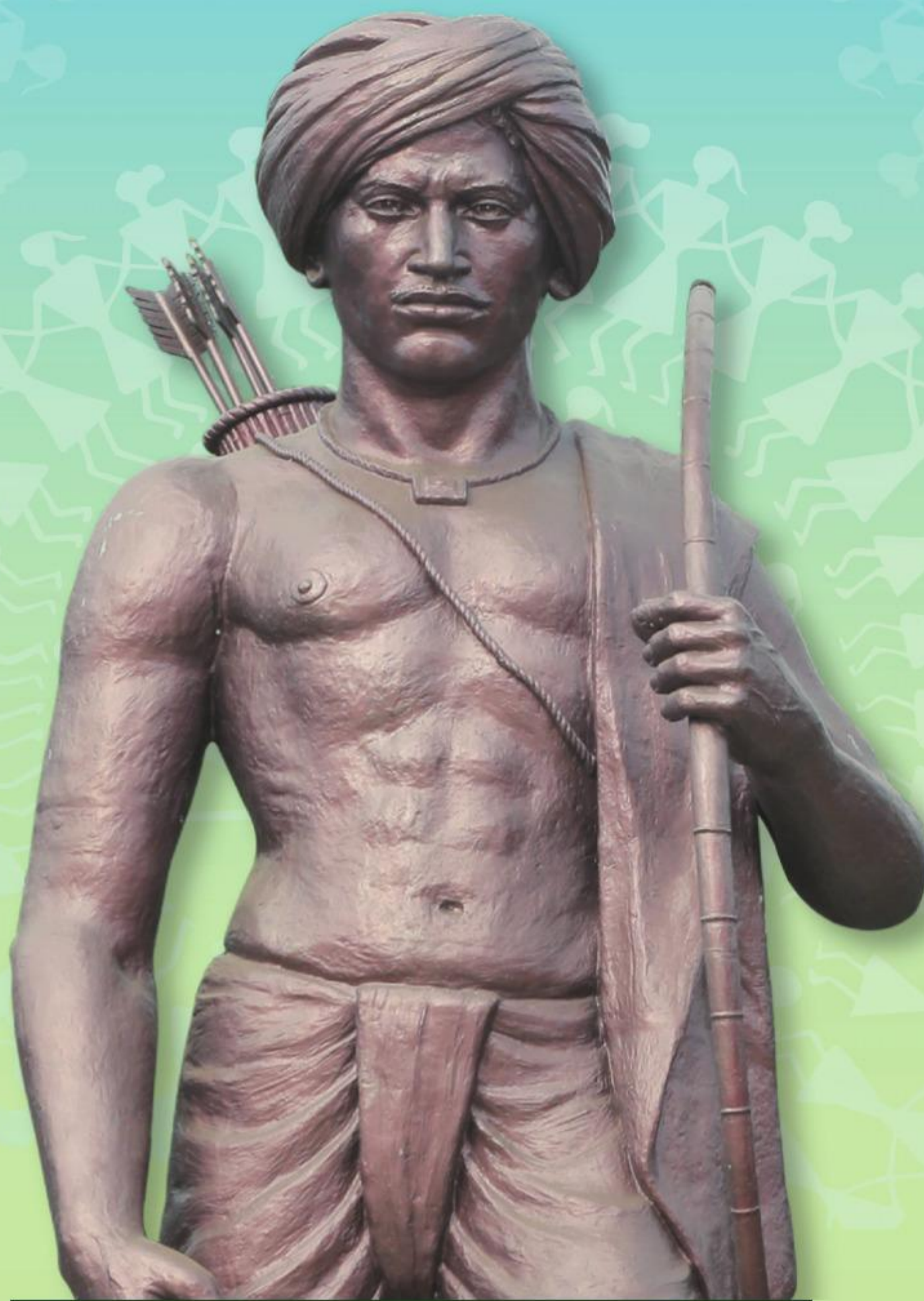
ity stake, also saw a drop in its aeronautical revenue share to 38 per cent in FY23 from 46 per cent in FY19 as its non-aeronautical revenue share jumped to 62 per cent from 54 per cent. In FY23, MIAL generated a total operating revenue of Rs 3,233 crore. As per Fitch Ratings, MIAL also uses 30 per cent of its non-aeronautical revenue for cross-subsidisation.

For both Delhi and Mumbai airports, user development fee (UDF), a charge levied on passengers and is included in their ticket price, forms a large chunk of aeronautical revenue. The approved rate of UDF for DIAL by the Airports Authority of India is Rs

200 for domestic passengers and Rs 1,300 for international passengers, whereas for MIAL it is Rs 100 for domestic passengers and Rs 600 for international passengers. In FY23, Delhi airport saw average monthly traffic of 5.44 million passengers whereas Mumbai airport saw 3.66 million passengers.

Hyderabad Metro has expanded the share of its traffic revenue to 68 per cent in FY23 from 53 per cent in FY19. Increase in ridership has allowed Hyderabad Metro to generate more advertisement revenue, to Rs 67 crore in FY23 from Rs 30 crore in FY19. **FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)





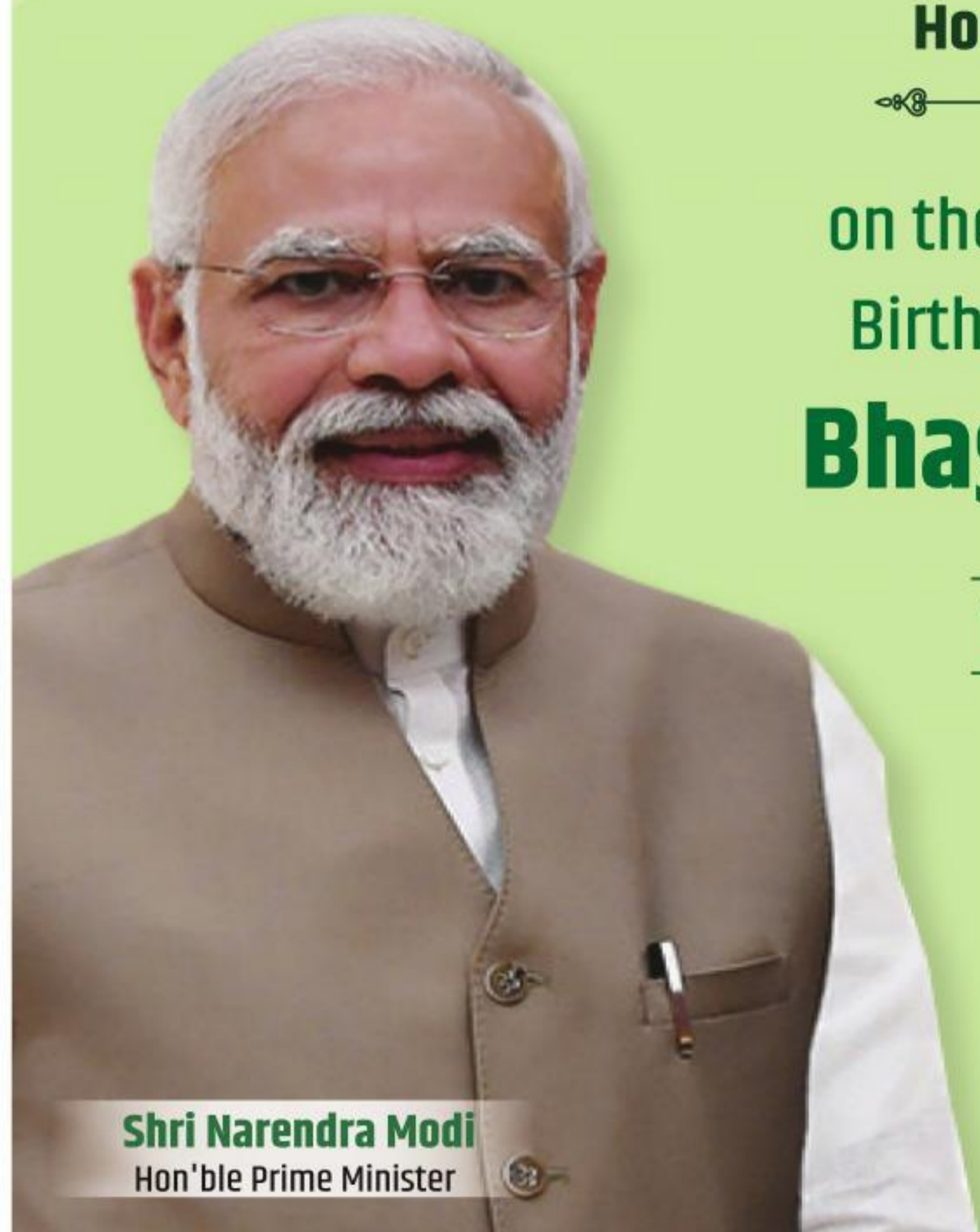
# Johar

**Jharkhand cordially welcomes**

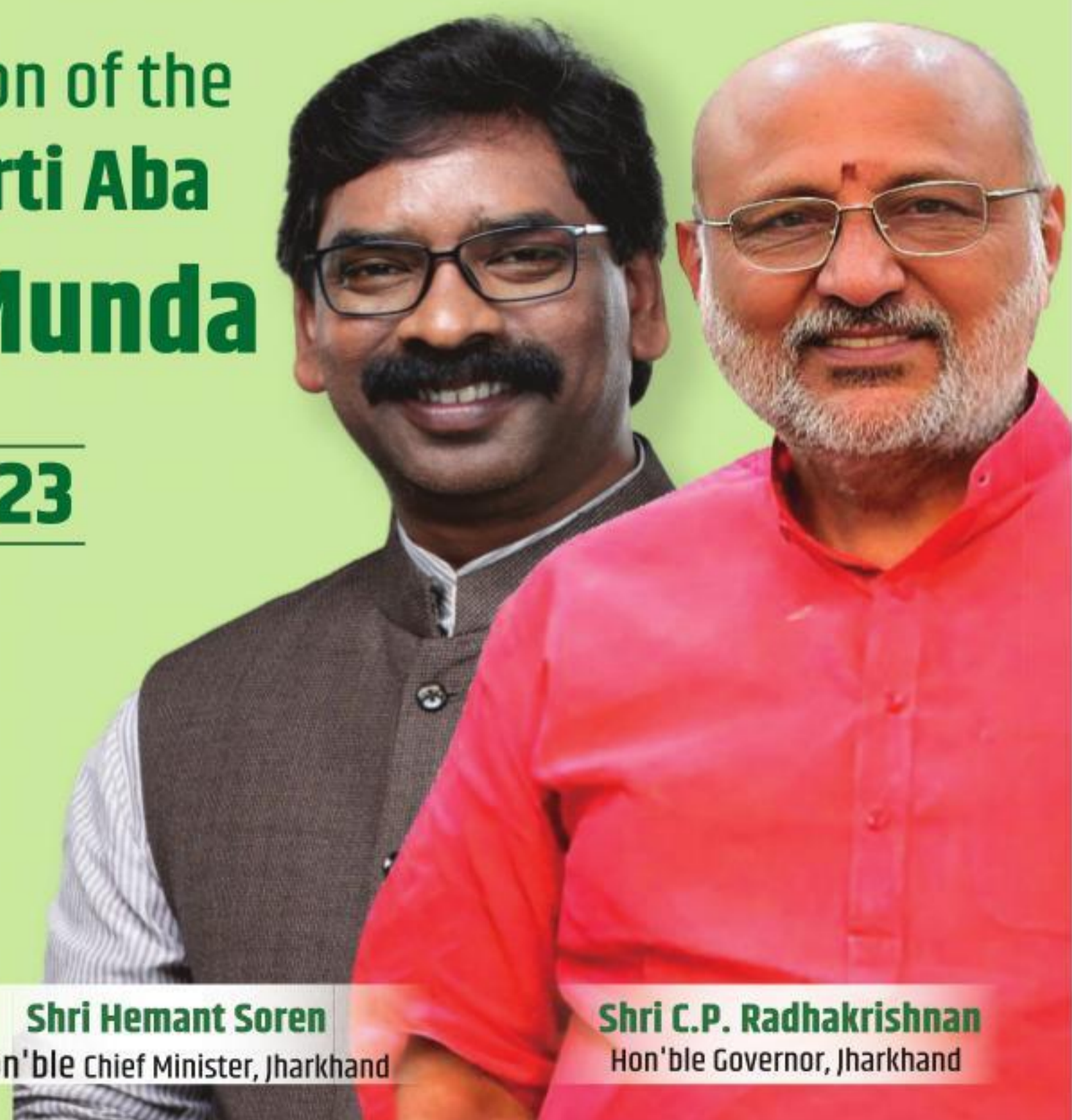
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**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India  
— — — — —

on the auspicious occasion of the  
Birth Anniversary of **Dharti Aba**  
**Bhagwan Birsa Munda**

**15 NOVEMBER, 2023**



**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister



**Shri Hemant Soren**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jharkhand

**Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan**  
Hon'ble Governor, Jharkhand



# Tension in the Mumbai air

Facing unbeaten India will be a daunting task for New Zealand, especially if batting second, as the evening breeze helps the ball move more in the first 10 overs

MIHIR VASAVDA  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 14

BATTING SECOND at the Wankhede Stadium won't be a breeze. At least during the first Powerplay or roughly between 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm. What will make life tough for batsmen early in the second half of the semifinal between India and New Zealand on Wednesday will be an unseen factor well-known to the locals — sea breeze.

The otherwise flat deck has sprung to life under lights during the deadly hour for batsmen. During this period, the shiny new white ball tends to move around a little more. The theory is backed by evidence.

During this World Cup, the scores of the team batting second at the end of the first Powerplay read thus: 67/4, 35/3, 14/6 and 52/4. All of them, barring Australia who were rescued single-handedly by Glenn Maxwell's 201 not out against Afghanistan, never recovered from the early collapse.

The old-timers at Wankhede talk about 'respect' for the unique challenge the hallowed ground poses — the site of India's most famous win in the last four decades, the 2011 World Cup final.

"There's a saying in Mumbai," says Nadeem Memon, a former curator at Wankhede, "that if you are batting in Mumbai, that too in the evening, then wait for the first 10 overs. That's when the evening breeze is passing by. Respect that. It can cost a batsman his wicket."

To bowl in such conditions will be a lip-smacking prospect for the Bumrah and Shami, Boult and Fergusons. At the same time, for the batsmen, it'll be all about curbing their attacking instincts. Those who attempt to clear the short boundaries with a casual flick or are not watchful enough, can be victims of sharp, unpredictable swing.

The past matches have shown that if a bowler pitches the ball full or at good length, the batsmen find it tough to navigate the swing. That's how half of the wickets in the first Powerplay of the second innings have fallen here.

## High tide to sea breeze

There are few venues in India and around the world where elements play such a decisive role. At Wankhede, they always have.

Earlier, it was the Marine Drive high tide the one-hour window in the afternoon when the tides in the sea would surge and make the ball do all sorts of weird things that would surprise even the bowlers.

After the stadium underwent renovation ahead of the 2011 World Cup, the wind became an additional factor.

The stadium, located next to the Arabian Sea, is designed in a way that it has giant window panes above the Sunil Gavaskar and Vijay Merchant Pavilions, providing an unobstructed path for the sea breeze to blow in.

Old hand Memon explains why fast bowlers will have their tails up in the second innings.

"The pitch is made of red soil, which helps the ball to grip. So, if a seamer can land the ball on the seam, it can generate swing. Bounce is common at this ground (but) the breeze gives an extra weapon to the pacers," Memon says.

Even when India last chased down a total here, against Australia in March, they were reduced to 39/3 after the first Powerplay, while chasing a modest target of 189. It took a cautious innings by KL Rahul, who played out the tricky windy conditions with solid restraint, to guide the team home.

## Chatter about the pitch

On the match eve, however, few are talk-



## EXPLAINED Sea breeze and lights, a major factor

THE EFFECT of the evening sea breeze in Mumbai cannot be taken lightly by the team batting second under the lights. During this World Cup, every team batting second at the Wankhede Stadium has lost at least three wickets in the Powerplay. Sri Lanka were the worst hit, losing six wickets for just 14 runs versus India. Fast bowlers took nine of 10 Sri Lankan wickets to fall and they were bowled out for just 55 in 19.4 overs. In the first Power Play under lights, England were 67 for 4 against South Africa, Bangladesh were 35 for 3 versus South Africa and Australia were 52 for 4 and 91 for 7 before Glenn Maxwell's unbeaten 201 came to the rescue against Afghanistan.

ing about the conditions. Instead, all the chatter, all the obsession was predictably restricted to the pitch.

New Zealand opener Rachin Ravindra broke away from the group that was warming up with a game of football under the shadow of Garware Pavilion and marched towards the pitch. The most-talked-about player of the World Cup stood adjacent to the crease and pored over the 22-yard strip that's bald on the good-length region.

At the other end, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was standing with his arms folded, staring at the surface, which he was reminded offers pace and bounce.

The night before, India coach Rahul Dravid landed in Mumbai and headed straight to the ground to inspect the pitch. While Rohit Sharma walked out into the middle and straight to the pitch, taking his guard and shadow-practicing a couple of forward blocks.

The India captain, who has grown up playing at Wankhede, knows all about the breeze factor.

Memon says the conditions drastically change after 7.30 pm when the wind speed reduces and the humidity kicks in, which brings in the dew factor. "So post 8 pm, things get normal and the pitch becomes flat."

Maxwell showed that during the last match here. He walked in when the ball was acting wild and allowed himself time to settle in. It was only when the breeze died down and the humidity levels increased, easing the pitch, that he went on to play the greatest innings that was ever played on this ground and arguably in 50-over cricket.

That's 'respect' batsmen need to give to the sea breeze. The respect Memon and old-timers talk about.



(Top Left) The area at Wankhede where evening breeze is expected flow in. (Above) Rohit Sharma at India's practice session on Tuesday. Deepak Joshi/PTI

**Honestly, that's the beauty of this team. Half the guys weren't even born when we won the first World Cup (1983). In 2011, half of them weren't even playing serious cricket. These guys are focused on the present."**

ROHIT SHARMA, TEAM INDIA CAPTAIN

**"Obviously there's a lot of learnings, what went wrong, what as a team we could have done better, and things like that. But now, it's a completely different setup, different set of players as well from what it was in 2019."**

# Positioned at North Stand, India's 12th men

MIHIR VASAVDA  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 14

LISTEN FOR the clap. It'll be rhythmic. Slow at first, gradually picking up the tempo, until it reaches a crescendo. It'll begin when Jasprit Bumrah will run in to deliver India's first ball during the World Cup semi final against New Zealand. And it'll originate from right above the bowler's head at the Wankhede Stadium.

That's where the North Stand is. The fabled seating area of the venerated venue. Liverpool has the Kop, Dortmund has the *Die Gelbe Wand* — the Yellow Wall — and Wankhede boasts of the North Stand.

For decades, the stand — bang opposite the Pavilion — has provided the soundtrack and set the atmosphere for cricket matches played at the Wankhede Stadium. Sachin Tendulkar remembers sitting here as a 10-year-old and watching matches.

And Rohit Sharma remains in awe of the 'most famous stand (where) the people who come are true cricket fans.'

On Wednesday, when Sharma leads out the team in their bid to reach the first 50-over World Cup final since 2011 against a team known to punch well above its weight, they will be backed by a packed stadium full of partisan fans clad in blue.

The loudest cheers, safe to say, will come from the Level 3 North Stand. It always has.

"Pretty nervous, facing New Zealand in a World Cup semifinal. Going to any match is an act of faith, you don't know whether you'll win or lose. But this group is determined to have a good time," says Tony Sebastian.

Sebastian is a member of the 'North Stand Gang', a fan group which pre-dates the refurbished Wankhede.

"In 2009, there was a Test at the Cricket Club of India because Wankhede was under renovation," says Vipul Yadav.

"At that match, phones were allowed inside the stadium for the first time and a few of us exchanged numbers. Then on, we began buying tickets together in the same stand."

Once the renovated Wankhede began hosting matches, the bunch became regulars at the North Stand, already famous for roars, rhythmic claps and quirky chants.

Over the years, the number of 'members' of this unofficial group has expanded to more than 50-plus now. And on matchday, they follow a routine — meet a couple of hours before toss, have a meal at Kayani, the iconic Irani restaurant close to the stadium or the *khao galli* in the vicinity and then head for the stand.

Once the game ends, some of them will head to a nearby cafe where the day's play will be passionately dissected.

They've been doing this for years, for all Test matches, ODIs and T20s India have played in Mumbai.

For the World Cup, the 'gang' members have had to hustle for tickets. With tickets in the usual Level 3 sold to general public and sponsors, the North Stand regulars have found themselves scattered in different sections of the stadium.

Yet, when the match begins, they have found a way to come together. "We find our-



Members of the 'North Stand Gang'. File

elves through the chants and the roars. During the match against Sri Lanka, a friend of ours who had travelled from the USA for the game was in a different stand. We couldn't reach each other on phone but he figured out where we were just by our chants," says Nish Navalkar, also a member of the North Stand Gang.

## Bantering with Kohli

The organic noise coming from the stands might get drowned out by the loud music blaring out of the speakers but the North Stand tries to make itself heard.

There is a chant for each player, which they'll keep on singing until the player acknowledges. Most of them are spontaneous and the North Stand regulars take pride in the fact that the one-liners that originate here go on to echo at stadiums across the country.

"For Shreyas Iyer, we started, '*Das rupay ki pepsi, Shreyas bhai sexy*'. There's an innate kind of humour that comes through," Sebastian says. "Classic example being '*Kohli ko bowling do*' during the match against Sri Lanka. In fact, the North Stand shares a special bond with Kohli."

The relationship with Kohli goes back to 2011. "During a match," says Yadav, one of the founders of the North Stand Gang, "Kohli was on the boundary and we started chanting, '*Mumbai ka king kaun, Sachin, Sachin!*' He didn't respond. After that, we went, '*Bangalore ka King kaun...*' referring to his IPL side.

He was expecting we'll take his name. But we ended up saying, '*Sachin, Sachin!*' Kohli turned around, and sarcastically applauded and laughed with us."

The relationship with the former India captain, known to play the crowd perfectly with his emotion and aggression, has grown over the years. "He knows how to use the crowd well," Sebastian says. "For example, if we shout Kohli Kohli, he will point to the India badge on his jersey. He knows how to conduct the crowd, asks us to do something and we respond." On Wednesday, expect Kohli — standing at first slip — to charge up the crowd when the pacers run in. And expect the North Stand, straight behind him, to happily oblige.

## BATTLE & BANTER

# Two of this era's finest batsmen, in relaxed avatars, will play pivotal roles

SRIRAM VEERA  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 14

VIRAT KOHLI is talking about human species' larger role on the planet. Why we are here and what's our role. Not quite Yuval Noah Harari, but with spiritualism sprinkled. In the ICC video from a couple of years ago, it takes a few seconds to sink in that he is actually talking about his friendship with Kane Williamson.

The iconic duo, their country's finest batsmen, are expected to play pivotal roles when their sides meet in the semifinals of the World Cup at the Wankhede stadium. Their one-on-one bond though, goes back longer.

"We connected on lots beyond cricket: how we look at life, the larger reason for everything in life, it was interesting to note his way is pretty similar to mine. We bonded on that," Kohli says.

"I was amazed to know that we connected on books, videos or talks we can watch on YouTube. Of the few people I have become friends with beyond the professional world, Kane is one. Our friendship has been organic. He is a very nice, chilled guy, very respectful of you as a person and your space — I admire that," Kohli raves.

It's then Williamson's turn. "He has changed the game with his appetite and hunger", before saying, "He is a gentleman as well, spent a lot of time with him over the years."

The two friends who send each other

YouTube links will yet again head into a pressure-cooker game in a World Cup semifinal. The first time they met in a semifinal was in 2008 U-19; Kohli had Williamson stumped, Williamson took Kohli's catch, and India won by 3 wickets. Next, was of course the antithesis of this year's World Cup slogan — 'It Takes Two Days' would have been apt as Williamson walked away as the winner in 2019.

Williamson might know his friend pretty well, but watching Kohli this World Cup has been an experience that will stick in the mind. Relaxed on the field as well, lots of laughter with team-mates, bantering with the crowd, he once made them chant Shubman Gill's name rather than a lady's name they were taking to rile the opener. He is in what he would call a 'happy space.'

When his game is going well, he can turn into a statesman-like cool figure. He seemingly gets high on performing, and when that happy space is sorted, he can relax and show us his other side. A relaxed persona has set in. This version of Kohli has rarely been seen on cricket fields.

Those who know him would know that side, but it can now be visibly seen. The Kohli on-field cam that would zoom in to see him grimace, curse, get angry, grumpy, seemingly almost ready for a fight now throws up Instagrammable pictures of aww-ness.

Williamson on the other hand seems to have always been this 'cool' figure, who quips humorous interjections, and is at ease with himself. Their developmental years couldn't



Virat Kohli, like Kane Williamson, has shown a relaxed persona recently. PTI/Reuters



be more different. Kohli is from West Delhi, wild west of the capital with the neighbourhood mushrooming with haphazard colonies that housed partition-refugees. Williamson from a vastly different country, open-spaces and a better quality of life.

Is he always like this? That question was put to his cricket coach at school who was also his social science teacher, Josh Syms. "He is really that good, no dark bone in his body," laughed Syms. A sentiment shared by his batting coach David Johnston who has

known him since he was 10. The cricketing world of course has nothing but respect for him. Not a whisper about him.

Even as a boy, he seems to have coached adults. Johnston rewrites to a 12-year-old Williamson.

He had scored three 100s in a row. His dad was the coach and swapped the batting order next game, sending his son down at No 6. Williamson hit a century to take the team out of trouble, batting with the no.10 in a match-turning partnership. When they

## The first time they met in a semifinal was in 2008 U-19; Kohli had Williamson stumped, Williamson took Kohli's catch, and India won by 3 wickets.

walked off the field, all the boys came out and clapped in admiration. "He saw that, stopped, let the other kid walk first and clapped him off the field. When I saw that, right then, I understood his character. The sensitivity in a 12-year old to realise the other young boy might feel left out. He isn't just a good batsman but a good person," Johnston says.

On match eve at Wankhede stadium, Williamson came for a media interaction. Radio New Zealand reporter, perhaps the lone New Zealand journalist here so far, piped up with 'On 29th May 1953, Edmund Hillary climbed Mount Everest...' A hint of a smile spread out from Williamson's lush beard. "I remember that day!" Guffaws.

## Williamson's patience

Suddenly, the microphone began to malfunction. A nearly 10 minute wait ensued. Williamson sat there patiently, bantering, "Make sure you ask that question again. You will probably be the only person asking a question in a conference. I shall answer it five different ways."

He then added, "Oh yeah, I am quite a

talker!" More laughter. When normality was resumed, any possible question trying to make a game of cricket bigger than it was, was punctuated with a lightness that's uncommon with athletes.

The 'coolness' quotient has often been tagged to the likes of Faf du Plessis & Ben Stokes, whose magazine-cover physicality makes it easier for such adjectives. Williamson is one of the real cool figures in cricket. Witty, pithy, with a measured sense of perspective about the highs and lows of the game. Not many, if any, captains would have taken the heartbreaking defeat in the last World Cup final as he did.

Syms adds: "He was incredibly driven without inconveniencing anyone else. Always self-less in that respect. As a school coach, and now a rugby coach for a team, I have seen a lot of good athletes are incredibly selfish — not Kane."

Virat and Kane emerged from different backgrounds. Kohli had ridden on his fiery ambition to rise above the parapets of Delhi cricket politics where snipers are ever-present to take anyone down. To come from where he has to earn the respect of likes of Kane wouldn't have been easy.

For Kane to come from where he has to earn not just admiration but respect from the likes of Kohli wouldn't have been easy. Two friends, two Youtube-link sharers, two articulate cricketing leaders who bond on their outlook on life will now head into their third world cup semifinal. The record stands tied at 1-1, what will happen now?

## From Singapore to Hyderabad, Pallerla pursuing his dream

NITIN SHARMA  
PANCHKULA, NOVEMBER 14

FOLLOWING HIS 21-3, 21-8 win over Haryana's Ankush, in the boys U19 singles qualification first round at the Yonex Sunrise 30th Smt Krishna Khaitan Memorial All India Junior Ranking Prize Money tournament at Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex here in Panchkula, 16-year-old Sai Shreyas Pallerla of Telangana was cheered by his mother. With his father Satyam working in DBS Bank, Singapore, Pallerla had grown up in Singapore and spent 11 years in the country before returning to India to pursue his love for badminton.

"My grandfather Venkateshwar used to play badminton, and whenever we would talk over phone from Singapore, he would always tell me to watch badminton matches over TV and discuss things about the sport. In 2019, my father decided to send me, my mother, and sister back to India to start my badminton training in Hyderabad. After every win, I make sure to send the video to my father in Singapore and he cheers me on from there and that's what he did today too," says the youngster, who is a student at Delhi Public School in Hyderabad.

While he started training at the MK Badminton Academy under coach Vivek Harsha, the youngster also got trained by Arjuna awardees Sumeet Reddy and Siki Reddy. The youngster initially started as a doubles player before he started competing in singles. The first two years saw him only managing to reach the initial qualification rounds of the U15 and U17 tournaments in the national junior ranking tournaments. Last year, he managed to advance to the last qualification rounds of the U-15 and U-17 national ranking tournaments before bowing out. This year has seen the youngster making it to the main draw for the first time in his career when he reached the main draw of U-17 National Ranking tournament at Vijayawada last week before suffering a three-game loss against Dev Ruparelia.

"My coaches, including Harsha sir and mentor Sumeet sir, always told me to take positives from the qualification rounds. Sometimes, I would start from the round of 256 in qualification and would suffer a loss in the round of 16 or 32 in qualification rounds but I made sure to learn something from the losses. When I made it to the main draw after five wins last week at Vijayawada, it was a big boost for me even though it would have been a small thing for some," says the youngster.

Training at Hyderabad, the youngster has got to meet the likes of Kidambi Srikanth a couple of times but has never got a chance to talk with the current world number 23. "One thing which I like in Srikanth sir is the kind of comebacks he makes in tough situations. I will get to ask some tips from him someday," he says.



Sai Shreyas Pallerla spent 11 years in Singapore before returning to India to pursue badminton. Jasbir Malhi

# All strung up, and finals to go to

Jarring notes aside, SA cricket is belting out some bangers this WC looking to be headline act at finals



This South Africa team are fearless, driven as much to succeed as to entertain ahead of their semifinal against Australia. Partha Paul

SANDIP G  
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 14

THE CITY loves retro rock ballads. Every pub or restaurant would subject your ears to the forgotten tunes of the Scorpions or the ageless classics of Led Zeppelin. So when South Africa's team bus careened in the twilight sky into the stadium ahead of their semifinal against Australia on Thursday, someone with a portable speaker, at the entrance, rolled out an old Scorpions number: "Here I am, rock you like a hurricane." An unimpressed cop would shout at him to mute the speaker, which he did, but the echoes of the song swirled in the hazy evening, and lingered on the lips.

An energetic rock song would capture the effervescent way South Africa have gone about this World Cup. Their batsmen have piled on the big totals—five times they have batted first and all five times they have racked up 300-plus totals. The totals intimidate—428, 311, 399, 382, 367. The manner they reached those scores thrilled. The bowlers have bundled out teams for less than 180 thrice—two of them, Australia and New Zealand, are in the semifinals, the other dethroned World Champions England. True that South Africa had stuttered twice in the tournament—both when chasing, it should be noted—but they have entertained like few other iterations of South Africa. Entertained in not a self-destructive way, but in a systematic manner.

Since reintegrating, they have possessed the personnel and skillset to be among the favourites—in eight editions past, they have been to the last four, often looking the most unbeatable team, as many as four instances, but without lasting till the end. Over the years, they boasted some generational talents, a

posses of high-class all-rounders, a ceaseless chain of pure fast-bowling breed, an assortment of wondrous batsmen, from grafters and buccaneers to accumulator and pyro-technicians. So rich that if perhaps you ventured into the dubious business of assembling an all-time greatest South Africa ODI team, perhaps none of the present crew would be an un-debated choice. But that is beyond the point.

There has always been a pragmatism about South Africa, a streak of self-doubt stifling them from scaling the peaks they should have scaled, of shackles falling from the skies. Like something inef-fable showing them down the slope in the vicinity of the peak, a sudden shiver of fear rising through their spine. But Bavuma's men are fearless, driven as much to succeed as to entertain. Even before the World Cup, in the thrilling ODI series against Australia, there were signs of their methods. But doubts lingered on whether they would be able to replicate it in the World Cup. So far, they have not taken a step back.

### Variety, entertaining

At the heart of their bravado approach and the entertainment value they exude is the sheer variety of cricketers they have. Quinton de Kock is one of a kind blend of grace and power; Bavuma is a bundle of boundless energy, be it on the field or with the bat. No South African captain would have celebrated a World Cup win as feverishly as he did after the one-wicket win over Pakistan. Rassie van der

Dussen can quickly and seamlessly shift between attack and defence; Heinrich Klaasen can wreak mayhem in the twitch of an eye; Aiden Markram can be an anchor, accumulator and destroyer, and in many ways the spine of the batting line-up. Poor David Miller has not often been summoned to unleash his fury on bowlers.

Van der Dussen apart, the rest have been commanding a 100-plus strike rate too. None of them perhaps might induce wonder as AB de Villiers would have, but they could leave bowlers with crushed spirits.

In the bunch of largely understated batsmen, they have arguably the most balanced batting line-up in recent times, as wholesome as perhaps the 1999 one. They have been more glittering bunches, but not this efficient ones. Similarly, they have not had a spinner of Keshav Maharaj's guiles, operating at the peak, since the days of Imran Tahir. Add the left-arm wrist-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi into the mix, there would not have been a more versatile bowling core. The bite of Kagiso Rabada, the bark of Gerald Coetzee, the relentlessness of

Lungi Ngidi, the angles of Jansen, the controlled magic of Maharaj and the unique trade of Shamsi, a South African eleven has rarely been this versatile, if ever.

Thus, to liken this brand of cricket to rock music, to reduce it to one specific genre, is denigrating the melting of different unique riffs. There is the classical strumming of Maharaj's fingers; the heavy metal tunes of Heinrich Klaasen; the punk rockish rendition of Quinton de Kock. At their best, South Africa is a jugal-bandi of different streams and tunes, all pleasing on their ears, all vibrant to watch.

Thus, South Africa have discovered an identity, a characteristic they have not always commanded. The lack of a distinct identity, former captain Graeme Smith once wrote in Athletes Voice, was hampering South Africa. "There were guys who were proud to play for South Africa, but there were no real traditions or values within the environment that we stood for," he wrote. Smith and Co would overhaul the environment, blend in cricketers from different backgrounds.

The journey began with finding the true meaning of Protea. "We did a lot of research into the Protea itself. It is a resilient flower. It's the first flower to regenerate after a fire. The Ubuntu (a Nguni word that embodies the values of community and humanity) theme became a really powerful thing for us. It was about not only how we played the game but also how we want to be seen as a team around the world," he detailed.

It was also about expressing the skills to the fullest, as Bavuma's men have in this tournament. And so diverse their skills were that the man with the portable speaker would have played any song and it still would have resonated with the team's capacity to thrill, entertain and most importantly, win games.

**Their batsmen have piled on the big totals—five times they have batted first and all five times they have racked up 300-plus totals. The totals intimidate—428, 311, 399, 382, 367. The bowlers have bundled out teams for less than 180 thrice.**

flaunted more lethal pace-bowling units. Like the Allan Donald-Shaun Pollock-Jacques Kallis-Steve Elworthy quartet of 1999 or the Dale Steyn-Morne Morkel-Vernon Philander trio of 2015. But not always have they been blessed with a lanky, left-arm quick of Marco Jansen's calibre, their second highest wicket-taker of the tournament.

Similarly, they have not had a spinner of Keshav Maharaj's guiles, operating at the peak, since the days of Imran Tahir. Add the left-arm wrist-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi into the mix, there would not have been a more versatile bowling core. The bite of Kagiso Rabada, the bark of Gerald Coetzee, the relentlessness of

### PITCH WATCH

#### Slow pitch expected on Team India's insistence

A SLOW pitch is expected for India's World Cup semi-final against New Zealand after the team management asked BCCI curators to shave off most of the grass on the Wankhede Stadium playing surface.

The *Indian Express* understands that the think tank had informed the Wankhede curator about their preference after the game against the Netherlands in Bengaluru.

The BCCI local curators have formed a local organising group to look after pitches across the country during the World Cup. The International Cricket Council (ICC) also sent its own experts to various venues for each game.

A Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) official confirmed that a message was conveyed to prepare a slow track before the home team reached Mumbai.

"It won't be a turner but the team had asked for a slow pitch. It was the main reason we shaved off the grass," a source said.

India has performed well on slow tracks at home over the past few years. Before the World Cup, the team management had requested for their matches to be held on slow pitches.

Head coach Rahul Dravid and captain Rohit Sharma had a good look at the pitch on Tuesday. Later in the day, the team management spoke to the groundstaff and asked whether they will be spraying the anti-dew chemical post their practice session.

Chasing has been difficult at the Wankhede during the tournament, with only of the four games so far being won by the team batting second, that too due to Glenn Maxwell's heroics against Afghanistan.

When asked about this trend, Rohit, a local boy, said: "I have played a lot of cricket here. The last 4-5 games won't tell me a lot about what Wankhede is. I certainly believe that toss is not the factor."

—DEVENDRA PANDEY

#### Hopefully we can hear a pin drop, says Santner

NEW ZEALAND spinner Mitchell Santner believes that if the Black Caps can pick wickets at the start, then it will peg back India and keep the packed house at Wankhede silent. "Hopefully we can hear a pin drop and a bit of silence in Wankhede—then we're obviously doing alright. We'll have a look at the pitch and see what happens, but we know how destructive their top six, top seven are. It seems like the only way you can kind of slow these guys down is taking wickets up front, so that's obviously a big part of it," Santner was quoted as saying by *stuff.co.nz*.

Recalling the 2019 World Cup semi-final, where they beat India by 18 runs, Santner said, "The start we had was unbelievable and it did silence the crowd a bit. I remember being out at deep point and they were still in the game and (MS Dhoni) cut one over me for six. ENS

As India face New Zealand and South Africa take on old nemesis Australia in the World Cup semifinals, here's a rewind to two iconic moments when these two match-ups took place at the same stage of the tournament. Both of them feature run-outs— one by an inch or less and the other by almost the length of the pitch, finally snuffing out all hope when a different result seemed on the cards.

Tushar Bhaduri revisits the defining images of the contests, closing out one era and heralding a new one.

## 1999 & 2019: A tale of two semifinals and two runouts

### 2019 World Cup semifinal: India vs NZ, Manchester

**MATCH SITUATION:** It was a two-day ODI to decide a spot in the final. New Zealand won the toss and huffed and puffed their way to 239/8 after resuming their innings at 211/5 in 46.1 overs on the reserve day, with Ross Taylor (74) and skipper Kane Williamson (67) being the main contributors. In response, "45 minutes of bad cricket", as Virat Kohli put it, had India gasping at 92/6 with less than 20 overs left before Ravindra Jadeja and MS Dhoni got together to reignite Indian hopes. Jadeja (77 off 59 balls) was dismissed with 32 needed in 13 balls, but the faithful believed that Dhoni could still do it. He turned the clock back with an upper-cut off Lockie Ferguson for six, two balls before the match-deciding intervention....

**WHAT HAPPENED:** With 25 needed off 10 balls, Ferguson went wide on the crease and dug one in towards Dhoni's ribs. The ball struck him on his already-damaged finger and he was forced to take one hand off the bat. The ball trickled towards the edge of the 30-yard circle and Dhoni, whose speed be-



MS Dhoni's runout during the 2019 semifinal against NZ.

tween the wickets had not diminished, sensed an opportunity for a brace to keep the strike. He would have been successful too, but for a rocket direct hit from Martin Guptill, who had hared in from boundary, which found the ex-India captain short by the barest of margins. The task was too much for the Indian tail-enders as India went down by 18 runs.

### WHAT THEY SAID

"Players cried like kids. MS Dhoni was crying like a child. Hardik Pandya and Rishabh Pant had tears in their eyes."

SANJAY BANGAR, INDIA'S BATTING COACH

"It was a game of margins and MS was

run-out. 45 minutes of bad cricket puts you out of the tournament. New Zealand were braver in crunch situations and they deserve it."

VIRAT KOHLI

"Colin de Grandhomme was there (at the stumps) but it had to be a direct hit, so if it had been taken he would have been safe."

MARTIN GUPTILL

**AFTERMATH:** The defeat prolonged India's barren run at major ICC tournaments, that dates back to 2013. It was the last international game Dhoni played, ending one of the most successful careers in Indian cricket. The two teams faced off in the World Test Championship final, also in England, two years later with the Black Caps coming out on top again. The failure to land ICC silverware was one box that remained unticked when Kohli stepped down from captaincy.

As far as New Zealand are concerned, they played their part in another epic final a few days later, pipped by England on the basis of boundary count. But for a nation that small, making it to the business end of big tournaments is a commendable feat in itself.

### 1999 World Cup semifinal: Australia v South Africa, Birmingham

**MATCH SITUATION:** South Africa won the toss and when Australia were 68/4 after 17 overs, they would have felt the choice was vindicated. Steve Waugh and Michael Bevan then put on 90 runs, taking more than 22 overs. But all Australia could manage was 213, with Shaun Pollock and Allan Donald taking nine wickets between them.

When the chase began, Herschelle Gibbs and Gary Kirsten started with such authority that a quick finish seemed on the cards.

Then Shane Warne happened. In what seems like a blur, South Africa fell from 48/0 to 61/4, but in reality, it took nine overs. The leg-break to castle Gibbs is one to die for.

Jonty Rhodes and Jacques Kallis arrested the slide, but it took them into the final 10 overs with around 70 to get. But as wickets kept falling, South Africa's man of the tournament, Lance Klusener, was left with No.11 Donald with 16 to get in 8 balls, 9 off the final over. Klusener hit Damien Fleming for two brutal boundaries to tie the scores. Donald was almost run out backing up at the non-striker's end when Darren Lehmann missed with an underarm throw.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** With one run needed



Allan Donald dropped his bat to make a futile run to the other end.

off three balls, Klusener dug out a yorker to mid-on and took off for what could have been the winning run. But Donald, probably spooked by what had happened the ball before, turned back to see where the ball was. By the time he looked at his partner, Klusener was almost beside him. In panic, Donald dropped his bat and made a futile run towards the other end. But long before that, Mark Waugh at mid-on had under-armed the ball to Fleming, who in turn, gently rolled the ball to wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist to take off the balls, triggering wild celebrations among the Aussies—who reached the final as they finished higher on

the Super Six points table—and despair and ghost faces among the South Africans.

### WHAT THEY SAID

"I looked up at Lance, saw him rushing to my end, and so I started to run as well. My legs felt like jelly, as if I wasn't making any headway at all down to the other end. I tried to get my legs moving properly. It was a dreamlike sequence, almost in slow motion."

ALLAN DONALD

"The scene in our dressing-room resembled that of a refuge in the midst of a natural disaster. Of course, this disaster did not suffer any human tragedy, but by cricketing standards, it measured 10.6 on the Richter scale."

BOB WOOLMER, SOUTH AFRICA COACH

**AFTERMATH:** Australia went on to thrash Pakistan in the final, winning four World Cups in five attempts. South Africa have not reached a World Cup final till date, and were thrashed by the Aussies when they faced off in the 2007 semifinal.

Cronje was found guilty of match-fixing a year later and died in an air tragedy a couple of years later. Woolmer died during the 2007 World Cup when he was Pakistan coach.

**MARUTI SUZUKI**

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Geographical Indication (GI) Pavilion on 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas'

**15TH NOVEMBER 2023**

**Chief Guest: Shri Som Prakash,**  
Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry

Venue: Hall No. 05, First Floor India International Trade Fair, ITPO, Pragati Maidan, Delhi  
Time: 12 PM

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**Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**

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<b>GOLD</b>	<b>USD RATE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
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Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of November 10

International market data till 1900 IST

## RUPEE DEPRECIATED BY OVER 9% BETWEEN APR 2022 AND SEPT 2023

# Weaker rupee bumped up India's H1 oil import bill by ₹25,000 crore

**SUKALP SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

LOWER VALUE of the rupee against the US dollar in the first six months of the current financial year (FY24) vis-à-vis the corresponding period of FY23 pushed up India's crude oil imports for the former period by over Rs 25,000 crore, or 5 per cent, shows an analysis of India's official trade data.

Rupee depreciation also negatively impacted petroleum product imports in value terms, but its positive effect on value of petroleum product exports from India partly offset the hit to the country's overall oil and petroleum product trade in the first half of FY24.

India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil and depends on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its requirement. Crude oil also tops the list of India's merchandise imports by value.

While India does not export crude oil, it is a net exporter of petroleum products, thanks to the country's refining capacity of over 250 million tonnes per annum which exceeds its domestic demand. Like most internationally traded commodities, crude oil and petroleum products are priced in dollars. In the

Imports	Value (\$ billion)	Value (Rs crore)	Effective Exchange Rate*
Crude Oil (H1 FY24)	63.86	5.26 lakh	82.44
Crude Oil (H1 FY23)	83.57	6.56 lakh	78.49
Petroleum Products (H1 FY24)	18.42	1.52 lakh	82.46
Petroleum Products (H1 FY23)	23.06	1.81 lakh	78.56
Exports Value	Value (\$ billion)	Value (Rs crore)	Effective Exchange Rate*
Petroleum Products (H1 FY24)	41.86	3.45 lakh	82.46
Petroleum Products (H1 FY23)	50.84	3.99 lakh	78.45

\* In (Rs/\$). Source: Based on data from DGCI&S, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

case of oil importing countries, a weakening of their currencies against the dollar inflates their oil imports in local currency terms.

The rupee depreciated by over 9 per cent between early April 2022 and end of September 2023. In the calendar year 2022 (January-December), the Indian currency depreciated by around 10 per cent against the dollar, mainly on account of interest rate hikes and monetary policy tightening by the US Federal Reserve and the Russia-Ukraine war. In fact, in April-September of FY23 alone, the rupee's value depreciated by around 7 per cent due to the safe haven appeal of the greenback amid fears of recession and inflation globally, and

the Ukraine war. Rise in oil prices also tends to push up the value of the dollar as demand for the greenback increases. While prices have been volatile since the war broke out in Ukraine, the extent of volatility and the rise in oil and petroleum product prices was higher in April-September of FY23 than in the corresponding six months of the current financial year.

As per the latest available data with the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), India's crude oil imports in April-September of the current financial year stood at \$63.86 billion, or Rs 5.26 lakh crore. This reflects an effective average exchange rate of Rs 82.44 per dollar. In the corre-

sponding six months of FY23, crude oil imports were \$83.57 billion in dollar terms and Rs 6.56 lakh crore in rupee terms, reflecting an average exchange rate of Rs 78.49 per dollar for the period. Had the average exchange rate been Rs 78.49 per dollar in April-September of this year as well, the country's crude oil imports in rupee terms would have been Rs 5.01 lakh crore, lower by over Rs 25,000 crore.

Similarly, the country's petroleum product imports in the first half of FY24 stood at \$18.42 billion, or Rs 1.52 lakh crore, reflecting an effective average exchange rate of Rs 82.46 per dollar. In April-September of last year, petroleum product imports were \$23.06 billion, or Rs 1.81 lakh crore at an average exchange rate of Rs 78.56 for a dollar. This suggests that just the depreciation in the rupee's value inflated the import bill for refined petroleum products by nearly Rs 7,200 crore.

Petroleum product exports, however, benefitted from the depreciation in the rupee's value. The country's total petroleum product exports for the first half of FY24 stood at \$41.86 billion, or Rs 3.45 lakh crore, at an effective exchange rate of Rs 82.46 per dollar. The average exchange rate for petroleum prod-

uct exports in the corresponding six months of last year was Rs 78.45 rupees per dollar. Had the exchange remained the same as in the first half of FY23, petroleum product exports in April-September of the current financial year would have been lower by around Rs 16,750 crore.

Therefore, the net impact of the fall in rupee's value in April-September of FY24 vis-à-vis a year ago on India's oil and petroleum product trade—crude oil and petroleum product imports and petroleum product exports—was nearly Rs 15,700 crore, the analysis shows.

The impact of rupee depreciation would have hit all Indian refiners depending on their respective refining capacities as all of them mostly depend on imported crude oil. However, the gains due to the weakness in the rupee in terms of petroleum product exports would have mainly benefitted export-oriented private sector refiners Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy. Public sector refining majors Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, and their arms only account for a marginal share in India's petroleum product exports. The DGCI&S does not give refiner-wise oil and petroleum product trade data.

# Wholesale inflation at -0.52% in October; in negative zone for seventh straight month

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

WHOLESALE PRICE Index-based inflation rate fell more than expected to (-) 0.52 per cent in October, marking the seventh consecutive month in the negative territory, data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday showed. Continued deflation in manufactured products, and fuel and power categories kept the WPI inflation lower even though sequentially there was some uptick in food prices led by cereals, vegetables and protein items. The inflation rate has been in the negative zone since April and was at (-) 0.26 per cent in September 2023 and at 8.67 per cent in October last year.

Wholesale inflation, which reflects prices at producers' end, remains below retail inflation. The latest retail inflation data for October showed Consumer Price Index-based inflation eased to a four-month low of 4.87 per cent in October. A negative wholesale inflation though could result in a lower nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with some estimates pegging it to not be over 9 per cent due to slower GDP deflator that has a significant weight of WPI. The lower nominal GDP growth could result in fiscal slipper risk, with the government's fiscal deficit estimates calculated



**Inflation in food articles eased to 2.53% in Oct.** File

as a percentage of the GDP. In October, wholesale inflation in food articles eased to 2.53 per cent from 3.35 per cent in September. On a month-on-month basis, however, the food articles inflation increased by 1.33 per cent. Inflation rate for vegetables declined to (-) 21.04 per cent, while for potato was (-) 29.27 per cent. However, the inflation rate for onion increased to 62.60 per cent, for pulses increased to 19.43 per cent, while for paddy and wheat increased to 9.39 per cent and 4.75 per cent, respectively. The fuel and power basket inflation was at (-) 2.47 per cent in October as against (-) 3.35 per cent in September. In manufactured products, the inflation rate was at (-) 1.13 per cent as against (-) 1.34 per cent in September.

Experts said though prices have eased, there could be some risks from volatile vegetable prices and the deflationary trend may

not continue in coming months. "The deflationary trend in WPI could end in the coming months with the support of favourable base fading away gradually and expectation of subdued commodity prices amid global demand weakness. However, for the full year, we expect WPI inflation to average below 1 per cent," Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CareEdge Ratings said.

Rahul Bajaria, MD & Head of EM Asia (ex-China) Economics, Barclays, said, "Within manufactured products, food, clothing and furniture prices went up, while there was a general decline in leather, rubber and metal related products. This perhaps reflects some moderation in global commodity prices, as we have seen visible declines in prices of industrial raw materials recently. Core WPI (non-food manufacturing) fell 0.1 per cent month-on-month and stayed negative on a year-on-year basis, at -1 per cent for the eighth consecutive month."

"Overall, inflation continues to stay broadly in check, with a stable INR, manageable energy costs, and a countercyclical tax policy on fuel prices helping keep inflation stable. Strong economic growth, coupled with demand, should keep some pressure on inflation, but we see scope for headline inflation to remain manageable, with some near-term upside risks emanating from volatile vegetable prices," he added.

# Govt to invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks in next two weeks

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

THE GOVERNMENT will invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks, including lithium and graphite mines, in next two weeks, a top official said on Tuesday.

This will mark the first attempt to transfer these under-utilised assets to the private sector, after Parliament in early August empowered the Centre to auction concession rights for these critical minerals. Mines secretary V L Kantha Rao said the government is planning to issue the auction notice in a couple of weeks.

Speaking after the inauguration of the Mining Pavilion at India International Trade Fair (IITF) here, the secretary said 10-12 players in

the country have the technology to produce and process "critical minerals". A workshop will be organised immediately, bringing all stakeholders together to frame a national-level strategy on mining and processing of critical minerals, he said.

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation Amendment) Act, 2023, opened up six more critical minerals—beryllium, lithium, niobium, titanium, tantalum, zirconium—to the private sector for exploration and mining. The amended law empowers the Centre government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite licence for specified critical minerals. This is with a view to facilitate and incentivise private sector participation in all spheres of mineral ex-

ploration. Critical minerals have gained significance in view of India's commitment towards energy transition and achieving net-zero emission by 2070. The idea is to reduce the country's import dependence for lithium, the key element for the manufacturing of EV batteries, to the extent possible.

India meets about 70 per cent of its lithium requirement via imports, even as it seeks to increase the EV penetration from 1 per cent now to 30 per cent by 2030.

The current share of deep-seated minerals like copper, zinc, lead, gold, silver, diamond, nickel, cobalt and the platinum group of minerals in total mineral production of India is insignificant. Most of the requirements are fulfilled through imports. **FE**



## GOYAL VISITS TESLA FACILITY

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal visited the manufacturing facility of US-based electric vehicle major Tesla at Fremont, California. The company would be doubling its auto components imports from India, Goyal said. **PTI**

## MAHADEV BETTING APP CASE

# Vested interests attempting to block Religare buy with FIR, say Burmans

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

DABUR PROMOTER Burman family on Tuesday alleged vested interests are attempting to block their acquisition of a stake in Religare Enterprises, after two senior members were booked in the multi-crore Mahadev app case.

In a statement, the family said it is shocked by what it termed as an "arm twisting" move and denied any involvement in the case. "This FIR (first information report) is nothing but a step provoked by vested interests in an attempt to block the acquisition of Religare Enterprises by Burman Family," the statement said. The city police had on November 7 filed an FIR in the case, naming 32 people, including Dabur's Mohit Burman and Gaurav Burman, as accused. The police said the betting app has defrauded people of Rs 15,000 crore since 2019.

Stating that the FIR is being selectively circulated in the media, the Burman family statement said both Mohit and Gaurav do not know the accused people mentioned in the case.

"Curiously, the FIR comes at a time when the Burman Family has sought to increase its existing shareholding of 21.24 per cent in Religare Enterprises and

launched a legitimate open offer under the SEBI Takeover Code," the statement added.

While pursuing the process, the Burman family brought to the notice of the Board and the regulators certain "governance issues" being perpetrated by Rashmi Saluja, the current chairman of Religare. The family further said that vested interests are now attempting to stall the deal. These moves are "grossly illegal," the Burman family said, stressing that it remains resolute to go ahead with the Religare acquisition. It denied receiving any communication with regard to the FIR but added that they have "sighted" the document which has been circulated to media houses.

The directorate of enforcement had recently said that a promoter of the betting app had paid over Rs 508 crore to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, a charge denied by the congress leader.

## BRIEFLY

### Tata Steel to cut 800 jobs in Netherlands

New Delhi: Tata Steel, which is seeking a financial aid for its Dutch operations, has said it will cut 800 jobs in the Netherlands to ensure structural competitiveness and profitability. In October 2021, Tata Steel completed the process of separating Tata Steel UK and Tata Steel Netherlands as two independent companies from Tata Steel Europe. In the Netherlands, the company has a 7 Million Tonne Per Annum plant in IJmuiden. The company's goal is to produce CO2-neutral steel by 2050 in Europe. **PTI**

### IREDA public issue to open on Nov 21

New Delhi: State-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) on Tuesday fixed a price band of Rs 30-32 per share for its Rs 2,150-crore initial public offering (IPO). The maiden public issue will open for subscription on November 21 and conclude on November 23 and the anchor book of the offer will be opened for a day on November 20, as per public announcement. This would be the first public issue by a public sector enterprise after Life Insurance Corporation's IPO in May last year. **PTI**

# Food subsidy likely to exceed Budget Estimate by ₹18k cr

**PRASANTA SAHU**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

THE CENTRE'S food subsidy bill will likely exceed the Budget Estimate (BE) by Rs 18,000 crore to Rs 2.14 trillion for the current financial year, largely due to sharp increases in the minimum support prices (MSP) for key crops, sources told **FE**.

However, this increase is unlikely to affect the Centre's aim of containing fiscal deficit at 5.9 per cent of GDP, despite the expected shortfall in disinvestment receipts, thanks to healthy tax and non-tax revenues, the sources said.

"MSP hike is quite large and that will reflect in procurement cost," an official said. The enhanced food subsidy will be reflected in the revised estimate that will be presented in the Budget on February 1. For all key rabi and kharif crops, the MSP increases this year have been the highest since 2018-19, when a new policy of 50 per cent profits over computed cost of production was adopted for the price setting.

The MSP of wheat, the key rabi crop, has been raised by 7.05 per cent to Rs 2,275/ quintal for the 2024-25 marketing season (April-June), the sharpest increase since 2014-15. The MSP for paddy, the key kharif crop, was fixed at Rs 2,183/quintal, up 7 per cent on the year.

Elevated MSPs, backed by robust procurement, could potentially boost rural income and purchasing power.

The extension of the free grains scheme under NFSA for five more years, however, would not cost any significant additional amount in the current financial year. The government had factored in the impact of free food grains for the first nine months in the Budget. The impact of the balance three months (Q4FY24) would be absorbed from savings under the scheme in the first nine months as many states have not fully lifted their quota of grains, sources said.

The supply of free grains in addition to PDS grains was initially launched for the April-June period of FY21 after Covid-19 broke out; it was later extended till December FY23. While discontinuing the extra free grains scheme, which almost tripled the annual food subsidy bill between FY21 and FY23, the Centre waived the nominal Rs 2/3 per kg charged for wheat/ rice under PDS for 2023. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently announced the extension of free grains under PDS for another five years to insulate the poor from inflation.

The total subsidy outgo in H1FY24 stood at Rs 2.06 trillion, the highest half-yearly amount seen in the last four financial years and 3.5 per cent higher compared to the corresponding period last year. While food subsidy release was lower by 18 per cent in H1Y24, outgo towards fertiliser and petroleum subsidies increased by 34.8 per cent and 18.5 per cent, respectively which kept the subsidy bill elevated. **FE**

# India's unemployment level at record low, say SBI economists

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

INDIA'S UNEMPLOYMENT rate is at a record low and the country's labour market is undergoing a structural transformation, a report said on Tuesday.

In the new report, the economists at the country's largest lender SBI also pitched for a "reinterpretation of old fashioned rhetoric" while looking at a subject like employment.

"India's unemployment rate is at a record low, India's labour

market is undergoing a deep structural transformation with self-entrepreneurship across all echelons and higher educational attainment emerging as key enablers," the report said.

It rued that the jump in self-employed populace within the employment estimates (57.3 per cent in FY23 now against 52.2 per cent in FY18) with main traction coming from rising share of household helpers eventually has been wrongfully interpreted by labour economists and others as a signal of shrinking employment opportunities.

The government's emphasis on entrepreneurship through the Prime Minister's Mudra Yojana and post-pandemic schemes like PM-SVANidhi for those at the bottom of the pyramid is "imparting a structural transformation in labour markets in India through formalisation of credit for such family enterprises", the report said.

Earnings have increased across all categories, the report said, adding that with primary subsistence like food, shelter, medical needs being taken care of by the government schemes.

# Apple supplier Foxconn books surprise quarterly profit rise, has conservative outlook for 2024

**REUTERS**  
TAIPEI, NOVEMBER 14

APPLE INC supplier Foxconn logged a surprise 11 per cent increase in third-quarter profit, helped by gains in non-operating income but reiterated revenue was set to fall slightly for the year.

For 2024, the world's largest contract electronics maker has a "relatively conservative and neutral" outlook, its chairman, Young Liu, said, adding that expected growth of 5 per cent for the market "could easily be offset by geopolitics." Net profit for the July-September quarter came in at



Foxconn said it expects to embark on capital expenditure of more than \$90 billion in 2024. **File**

\$43.1 billion (\$1.3 billion), beating market estimates for an 11 per cent drop and despite a sharp 12 per cent tumble in revenue that was a second straight quarter of decline.

Income from investments in subsidiaries, interest revenue and foreign exchange gains quadrupled during the quarter, the company said. Liu added that while the

Taiwanese company did expect revenue to continue to fall in the important holiday season quarter, its performance was likely to be a bit better than previously expected with the decline slight.

"We have entered the traditional season of hot sales in the second half and our operations are set to gradually improve quarter on quarter," he told an earnings briefing.

Apple, which in September launched a new series of iPhones, this month gave a sales forecast for the holiday quarter that missed Wall Street expectations, hurt by weak demand for iPads and wearables. Foxconn said it expects to em-

bark on capital expenditure of more than \$90 billion in 2024 - in line with this year, the bulk of which would be spent on expanding its business in China.

Its electric vehicle business may also benefit from headwinds such as increased competition and rising labour costs in the industry as those factors might push automakers to outsource production, Liu said.

The earnings report comes amid much investor focus on Chinese authorities having opened a tax probe into the company. Liu said Foxconn's business in China was operating normally and there had been no outcome from the investigation as yet.

**Format C-7**

(For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms &amp; website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**(1) Name of the Constituency : **BAYTOO - 136**Name of the candidate : **HARISH CHOUDHARY**

SI No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	<b>Criminal - Sections 147, 148, 323, 427, 336 IPC</b>
b.	Case No.	<b>FIR No. 142/2022 PS Baytoo</b>
c.	Name of Court	<b>Not applicable</b>
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	<b>Not applicable</b>
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	<b>Not applicable</b>
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	<b>Not applicable</b>
g.	Any other information required to be given	<b>Above FIR, A SB Criminal misc. Petition No. 7437/2022 filed by High Court Jodhpur, stayed investigation and further proceedings.</b>

**2.** The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)

**The candidate is a promising & prominent face of the constituency. Candidate has initiated various social development schemes in the constituency. Candidate has acceptance in all the sects of society and his connection with the common people is unmatched. Even the geographical challenges have not stopped the candidate from doing development works for the constituency.**

**3.** Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)

**Firstly The case & sections levied upon candidate are of bailable in nature. Candidate has never been involved in any serious crime. Secondly the candidate got maximum support in the surveys conducted by the party.**

(2) Name of the Constituency- BAYTOO - 136

Name of the candidate- HARISH CHOUDHARY



(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)  
General Secretary (Organisation)  
Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee

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Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**(1) Name of the Constituency : **KUSHALGARH - 166**Name of the candidate : **RAMILA KHADIA**

SI No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	<b>Criminal - 332, 323, 504, 506, 186, 34 IPC</b>
b.	Case No.	<b>Case No. 159/2021</b>
c.	Name of Court	<b>ACJM Kushalgarh</b>
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	<b>Yes</b>
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	<b>N/A</b>
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	<b>N/A</b>
g.	Any other information required to be given	<b>N/A</b>

**2.** The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)

**The candidate is a hard working political worker, well known among local citizens of this constituency. The candidate has done a lot of social work which has directly & positively affected the people of Kushalgarh. Being a woman, this candidate has been strongly giving voice to women's issues on various platforms.**

**3.** Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)

**The candidate has often faced political backlash for being vocal of the rights of the people of Kushalgarh. The case against the candidate held no merit whatsoever and was politically motivated which is why the Congress party has chosen this candidate from this seat.**

(2) Name of the Constituency- KUSHALGARH - 166

Name of the candidate- RAMILA KHADIA



(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)  
General Secretary (Organisation)  
Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय**  
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा**शुद्धि-पत्र**

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा द्वारा Expression of Interest No.-RDD/SD/CHATRA/EOI-23/2023-24 में वर्णित कार्य जिसका PR 310670 द्वारा निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु कडिका क्रमांक 06 में Date of Publication of Tender on Website 11.11.2023 (11:00AM) के स्थान पर 17.11.2023 (11:00AM), कडिका क्रमांक 07 में Start Date/Time for Online Submission of bid 11.11.2023 (11:00AM) के स्थान पर 17.11.2023 (11:00AM), कडिका क्रमांक 08 में Last date of submission of Bid online/Time for receipt of bids 18.11.2023 (17:00PM) के स्थान पर 24.11.2023 (17:00PM), कडिका क्रमांक 09 में Last Date and Time of Submission of Hard Copy of Cost of Tender, EMD and Other Documents 21.11.2023 (03:00PM) के स्थान पर 25.11.2023 (03:00PM) तथा कडिका क्रमांक 10 में Technical Bid Opening Date and Time 22.11.2023 (02:00PM) के स्थान पर 28.11.2023 (02:00PM) पढ़ा जाय।  
निविदा की शेष शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,  
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल  
चतरा

PR 311357 Rural Development (23-24)\_D

**ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

E-Tender Notice No. IMF-MP-PLG-NBQS-523 Date: 07-11-2023. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Name of work:** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Fire Detection & Suppression System in Power/Pantry cars and Fire Detection & Alarm system in AC Coaches of North east frontier Railway at C&W New Bongaigaon Workshop for a period of 01(One) year. **Tender Value:** ₹91,79,745.10. **Earnest Money:** ₹1,83,600/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** 15.00 hrs. on 21-11-2023. For details please visit [www.iimps.gov.in](http://www.iimps.gov.in)  
CWM, New Bongaigaon  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**Haryana Sarasvati Heritage Development Board**  
(Government of Haryana)

SCO 217, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sector-14, Panchkula-134109  
T: 0172-2585551, 4111694 Email: [sarasvatihdb.office@gmail.com](mailto:sarasvatihdb.office@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.haryanasarasvatihdb.in](http://www.haryanasarasvatihdb.in)

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
**Exhibition at Gita Mahostav-2023**  
(Tentative date 17.12.2023 to 24.12.2023)

The Haryana Sarasvati Heritage Development Board is seeking individuals /organizations to submit their Expression of Interest for the setting up of a size of 50'x30' exhibition at Purushottam Bagh, Brahma Sarovar near Aarti Sihal in Kurukshetra. The exhibition is planned to be occurred from 17.12.2023 to 24.12.2023 (tentatively) at Gita Mahostav-2023 in Kurukshetra. The scope of work and pre-qualification are available on the official website [www.sarasvatihdb.in](http://www.sarasvatihdb.in). Interested firms can submit its EoI on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. The offer/bid will be processed on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2023 by the committee constituted for this purpose.

Sd/-  
Chief Executive Officer  
Haryana Sarasvati Heritage  
Development Board

Dated: 14.11.2023

22644/HRV

**Government of Odisha, e-Procurement Notice**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

B-1247

Bid Identification No. C.C.E. Dkl.(R&amp;B) 21/2023-24

Email [Id-sedkplwd@gmail.com](mailto:Id-sedkplwd@gmail.com)

Letter No. 3493 / Dt. 9.11.23

The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Building works as detailed below:-

- Name of the work : Road & Building works
- No of works : 08 (Eight) Nos
- Estimated Cost : **Rs. 1.02 Crore to Rs. 7.53 Crore** (as given in column No. 03 of table)
- Cost of tender paper : Rs. 10,000.00
- Class of contractor : "B", "A" & "Special" Class (as given in column No. 07 of table)
- Period of Completion of work : 06 (Six) to 09 (Nine) Calendar months (as given in column No. 08 of table)
- Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website : From Dt. 15.11.2023 to 5.00 P.. of Dt. 29.11.2023
- Date of opening of bid : Dt. 29.11.2023 at 5.30 P.M.

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in). Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer  
Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal  
OIPR/34132/11/0028/2324

**Format C-7**

(For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms &amp; website of the party)

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(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**(1) Name of the Constituency : **PUSHKAR- 99**Name of the candidate : **NASEEM AKHTAR INSAF**

SI No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	<b>Criminal, Section 143, 147, 149, 452, 332, 353, 186, 189, 50</b>
b.	Case No.	<b>FIR No.230/2023 PS Civil Lines Ajmer</b>
c.	Name of Court	<b>N/A</b>
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	<b>No</b>
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	<b>N/A</b>
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	<b>N/A</b>
g.	Any other information required to be given	<b>NO</b>

**2.** The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)

**The candidate has been selected on the basis of Congress party's initiative in regard to maximum representation of women in politics. The candidate has been MLA of the constituency in the past as well. The candidate has always raised issues of public importance whether inside the assembly or anywhere else. The candidate represents the holy city of pushkar and under her watch the city of pushkar has always been peaceful & progressive and has witnessed a lot of developmental works. All this has made the candidate quite popular among the common people of this area.**

**3.** Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)

**The candidate represents the sentiment of the holy city of Pushkar in a pious way and this makes a perfect balance for the cosmopolitan culture of Pushkar. The candidate was wrongly implicated in this case & the same has been done to malign the popular image of the candidate. In fact, the case against the candidate was absolutely politically motivated. The candidate was clear choice of the people of Pushkar in many surveys which is why the Congress party has selected her from this constituency.**

(2) Name of the Constituency- PUSHKAR-99

Name of the candidate- NASEEM AKHTAR INSAF



(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)  
General Secretary (Organisation)  
Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee

**उत्तर प्रदेश आयुर्विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय, साईफ, इटावा (उ.प्र.)**  
**Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences, Saifai, Etawah - 206130 (U.P.)**  
 Phone: 05688-276591 Website: www.upums.ac.in

Ref: 3168 /UPUMS/Recruitment Cell/2023-24 Dated: 13.11.2023

**Advt. No. 34/ UPUMS / Recruitment Cell / 2023-24**  
**Common Recruitment Test (CRT) Through Online Medium 2023-24**

विश्वविद्यालय के निम्नलिखित गैरशैक्षणिक पदों हेतु भारतीय नागरिकों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं—

1. Pay Matrix Rs.25500-81100 Level-4 (Senior Administrative Assistant, Draftsman).
2. Pay Matrix Rs.29200-92300 Level-5 (Receptionist, Sanitation Inspector, Technician (CSSD), O.T. Assistant, Technical Assistant (Cardiology), Technical Assistant (Neuro Physiology), Technician (Dialysis), Jr. Medical Record Officer).
3. Pay Matrix Rs.35400-112400 Level-6 (Technical Officer (Biomed), Medical Social Service Officer Gr-2, Librarian Grade-2, Junior Engineer (Civil/Elec/Mech/Tele/AC), Medical Lab Technologist, Technician (OT), Technician (Radiology), Technician (Radiotherapy)).
4. Pay Matrix Rs.44900-142400 Level -7-Dietician.
5. Pay Matrix Rs 47600-151100 Level-8 Assistant Security Officer.

पदों की संख्या, अर्हता, आवेदन की तिथि, प्रक्रिया तथा अन्य विवरण विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट- [www.upums.ac.in](http://www.upums.ac.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।  
 कुलसचिव

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	Name of Board/ Corp./Auth	Name of Work/ Notice Tender	Opening Date/ Closing Date (Time)	Amount/Tend (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Board Corp./Auth	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1.	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GURUGRAM	DRILLING, BORING AND INSTALLATION OF INCHES OF TUBEWELL WITH REVERSE ROTATORY METHOD IN 8 BISWA MAHALWADA GURUGRAM VILLAGE WARD 08 ZONE 2 UNDER MC GURUGRAM + 1 WORKS	08.11.2023 20.11.2023	89.86 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9468201007 nssuhag@gmail.com

22623 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

**KMML The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**  
 (A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583  
 Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: [md@kmmil.com](mailto:md@kmmil.com), URL: [www.kmmil.com](http://www.kmmil.com)

**TENDER NOTICE**

For more details, please visit E-Tendering Portal, <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or [www.kmmil.com](http://www.kmmil.com)

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2023_KMML_619460_1	For supply of conveyor belt
2	2023_KMML_621518_1	Detailed Project Report preparation to manufacture sponge iron from iron oxide at KMML.
3	2023_KMML_621916_1	For the manufacture and supply of 3,000 Nos of Jumbo bags Polypropylene product-Sillimanite

Chavara 14.11.2023 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

**Govt. of Bihar**

**Nalanda College of Engineering, Chandī (Nalanda)**  
 नालन्दा अभियंत्रण महाविद्यालय, चण्डी (नालन्दा) बिहार-803108

**NBA ACCREDITED\***  
 \*First NBA ACCREDITED CSE UG Program Among All Engineering Colleges in Bihar  
 Website: [www.ncechandi.ac.in](http://www.ncechandi.ac.in) E-mail: [nceprincipalchandi@gmail.com](mailto:nceprincipalchandi@gmail.com)  
 (Science, Technology & Technical Education Department, Govt. of Bihar, Patna)

**Requirement for Guest Assistant Professor**

Applications are invited for Guest Assistant Professor for Nalanda College of Engineering, Chandī (Nalanda) as per the performa attached for the following mentioned department.

Guest Assistant Professor in Department	Desirable Qualification in B. Tech./M. Tech./Ph. D. from	Date and Time of Interview	Venue
Aeronautical Engineering	Aeronautical Engineering Department	Will be updated on the College Website	Office, Nalanda College of Engineering, Chandī (Nalanda)-803108
Computer Science & Engineering	Computer Science & Engineering Department		

Application form can be downloaded from website- [www.ncechandi.ac.in](http://www.ncechandi.ac.in)  
 Scanned filled up Performa should be sent to [ncechandi2008@gmail.com](mailto:ncechandi2008@gmail.com) as an attachment on or before 25.11.2023.  
 Applicants must carry original academic certificates along with one set of its self-attested Xerox copy, category certificate, residence certificate, hard copy of resume, and 2 recent passport size photographs are required to produce at the time of interview.

**Note:-**

1. Essential qualification is as per AICTE norms/Science, Technology, and Technical Education Department, Govt. of Bihar.
2. Remuneration will be paid as per existing rules and directives of Science, Technology, and Technical Education Department, Govt. of Bihar.
3. Retired persons may also apply.
4. The candidates who applied against previous advertisement Dated 19.10.2023 will be considered for this interview also.
5. The services of Guest Assistant Professor will be terminated without notice if found unsatisfactory.
6. The applicants must visit the college website for update.

This information is available on [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) also

**Principal**  
 N.C.E.Chandi (Nalanda)

PR. No. 011812 (Sci. & Tech.) 2023-24 नमो से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है

**बिहार सरकार**  
**शिक्षा विभाग**

**आवश्यक सूचना**

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि "अनुसूचित जाति प्रवेशिकोत्तर छात्रवृत्ति योजना", "अनुसूचित जनजाति प्रवेशिकोत्तर छात्रवृत्ति योजना", "मुख्यमंत्री अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति प्रवेशिकोत्तर छात्रवृत्ति योजना" एवं "मुख्यमंत्री पिछड़ा वर्ग एवं अति पिछड़ा वर्ग प्रवेशिकोत्तर छात्रवृत्ति योजना-2023" के अन्तर्गत शैक्षणिक वर्ष 2023-24 हेतु PMS पोर्टल ([www.pmsonline.bih.nic.in](http://www.pmsonline.bih.nic.in) एवं "मोबाईल ऐप") के माध्यम से पुनः ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित करने का अंतिम अवसर प्रदान किया जाता है। आवेदन करने हेतु दिनांक-15.11.2023 से 31.12.2023 तक की तिथि निर्धारित की जाती है।

ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने से संबंधित विस्तृत दिशा-निर्देश PMS Portal पर उपलब्ध है।

**निदेशक (माध्यमिक शिक्षा), बिहार, पटना**

**Format C-7**  
 (For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates. along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
 Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**  
 Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**  
 (1) Name of the Constituency : **LALSOT (ST)- 89**  
 Name of the candidate : **PARSADI LAL MEENA**

SI No.

<b>1. Criminal antecedents</b>	
a. Nature of Offence	<b>Criminal- Section- 302,201 IPC</b>
b. Case No.	<b>FIR No. 295/2006 PS Gandhi Nagar Jaipur East</b>
c. Name of Court	<b>ACJM 2 Jaipur Metro 1</b>
d. Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	<b>N/A</b>
e. Date of Conviction, if any	<b>N/A</b>
f. Details of punishment undergone, if any	<b>N/A</b>
g. Any other information required to be given	<b>Police have submitted a Final Report bearing no. 152/2021 in the matter on 9.11.2021 while it has not been protested till now.</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)</b>
	<b>The candidate is a political stalwart who has served the constituency for 6 terms. The candidate has been in the Rajasthan cabinet &amp; has always served the people of not only his constituency but also the entire state. The candidate in his long political stint has done some remarkable work for the people of Lalsot. He is one of the most respected politicians across all political factions &amp; parties. The candidate being the current health minister of state has initiated many beneficiary schemes for downtrodden people across state.</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)</b>
	<b>The case against the candidate was a politically motivated case filed by his detractors. The Investigating Officer in the case has already filed a closure report in it. The candidate has also challenged the FIR in Hon'ble High court. Due to a proven track record of the candidate as an able administrator, the Congress party chose him over any other candidate to contest from this seat.</b>

(2) Name of the Constituency- **LALSOT (ST) - 89**  
 Name of the candidate- **PARSADI LAL MEENA**

**(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)**  
 General Secretary (Organisation)  
 Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee

**Format C-7**  
 (For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates. along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
 Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**  
 Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**  
 (1) Name of the Constituency : **MARWAR JUNCTION - 119**  
 Name of the candidate : **KHUSHVEER SINGH**

SI No.

<b>1. Criminal antecedents</b>	
a. Nature of Offence	<b>1. Criminal - Section 420, 467, 468, 471, 474, 120 B IPC</b> <b>2. Criminal - Section 420, 467, 468, 471, 474, 120 B IPC</b>
b. Case No.	<b>1. 207/2020 PS. Marwar Junction</b> <b>2. 152/2021 PS. Marwar Junction</b>
c. Name of Court	<b>1. JM Court Marwar Junction</b> <b>2. JM Court Marwar Junction</b>
d. Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	<b>1. NO</b> <b>2. NO</b>
e. Date of Conviction, if any	<b>1. N/A</b> <b>2. N/A</b>
f. Details of punishment undergone, if any	<b>1. N/A</b> <b>2. N/A</b>
g. Any other information required to be given	<b>1. N/A</b> <b>2. N/A</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)</b>
	<b>The candidate is known for his sharp political acumen and has been working tirelessly in this area to ensure communal harmony and peace which has made him quite popular among local people of this area. The candidate is known to be a grassroot politician who is deeply connected with the people of the constituency.</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)</b>
	<b>The candidate's persistent work to ensure peace and harmony in this area has endeared him to the local people which was witnessed in the Party's surveys as well. The cases against this candidate were filed purely with political motive to defame him. The Congress party believes that such grassroot leaders should get a chance to become people's representative which is why this candidate was selected over any other candidate.</b>

(2) Name of the Constituency- **MARWAR JUNCTION -119**  
 Name of the candidate- **KHUSHVEER SINGH**

**(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)**  
 General Secretary (Organisation)  
 Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION**  
**ENGINEER SOUTHERN**  
**(R&B) CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR**  
 Phone: 0680-2281582, e-mail: ccesbam@gmail.com  
 INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]

Bid Identification No. CCE, S.C (R&B)-BAM-21/2023-24  
 No. 4681 // Dated: 09.11.2023

**The Chief Construction Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur** on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of **Building and Bridge Works** as detailed in the table below.

1. Nature of work	Building and Bridge Works
2. No. of work	7 Nos.
3. Tender Cost	Rs.10,000/- (online)
4. Class of Contractor	"B" Class & "A" Class & Special Class
5. Availability of Bid document in the website	From 23.11.2023-10.00 AM to 06.12.2023 5.30 PM
6. Date of Opening of Bid	07.12.2023 at 11.30 A.M.

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 Construction Engineer**  
 Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur  
 OIPR-34103/11/0022/2324

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**IRRIGATION DIVISION BUNDU, RANCHI.**  
 E-mail:- [irrigationbundu@gmail.com](mailto:irrigationbundu@gmail.com)

**e-Procurement Tender Notice**  
 e-Procurement Reference No. -WRD/E.E./IRR.DIV/BUNDU/NIT NO.- 02SBD/2023-2024.

1 Name of work	Restoration work of Ichagarh Branch Canal including Lining Under Kanchi Weir Irrigation Scheme.
2 Estimated Cost(Rs)	Rs. 58,86,86,061.13
3 Bid Security (Rs.)	Rs. 58,87,000.00 (Online mode)
4 Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 10,000.00 (Online mode)
5 Time of Completion	24 (Twenty Four) Months.
6 Availability of Tender On Line	25.11.2023 From 03:00 PM
7 Bid Submission	From 25.11.2023, 03:00 PM to 15.12.2023 upto 05:00 PM
8 Pre Bid Meeting	05.12.2023 03:00 PM Office of the Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, (Jal Bhawan) Ranchi.
9 Submission of Hard Copy	16.12.2023 upto 02:00 PM in office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Bundu, Ranchi.
10 Date & Time of Opening of pre-Qualification Bid.	18.12.2023, 02:00 PM
11 Time and Date of opening of Technical bid.	To be announced Later
12 Time and Date of opening of Financial bid.	To be announced Later
13 Name and address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Bundu, Ranchi.
14 Contact No. of Procurement Officer	9122872080.
15 Help Line No. e-Procurement	8709567679.

**Note:-**  
 1. Only e-Tender will be accepted.  
 2. Additional performance security amount shall be applicable as prescribed in CE(Monitoring), Ranchi Letter No. 430 Dated 19-11-2020 and Secretary of RCD Letter No. 2146 (S) Dated 09-09-2020.  
 3. Payment of Mobilization advance / equipment advance shall be applicable as per Joint Secretary, WRD Ranchi Letter No. 656 Dated 22-12-2020.  
 4. The bidder should be fully acquainted with site before the tender.  
 5. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tender(s) received or to allot the work to one or more contractor(s) without assigning any reason thereof.  
 6. Estimated Cost May vary. Online BOQ amount shall prevail.  
 7. Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer  
 Irrigation Division Bundu.  
 PR.NO.311332 Irrigation(23-24):D

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank**  
 Rasoolpur Chowk Branch (17492) | Tefasee Syndicate

**POSSESSION NOTICE (SECTION 13 (4)) (For Immovable Property)**

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice on Dated- 15.07.2023 calling upon the Borrower/Mortgagor - **Mr. Shiv Shankar Rai, S/o Sitaran Rai, Co-Borrower - Mr. Shyam Sundar Kumar S/o Mr. Shiv Shankar Rai** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 15,25,858.08 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Eight Rupees and Eight Paise Only)** + cost and charges with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **8<sup>th</sup> day of November of the year 2023**.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank Rasoolpur Chowk Branch** for an amount of **Rs. 15,25,858.08 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Eight Rupees and Eight Paise Only)** with further cost, charges and interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**Description of the Immovable Property** - All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of **Mr. Shiv Shankar Rai, S/o Sitaran Rai, Location - At Salempur, Anchal - Kanti SRO - Motipur, Dist. - Muzaffarpur, Residential land, Khata No. - 99, Khesra No. - 480, Area - 2.0 Decimals, At - Salempur, PS - Ahiyapur, Anchal - Kanti, SRO - Motipur, Dist. - Muzaffarpur, Khesra No. - 480, Area - 2.0 Decimals. Boundary - North - Nij Mortgagor, South - Chulalhai Rai, East - Nij Mortgagor, West - Sarak.**

Date : 08.11.2023 Place : Muzaffarpur Authorised Officer (Canara Bank)

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank**  
 सिडिकेज Syndicate

Recovery Section, Regional Office, 4th floor, Luv Kush Tower, Exhibition Road, PATNA - 800001  
 Ph: 0612-2320039, Email: [recropat@canarabank.com](mailto:recropat@canarabank.com)

**PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/hypothecated/Pledged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive/Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.11.2023. Details are as under:

**M/S AGARWAL STEEL TRADERS**  
 E-AUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY  
 Flat No.308

**BUILDING FRONTVIEW BUILDING SIDEVIEW**

LOCATION: PATNA

**Property Details:** All Part & Parcel of Residential Flat property in the name of Smt Indira Agarwal situated at Flat No. 308, 3rd Floor, Vijayam Complex, Kankarbagh Main Road, Opp to Vishal Mega Mart, Patna, Bihar 800020. Area: 1675 Sq ft (Builtup Area), 4 BHK Flat. Boundaries of Flat No. 308: North-Front Setback of the Building, South- Common Passage, East- Flat No. 309, West- Flat no. 307. **Boundaries of Apartment:** North- Old Bypass Road Kankarbagh Main Road, South- Back setback of House of Harimohan Singh, East- Block B situated area of Saraswati Devi, West- Branch Road.

**Reserve Price:** Rs. 93,96,000/-, EMD: Rs. 9,40,000/- to be deposited on or before 28.11.2023. **Date of E-Auction:** 30.11.2023. **Branch Manager Contact no.8210998432, RO Nodal officers Contact no.7903741818, E- Auction Website:** <https://indianbankseaction.com>, email id: [cb2004@canarabank.com](mailto:cb2004@canarabank.com).

Date : 14.11.2023 Place : Patna Authorised Officer (Canara Bank)

**LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.**  
 2nd Floor, LIC Jeevan Prakash Building, Frazer Road, Patna - 800001

**[Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 15.06.2023 calling upon the loanee, **Pranita Singh / Vijay Kumar Singh**, W/o Vijay Kumar Singh 31, Near Sapahi Devi Mandir, Agarwa, S. K. Nagar, Motihari, East Champaran, Bihar - 845401 under Loan Account No. - 212100004070 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 33,90,412.80 + SARFAESI + Other Charges** will be applicable at the time of closure Loan Amount in Words - **Thirty Three Lakhs Ninety Thousand Four Hundred Twelve Rupees and Eighty Paise Only** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules on this **9th day of November of the year 2023**.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charges of the LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED for an amount **Rs. 33,90,412.80 + SARFAESI + Other Charges** will be applicable at the time of closure Loan Amount in Words - **Thirty Three Lakhs Ninety Thousand Four Hundred Twelve Rupees and Eighty Paise Only** and interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
 All that part and parcel of the property consisting of **Sale Deed No. - 20572 & 20570, Dated - 27.12.2010**, Khata No. - 9, Plot No. - 550, Circle - Motihari, Thana - Agarwa 32, DSRO - Motihari, Area (in Decimal) 2.90, East Champaran, Bihar - 845401, in the name of **Vijay Kumar Singh & Pranita Singh, Boundary - North - Pramod Singh/ Pramod Singh, South - Hal Baidar etc / Hal Baidar etc, East - Anul Hoda / Hal Baidar, West - Hal Baidar Pranita Singh / Rasta P.W.D.**

Date : 09.11.2023 Place : Muzaffarpur Authorised Officer (LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD)

**यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India**  
 (एकता सर्वकार का संदेश) (A Govt of India Undertaking)

**ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH PATNA**  
 1st Floor, Steel House, Near S K Puri Police Check Post, Boring Road, Patna-800001  
 Email : [arb.patna@unionbankofindia.bank](mailto:arb.patna@unionbankofindia.bank)

**APPENDIX-IV RULE - 8 (1) POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch (ARB), 1st Floor, Steel House, Near Police Check Post, Boring Road, Patna-800001 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 07.06.2018 calling upon **1) M/s Enaviya Food and Beverages (P) Ltd, 15/24, Kamruddinganj, Biharsharif, PS - Laheri, Dist - Nalanda - 803101. 2) Mr. Sanjay Kumar S/o Shri Jainendra Kumar, 15/24, Kamruddinganj, Biharsharif, PS - Laheri, Dist - Nalanda - 803101. 3) Poshpanjali Kumari, W/o Sanjay Kumar 15/24, Kamruddinganj, Biharsharif, PS - Laheri, Dist - Nalanda - 803101. 4) Mr. Kaushendra Kumar S/o Shri Jainendra Kumar, 15/24, Kamruddinganj, Biharsharif, PS - Laheri, Dist - Nalanda - 803101. 5) Mrs. Ramavratni Devi, W/o Shri Jainendra Kumar, 15/24, Kamruddinganj, Biharsharif, PS - Laheri, Dist - Nalanda-803101. 6) Mr. Ramchandra Prasad S/o Dhaka Mahto New Area, Rana Bigha, Biharsharif, Dist - Nalanda - 803101. 7) Mrs. Urmila Devi W/o Mr. Sachchidananda Prasad 77, Kutalapur, Vill-Kutulapur, Achal-Ban, Dist. - Nalanda-803101 to repay the amount mentioned in notice being **Rs. 4,26,33,894.88/- (Rupees Four crore Twenty Six Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Four and Paise Eighty Eight Only)** as on 31.05.2018 & interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.**

The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor and also the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereunder in exercise of the powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this **10th day of November of the year 2023**.

The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular, and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch (ARB) for an amount **Rs.4,26,33,894.88/- (Rupees Four crore Twenty Six Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Four and Paise Eighty Eight Only)** as on 31.05.2018 and further interest thereon.

The Borrower's/Guarantor's/Mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
 1) All the piece and parcel of land and building admeasuring about 17 Katha belonging to **Mr. Sanjay Kumar S/o Mr. Jainendra Kumar** situated at Mauza:Bhikuwa, Rev Thana No. - 33, Tauzi No. - 200, Khata No. - 06, Khesra No. - 221(P), P.S - Fatuha, Dist. - Patna and **Boundary - North - Property of Self, South - Plot No. 221, East - 20 Feet Alang Road, West - Part of Plot No. 221.**  
 2) All the piece and parcel of land and building admeasuring about 3 Decimal and two storied Building thereupon belonging to **Mr. Ramchandra Prasad S/o Mr. Dhaka Mahto** situated at New Area, Rana Bigha, Near Kargil Chowk, Bihar sharif bearing Thana No. - 95, Tauzi No. - 1123, Khata No. - 24 & 67, Khesra No. - 6 & 5(P), Dist. - Nalanda and **Boundary - North - Property of Om Prakash, South - Road thereafter Property of Doman Sao, East - Road thereafter Property of Bholu Ravidash, West - Property of Sahdeo Prasad**  
 3) All the piece and parcel of land and building admeasuring about 8 Decimal belonging to **Mrs. Urmila Devi W/o Mr. Sachchidanand** situated behind Ambe Hotel, Devisarai, Ramchandrapur, Bihar Sharif at Thana No. - 10930, Khata No. - 28, Survey Plot No. - 366 (P), Dist. - Nalanda and **Boundary - North - 12 Feet Wide Road South - Property of Sadhu Sharan Prasad, East - 11 Feet Wide Road, West - Property of Smt. Rajkumari Devi**  
 4) All the piece and parcel of land and building admeasuring about 2 Katha and two storied Building thereupon belonging to **Mr. Rambrati Devi W/o Mr. Jainendra Kumar** situated at Kamruddinganj, Near Dr. Kamta Clinic, Bihar Sharif bearing Holding No. - 186, Ward No. - 8/24, Dist. - Nalanda and **Boundary - North - Property of Kameshwar Prasad, South - 6 Feet Gali, East - 10 Feet Gali, West - 6 Feet Gali**

Date : 10.11.2023 Place : Patna Authorised Officer (Union Bank of India)

**Format C-7**  
 (For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
 Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**  
 Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**  
 (1) Name of the Constituency : **SANGANER - 055**  
 Name of the candidate : **MR. PUSHPENDRA BHARDWAJ**

SI No.	
1.	<b>Criminal antecedents</b>
a.	Nature of Offence <b>1. Criminal - Section 147, 148, 149, 452, 427 IPC 2. Criminal - Section 188 IPC</b>
b.	Case No. <b>1. 155/2001 2. 1129/2008</b>
c.	Name of Court <b>1. ACJM No. 9 2. ACJM No. 9 Jaipur 1st</b>
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No) <b>1. Yes 2. Yes</b>
e.	Date of Conviction, if any <b>1. 28.04.2022 2. No</b>
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any <b>1. Convicted but no punishment and benefit of section 12 of probation of offenders act granted. 2. No</b>
g.	Any other information required to be given <b>1. No 2. Notice issued against accused</b>
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words) <b>The candidate is a highly educated person and has been active in public life since his student days. The candidate was a popular students' leader and has been dedicatedly working to help students especially from underprivileged and disadvantaged sections of the society. The candidate has also been involved in social service for the people of his locality.</b>
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words) <b>This candidate is a young and dynamic political activist who works energetically for the social welfare of the people which is why the Congress party decided to field him from this constituency over any other candidate.</b>

(2) Name of the Constituency- **SANGANER - 055**  
 Name of the candidate- **MR. PUSHPENDRA BHARDWAJ**

(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)  
 General Secretary (Organisation)  
 Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee

**Format C-7**  
 (For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
 Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**  
 Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**  
 (1) Name of the Constituency : **DUNGARPUR (ST) - 158**  
 Name of the candidate : **GANESH GHOGARA**

SI No.	
1.	<b>Criminal antecedents</b>
a.	Nature of Offence <b>Criminal - 143, 342, 347, 353, 186 IPC</b>
b.	Case No. <b>FIR No. 128/2022 PS Sadar, Dist. Dungarpur</b>
c.	Name of Court <b>Judicial Magistrate, Dungarpur</b>
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No) <b>NO</b>
e.	Date of Conviction, if any <b>N/A</b>
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any <b>N/A</b>
g.	Any other information required to be given <b>N/A</b>
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words) <b>The candidate is a highly educated person and holds masters degree and M.Phil from a reputed university of Rajasthan. The candidate is a young and emerging political worker of this area and is known for his social welfare works in this constituency. The candidate earned laurels for his works for common people during pandemic times which made him a popular political worker in this area.</b>
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words) <b>Only one criminal case has been registered against the candidate which was also a fallout of a political protest. It would not be unfair to call it a politically motivated case. The Congress party believes that politically motivated cases should not stop a political activist from becoming a people's representative which is why the party has selected his candidate from this seat.</b>

(2) Name of the Constituency- **DUNGARPUR (ST) - 158**  
 Name of the candidate- **GANESH GHOGARA**

(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)  
 General Secretary (Organisation)  
 Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee



**INVITATION OF APPLICATION FOR ALLOTMENT OF CAMERO SI REGIMENTAL SHOPS AT SUBROTO PARK**

1. Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Central Accounts Office, Subroto Park, New Delhi-10 invites applications from War Widows/Widows of Defence personnel killed while on duty, Disabled soldiers/EX Servicemen and spouses/Widows of Ex servicemen etc for allotment of SI Regimental Shop at Subroto Park Complex, New Delhi. Details of shops are appended below:  
(a) Stationery Shop at Ganga Complex  
(b) Food Stall at Ganga Complex

2. The applicable terms and conditions are mentioned in application form.

3. The application form is available from 15 Nov 23 at Service Institute, AFCAO, Subroto Park, New Delhi-10 between 0800 hrs to 1400 hrs on every day except Saturday, Sunday and holidays (Tele No. 9205709144). The application form for tendering may be collected on payment of Rs. 500/- per application. The last date of deposit / receipt of completed application is 29 Nov 23 by 1400 hrs along with EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only). The EMD should be in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of OIC SI Fund, Payable at New Delhi. Shop will be allotted on auction basis.

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Rashid Ali @ Bhindi** S/o Abid Ali R/o House No. I-454, Janta Colony, Welcome, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 156/2012 U/s 457/380/411 IPC and 25 Arms Act** registered at P.S. Jafraabad, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Rashid Ali @ Bhindi** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Rashid Ali @ Bhindi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rashid Ali @ Bhindi** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **19.12.2023**.

By Order  
**Ms. Aayushi Saxena**  
Metropolitan Magistrate-05  
Room No. 48, Shahdara Distt.,  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/11608/NE/2023  
(Court Notice)

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown **Age: about 30 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Build: Strong, Injury Mark: both hand, both legs broken and head injury, Wearing: Yellow blue coloured checked shirt and Blue coloured jeans**, was found dead in Train Accident on 12.11.2023 at 8:14 PM from KM Pole No.8/11-8/13, UP line Adarsh Nagar Railway Station, Back side of Fortis Hospital, Delhi. The dead body has been Preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary for 72 hours on Token No.446/23. In this regard a **DD No.20A dated 12.11.2023 u/s 174 Cr.P.C.** has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO  
P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-23692455  
Mob.: 9625614517, 9868037477

DP/13062/RLY/2023



**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, SLNMCH, KORAPUT**

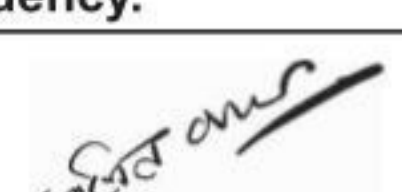
TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT OF AGENCIES ON RATE CONTRACT BASIS FOR SUPPLY OF HIP REPLACEMENT IMPLANT (SET AS PER DEMAND) TO SLNMCH, KORAPUT

Name of the Health Institution: SLNMCH, KORAPUT (HEALTH & F.W. DEPTT., GOVT. OF ODISHA)  
Email: slnmchkpt18@gmail.com  
Bid Reference No.: 6369/13-11-2023  
DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE BID DOCUMENT: Dt-13-11-23  
LAST DATE & TIME OF RECEIPT OF BID DOCUMENTS: Dt-04-12-23-5PM  
DATE & TIME OF OPENING OF TENDER: Dt-05-12-23-12:30PM  
PLACE OF OPENING OF BID DOCUMENTS PRE-BID CONFERENCE: O/o the Medical Superintendent, SLNMCH, Koraput.  
ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION AND RECEIPT OF BID DOCUMENTS: O/o the Medical Superintendent, SLNMCH, Koraput. email: slnmchkpt18@gmail.com  
OTPR-1012/11/0009/2324

**Format C-7**  
(For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

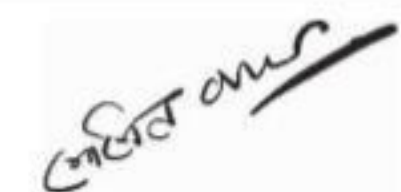
Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**  
Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**  
(1) Name of the Constituency : **SARDARPURA - 127**  
Name of the candidate : **ASHOK GEHLOT**

SI No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	1. Criminal - Sections 467, 471, 409, 420, 120B IPC 2. Criminal - Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 471 IPC 3. Criminal - Sections 409, 467, 471, 420 r.w.s 120B IPC 4. Criminal - Defamation case - 499, 500 IPC
b.	Case No.	1. Case No. 23337/2015 2. FIR No. 472/2014 IPC PS Gandhi Nagar 3. Criminal Misc. Petition u/s 482.Case No. 123/2018 4. Criminal complaint No. 3/2023
c.	Name of Court	1. MM 12 Jaipur Metro 2. AC and MM 2 Jaipur Metro 1 3. Rajasthan High Court at Jaipur 4. ACMM 4, New Delhi
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	1. No 2. No 3. No 4. No
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	1. No 2. No 3. No 4. No
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	1. No 2. No 3. No 4. No
g.	Any other information required to be given	1. Pending but no notice, summon or process served on Shri. Ashok Gehlot 2. Pending but no notice, summon or process served on Shri Ashok Gehlot 3. This miscellaneous petition is filed by complainant Shyam Singh Rathore against the judgement of Special Judge CBI No. 3 - Jaipur was criminal revision No. 044/2016 whereby the court dismissed the revision petition of the complainant. 4. Revision No. 40/2023 has been filed in the Court of District and Session judge cum Special Judge PC ABT CBI, Rouse Avenue 1, New Delhi against the order of ACMM 4, New Delhi summoning Shri. Ashok Gehlot
2.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is a three term Chief Minister of Rajasthan. During his stints as the Chief Minister, he has carried out immense developmental work which endeared him to the people of the state. The candidate has a proven track record as an able administrator even during the pandemic times.
3.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	Most of the cases against the candidate are politically motivated. The candidate has transformed the lives of millions of poor and disadvantaged sections of the population through various social welfare programs which he implemented as the Chief Minister. The candidate is a successful people's representative for five terms now which is why the Congress Party chose to field him again from this constituency.
(2) Name of the Constituency- SARDARPURA - 127 Name of the candidate- ASHOK GEHLOT		
 <b>(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)</b> General Secretary (Organisation) Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee		

**Format C-7**  
(For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**  
Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**  
(1) Name of the Constituency : **PARBATSAR - 114**  
Name of the candidate : **RAMNIWAS GAWARIYA**

SI No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	1. Criminal - 143, 332, 353, 336 IPC 2. Criminal - 143, 186, 286 IPC 3. Criminal - 3/6 of Rajasthan Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2006 4. Criminal - 3/6 of Rajasthan Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2006 5. Criminal - 3/6 of Rajasthan Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2006
b.	Case No.	1. FIR No. 385/2016 at PS Gandhi Nagar 2. FIR No. 247/2016 at PS Gandhi Nagar 3. FIR No. 428/2016 at PS Harmara 4. FIR No. 126/2016 at PS Bagru 5. FIR No. 131/2017 at PS Banipark
c.	Name of Court	1. ACJM 2 Jaipur Metr0 1 2. CJM, Jaipur District 3. ACJM 17 Chomu Jaipur Metro 2 4. N/A 5. N/A
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	1. Yes 2. Yes 3. No 4. No 5. No
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	1. N/A 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A 5. N/A
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	1. N/A 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A 5. N/A
g.	Any other information required to be given	1. N/A 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A 5. N/A
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is young, educated and a prominent political personality in this constituency. The candidate is quite popular among the people of Parbatsar for his 24x7 service to the common people. The candidate is always actively involved in helping and educating people about various programs and social welfare schemes of the government and makes sure that no needy person is denied his rights.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	Most of the cases registered against this candidate are of political nature and were filed during political protests which the candidate carried out and participated in to raise common people's problems. No case registered against this candidate is of serious nature which is why the Congress party has decided to field him from this constituency.
(2) Name of the Constituency- PARBATSAR - 114 Name of the candidate- RAMNIWAS GAWARIYA		
 <b>(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)</b> General Secretary (Organisation) Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee		

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely Laxmi, W/o: Akash and with her son Jatin, Age 2 years, R/o: D-404, Kabir Basti, Malka Ganj, Delhi-07 has been missing since 29.10.2023 at 10:30 AM from her home. In this regard DD No. 93 A, dated 02.11.2023 has been registered at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:



Laxmi & Jatin

Name: Laxmi, Age: 24 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Long, ID Mark: Stich Mark on Chin, Wearing: Unknown. If anyone has any information about this missing female and her son please inform P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO Police Station Subzi Mandi, Delhi Ph: 011-23827354, 8750870186 DP/12902/N/2023

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, राँची कमरा नं० 302, तृतीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी चौक, राँची- 834001 ई-मेल- eemdran-cemr-jhr@nic.in, midranchi2018@gmail.com फोन नं० - 0651-3512781

पत्रांक...../ राँची, दिनांक ...../...../2023 शुद्धि-पत्र कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, राँची का पत्रांक- 953 दिनांक- 06.11.2023 द्वारा PR No. 310831 Minor Irrigation (23-24)#D दिनांक 08.11.2023 से प्रकाशित निविदा में निम्न प्रकार संशोधन किया गया है-

PR 311304 Building (23-24)\_D Sd/- Chief Engineer/Transmission Vidyuth Soudha, Vijayawada, AP

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice Tender No : 311, 312/SE/PHC/ TSH/2023-24 1. Jal Jeevan Mission- JMW-WSS to Aloor and Kodakara (Pair I) Construction of 10 MLD WTP (LS Estimate), 2. State Plan- 2021-22-WSS to Irinjalkuda Municipality and Muriyad & Velookkara- Construction of 22LL OHSR and 350mm DI K9 CWP/M, EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/-, 2,00,000/-, Tender fee : Rs. 17,700/-, 11,800/- Last Date for submitting Tender : 23-11-2023 03:00pm Phone : 0487-2423230 Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

APTRANSCO :: Vijayawada e-Procurement Tender Notice

The APTRANSCO invites bids on e-procurement platform vide Tender Specification No.s 1) PMM22-e-49/2023 for Procurement of 1) 400KV 2500A HCB Isolators & 220KV, 2500A/1600A/ 800A Motor operated HDB Isolator Metallics and 2) PMM22-e-50/2023 1) 400KV, 2500A HCB Isolator Metallics with 1E/S/2E/S/3) PMM11-e-51/2023 for Procurement of 220kV & 400KV Solid Core Insulators. Bidding documents are available at www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in. Date of availability of Bids: 15.11.2023 @ 5p.m.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Sonu @ Bhim, S/o Late Balkishan, R/o Village Fakharpur Khera, District Baghat, Uttar Pradesh has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 679/2016 U/S 387/507/120B IPC PS Mangolpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Sonu @ Bhim can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sonu @ Bhim has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sonu @ Bhim of FIR No. 679/2016 U/S 387/507/120B IPC PS Mangolpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 16.12.2023.

By Order Shri Rishabh Kapoor Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (North-West) Room No. 105, First Floor Rohini Courts, Delhi DP/12935/OD/2023

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, (GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI) 5TH FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-6 visit us at : http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in

No. DPCC/(3)(2)(55)/Admn-21 RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF ASSISTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS

Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Environmental Engineer (AEE) in the Delhi Pollution Control Committee from 'Not-Recommended Candidates of Engineering Service Examination (ESE), 2022' whose names appear in the said list as available on UPSC website. The tentative details of the vacancies to be filled are as under:

Table with columns: Name of the Post, Level (In 7th CPC), SC, ST, OBC, EWS, UR, Total. Row 1: Assistant Environmental Engineer, Level-10, 05, 02, 10, 03, 18, 38

Detailed information in this regard, may be seen at the DPCC website: www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in under the head "Office Order & Circulars". The application in prescribed format as available on the website, may be submitted to the Administrative Branch, DPCC, 5th Floor, Kashmere Gate, ISBT Building, Delhi-110006, within 30 days from the publication of advertisement on the website. Corrigendum etc, if any, shall be put on the official website of DPCC, candidates should visit the DPCC website from time to time.

Sd/- Member Secretary, DPCC

EAST BOUND FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Chhath Puja Festival, Northern Railway has planned to run the following East Bound Festival Special Trains from 15.11.2023 to 19.11.2023 in addition to normal regular trains as per schedule given below:-

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

Table listing train numbers, names, departure times, and routes for Wednesday, 15.11.2023.

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

Table listing train numbers, names, departure times, and routes for Thursday, 16.11.2023.

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

Table listing train numbers, names, departure times, and routes for Friday, 17.11.2023.

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

Table listing train numbers, names, departure times, and routes for Saturday, 18.11.2023.

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

Table listing train numbers, names, departure times, and routes for Sunday, 19.11.2023.

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

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



HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-procurement notice Invitation for Bids (IFB)

The Executive Engineer Rajgarh Division HPPWD Rajgarh on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under RIDF for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD and HP Jal Shakti Vibhag (Contractors of HP Jal Shakti Vibhag are eligible to participate for the works having amount put to tender above Rs. 100 Lacs). Non registered contractors may submit the bids; however successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD.

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of the work, Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh), Total Cost (Rs. Lakh), Cost of tender (Rs.), Period of Completion, Bid Security, Eligible Class of contract or. Row 1: Improvement/strengthening of Banethi Bagthan Rajgarh Chandol road km /0 to 28/0 & 48/0 to 87/0 (SH)- Providing and laying WBM-III, Bituminous Macadam, Bituminous concrete, interlocking paver blocks, PCC V-shape drain, parapets, road marking and road sing boards ) under NABARD-XXVIII

1. The above Job is on present market rates and tender will be processed as per instruction issued by the Special Secretary (PW) to the Govt. of H.P notification notification No. PBW(B)A(31)/2020-1 dt. 07.10.2021 . 2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website https://hptenders.gov.in. 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 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 HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: https://hptenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. The Executive Engineer HPPWD Rajgarh Distt Sirmour H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department. 4. Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(ii) of ITB with Executive Engineer ,Rajgarh HPPWD, Rajgarh (address and details of office where to be submitted) , on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

\*Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract. 5. Key Dates:

Table with columns: No., Description, Date/Time. Row 1: Date of Online Publication, 13.11.2023 11:00 HRS. Row 2: Document Download Start and End Date, 13.11.2023 11:00 HRS upto 23.11.2023 10:30 HRS. Row 3: Bid Submission Start and End Date, 13.11.2023 11:00 HRS upto 23.11.2023 10:30 HRS. Row 4: Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid, 23.11.2023 11:00 HRS

6. Cost of Bid Form: Rs. 5000 per package/job (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer ,Rajgarh Division ,HPPWD Rajgarh. 7. TENDER DETAILS: The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover: Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information". Cover2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

8. PAYMENT OF TENDER FEE & EMD: The bidders are required to pay (a) the Tender Fee and (b) the Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) through Online Mode on website https://hptenders.gov.in the receipt by comparing e-procurement (MIS) with e-Kosh and obtain MIS report of the receipt/screenshots of tender fee and EMD may be uploaded as per the provisions of the Principal Secretary (Finance) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh. 9. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: 23.11.2023 up-to 10:30 Hours (time) The site for the work is available.

10. 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 ...Hours (time) on 11.00 (date) 23.11.2023 in the office of Executive Engineer ,Rajgarh Division HPPWD Rajgarh by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time. 11. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities 12. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than Seventy Five (75) days after the deadline date for bid submission. 13. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than Seventy Five (75) days after the deadline date for bid submission. 14. Machinery/Plant and Lab Equipment Detail proof ownership and Plant/machinery installed within 30.00 km certificate signed and issued/verified from the concerned Assistant Engineer. 15. 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 bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender. 16. All rates quoted by contractors shall be inclusive of all modes of leads, lifts & heights and also taxes/levies/less than specified to the contrary including all taxes. All the excavated/surplus earth/dismantle material/waste etc. shall be dumped at the site to be arranged by the contractor unless otherwise specified to the contrary and to the satisfaction of Engineer-in-Charge.

Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Rajgarh Distt Sirmour HP on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh Tel. No. 01799-221023 Mail.ee-raj-hp@nic.in

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) / 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder :

Name & Address of Branch	Name & Address Borrower/ Mortgage Guarantor	Amount Due	Property Details	Reserve Price/ EMD/Bit Multiplier
Union Bank of India, Supriya, Cinema Road, Bettiah, Bihar-845438 BM : Sri Satish Kumar Mob. 8294621226	1. M/s Narayani Feeds Pvt. Ltd., Vill. Balua, Bakharana, Near Chudiharwa, Ramnagar, Dist. West Champaran, Bihar 845106	Rs. 10,12,79,629.76 as on 30.06.2023 plus interest and other Expenses	SECURITY - 1 : All that piece and parcel of Commercial Land and Shed in the name of M/s Narayani Feeds Pvt. Ltd. through its Director Sri Raghubans Narayan Singh situated At- Mauza- Balua Bakhrana, Ramnagar, West Champaran bearing Tauzi No. 729, Khata No. 73, Khesra No. 589, Area-1 Bigha 2 Kattha. Boundries: North- Road, South- Sohram Miya, East- Nij, West- Kumbha Devi	Rs. 45,90,000.00/- Rs. 4,59,000/- Rs. 10,000.00/-
	2. Sri Raghubansh Narayan Singh (Chief Director), S/o Sri Ghanshyam Singh		SECURITY - 2 : All that piece and parcel of Land and Building in the name of Sri Vijay Kumar Singh situated at Mauza- Bilaspur Belagola, Ramnagar, West Champaran bearing Tauzi No. 729, Khata No. 169, Khesra No. 1267, Area-8 Dhur. Boundries: North- Shankar Ram, South- Road, East- Hal Baidar Harishchandra Singh, West- Arya Samaj	Rs. 23,40,000.00/- Rs. 2,34,000.00/- Rs. 10,000.00/-
	3. Sri Marut Nandan Singh (Director), S/o Sri Vijay Kumar Singh		SECURITY - 3 : All that piece and parcel of Land and Building in the name of Sri Nirbhay Kumar Singh & Sri Murat Nandan Singh situated At Mauza Sabuni, Ward No. 13, Ramnagar, West Champaran bearing Tauzi No. 729, Khata No. 138, Khesra No. 659, Area-15 Dhur 10 Dhurki. Boundries: North- Soling Rasta & Nala, South- Lakshmina Devi & Awdhesh Singh, East- Nabhasan Mishry & Magani Giri, West- Abdul Rahman & Aain Ahmad	Rs. 27,90,000.00/- Rs. 2,79,000.00/- Rs. 10,000.00/-
	4. Smt. Suman Singh (Director), W/o Raghubansh Narayan Singh		SECURITY 4(a) : All that piece and parcel of Land and Shed of Plant in the name of Smt. Suman Singh W/o Sri Raghubansh Narayan Singh and Smt. Puja Kumari W/o Sri Digvijay Narayan Singh, situated at- Mudila, Nepal Tola, Ramnagar, West Champaran bearing Tauzi No. 951, Thana No. 620, Khata No. 02, Khesra No. 25, Area-6 Kattha. Boundries: North- Nij Lekhakari & Road, South- Khesra No. 23, East- Prince Sohan Vikram Shah, West- Khesra No. 23	Rs. 1,10,70,000.00/- Rs. 11,07,000/- Rs. 10,000.00/-
	5. Sri Digvijay Narayan Singh (Guarantor), S/o Sri Ghanshyam Singh		SECURITY 4(b) : All that piece and parcel of Land and Shed of Plant in the name of Smt. Suman Singh W/o Sri Raghubansh Narayan Singh and Smt. Puja Kumari W/o Sri Digvijay Narayan Singh, situated At- Mudila, Nepal Tola, Ramnagar, West Champaran bearing Tauzi No. 951, Thana No. 620, Khata No. 24, Area-1 Dhur. Boundries: North- Road, South- Lekhyadhari Majkur, East- Khesra No. 24 & Sanjay Vikram Shah, West- Khesra No. 24 & Sanjay Vikram Shah	Rs. 35,55,000.00/- Rs. 3,55,500/- Rs. 10,000.00/-
	6. Sri Ghanshyam Singh (Guarantor), W/o Digvijay Singh, All R/o- At- Raghuansh, 241, Nepali Tola, Ramnagar, Dist. West Champaran, Bihar 845106		SECURITY 5 : All that piece and parcel of Land and Shed of Plant in the name of Sri Raghubansh Narayan Singh S/o Sri Ghanshyam Singh situated at Mauza Ratanpurva Mudila, Ramnagar, West Champaran bearing Tauzi No. 729, Thana No. 620, Khata No. 02, Khesra No. 369, Area-2 Kattha. Boundries: North- Ramnagar, Dist. West Champaran, Bihar 845106	Rs. 60,54,182.45/- as on 30.06.2023 plus interest and other Expenses

Date and Time of e-auction 29.11.2023 at 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM (with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension) For detailed term and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.com> and <https://ibapi.in>  
For Registration, Login and Bidding Rules visit <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>  
Date : 14.11.2023  
Place : West Champaran  
Authorised Officer  
Union Bank of India

**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**



9424796P LATE RFN ROSHAN RAI  
15 NOV  
On this day 9424796P Rfn Roshan Rai of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles (BATALIK) made the supreme sacrifice during "OP RAKSHAK" (J&K) on 15 Nov 2006 in a true act of valour. The brave soldier will always be remembered for his raw courage and indomitable team spirit. To this brave heart we pledge that we shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and make his name proud.  
CO AND ALL RANKS, 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES  
(BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE)  
(BATALIK)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY  
OPEN TENDER NOTICE**  
No. 128-W/Sr. DEN-C/NIT-7-2023-24-WC  
Dated : 14.11.2023  
The Sr. Divisional Engineer/C, Northern Railway, DRM Office, Delhi Division, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open electronic-tenders for under noted work :-  
S. No. Name of work Approximate Cost of work Earnest Money to be deposited Completion Period Date of Opening  
1 Provision of VHF - BASED APPROACHING TRAIN WARNING SYSTEM for staff between ANDI-PNP Section on DLI - Division. Rs. 8404291.25 Rs. 1,68,100/- 63 Months 05.12.2023  
The e-tender is to be submitted through railway website <http://reps.gov.in>. The tenders can be submitted on website up to 15:00 hrs. on 05.12.2023 and shall be opened there after.  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3560/23

Department of Agriculture  
**Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna**  
(State Horticulture Mission)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Krishi Bhawan, Mithapur, Patna-800001  
Phone Fax: 0612-2547772, e-mail: dir-bhds-bih@nic.in  
Website: horticulture.bihar.gov.in  
NOTICE - INVITING Very Short e-TENDER  
Through e-procurement mode only over (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)  
Very Short e-Tender notice for selection of the agencies for supplying the planting material of Wood Apple (Bael), Jackfruit (Katahal) Lemon and Gooseberry (Aonla) during 2023-24 in the State of Bihar.

For the holistic development of horticulture in the state of Bihar, Bihar Horticulture Development Society (BHDS), Bihar, Patna invites very short e-tender from interested registered/recognized nurseries or their authorized distributors/agent to ensure timely availability of quality Wood Apple (Bael), Jackfruit (Katahal), Lemon and Gooseberry (Aonla) fruit saplings on uniform price to the farmers of the state of Bihar. In determination of uniform price of Plants for the state, financial proposals of the technically qualified agencies will be evaluated.  
E-tender forms including terms and conditions for technical qualification, specifications, as well as quality and quantity of Planting Material and procedure is available on website: [horticulture.bihar.gov.in/ https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in](https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in). Applicants may upload/submit their tender along with all required documents for technical qualification through the online portal <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>. Financial proposals should also be uploaded on that portal in prescribed form separately.  
Proposal can only be uploaded/submitted on the website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> while EMD and Tender fee payment should be through online mode (NEFT/RTGS).

SN	Activity	Date/Time: Duration
1.	Start Date & Time for Downloading of Tender document	21.11.2023 (10:00 Hrs.)
2.	Last Date & Time for Submission/Uploading of Tender document	28.11.2023 (15:00 Hrs.)
3.	Date and time of technical bid opening	28.11.2023 (15:30 Hrs.)
4.	Date and time of financial bid opening	To be intimated to technically successful bidder only
5.	Nodal officer/Contact person for queries	Sri Vivek Bharti , Assistant Director Horticulture (Vegetable Development) (Mob No.-9431818958)
6.	Mode of Selection	Least Cost Based Selection- LCBS (L1)

Mission Director, Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna reserves the right to revise/change/ cancel the proposal without assigning any reasons thereof.  
उक्त सूचना [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर भी देखी जा सकती है।  
Director Horticulture cum Mission Director  
Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna  
PR-011858 (RWD) 2023-24  
नयी से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency  
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun  
Ref. No. 1627/11-02(xix)-2/ITCO/URRDA/23 Dated: 14.11.2023  
**PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)  
e-Procurement Notice-18/2023-24**  
The Government of India has received a loan/credit number "LN 8864 IN" from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/International Development Association towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed in NIT. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.  
The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invited the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Tehri for 01 number of Packages with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 4.49 Crore including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors (Class-A and above) registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent\*.  
Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 16.11.2023.  
Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in [www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in](http://www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in). The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.  
The bidders are required to submit original affidavit correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works), either by registered post of by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.  
Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 22.11.2023 01:00 PM.  
For further details please log on to [www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in](http://www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in)  
Chief Engineer  
URRDA, Dehradun  
\* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.  
Note : For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

**Format C-7**

(For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates. along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)  
Name of Political Party : Indian National Congress  
Name of the Election : Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State  
Name of State/UT : Rajasthan State  
(1) Name of the Constituency : MUNDAWAR - 61  
Name of the candidate : LALIT KUMAR YADAV

Sl No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	1. Criminal - Section 3 of Rajasthan Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2006 2. Criminal - Sections 147, 149, 323, 504 IPC
b.	Case No.	1. FIR No. 143/2008 PS Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur 2. FIR No. 316/2011 PS Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur
c.	Name of Court	1. ACJM 2, Jaipur Metro 1 2. ACJM 2, Jaipur Metro 1
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	1. Yes 2. Yes
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	1. N/A 2. N/A
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	1. N/A 2. N/A
g.	Any other information required to be given	1. N/A 2. N/A
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is known for his connection with people of the constituency. He is available for the people of this constituency irrespective of whether he is an elected representative or not, which has made him popular in this area. The energy with which this candidate works and positivity for common people has made him a standout political worker in this area.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	Only two cases have been filed against this candidate, in which the offences are bailable. Both the cases are politically motivated and it should not deny an opportunity to a popular political worker from being an elected representative to serve the people which is why the Congress party chose this candidate over any other candidate.

(2) Name of the Constituency- MUNDAWAR - 61  
Name of the candidate- LALIT KUMAR YADAV

(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)  
General Secretary (Organisation)  
Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee

**Format C-7**

(For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates. along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)  
Name of Political Party : Indian National Congress  
Name of the Election : Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State  
Name of State/UT : Rajasthan State  
(1) Name of the Constituency : SURATGARH - 04  
Name of the candidate : DUNGAR RAM GEDAR

Sl No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	Criminal
b.	Case No.	8/97
c.	Name of Court	Additional Session Judge No. 2 Hanumangarh
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	Yes
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	27.11.1997
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	Fine Imposed of Rs. 500
g.	Any other information required to be given	No
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is a well known social activist in this area and has been actively working for the underprivileged and downtrodden sections of the society since a long time. Every political and social activity of the candidate is aimed at ensuring communal peace and harmony which is why he commands respect and popularity among local people of this area.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The only pending case against the candidate was filed over 26 years ago which has been disposed off upon which he was punished with a mere fine of 500 which clearly shows the offense was an extremely petty offense. The Congress party believes that such social activists deserve to become people's representative which is why he has been fielded by the party from this seat

(2) Name of the Constituency- SURATGARH - 04  
Name of the candidate- DUNGAR RAM GEDAR

(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)  
General Secretary (Organisation)  
Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp/Auth	Name of Work/Notice Tender	Opening Date (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Board/Corp/Auth	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1.	HSAMB FARIDABAD	SPECIAL REPAIR OF LINK ROAD FROM VILLAGE PAKHAL TO NEKPUR (ID NO. 5204) IN FARIDABAD NIT CONSTITUENCY, DISTT. FARIDABAD UNDER WORK PLAN 2023-24 (PHASE-I)	08.11.2023 22.11.2023	EMD 94201/- https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9971730975 xenfaridabad.hsamb2023@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY (E-Auction Notice)**

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (<http://ireps.gov.in>) for the allotment of under mention contracts at following Railway stations/locations:

E-Catalogue No	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Lots
Parking 38-2023	29.11.2023 at 12.00 Hrs	Mandawali (MWC) Site II, Naya Ghaziabad (GZN), Panipat (PNP) 1st Entry (477 Sq.Mt.) Panipat (PNP) 2nd Entry (705.37 Sq.Mtrs), Khatauli (KAT), Sampla (SPZ) 2nd Entry = Total 6 Sites

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen: <https://ireps.gov.in/>

**All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:**

- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing Module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee
- Current Account in State Bank of India
- Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account
- Lien Marking of Funds
- Update of Turnover Details
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender/E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query: Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055. Email: [pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com](mailto:pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com) Tel: 011-23743084

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER, KEONJHAR (ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI, KEONJHAR)**

Adv. No. 5266 Date: 14.11.2023

**CANCELLATION NOTICE**

This office Tender Advertisement No. 3610/2023 dt. 03.08.2023 regarding Request of Proposal (RFP) for selection of agency for hiring of Human Resources on contractual basis for health care facilities in Keonjhar district under DMF is hereby cancelled on administrative ground.

Sd/-  
Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer, Keonjhar  
OIPR-10033/11/0035/2324

**Public Notice (Under section 3G (3) National Highways Act-1956)**

It is to inform to all concerned that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub section (1) of section 3(D), of the National Highways Act- 1956 (48 of 1956) and further in pursuance of sub section (2) of section 3(D) of the said Act, the Central Government declared that the land specified in the schedule of notification no. S.O. 3869(E) dated- 01.09.2023 and notification no. S.O. 4106(E) dated- 18.09.2023 published in the Gazette of the India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub Section II, shall vest absolutely in the Central Government free from all encumbrances, for building (widening/four laning, etc.), maintenance, Management and operation of NH-734 i.e. Moradabad - Thakurdwara - Kashipur in the stretch of land from Km. 38+770 to Km. 53+260 (Kashipur Bypass) (Package-3) in the district Udhham Singh Nagar in the State of Uttarakhnad.

And whereas the substance of the said notifications has been published in "Amar Ujala" and "Indian Express" both dated-29.10.2023;

So, all persons interested in the land specified in the schedule, may submit their claims either in person or by a legal practitioner, to the undersigned at the office of Special Land Acquisition Officer, Room No. 43 & 44, DM Office, Udhham Singh Nagar within 07 days of publication of this public notice, otherwise the amount of compensation shall be finalized as per the prevailing rules.

Special Land Acquisition Officer, Udhham Singh Nagar

**PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJNA NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**

The Chief Engineer (S2) HPPWD Shimla on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD/CPWD/ P&T Railways/ Other State Govt./Central Govt. Agencies. Non registered bidders may submit bid, however, the successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HP.PWD.

Sr. No	Name of Distt.	Package No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In lacs) Excluding 18%GST		Total cost (in lacs)	Period of completion on	Bid Security
				Const. cost	Maint. cost			
1	Shimla	HP-09-354	C/O Balance work of Dhara Kokoi Khangleri road km 0/0 to 8/20 (SH- C/O R/B walls CD works, PCC Drain,PCC parapats, logo Sign Baord M/T , KM Stone etc. and five years routine maintenance under pkg.HP09-354)	305.83	37.28	343.11	275 days	6.12

- Date of release of invitation for bids through e-procurement 13.11.2023
- Cost of bid from cost of Bid form Rs.5000 (non-refundable) in shape of Demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Rohru.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission :- The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website [www.pmgstenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in). The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have valid digital signature certificate (DSC) from one of the authorised certifying authorities (CA) Aspiring bidder who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: [www.pmgstenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in). Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering bidders already processing the valid digital signature issued from authorised CAs can use the same in this tender. \* Non registered bidders may submit bids: the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
- Submission of original documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provision of clause 4.4B(a) (ii) ITB with Superintending Engineer 14<sup>th</sup> circle HPPWD Rohru address and detail of office where to be submitted on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid either by registered post or by hand.
- Last date/ Time for receipt of bid through e-tendering last date/time for receipt of bids through e-tendering on dated 11.12.2023 up to 6:00PM
- The site for the work is available.
- Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore bids must be submitted online on website [www.pmgstenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in). The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 11:00 A.M. on 12 Dec. 2023 in the office of Superintending Engineer 14<sup>th</sup> circle HPPWD Rohru by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.
- The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the bill of quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.
- All the required materials like Cement/Steel/Bitumen/Explosive etc shall be arranged by contractor at his own level.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.
- To qualify for a package of contract made up of this for 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.
- 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 update, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

(Atul Jyoti)  
Superintending Engineer  
14<sup>th</sup> circle HPPWD Rohru  
Tel 01781241713,240921  
email-[hp-shi2@nic.in](mailto:hp-shi2@nic.in)  
For Chief Engineer HPPWD  
Nigam Vihar Shimla-1712002

**Format C-7**  
(For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates. along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**  
Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**  
(1) Name of the Constituency : **RAMGARH - 67**  
Name of the candidate : **ZUBER KHAN**

**SIGNALING WORK IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED PFT SIDING AT JOGIGHOPA**

Tender Notice No. RN-ST-21-2023-24, Date: 09-11-2023. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work:  
Tender No.: RN-ST-21-2023-24; Name of Work : Signaling work in connection with proposed PFT siding at Jogighopa (JPZ) of BG-II section of Rangiya Division.  
Tender Value: ₹ 81,29,738.55; Earnest Money: ₹ 1,62,600/-; Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 05-12-2023. For details please visit in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

DRM (S&T), Rangiya  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Serving Customers With A Smile

Sl No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	1. Criminal- Section- 143,336,504,506,509 IPC 2. Criminal - Section- 283,341,504,506,427 IPC 3. Criminal- Section 420,406,504,506,120B IPC
b.	Case No.	1. FIR No. 325/2021 PS Aravali Vihar Alwar 2. FIR No. 690/2023 PS Aravali Vihar Alwar 3. FIR No. 348/2022 PS Aravali Vihar Alwar
c.	Name of Court	1. ACJM 3 Alwar 2. N/A 3. ACJM 3 Alwar
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	N/A
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	N/A
g.	Any other information required to be given	N/A
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is a senior and popular political activist in this area. During his stint as public representative, the Candidate has ensured rapid development of this region. The candidate is known to be at the forefront of every fight for the welfare and justice of the people of Ramgarh. He has been quite instrumental in bringing development driven programmes to Ramgarh. The candidate has a tremendous connection with the people of Ramgarh and has been vocal for the issues related to the constituency. The candidate has served people with all his vigor and capacity. The candidate has earned respect from the people of his constituency by working tirelessly for the people and being available for them 24*7.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The survey conducted by the party clearly showed that the candidate is ahead of his fellow counterparts by a healthy margin. Most of the cases registered against the candidate were out of some flimsy or political reasons. The section levied upon the candidate in the FIRs are bailable and all these FIRs are lodged due to political ill will. The candidate has always performed par excellence when it comes to the betterment of Ramgarh constituency and the Congress party believes him to be the best candidate to represent the party in this constituency than any other person.

**Format C-7**  
(For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates. along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**  
Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**  
(1) Name of the Constituency : **SADULSHAHAR - 01**  
Name of the candidate : **JAGDISH CHANDRA JANGID**

Sl No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	341,323,34 IPC 3(2) (VA) SC/ST Act 1989
b.	Case No.	37/2022
c.	Name of Court	SC/ST Special Cases Court Sri Ganganagar
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	N/A
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	N/A
g.	Any other information required to be given	No
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is sitting MLA of the constituency and has been actively carrying out development works for the people of the constituency which has made him a popular people's choice which can be gauged from the overwhelming support that he gets from the people of the constituency. The candidate has been working tirelessly to bring development to this area and keep communal harmony and peace in the area by initiating various programs to ensure dialogue among various sections of population.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The police have submitted a closure report in the only case that was pending against this candidate. Even this particular case was lodged due to political vendetta and it became clear in the police investigation. There is no other case pending on this candidate which is why the Congress party has chosen to field him from this Constituency

(2) Name of the Constituency- RAMGARH - 67  
Name of the candidate- ZUBER KHAN

(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)  
General Secretary (Organisation)  
Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee

(2) Name of the Constituency- SADULSHAHAR - 01  
Name of the candidate- JAGDISH CHANDRA JANGID

(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)  
General Secretary (Organisation)  
Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee

**Classifieds**

**PERSONAL**

**I,Jagjit Kaur W/O, Manjit Singh R/o RZ-6A, Hans Park, Near Post Office, West Sagarpur, New Delhi 110046** have changed my name to Jagjeet Kaur. 0040698986-1

**T,Sushma Gupta W/o Sh. Sanjay Gupta, R/o 78-79, Pkt-4, Rohini Sector-21, Sultanpuri C Block, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086, Do now declare that Sushma Gupta, Sushma Rani Gupta, Sushma Rani and Sushma, are the same woman. And I solemnly affirm that all the names indicate and refer to myself as the same and one individual woman, not to a different woman whatsoever. Henceforth, my correct name is Sushma Gupta for all future purposes.** 0040698983-1

**It is for general information that I,Raghuveer Singh,S/O Joginder Singh,R/O M-50,Mohan Garden,Peepal Wala Road,D,K.Mohan Garden,West Delhi-110059, declare that my name is wrongly-written as RAGHUBIR SINGH in my-10th and RAGHUVIR SINGH in my 12th-Class Educational Documents.The actual-my name is RAGHUVEER SINGH, which may be amended accordingly.** 0040699059-5

**I,yasmin S/o Akil Ahmed,R/O A-253 Gali no, 9 wazirabad-Village,Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Yasmeen.** 0040699032-7

**I,kashav jain,S/o-Rakesh jain House.no-850,ward no-9 kewal Ganj rohtak haryana 124001,changed my name to keshav jain.** 0040699051-1

**I,YUVRAJ SINGH NANDAL,S/O SUDHIR NANDAL,R/O B-36-37,3RD-FLOOR, PRASHANT-VIHAR,DELHI-110085,have changed my name to YUVRAJ NANDAL.** 0040699032-3

**I,Vishal S/o Sh.Gulab Singh Sarot,R/O- H/no.86-C,gali.no.6, Kripal Nagar, Rohtak(Haryana),124001,have changed my name to Vishal Sarot.** 0040699032-6

**I,USHA Devi,W/O Manish Kumar Singhal, R/o.Flat.No.301,Tower-B1 Amarpali Silicon City,Sector-76,Noida,Gautam Buddh Nagar,U.P.-201301,have changed my name,from Usha Kumari Garg to Usha Devi,for all future purposes.** 0040699051-11

**I,Tulsi Devi Ladha,w/o Narayan Prasad Larha,R/o-U-6,hans apartments,east arjun nagar,shahdara Delhi-110032,have changed my name to Tulsi Devi Larha** 0040699045-3

**I,Shila Dhall W/o Trilok Chand Dhall, R/o B-23A Shivaji-Vihar Tagore Garden, New Delhi 110027, Have changed my name to Sheela Devi, for all purposes** 0040699032-1

**I,SANJAY,S/O TIRATH RAM SHARMA,R/OD-26,3RD-FLOOR ASHOK VIHAR PHASE-1 DELHI-110052,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJAY SHARMA.** 0040699032-8

**I,Ruby Qureshi,w/o-Ikram Qureshi Add-128, Gali No.9-11,Chauhan Bangar,near khadday wali masjid,seelampur,Delhi-110053,changed my name to Rubi.** 0040699041-6

**I,Ruby Ikram,w/o-Ikram Qureshi,Add-128,Gali.No.9-11,Chauhan Bangar,near khadday wali masjid, seelampur,Delhi-110053,changed my name to Rubi.** 0040699041-4

**I,Ramanjot,W/o Sarabjeet Singh Vasir,R/O 2B/37,Block-2B, Ramesh Nagar,Delhi-110015,have changed my name to Raman Jot Kaur.** 0040699051-7

**I,RASHMI AGARWAL,D/O PUKHRAJ AGARWAL,R/O A-31 GURU, NANAK PURA, EAST DELHI-110092,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RASHMI AGGARWAL.** 0040699051-5

**I,RAHUL REGNOOLD DAVIES,S/O MADHUKAR DAVIES,R/O M-66,GS APARTMENT,SECTOR-13,ROHINI,DELHI-110085,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAHUL DAVIES.** 0040699041-1

**I,Payal Nanda,W/o Dishant Gandhi,R/o-40, 2nd Floor,Vidhyala Marg,Kewal Park,Azadpur, Delhi,have changed my name to Payal Gandhi,for all purposes.** 0040699045-6

**I,Navdeep S/O Vinod Kumar R/o Flat.no.403, Tower-10,Signature the Millennia-1,Sec-37D Gurgaon (Haryana),have changed my name to Navdeep Garg.** 0040699032-5

**I,Narayan Prasad Ladha,s/o Gordhan Lal Larha,R/o-U-6,Hans apartments,east arjun nagar,Delhi-110032,have changed my name Narayan Prasad Larha** 0040699045-4

**I,NOOPUR GOEL,W/O SHEKHAR GOEL,R/O D-24 GREENWOODS CITY,SECTOR-46, JHARSA,GURGAON HARYANA-122003,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NOOPUR GUPTA.** 0040699051-4

**I,BRIJ BHUSHAN,S/O-JATI RAM,R/O.205, DURGA-COLONY,WARD.NO-2,NEAR-GUGA MADI,NARAINGARH-AMBALA HARYANA -134203,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BRIJ BHUSHAN GUPTA,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES.** 0040699032-9

**I,Mohd Islam,S/o Abdul khalik,R/O E-29 Vijay-Vihar phase-2,Rohini,Delhi 110085,Have changed my name to Mohd Aslam. 0040699051-3**

**I,Mohammad Asif S/o,Naemuddin,R/o.E-149,4th-floor,Gali.No.2, near-Madina Masjid,Chand bagh,Karawal-Nagar,Delhi-110094,have changed my name to ASIF Permanently. 0040699051-2**

**I,Meenu Sengupta,W/O BIVHASH SEN GUPTA,R/O-335,BAL MUKUND KHAND GIRI NAGAR,KALKAJI,Delhi-110001,HAVE CHANGED MY,NAME TO Meenu Sen Gupta,for all purpose 0040699041-8**

**I,MOHD KASIM S/O BASIR AHMAD,R/O HNO.A-5/30,SECTOR-15,ROHINI,DELHI-110089,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD QASIM.** 0040699059-3

**I,MOBEENA W/O MOHD QASIM R/O A-5/30,SECTOR-15,ROHINI,DELHI-110089,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOBINA BEGUM.** 0040699059-4

**I,Lalit Kumar Sipani,S/o sunder Lal Sipani,R/o F, 12/26,2nd floor,krishna nagar,Delhi-110051,have changed my name to Lalit Sipani 0040699045-2**

**I,Laiba D/o Rais Ahmed,R/o 1360,Gali Zikariya Wali,Khari Baoli,Tilak Bazar,Delhi-110006,have changed my name to Laiba Ahmed.** 0040699051-8

**I,Kanhiya Lal Sethia,S/o Bhomraj Sethia,R/o-1/6118-B, gali no-2,east Rohtak nagar,shahdara, Delhi-110032,have changed my name to Kanheya Lal Sethia 0040699045-5**

**I,Kamaljeet Singh,S/O Gurbachan Singh,R/O-399-B,Pocket-N,Sarita-Vihar,Delhi-110076,have changed my name to kamaljeet Singh Bariah,for all purpose. 0040699041-7**

**I,KUMAR KANTI CHATTOPADHYAY,S/O DEBI PRASAD CHATTERJEE,ADD-DDA-LIG FLAT.NO.452,POCKET-13,MANGLAPURI, SOUTH-WEST,DELHI-110045,changed my name to KUMAR KANTI CHATTERJEE,for all,future purposes. 0040699041-2**

**I,Mohammed Ikram,S/o-Noor Mohammed Add-128,Gali.No.9-11,Chauhan-Bangar,near khadday wali masjid,seelampur,Delhi-110053,changed my name to Ikram Qureshi.** 0040699041-5

**I,KAMIL ZAHIDA/BEGUM ZAHIDA,W/O LATE-MOHD KAMIL,ADD-252,IDGHA ROAD,QURESH NAGAR SADAR BAZAR, DELHI-110006,changed my name to ZAHIDA KAMIL,changed my name to ZAHIDA KAMIL,for all,future purposes. 0040699059-2**

**I,Hari Om,S/o-Bishambar Dayal,R/o-119/8,Gali No-4,East Moti Bagh,Sarai Rohilla,Delhi-110007,have changed my name to Hari Om Sharma.** 0040699051-6

**I,Hari Babu,S/o Late Sh.Rati Ram Sharma R/o H.No.H-37-B, Taimoor Nagar,New Friends Colony,New Delhi-110025,declare that Hari Om Sharma and Hari Babu both names are the one and the same person i.e. me.** 0040699051-6

**I,HEMLATA BHATIA W/O SANJAY KUMAR,R/O F-19/53,SECTOR-8,ROHINI, DELHI-110085,have changed my name to HEMLATA.** 0040699032-4

**I,Geeta Rani W/O Amit Kumar,R/O-H.No.B-2/4,Sector-11,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Geeta for all purposes. 0040699050-2**

**I,Daya Nand S/o Tek Chand Chhabra,R/o 143/B,New Colony,Gurgaon,Haryana-122001,have changed my name to Daya Nand Chhabra.** 0040699059-1

**I, Tariq Anjum W/o Aamir Askari R/o H-37/B, Street No.4, Main Market, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Anjum Askari, for all future purposes.** 0040698960-1

**I, Sneha Pandey W/O, Mohit Mongra R/o 410 Ganaga Tower Mahagun Mantra-2 Vaidpura Sector-10 Greater Noida UP-201306, have changed my name to Sneha Pandey Mongra for all purposes.** 0040699057-1

**I, R.K.Sharma S/o Om Prakash Sharma R/o A-Block, H.No.897, Gali-No.14, Kamal Vihar, Burari North Delhi-84 have changed my name to Rajender Sharma for all purposes.** 0040698977-1

**I, JAYARAMAN PALAYIL S/o PKS Nair, R/O RZ-2686, Street No. 29, Tuglakabad Extn., New Delhi-110019, have change my name to JAYARAMAN P NAIR for all purposes.** 0040698965-1

**I,VANDANA JAIN,W/O,ANKUR JAIN, ADD-A-111,FIRST-FLOOR,SWASTHYA VIHAR,EAST-DELHI-110092,changed my name to AARUSHI JAIN,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES.** 0040699041-3

**I, K. SAI LAXMI SHAILJA alias SAI LAXMI SHAILJA V alias KOVVALI SHAILAJA W/o Paningipalli NVM Prakash, R/o H.No.C-505, Powergrid Apartment, Near Huda City Centre, Sector-43, Chakarpur(74), Gurgaon, Haryana-122002 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAI LAXMI SHAILAJA KOVVALI 0040698964-1**

**I'BINTHA SUNISH,W/O Sunish C D,542,C-3,2nd-floor,Sai-enclave,Niti-Khand-1, Indirapuram,Ghaziabad,Uttar-Pradesh- 201014,have change my to BINTHA THOTTINAKKARA GOPALAN,for all,future purpose. 0040699032-2**

**I,Mohd Saqib,S/O-Mohd Sadiq,R/o-8842,Naya Mohalla,Pul Bangash,Azad Market,Delhi-110006,have changed my minor son's name,from Mohammad Ahmed,to Mohammad Ahmed Saad,for future. 0040699045-1**

**LOST & FOUND**

**LOST MY PROPERTY DOCUMENT OFH.NO.131,SAROJINI PARK,SHASTRI NAGAR,DELHI 110031.FINDER CONTACT:KARAN SINGH, S/D/W/O VRINDAVAN SINGH,54,14,SAROJINI NAIDU PARK,SHASTRI NAGAR,GEETA COLONY, DELHI-110031.** 0040699041-9

**I,Santosh Goswami,W/O Late Vipul Krishna Goswami Lost my Builder Buyer Agreement Dated-18-05-2011,Allotment-letter Dated-07-05-2011 of my Flat-H-202,Great-Value Sharnam,Sec-107,Noida.** 0040699041-10

**I,RAJRANI GARG,W/O-BHAJAN LAL GARG,R/o-60/7,RAMJAS ROAD,KAROL BAGH,NEW DELHI-110005,HAVE LOST THE ORIGINAL LEASE DEED OF PROPERTY BEARING MUNICIPAL BLOCK NO-17-A,PLOT.NO-63,W/O KAROL BAGH,NEW DELHI-110005.FINDER MAY CONTACT ON ABOVE ADDRESS.** 0040699050-3

**I, Kartik Gill, S/o Devendra Gill, R/o 78, Golden Jubilee Apartments, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have lost my B.Tech Degree Certificate.I have lodged the FIR vide LR No. 1132078/2023 dated 13.11.2023. In case found, please contact 9540961478 or send it to the above address.** 0040698962-1

**TShibin TK student of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi inform that original MA Consolidated Marksheets have been lost on 23/10/2023 premises of Jama masjid, New Delhi-110006. If found please contact the address, cherrattakandathil house, vakkaloor, kavanur (PO), 673639, Kerala. 7025959951, 9539621788.** 0040698959-1

**BUSINESS OFFERS**

**Land 3000 Sq. yards strategically located near Kharar (Mohali) Bus Stand suitable for retail/project /Institution etc. on Lease /sale /JV basis Contact 9815550163** 0050230657-2

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General public is hereby informed that my clients namely (1) Abdul Nasir S/o Late Abdul Sattar (2) Rafat Nasir W/o Abdul Nasir both R/o 1321, Street No.3, Faiyaz Ganj, Bahadurgarh Road, Delhi-06, are owner and landlord of 10/88, Kishan Ganj, Telikwara, Azad Market, Delhi-06 admeasuring 370 Sq. Mts, having purchased the same from its erstwhile owners. My above said clients have not sold/transferred/gifted/part with their ownership rights qua above said property in favour of any person. The public at large are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any manner with the above said property without presence of my above said clients and if anyone deals in respect of above said properties then the same shall be treated as null and void and not binding on my clients and my above said clients shall not be responsible for the same. C.M. SHARMA Advocate Enrl. No. D/565/97R Ch. No. C-147, C.L. Joseph Block Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Anand Kumar Gupta and Sh. Anurag Gupta jointly 'Title Holders' in possession of DDA Flat No. 553, on Second + Third Floor, (Duplex) in Pocket-B, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076 hereinafter referred to as 'That the Original of Conveyance Deed dated 20.01.2011 last page of registration vide document no 1108 on 20.01.2011, vide DDA file no F-128 (7466) 86/SFS/S/III have been lost/misplaced and information Report dated 14.11.2023 is filed with Delhi Police bearing LR. No. 1133832/2023 This notice is issued to Public at Large, i.e. any Person(s), Company(ies), Authority(ies), Society(ies), Bank(s), etc., having any knowledge, custody or possession of the lost/misplaced documents as mentioned above or otherwise having any claim, or objection to the sale of the Schedule Flat, may come forward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of this Publication. Suresh Kumar, Advocate Mob. No. 9818159221

**केन्द्रीय भण्डारण निगम**  
CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

No. CWCR/RO-BPL/Buss./Rail Siding Khandwa/2023-24 Date: 10.11.2023

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

CWC invites on-line e-tenders from professionally competent and financially sound interested parties FOR UTILISING WAREHOUSE ON DEDICATED BASIS AND RAIL SIDING FACILITY ON CO-USER PERMISSION BASIS at CENTRAL WAREHOUSE BASE DEPOT ANAND NAGAR, KHANDWA, MADHYA PRADESH. The details may be seen/downloaded from CWC website www.cwcacorp.nic.in, www.cwcprocure.com and www.cppp.gov.in

**REGIONAL MANAGER, BHOPAL**

**"IMPORTANT"**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My Client NIRANJAN S/O RAY SINGH AND HIS WIFE SATYA W/O SH. NIRANJAN R/O HOUSE NO-446, RITHALA VILLAGE, ROHINI, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110055, have deamed, disowned their Son Sh. VISHAL S/O NIRANJAN from all moveable, immovable properties of my clients and severed their all relations with them. My clients shall not be responsible for their acts, conduct and deeds in future whatsoever. Anybody dealing with above said persons are doing so at their own risk.

**Naveen Sharma (Advocate)**  
H. No. 656, Khara Khurd, Delhi-110082

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be it known to all that Mr. HARJUN S/O WAHID & RIHANA KHATOON W/O HAROON BOTH R/O B-7/141, J.J. COLONY, BHALSWA, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110042 have Deceased and I, Naveen Sharma (Advocate) debarred him from their all moveable and immovable properties/assets due to his misbehavior, unfamilia activities, intolerable act, misconduct and going against my clients. Anybody dealing with CHAND MOHAMMAD S/O HAROON in civil and Criminal matter shall be doing at his/her/their own risk, cost and responsibility and my client and their family shall not be liable for their any act.

**Naveen Khurana (Advocate)**  
Enrl. No. D/2902022

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

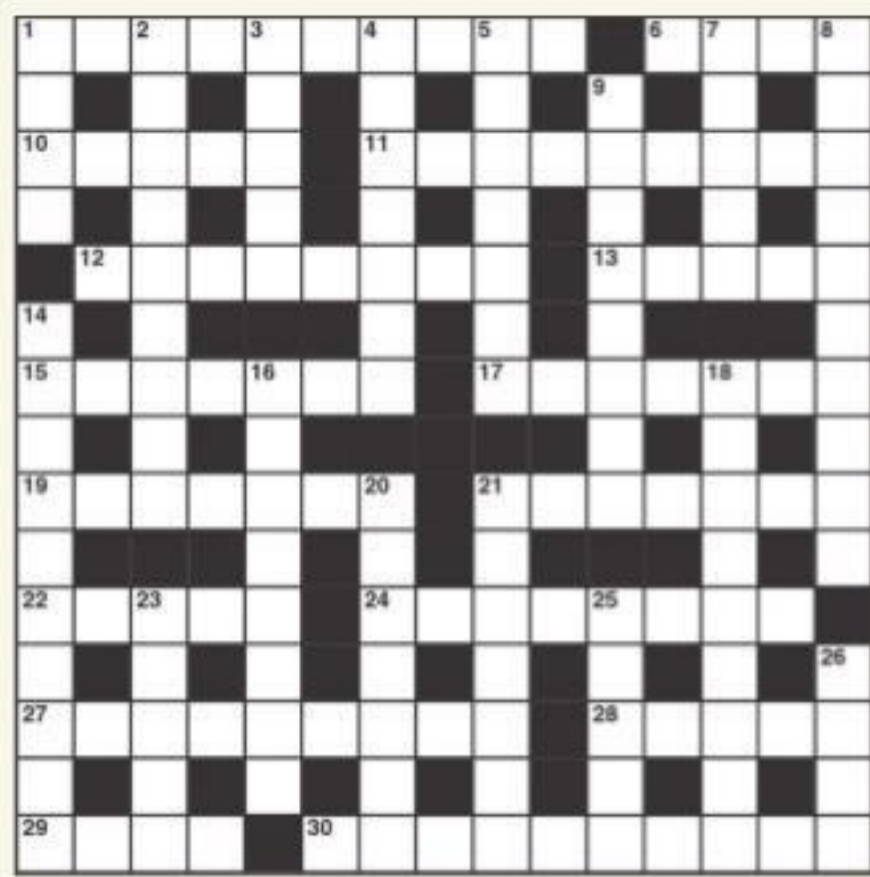
To be known to all that I, Avinash Chander Sethi S/O Sheela Devi Saitta owner of C-5/46-B, Second Floor, LIG Flats, Lawrence Road, Delhi-110035, has applied for certified copy of the Deceased flat such as original Demand Letter has been lost. File No. L-26/37474/HB. An FIR (LR No. 1132829/2023) to this effect has been lodged in the police station crime branch Delhi on dated 14/11/2023. Any person claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with the above named person at above address/Phone 981319886 or by Director (LAB) Housing or Director (Housing), ODA Office Vikas Sadan, New Delhi, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Re: (1) Upper Ground and First floor, without roof rights alongwith 1/2 undivided share in the Stilt floor for parking and(2) Second and Third Floor, with roof rights along with 1/2 undivided share in the Stilt floor for parking (hereinafter called "the floors") forming part of Built-up Property bearing No. B-5, measuring land area 32.82 sq. mtrs. i.e. 309 sq. yds. out of 200 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 9/27, Kharsa No. 193, Khawat No. 98, Khatooni No. 382, situated in the layout plan of Golden Park, Shri Pari, in the area of Village Khas, Shandara, Delhi-110051; hereinafter referred to as "said property".

Be it known to all that our clients Mr. Upendra Kumar, Roshan Kumar and Ms.Meena Das (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the Upper Ground floor and First Floor without roof rights along with 1/2 undivided share in the Stilt floor from Mrs. Ritika Arora and Second and Third Floor with roof rights along with 1/2 undivided share in the Stilt floor from Chetna Arora (hereinafter jointly called the "Seller"). In this connection Mrs. Ritika Arora has informed the purchaser that she is the owner of the Upper Ground floor and First Floor without roof rights along with 1/2 undivided share in the Stilt floor vide Sale Deed executed by Mrs. Neeru in her favour and registered as Document No. 4672, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 8235, pages 92-98, on 19.08.2015 and Ms Chetna Arora has informed the purchaser that she is the owner of the Second and Third Floor with Roof rights, along with 1/2 undivided share in the Stilt floor vide Sale Deed executed by Mrs. Neeru in her favour and registered as Document No. 4676, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 8235, pages 116-124, on 19.08.2015. In this connection, the seller further informed the purchaser that the said property was earlier owned by Mr. Jatin Dua and Mr. Madan Lal vide Sale Deed registered as Document No. 4140 dated 17.03.2010 and subsequently Mr. Jatin Dua transferred his 1/2 undivided share in the said property to Mr. Madan Lal vide Sale Deed registered as Document No. 13988 dt. 16.07.2010 and Mr. Madan Lal became sole and absolute owner of the said property. Unfortunately, Mr. Madan Lal expired and the property was inherited by his legal heirs viz., Neeru and Sachit Girdhar and Mr. Sachit Girdhar misappropriated his 1/2 undivided share in the said property to Ms Neeru vide Relinquishment Deed registered as Document No. 7315 on 27.4.2012 and thus Ms Neeru became the sole and absolute owner of the said property. Unfortunately, Mr. Madan Lal expired and the property was inherited by his legal heirs viz., Neeru and Sachit Girdhar and Mr. Sachit Girdhar misappropriated his 1/2 undivided share in the said property to Ms Neeru vide Relinquishment Deed registered as Document No. 7315 on 27.4.2012 and thus Ms Neeru became the sole and absolute owner of the said property. Unfortunately, Mr. Madan Lal expired and the property was inherited by his legal heirs viz., Neeru and Sachit Girdhar and Mr. Sachit Girdhar misappropriated his 1/2 undivided share in the said property to Ms Neeru vide Relinquishment Deed registered as Document No. 7315 on 27.4.2012 and thus Ms Neeru became the sole and absolute owner of the said property. 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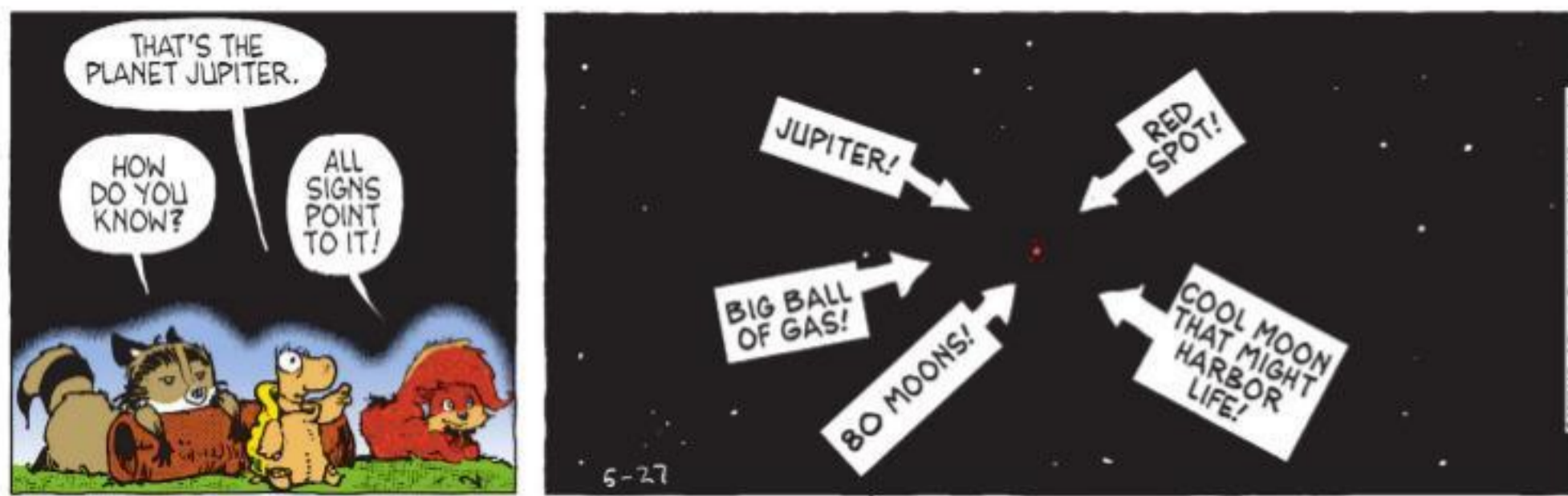
## CROSSWORD 5208



- ACROSS**
- Do they indicate that crime does pay? (5,2,3)
  - Payment for ring (4)
  - Possibly earn a place in the sporting world (5)
  - There may be a spare seat when a married person does this (9)
  - Setting up dinner support (8)
  - A bookend (5)
  - It's obvious I've been set back by the depression (7)
  - Building Ann leaves in defiance perhaps (7)
  - Opens an eye? (7)
  - Accident-prone dancer (7)
  - Swift portrayal of a brutish lout (5)
  - Just not taking sides (9)
  - A rapidly replaced stoneworker (8)
  - Plucky action taken by some of the players (9)
  - Positional defence (5)
  - Sounds like the end of the story (4)
  - As a rule it lacks civility (7,3)
- DOWN**
- Give a new form of food (4)
  - Time and place (9)
  - Two ways to break in (5)
  - Loud American with a pimple worries too much (7)
  - Touch on what brought Zulu warriors to a strange end (7)
  - Frequently decimal (5)
  - Becomes discouraged when short lease is arranged (5,5)
  - The writing on the wall (8)
  - Tourist attraction cheekily displayed by ladies (6,4)
  - With new income around the company becomes profitable (8)
  - Just not taking sides (9)
  - Fruit and nut, alas, is all mixed together (7)
  - Does it supply a plant with plenty of water? (7)
  - She left under a cloud (5)
  - She's from Indianapolis (5)
  - It is seen as an opinion (4)

Solutions Crossword 5207 Across: 1 Carpoot, 5 Fable, 8 Aborigine, 9 Apt, 10 Site, 12 Love knot, 14 Hustle, 15 Misere, 17 Reappear, 18 Flea, 21 Tor, 22 Half-truth, 24 Coxed, 25 Partner Down: 1 Claws, 2 Rio, 3 Ovid, 4 Tripod, 5 Frenetic, 6 Brain cell, 7 Entitle, 11 Testatrix, 13 Slipshod, 14 Heretic, 16 Call up, 19 Abhor, 20 Stir, 23 Um

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## 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.

Success is getting what you want. Happiness is \_\_\_ what you \_\_\_. - Dale Carnegie (7,...3)

LSAEI                      ELOUGN  
 EENTT                    EINOGW

SOLUTION: AISEI, TENET, LOUNGE, WIGCON

**Difficulty Level 4s**  
**Instructions**  
 To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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



**SOLUTION SUDOKU 5380**



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Partners are still labouring under powerful planetary influences and might therefore feel rather nervous about the future. They may also have subjected you to one or two unfair criticisms. You should be strong enough to brush these aside.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You are noted for your reliability, yet greater flexibility in your dealings with intimate partners will not come amiss. Your timing must be impeccable if you are to recognise the appropriate times to give way. As from tomorrow, your family affairs take a higher priority, so be prepared.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Social trends remain positive but you may now begin to feel that work and chores deserve to take more and more of your time. In other words, you will do well by retaining a thoroughly practical attitude. In fact, you'd better do so over the next four days.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Today's stars are excellent if you are planning any practical discussions and meetings, partly because you'll be ahead of the game. The Moon's position could hardly be more favourable for reaching solutions which are at once sensible and a welcome change from the past.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

According to the fast-moving lunar cycle, the best way to use your time today and tomorrow is to settle your accounts, dealing with all outstanding bills and debts. Otherwise you may miss an opportunity which will not come round again for another three or four weeks.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You may be feeling slightly wobbly, emotionally, over the next two to three days. I say this so that you may be aware of any sudden fluctuations in your mood and be in a position to mitigate any adverse effects on your personal relationships. You'll be in a strong position, by the way.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Secrecy is a necessity at those periods when other people are just not ready to listen to what you have to say. You may keep your feelings to yourself if that is what the current times demand. After all, in many respects this is a moment for action.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You feel that if you continue to implement your plans discreetly, you will avoid the opposition that might be aroused if other people knew what you were doing. Once you achieve a balance between your interests and other people's desires, you'll be happier.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

You have worked so hard to build up a sense of trust that you don't want anyone to get the idea that you are about to betray their confidence. Therefore, be sure to keep everyone informed about plans in which they are involved. After all, if they don't know what you're up to they can't give you their support.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Communication and travel plans are now well to the fore, but a great deal depends on the results of recent initiatives. You must be decisive and see to it that all loose ends are tied up - for good. Otherwise, you won't be ready to seize next month's offers and opportunities.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Please pay attention to your financial affairs and make efficiency your goal. It's not often realised that you can be businesslike if only you would accept current realities. The end of the week brings your best chance to take long-term decisions - and make them stick.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You're in a mystical mood this year. Remember that this is a period when it is your noble aspirations and higher principles which must be your guiding light. A great deal of inspiration will also be derived from contacts with distant cultures and people from far away.

## Format C-7

(For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
 Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**  
 Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**  
 (1) Name of the Constituency : **RAJAKHERA- 80**  
 Name of the candidate : **- ROHIT BOHRA**

Sl No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	<b>Criminal, Section 147, 148, 149, 307 of IPC</b>
b.	Case No.	<b>FIR No.212/2013 PS Rajakhera</b>
c.	Name of Court	<b>CJM Dholpur</b>
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	<b>No</b>
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	<b>N/A</b>
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	<b>N/A</b>
g.	Any other information required to be given	<b>No</b>
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	<b>The candidate is a dynamic, young and well educated person whose consistent work for common people has earned him a big following among local people of this area. The candidate always tries to spread love and affection among different sections of people to ensure communal harmony and peace in the area and has been fighting against those who wish to damage social fabric in the area.</b>
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	<b>The candidate is a dynamic, young and well educated person whose consistent work for common people has earned him a big following among local people of this area. The candidate always tries to spread love and affection among different sections of people to ensure communal harmony and peace in the area and has been fighting against those who wish to damage social fabric in the area.</b>

(2) Name of the Constituency- **RAJAKHERA- 80**  
 Name of the candidate- **ROHIT BOHRA**

**(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)**  
 General Secretary (Organisation)  
 Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee

## Format C-7

(For political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

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Name of Political Party : **Indian National Congress**  
 Name of the Election : **Election to the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan State**  
 Name of State/UT : **Rajasthan State**  
 (1) Name of the Constituency : **HINDOLI - 184**  
 Name of the candidate : **- ASHOK CHANDNA**

Sl No.	1. Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of Offence	<b>1. Criminal - Disruption of Government business during agitation for farmer issues. 2. Allegation of procuring license using fraudulent documents and wrong address.</b>
b.	Case No.	<b>1. FIR No. 268/2017 2. Case No. 14/2015</b>
c.	Name of Court	<b>1. ACMM - VI Jodhpur 2. ACB SRI Ganganagar</b>
d.	Whether Charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	<b>1. No 2. Yes</b>
e.	Date of Conviction, if any	<b>1. N/A 2. N/A</b>
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	<b>1. N/A 2. N/A</b>
g.	Any other information required to be given	<b>1. N/A 2. N/A</b>
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	<b>The candidate has been actively working for all sections in the constituency for a long time. A large number of people have been positively affected by the various social welfare programs initiated by the candidate. The candidate has left a significant imprint of development upon the people of entire Hindoli.</b>
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	<b>The candidate is a youth icon, very famous for his decision making and development oriented approach towards the cause of people of Hindoli. The pending cases against the candidate are nothing but an example of political ill will.</b>

(2) Name of the Constituency- **HINDOLI - 184**  
 Name of the candidate- **ASHOK CHANDNA**

**(Shri. Lalit Tunwal)**  
 General Secretary (Organisation)  
 Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee