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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



Post-Diwali, Delhi has its cleanest air since 2015; wind a factor

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

THIS YEAR, the day after Diwali has seen the cleanest air in Delhi since 2015. This, despite the AQI remaining in the 'very poor' category on both Diwali and the day after, with pollution levels recording a surge when firecrackers were set off in violation of the Delhi government's ban.

The AQI (air quality index) on Diwali day was 312, while it was 303 on Tuesday, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). AQI between 301 and 400 is considered to be 'very poor'. The AQI on Diwali day this year is the cleanest that the city has seen since 2019.

CPCB data available from 2015 onwards shows that the worst post-Diwali air quality was seen last year, when the day after Diwali recorded an AQI of 462, in the 'severe' category. The AQI on Diwali day last year was 382. Since 2015, there have been four years when the day after Diwali saw 'severe' air quality.

Meteorological conditions played a role in the improved air

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

AIR QUALITY

Year	Diwali day AQI	Day after Diwali
2015	343	360
2016	431	445
2017	319	403
2018	281	390
2019	337	368
2020	414	435
2021	382	462
2022	312	303

Saudi Aramco executive spent week in Chamoli jail for carrying sat phone

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

A SENIOR executive of oil giant Saudi Aramco spent almost a week in custody in Uttarakhand after he was arrested by police in July for carrying a satellite phone without permission from authorities while on a holiday. He was released after paying a fine of Rs 1,000.

Fergus MacLeod, head of in-

vestor relations at Saudi Aramco, told the UK's *Financial Times* he was arrested on July 12 at his hotel in the Valley of Flowers National Park. The 62-year-old was held in prison in the town of Chamoli until July 18.

According to the FT report, authorities detained the British executive after picking up the co-ordinates of the phone, which MacLeod says he turned on and off at his hotel but did not use while on the holiday with friends, some of whom were col-

leagues from Saudi Aramco.

A part of Chamoli district lies along the Line of Actual Control with China.

Chamoli SP Shweta Choubey told *The Indian Express* that the executive was held by Chamoli police after he was found carrying a satellite phone, which is against the rules — possession or use of satellite phones by foreign nationals without prior approval is illegal, unauthorised in India.

"He did not have any idea

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE WORLD

**ASHTON CARTER, DEFENCE SECY UNDER OBAMA, DIES****ANTI-SEMITIC REMARK: ADIDAS ENDS TIES WITH KANYE WEST**

PAGE 12

UK GETS ITS FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF INDIAN ORIGIN

Rishi Sunak takes charge: 'I am not daunted, difficult decisions to come'



King Charles III welcomes Rishi Sunak at Buckingham Palace. He invited the newly elected leader of the Conservative Party to become Prime Minister. AP

MORE REPORTS, PAGES 8, 12

At 10, Downing Street, he says will fix Truss 'mistakes', work to restore trust

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, OCTOBER 25

RISHI SUNAK on Tuesday took charge as Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister with a promise to put the crisis-hit country's needs "above politics" and "fix the mistakes" made by his predecessor, a day after he was elected the leader of the Conservative Party in a historic leadership run.

The 42-year-old investment banker-turned politician is the youngest British Prime Minister in 210 years. He is also Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister.

In his first address at the doorstep of 10, Downing Street in London after meeting King Charles III at Buckingham Palace, the new Prime Minister said that he takes over at a time when the UK is facing a "profound economic crisis" as it deals with the aftermath of Covid and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Sunak asserted that he is "not daunted" by the high office he has accepted and hopes to live up to its demands.

"I admired her restlessness to create change. But some mistakes were made. Not borne of ill will or bad intentions. Quite the opposite in fact, but mistakes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED

On FTA, hopes rise

ADVOCATES OF the India-UK free trade deal are counting on a much-needed impetus for the agreement now that Sunak has taken over. Sunak, in his previous role as Chancellor of the Exchequer, had supported the FTA.



"Warmest congratulations @RishiSunak... I look forward to working closely... on global issues, implementing Roadmap 2030. Special Diwali wishes to the 'living bridge' of UK Indians, as we transform our historic ties into a modern partnership".

PM Narendra Modi

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

ACCIDENTAL PM

BY AVINASH PALIWAL

PM RISHI SUNAK

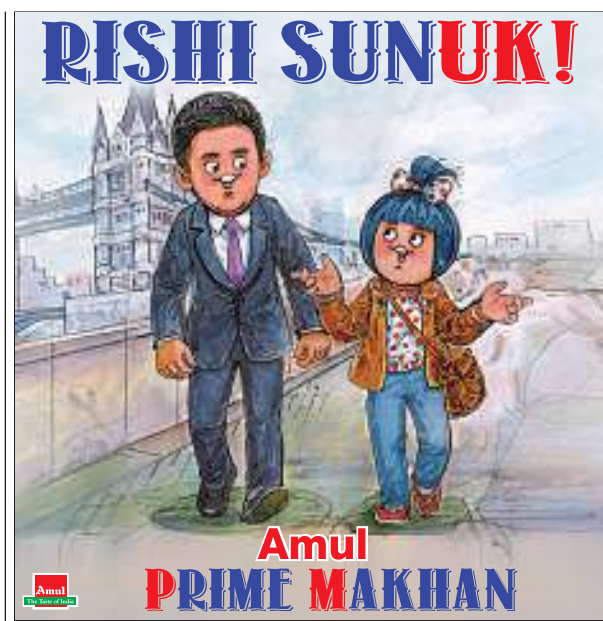
A person of colour becoming the leader of the UK is historic, even if his is no underdog tale

PAGE 10

EXPLAINED

HIS CHALLENGES

PAGE 14



Veteran US diplomat Jones interim envoy to India, 6th in 21 months

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

THE BIDEN administration has now named a senior US diplomat, who had worked on NATO's role in Europe vis-a-vis Russia as the US Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia, as the next Charge d'Affaires ad interim in New Delhi — until a full-time Ambassador is sent to India.

Elizabeth Jones, 74, is the sixth interim US envoy in the last 21 months (since January 2021) asked to step in for the job, which is considered a placeholder until a full-time Ambassador is confirmed by the US Congress.

During the Obama administration, Jones had served as Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. In



Elizabeth Jones is next Charge d'Affaires

October 2021, she was appointed Coordinator for Afghan relocation efforts.

As Assistant Secretary for Europe and Eurasia for the Department of State from 2001 to 2005, Jones designed US policies for NATO and European Union countries, Russia, Ukraine, the Caucasus and Central Asia. She supervised 54 US ambassadors and their embassies in the early years of the Russian presidency under Vladimir Putin.

Previously, she served as Senior Advisor for Caspian Basin Energy Diplomacy after having been Principal Deputy Assistant

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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1 November

PUB. AD.

Dr VK Kaushik
Delhi-ORN Campus
3:00 - 5:00 PM
1 November

PUB. AD.

Anubhav Sharma
Bengaluru Campus
3:00 - 5:00 PM
18 November

GEOGRAPHY

Vineet Thaploo
Delhi-ORN Campus
7:30 - 9:30 AM
1 November

SOCIOLOGY

Dr. Surendra S.
Delhi-ORN Campus
3:00 - 5:00 PM
1 November

PSYCHOLOGY

Soubhik Sen
Delhi-ORN Campus
3:00 - 5:00 PM
1 November

HISTORY

K. Kirthika & Mathimaran
Delhi-ORN Campus
7:30 - 9:30 AM
1 November

04 NOV

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A first at Chennai institute of mental health: A marriage between inmates

PAGE 1
ANCHORARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 25

THEY WERE strangers when they got admitted at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) about two years ago. But, over the months, they formed a bond and shared a dream of building a new life together. On Saturday, P Mahendran (42) will marry Deepa (36) at the local temple — marking the first wedding of inmates in the 228-year-old history of IMH.

Mahendran's life had come



Mahendran, Deepa will get married Oct 29. Arun Janardhanan

to a halt because of his worries and fears regarding his family's properties in the midst of a bitter fight between relatives. Deepa's was likely a prolonged grief over the death of her father in 2016, and the anonymity she endured at her own home, despite the presence of her mother and younger sister.

Both don't remember their arrival at the IMH campus. They are among the many at IMH who have nowhere to go, nobody who can help them get back to a normal life, even after their treatment is over.

A few months ago, as their confused minds found a normalcy, they were transferred to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4




Gold smuggling accused dares CPM leaders to sue

DAYS AFTER she raised allegations of sexual harassment against three prominent CPI(M) leaders in Kerala, Swapna Suresh, a key accused in the 2020 gold smuggling case, Tuesday dared the leaders to file a defamation suit against her.

On October 21, in interviews to TV channels, Swapna had alleged that former state Finance Minister Thomas Isaac, former Temple Affairs minister Kadakampally Surendran and former Assembly Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan had sought sexual favours from her. Isaac

post saying he "never misbehaved with any woman" and that "Sangh Parivar's brain is behind the allegations". Swapna posted a few photographs of the former Speaker. She wrote: "This is just a simple and humble reply and a reminder to Sreeramakrishnan for his FB post. In case this doesn't remind him the rest then I request this gentleman to please file a defamation suit against me so that I may be able to produce the rest of the evidences before the Hon'ble Court. These are only to remind him (about my visit to his residence)."

On Tuesday, minutes after Sreeramakrishnan's Facebook post saying he "never misbehaved with any woman" and that "Sangh Parivar's brain is behind the allegations", Swapna posted a few photographs of the former Speaker. She wrote: "This is just a simple and humble reply and a reminder to Sreeramakrishnan for his FB post. In case this doesn't remind him the rest then I request this gentleman to please file a defamation suit against me so that I may be able to produce the rest of the evidences before the Hon'ble Court. These are only to remind him (about my visit to his residence)."


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4	Cost of Tender Document Rs. 0.00/-
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6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen. www.irops.gov.in
7	Allocation 20426203
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Date 25/10/2022

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The last date of Tender Submission is 22/11/2022 at 4:00 p.m. The Prebid Meeting will be conducted on dated 15/11/2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the Office of Municipal Council Akkalkot.

Received tender will be opened on Dated 23/11/2022 at 4:00 p.m., if possible in the presence of available contractors or their representative. Sd/-

**- SACHIN PATIL, Chief Officer
Municipal Council Akkalkot**

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTSON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Sunak takes charge: 'Not daunted...'

...nonetheless," he said about his predecessor Liz Truss.

"And I have been elected as leader of my party, and your Prime Minister in part, to fix them. And that work begins immediately," Sunak said, as he sought to bring stability to the UK after months of political and economic turmoil.

"I will unite our country not with words but with action. I will work day in and day out to deliver for you," said Sunak, the second Prime Minister in as many months and the third this year.

Sunak, Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's son-in-law, warned of "difficult decisions to come" and pointed to his record as chancellor of exchequer during the pandemic to promise that he will bring that "same compassion" to the challenges ahead.

"I stand here before you, ready to lead our country into the future, to put your needs above politics, to reach out and build a government that represents the very best traditions of

party. Together we can achieve incredible things. We will create a future worthy of the sacrifices so many have made and fill tomorrow and every day thereafter with hope," he said.

On a somewhat defiant note to address the Opposition clamour for a general election, he stressed that the mandate the Conservative Party won in the 2019 general election is not the sole property of one person -- with reference to former Prime Minister Boris Johnson -- but "a mandate that belongs to and unites all of us".

"Congratulations to Rishi Sunak on this historic day. This is the moment for every Conservative to give our new PM their full and wholehearted support," Johnson tweeted.

In the day, outgoing Prime Minister Truss chaired her final Cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street before making her way to Buckingham Palace to formally tender her resignation to the 73-year-old monarch.

Sunak then arrived at the

place for his meeting with the King, who then invited him to form a government as the UK's 57th Prime Minister and the third in just seven weeks.

As Sunak made his first prime ministerial address on the steps of 10, Downing Street, he was not joined by his wife Akshata Murty and daughters Krishna and Anoushka, as was expected. He then went in for meetings with officials at 10, Downing Street to start finalising his Cabinet.

While he decided to keep the new Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, in place for economic stability, he brought back Indian-origin Suella Braverman as Home Secretary. In another move aimed at continuity, James Cleverly will stay in his post as Foreign Secretary despite not being a Sunak loyalist. Another close ally, Dominic Raab, who served as Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Secretary in the Boris Johnson-led Cabinet, returns to the twin posts under Sunak.

Labour leader and the leader

the opposition Keir Starmer congratulated Sunak, but hinted at the need for a general election. In a readout of a shadow cabinet meeting, Starmer said Sunak "has only ever fought one leadership election battle his entire life" and "got trashed" by Truss.... And no wonder he doesn't want to fight a general election."

Sunak describes himself as a "proud Hindu". His victory on 14 October has resonated among the Indian diaspora groups across the UK, who have hailed it as a "historic moment" in British social history.

Sunak's victory in the Tory leadership race came at the end of a dramatic few days in Westminster since Truss resigned last Thursday in the wake of a disastrous tax-cutting mini-budget and several policy U-turns. He now faces the enormous challenge of steering the UK economy through massive inflationary turbulence and also uniting the different wings of a divided Conservative Party.

—PT

● A first at Chennai institute of mental health: A marriage between inmates

the “Half Way Home”, a campus building for those who are on “halfway back home” after treatment, a facility for those who face stigma at home.

Mahendran, who was raised by his elder sister in his early years in Chennai city, is currently working with a daycare centre at the campus, a place for people who require help to spend their daytime alone. Deepa works at Cafe R’vive, a community cafe launched by IMH along with restaurant M Mahadevan’s Chennai Mission to employ people with mental illness and other weaker sections.

Mahendran admits that confessing his feelings to Deepa was an impulsive move, but the decision had taken shape over the course of several months. For Deepa, moving out of Ward No. 20, the female ward, to the “Half Way Home”, was not only about being freed from a confused

Spoken sense of time but also about finding a new meaning.

Speaking to The Indian Express at the IMH campus, Deepa says she wasn't thinking of marriage at all after her father's death. "If you are in the ward, there are patients who have no clue about themselves, some are violent, some are undergoing grief and depression. I was not sure when he first told me about his wish to marry me. Later, I went back home, and had to return again, when I realised that he may be that person who can make things a little more meaningful," she says, as Mahendran stars in a popular film song, "Kalyaana Maalai", originally sung by SP Balasubrahmanyam, portraying the multitude of layers in a married life.

"We are building a new life. Even if I get angry or scold you for not eating properly, don't mistake me, that is for your

health," he tells her soon after the singing ends. "Meeting and forgetting to know her was like re-living many things for me..." She is like my mother, my aunt, my sister, my best friend, everything known...," he adds.

Asked why there has been no MMH wedding in 28 years, MMH director Dr Poorna Chandrika laughs. "Look, it is like a small village or township within the city, and it is no different from the world outside," she says. "There were 'post-graduate student' weddings, but inmates rarely interacted here. Their (Mahendran and Deepa) relationship first came to me as a complaint -- that they always hang out and go out. I imposed some restrictions. But I realised that it was irresistible for them. I wondered how it was even possible here... But finally when I made her sit and talk, she told me why she should marry him,

"How it would help her thrive, now she had thought about it many times," she says.

"Unlike others in confined wards, inmates at the 'Half Way Home' can have their own phones, bank accounts, or a life if they can go to work outside or watch a movie," says Dr Chandrika. The Disability Rights Alliance helps them save their earnings and manage bank accounts. "Sometimes, we also help them to stop overspending," she says.

"Despite the restrictions and curfew I imposed initially, love has won now. After marriage, they cannot live on campus. I was a little worried about how to tell them that... but Deepa told me they are already looking for a house near the campus, so we can all be together. Mahendran is already working at our daycare centre, and he is also doing a small part-time job outside," she says.

"Mental illness is like diabetes – you need to manage it, maintain a lifestyle, and maybe take medicines for a while. But above all, it is also about an environment where they can think of love and life beyond medications. Everyone in IMH is happy that Mahendran and Deepa made it possible here," she says.

Regional Office : Krishna Honda Building, Akharaghat Road, Muzaffarpur-842001	 वैयंकट बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> ficra VIHARA </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> श्री DHARMA </div> </div>	POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)	
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● Jones interim envoy to India

Secretary in the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (1998-2000), Jones was Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan (1995-98) and Executive Assistant to Secretary of State Warren Christopher (1993-94). She had also served as Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) at the US embassies in Bonn and Islamabad.

In a speech as Assistant Secretary in 2005, Jones had said "NATO is an organisation of like-minded countries, like-minded states, this has been made clear through enlargement," and the tasks before the countries that have recently joined NATO are "nation-building", "how to treat minorities", democracy and economic reform. In a 2002 interview at the Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley, she spoke on US-Russia relations after 9/11, and said NATO's original goal is to "make the Russians comfortable with NATO and with an expanded NATO".

Incidentally, she had served in the US embassy in Islamabad when Pakistan President Zia-ul-Haq and then US Ambassador to Pakistan Arnold Raphel died in a plane crash in August 1988. "As it turned out, what I believe it to be was a freak mechanical failure in the airplane and an accident," she had said in the 2002 interview.

On Tuesday, an official statement from a spokesperson of the US State Department said: "Ambassador Elizabeth Jones will be departing for New Delhi to serve as Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim... In India, Ambassador Jones will join our Embassy and Consulate interagency teams in advancing and expanding the partnership between our governments and people, a partnership that Secretary Blinken has called one of the most consequential in the world."

Currently, Patricia A Lacina is the Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in New Delhi. She assumed charge on September 9, 2021. After US envoy Kenneth Juster, a political appointee of the Donald Trump administration, departed following the inauguration of the Biden administration on January 20, 2021, there have been a battery of interim envoys at the embassy in New Delhi – Donald Hefflin, Edgard Kagan, Daniel Bennett Smith, Atul Keshap and Patricia Lacina.

In July 2021, the Biden administration announced the nomination of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti as the next US Ambassador to India. But Garcetti's nomination is yet to receive confirmation from the US Senate.

● India envoy meets Kenya President

our deep concern and request the expediting of investigations into the matter," he said.

"The High Commissioner of Kenya in New Delhi was also called into the Ministry on October 23 to convey our concerns in the matter," Bagchi said.

He said the Indian High Commission in Kenya was in touch with the family members of the two Indians and assisting them. "The case is under active investigation by the Internal Affairs Unit (IAU) of Kenyan Police. We have noted that several people have been taken into custody in this connection including officials of the recently abolished Special Service Unit of the Kenyan Police," he said. "The specific circumstances surrounding the abduction and subsequent lack of information is very disturbing. We expect that the case will be investigated thoroughly."

He said the Ministry continues to monitor all developments related to this case.

It is learnt that 48-year-old Khan, COO of Ekta Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms and a former executive of Star Plus, was caught in the bitter fight between political parties in Kenya where elections were held in August this year. Ruto won the elections and became President in September, defeating incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta.

It is learnt that in the run-up to the elections, Khan was tapped by Ruto's team, which was then in the Opposition, for help in their social media campaign. This did not go down well with the ruling establishment led by President Kenyatta. As a result, he was abducted—a claim substantiated by President Ruto's aide Dennis Itumbi. In a Twitter post, Itumbi said the missing Indian had been killed by the now-disbanded Special Service Unit (SSU), a group accused of extrajudicial killings.

Khan and his friend Kidwai who were part of the Kenya Kwanza digital campaign team, went missing along with taxi driver Nicodemus Mwania from Mombasa Road in July. Itumbi said they were working for Ruto's campaign.

● Delhi has its cleanest air since 2015

quality this time. Gufran Beig, founder project director, SAFAR, said that wind speed helped prevent the accumulation of pollutants and an early Diwali this year meant it was still relatively warm. "Wind speed picked up around 2 am on Tuesday. In the early hours of the morning, pollutants would have normally accumulated, when the temperature is cooler and the boundary layer comes down and winds become slower. But the wind speed picked up, aiding dispersion. The highest AQI levels were recorded around midnight, after which it improved and settled at 323 in the morning," Beig said. "It appears that there may have been a reduction in firecracker emissions compared to last year. The air quality did not deteriorate as much as it could have. But the contribution of firecrackers to the emission load is still unknown and could take a few days to determine," Beig said.

The contribution of crop residue burning in Punjab and Haryana has also been low so far this year. The wind direction, which had changed to the west-northwesterly direction on Tuesday, was not favourable to transport stubble burning smoke from the northwest, Beig explained.

According to an update issued by the SAFAR forecasting system, the share of stubble burning to PM2.5 levels in Delhi was around 5.6% on Tuesday. In contrast, the contribution of stubble burning to Delhi's air on Diwali day (November 4) last year was 25% and 36% on the day after Diwali, according to data from SAFAR.

"Some control measures may have worked. It may be that people opted for firecrackers which release fewer toxic fumes though they produce sound," Beig added.

Sachchida Nand Tripathi, Professor at IIT Kanpur, also said the weather may have been a contributing factor. "Crop residue burning has also not intensified compared to previous years. Additionally, lower temperatures would make the boundary layer thinner and would not allow particulate matter to disperse quickly. But the strong wind has offset this," he said.

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment, pointed to a combination of factors. "Diwali has happened early, with warmer weather and much before the intense inversion conditions set in. Comparatively, there have been better wind speeds, and crop fires have also not been as intense. It's difficult to assess if there were reduced firecracker emissions," she said.

L-G rolls out 1-time amnesty scheme for properties in city

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

IN A major relief to property owners across the national capital, L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena Tuesday launched a one-time property amnesty scheme for residents of authorised and regularised colonies of Delhi.

Under the 'Strengthening & Augmentation of Municipal Revenue for Infrastructure Development in Delhi (SAMRID-DHI)' scheme, people will have to pay the principal amount of the current and pending past five years for residential properties, and six years for commercial properties, and get a waiver on all pending dues, including penalty and interest, said officials.

Officials at the L-G house said the aim behind the launch of this

scheme is to solve pending court cases, which are a source of consternation for citizens as well as the MCD since 2004. This will also make property owners a partner in the revenue generation efforts of the MCD, which will help the civic body build better infrastructure and provide efficient municipal service to the public, said L-G house officials.

The SAMRID-DHI drive will start on Wednesday. Officials added that the amnesty scheme envisages 'one plus five' formula for residential and 'one plus six' for non-residential properties. The taxpayers of residential properties under the scheme are required to pay the principal amount of property tax for the current year and the previous five years (FY 2022-23 + FYs 2017-18 to 2021-22), whereupon 100% interest and penalty on the out-

standing tax amount shall be exempted and all the previous dues prior to 2017-18 will be waived, said the officials.

Similarly, commercial property owners will have to make payment of the principal amount of property tax for the current year and the previous six years (FY 2022-23 + FYs 2016-17 to 2021-22), whereupon 100% interest and penalty on the outstanding tax amount shall be exempted and all the previous dues prior to 2016-17 will be completely waived.

Officials said that as per the scheme, if any taxpayer has already paid tax dues of any of the years 2017-18 onwards or 2016-17 onwards, which have not been captured in MCD tax data, they have to submit proof of payment so that the tax database can be updated. Such cases where prin-

cipal, interest and penalty have already been paid before the launch of the scheme shall not be reassessed and reopened.

Officials said only those taxpayers who settle their tax dues as per the scheme will get the benefits and those failing to settle their dues by March 31, 2023, will be liable to pay all tax dues along with interest and penalty since 2004 or since the year it has been pending, and will not be entitled to any waiver. The coercive measures to collect the tax dues shall be launched against such defaulters from April 1, 2023.

To avail of the scheme, taxpayers have to apply in the prescribed form online and make payment of the dues, as per the scheme, online. The scrutiny of the tax payments will be done strictly within a year from the date of the tax payment.

Sisodia notice over yoga initiative

New Delhi: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Tuesday issued a show cause notice to the secretary, Directorate of Training and Technical Education (TTE), for allegedly trying to discontinue the AAP government's flagship 'Dilli ki Yogshala' programme. He has sought a reply within 24 hours, said officials.

The government's programme was announced by CM Arvind Kejriwal last year on December 31 to provide yoga instructors to the citizens of Delhi.

"Despite knowing that 'Dilli ki yogshala' is a flagship project of the government of NCT, (secretary) wrongly and forcibly tried to discontinue it and sabotage the efforts of the Delhi government to provide yoga classes for thousands of Delhiites," read the notice issued by Sisodia.

He sought explanation saying that the secretary is a representative of the government on the board of governors. **ENS**

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3 YEARS OF UT LADAKH

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Department of Information & Public Relations, Ladakh

Towards Sustainable Tourism & Fit Ladakh

Ladakh is celebrating its Third Foundation Day after becoming a Union Territory on 31st October, 2019. Significant progress has been made in various sectors in the last three years. Tourism is the major contributor to Ladakh's economy with around 5 lakhs tourists visiting Ladakh in 2022. The popularity of sports like polo, mountaineering and ice hockey has garnered interest while adventure sports and events such as rock-climbing, white-water rafting and Chadar Trek have contributed to the foothold of tourists in Ladakh

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

- New Homestay Policy launched for geographical spread and decentralisation of tourism activities to promote eco-tourism
- Trainings provided to 550 homestay owners each in Leh and Kargil and incentive items worth Rs 5 crores distributed
- Country's first Dark Sky Reserve being developed at Hanle to promote Astro-tourism
- New Festivals such as Ladakh Zaskar Festival, Dress Ladakh Festival, Mamani Food Festival, Apricot Blossom Festival, Buck-Food Craft Institute, Leh upgraded to Institute of Hotel Management, UT Ladakh
- Wayside amenities at major tourist routes for the convenience of tourists

PROMOTING SPORTS & FITNESS

- Open stadium with AstroTurf at Leh and AstroTurf football ground at Kargil constructed; Multi-purpose Indoor Stadium constructed in Leh
- State-of-the-art ice hockey rinks with chilling facilities constructed in Leh & Kargil to keep it functional round the year
- Players from Ladakh represented the UT at various national and international tournaments; 26 sports associations registered and affiliated with national associations
- Sports infrastructure being developed in 36 Higher Secondary, 80 High, 368 Middle and 347 Primary schools in Ladakh
- Sports equipment worth Rs. 10 crore purchased
- L.D. Polo Cup & L.G. Ice Hockey Tournaments organised at UT-level

SUCCESS STORY

"Thanks to UT Administration and LAHDC Leh, I was able to train under the best coaches and compete at various national events"

-Leakhes Angmo, Cyclist from Leh, who took part in Khelo India Games

No of Tourists that visited Ladakh

	2019	2022
Domestic	241,395	468,267
Foreigners	28,652	18,332

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6 THE CITY

BRIEFLY

Flat gutted in fire on Diwali night in Sohna

Gurgaon: A flat was gutted after a fire broke out in Central Park Flower Valley in Sohna on Monday night. Fire department officials said no casualty was reported and the fire was doused, adding that the cause was yet to be ascertained. According to officials, a call was received at flat no D 63 on the second floor at Flamingo Floors at 12.10 am, following which a fire tender from Sohna was rushed to the spot.

3 labourers killed after being run over by train

New Delhi: Three labourers were run over and killed by a train between Holambi and Badli Monday evening in Delhi's Northwest District while trying to cross the railway tracks, police said. The victims, aged 19-21, are Mohammed Hafiz, Mohammed Shahrulkh and Riyazul.

Man shoots at neighbours

New Delhi: A 41-year-old man was arrested in Northwest District Tuesday for allegedly shooting at four neighbours after he was irritated by fireworks. Police identified the man as Keshav Puram resident Arvind Kumar. **ENS**



Comparison of pollution level a day after Diwali in 2021 (left) and 2022 (right) at Signature Bridge. The DPCC's data points to a reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 levels at all locations monitored on Diwali day this year. *Praveen Khanna*

On first very poor air day, not all neighbourhoods are equal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

SOUTH DELHI'S Nehru Nagar had the highest average PM2.5 level on Diwali day, while Anand Vihar had the highest average PM10 concentration, data from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) shows.

The average PM2.5 level at Nehru Nagar on Diwali day was 312 µg/m3. Okhla Phase-II and RK Puram followed with levels of 303 µg/m3 and 304 µg/m3 respectively.

At Anand Vihar, the average PM10 level on Diwali day was 462 µg/m3. This was followed by Northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri, which had a PM10 level of 421 µg/m3 on Diwali day, going by a report on Diwali air quality prepared by the DPCC.

The reduction in PM10 levels also ranged from 20% at Okhla to 69% at Wazirpur on Diwali this year

The DPCC's data also points to a reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 levels at all 24 locations monitored on Diwali day this year as compared to last year. The reduction in PM2.5 levels ranges from 21% at Patparganj to 80% at Mandir Marg. At Nehru Nagar, the PM2.5 level last year on Diwali was 661 µg/m3, indicating a 53% reduction in PM2.5 levels this year on Diwali day.

The reduction in PM10 levels also ranged from 20% at Okhla to 69% at Wazirpur on Diwali this

year compared to last year.

Data from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) also shows that some monitoring stations recorded a large spike in pollution levels around midnight. At midnight on Tuesday, the PM10 level at the Nehru Nagar monitoring station in South Delhi was 1,086 µg/m3, up from 202 µg/m3 at 7 pm. The 24-hour standard for PM10 levels according to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards is 100 µg/m3.

The PM2.5 level also shot up to 943 µg/m3 at midnight, up from 122 µg/m3 at 7 pm on Monday. The 24-hour standard for PM2.5 is 60 µg/m3. Similarly, Punjabi Bagh recorded a PM10 level of 917 µg/m3 at midnight.

Firecrackers were set off in Delhi in violation of the ban, and noise levels were also up on

Diwali day. The highest noise level was recorded at Karol Bagh – 82 decibels – on Diwali day, while Najafgarh saw the lowest noise level of 54 decibels. On the day before Diwali, Karol Bagh had recorded a lower maximum noise level of 71.2 decibels.

The noise levels at some monitoring stations like the one at Nehru Nagar, increased between 6 pm and midnight on Diwali. The noise level at Nehru Nagar hit a high of 74.2 decibels at 11 pm Diwali night, DPCC data shows. The noise limit for a residential area like the one in which the noise level at Nehru Nagar is monitored is 45 decibels at night.

The noise levels at Aurobindo Marg also increased between 6 pm and 11 pm Diwali night, reaching the highest level of 74.3 decibels at 8 pm.

150 anti-smog guns on wheels roll out across the capital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

A TOTAL OF 150 mobile anti-smog guns have been deployed on roads in Delhi from Tuesday to mitigate pollution from dust.

Environment minister Gopal Rai flagged off the anti-smog guns Tuesday and said two anti-smog guns will ply in each of the 70 assembly constituencies in Delhi from 10 am to 6 pm. Additional anti-smog guns will be deployed in hotspots where pollution levels are high, he said. The guns are mounted on trucks that are equipped to carry 7,000 litres of



Anti-smog guns will be deployed from 10 am to 6 pm. *Praveen Khanna*

water. They spray water in a fine mist to get dust to settle down.

Rai said ten mobile anti-smog guns were deployed on the roads last year. On pollution levels after

Diwali, Rai said there has been a 30% reduction in pollution levels after Diwali this year as compared to last year. He pointed out that the AQI on Tuesday morning was 323 and the average AQI on the day after Diwali last year was 462. "Some people burst crackers...but I am optimistic that awareness will increase. I think people are becoming more aware now, it will become more successful in the coming years and pollution can be reduced further," he said while addressing the media.

Rai said stubble burning related fire counts in Punjab were lower on Diwali day this year when compared to last year.

HC: Friend with legal background can't represent man facing sexual harassment at workplace enquiry

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

THE DELHI High Court has held that allowing a person facing a sexual harassment enquiry before a company's Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to be represented by a "friend" with a "legal background", who is not registered as an advocate, would be prejudicial to the complainant, who is "without the aid of a legal practitioner or next of friend".

A single judge bench of Justice Sanjeev Narula, in its judgment dated October 14, held that the intent of rule 7(6) of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Rules is to disallow a legal practitioner from representing the parties at any stage of the proceedings.

The petitioner argued that he is entitled to be represented by "a next friend" before the ICC. He referred to Section 11(3) of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013 Act, to submit that for the purpose of

making an enquiry, "the ICC is deemed to be vested with powers akin to a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in respect of matters relating to summoning and examination of the witnesses, etc".

Under this provision, he is entitled to be represented by a person who is capable of conducting cross-examination of the complainant during the enquiry. He further argued that in case he is found guilty by the ICC, he would be punished with a "direct termination" from his job "without notice". "With such a harsh consequence, evidencing mechanism thereof should necessarily require that Petitioner should have a right of representation," the judgment records.

The HC went on to hold that the provision has to be given its due meaning, and cannot be construed in the manner the petitioner sought to do. "For this court to allow such a request, by ignoring the bar under Rule 7(6), it would have to be restrictively interpreted and the word 'legal practitioner' would have to be read in such a manner that it only

includes an 'advocate' registered under the Advocates Act, 1961 and not a law graduate," the HC noted.

The petitioner had challenged an email communication of September 22 where his request to engage an advocate was declined. The petitioner then challenged the rules before a division bench of the HC, but withdrew the plea later. He subsequently approached the single judge bench of the HC, where he restricted his prayer for representation by a "person of his choice".

When the court specifically enquired about the background of the person who the petitioner sought to represent him before the ICC, the court was informed that it would be a person with a legal background so that he can conduct cross-examination of the complainant. "It is indeed baffling that the Petitioner, who is himself a law graduate, which in general parlance would mean an 'advocate', wants to take assistance of a next friend, who has legal background but is not registered as an advocate," the HC observed.

Among Diwali injuries this yr, many hurt making crackers

ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

HOSPITALS ACROSS Delhi were flooded with patients with burn injuries over the last two days.

According to a doctor at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), many patients were injured by handmade firecrackers while putting gunpowder in pipes.

"A patient informed me that he was crushing and stuffing gunpowder inside a pipe when it blasted and he got injured," said a doctor working with the hospital.

He added that another patient was carrying the gunpowder in his bag when it exploded and injured him. "Every year, such cases come up where patients including children were making firecrackers with gunpowder and pipes which explode, leaving them injured grievously," said a senior doctor.

According to officials at AIIMS, 24 patients came to the burns and plastics department at the institute on the night of Diwali, out of which ten were minor injury patients who were given first aid at the OPD, while 14 were severely



At RML, 31 patients with burn injuries were treated

injured.

"Nine patients are admitted in the ICU who got burned due to firecrackers and diyas (clay lamps) on the night of Diwali," said a senior official.

The official said that the doctors worked through the Diwali night due to the rush.

"A total of 15 doctors were deployed throughout the night in the OT and OPD. Emergency was full of patients," added the official.

Similar scenes were reported at Safdarjung Hospital where 97 patients were reported to have had burn injuries on the night of Diwali. "Out of these, 83 were with minor burns and were treated at the OPD and had head and face injuries. Those admitted

had 20-25 per cent burn injuries in their body, and three of them needed operations," said Dr Shalabh Kumar, head of the burns and plastics department at Safdarjung Hospital.

He added that out of the total 97 patients, 60 were from Delhi and 37 were from outside Delhi.

At Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (RML), over two days, 31 patients with burn injuries were treated. "Three patients were admitted and the rest were discharged from OPD after being given first aid. Most of the injuries were due to firecrackers and diyas," said Dr Sameek Bhattacharya, professor, burns and plastics surgery department.

According to Dr Sameek, patients often commit the mistake of self-medication which can further deteriorate the burned area. "People should not apply toothpaste or any other home remedy in the affected area. When a burn injury happens, one should apply cold water on it and visit the nearest hospital or doctor," he added.

Meanwhile, at Lok Nayak hospital, six cases of minor burns were reported and four patients were admitted at GTB hospital with one patient having severe injury.

DU admission: 2nd round begins today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

WITH AROUND 59,100 candidates having sealed their admissions at Delhi University in the first round of admissions, the process for the second round of allotments will begin on Wednesday.

With the conclusion of the first round of admissions Tuesday, the university will display the remaining vacant seats at 10.00 am on Wednesday. These remaining vacant seats are the ones against which fresh allotments or "upgradations" can be done.

Candidates who have secured their admissions in the first round have the option to "freeze" their admissions if they wish to remain in the seats allotted to them. Others can opt to "upgrade", which means that they want to be considered for upgradation to a college-course combination they have placed higher in their preference list.

Candidates will have from 10.00 am on Wednesday to 4.59 pm on Thursday to opt for "upgrade" and reorder their higher preferences in a way to maximise their chances of being upgraded

EXPLAINED **First round of admissions**

THERE ARE around 70,000 seats open for admissions across colleges and courses at Delhi University and in its first, the administration made 80,164 allotments. Of these, 72,865 candidates had accepted their allotted seats, after which colleges processed their applications. Around 59,100 candidates have paid their fees and sealed their admissions.

to a preferred vacant seat.

Candidates who opt for upgradation will automatically be upgraded if they are high enough on the programme merit list among those vying for a given seat. If a new preference is allocated to a candidate, their claim to the earlier allocated seat is forfeited automatically leading to "auto-cancellation". The second round seat allotments will be released at 5 pm on October 30, and candidates will have from 10.00 am on October 31 to 4.59 pm on November 1 to accept their seats.

10-YEAR-LONG COURSE IS RUN BY KERALA GOVT**This Malayalam class has an unexpected student — an 80-yr-old Punjabi**

AISWARYA RAJ
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

AT 80-YEAR-OLD Trilochan Singh's residence in Mayur Vihar, Malayalam books were strewn around, with several notebooks showing his prowess in a language that he is not remotely related to.

"*Enik Malayalam ishtamaan* (I love Malayalam)," he said with enthusiasm, displaying his grades from the Malayalam Mission's classes.

Malayalam Mission, a 10-year-long course, was flagged off in Delhi for the Malayali diaspora with the Kerala government's approval in 2005. Following its success and popularity in the national capital, the government inaugurated the scheme to be taught in various centres across

the world in 2009 by then chief minister V S Achuthanandan.

Joint secretary of Malayalam Mission in Delhi, Sreenivas N V, said that apart from countless Malayali children and a few adults with Kerala roots, only three people from different backgrounds have joined. One is Trilochan Singh and the other two are Nepali siblings Hemant and Prem Thapa. "They are from diverse backgrounds and it is interesting that someone like Singh, at his age, still has such passion for learning a language so alien," he said.

Born in Lahore, Singh settled in Delhi after the Partition. For Singh, who was a technician at the Central Public Works Department in East Delhi, the decision to learn the language did not come from post-retirement boredom. Instead, he was

fascinated by Tamil initially and later Malayalam through a friend from Kerala.

His love for learning Malayalam began in 1998, after visiting Kozhikode for his friend's sister's wedding. Following this, he returned to the capital with a determination to master the language. "I purchased Malayalam books from the education ministry at R K Puram then, but I don't remember how I came to own the rest of them," he said.

"I began my formal Malayalam schooling in 2017. Over almost two decades, although I studied alone with a few Malayalis lending a hand every now and then, I realised if I am to learn the language, I should learn it right. Now I can write essays in Malayalam," Singh said, proudly exhibiting



his 'Certificate of Merit' with a C grade from the beginner's course.

There are four levels in the course — certificate course for beginners (two years), diploma course (two years), higher diploma course (three years), and senior higher diploma course (three years). The certi-



(From left) Trilochan Singh; Hemant (right) and Prem Thapa. *Express*

cate course kicks off with alphabets, basic reading and writing in Malayalam. The diploma course entails advanced skills like writing essays and stories.

Singh's centre, which conducts classes every Sunday from 4 to 5.30 pm, is close to his home. "I have seen him getting worked up because he overslept and

missed classes. He is very serious about it," said Nirmal Kaur (72), Singh's wife. The octogenarian, owing to age, has hearing loss but works twice as hard not to let it impede his learning, she said.

"I am happy he is interested in this since he has retired, and picking up such a hobby has bucked up his ideas," Nirmal added. "He does not enjoy Punjabi as much. He cannot even recollect the names of the ten Gurus in Sikhism," she said, with a tinge of disapproval.

However, Singh chimed in, "This is not just a hobby. I retired in 2005. My love for this language predates it."

Similar is the enthusiasm shared by Nepali siblings Hemant (16) and Prem Thapa (13). "I enrolled in the Malayalam mission classes when I was six

years old. I have many Malayali friends. When they would speak in their mother tongue, I was very fascinated," said Hemant, who lives in Hastal Vikasपुरi, a predominantly Malayali neighbourhood. Hemant and Prem completed the diploma course under the scheme this year, said Sara Isac, coordinator of the scheme in West Delhi.

Prem joined three years after Hemant. Both of them attend the classes without fail, Hemant said. Their father Bharat Thapa said Hemant's Malayali tuition teacher informed them of the scheme. "I didn't have second thoughts because they can have a command over four languages (Nepali, Hindi, English and Malayalam). We have neither visited Kerala nor have any connection with the state, but we wish to go there someday," he

said.

Asked what he liked about the classes, Hemant said the Onam celebration this year was delightful. "I ate sadhya after a long time. On Onam, we sang Malayalam songs. It was a good day," he said.

For Trilochan Singh and the Thapa siblings, though it has been a long journey, spanning over a decade for two among them, it has not reached an end yet.

Singh took his second test, but he could not clear the paper this year. "I got a D this time. I have to retake the exam next year. I hit a roadblock with a story I was supposed to write, but could not complete on time. I failed by one mark," he said. Nirmal broke in, "You have come this far, you will definitely clear it next time. Don't lose heart now."



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8 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



ECLIPSE OVERSHADOWED

WITH A partial solar eclipse visible from most parts of India on Tuesday, the day after Diwali, Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh was requested by many to consider postponing a press meet he was scheduled to address on the lawns of his Lutyens Delhi bungalow — the solar eclipse is considered inauspicious according to Hindu mythology. But Singh, who holds the Science and Technology portfolio, decided to go ahead with his planned events. He celebrated Diwali at his home in Jammu, from where he came to Delhi, with just 15 minutes to spare for the press conference.

BACK HOME

RJD chief Lalu Prasad, who had flown to Singapore for medical treatment two weeks ago, has returned. A Delhi court had allowed him to travel abroad between October 10 and 25. Prasad, currently staying at the Delhi residence of elder daughter Misa Bharti, is likely to travel to Singapore again for further treatment if he gets the court's permission. It remains to be seen if he visits Bihar ahead of the November 3 bypolls to Mokama and Gopalganj.

CELEBRATING PATEL

THE UNIVERSITY Grants Commission has written to higher educational institutions across the country with the request to hold exhibitions on the life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose birth anniversary is on October 31. On the occasion, colleges and universities have been given the option to show a specially curated digital exhibition by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and the Indian Council of Historical Research.

KERALA TUSSLE

Khan sends notices to 2 more V-Cs, LDF to protest on Nov 15

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCTOBER 25



Kerala Governor Arif Khan

KERALA GOVERNOR Arif Mohammed Khan on Tuesday served notices to the V-Cs of Sree Narayana Guru Open University, and Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation & Technology to show their legal rights to hold the office and why their appointments be not declared as illegal and 'void ab initio'.

The tussle between the Governor and the state government escalated with the LDF announcing a protest in front of the Raj Bhavan on November 15. The LDF on Tuesday also took out marches across Kerala in protest against the Governor's action.

On Monday, Khan had served similar show-cause notices to V-Cs of nine universities in Kerala. They were asked to respond by November 3. In Tuesday's notices, the two V-Cs were told to respond by November 4.

Khan on Sunday had asked the nine V-Cs to resign by Monday morning, saying they were "either appointed from single-name panels or recommended by the search/selection committee with non-academician as members". He was relying upon last Friday's SC verdict which had declared illegal the

appointment of Dr M S Rajasree as the V-C of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University, Thiruvananthapuram, was "illegal" and "void ab initio" as it flouted UGC norms. However, the nine V-Cs got a respite when the Kerala HC on Monday, allowing them to continue in office till the Governor, as the Chancellor, takes a final decision on the issue.

The V-Cs who were served notices on Tuesday are Dr Mubarak Pasha of Sree Narayana Guru Open University, and Dr Saji Gopinath of Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation & Technology. These two universities were formed during the previous LDF regime. In the notices served to them, the Governor said their appointments were prima facie illegal, 'void ab initio' and contrary to the UGC norms.

Meanwhile, LDF convener and CPI(M) central committee member E P Jayarajan said: "Kerala is fighting against the Sangh Parivar agenda in the higher education sector. To weaken this fight, the Governor is working... at the behest of RSS."

Let's not interfere in each other's internal affairs, says China envoy

In farewell speech, he says Beijing has optimised visa process for Indian citizens

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

INDIA AND China need to respect each other's political systems and uphold the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, outgoing Chinese envoy to India Sun Weidong has said.

In his farewell remarks posted on the Chinese embassy website on Tuesday, the Sun said, "China and India are important neighbours...it is only natural for China and India to have some differences. The key is how to handle the differences. We should be aware that the common interests of the two countries are greater than differences."

"The two countries need to respect each other's political systems and development paths, and uphold the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs," he said.

Stressing on the need for en-



Sun Weidong, Express

hancing communication and co-operation, he said tChina has optimised the visa application process for Indian citizens, resumed processing visa applications for students pursuing long-term study, and those visiting for other purposes. "Up to now, over 1,800 visas have been issued to the Indian students, and we hope there will be more exchange of visits between our peoples," he said.

Noting that the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was successfully held, Sun said: "It made clear what banners the party will hold,

what path it will take, what goals it wants to achieve and how it will achieve them. Comrade Xi Jinping was elected the general secretary...which is the call of the times, the choice of history, and the aspiration of the people."

Recalling that he took charge as Chinese ambassador to India in July 2019, Sun said he witnessed the bilateral trade volume between the two countries exceeding (US) \$120 billion, adding that during this period, China-India relations also experienced "ups and downs". "I believe that, under the strategic guidance of the leaders of our two countries and with the joint efforts of both sides, the bilateral relations will eventually have the clouds cleared and return to the right track," he said, in an oblique reference to the border situation.

He also took a swipe at the Quad and other Indo-Pacific strategies, saying, "If the Western theory of geopolitics is applied to China-

India relationship, then major neighboring countries like us will inevitably view each other as threats and rivals. Consequently, competition and confrontation will be the main mode of interaction, and zero-sum game will be an inevitable result...we should break out of the 'geopolitics trap' and find a new path that is different from the past."

Underlining that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian PM Narendra Modi reached a host of important consensus, Sun said: "There is enough room in the world for China and India to develop together...I am convinced that the cause of China-India friendship is correct and has broad prospects. Let us look up at the blue sky, keep our feet on the earth, have faith in our hearts, have direction in our eyes, and have warmth in our hands. Through joint efforts, we can bring China-India relations back on right track."



BKU leader Rakesh Tikait

Restore mandi system or face big movement: Tikait to Nitish

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 25

BHARTIYA KISAN Union (BKU) national spokesperson Choudhary Rakesh Tikait has written a letter to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar urging him to restore the mandi system in the state so that farmers can sell wheat and paddy at minimum support price (MSP). He also threatened to launch a "big movement" if the demand is not met.

In a letter to the Bihar CM on October 17, Tikait wrote: "It is to bring to your notice that farmers (in Bihar) have not been getting proper platform to sell their grain and they do not get good price for their produce as there has been no mandis in Bihar for (the last) 15-16 years. Farmers of Bihar are forced to sell their grains through middlemen at lower prices".

Tikait added that farmers' condition had been worsening and they have no money to buy seeds and take care of their families. "With no mandis in place, Bihar farmers migrate to other States to work as labourers. Education of the students of farmers is being affected. The government should restore mandis in Bihar to ensure MSP to farmers. If not, we will be forced to launch a big movement," said Tikait.

Recently, RJD's Ramgarh MLA Sudhakar Singh resigned as agriculture minister after the Bihar CM reportedly did not consider his demands for restoration of mandis. Bihar had mandi system till 2006. Meanwhile, JD (U) spokesperson KC Tyagi said: "We are concerned about farmers. Mandis were heavily infested with middlemen culture and it won't ensure MSP. We had opposed the farm laws which were repealed by the Centre".

Sunak as UK PM: 'Lesson for India' or not, BJP versus Opp

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

AS RISHI Sunak took over as Britain's new Prime Minister, parties in India fought over what his elevation signifies, with Opposition leaders using the moment to lament growing "majoritarianism" and "divisiveness" in India, and the BJP citing APJ Abdul Kalam's and Manmohan Singh's rise as the country's president and prime minister to hit back.

The BJP said no comparison could be made either between its welcome of Sunak's achievement, and the party's opposition to Sonia Gandhi becoming PM due to her Italian origin, after the Congress won the Lok Sabha polls in 2004. Responding to a Twitter user, BJP foreign affairs department head Vijay Chauthaiwale underlined the difference between "Italy-born Sonia (who refused to take Indian citizenship for several decades after marriage with Rajiv)" and "UK-born Rishi with Indian ancestry".

Among those who took a swipe at the BJP was PDP president and former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti and TMC MP Mahua Moitra. Mufti said Sunak's elevation was a proud moment but it should also serve as a reminder that Britain has accepted an ethnic minority member as its premier but "we are still shackled by divisive and discriminatory laws like NRC and CAA".

BJP IT department head Amit



Rishi Sunak with conservative MPs in London on Monday. AP

Malviya noted that India has had three Muslim and one Sikh president besides a Sikh PM for 10 years, apart from minorities in top posts in the judiciary and armed forces. "It need not learn about diversity and inclusivity from any other country. But Mehbooba must walk the talk and back a Hindu for J&K's CM," he said.

The Congress attack was muted though, after it was caught on the wrong foot over remarks of its leaders P Chidambaram and Shashi Tharoor, making the same point as Mufti. Chidambaram tweeted: "First Kamala Harris, now Rishi Sunak. The people of the US and the UK have embraced the non-majority citizens of their countries and elected them to high office...there is a lesson to be learned by India and the parties that practise majoritarianism."

Tharoor said, "...I think all of us will have to acknowledge that the Brits have done something

very rare in the world, to place a member of a visible minority in the most powerful office. As we Indians celebrate the ascent of @RishiSunak, let's honestly ask: can it happen here."

Former law minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said: "Some leaders have become hyper active against majoritarianism...Gently reminding them about extraordinary Presidency of A P J Abdul Kalam, Manmohan Singh as PM for 10 years. A distinguished tribal leader Droupadi Murmu is now our President."

Trying to stem embarrassment from what is a touchy issue for the party, the Congress said at a press conference that "India does not need to draw lessons from any other country", and cited minorities who have occupied top posts in the past. AICC general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh said respecting diversity was "India's hallmark".

CONGRATULATIONS POUR IN



N R NARAYANA MURTHY, INFOSYS FOUNDER

Congratulations to Rishi. We are proud of him and we wish him success. We are confident he will do his best for the people of the UK.



BASAVARAJ BOMMAI, KARNATAKA CM, ON TWITTER

Congratulations to Rishi Sunak... He is connected to Karnataka. I am overwhelmed with the election of



BHAGWANT MANN, PUNJAB CM, ON TWITTER

From me and Punjab, congratulations... hope that under your leadership, relations between UK and Punjab will be stronger.

Rahul yatra: NCP, Uddhav Sena to join Maharashtra leg

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 25

AFTER THE Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra enters Maharashtra on November 7, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will also be among those who will participate in the march. The decision of the Congress's Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies is linked to the coalition's attempts to consolidate their position in state politics and project a united front at a time they are out of power and are facing crucial polls in the next couple of years, including the general and Assembly elections in 2024.

Asked about his decision, Pawar said, "We admit that the

Bharat Jodo Yatra is a programme undertaken by the Congress. It is an initiative to work to restore social harmony in society. It is a good move. Although we belong to a different party, some of us will join wherever possible."

A senior leader of the Uddhav-led Shiv Sena said on the condition of anonymity, "After the split within the Shiv Sena, we have taken a huge beating. Of our 55 MLAs, 40 defected to the Eknath Shinde camp. In the Lok Sabha, out of 18 MPs, 12 joined the Shinde camp. So, regaining our lost ground is a challenge."

The yatra will enter Maharashtra in the district of Nanded on November 7 and will also travel through the districts of Hingoli, Washim, and Buldhana over the following

fortnight, covering a stretch of 382 km. There are two rallies scheduled, one in Nanded and another in Shegaon, Buldhana.

Among those who will walk in the yatra are Baramati MP and Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule and Thackeray's son Aaditya. The Congress's MVA allies announced their decision to throw their weight behind the yatra after senior Congress leaders Balasaheb Thorat and Ashok Chavan met and requested Pawar to join the yatra. Both of them also issued an appeal to Thackeray. Said Thorat, "Bharat Jodo Yatra has a larger national agenda of restoring social and communal harmony in India." Congress leaders confirmed that Pawar and Thackeray would meet Gandhi but they are not sure if the two will walk in the yatra.

Though Pawar is known for his pragmatic politics—in the recent Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) elections, he backed a consensus candidate who is close to

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis—he has always strived to form an Opposition grouping in the state and in national politics to counter the BJP. In the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the veteran leader played important role in getting the Opposition together for the "Save Constitution, Save Democracy" rally held in Delhi.

The NCP does not expect the run-up to 2024 to be smooth sailing, even within the alliance.

A former NCP minister said, "When it comes to power-sharing, seasoned leaders find a way out. The MVA government was a reality. Despite inbuilt conflicts, it survived. Yet, the seat-sharing exercise for the BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation), state Assembly, and Lok Sabha elections will be tough."



Vipin Naihariya, who resigned as BJP's ST Morchha vice-chief, after filing his nomination as an Independent, Tuesday. PTI

Four more BJP leaders join fray as rebels on last day of nomination

OM PRAKASH THAKUR & AMIL BHATNAGAR
SHIMLA, OCTOBER 25

ONCE A rival of former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh in the Congress, Major (retired) Vijay Singh Mankotia joined the BJP in the presence of the ruling party's national president JP Nadda in Bilaspur on Tuesday. Former AICC secretary Rakesh Kalia, the ex-MLA from Chintpurni, also joined the ruling party at Gagret in Kangra.

But, these latest additions failed to paper over the BJP's troubles as the party continued to face rebellion over its ticket allocation. On Tuesday, the last date for filing nominations, the party replaced its former state unit chief Maheshwar Singh as its Kullu Sadar candidate. Singh went on to file his nomination as an Independent and claimed that he was replaced after he failed to convince his son Hiteshwar to withdraw from the contest in Banjar constituency.

The BJP replaced Singh with Narottam Thakur.

State BJP vice-president Ram Singh also filed his papers as an Independent candidate from Kullu Sadar and so did two BJP leaders from Dharamshala.

Maheshwar Singh, a member of the erstwhile princely state of

Kullu, alleged that the party had been using his nomination to bargain and get his son to withdraw from the contest in Banjar. "My son wanted to contest from Banjar but he did not heed my advice. How can I force him to withdraw?"

Meanwhile, BJP's Scheduled Tribe (ST) Morchha vice-president Vipin Naihariya and Dharamshala unit in-charge Anil Choudhry filed as Independents from Dharamshala constituency

after the party fielded Rakesh Chaudhary who belongs to an Other Backward Classes (OBC) community. Dharamshala has a sizeable OBC population. Incumbent MLA Vishal Naihariya, who was not fielded either, has backed Chaudhary. Vipin is a leader of the

Gaddi community and his decision is likely to result in the BJP's votes eroding.

Both Vipin Naihariya and Anil Choudhry said that they were under obligation to their supporters to fight the polls. Vipin claimed that all the office-bearers of the BJP's Dharamshala Mandal had put in their papers in protest against the party giving the ticket to Chaudhary.

The party has cancelled the tickets of 11 sitting MLAs. This has irked several workers who were eyeing the tickets and are opting for independent candidatures.

WITH PTI INPUTS

14 vying for Hamirpur, Congress names its pick just before deadline

AMIL BHATNAGAR
SHIMLA, OCTOBER 25

HOURS before the nomination deadline for the Himachal Pradesh elections ended Tuesday, the Congress finally announced its candidate for Hamirpur seat. With nearly 14 candidates vying for a ticket, and the tussle over it in the open, the party zeroed in on Pushpendra Verma at the last minute, thus naming all 68 candidates.

A doctor by profession, Verma is the son of former state minister Ranjit Singh.

One of the contenders who kept Congress leaders roiling for some time was youth face Ashish Sharma, who joined the party only last week. Known as a local "gau rakshak", Sharma was in the BJP before leaving it after being denied a ticket. Sharma announced to contest as an Independent.

Former state Congress chief Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, who

hails from Hamirpur, demanded a say in the candidate selection. The others in the running — former MLA Kuldeep Singh Pathania; Anita Verma, an ex-MLA and ex-All India Mahila Congress president, Rohit Sharma, a lawyer; and senior vice-president of the party state unit, Sunil Sharma Bittoo — were all seen as Sukhu's supporters.

However, the party didn't want to risk any dissension from state unit chief Pratibha Singh camp, which battled for its own candidate.

Verma, a member of the state medical association who is popular for social work he did in the region, especially during Covid, finally appears to have emerged as a consensus candidate.

The BJP's Narendra Thakur won Hamirpur last time, defeating the Congress's Kuldeep Singh Pathania by around 7,000 votes. In 2012, the BJP's former CM, Prem Kumar Singh Dhumaal, had won the seat. The BJP has fielded Thakur again this time.



KHARGE TAKES CHARGE TODAY: Preparations underway at the Congress office in Delhi on Tuesday, a day before Mallikarjun Kharge formally takes charge as the Congress president. Ahead of taking charge, Kharge will pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira and Rajiv Gandhi, and Jagjivan Ram among others. Prem Nath Pandey



One of the antique idols. PTI

Idols stolen from TN temple traced to US museum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHENNAI, OCTOBER 25

THE TAMIL Nadu idol wing CID on Tuesday said it has written to a US-based museum and an auction company claiming state government's ownership over two antique idols stolen 50 years ago from a temple in the state.

The theft came to light when the antique metal idols, which were stolen from Arulmigu Vishwanatha Swamy Temple, Alathur, Mannargudi taluk in Tiruvavur district were detected at the LACMA Museum, Los Angeles by the idol wing officials.

Initial investigations revealed that the antique metal idols were replaced with fake idols at the temple and the examinations indicated that Somaskandar idol and Dancing Sambandar idols would have been stolen in a similar manner, an official release said.

As there were no official images of the idols with the temple authorities, the idol wing sleuths requested the French Institute of Pondicherry (FIP) to share their images. The FIP shared the images of the idols, which were documented by them, the release said.

Special teams were then formed to look for the idols.

Mutt leader left suicide note, mentioned blackmail: cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, OCTOBER 25

KUNCHAGAL BANDE Mutt religious leader, Basavalingeshwara Swamy, who was found hanging from a window grille within the math's premises on Monday morning, allegedly died by suicide following "blackmail", the police said on Tuesday.

Police have found a couple of pages of a purported suicide note in which Basavalingeshwara, 44, blamed some people of "harassing and blackmailing" him, the police said.

The mutt, with a history of more than 400 years, is located in Magadi taluk of Ramanagara district, approximately 50 km from Bengaluru.

Police said they have registered a case of abetment to suicide and investigation is on.

Ramanagara's Superintendent of Police, Santosh Babu, said, "In the death note, he (Basavalingeshwara) mentioned an anonymous caller, which had pushed him into depression."

The complaint was registered by Ramesh, 53, a teacher at the mutt. According to the complainant, he had met Basavalingeshwara on Sunday morning. At 6.10 am the following day, a mutt staff member, Ambareesh, rang him up and said that Basavalingeshwara's room was closed from inside, which the mutt staff found strange because he usually woke up very early, the complaint stated.

He was later found hanging from a window grille.

In longest global outage, WhatsApp services disrupted for nearly 2 hours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

WHATSAPP SERVICES were hit by a nearly two-hour-long global outage on Tuesday that left users from the UK to India complaining about not being able to send or receive text and video messages.

Meta, which owns the popular messaging app, said it had fixed the outage — dubbed as one of its longest — and the service was back. It, however, did not

explain what caused the glitch.

"We know people had trouble sending messages on WhatsApp today. We've fixed the issue and apologise for any inconvenience," a Meta company spokesperson said. Meta, previously known as Facebook, bought WhatsApp in 2014.

According to Downdetector, which tracks outage reports, the messaging app was not working for many users across multiple regions. WhatsApp Web, the app's web version, used by many

on their desktops and laptops, was also hit by the outage.

This was WhatsApp's first major outage since the October 5, 2021, snag that took down WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook together, affecting millions of users for several hours before services were restored.

According to Downdetector, WhatsApp faced problems from 12:47 pm. Users in Asia, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Europe experienced the issue while sending and receiving

texts and videos on WhatsApp.

At one point during the outage on Tuesday, over 29,000 reports were flagged by users on Downdetector. Downdetector's heatmap was showing WhatsApp users in major cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata, were impacted by the snag.

#Whatsappdown began trending on Twitter soon after, and many users took to the microblogging platform to share funny memes on the issue.

AgustaWestland offshoot: CBI closes bribery case against former Brigadier

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

SEVEN YEARS after registering an FIR against a retired Brigadier for fudging field trial records of helicopters as an offshoot of AgustaWestland VVIP chopper corruption case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a closure report as it didn't find any concrete evidence against him, agency officials said.

The case was registered in 2014 after the CBI received a new tranche of documents from Italy, where a note mentioned that Brig V S Saini had allegedly asked for 5-million Euros to help Agusta. Saini was charged with fudging the trial flight records of reconnaissance and surveillance helicopters that the government wanted to procure.

Besides Saini, the FIR also mentioned unidentified officers of the Army, Defence Ministry and a private company. The case was registered under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, including abuse of official position, and Indian Penal Code, including forgery. The CBI had alleged Brig Saini was part of the team carrying out trials of competing helicopters in the Light Utility Helicopter category.

Army aviation was looking at purchasing 197 light helicopters to replace its ageing Cheetah and Chetak fleet, which undertakes reconnaissance and casualty evacuation operations in forward locations and high-altitude areas like Siachen, Ladakh, North Kashmir and Northeast.

The acquisition process of 197 helicopters was cancelled in December 2007 after the deal was finalised. The Italian prosecutors found mention of Brig Saini in the documents seized during their probe into VVIP chopper scam.

7-yr-old boy killed, 2 injured in crude bomb explosion

Kolkata: Mistaking it for a ball, children playing near Kankinara railway lines in Barrackpore under North 24 Parganas district picked up a bomb and as soon as they threw it, it went off killing a seven-year-old boy and injuring two others Tuesday morning, said police, who later recovered a crude bomb from the area. Police said the child Nikhil Paswan died on the spot.

The incident happened in Bhatpara. "Commissioner has formed teams and instructed to carry out raids (to seize bombs) so such incidents don't happen again," said Shrihari Pandey, DCP, Barrackpore Police Commissionerate. **ENS**



CM Sarma defended move

a case will be filed," he said.

Sarma also said those responsible for opening the museum should "justify and substantiate their claims of displaying certain items as part of their separate culture". BJP leaders, including

COIMBATORE BLAST

Day after 5 arrested, police invoke UAPA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, OCTOBER 25

A DAY after five people were arrested in connection with the death of a man, when an LPG cylinder in his vehicle exploded in Coimbatore in the early hours of Sunday, Coimbatore City Police Commissioner V Balakrishnan on Tuesday said they have invoked the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against the five accused.

Coimbatore police had identified the arrested accused as Mohammad Dhalha (25), Mohammad Azarudheen (25), Mohammad Riyaz (27), Feroz Ismail (27), and Mohammad Navaz Ismail (27), of GM Nagar — all from Coimbatore district.

The explosion — it occurred around 4 am Sunday, according to the police — had killed an engineering graduate, identified as Jameesha Mubin, 25.

It later emerged that Mubin was "examined" by the National Investigation Agency in 2019 for suspected ties to a radical network related to Zahran Hashim, mastermind of the 2019 Easter Sunday blasts in Sri Lanka, which killed more than 250 people.

Addressing the media Tuesday, Coimbatore police chief Balakrishnan said, "A case was registered under Sections 174 of CrPc and Section 3A of Explosive Substances Act, and five people were arrested on Monday. On further investigation, we have now altered the Sections to 120 B (criminal conspiracy), and 153 A (promoting enmity between two different groups). We have also invoked UAPA against them. They will be subjected to judicial custody."

He said police are investigat-



An engineering graduate, Jameesha Mubin, 25, was killed in the blast Sunday. Mubin was questioned by NIA in 2019. File

ing close to 20 people in the case and will carry out searches at homes and closely monitor people suspected to be involved.

Balakrishnan said some of those arrested in the case had gone to Kerala but they are still investigating the time and motive of their visits. Responding to a question on items seized from the accused, he said police found that the accused were carrying two LPG cylinders and three drums but contents of the drums can be confirmed after getting the forensic report.

On Monday, a police source had said that CCTV footage retrieved from a building near Mubin's house showed four men lugging a large object out of his house in Ukkadam at 11.25 pm on Saturday.

Mubin is suspected to be one of the four men. Investigators suspect the large object, wrapped in a white bag, was an LPG cylinder.

On Tuesday, Balakrishnan said nearly 75 kg chemical substances were found in Mubin's house;

among these were charcoal, aluminium powder and sulphur. "Riyaz, Nawaz and Feroz helped Mubin in shifting these explosives, such as cylinders. They were aware of the plan; the others coordinated it," he said.

On the earlier case against Mubin, A source said, "He was among five people we had to examine in 2019 since he had been attending prayer meetings at a Coimbatore mosque of the Tamil Nadu Thowheed Jamath (TNTJ). These classes were linked to Mohammed Azarudeen, who had direct contact with Zahran Hashim, the mastermind of the suicide bombers behind the Easter Sunday blasts in Sri Lanka."

According to sources, barring the NIA investigation, Mubin was not named in any other case.

Earlier in the day, BJP leader K Annamalai urged Chief Minister MK Stalin to accept that the incident was a terror attack and that the intelligence department failed to prevent it.

Dalit man, parents shot dead in MP village by neighbours; main accused held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, OCTOBER 25

A 32-YEAR-OLD Dalit man and his parents were shot dead at a village in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district on Tuesday allegedly by members of a neighbour's family who accused him of stalking the wife of one of the assailants, police said.

The incident happened early morning in Devran village after the wife of main accused Jagdish Patel alleged that her neighbour Manak Ahirwar stalked her, Damoh Superintendent of Police D R Taniwar said.

Armed with a pistol and accompanied by lathi-wielding four other members of his family, Jagdish reached Manak's house and a fight ensued. "The fight escalated and in the heat of the moment, Jagdish allegedly shot at Manak, his parents Ghamandi Ahirwar (60) and Rajpyari (58), along with his brother," said Taniwar.

While Manak and his parents died on the spot, his younger brother is undergoing treatment at the Damoh district hospital for a leg injury.

A case was registered against Jagdish and five others on charge of murder under the Indian Penal Code as well as the relevant sections of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Jagdish was later arrested from a nearby village while five of the co-accused are on the run.

Demanding stern action against the accused, BSP supreme Mayawati tweeted: "Atrocities continue on Dalits and Adivasis in BJP-ruled MP with three members of a Dalit family shot dead in Damoh. Others saved themselves by fleeing the village."

Meanwhile, Congress has constituted a fact-finding committee headed by its Scheduled Caste cell chief Pradeep Ahirwar. "The incident raises a question on the law-and-order situation in the state," said Congress state president Kamal Nath.

According to a PTI report, Divisional Commissioner Mukesh Shukla, who also visited the village, has directed the district collector to take action against encroachments on government land by the family of the accused.

Leave Ukraine by all available means: India to its citizens

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

INDIA ON Tuesday issued its second advisory in a week asking its citizens to "leave Ukraine by all available means".

In the previous advisory, issued on October 19, New Delhi had warned its citizens against travelling to Ukraine and asked students who returned to the country to leave in view of the "deteriorating security situation".

"In continuation of the advisory issued by the embassy on October 19, 2022, all Indian citizens in Ukraine are advised to immediately leave Ukraine by available means. Some Indian nationals have already left Ukraine pursuant to earlier advisory."

"They may contact the embassy at the following numbers for any guidance or assistance if required to travel to the border: +3809335595958, +380635917881, +380678745945. They may refer to the embassy website for avoidable options for border crossing," the Indian embassy in Kyiv said.

The advisory said Indians can exit Ukraine via the borders with Hungary, Slovakia, Moldova, Poland and Romania. The latest advisories appear to be a response to the renewed hostilities between Russia and Ukraine after the October 8 Kerch Bridge attack.

‘Miya Museum’ sealed in 2 days, CM says: ‘Only lungi theirs, rest Assamese’

DEBRAJ DEB AGARTALA, OCTOBER 25

TWO DAYS after "Miya Museum" was inaugurated in Assam's Goalpara district to commemorate Bengali-origin Muslims of the state, the Himanta Biswa Sarma government ordered it sealed on Tuesday after protests by BJP leaders, among others.

An official of Lakhipur Revenue Circle ordered the sealing on the grounds that the private museum was run out of a house built under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

The notice says, "As per Direction of DC Goalpara, this PMAY-G house of Mohar Ali, S/O

Somesh Ali of Vill-Dapkarbhita, is hereby sealed until further order."

Defending the development, Chief Minister Sarma said many items put on display in the museum — as part of the culture of descendants of people who migrated from what was to become East Pakistan, and later Bangladesh — were actually part of "Assamese culture". He said that a probe would be initiated into the source of its funding.

"Miya" is a derogatory term used for Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam, many of whom have borne the brunt of the NRC drive in the state to weed out "illegal immigrants".

After the museum was sealed, Mohar Ali and his two minor sons sat on a dharna out-

side the house, PTI reported. "We are displaying objects with which the community identifies itself so that people from other communities can realise that Miyas are not any different from them," he told reporters.

PTI reported that police later took him into custody.

On Sunday, the All Assam Miya Parishad's Goalpara committee inaugurated the museum, with an aim to "preserve the culture and heritage" of Miyas. The museum showcased items used by the community, such as *lungi*, *langol* (plough), fishing equipment, and *pittha* (a form of rice cake), as well as items that have now gone out of use.

After the inauguration, Miya Parishad president Mohar Ali said

similar museums will be opened in different parts of the state. He also appealed to the state government to provide 11 bighas of land for the purpose, as well as to set up a Miya Cultural Complex and Library. He urged the Chief Minister to set up a Miya Museum inside the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra cultural hub in Guwahati.

On Tuesday, Sarma said items such as ploughs and the fishing equipment displayed in the museum belong to the "Assamese community" in general, and that only the *lungi* really belongs to the "Miyas". "What is new in this?... Let them prove before the government that *langol* was used only by Miya people. If they can't do that,

The Indian **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

PM RISHI SUNAK

A person of colour becoming the leader of the United Kingdom is historic, even if his is no underdog tale

BRITAIN'S NEW PRIME minister, Rishi Sunak, is young, just 42, and a person of colour. His appointment is historic because he is the first non-white leader of the country. Yet, at the same time, it is also true that by almost any other yardstick, the Sunak story of rise to power is not an underdog tale. His education took him from elite preparatory schools to Oxford and then Stanford. Currently, his net worth — in large part due to the fortune of his wife, Akshata Murthy — is estimated to exceed that of King Charles and his Queen Consort. At a time when large parts of the UK are grappling with a cost of living crisis and many are struggling as a result of inflation and economic inequality, Sunak's term in office, some fear, might be shaped, even constricted, by the view from the top of the pyramid. More important clues to the future may lie in the kind of politics Sunak has subscribed to as he rose to power: A staunch supporter of Brexit, he has consistently taken a hard line on immigration. In essence, Rishi Sunak is a politician in the Boris Johnson mould, in a Britain that seems to be, culturally and politically, closing in on itself.

It is on the economic and trade fronts that Sunak has proved his mettle. His handling of the British economy as Chancellor of the Exchequer during the pandemic has been largely lauded and he has spoken consistently of the need for greater foreign investment and trade. After Liz Truss's brief premiership ended due to poor economic policy, it is important for Sunak to live up to his reputation and promise. The figure of PM Sunak is also significant for what it says about the evolution of the Conservative Party. As divorced as Sunak may be from the experiences of the middle class struggling with price rise, his background and his journey bear testament to the possibilities contained in the movement of people and capital across borders. In that sense, by virtue of his ethnicity and religion — as the child of Indian-origin immigrants, and as a practising Hindu, a religious minority in the UK — he has breached a Conservative wall that deserved to come down in a multi-cultural society. Sunak's challenge now will be to unite the party after its prolonged crisis of leadership and to display the political acumen that being the prime minister of a lively and deeply entrenched parliamentary democracy requires.

Part of the challenge that stares at him is also made of this: Sunak is a product of the very forces that stand in opposition to the post-Brexit Conservative Party — globalisation, diversity in language, religion, culture, and immigration. Would his story be possible with the "hard" immigration policies that he himself has championed? His tenure could pave a way to moving beyond these schisms, to arrive at a Conservative politics that represents a view of economic governance and liberalism, not parochialism. The current juncture in the global zeitgeist is often described as one in which democracy and liberal values are under threat from their own weaknesses and Britain's inward turn with Brexit in 2016 only seemed to confirm these bedroddings. Now, Sunak can serve as an important symbol in the redefinition of what it means to be British and multi-cultural in the 21st century.

STILL GREY

Pakistan's removal from FATF grey list underlines that forcing it to scale down cross-border terror is a long haul

THE DECISION BY the Financial Action Task Force to take Pakistan off its "grey list" shows both the possibilities and limitations of this international body. The FATF's mandate is to check global money laundering and prevent the misuse of international financial channels and instruments for terrorism and criminal activities. Pakistan, where the proliferation of terror groups and charities and non-government organisations fronting for these groups is well known, has been a prime candidate for increased monitoring by FATF through the last two decades. From around 1998, the US began deploying two international mechanisms in its fight against terror. FATF was one, while the other was the system of designation of terrorists in a global list under the UN Security Council resolution that also required states to implement sanctions against them. The UNSC designations embarrassed states hosting these entities/individuals, but did not put enough heat on them to comply with the requirements.

The FATF, on the other hand, was more effective on the ground. The tightening of banking regulations to comply with FATF monitoring requirements affected every Pakistani with a bank account, and extended the liability for the state's dalliance with terrorist groups to its citizenry. Though the FATF does not sanction states, being placed on its grey list is not just shaming but also has other real consequences, such as impacting a government's access to international finances, including assistance from multilateral agencies and from private lenders. Pakistan could duck compliance only at the risk of economic pain, and the possibility, though remote, of being put on a "black list". It put off the conviction of LeT boss Hafiz Saeed, and the jailing of Sajid Mir, but understood that it had to finally go through with both actions to get off the grey list.

The FATF cast of 39 members bring to the table their geopolitical predilections, friendships and rivalries. Clearly, the chief influencers in the body, including the US, and friends of Pakistan such as China, have concluded that the grey listing of Pakistan has run its course. While four years on the so-called grey list have forced Pakistan to scale down cross-border terror, the freedom of JeM chief Masood Azhar shows that its security establishment is yet to pull the plug definitively on terror as a means of inflicting harm on India. Delhi has sought to flag this through proposals at the UNSC for the designation of the LeT's Abdul Rehman Makki and more recently, of Saeed's son Talha Saeed, and LeT deputy head Shahid Mehmood. India's interests lies in playing the long game in these diplomatic battles with the goal of making the region more stable and secure.

KOHLIDUNNIT

On Sunday, a champion was reignited. And a game was won

FOR AWE-INSPIRING MASTERY, there's Sachin Tendulkar; for blues-dispelling flair there's Brian Lara; for unadulterated joy, Virender Sehwag; for fight and sweat, Steve Waugh and Rahul Dravid. But for heart and passion, who else but Virat Kohli? What wasn't ranged against him on Sunday night? Post-captaincy blues, mental health struggles, a feeling of victimisation, pacy and skilful Pakistan pacers, precarious match situation, occasion of the World Cup, a format in which he still has a point to prove. Even the big hitter Hardik Pandya couldn't unleash himself against the Pakistani pace Houdinis. But Pandya made Kohli believe it could be done. In Ravi Shastri's words, "he reignited a champion". Still, there was a mountain left to climb.

Kohli had to bell the fast Pakistani cats. Worse, in the 19th over, with just two balls remaining, he had to tame the best pacer on view, Haris Rauf. Anything less than two sixes would present an almost impossible final-over target. Kohli had taken a month-long break to rediscover himself and his joy for the game. At the most vital juncture, he rediscovered one other key trait that was hitherto not always visible in T20: A touch of genius. The fifth ball, a slower one on a hard length, was thumped over the sight screen. Even Rauf was unsettled.

The next shot was a mix of daring, outrageous skill, and startling imagination as he somehow managed to whisk a back-of-length ball darting into him over fine-leg. In the final over, the old Kohli would re-emerge: The passionate cajoling of the umpires, the presence of mind to run, the hard running and a calm whisper to Ashwin to go over the off-side, and not across the line. Game over.

Accidental Prime Minister

It took an economic meltdown, resignations of two PMs for British multiculturalism to succeed



AVINASH PALIWAL

SUCH IS THE significance of his identity as a British Hindu of Indian-African heritage that it is tempting to overlook Rishi Sunak as the fifth prime minister of an embattled, divided, island in less than six years. After all, racism in the UK runs so deep that it took an economic meltdown, two prime ministerial resignations, lack of an electoral mandate, and severe economic privilege on his part for multiculturalism to succeed. Given that he lost the previous leadership bid to Liz Truss despite demonstrating competence as pandemic-time Chancellor, the accidental nature of his rise is unlikely to be lost on Sunak.

But to understand the gravity of his rise and the choices he faces, there's a need to locate Sunak at the centre of two interlocking political and economic dilemmas. Politically, Sunak needs to secure the support of the pro-Brexit, anti-migrant constituencies that don't view him as an English "patriot", thanks to his skin colour. Economically, he needs to strike the classic balance between welfare spending to alleviate an electorally salient cost-of-living crisis while augmenting support for big private business. Why these dilemmas? Because race and class are paramount fault lines in British national life and Sunak is a privileged minority on both counts.

Indians who were escaping persecution in East Africa during the 1960s-70s and were welcomed in the UK, not only retained the wealth they earned and long-held hostility towards black Africans but also harboured gratitude for the British Empire that relocated them to Africa in the first place and eventually accepted them as British nationals long after the Empire was dead. Fitting with Margaret Thatcher's vision of an "enterprise economy", thanks to their financial resources, English-language education, and strong family values, these communities were identified by Thatcherite conservatives as a model minority that could yield long-term electoral dividends for the party.

From Sunak to former home secretaries Priti Patel and Suella Braverman, most — if not all — conservative politicians of Indian heritage come from this narrow segment of British society. That explains why Braverman

believes that she's a child of the British Empire, and dreams of deporting migrants. Despite the inhumanity of her aspirations, the geopolitical imprudence of her statement that stalled the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India, and the blinding hypocrisy of her wanting to deport people, she's actually holding true to a twisted but deeply personal history that few others can relate to.

Sunak is no different. Private school educated, and literally richer than King Charles III, Sunak's high-class upbringing ensured that he never truly faced the brunt of Britain's race politics till now. His staccato first speech exhorting the need to unite the country and fix a "profound economic crisis", though sincere, demonstrates the pressure he must be feeling as a non-white prime minister who could suddenly be reduced to being an "outsider" in his own home regardless of how he performs. As a racist Tory supporter said on national radio: "Rishi Sunak isn't even British... I'm just telling you what Tory voters believe".

The metric by which Sunak will be judged in the coming days, then, won't be the same as it is for Boris Johnson, who lied his way into power, broke laws, and still plans to lead the Tories in the next general elections. It wouldn't even be similar to Liz Truss who won a leadership bid without possessing a single quality that made her deserving of being in that position and lost it to preventable economic self-sabotage. Sunak will be blamed for failure as an outsider, despite being quintessentially British. What's worse? He'll rightfully become an icon of the success of British multiculturalism, igniting ambition among other ethnic minorities to dream of high office. But it'll be a pyrrhic victory untethered to the need for collective racial justice.

European Union pre-Brexit is lost on this constituency, its (legitimate) demand for job security, reduced taxes, and a functioning healthcare sector militates against the public spending cuts that Sunak is offering.

Sunak's support for Brexit, which had dried up European finance for the British welfare state, and plan for steering the UK out of the European Economic Area (EEA) without a domestic industrial cushion, or an international trading strategy to offset these losses (barring promises of FTAs that are yet to be signed), could become a long-term personal political liability. For someone who has probably never cooked a meal for himself, it's rich to decide what and how much the country will eat for months to come and pitch that as a "hard choice". Perhaps Johnson could pull that off thanks to his provenance in a racially stratified society, but not Sunak.

From this vantage, one is looking at economic hardship for most Britons in the coming months, and an impending electoral rout of the Tories. Sunak, perhaps, understands this best and can foresee Johnson's recent statement that "this is not the time" for the latter to re-enter the leadership fray despite interrupting his Caribbean holiday as an ominous sign — a delayed tactic to dislodge Sunak as the party leader before the 2024 polls. And this is without factoring in the unrelenting (but deserving) political assault by the Labour party against the Tories at large.

Sunak needs to stabilise the economy to win over an electorate that hardly understands him, and whose struggles he can't fathom. He has less than two years to do that before the success of British multiculturalism becomes what it probably is: An accident. That this is happening despite Chancellor Sunak's success in keeping many Britons afloat and alive during the pandemic lays bare the structures of inequality that unite the kingdom.

The writer teaches at SOAS University of London and is the author of My Enemy's Enemy: India in Afghanistan from the Soviet Invasion to the US Withdrawal (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017)

DON'T SPEAK OF LANGUAGE

Medicine is constantly evolving. Switching to Hindi textbooks is easier said than done



KINSHUK GUPTA

DR SANJAY PATIDAR, who had studied in a Hindi-medium government school in Jhalawar and aced the AIPMT exam with an All India Rank of 93, would confuse words such as "course" and "coarse"; "wrap" and "rape". So, when his professors asked him about the course of the radial nerve, or what wraps around the axon, all he could do was look at them blankly.

My batchmate from college would binge-watch Hollywood films or web series to pick up new English words. In class, even when he knew the answer to a question, he would never dare utter it for the fear of being laughed at. Both of them were pleased with the government's decision to introduce Hindi as the medium of instruction in central institutions for higher education.

The unveiling of Hindi editions of MBBS books by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Bhopal has, however, stirred anti-Hindi agitations, with many calling it a poll gimmick. For several members of the medical fraternity, still reeling under the anxiety of the abrupt shift of the exam pattern from NEET to NeXt, the decision is unwelcome.

Supporters are quoting examples from China, Japan, Russia, and Norway — where official languages are the sole medium of instruction in all the technical and non-technical courses. If they can do so, why can't we, they argue. These arguments are simplistic.

For one, these "facts" are not entirely true. Fifty-two medical colleges, out of the total 170 colleges in mainland China, whose graduates can attempt the USMLE (the entrance exam to

practice in the US), teach in both Chinese and English. There has been a rise in parents interested in enrolling their children in ESL (English as a Second Language) courses.

It is unwise to compare the status of Hindi to Chinese or German, given India's diversity. Moreover, Hindi, or any other regional language, offers far fewer resources to support job-seekers. A few years ago, when newspapers reported the closing down of government schools in Tamil Nadu, one of the major reasons cited was parents' preoccupation with English-medium schools.

When it comes to higher education, English is a great leveller, allowing dialogue to continue with the rest of the world. Medicine is constantly evolving with the introduction of novel research. Treating cases sometimes requires consulting multiple books, research papers, and journal articles, for which a sound system of translation needs to be established before we can even begin thinking about phasing out English. The people involved in the translation process of the Hindi MBBS textbooks mentioned two things. First, the books have been transliterated, not translated. The medical terminology remains the same; sentences have only been translated for easier reading. Second, these books are to be used as "bridge books", and not as replacements for the English ones.

Flipping through the pages of Vishram Singh's *Anatomy: Upper Limb and Thorax*, I found no significant difference between the original and transliterated texts. Instead, in some sections, the paragraphs ended up be-

coming much denser with the English names of the subject at hand in brackets.

The initial announcement also fails to account for the necessary infrastructure. There is no clarity on whether or how these translations will be incorporated as reading materials, and how they will evolve or change with time. Whether standard books will also be translated is anyone's guess. Translating these tomes only once will not suffice as newer editions every three to five years incorporate significant changes. Professors and other teaching staff will also need to be trained. Most of all, what about medical conferences, the staple of a medical student? Will they be organised in Hindi moving forward?

Offering extra evening classes as done by AIIMS, Delhi could have been a better substitute given that students who struggle with English make up about one to two per cent of the entire batch. Besides, no strict distinction exists between Hindi and non-Hindi-speaking states as most institutions have a portion of seats that are filled up by a pan-India entrance exam. How can we, then, assume that a student from Tamil Nadu in AIIMS, Delhi, would not want to study in Tamil?

We often forget that Chinese healthcare is self-sufficient when it comes to research and protocols, or that Germany has primary resources available in their own language. Our focus right now should be to develop primary resources. Our medical industry is at way too nascent a stage to be speaking of language.

The writer is a medical student and writer



OCTOBER 26, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

CENTRE-STATE TIES

THE FRONT PAGE has a cartoon by artist Ravi Shankar on PM Indira Gandhi's statement: "Pro-Centre states can claim favour". Mrs Gandhi is shown wearing a crown, saying, "(I) am the State!"

LIBERALISATION POLICY

THE RESERVE BANK of India has liberalised the credit policy with a view to stimulate activity in the forthcoming busy season with the vital industrial sectors facing sluggish demand, and to give a boost to exports. Announcing the new policy, Manmohan Singh, RBI Governor, admitted that there is

BRITISH CITIZENS

try as a husband only if his wife or fiancée is a citizen of the UK or her parents were born there. Under these proposals, he will be able to settle if his wife or fiancée is a British citizen. Her place of birth or that of her parents will no longer be relevant.

AKALI-CENTRE TALKS

THE PROCESS OF Centre-Akali talks seems set to move smoothly following the decision of the Punjab government to order the release of Jagdev Singh Talwandi, MP, and hints of imminent release of associates of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. Talwandi is one of the members of the five-man panel set up by the Akali Dal president, Harchand Singh Longowal, apparently in consultation with Bhindranwale, to conduct talks on party demands.

SCOPE FOR EXPANSION OF BANK CREDIT

to meet the genuine productive requirements of the economy.

New Delhi

THE IDEAS PAGE

Of, by and for Xi

Xi Jinping is putting in place ideological, constitutional and coercive instruments that will keep him in power for the foreseeable future. India will have to deal with him from a long-term perspective



VIJAY GOKHALE

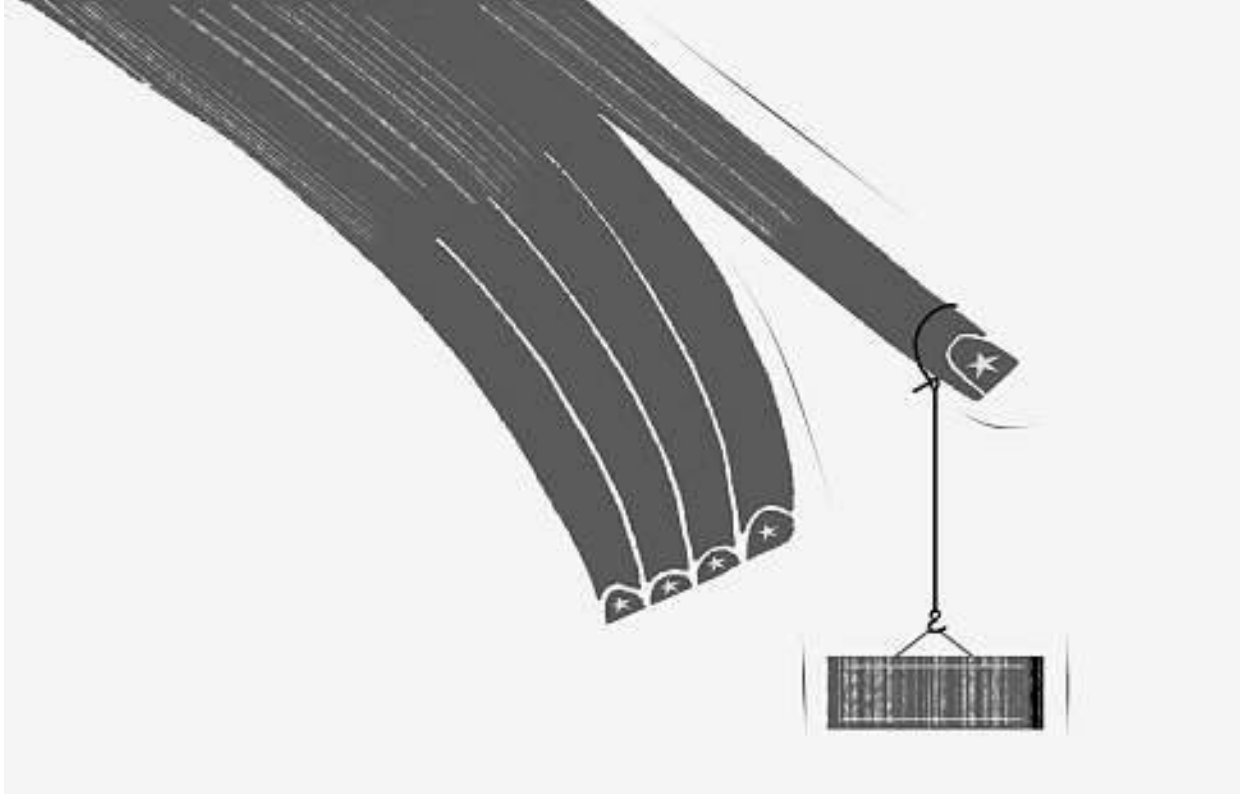
THE 20TH PARTY Congress ended, predictably, on October 22 with Xi Jinping remaining as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CCP) for a third five-year term. Before every party congress, the western world wonders who's in and who's out and educates the rest about what it might mean. It is time that Indians do our own thinking. We are neither in a strategic competition for global power with China as America is, nor do we have Europe's dilemma over China's economic potential and its political values. Rather, we are a significant neighbour with a troubled relationship that needs to be managed correctly. A proper reading of the congress from our national perspective is, therefore, a good starting point to analyse what happened in Beijing.

Personnel changes are significant, but the key point is that Xi has political control. He determines the norms for political office. Age, experience and performance are no longer barriers. Xi's new core team, the Politburo Standing Committee, is loyal and, in turn, they enjoy his trust. There is no successor. The amendments to the CCP constitution have cemented Xi's position as the supreme leader. Two key phrases — "Two Safeguards" (safeguard the unified centralised leadership of the Central Committee and safeguard Xi as the core of the central committee) and "Two Establishes" (establish Xi as the core of the party and his thought as the guiding principle) guarantee his power.

The party has justified Xi's continuation as general secretary by declaring that his continued leadership is vital when China is facing "a situation of unparalleled complexity, a fight of unparalleled graveness and tasks of unparalleled difficulty". His guidance is thus deemed necessary to "remove serious hidden dangers in the party, the country and the military and set the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on an irreversible historical course". The message is messianic in its implications.

References to the hidden dangers within the system suggest that there might be internal challenges and, hence, the CCP constitution has been amended to add certain "obligations" on all party members to fully align with Xi. These mandate the compulsory study of party history and Xi Thought at all levels, stricter provisions related to political integrity and party discipline, and new tasks for the commissions on discipline inspection. In other words, the precision instruments to enforce the "obligations" have also been sharpened. In short, Xi is steadily putting into place the ideological, constitutional and coercive instruments that will keep him in power for the foreseeable future. India will have to deal with him from a long-term perspective.

Xi has declared victory over poverty, thereby claiming that China has achieved the first of two "centenary" goals. His broad priority from hereon is to "build China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful". Shorn of jargon, Xi's pursuit of the second cente-



C R Sasikumaran

nary goal is intended to place China at the apex of global power by 2049. The two key challenges are the acute structural problems in the economy, which he characterised as "imbalanced, uncoordinated, unsustainable", and the "inadequate & insufficient response capacity" of the national security framework for tackling major risks. He prioritises these because, in his own words, "external attempts to suppress and contain China may escalate at any time". His report is a clarion call for China to gear up for an all-out race with America. International commentators are discussing whether China has peaked because of its falling demographics and growth rate. Xi believes that China will win this race, and this is what should matter in our assessment when we shape our own economic and national security agendas.

The West kept hoping that Xi would return to an economically liberal path. Such hopes have been dashed again. Xi says that the Party will remain the central pillar of the economy by making the public sector get stronger, grow bigger and do better. The private sector will continue to play its role, but he has said that he will intensify efforts to uproot corruption in "sectors with high concentration of power, funds and resources". His focus will be on improving China's capacity to secure strategic resources, building next-gen industries, internationalising the renminbi, and concentrating on original R&D in core sectors. In short, he is hardening the domestic supply chains to withstand the shock of western sanctions.

There are both opportunities and challenges for India. The West may finally understand that they need to diversify their investments and markets, opening real possibilities for India in technology collaborations and supply chains. Yet, we should be aware that as the global economic war turns ugly, our star performing sectors — pharmaceuticals, automobiles, electronics — are still heavily dependent on Chinese imports and they may use economic coercion to force choices upon us.

There are both opportunities and challenges for India. The West may finally understand that they need to diversify their investments and markets, opening real possibilities for India in technology collaborations and supply chains. Yet, we should be aware that as the global economic war turns ugly, our star performing sectors — pharmaceuticals, automobiles, electronics — are still heavily dependent on Chinese imports and they may use economic coercion to force choices upon us.

force choices upon us.

On national security policy, Xi refers to "immense risks and challenges" and exhorts his people to "show firm determination to never yield to coercive power". He has set the deadline of 2027 to elevate the PLA to a world-class standard, which has implications for India. There are three in particular. First, China will establish a strong system of strategic deterrence or, in short, it intends to escalate its nuclear force both qualitatively and quantitatively. This might radically alter the strategic balance in South Asia. Second, the PLA will increase the proportion of "new domain forces" and "unmanned intelligent combat capabilities" to win "local wars". Shorn of mystery, this means that China's build-up on the LAC is likely to continue unabated. Third, that maritime forces will be enhanced, which presumes a semi-permanent presence in the northern Indian ocean by 2027. It is clear that China is preparing to confront the US if it must, and warning others that bloc formations targeting China will also be in the cross-hairs. The Twenties will see a fundamental shift in the security situation around both our land and maritime perimeters simultaneously. Xi spoke of attaching priority to forging friendships with neighbours and to converging interests with them. Diplomacy will be needed to test if this is normal China double-speak, or something that might be further explored.

After the Party Congress, the experts will minutely analyse what the central message was. It is important to recognise that the Party Congress is a domestic political exercise and Xi is conveying that, in him, "the party has found a second answer to the question of how to escape the historical cycle of rise and fall". This has been the communist party's nightmare. It is a weight on Xi's shoulders. He has signalled that he intends to fulfil his historical destiny.

Gokhale is author of *After Tiananmen: The Rise of China and former Foreign Secretary*

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Britain cannot afford another prime minister elected by Tory MPs or party members. The country's next leader must be chosen through the ballot box."

— THE GUARDIAN

First job: Steady the ship

It is a matter of pride that a person with ancestral roots in India is now UK PM. But Rishi Sunak will be no more Indian than Barack Obama was Kenyan



MEGHNAD DESAI

ON DIWALI, AN unusual event in the annals of UK as well as Indian history took place — Rishi Sunak, a young man in his early forties, became the prime minister of Great Britain. I know that many Indians now think an Indian will rule over the old colonial masters. But the important point is that Sunak is a British citizen — British-born of Indian ancestry. He has made it to the highest political office not through family connections but because of his ability and determination to fight for the top job twice in open competition.

Ironically, it is his loss to Liz Truss — in a vote within the Conservative party — that eased his way to the top. Truss made extravagant promises of tax cuts to stimulate economic growth. Rishi had warned then that such tax cuts were unaffordable, given the state of the public finances. Yet, she went ahead with them soon after she became PM. The financial markets gave a loud, negative reaction to this move. The pound collapsed against foreign currencies and the Bank of England had to intervene to stabilise the market for the national debt. The tax cut cost the bank billions of pounds in supporting government securities and the higher interest rate incurred on government debt as a result of Truss's precipitate action will remain a burden for some time.

Truss had to resign just 44 days after becoming PM, the shortest tenure in British history. In the ensuing melee, new names cropped up. Boris Johnson also seemed to be in the race for a comeback. But this time around, the 1922 committee of (Conservative) party members in the House of Commons upped the bar at securing at least 100 members' nominations before a candidate could compete. Johnson tried but failed to garner enough backers. Penny Mordaunt, who has competed on earlier occasions, threatened to run but finally admitted just minutes before the deadline of 2 pm British time on Monday that she too will drop out. Sunak was able to show the support of 190 members — more than half of the 370 Tory MPs. So, it was more a coronation than an election when Sir Graham Brady, chairman of the 1922 committee, announced at a meeting of Tory MPs that Rishi Sunak will be the next prime minister of the UK.

Sunak's first job will be to steady the ship. In other words, he has to not mess up like Truss did and last till 2024, when the elections are due. The Conservative Party is 30 per cent-plus points behind Labour in opinion polls. This will be a huge challenge.

Even after Sunak's win, people are arguing that Boris Johnson would be a better choice when it comes to winning the election. But the MPs are fed up with Boris and they chose "dishy Rishi", as he was named two years ago by the tabloids.

Winning the next election and keeping a fractious party united will not be easy. Sunak displayed exemplary ability when he took over as chancellor at the start of the pandemic. I watched his first appearance as chancellor from the Peers gallery in the House of Commons. He was calm and impressive. Being an academic, I am always rating people as if they were students. I knew that he had been to the Stanford Business School, which is academically tougher than Harvard or Wharton. So he can handle the technical aspects of money and finance with relative ease. (It was quite clear during the thankfully brief tenure of Liz Truss that neither she nor her chosen chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng could add or subtract.)

Sunak fared well as chancellor and demonstrated that he knows the importance of fiscal responsibility. But now, he has to be a politician, not just a techno whiz kid. Being a British politician is a much trickier task than people imagine. I have had a great time here watching many political leaders, some closely. I have seen how someone can be a great cabinet minister, but fail as a politician. On the flip side, someone may be technically deficient but still have the passion to be a great politician. Edward Heath and Gordon Brown were both technically good but lacked the broad reach to become great prime ministers. Margaret Thatcher was just a great politician.

Sunak will have to develop a political persona. Everyone will give him a lot of space since the country is in dire straits. I do not recall in the nearly 60 years I have been here of the country being at a lower ebb in its national confidence and international reputation. So, he will have to demonstrate that he is in charge. Jeremy Hunt, who stepped in as chancellor for Liz Truss after she sacked Kwarteng calmed nerves, but then the manner of Liz Truss's last day in the commons once again sank the ship. Sunak can leave the finances to Jeremy Hunt and turn his attention to addressing the people who are bemused and worried as to who, if anyone, is in charge.

Indian commentators are all talking of an Indian running the UK and hoping that the free trade agreement will now be an easy walkover. Steady on, I would advise. The UK needs its new prime minister to look after itself. It is a matter of pride that a person with ancestral roots in India is now the prime minister of the UK. But he will be no more Indian than Barack Obama was Kenyan.

Just celebrate Diwali. The New Year will be a happy one for all.

The writer is an economist and member of the UK's House of Lords



ADITI SRIRAM

EVERY SEMESTER, I train students in the fundamentals of writing: How to introduce a topic, elaborate upon and challenge it and connect it to other ideas. And every semester, my students apply these techniques to whatever else they are studying, from the sciences to the arts. I break down the essay into a readable sequence of theories and evidence so that the next generation of essays will be a readable sequence of surprises.

My job is to establish the basics, and then let the students ultimately develop their own style. I provide the ingredients; they concoct a dish. I explain the rules; they design the game. I recite the origin stories in the hope that my students will author their own sequels.

The results are a mix of optimism and dissidence, of nostalgia and criticism. Their essays mingle academic rigour with colloquial nuance and interrogate technology the same way they do tradition. I am convinced that it is students like them who will best be able to narrate India's growth and change over the next few decades.

Take the recent example of the Covid-19 lockdown, when my students were home-bound and frustrated. I decided to reword my usual essay questions to make them more capacious. Rather than read something and then write about it, I asked my students to think more broadly. "What can your university do when the world is hit like this?" I asked. "Write a proposal that can help India rebound from such medical, economic, and social catastrophe."

The story goes on

The potential for new ideas is far beyond anything I, as a teacher, can imagine

One set of students pitched the creation of a centre for computational sciences and climate to "bridge the gap between computation and everyday learning" for Indian students, something which is not widely taught today. Professors they interviewed affirmed that new data collection centres around the country, running on complex computing, could empower India's most vulnerable regions.

Another group pointed out that as of 2018, only 24 per cent of households in India had access to the internet. Their goal is to build a centre for on-line learning that evolves, over several years, into a centre for educational research and reform. The inaugural focus would be on "pedagogical changes and mental health programmes" in order to make online learning engaging as well as mindful.

A third group studied the lack of disaster preparedness at the university — and around the country more generally. In Japan, they noted, every school and university provides disaster training, while India lacks even a central accreditation guideline on disaster management courses. Only a handful of universities offer high-level courses on it, so, couldn't their university create such a centre, and be a pioneer not only in research, but also preparedness, before the next flood, tsunami, pandemic, or terrorist attack?

Students in another group deliberated on the larger environmental changes that the planet is experiencing. Speaking to professors in biology, environmental science, and science policy, they presented ideas from ecological economics and architecture, disciplines I had never heard of. In their words, only a multidisciplinary approach can help understand "an extremely intricate and complex system of natural and human worlds."

Documenting our "natural and human worlds" is an age-old tradition; think cave paintings, mythology, and Sapiens. My students followed their instincts here, too, and collaborated with an agricultural company to evaluate a phone app that educates farmers on various types of maize. They interviewed farmers who used the app and provided feedback to the developers. Interacting with people far removed from the university profile, these students found their urban, anglicised backgrounds irrelevant. But they had plenty to discuss about the role of technology in their personal and professional lives. The results helped to enhance the app and sowed some entrepreneurial seeds in many of the students.

To summarise: Pandemic awareness and disaster readiness; perceptive online learning and computational science training; ed-tech and agri-tech. This is only part of a longer list of projects, goals, and startups that

I predict my students will work on five, 15, 25 years from now.

By then, another 50 semesters will have elapsed, and I will have taught roughly 2,000 more students. The potential for new ideas is explosive. And far beyond anything I can imagine.

To steer us in that forward direction, I regularly make my students deliberate on the future of their own institution. When asked to do so, current students introspected on their own experiences. "Evaluating thousands of essays would require mindfulness and critical thinking," one student observed. With his classmates, he compiled a list of traits for future students of the university: Truthful, driven to succeed, and on a journey of some kind. For a moment the classroom went quiet as the students stared at the board, daunted by their own list. Then one girl broke the silence. With quiet confidence — the kind that only becomes more determined with time — she said, "I believe my place here is possible because of my story."

From my origin story to my students' sequels. From their origin stories to India's next 25 years.

The writer teaches writing at Ashoka University and is the author of *Beyond the Boulevard: A Short Biography of Pondicherry*. This article is part of an ongoing series, which began on August 15, by women who have made a mark, across sectors

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COLLECTIVE FIGHT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'No COP out' (IE, October 25). The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) COP meets focus more on projecting an image of mobilising for climate action than actually creating any impact where it matters — on the ground. COP26 did bring about some important outcomes like the global methane pledge. However, this is far from what is required if we are to keep the rise in global temperature to below 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. Despite their limitations, though — these negotiations appear cumbersome and protracted — the COP meets are the only platform where the global community can collectively solve the impending climate crisis.

Dewang Ganesh Thosar, Raigad

WARNING SIGNS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Xi's total control' (IE, October 24). Starting a third term in power, China's leader Xi Jinping has advanced a contingent of Communist Party loyalists to positions of power ready to defend him and expanded the state's influence over the economy. This is a new phase of authoritarian rule in China. Officials and partymen from a more moderate political mould have been shown the door. China is bound to adopt an even more muscular approach in its diplomacy and military moves now. India has to be cautious after this consolidation of power within China.

SS Paul, Nadia

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Xi's total control' (IE, October 24). Xi Jinping's

much-anticipated third term as the undisputed leader of the Chinese Communist Party has ensured that India-China relations are not going to turn a new leaf anytime soon. Xi's notion that India's rise will be detrimental to China is likely to keep Delhi's defence spending hamstrung with a considerable part devoted to troops manning the Line of Actual Control. India has to doggedly follow a long-term strategy of standing up to China while taking lessons from the latter's economic miracles.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

MBBS BOOKS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'How not to train doctors' (IE, October 25). The article uses predictive analysis to conclude that the MP government's decision to teach medical courses in Hindi is ill-advised. The apprehension about wrong or difficult translation of medical terms into Hindi cannot be dissociated from the fact that medical terms in use in English too are not simple to understand. Much will depend on the quality of translation in Hindi.

YG Chouksey, Pune

KOHLI'S PLAY

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Kohli's Diwali Gift' (IE, October 24). Virat Kohli is back in form just in time for the World Cup. His incredible performance was a fine display of his experience. He was calm and calculated under pressure. He's undoubtedly one of the best chasers in the world. Hardik Pandya played a vital role, as well. Their partnership was a game-changing moment.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

Dietrich Mateschitz, the Austrian man who turned a caffeinated Thai energy drink into the multibillion-dollar Red Bull empire, died on Saturday. He was 78. His company, Red Bull, announced the death to employees in an email. The cause was cancer, according to German and Austrian news reports.

TOPOF THE WORLD



Jordan won Emmy in 2005 for his part in 'Will & Grace'. AP File

USA

Leslie Jordan, Emmy-winning actor, dies at 67

Los Angeles: Leslie Jordan, the actor whose wry Southern drawl and versatility made him a comedy and drama standout on TV series, including "Will & Grace" and "American Horror Story," has died. The Emmy-winner was 67. "The world is a much darker place today without the love and light of Jordan. Not only was he a mega talent and joy to work with, but he provided an emotional sanctuary to the nation at one of its most difficult times," a representative for Jordan said. He died Monday in a single car crash in the Hollywood area, as per reports by celebrity website TMZ and the Los Angeles Times, citing unidentified law enforcement sources. AP

PAKISTAN

Journalist death: PM orders probe, body brought home

Islamabad: The body of an outspoken Pakistani journalist who was shot and killed by Nairobi police while living in hiding in Kenya is being repatriated to Islamabad on Tuesday, the government said. Arshad Sharif was killed on Sunday night when the car he was in sped up and drove through a checkpoint outside the Kenyan capital and police opened fire. On Monday, PM Shahbaz Sharif spoke with Kenyan President William Ruto about the incident. "I have decided to probe the killing and for this, I will ask the high court," he said, adding the government would seek approval from the Cabinet for it. PTI

BANGLADESH

Cyclone Sitrang kills 35 people

Dhaka: At least 35 people were killed and several homes destroyed as cyclone Sitrang ravaged Bangladesh's southern coastlines and central parts after it made a land-fall overnight, according to officials and media reports. Sitrang completed its land-fall and weakened to a tropical depression over Bangladesh in the early hours of Tuesday. Newspaper tallies and unofficial counts stated that the cyclone claimed 35 lives. Around 10 million people were without power in districts along the coasts on Tuesday. PTI

YOUNGEST BRITISH PM OF MODERN TIMES

Sunak opts for economic stability, set to lay out fiscal plan in six days

THE NEW YORK TIMES
OCTOBER 25

PRIME MINISTER Rishi Sunak said on Tuesday that he had been elected by the Conservative Party to fix the mistakes of his predecessor, Liz Truss. "That work begins immediately," he said. Sunak became the youngest prime minister in modern British history at the age of 42. Tony Blair, a Labour leader, and David Cameron, a Conservative, both became prime minister at 43 — just slightly older than Sunak. Britain's youngest ever prime minister remains William Pitt the Younger, who took office in 1783 at the age of 24.

Sunak will have no time to lose in setting his economic agenda and reassuring international investors of Britain's commitment to sustainable public finances: His government's first major economic policy event is scheduled in six days.

Next Monday, Jeremy Hunt, who was made chancellor of the Exchequer by Liz Truss 11 days ago and was reappointed by Sunak, is scheduled to deliver a "medium-term fiscal plan," setting spending and tax policies in line with lowering Britain's debt burden over the medium term.

The policies will also, crucially, be assessed by the Office for Budget Responsibility, an independent government watchdog, to show how they will shape Britain's economy and public finances.

Hunt said there would be decisions of "eye-watering difficulty" and the plans would be far-reaching since they incorporated every government department. He has been working on the assumption that the fiscal statement will go ahead on Monday.

While Sunak could change the date, keeping Hunt at the Treasury signaled the new prime minister's determination to provide stability. Hunt has already spent the past week and a half speaking with government departments about savings they have to make and preparing for the policy statement.

The timing was considered important because it is four days before policymakers at the Bank of England meet to set interest rates. Officials at the central bank could assess the government's policies and their likely effect on inflation and then decide how high to raise rates.



Rishi Sunak outside 10 Downing Street, in London, on Tuesday. Reuters

PM'S CABINET PICK			
	JAMES CLEVERLY FOREIGN MINISTER		NADHIM ZAHAWI PARTY CHAIRMAN
	DOMINIC RAAB DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER		GRANT SHAPPS BUSINESS MINISTER
	JEREMY HUNT FINANCE MINISTER		OLIVER DOWDEN CABINET OFFICE MINISTER
	SUELLA BRAVERMAN HOME SECRETARY		PENNY MORDAUNT LEADER OF HOUSE OF COMMONS
	BEN WALLACE DEFENCE SECRETARY		SIMON HART NEW CHIEF WHIP

WORLD LEADERS' NOTE TO NEW PRIME MINISTER

‘Ground-breaking milestone and significant moment’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON/ WASHINGTON,
OCTOBER 25

SEVERAL WORLD leaders, including US President Joe Biden and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, have lauded Rishi Sunak becoming the UK's new Prime Minister as a "ground-breaking milestone" and hoped for better bilateral relations amid a turbulent world.

"Congratulations to Rishi Sunak on becoming Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Together, I look forward to en-

hancing our cooperation on issues critical to global security and prosperity, including continuing our strong support for Ukraine," US President Joe Biden tweeted on Tuesday. Earlier, during a Diwali celebration at the White House on Monday, referring to Sunak becoming the British Prime Minister, Biden had said, "It's pretty astounding, a groundbreaking milestone and it matters."

The Kremlin on Tuesday said Russia sees no reason to expect relations with the UK to improve under Sunak. Russia does not see any "preconditions, grounds, or hope" for building more construc-

tive relations with Great Britain in the foreseeable future, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "No, at present, we do not see any preconditions, grounds or hopes for some positive shifts in the foreseeable future," Russia-UK relations have soured even further since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Congratulating Sunak, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a tweet said the partnership between Canada and the UK "is defined by the history — and the priorities — we share." "As we work to deliver results for the people who call Canada and the UK home, let's continue to strengthen

this partnership," he said.

Ukraine's President Zelenskyy tweeted his congratulations to Sunak. "I wish you to successfully overcome all the challenges facing British society and the whole world today. I'm ready to continue strengthening the Ukraine-UK strategic partnership together!" he said.

French President Emmanuel Macron also congratulated Sunak. "Together we will continue working to tackle the challenges of the moment, including the war in Ukraine and its many consequences for Europe and the world," Macron tweeted.

China's leadership has said that it wants to "advance ties with the UK" under Sunak, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin was quoted as saying by the BBC.

"We hope that we can work with the UK side on the basis of mutual respect and win-win co-operation and advance China-UK relations along the right track," he said.

Sunak has favoured closer ties with China than his predecessor and was criticised by Truss for pursuing a trading relationship when chancellor, the report added.

ALL IN A DAY

TRUSS'S 'BOLD' MESSAGE

Former PM Liz Truss walked out of the doors of No. 10 Downing Street to address Britain for the final time on Tuesday with a smile, appearing composed and defiant. "From my time as prime minister, I am more convinced than ever we need to be bold and confront the challenges that we face," she said. "I wish Rishi Sunak every success, for the good of our country," she said.

BRICKBATS AND BOUQUETS

The UK media welcomed Sunak with both bouquets and brickbats, with some news outlets acknowledging his leadership as the "new dawn" while others questioning the validity of his victory. "Unite or die — Sunak's warning to Tory MPs," read *The Guardian* headline. Echoing similar sentiment, *The Mail* headline read, "A new dawn for Britain". In a scathing attack, *The Mirror* headline asked "Our new (unelected) PM" that "Who voted for you?" Describing him as "twice as rich as the King", its main story said he will now "preside over public spending cuts".

ASKSHATA: THE FIRST LADY LOVE'S UK TOO

Akshata Murty is famously less outgoing than her husband Rishi Sunak, but that is likely to change somewhat as she becomes the first Indian First Lady to the UK's first British Indian PM. "Rishi has always respected the fact that I am Indian and as proud of my country as he is of his," Murty said earlier this year, when her tax affairs hit the headlines. "My decision to pay UK tax on all my worldwide income will not change the fact that India remains the country of my birth, citizenship, parents' home and place of domicile. But I love the UK too".

German President visits Kyiv as West mulls rebuilding plan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV, OCTOBER 25

GERMANY'S PRESIDENT arrived in Kyiv on Tuesday for his first visit to Ukraine since the start of Russia's invasion, as Western countries mulled a massive plan for Ukrainian rebuilding when the war eventually ends.

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said after arriving that "it was important to me in this phase of air attacks with drones, cruise missiles and rockets to send a signal of solidarity to Ukrainians." The World Bank estimates the damage to Ukraine so far at 350 billion euros (\$345 billion).

The German President made it to Ukraine on his third try. In April, he was planning to visit the country with his Polish and Baltic counterparts, but said his presence "apparently... wasn't wanted in Kyiv." Steinmeier has been criticised in Ukraine for allegedly cozying up to Russia during his time as Germany's foreign minister.

Steinmeier's visit came as Ukrainians are bracing for less electricity and heating this winter following a sustained Russian barrage on their grid and thermal power plants in recent weeks.

Deputy Prime Minister Irina Vereshchuk asked citizens living abroad not to return to Ukraine for the winter to avoid placing

EXPLAINED
What is HAWK, US's new likely aid to Ukraine

THE HAWK interceptor missiles would be an upgrade to the Stinger missile systems — a smaller, shorter range air defense system — that the US has already sent to blunt Russia's invasion. US would use the Presidential Drawdown Authority to transfer the HAWK equipment, which is based on Vietnam-era technology, but has been upgraded several times.

further strain on the power supply. "We need to survive the winter but, unfortunately, the (electricity) networks will not survive," Vereshchuk said. "We understand that the situation will only get worse, and this winter we need to survive."

In Berlin, EU leaders brought together experts to start work on a "new Marshall Plan" for the future rebuilding of Ukraine. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the meeting aims to discuss "how to ensure and how to sustain the financing of the recovery, reconstruction and modernisation of Ukraine for years and decades to come."

Russian court upholds Griner's 9-year sentence

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW, OCTOBER 25

A RUSSIAN court on Tuesday rejected an appeal by US basketball star Brittney Griner of her nine-year prison sentence for drug possession, a step that could move her closer to a possible high-stakes prisoner swap between Moscow and Washington.

The eight-time all-star centre with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury and a two-time Olympic gold medalist was convicted August 4 after police said they found vape canisters containing cannabis oil in her luggage at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport.

Griner, 31, was not at the Moscow Regional Court hearing but appeared via video link from a



Griner was jailed for possessing drugs

penal colony outside Moscow where she is held. While upholding the sentence, the court said Griner's prison time will be recalculated to reflect what she has already served in pre-trial detention. One day in pre-trial detention will be counted as 1 1/2 days in prison.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan denounced Tuesday's hearing as "another sham judicial proceeding," saying President Joe Biden "is willing to go to extraordinary lengths and make tough decisions to bring Americans home."

Ashton Carter, Defence Secy under Obama, dies

THE NEW YORK TIMES
OCTOBER 25

ASHTON B Carter, a theoretical physicist who later climbed the leadership ranks at the Pentagon, culminating in two years as secretary of defence under President Barack Obama, a position he used to further open the military to women and transgender service members, died on Monday at his home in Boston. He was 68.

The cause was a heart attack, his family said in a statement.

Carter was widely regarded for his prowess in military technology and policy. After teaching at Harvard and directing the Center for Science and International Affairs at its John F Kennedy School of Government, he joined



Ashton B Carter died of heart attack

the Clinton administration in 1993 as assistant secretary of defence for international security policy.

Later, in the first Obama administration, he first served as the under secretary responsible for acquisition and logistics, and then deputy secretary of defence under Chuck Hagel. In the first position, he streamlined the purchase of thousands of mine-resistant vehicles; in the second, he helped carry out the President's shift to Asia, reshuffling defence resources and priorities to the Pacific Rim in an effort to counter China.

Antisemitic remarks: Adidas ends partnership with Kanye West

London: Adidas has ended its partnership with the rapper formerly known as Kanye West over his offensive and antisemitic remarks, the latest company to cut ties with Ye and a decision that the German sportswear company said would hit its bottom line. "Adidas does not tolerate antisemitism and any other sort of hate speech," the company said on Tuesday.

The move by Adidas comes after Ye was suspended from Twitter and Instagram this month over antisemitic posts. He recently suggested slavery was a choice and called the Covid vaccine the "mark of the beast," among other comments. AP

WORLD'S BIGGEST SPORTING EVENT IN WORLD'S SMALLEST HOST COUNTRY TO SEE 1.2 MILLION VISITORS

Qatar's residents squeezed as World Cup rental demand soars

LUJAIN JO & ISABEL DEBRE
DOHA, OCTOBER 25

WHERE TO SLEEP? It's among the biggest questions facing fans traveling to tiny Qatar for the World Cup amid a feverish rush for rooms in Doha. Some will sleep on cruise ships. Others will camp in the desert. Others will fly in from Dubai and elsewhere.

But in the run-up to the world's biggest sporting event in the world's smallest host country, the struggle for housing is hardly limited to tourists. Qatar's real estate frenzy has sent rents skyrocketing and priced long-

term residents out of their own homes, leaving many in the lurch.

"Landlords are taking full advantage of the situation and there's nothing in place to support the people who already live here," said Mariam, a 30-year-old British resident whose landlord refused to renew her annual contract in September, then quadrupled her monthly rent — from 5,000 Qatari riyals (some \$1,370) to 20,000 riyals (\$5,490). Unable to afford the increase, she had no choice but to move out and is now staying at a friend's place.

"It's really demoralising," she said, giving only her first name for fear of reprisals, like other renters interviewed in the autocratic na-

tion. Residents in the country, where expats outnumber locals nine to one, say the surging demand and shortage of rooms ahead of the World Cup has empowered landlords to raise rents by over 40% in many cases on short notice, forcing tenants to pack up and face an uncertain future.

The Qatari government acknowledged the "increased demand for accommodation" and encouraged tenants who believe they have been wronged to file a complaint with the government's rental disputes committee.

Some 1.2 million fans are expected to descend next month on the Gulf Arab sheikhdom, which has never before hosted an event



The country is hosting the World Cup next month. AP

on the scale of the World Cup.

Local organisers have sought to dispel fears of an accommodation crisis, pointing out that Qatar has set aside 130,000 rooms, available through the official website. The rooms, which are in hotels, resorts, specially built housing and three cruise ships at the port, start at around \$80, they say, although it's not clear how many low-budget options there are.

A price ceiling applies to 80% of the rooms, the government said in a statement to The Associated Press. It did not respond to questions about whether and how the cap has been implemented, and the ceiling — which is about \$780 for a

five-star resort room — can go higher, depending on the room's amenities.

Many long-term occupants in hotels and apartments say they're being driven out to make room for players, staffers and fans. "You're committed to either staying and paying the extra or leaving and not knowing whether you're going to have anywhere to live," said a British teacher whose landlord hiked his rent by 44%. The teacher sold all his furniture and is now crashing at a friend's place, worried sick about his future.

Other renters renewing their leases reported signs appearing on their apartments marking the

buildings as "chosen by the government to host the 2022 World Cup guests and events."

The notice, seen by the AP, orders tenants to vacate so the building can be handed over for maintenance ahead of the tournament. Local organisers have signed a deal with French hospitality company Accor to set aside some 45,000 rooms for fans.

Omar al-Jaber, the executive director of housing at Qatar's Supreme Committee of Delivery and Legacy, said the government played no role in contract terminations affecting long-term tenants. "To be honest with you, we are not controlling what happens in the market," he said. AP

CCI slaps Rs 936-cr penalty on Google for abusing its dominant market position

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 25

THE COMPETITION Commission of India (CCI) on Tuesday imposed a penalty of Rs 936.44 crore on Google for abusing its dominant market position with respect to its Play Store policies. It also issued a cease-and-desist order and directed the tech firm to modify its conduct within a defined timeline, which includes allowing mobile app developers to use third-party payment services on its app store.

"Google has been given 30 days to provide the requisite financial details and supporting documents," the CCI order said.

Last week, the antitrust regulator had imposed a penalty of Rs 1,338 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple categories related to Android mobile device ecosystem in the country.

According to CCI, Play Store policies require app developers to exclusively and mandatorily use Google Play's billing system (GPBS) not only for receiving payments for apps and other digital products but also for certain in-app purchases. Further, app developers cannot, within an app, provide users with a direct link to a webpage containing an alternative payment method or use language that encourages a user to purchase the digital item out-

LATEST SETBACK FOR GOOGLE

■ Google has been given 30 days to provide the requisite financial details and supporting documents, the CCI order stated.

■ Last week, the CCI had imposed a penalty of Rs 1,338 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple categories related to Android mobile device ecosystem.

side of the app.

If the app developers do not comply with GPBS, they are not permitted to list their apps on Play Store and stand to lose out on the vast pool of potential customers in the form of Android users. "Making access to the Play Store dependent on mandatory usage of GPBS for paid apps and in-app purchases is one sided and arbitrary, and devoid of any legitimate business interest. The app developers are left bereft of the inherent choice to use payment processor of their liking from the open market," the CCI said.

Interestingly, Google is not applying the same policy on its

own apps like YouTube. This amounts to imposition of discriminatory conditions as well as pricing as YouTube is not paying the service fee as being imposed on other apps covered in the GPBS requirements, the antitrust regulator said.

The CCI launched an investigation into Google's Play Store policies in 2020 upon complaints by domestic app developers.

It also examined the allegations of exclusion of rival UPI payment apps such as PhonePe, Paytm and BharatPe as alternative payment options on Play Store. The Commission found that Google's own UPI payment service 'Google Pay' has by default been integrated with the "intent flow" payment methodology whereas other UPI apps can only process transitions through the "collect flow" methodology.

The intent flow payment methodology is widely considered superior and user-friendly in comparison to collect flow technology, with intent flow offering significant advantages to both customers and merchants. The success rate with the intent flow methodology was also found to be higher due to lower latency, according to the order.

Google, however, informed CCI that it recently changed its policy and allowed rival UPI apps to be integrated with the superior intent flow methodology. FE

DESPITE THE RISE IN LENDING RATES ACROSS THE BOARD

Credit offtake hits decade's high of 17.9% on higher retail, working capital demand

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 25

CREDIT OFFTAKE grew 17.9 per cent on a year-on-year basis, reaching a decadal high mark with the growth being driven by retail credit, higher working capital demand amidst high inflation and lower funds raised in the capital market.

Despite the rise in lending rates across the board, credit offtake, which expanded by a hefty 1,100 basis points for the fortnight ended October 7, is expected to remain elevated in the short term due to the ongoing festival season. In absolute terms, credit outstanding stood at Rs 128.6 lakh crore as on October 7, rising by Rs 19.56 lakh crore over the last 12 months, according to the latest Reserve Bank of India data.

The rise in the same period of last year was Rs 6.71 lakh crore. The growth has been on an

EXPLAINED

Credit growth likely to remain elevated in the short term

THE CREDIT growth is likely to remain elevated in the short term due to the ongoing festival season and inflation, but rate hikes could dampen credit growth. Global inflation has remained high despite hawkish policies, which may lead to demand issues globally causing second-order effects in India.

upward movement with both retail and wholesale contributing to the same. "Retail credit growth has been strong due to underlying demand, as credit outstanding saw a robust growth at 19.5 per cent year-on-year in August 2022 driven by the miniaturisation of credit, housing and vehicle loans. Driven by ECLGS, MSME growth too has remained strong. Corporate loans indicate a shift from the capital market to bank borrowings as hardening

bond yields have prompted companies to optimize their borrowing cost," Care Ratings said in a report.

The credit outstanding of the industry segment registered a growth of 11.4 per cent y-o-y in August 2022 from 1.5 per cent in the year-ago period due to inflation-induced higher working capital demand. Credit for the services sector also accelerated by 17.2 per cent y-o-y in August 2022 from a growth of 2.1 per

cent in the year-ago period primarily due to a rise in NBFCs and trade segments, it said.

The credit growth is likely to remain elevated in the short term due to the ongoing festival season and inflation, the report said. Global inflation has remained high despite hawkish policies. This may lead to demand issues globally causing second-order effects in India. Credit offtake is expected to remain high, however rate hikes could dampen credit growth. Liquidity has generally been trending down with RBI seeking to reduce excess liquidity from the system to manage inflation. The banking system liquidity surplus has narrowed to Rs 0.1 lakh crore (as on October 19, 2022) from Rs 6.3 lakh crore at the start of FY23.

The Reserve Bank of India has already increased the repo rate by 190 basis points to 5.9 per cent — in four hikes — in FY23, so far, with additional hikes in the offing. Further, average 10-year bond

yields crossed 7.4 per cent in October 2022, from 6.84 per cent in March 2022 and 6.63 per cent in December 2019 (pre-pandemic level) due to elevated domestic inflation, rate hike bets and higher global bond yields. The hardening bond yields have been driving a shift in the borrowings from the capital market to the banking system, the report said.

Meanwhile, deposits saw a slower growth at 9.6 per cent on a year-on-year basis. Deposits rates are expected to go up even further due to rising credit demand, widening credit deposit gap, ongoing festival season, lower liquidity in the market and elevated inflation.

Care report said over the last two years and a half years — from the last reporting Friday of March 2020 — credit offtake has overcome Covid-induced lag and has grown by around 25.2 per cent to almost catch up with deposit growth of 27.3 per cent over the period.

Waste-to-Energy plants

A total of 249 Waste-to-Energy plants, 819 Biomass Power plants and 50.8 lakhs small Biogas plants have been set up in the country to generate Power/Biogas/BioCNG.



Emission of pollutants arising from incineration of MSW is handled by deploying pollution control devices, Flue Gas treatment (FGT) and regulating temperature in the combustion chamber to achieve the emission limits as prescribed in Solid Waste Management Rules 2016

Source: Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

24-member IRDAI panel to develop insurance cover for rural population

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 25

THE INSURANCE Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a 24-member committee to develop and suggest an affordable and comprehensive cover for the rural population.

While the proposed cover will be a benefit based / parametric structure, called Bima Vistaar, the IRDAI has also asked the panel, which will be headed by Thomas M Devasia, Member (non-life) o IRDAI, to recommend a regulatory framework for the cover.

The insurance regulator has also asked the committee to develop and suggest constitution and operation of a preferably, women centric distribution channel to focus on reaching untapped/ rural areas - Bima Vahak - and recommend the regulatory framework.

The committee will explore and recommend on how to bring about synergies in the working and operations of Bima Vahak, Bima Vistaar and the digital platform - Bima Sugam.

According to IRDAI, in order to facilitate availability of an affordable, simple but comprehensive cover to the hitherto untapped areas and rural population, it is necessary to understand the needs and requirements in those areas and formulate suitable risk cover and customized distribution channels who appreciate the market dynamics in such areas. "Field forces in remote areas need to build trust of the local population, be more patient and persuasive to be able to explain the nuances of the need for risk cover. In this context a women centric distribution model emerges as an apt alternative," IRDAI said.

IRDAI said latest developments in the technology like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) can be gainfully utilized by creating a digital platform to reach the last mile. The committee is being set up to suggest a feasible model which will take the industry to achieve the objective of bridging the protection gap in the untapped areas, leveraging on the digital transformation into which the nation is moving today, it said.

Markets snap 7-day rally on profit-booking, RIL, FMCG stocks weigh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 25

EQUITY BENCHMARKS nursed losses on Tuesday as investors booked profits after a seven-session rally amid weaker Asian market cues and foreign fund outflows. The 30-share BSE SENSEX failed to hold on the early gains and declined 287.70 points or 0.48 per cent to finish at 59,543.96. During the day, it hit a low of 59,489.02 and a high of 60,081.24.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty fell 74.60 points or 0.42 per cent to end at 17,656.35.

Nestle India was the top loser in the SENSEX pack, slipping 2.83 per cent, followed by Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finance and Asian Paints.

Market heavyweight Reliance Industries was the biggest drag on the benchmark following lacklustre Q2 results.

Apple cutting back production of iPhone 14 Plus due to weak demand: TrendForce

REUTERS
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 25

APPLE INC is cutting back production of iPhone 14 Plus and is increasing the output of the more expensive iPhone 14 Pro due to lukewarm demand for the mid-range model, market research firm TrendForce said Tuesday.

The share of more expensive iPhone 14 Pro series has increased to 60% of the total output from the initially planned 50%, and it could rise to 65% in the future, the report said.

Apple did not immediately respond to a Reuters' request for comment.

Apple's focus on high-end models may help it counter the softness in smartphone sales. In the thick of the chip crisis, Apple's Pro and Pro Max premium tier of devices, which have been strong sellers, helped the company push margins higher.

The TrendForce report said that rising U.S. interest rates could crimp consumer spending, undermining the demand for iPhones in the first quarter of 2023. This could lead to a 14% year-on-year drop in production

to 52 million units.

Analysts have in the past said iPhone 14's Pro and Pro Max versions were selling at a brisk pace, although demand for the base model, typically Apple's best seller, has been underwhelming.

Apple was the only vendor in the top five to register a growth in shipments in the third quarter, improving its share of the global smartphone market to 18% from 15% a year ago, according to research firm Canalsys. The increase in share came as the overall smartphone market shrank 9%, Canalsys said.

Copper prices slip as market stares at slow growth and demand

REUTERS
LONDON, OCTOBER 25

COPPER PRICES slipped on Tuesday as the market focused on slowing growth and demand around the world, though some price support was provided by low stock levels in warehouses registered with the London Metal Exchange (LME).

Benchmark copper on the LME was down 0.5% at \$7,518 a tonne at 1607 GMT. Prices of the metal used by investors as a gauge of economic health have dropped 30% since hitting a record peak of \$10,845 in March.

Citi analysts expect copper to fall to \$6,200 a tonne in the next three months, they said in a note, citing a Europe-led recession and the broader demand outlook in the United States and China.

"Multi-year high (copper) mine supply growth in 2023 should also eventually become a headwind," they added.

Stocks of copper in LME-registered warehouses have fallen 8% to 134,400 tonnes since Oct. 13. Cancelled warrants - metal earmarked for delivery - at 57% of the total suggest another 76,400

Citi analysts expect copper to fall to \$6,200 a tonne in the next three months, they said in a note

tonnes is due to leave the system.

Worries about tight supplies on the LME market have created a hefty premium for cash copper over the three-month contract. It was last at \$109 a tonne.

Also in focus are copper stocks in China's bonded warehouses, having dropped to about 25,000 tonnes from more than 270,000 tonnes in late June. "The market is tight, evidenced by the low bonded warehouse stocks in China," said Sueden Financial analyst Geordie Wilkes.

On aluminium, Wilkes said: "Downside pressure persists as China's aluminium output rises."

China's primary aluminium production rose to 3.42 million tonnes in September, up 9.3% from a year earlier, with smelters in a few main regions ramping up output after authorities in the world's top metal producer relaxed power restrictions.

Nomura Singapore sells 1.52 pc stake in CSB Bank worth Rs 61 cr

New Delhi: Nomura Singapore on Tuesday divested 1.52 per cent stake in private sector lender CSB Bank for over Rs 61 crore through an open market transaction. According to bulk deal data available with the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Nomura Singapore offloaded

26,39,673 shares, amounting to 1.52 per cent stake in the company. The shares were disposed off at an average price of Rs 232.3 apiece, taking the transaction value to Rs 61.31 crore.

Meanwhile, Maybank Securities Pte bought the shares at the same price. PTI

BRIEFLY

Nykkaa shares

Bengaluru: Shares of FSN E-Commerce Ventures, the parent of cosmetics-to-fashion retailer Nykaa, fell as much 2% on Tuesday, to drop below their initial public offering issue price of 1,125 rupees. REUTERS

ESIC scheme

New Delhi: Around 14.62 lakh new members joined the ESIC-run social security scheme in August 2022, according to official data released on Tuesday. The latest data is part of a report — Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective - August 2022 — released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). PTI

Bharat Bond

New Delhi: The government is planning to launch the fourth tranche of Bharat Bond ETF, India's first corporate bond exchange traded fund, in December, an official said. The funds raised would be utilised for undertaking capital expenditures by public sector enterprises. "The issue size for the fourth tranche of Bharat Bond ETF could probably be close to last year's," the official said. PTI

Jackson Green

New Delhi: Jackson Green has inked a pact to invest Rs 22,400 crore to set up a green hydrogen and green ammonia project, in phases, in Rajasthan. The company has signed a MOU with the Rajasthan government to this effect, Jackson Green said. PTI

KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION Transport Bhavan , Fort P.O, Thiruvananthapuram-695023 E-TENDER NOTICE		
Name of Item	Qty	Last Date of Bid submission
Fully Built 9 Meter Non AC-Electric Bus with 60 Chargers.	120 Nos.	06.00 PM 10.11.2022
Fully Built 9 Meter Non AC-Electric Bus with 2 Chargers.	5 Nos.	
Pre-bid meeting of registered bidders – 03.00 pm on 28.10.2022 (Online)		
For the detailed tender document visit: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, www.keralartc.com/tenders/purchase, e-mail : sr@kerala.gov.in		
sd/- Chairman & Managing Director 22.10.2022		

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VIII SEC. 16-D, PAPPANKALAN; N. DELHI. 110075 PRESS N.I.T. No. 20/ EE(SDW)/VIII/ (2022-23)					
S. No.	Name Of work	Estimate cost in Rs.	E/Money in Rs.	Tender fee in Rs.	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e procurement solution
1	Repairing/Renovating of Oriental make sluice gates of size 2000 mm X 2000 mm and 1200 mm X 1500 mm installed at Sec-24 SPS Dwaraka	3586374/-	72000/-	500/-	05.11.2022 at 03:00P.M.
Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in .					
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Adv. No. J.S.V. 383 (2022-23) "STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"					

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
(Nagpur Metro Rail Project)
"Metro Bhavan", VIP Road, Near Dikshabhoomi, Ramdaspath,
Nagpur-440010. E-mail : md.nmrc.tenders@gmail.com
Website : www.mahametro.org

Tender Notice No. N1-CRF-04/2022 Dt. 27.10.2022

Name of work : Construction of Subway as RCC Box 1x7x3 Mt. by Pushing Method at Railway's Ch. 830/09-11 Between Khapri- Ajni Station in Lieu of Existing Level Crossing No. 120 at Manish Nagar Crossing under Nagpur- Division of Central Railway. (Re-Tender)

Cost of Documents : INR 35,400/- (Inclusive of GST). Interested Bidders may visit MAHA-METRO Website: www.mahametro.org and CPP Website : <https://eprocure.gov.in> for NIT and download the bid documents for further details regarding the tender, from e-tender portal <https://mahametrorail.etenders.in> from 16.00 Hrs on 04.11.2022 to 16.00 Hrs on 23.11.2022.

Executive Director/Procurement
Maha-Metro, (Nagpur Metro)

राष्ट्रीय इस्पात निगम लिमिटेड
RASHTRIYA ISPAT NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
VISAKHAPATNAM STEEL PLANT

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Ph:+91 891 2519503/3500234 Ext.21015,
email:a_chowdhury@vizagsteel.com/kandregula@vizagsteel.com/
ketha_mm@vizagsteel.com

GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE NO.Pur.22.17.0012/0007 DT:21.10.2022
Global Tender Notice for Supply of 'IMPORTED COKING & PCI COAL'
Work: Sealed tenders are invited for supply of 300,000 (Three Lakhs) MT of 'Imported Coking Coals' and 75,000(Seventy Five Thousand) MT of Imported 'PCI Coal', with a Shipping Tolerance of +/-10% as per the specifications indicated in Tender document.

Last date & time for receipt of Tenders: 04.11.2022 by 10.30hrs(IST)
RINL/VSP intends to take the delivery of shipments tentatively from November 2022 onwards. However, the tenderer shall undertake deliveries as per clause 2.2 of Part-VII of tender. RINL/VSP reserves the right to postpone the deliveries by a period of upto 1 month beyond the contracted delivery period, without any additional financial implication to the Purchaser.

Tenderers who are interested to participate in the tender can download the tender document from the website **WWW.VIZAGSTEEL.COM** (under MM-MM Tenders) and submit their offer before 10.30 hrs IST on 04.11.2022 as per the instructions given in the Tender document. In case of difficulty in downloading of Tender document, the Tender document shall be sent by Post free of cost on written request from the Tenderer.

GENERAL MANAGER (MM)/lc

For more details & corrigendum please visit regularly
www.vizagsteel.com **HAR EK KAAM DESH KE NAAM**

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

23 ASSAM RIFLES

HAVIDLAR (LATE)
MOHAN SINGH

RIFLEMAN (LATE)
WANGSOA LOWANG

RIFLEMAN (LATE)
SUNIL KUMAR TIWARI

The Tagra Teyees family proudly remembers the above Martyrs who in the true traditions of the Assam Rifles made supreme sacrifice while bravely combating terrorist in Rolling Top, Tirap District (Arunachal Pradesh) on 25 Oct 2007. May the Almighty grant eternal peace to their soul. Their gallant action will continue to inspire us all.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY COMMANDANT & ALL RANKS
23 ASSAM RIFLES 'TAGRA TEYEES'

Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Limited
(A Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking)

GUJSAIL Complex, Nr. Torrent Sub Station, SVPI Airport, Ahmedabad-380 004. Phone No.-079 22882000/71

Notice Inviting Global E-TENDER (ID: 561370)

GUJSAIL invites Global e-Tenders for “Procurement of Amphibious Sea Plane on Finance Lease Mode.” Through E-Tendering Portal. Last Date and time of Submission of bids is **12th December, 2022 up to 1800 hrs.** For detailed information log on to n-procure portal: www.nprocure.com or GUJSAIL website: www.gujsail.gujarat.gov.in Further clarification/corrigendum, if any, will be notified through n-procure portal

NORTHERN RAILWAY

1st CORRIGENDUM

Name of Work : Electrical work in connection with Setting up of quick watering arrangement at HNZM station.
The amendments in above said tender are as under:-

Tender No.:- 30-Elect-39-T-2022-23-E3		
	Earlier published	Amended
Name of work	Electrical work in connection with Setting up of quick watering arrangement at HNZM station.	Electrical work in connection with Setting up of quick watering arrangement at HNZM station.
Approx. cost of the works in	Rs. 125.92 lacs	Rs. 125.92 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/ General, New Delhi.	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/ General, New Delhi.
Bid Security	Rs. 213000.00	Rs. 213000.00
Date & time of submission of tender	26.10.2022, 12:00 Hrs.	07.11.2022, 12:00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	26.10.2022, 12:00 Hrs.	07.11.2022, 12:00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/ General, New Delhi	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/ General, New Delhi

The tender document of above mentioned tender has been modified kindly go through the amended documents available on www.ireps.gov.in and submit your offer accordingly. Tender No. 30-Elect-39-T-2022-23-E3 2845/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन

खाद्य नागरिक आपूर्ति एवं उपभोक्ता संरक्षण विभाग

:: भंत्रालय ::

महानदी भवन, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर,

कमांक 5–12 / 2022 / 29–2, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर दिनांक 20.10.2022

विज्ञप्ति

08 जिला उपभोक्ता आयोग में अध्यक्ष के रिक्त पद की पूर्ति हेतु प्राप्त आवेदन पत्रों में से निर्धारित मापदण्ड अनुसार नही पाये गये आवेदन पत्रों पर दावा आपत्ति के संबंध में।

जिला उपभोक्ता आयोग रायपुर, बिलासपुर, दुर्ग, सरगुजा, धमतरी, कोरबा, जांजगीर-चांपा, बस्तर, में अध्यक्ष के रिक्त पद की पूर्ति हेतु खाद्य नागरिक आपूर्ति एवं उपभोक्ता संरक्षण विभाग द्वारा विज्ञापन प्रकाशित करारक आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये गये है। छत्तीसगढ़ उपभोक्ता संरक्षण (राज्य आयोग और जिला आयोग के अध्यक्ष और सदस्यों की नियुक्ति के लिये अर्हता, भर्ती की पद्धति, नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया, कार्यकाल, पद से त्यागपत्र और हटाणा) नियम 2020 के प्रावधान एवं चयन समिति द्वारा निर्धारित प्रक्रिया अनुसार प्राप्त आवेदन पत्रों की स्कूटीनी में निम्न अम्यर्षियों के आवेदन पत्र निर्धारित मापदण्ड अनुसार नही पाये गये है।

निर्धारित मापदण्ड अनुसार नही पाये गये आवेदन पत्रों का विवरण छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य उपभोक्ता विवाद प्रतितोष आयोग की वेबसाइट <http://www.cgscdrc.cg.nic.in> तथा खाद्य नागरिक आपूर्ति एवं उपभोक्ता संरक्षण विभाग की वेबसाइट <https://khadya.cg.nic.in> पर अपलोड किया गया है। निर्धारित मापदण्ड अनुसार नही पाये गये आवेदन पत्रों पर दावा आपत्ति रजिस्ट्रार, छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य उपभोक्ता विवाद प्रतितोष आयोग पंखरी रायपुर को दिनांक 31 अक्टूबर 2022, कार्यालयीन समय तक प्रेषित किया जा सकता है। निर्धारित तिथि के पश्चात् प्राप्त दावा आपत्ति पर विचार नही किया जावेगा।

(नीलम पदुम एल्ला)
उप सचिव
छत्तीसगढ़ शासन

G.NO-G-95220 खाद्य, नागरिक आपूर्ति एवं उप. संर. विभाग

NORTHERN RAILWAY

1st CORRIGENDUM

Tender No.:- 30-Elect-29-T-R1-22-23-E3
Name of Work: Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of THYSSEN make lift installed at P.K. Road Officers Railway Colony block no. 247, 248, 249, 250, 251 & 257 New Delhi for three years.
The amendments in above said tender are as under :-

Tender No. :- 30-Elect-29-T-R1-22-23-E3		
	Earlier Published	Amended
Name of work	Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of THYSSEN make lift installed at P.K. Road Officers Railway Colony block no. 247, 248, 249, 250, 251 & 257 New Delhi for three years	Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of THYSSEN make lift installed at P.K. Road Officers Railway Colony block no. 247, 248, 249, 250, 251 & 257 New Delhi for three years
Approx cost of the works in:-	Rs. 14.60 lacs	Rs. 14.60 lacs
Address of the office :-	Sr. Divil. Elect. Engineer /General, New Delhi.	Sr. Divil. Elect. Engineer /General, New Delhi.
Bid Security :-	Rs. 29200.00	Rs. 29200.00
Date & time of submission of tender :-	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.	09.11.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender :-	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.	09.11.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board :-	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer /General, New Delhi.	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer /General, New Delhi.

The tender documents of above mentioned tender has been modified kindly go through the amended documents available on www.ireps.gov.in and submit your offer accordingly. 2849/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH,
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION RAIGARH,
DISTT. RAIGARH (C.G.)

CORRIGENDUM

1. In system Tender No. 101349 NIT No. 05/SAC/2022-23 Raigarh Dated 01-06-2022, Corrigendum No. 2 G.No. 92959/2 Dt. 15-07-2022 following amendments are made:-
2. In system Tender No. 101350 NIT No. 06/SAC/2022-23 Raigarh Dated 01-06-2022, Corrigendum No. 2 G.No. 92960/2 Dt. 14-07-2022 following amendments are made:-

S. No.	Particulars
1.	Clause 2.50.1, 2.40.3, 4.3.17.1, 4.3.17.2, 4.3.2(A), 4.3.3.3, 2.17.1 of Form-“B” as pr Government of C.G. WRD Mantralay Naya Raipur order No. 4837/F-1-19-31/ S-2/2006(T) Dated 30.09.2022. Clause 2.8.1 of Form-“B” as per Government of C.G. WRD Mantralay Naya Raipur order No. 4899/F-7-73/1/S-2/2001 (VI) Dated 10.10.2022.
2.	Online Tenders are invited for the work mentioned in the above NIT upto 01-11-2022 at 17:30 Hours.
3.	Bid open start date and time 02-11-2022 at 11.30 Hours.

Note:- Detailed amendments can be viewed on the web site <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> probable amount of contract (P.A.C.) is as per S.O.R. 01.08.2010 (As Amendments 01.08.2014) All other terms and conditions will remain be unchanged.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION RAIGARH,
DISTT. RAIGARH (C.G.)

95246

BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED
‘A Mini Ratna Company’
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCLL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCLL www.bcllweb.in, Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>.
*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic/Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
DAIRY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Administrative Building, Abdul Gaffarkhan Road,
World Sea Face, Worli, Mumbai- 400 018.

Re E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.DDC-21(D)/Aarey Brand/re-Tender/Advertisement/ T-08/2022/6043, Date : 21.10.2022

E-TENDERS are invited herewith from the Dairy Development Department, Government of Maharashtra during the period of Dt. 21.10.2022 to Dt.16.11.2022 for the period of three years for the production & sale of milk products by the brand name "Aarey " from Manufacturers/ Sellers/ Packers/ Distributors for a period of Three years on **Royalty Basis** in Maharashtra State and Rest of India.

Online tender notice, tender terms & conditions etc. are published on website. <http://mahatenders.gov.in>

Dairy Development Commissioner, Maharashtra State, Mumbai reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
S. R. Shipurkar
Dairy Development Commissioner,
Maharashtra State, Mumbai.

For and on behalf of Governor of Manarashtra.

DGIPR-2022-23/3582

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that this Girl **Namely: Nisha, D/o: Mangal, R/o: H.No. 6, Gali No. 4, Krishna Colony, Surkhpur Road, Najafgarh, New Delhi, Age: 13 Years, Height: 4', Hair: Black, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Wearing: Unknown,** has been missing since 09.09.2022 at 08:54 pm from the area of PS. Baba Hari Das Nagar, Delhi.

In this regard a **FIR No. 471/2022, dated 12.09.2022** has been registered at PS. Baba Hari Das Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this Girl kindly inform to the following.

SHO
E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in P.S. Baba Hari Das Nagar, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph.: 011-25315302, 8750871028
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-25315302, 8750871028
Pin: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/064/DW/2022

पं. जवाहर लाल नेहरू स्मृति चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय रायपुर (छ.ग.)

परिशिष्ट-2
(नियम 4.4.2)
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

पत्र क्र.- 13432/निविदा/2022-23 रायपुर, दिनांक 17 / 10 / 2022 पं.ज.ने. स्मृति चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायपुर (छ.ग.) के केन्द्रीय ग्रंथालय के लिए विभिन्न विषयों की शोध पत्रिकाओं के क्रय हेतु मोहरवंद निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र अयोध्याक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में आवेदन प्रस्तुत कर (आयकर प्रमाण पत्र सहित) रुपए 500.00 का नगद भुगतान कर दिनांक 17 /11 / 2022 तक कार्यालयीन दिवस में प्राप्त किये जा सकते है। अधिक जानकारी एवं निविदा प्रपत्र महाविद्यालय के वेबसाईट www.ptjnmcmraipur.in से डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा बिक्री की अंतिम तिथि 17/11/2022 समय सायं 5.00 बजे तक निविदा जमा की अंतिम तिथि 18/11/2022 समय अपराह्न 12:00 बजे तक निविदा खोलने की तिथि 18/11/2022 समय अपराह्न 1:00 बजे स्थान : अधिष्ठाता कार्यालय, पं.ज.ने. स्मृति चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

G.NO.G-95187

Varthana Finance Private Limited
(Formerly known as Thruriment Finance Private Ltd.,)
Registered Office at : No. 58C-110, Varasidhi, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office : 1162 & 1163, Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Spaze I Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram 122018

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8(1)] (For Immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd., (Formerly known as M/s. Thruriment Finance Private Ltd.), Gurugram Branch, Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (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: 28-07-2022** calling upon the **Applicants/ Co-Applicants/ Mortgageors**, in Loan Account No's. **S19GUR-GUR-007867, U21GUR-GUR-018510, U21GUR-GUR-017196 and U20GUR-GUR-015026**, 1). M/s. Bharti Public School, Represented by its Authorised Signatory, 2). M/s. Bharti Shiksha Samiti, Represented by its Authorised Signatory, No. 1 and 2 are having office at Village Gulawad, Tehsil Hodal, Palwal– 121106., 3). **Mr. Baldev Singh, S/o. Gopal, 4). Mrs. Anita, W/o. Baldev, No. 3 and 4 are residing at Tikri Alias Bhupgarh (130), Palwal Haryana – 121106.**, to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being a sum of **Rs. 35,18,583 -/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Three Only)** as on 25-07-2022, to pay agreed contractual rate of interest together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges etc., as details mentioned in the Demand Notice, till the date of payment, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

However the Applicants/ Co-Applicants/ Mortgageors herein above having failed to repay the full amount with interest/other charges, notice is hereby given to the Applicants/ Co-Applicants/ Mortgageors in particular and to the public in general that the undersigned being Authorised Officer of the **M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd.** Gurgram has taken **POSSESSION** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this day of **21-10-2022**.

The Applicants/ Co-Applicants/ Mortgageors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd.** Gurgram, for an amount of **Rs. 35,18,583-/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Three Only)** as on 25-07-2022 with agreed contractual rate of interest, as mentioned herein above until the date of payment together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges. The Applicants/ Co-Applicants/ Mortgageors attention is invited to provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured Assets.

Description of the Immoveable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property Admesuring Area 2 Kanal 13.5 Marla 0.8 Marla i.e. 1/12 Share of 10 Marla out of Khata/Khewat No. 542/580, Khasra No. 290(0-10), 13.3 marla i.e. 1/12 share of 8 kanal out of khewat/khata No. 543/1581, Mustil No.94, Kila No. 126(0-1), 1 kanal 0.1 Marla i.e. 287/12087 share of 42 kanal 7 Marla out of khewat/khata No.545/581, Mustil No. 32 Kila no. 152(6-3), 16(8-0), 23(21-17), 24(7-9), 25(7-9) Mustil No.44 Kila No. 3/1 (5-17), 5/1(5-12), 15.4 Marla i.e 1/12 share of 9 kanal 5 Marla out of Khewat/khata No.544/582, Mustil No.53, Kila No. 152(3-7), 16(1-3) Mustil No.54, Kila No. 11(2-2-7), 3.7 Marla i.e. 287/12084 Share of 8 kanal out of Khewat/khata No.545/583, Mustil No.44, Kila No. 4(8-0) Village/Mauja Gulabad Sub tehsil Hasnapur Distt Palwal Haryana and bounded on, East By: Road, West By: Other Property, North By: Other Property, South By : Other Property.

Date: 26-10-2022, Authorised Officer,
Place: Mauja Gulabad Sd/- Varthana Finance Private Limited

कार्यालय उप-निदेशक, दुधवा टाइगर रिजर्व प्रभाग/सदस्य सचिव, कार्यकारी समिति, दुधवा बाघ संरक्षण फाउण्डेशन, पलिया-खीरी।

पत्रांक-1346/7-3 दिनांक, पलिया-खीरी, अक्टूबर, 22/2022

कार्यालय विज्ञप्ति

दुधवा टाइगर रिजर्व के अन्तर्गत दुधवा बाघ संरक्षण फाउन्डेशन को समेकित नियत मासिक परिलब्धियों के आधार पर वित्तीय वर्ष, 2022-23 के लिए (संतोषजनक सेवा की स्थिति में विस्तार योग्य) विभिन्न निम्न पदों पर कार्य करने हेतु निर्धारित अर्हता रखने वाले इच्छुक अभ्यर्थियों को इस कार्यालय की विज्ञप्ति संख्या -977/7-3 दिनांक 26.09.2022 द्वारा आवेदन आमंत्रित किये गये थे, जिसके सापेक्ष निम्नलिखित अभ्यार्थी पात्र पाये गये:-

क्र.सं.	अभ्यार्थी का नाम	पता	पद का नाम
1	सर्व श्री राज कुमार वर्मा	मुन्गूगंज छोटे लाल कालोनी, गोलामोर्कणनाथ खीरी	समाजशास्त्री
2	मोहे अन्जुम	आनन्द नगर, सीतापुर	अभिप्रेरक
3	नाजरून निशा	ग्राम-फूलवरिया, पो.-पलिया-खीरी	अभिप्रेरक
4	धनीराम	मो. टेहरा शहरी, कस्बा पलिया-खीरी	अभिप्रेरक
5	शिवांगी विघाटी	ग्राम-गोविन्द नगर, पो. भानपुरी खुजुरिया, जिला खीरी	लेखाकार/डाटाईट्री अपरेटर
6	शाश्वत् राज	बहराँच	आउटरिच प्रोग्राम इन्चार्ज
7	विपिन सैनी	आगरा यू.पी.	आउटरिच प्रोग्राम इन्चार्ज
		कुल (7) पद	

उपरोक्तानुसार पात्र अभ्यार्थी मुख्य वन संरक्षक एवं मुख्य वन संरक्षक एवं फोल्ड डायरेक्टर, दुधवा टाइगर रिजर्व, लखीमपुर-खीरी/अध्यक्ष, कार्यकारी समिति, दुधवा बाघ संरक्षण समिति के द्वारा गठित समिति चयन समिति की संस्तुति के आधार पर उक्त पदों पर चयन किया जाता है। चयनित अभ्यार्थी दिनांक 28.10.2022 को सम्पर्क कर अपना अनुबन्ध पत्र इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त करा कर उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करें, तत्पश्चात अनुबन्ध के आधार पर उनसे सवार्थे ली जायेगी।

(डा० रंगारजू टी०)
सदस्य सचिव,उपनिदेशक
दुधवा बाघ संरक्षण फाउन्डेशन,
दुधवा टाइगर रिजर्व प्रभाग,
पलिया खीरी।

आर.ओ. संख्या-18063 दिनांक-25/10/2022
www.upgov.nic.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Office of Sr. DEE/G DRM Office, New Delhi
1st CORRIGENDUM

Tender No. 30-Elect-31-T-R1-22-23-E3
Name of Work: Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of OTIS make lifts installed over Delhi Division for three years.
The amendments in above said tender are as under:

Tender No. 30-Elect-31-T-R1-22-23-E3		
	Earlier published	Amended
Name of work	Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of OTIS make lift installed over Delhi Division for three years.	Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of OTIS make lifts installed over Delhi Division for three years.
Approx cost of the works in :-	Rs. 49.31 lacs	Rs. 49.31 lacs
Address of the office:-	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security:-	Rs. 98600.00	Rs. 98600.00
Date & time of submission of tender:-	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.	09.11.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender:-	26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.	09.11.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board :-	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

The tender document of above mentioned tender has been modified kindly go through the amended documents available on www.ireps.gov.in and submit your offer accordingly Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/G. Delhi Division, Northern Railway. 2847/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OFFICE OF SR. DEE/G DRM OFFICE, NEW DELHI
1st CORRIGENDUM

Tender No. 30-Elect-42-T-2022-23-E3
Name of work : Electrical work in connection with development of infrastructure facilities at Farukhnagar for examination of BCACBM rakes.
The amendments in above said tender are as under:

Tender No. 30-Elect-42-T-2022-23-E3		
	Earlier published	Amended
Name of work	Electrical work in connection with development of infrastructure facilities at Farukhnagar for examination of BCACBM rakes.	Electrical work in connection with development of infrastructure facilities at Farukhnagar for examination of BCACBM rakes.
Approx Cost of the works	Rs. 9.83 lacs	Rs. 9.83 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security	Rs. 19700.00	Rs. 19700.00
Date & time of submission of tender	27.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.	07.11.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	27.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.	07.11.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

The tender document of above mentioned tender has been modified kindly go through the amended documents available on www.ireps.gov.in and submit your offer accordingly. 2848/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SBI State Bank of India
STRESSEDASSETSRECOVERYBRANCH
2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800001
Ph. No. (Office): 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax: 0612-2219385, E-mail: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

SUBSEQUENT SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India**, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **“As is Where is”, As is What is” and “Whatever there is”** on **16.11.2022 (Wednesday)** for recovery of **₹5,32,88,695.76** (Rupees Five Crore Thirty Two Lac Eighty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Five & Paise Seventy Six Only) as on 23/11/2017 with further Interest, Cost, Charges & Other miscellaneous expenses etc, less deposit/recovery made thereafter, if any, due to the secured creditor from Borrower, **M/s Vaishnavi Rice Mill Private Limited; Directors & Guarantors, (1) Shri Bikash Kumar Singh S/o Shri Bharat Singh , (2) Shri Nirmal Kumar Chaudhary S/o Late Bhagwan Chaudhary & (3) Shri Akhilesh Kumar Singh S/o Shri Bihari Singh; Guarantors, (1) Smt. Asha Singh W/o Shri Bikash Kumar Singh, (2) Shri Munmun Singh S/o Shri Sheojag Singh, (3) Shri Ram Pravesh Chaudhary S/o Late Bhagwan Chaudhary, (4) Shri Ajay Kumar Chaudhary S/o Late Bhagwan Chaudhary, (5) Smt. Meena Kunwar W/o Late Upendra Chaudhary, (6) Shri Anil Kumar Chaudhary S/o Late Bhagwan Chaudhary & (7) Shri Kamlesh Kumar Singh S/o Shri Bihari Singh.**

Sl. No.	Description of the property (Property ID for e-auction: SBIN887139893633)	Reserve Price EMD Amount Bid Increment Amt
1.	Plat and Machineries of flour mill in Non-Working condition installed at the factory site of M/s Vaishnavi Rice Mill Private Limited at Sariyaon, Nokha, District-Rohtas, Bihar.	₹57,00,000.00 ₹5,70,000.00 ₹20,000.00

e-Auction Terms and Condition

1. Date of e-auction: 16.11.2022 (Wednesday), Time: 120 Minutes from 12:00 Noon to 02:00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes each.
2. Website/portal for e-auction-<https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.
3. The General Terms & Conditions are available on- <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>.
4. Mobile No. for property related inquiry/verification: 9507591883/6200121513.

This publication is also a 15 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 6(2) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

NB: 15 days Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors has already been sent by Regd. Post at their last known address. In case they do not receive the said notice, this E-auction Sale Notice may be treated as substituted mode of service.

Date : 21.10.2022
Place : Patna

AUTHORISED OFFICER
STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, PATNA

SBI State Bank of India
STRESSEDASSETSRECOVERYBRANCH
2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800001
Ph. No. (Office): 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax: 0612-2219385, E-mail: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India**, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **“As is Where is”, As is What is” and “Whatever there is”** on **02.12.2022 (Friday)** for recovery of **₹10,63,01,163.29** (Rupees Ten Crore Sixty Three Lac One Thousand One Hundred Sixty Three & Paise Twenty Nine Only) as on 27/01/2017 with further Interest, Cost, Charges & Other miscellaneous expenses etc, less deposit/recovery made thereafter, if any, due to the secured creditor from Borrower, **M/s Vindhyawasini Rice Mill Cluster Private Limited; Directors/ Guarantors, (1) Shri Sunil Kumar Singh S/o Shri Bharat Singh, (2) Smt Parmila Singh W/o Sunil Kumar Singh, (3) Shri Murlidhar Singh S/o Shri Ram Ghahan Singh, (4) Shri Bharat Singh S/o Late Shivpujan Singh, (5) Shri Bikash Kumar Singh S/o Shri Bharat Singh, (6) Smt Asha Singh W/o Shri Bikash Kumar Singh & (7) Shri Mukund Deo Singh S/o Shri Ram Bilash Singh.**

Sl. No.	Description of the property (Property ID for e-auction: SBIN857720467381)	Reserve Price
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Stoinis flexes his muscles as Australia beat Sri Lanka

SRIRAM VEERA
OCTOBER 25

WHEN MARCUS Stoinis walked in to bat, with the equation reading 69 needed from 46 balls, Sri Lanka were trying to claw back into the game. Chasing 158 for victory, Glenn Maxwell had helped Australia break free after a slow start to reach 85 for 2 in 10 overs, but Sri Lanka gave just 4 runs in the next 14 deliveries and also prised out Maxwell.

And when one throws in Australia's net run rate debacle from their first game, Stoinis was staring at some strife. By his own admission, as the burly all-rounder was playing in front of his home crowd with parents and friends in the audience, he was a bit nervous.

But Stoinis found a good way to shed the nerves: 6 sixes and 4 fours in an 18-ball 59, as Australia reached their target with 21 balls to spare to retrieve some of the damage inflicted by New Zealand in their opener. It was the fastest T20I fifty by an Australian, and the second-quickest in the history of the World Cup. Five of the maximums came against the spin of Maheesh Theekshana and Wanindu Hasaranga.

All this was achieved while at the other end, skipper Aaron Finch hardly hit one ball from the middle of the bat, struggling to an unbeaten 31 off 42 balls.

It's the big shoulders, the broad chest and the chiselled jawline that one sees first. Stoinis looks imposing just before he gets into stance. But then he almost shrivels up as if he doesn't want to show off his physique. He sort of doubles up, curls up in his stance and squeezes into as tiny a space as his big body would allow. One can sense why he does it; as everything that happens after the bowler releases the ball is a recoiling reaction from him, a release of pent-



Australia's Marcus Stoinis scored an 18-ball 59 against Sri Lanka. *Twitter*

Stoinis biffed the spinners over long-on, midwicket, straight, and once for a change, he backed away and absolutely smashed Theekshana over extra cover.

up energy, turbo-charged. Stoinis springs out and explodes as if that stance allows him to conserve all his energy which he then dissipates in an explosive recoil.

As if they wouldn't have known it already, Sri Lanka got another close glimpse of that explosiveness. Especially their spinners. Stoinis biffed them over long-on, midwicket, straight, and once for a change, he backed away and absolutely smashed Theekshana over extra cover. In the A Sports television studio in Pakistan, Wasim Akram would pick that shot as his favourite and talk about how everyone was going on about grounds with big boundaries but Stoinis is playing as if it was his backyard. "Ghar ke garden may". In some ways, he was. Poor Theekshana, until Stoinis arrived, he had conceded just three runs, taking a wicket from his two overs.

Suddenly, all the tension about a close game - that was Adam Gilchrist's call on air when Stoinis walked in- dissipated. Now, Australia were gunning to amp up their NRR. In the middle, Stoinis was roaring, punching his chest, pointing his bat to the dugout, and slipping into his wide drop-jaw smile.

"What you see is how he really is. We have worked to achieve a state where he doesn't need a facade, where he can be himself," his psychologist Dave Diggle had once told *The Indian Express*.

Maxwell counterattacks

It was the passing of the baton. Australia were struggling at the end of PowerPlay with just 33 runs and it was Maxwell who eased their nerves by attacking the spinners. Hasaranga, who started the run-leak to Mitchell Marsh with a 15-run first over, was plundered for 19 by Maxwell. Two sixes and a four came as Australia began climbing out of the hole. They would seem to reside into a mini-crisis but Stoinis the Hulk smashed the obstacles in their way.

Sri Lanka's struggle against pace

They went nowhere right from the start. If 19 dot balls in the PowerPlay doesn't give an indication, the boundary count in the first 10 overs will; just five fours. They were 120 for 6 in the 18th over and if not for a late assault by Charith Asalanka (31 runs flooded in the last two overs), they wouldn't have got anywhere close to a decent total.

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 157/6 (Nissanka 40, Asalanka 38*) lost to Australia (Stoinis 59*, Finch 31*) by seven wickets

From Kuwait to Chennai to Sydney: A father's journey for the love of his son

Karthik's father, family are in Sydney, hoping to see a fairytale finish to the fairytale story of our times



EXPRESS IN SYDNEY

DEVENDRA PANDEY
OCTOBER 25

AT AN apartment in Sydney, Krishna Kumar is sitting on a sofa, clad in RCB shorts, awaiting the arrival of his sons Dinesh and Vinesh. He wasn't there at the humdinger at the MCG, and has flown in to catch his son Dinesh Karthik play India's next game against Netherlands on Thursday. A practical man, Krishna believes this T20 world cup could be the swan song for his son.

"We don't know whether the world cup will be his last appearance for India or there is more. For me, seeing him play at the age of 37, itself is a miracle. If he plays in the next year's ODI World Cup, it will be a bonus for us. At the same time I'm a practical man, somewhere we all know what will happen after this World Cup... so we all decided to fly and see him play in Australia," Krishna, who plans to be in Australia for a few days, tells *The Indian Express*.

There hasn't been a greater fairytale story in Indian cricket than his son's comeback in recent times. But there was a touch of fairy tale even at the start of the journey - when Karthik was 12, the father would make a curious decision. Krishna was a teacher in Kuwait and wanted his son to play cricket but knew that Karthik had to be in India. The husband and wife took the tough call to send their 12 year old son to Chennai to his sister-in-law's home.

The fairy tale peeps out from the father's next decision in how he decided which school to get Karthik admitted in.

"I didn't know which school I should put him in. So, what I did was I began to give throw downs to Dinesh in Chennai's few grounds in anticipation that if some coach sees him, he will help us get into a good school," Krishna recalls.

A few weeks passed. Nothing much happened. Just the father and the son, knocking balls around, hoping to catch the eye of a coach. Tick tick ...

"Then, one day, a local coach, CS Suresh Kumar spotted us. "Dinesh was small but the way he middled always caught everyone's eye. Suresh was impressed. And he guided us to



Dinesh Karthik's family has travelled to Australia to support him. *Devendra Pandey*

find admission. Dinesh moved into my sister-in-law's home and started his new school, and a new life."

A few months later, Dinesh performance dipped and though he didn't relay the problem, his father knew the reason: his sister-in-law wanted Karthik to focus more on studies. The couple decided that the mother would move to India while he stayed back in Kuwait.

Seven years later, when he was just 19, Karthik would make his India Test debut. The blinds came down, though, in the shape of the legend MS Dhoni. Years rolled by. Then just when Dhoni vacated the throne behind the stumps, and a new rising star in Rishabh Pant emerged and Karthik had seemingly turned a commentator, he re-emerged as The Finisher to seal a world-cup spot.

The father sees a cosmic hand. "It's all written somewhere and God has sent everyone with some kind of destiny with them. I know people say Dhoni came and Dinesh had to vacate his place but God had written something else for him. He wanted him to work more hard and grab each opportunity. Till date he never said anything nasty about anyone. He will praise everyone," Krishna says.

Family support

Karthik's entire family is here in Australia to watch his last dance at the international arena. His younger brother Vinesh is pursuing a MBA in Sydney and a family reunion is on.

As seems to be the case with many cricketing parents, the couple didn't see Karthik play against Pakistan live.

"His mother was praying, I saw it only when I knew we had won. It was a really high pressure match, I couldn't have seen it! It's bound to happen when you see your own child playing, there is a different kind of pressure on parents too. That is why many times we don't see his game."

On Tuesday Dinesh would post a video thanking Ashwin for "saving him". He had got out in the fifth ball of the last over, and would say something to Ashwin on his way out.

"He didn't reveal it to me," the father laughs.

A few years back when his career seemed over, Dinesh Karthik reinvented himself.

Krishna said the one quality he likes about his son is that he will find his way back, somehow the other.

First, Karthik hired the former India batsman Pravin Amre as a personal batting coach,

and when they tried chasing his batting grip, it led to a wrist injury. The doctors advised him to return to the old way.

"Life changed when Abhishek Nayar came to his life," his father says. The Mumbai batsman and an old friend would turn into Karthik's mentor with his unique ways, dragging Karthik out of his comfort zone.

By 2018, Nayar, who is now an IPL coach, had made it clear that Karthik should aim for the role of a specialist batsman of death.

"He (Nayar) made him get up at 2 am in the night and made him run over the hills. He will design practice sessions for him and he travelled like a tennis player. A power hitting coach RX Murali was hired.

"There is a team which works and talks to him. Few times, I have been part of a session where Dinesh has told me to record my conversation with Nayar. And the level of talk is hard to explain for a common man," Krishna says. He had his own coach, trainer, psychologist, whom he trusted and sought their advice to become a specialist death batsman. The once restless nervous-energetic man has now morphed into a calm cold finisher; so calm that he at times doesn't even appeal behind the stumps.

Good things began to happen. These days, it's reaching another level with the chants of 'DK DK' heard around cricketing arenas. Imagine taking the spot of exciting talent like Pant and yet being loved by the fans all over.

Not just fans, but the Indian captain Rohit Sharma values him.

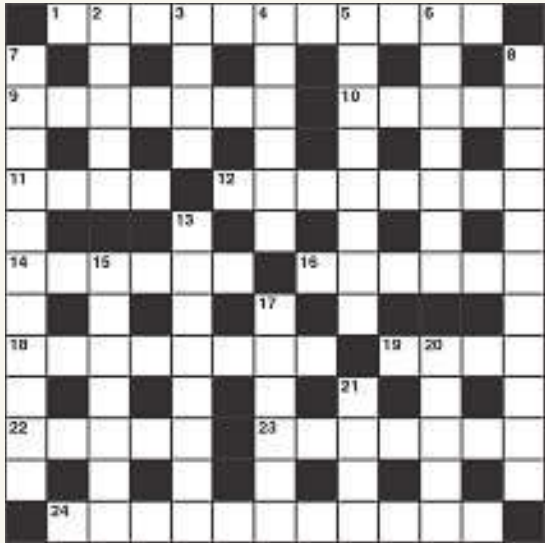
On field, he often consults Karthik. Many of his team-mates trust him as well. He is close to KL Rahul and Hardik Pandya. He has a great relationship with Kohli. In the nets he will keep talking to R Ashwin in Tamil, guiding him whether he is bowling fine or not.

"Being the eldest helps and Rohit asks him because he trusts him. Remember, both started career at the same time and go back a long way," his father says.

Before he marched his way back into the team as a finisher, his stint with Sky Sports as an insightful commentator had taken the cricketing world by surprise.

Not his father, of course. "I have seen him mute his laptop and practice his commentary on any cricket match that was on." Krishna had earlier seen Ravi Shastri doing this too. And just as it seemed a life behind the microphone beckoned, Karthik has reinvented himself again: for one last lap as an international cricketer. One for the road. With his family watching him from the stands. Sometimes, fairytales do come true.

CROSSWORD 4882



ACROSS

- 1 Fear of being wrongly partitioned (11)
- 9 To honour debts is questionable (7)
- 10 Engagement ring? (5)
- 11 A purely symbolic plant (4)
- 12 I'd compel in a way to get obeyed (8)
- 14 Demon drink? (6)
- 16 Meaty language (6)
- 18 Score but two (8)
- 19 Thrice married orderly (4)
- 22 Aim to exercise (5)
- 23 Leave a musical group with no backing (7)
- 24 Note painter making an entrance (11)

DOWN

- 2 Brew of beer left to rise (5)
- 3 The deck is going up and down (4)
- 4 He has absolute control of the French drug (6)
- 5 It may create a stir at mealtime (8)
- 6 Door of opportunity? (7)
- 7 Young people arranged to see Scotland (11)
- 8 The opposite of having night vision? (11)
- 13 The extent to which diets can vary (8)
- 15 Geraint turns out to be a thankless person (7)
- 17 Mend a broken marriage? (6)
- 20 Sat with nothing on like Godiva in a wild show (5)
- 21 Lent for example at an exorbitant rate (4)

Solutions Crossword 4880: Across: 1 Pupil, 4 Fiddler, 8 Coo, 9 Threshold, 10 Farther, 11 Inter, 13 Comedy, 15 Return, 18 Cheap, 19 Earshot, 21 Take stock, 23 Orb, 24 Senator, 25 Sense. Down: 1 Pacific, 2 Programme, 3 Latch, 4 Furore, 5 Despite, 6 Leo, 7 Rider, 12 Touch down, 14 Deposit, 16 Notable, 17 Memoir, 18 Cites, 20 Rakes, 22 Kin.

JUMBLD 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.

Nature magically suits a man to his fortunes, by making them the __ of his __

- R W Emerson (5,,9)

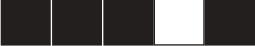
NAAER



CLOUTS



EIRRT



ILNCFH



SOLUTION: ARENA, TRIER, LOCUST, PLINCH
Answer: Nature magically suits a man to his fortunes, by making them the fruit of his character - R W Emerson

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4999

Difficulty Level 1s

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 4997



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

There is more going on than meets the eye at the moment, and you would be well advised to avoid a break or separation that involves money as much as personal feelings. A current shake-up at home could be very favourable, even if it just seems to pile on the pressure in the short-term.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Don't spend too much time going over old ground. Nostalgia for the past is all very well, but if you've important projects on the go, or if someone is depending on you, you should keep your attention pinned firmly on the present. If someone has let you down, then don't be too hard on them - it might not be their fault.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The chances of a secret romance or discreet encounter are still pretty strong, although any thoughts you may have had of going behind somebody's back are now likely to be outweighed by good old puritanical guilt: you know as well as anyone what is right and what is wrong.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Certain personal boundaries seem to have become rather blurred recently, and if you are a typical Cancerian you may be wondering where it will all end. Yet I have no doubt at all that intimate partners will see the sense in what you are doing.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

All general planetary patterns indicate that partners are encouraging you to do your best. While advising you to avoid going over the top, I must remind you of the old astrological law that the better the future you expect, the better the future will be. Confidence breeds success.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Your social stars are stirring - at long last, some would say! It's time to broaden your horizons and take as many new ideas on board as you can. Get out and about over the next four weeks, and even accept invitations you'd normally treat with disdain.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

There are certain days when it is wiser to be polite and charming whatever the provocation - and this is one of them. Fortunately, you were born with an innate propensity to turn the other cheek. That does, of course, mean that sometimes other people do walk all over you.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Colleagues or co-workers may have been asserting themselves recently. In fact, I don't think you have been given a fair hearing. All you can do is undermine others' inflated faith in themselves, and if you prick someone's bubble then they've probably asked for it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The emphasis on financial stars continues with a general note that anything connected with water is assuming greater significance. Does this refer to a holiday by the sea? Or merely routine plumbing problems? It could actually also indicate strange, illuminating dreams.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You must do everything in your power to resolve a dispute in a close relationship. Don't allow partners to think you are totally self-obsessed and don't let them walk all over you, either. A relation you haven't seen for some time could have interesting news for you - so get in touch.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You would like to be in a position to know a great deal more. Wouldn't we all? But, now that the facts are so difficult to get at, we all have our own version of the truth. Yours is as good as anybody's, so lay your ideas on the line and wait for partners' reactions.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

It may be frustrating to be left in the dark, but are you really sure you want to know what is going on? Be happy that current planetary influences appeal to your mischievous nature and have a good time. Or, at least, have as good a time as you can.

18 SPORT

ICC T20 WORLD CUP 2022

BRIEFLY

Zampa tests positive, misses Lanka game

Perth: Australia spinner Adam Zampa missed his team's must-win T20 World Cup match against Sri Lanka after testing positive for COVID-19. According to the 'Dailytelegraph', Zampa's "symptoms are not necessarily severe" but the defending champions decided to leave him out as a precautionary measure. "Zampa is all right. We have four games in four different states in quick time. So just a precautionary thing," pacer Mitchell Starc said. ICC rules don't bar a player from taking part in a match if they are Covid-positive. **PTI**

Russian court rejects Griner appeal

Moscow: A Russian court upheld the nine-year prison sentence handed to American basketball star Brittney Griner for drug possession, rejecting her appeal. Griner, an eight-time all-star center and a two-time Olympic gold medalist, was convicted Aug 4 after police said they found vape canisters containing cannabis oil in her luggage at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. The Moscow region court ruled Tuesday to uphold the sentence. **AP**

Point to prove against Bayern: Xavi

Barcelona: Barcelona will be eager to show everyone that they are better than rivals Bayern Munich when the two teams face off in the Champions League on Wednesday, manager Xavi Hernandez said. Barcelona were beaten 2-0 by Bayern in last month's Group C fixture, a result that Xavi said was not a true reflection of the team's talent. But having won only one of their four matches in Europe this season, Xavi wants his team to show their true worth at Camp Nou. **REUTERS**

Having worked with Virat Kohli closely during his stint as India coach, Ravi Shastri knows the mind of the batsman like no one else. He backed him during his slump, advised him to take a break and got emotional watching him play an iconic knock that had "two of the greatest shots played by an Indian batsman". Shastri spoke to **Sriram Veera** a day after the India-Pakistan T20 World Cup game at MCG.



RAVI SHASTRI

PERHAPS, IT'S best to start with a feeling that I didn't have when I was watching the greatest T20 knock by Virat: I wasn't surprised. I was waiting for this to happen. I knew this would happen in Australia. Just check his record here - the pitches suit him plus he loves playing on these grounds and in front of the fans here. His record against Pakistan has always been good and it was a big situation: cometh the hour, cometh the stage, cometh the man.

I got emotional when it was all unfolding. I have seen what he has gone through in the last couple of years. We all know the recent context. Did I have something to say to him at the end? Frankly, not a thing. We are a country with short memories; topi masters of the world! We flip, change in two minutes. Kohli knows what I feel. I know what he feels. What's there to be said? Not a thing.

There is also a neat touch of deja-vu. In 1985, at the World Championship of Cricket tournament, our first game was against Pakistan at the MCG in Melbourne. We won. We would beat them again in the final at the Big G. Now, if India Pakistan face off again in the final, wouldn't it be great? Is there an Audi going around in this tournament?

In all my years of playing and watching India vs Pakistan, those two sixes off Haris Rauf are two of the greatest shots played by an Indian batsman. The only comparison is Sachin Tendulkar's six off Shoaib Akhtar in Centurion in 2003 World Cup. These are two of the greatest cricketers of our time. Tendulkar's knock had some of the magnificent shots played in white-ball cricket against Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Shoaib Akhtar. And then this Kohli knock. These two are the biggest knocks I have seen where quality fast bowling has been taken apart.

To understand how Kohli did it, we have to rewind to that break



Chup kar diya na sabko?

he took. Not just the captaincy blues and the surrounding mess, but for the last couple of years, the pandemic had taken its toll on many players. All the blessings that cricket can afford - money, security, modern-day perks - is one thing but to go through this insane period was something else. Sportspeople were, in some ways, in crazier bubbles than most others. The travel, being stuck in a room for hours, feeling lonely, and still having to perform - only blokes who have been in that position can ever tell you its story. I happened to be one of them.

I saw the effect of it on not just Virat Kohli but players around the globe. Ben Stokes is a prime example, as he has himself shared. I respect him for what he did that time: take ownership and talk about the mental blues. I had said at that time he could be the first of many.

And when I saw Kohli struggle in the IPL, I felt he needed a break. That's why I strongly felt he needed a break. I am a doctor's son after all!

He had the opportunity for a month to see within and reflect.

When he came back for the Asia Cup, I wasn't bothered about foot movement or any such. I was only looking for the body language. I saw composure and calmness. I knew he was on the right track. Just as he was in the game last night.

I would mention Hardik Pandya here, he helped Virat to stay on the right track. Virat would later say that when he was on 11 from 21 balls, he thought the was "making a mess of it". Hardik Pandya played a massive role. Cricket is a very lonely game when you are out in the middle, the only companion you have is your non-striker.

Hardik did a fabulous job. He reignited as a champion. In that cauldron of the match situation, you need a person to tell you in your ears simple stuff. I know Hardik for a long time; he won't hold back. He will tell his partner what's needed to be said. Same is true for Virat. This is the beauty of these two cricketers whom I love.

And what a cauldron it was, what pressure. To win the match, they had to take down the Pakistani pacers who are fast, furious, and very skilful. We saw that

Hardik wasn't able to connect with his big hits. Kohli had to step up.

That's the time the wrist helps. And more importantly, the Green Man doesn't intrude in your head to do something silly, stupid. It didn't, and Kohli started to flow.

Only a fresh mind would have allowed him to do what he did in those final 5 overs. What that month-long break did was to make him fresh again. Only a fresh clear mind would have allowed him to play this gem - without any unnecessary things floating; just a clear head.

The one thing that was needed in his T20 game was to pace his innings better with strike rate as per the modern-day demands. That format has evolved. Once he saw the need, put his mind to it, he too evolved.

With Virat, my association started in 2014; it's been 8 years now. I love the other young cricketers too but with Virat, since he was the captain and I was the coach, it was obviously a different relationship.

It was his character that stood out for me then. When I took over as coach, honestly, chasing silver-

ware wasn't in my mind. It was to infuse steel. At the end of day, cricket builds character. You will make mistakes on the way, you will learn on the way, you come from different backgrounds, you are put into different difficult situations and it all comes down to character. He has it.

I went in there, little knowing we will be No. 1 Test team in five years, little knowing we won't win an ICC tournament - my job was to infuse steel. The rest will follow. It has.

I saw something similar to myself in Virat. To start from No. 10 and to open and do what I did, I am proud of it. You need balls. Virat is a superior talent than me of course, but I sensed a similarity of character. That drive. That steel.

I saw an uncut diamond. When I saw him going through stuff in the last year or so, deep inside I wasn't bothered as I knew he is too tough a character. I knew he would bounce back; the only thing was he needed to be in that space to self-reflect. Here is where that break helped. He is a wiser man now.

Without that temperament, he couldn't have done what he

did on Sunday night. It's the best ever T20 game I have ever seen. For the first time I felt a T20 game was like a classic Test match. The ebbs, the flows, the pressure, the skill ... it was a Test match of a T20. My cricketing take away from the game would be those two sixes against rapid pace in that situation. Unbelievable. Those will stay in my mind for a long time.

For him, this knock would have helped in rediscovery: of himself, his love for the game, what he can do, and the road ahead. Clarity would be crystal clear; it's usually a byproduct of confidence. The rediscovery of things he would have fathomed during the break.

For the cricketing world, he was a superstar even before the knock; now let them decide what he is to them. I am not going to put in words for them.

What's next for Virat Kohli? I have no expectations, just let him enjoy his life. The media and critics have put enough pressure on this uncut diamond and he showed who he is. Chup kar diya na sabko? (He has silenced everyone, right?!)

PLAYING TODAY

T20 WORLD CUP

9.30am: Ireland vs England

1.30pm: New Zealand vs Afghanistan

Live on Star Sports Network

Team India protests against falafel and 'make your sandwich' inadequate menu

DEVENDRA PANDEY
SYDNEY, OCTOBER 25

INDIAN PLAYERS boycotted the lunch after their optional training session on Tuesday afternoon as they felt it was cold and inadequate. The dressing room menu comprised fruits, falafel and 'make your own sandwich', which was not to the players' liking and they expressed their displeasure to the concerned official at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The Indians had an optional session attended by captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Dinesh Karthik, Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul, Mohammed Siraj, Ravichandran Ashwin, Shardul Thakur and Deepak Hooda, along with the support staff. The team management gave a rest to Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Hardik Pandya and Arshdeep Singh after the Pakistan game in Melbourne on Sunday. "The food was not up to the mark. We can't have a sandwich after a practice session," a member of the Indian squad said.

A few players had falafel at the ground while the rest decided to have food back at the hotel.

Meanwhile, India will have a rest on the eve of their game against the Netherlands. It is learnt that the ICC had decided to hold India's practice session at Blacktown, some 42 km away, but the team doesn't want to travel so far.

The SCG will host a double-header on Thursday. South Africa will face Bangladesh in the afternoon before India play the Dutch in the evening. As per the scheduled release by the ICC, South Africa, Bangladesh and the Netherlands will have their practice sessions at the SCG on Wednesday. The Indian team had its camp at Blacktown during the 2021 tour of Australia where they had stayed at Olympic Park. But the team didn't want to travel such a long distance on the eve of the match. The ICC hands over the schedules to all participating teams way in advance and gets it approved. But it's up to respective teams to take a call before each game whether they want to adhere to the schedule. However, the ICC doesn't modify the schedule at the last moment unless there's any unforeseen incident during the tournament.

‘Now, no one will throw any stones at my home’ Ashwin shares what he thought after leaving the wide

RAHUL PANDEY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

IN DECEMBER 2016, Ravichandran Ashwin had just watched *Chennai 28 II* for the first time. It was the sequel of the 2007 Venkat Prabhu directorial based on friendship set against the backdrop of gully cricket. In awe of it, the off-spinner tweeted, "What a wonderful movie 'Chennai 28 II'. Completely put my life on rewind mode. Genuinely felt I could have been a part of it."

Little did he know that six years later, he would produce a live sequel of the movie that touched him, almost coaxing Mohammed Nawaz into bowling a wide, and eventually taking India home in the T20 World Cup thriller against Pakistan.

Venkat Prabhu couldn't resist. "Lucky us," he tweeted, tagging Ashwin in a social media post alongside a five-second scene from his 2007 movie.

In it, actor Ranjith's character (Imran) is seen taking guard during the last over of a match, with five needed off five balls and just two wickets in hand. As the bowler releases the second delivery of the over, Imran moves from outside leg-stump to inside the line, rendering the ball wide and earning an extra run.

In Chennai and Tamil Nadu, they adore their cinema. Ashwin's love for cinema is often expressed through his social media self. And so, it was only fitting



(Left) RASHWIN leaves the ball for a wide during India's T20 World Cup match against Pakistan. (Right) Ranjith's character in the movie *Chennai 28 II* lets the ball go for a wide. *Screengrab*



that he picked one of his all-time favourite movies and enacted a scene from it in front of 90,000-plus at the MCG and millions more watching elsewhere.

Hardik Pandya hadn't been able to close the game in the last over. Dinesh Karthik, the designated finisher, had fallen for the trap and walked back off stumped just a delivery back. Virat Kohli, the face of the chase, had given his all but it was out of his immortal hands now. In came Ashwin.

Only three hours ago, his inclusion over Yuzvendra Chahal had been the talking point in India's playing XI. The 36-year-old had made his comeback into India's white-ball team only last year after a four-year hiatus. In his spell of three overs earlier,

Ashwin had remained wicketless. But here he was, coming in to bat at the most important juncture of India's 2022 T20 World Cup opener. All that had gone in India's favour in the tie earlier would've ended in a losing cause. Kohli would have experienced Sachin Tendulkar's sinking feeling in the 1999 Chennai Test against Pakistan. With that seemingly insurmountable pressure, Ashwin took guard against left-arm spinner-turned-medium pacer Nawaz.

Since his return to India's T20 blues, Ashwin had only faced a total of 27 deliveries. He had procured a four and two sixes but none at a ground this big. But here he was. All set to face that last ball, or as it was supposed to be.

It is evident from his foot

movement pre-delivery that Ashwin knew exactly what Nawaz was going to do. The vice-versa, not so much. Nawaz or most other bowlers would've anticipated the lower-order batsman having a go at the ball, trying to manoeuvre space by moving either side of the stumps. Just as the Pakistan left-arm orthodox raised his arm to release the delivery, Ashwin transferred his weight to the backfoot. And just as the ball moved towards its destination, he made his way deep inside the crease, nonchalantly watching the ball go past the leg-stump. Umpire Rod Tucker signalled wide as the blue side of the MCG popped.

Nerves of steel

Kohli, who stood at the other end, had defied the laws of physics to manufacture shots that got the crowd bouncing. All Ashwin did was leave the ball. Just like that. Perhaps the greatest leave in the history of a format where the batter is obliged to go after every ball.

Imagine leaving a ball, in a match of this magnitude, against the arch rivals, with that many people in the stands, with so much riding on the result. Imagine doing that with the knowledge of what would happen if one failed. Audacity never felt more audacious.

Ashwin watched all the way as Nawaz darted that delivery down the legside and didn't move a muscle that had a role in moving

his bat. This wasn't Sydney 2021. No Hanuma Vihari stood at the non-striker's end. No one blabbering in his ear from behind the stumps. No pacer targeted his body. And yet, Ashwin left it with as much saint-like poise as he did during the final session of that famous Test where he took India to a draw. And then, he followed it with a calm loft over mid-off for ... Well, who cares? India had beaten Pakistan in a 'what-the-hell-just-happened' T20 World Cup classic at the G.

"After that wide, I thought good, now no one will throw any stones at my home! I thought God has made Kohli smash Haris Rauf. Won't god allow my chip over the infield in some vacant area?" Ashwin would say on his YouTube channel.

But as years pass by and nostalgia sets in, accompanying a few dozen shots will be that one leave off an illegitimate delivery.

Maybe it was Ashwin's genius. Maybe it was his love for Tamil cinema. Maybe both.

Shortly after he had shared his thoughts back in 2016, director Prabhu had responded by stating that the then ICC Cricketer of the Year almost made it into the film.

"We actually wanted him to play a small cameo in this part but it didn't materialise as he was busy with his cricketing commitments. If a part three of the film happens in the future, we will surely rope him in." Six years later one can safely confirm, the movie did well.

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