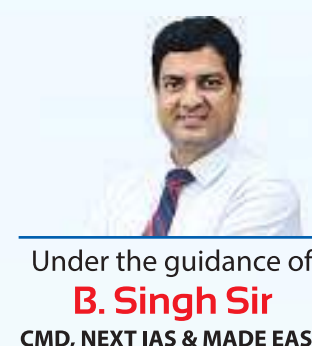


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DELHI OFFLINE BATCHES

Evening Batch
17th Oct, 2022
(6:30 PM - 9:30 PM)

Morning Batch
1st Nov, 2022
(7:30 AM - 10:30 AM)

LIVE-ONLINE BATCH

Evening Batch
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15th Nov, 2022
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Commencing from **30th Oct, 2022**

Fee : Rs. 25,000 + GST

OPTIONAL FOUNDATION COURSE

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Economics

by **Vibhas Jha Sir**
10th Oct, 2022
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM)
(Live-online classes)

Political Science & IR

by **Piyush Chaubey Sir**
17th Oct, 2022
(11:30 AM to 2:00 PM)

Geography

by **Alok Ranjan Sir**
1st Nov, 2022
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM)

Anthropology

by **Sudhir Kumar Sir**
1st Nov, 2022
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM)

Mathematics

by **Maneesh Singh Sir**
7th Nov, 2022
(2:30 PM to 5:30 PM)

Sociology

by **Raj Rai Sir**
8th Nov, 2022
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM)

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Course duration : 110+ hours

Commencing from **1st Nov, 2022** (3:00 PM to 6:00 PM)

Mode : Live-Online

- ✓ Quick and complete revision of entire syllabus.
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Delhi Centre : 27-B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar No. 118,
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M.P. Nagar, Bhopal - 462011 | **Ph :** 8827664612



CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)

Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road,
Koyambedu, Chennai - 600 107. Phone: 044 2379 2000



NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Contract Name	Tender for Selection of Operator/ end user for Licensing of Commercial space at Nehru Park Development, Chennai
Contract No	CMRL/BD/PD-06/Nehru Park/2022/493/02
Documents downloaded from	From 28/10/2022 to 28/11/2022 up to 17.00 hrs through e- tendering website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app .
Pre-Bid Meeting Date	09/11/2022 on 11.30 hrs at CMRL Office - Admin Building, Koyambedu, Chennai -107.
Due Date of Bid Submission	28/11/2022 up to 17.00 hours (IST)
Date of Bid Opening	29/11/2022 at 17.05 hours (IST)

For complete details, please visit e-procurement website: <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on above mentioned website and will not be published in newspapers. No manual bids will be accepted.

Tender inviting Authority :
Chief General Manager (P&BD), Chennai Metro Rail Limited,
Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai – 600 107 Phone 044- 2379 2000 / www.chennaimetrorail.org.
E-mail: krishnan.rm@cmrl.in Chief General Manager (P&BD) Chennai Metro Rail Limited
DIPRI/ 4786 /TENDER/2022

Office of Superintending Engineer
PWD Bulandshahr Circle, Bulandshahr
Short Term E-Procurement-Inviting Tenders

Dated: 14.10.2022

No. 1456 /96M/E-TENDER/BSSR CIRCLE/2022-23

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate Ist time bid online through <http://etender.up.nic.in> from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per column no. 10 below category as applied from Date 29.10.2022 to 04.11.2022 upto 04:00 Noon as per the prescribed T-2 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 04.11.2022 at 04:30 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time any validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.in Lakh)	Bid Security (Rs.in Lakh)	Time of Completion work including rainy season	Tender document fee including GST (In Rs.)	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Chief Engineer	Category of Contractors Registration
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Special repair work of service road under Banthala bridge on Mohannagar-Loni-road.	58.00	4.90	3 Month	Tender Cost Rs. 300+2000+18% G.S.T.+ Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	CD-2 PWD Ghaziabad	Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A, B, C
2	Special repair work of Garhi Katsiyya road from Delhi-Yamunotri road.	310.00	17.50	6 Month	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	A
3	Special repair work of Yamuna Dam (Khajuri Pusta Marg) to Khanpur Jeeji Marg.	80.72	6.34	3 Month	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	A, B
4	Special repair work of Mohannagar-Loni-road from km 10 to Mandauli road.	229.00	13.45	5 Month	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	A
5	Special repair work of road from Mevta Bhatti to Farukhnagar Siraata Km.	37.53	3.75	2 Month	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	A, B, C, D
6	Special repair work of Mandaula to Mirpur Hindu road.	39.47	3.95	2 Month	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	A, B, C, D

1. The Bid Security and Tender Document fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only.
2. All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 years and details of maximum cost work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender.
Details of e-tender uploaded on <http://etender.up.nic.in> shall also be uploaded on UP PWD Chanakya software, before last date & time of submission of bid.
3. Terms & other conditions related to bid are available on <http://etender.up.nic.in>
4. In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahari Software URL for Prahari is <http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari/>
5. Bid security will be as per the prevailing rules/orders at present
6. The contractor participating in the tender for renovation work from hot mix plant should have experience certificate of similar nature of 1/3 work and ownership of hot mix plant or registered lease deed agreement as per the rules of the plant.

UPID-180613 Dt. 20.10.2022
www.up.gov.nic.in

Executive Engineer
CD-2, PWD
Ghaziabad

Superintending Engineer,
Bulandshahr circle,
PWD Bulandshahr

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr

Dated: 14.10.2022

No. 2756 /7A

Short Term E- Tender Notice

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through <http://etender.up.nic.in> from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, from Date 03-11-2022 10.00 A.M. to 10-11-2022 up to 12.00 Noon as per the prescribed T-1 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 10-11-2022 at 12:30 Noon. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time and validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs.in Lacs)	Work Completion	Tender document fee including GST	Contractors Category
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Special Repair of Debal Karamvas Road to Gangapur Link Road	23.99	2.40	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
2	Special Repair of N.H.-509 to Karansingh Pur Link Road	33.52	2.35	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
3	Special Repair of Amargah Khanpur to Rehmatpur Augna Link Road	7.52	0.75	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 225+500 +GST 18% 131= 856	A, B, C & D (Road work)
4	Special Repair of Mahav link road	26.61	2.66	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
5	Special Repair of Plakhi to Bhagwanpur Link Road	23.18	2.32	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
6	Special Repair of Maval to Gajraula Link Road	14.85	1.49	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 225+500 +GST 18% 131= 856	A, B, C & D (Road work)
7	Special Repair of Syana Anoopshahr Canal Patni Km. 9 to Kanchroat Link Road	20.44	2.04	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
8	Special Repair of Gokul Factory to BSG Link Road	9.01	0.90	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 225+500 +GST 18% 131= 856	A, B, C & D (Road work)
9	Special Repair of Culvert Work on Girdharpur Navada	33.38	3.39	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
10	Special Repair of Culvert Work on Approach Road of Akbarpur-Jhojha-Banbol Link Road	32.22	3.22	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
11	Special Repair of Kota Road to Kaithala Link Road	20.57	2.05	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
12	Special Repair of Ginaura Shaikh Gulaothi Railway Station Link Road	9.83	0.94	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 225+500 +GST 18% 131= 856	A, B, C & D (Road work)
13	Special Repair of Baral Aurangabad to Mohali Link Road	26.31	2.63	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
14	Special Repair of NH-91 to Chandrawali Link Road	11.78	1.18	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 225+500 +GST 18% 131= 856	A, B, C & D (Road work)
15	Special Repair of Sikandrabad Baral to Ishapur Link Road	10.39	1.04	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 225+500 +GST 18% 131= 856	A, B, C & D (Road work)
16	Special Repair of N.H.-91 to Junsidpur Link Road	13.24	1.32	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 225+500 +GST 18% 131= 856	A, B, C & D (Road work)
17	Special Repair of Sher Salempur Link Road	14.28	1.43	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
18	Special Repair of HSK to Vair Badshapur Link Road	10.81	1.08	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 225+500 +GST 18% 131= 856	A, B, C & D (Road work)
19	Special Repair Changoli Mod to Ajaynagar Link Road	28.00	2.80	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
20	Special Repair Bhorawas Gangrol Road to Chacholi Link Road	15.00	1.50	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 225+500 +GST 18% 131= 856	A, B, C & D (Road work)
21	Special Repair NH-91 to Pilkanwali Link Road	15.54	1.55	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
22	Special Repair of Gesupur Road to Molabad Link Road	9.50	0.95	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 225+500 +GST 18% 131= 856	A, B, C & D (Road work)
23	Special Repair of Sikandrabad Kakore to Mahamadpur Kehri Link Road	36.00	3.60	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
24	Special Repair of NH-91 to Adha Link Road	36.00	3.60	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
25	Special Repair of Sikandrabad Dankaur Road to Hassanpur Jagir Via Babuya Viswana Link Road	34.50	3.45	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)
26	Special Repair of Chachura Canal Pairi to Himoti Link Road	36.00	3.60	03 Month	Tender Cost-Rs. 300+500 +GST 18% 144= 944	A, B, C & D (Road work)

1. The Bid Security and Tender Document Fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only.
2. All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 year and details of maximum cost work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender.
Details of e-tender uploaded on <https://etender.up.nic.in> shall also be uploaded on uppwd Chanakya software, before last date & time of submission of bid.
3. Tender or have to upload required documents as per Government order No. 879/(1)/23-7-2020 P.W. Anubhag-7 Lucknow Dt. 25-08-2020 for Prahari Application in Chanakya Software for Tendering Process.
4. Terms & Other Conditions related to bid are available on <https://etender.up.nic.in>

UPID NO 180700
Date 22/10/2022
www.up.gov.nic.in

Assistant Engineer
Construction Division-2, PWD
Bulandshahr

Executive Engineer,
Construction Division-2, P.W.D.
Bulandshahr

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-I, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office Complex New Delhi-110027 invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works:-

1. NIT No. EE/ CD-I/ DB/NIT/ 2022-23/78 (ID No. 2022_IFC_231225_1) H.O.A:- 2711-Non Plan, Name of Work:- Providing and placing of Security Guards round the clock at site offices cum stores at Najafgarh and Chhawla. E. C. Rs. 19,60,956/- Earnest Money- Rs. 39,219/- period of Completion 180 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 27.10.2022 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M respectively)

2. NIT No. EE/CD-/DB/ NIT/ 2022-23/80 (ID No. 2022_IFC_231235_1) H.O.A:- 2711-Non Plan, Name of Work:- Providing and placing of Security Guards round the clock at site offices cum stores at Jhatikara and Dhansa. E. C. Rs. 19,60,956/- Earnest Money:- Rs. 39,219/- Period of Completion 180 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 27.10.2022 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M respectively.)

3. NIT No. EE/CD-/DB/ NIT/ 2022-23/91 (ID No. 2022_IFC_231239_1) H.O.A:- 4217-Plan (MLALAD), Name of Work:- Providing and laying RMC on roads in Evershine Apartment Vikas Puri Assembly Constituency AC-31. E.C. Rs. 86,85,717/- Earnest Money:- Rs. 1,73,714/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 27.10.2022 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M respectively.)

4. NIT No. EE/CD-I/ DB/ NIT/ 2022-23/92 (ID No. 2022_IFC_231240_1) H.O.A:- 2711-Non Plan, Name of Work:- Repair & Renovation of Boundary Wall from Khyala RD 41980m to Raghubir Nagar Bridge RD 42930m at Left Bank of Najafgarh Drain. E.C. Rs. 23,81,552/- Earnest Money:- Rs. 47,631/- Period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 27.10.2022 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M respectively.)

Note :- 1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

2. Amendment(s) / alteration(s) / corrigendum if any will be available at website only.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/CD-I
Dip/Shabdarth/0427/22-23

2



संस्कृति मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार

नेहरू स्मारक संग्रहालय एवं पुस्तकालय
द्वारा आयोजित सार्वजनिक व्याख्यान
भारतीय इतिहास – परम्परा से वर्तमान तक संवाद
की समस्याएँ और सम्भावनाएँ
में
आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं
वक्ता – प्रो. राधावल्लभ त्रिपाठी
भारतीय साहित्य के प्रसिद्ध व्याख्याकार, कवि, कथाकार और आलोचक
दिनांक- 28 अक्टूबर, 2022, शुक्रवार समय: अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे
सभी का स्वागत है।
स्थान:
संगोष्ठी कक्ष, पुस्तकालय भवन
नेहरू स्मारक संग्रहालय एवं पुस्तकालय
गूगल मीट लिंक: <https://meet.google.com/oad-mvyyj-tzh>
- CBC -09142/12/0033/2223

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION
BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA-134154
(www.hssc.gov.in)
ANNOUNCEMENT

Final Result for the post of Draughtsman Mechanical Instructor (Theory) of Skill Development & Industrial Training Department, Panchkula Haryana Against Advt. No. 12/2019, Cat No. 45.
On the basis of Written Examination, Scrutiny of Documents and Socio-economic criteria for the post of Draughtsman Mechanical Instructor (Theory) of Skill Development & Industrial Training Department, Panchkula Haryana Against Advt. No. 12/2019, Cat No. 45, the Commission has finalised and declared the result. The result has been shown category wise and roll number and the marks secured by the last selected candidate in each category have been shown in the bracket.
Advt. No. 12/2019, Cat. No. 45, Draughtsman Mechanical Instructor (Theory) (38 Posts)
General (15 Posts)
1219450164 1219450315 1219450405 1219450450 1219450699 1219450794 1219450803 1219450877 1219450983 1219451014 1219451131 1219451513 1219451571 1219451804 1219451805 (72.00)
General Waiting
1219451190 1219451241 1219451417 1219451821 (70.00)
SC (05 Posts)
1219450033 1219450443 1219450638 1219450764 1219451016 (63.00)
SC Waiting
1219450886 1219451793 (60.00)
BCA (03 Posts)
1219450087 1219450824 1219451117 (68.50)
BCA Waiting
1219450801 1219451917 (67.00)
BCB (03 Post)
1219450401 1219450599 1219451334 (66.50)
BCB Waiting
1219450471 1219450642 (66.00)
EWS (03 Posts)
1219450169 1219450887 1219451653 (70.50)
EWS Waiting
1219450229 1219451486 (69.00)
ESM GEN (03 Posts)
1219450078 1219450948 1219451507 (53.00)
ESM GEN Waiting
1219450813 1219450885 (57.00)
ESM SC (01 Post)
1219451550 (62.50)
ESM BCA (02 Posts)
1219450444 1219450885 (57.00)
ESM BCA Waiting
1219451348 (49.00)
ESM BCB (01 Posts)
1219450849 (60.00)
ESM BCB Waiting
1219450339 1219451435 (43.00)
ESP SC (01 Post)
1219451179 (62.00)
ESP BCA (01 Post)
1219451090 (67.50)

CRITERIA ADOPTED FOR SELECTION
1.) WRITTEN EXAMINATION.....90-MARKS
2.) SOCIO ECONOMIC CRITERIA.....10-MARKS
TOTAL: 100-MARKS
NOTE:
1. Selection of all above candidates is subject to the biometric and Socio-economic marks verification and other qualification by the department, biometric/facial verification of any candidate fails during joining or at any other stage or if candidate is found taken fake/false benefit of Socio-economic criteria, then he/she will be ousted from the selection list and candidature may also be cancelled. All candidates are intimated to produce & submit certificate issued by Tehsildar/Executive Magistrate/SDM regarding 'No Govt. job in family' under socio-economic criteria at the time of joining to department.
2. As per Govt. Instruction no 22/15/1992-3GS III Dated: 07.10.2008, if suitable candidates of ESP are not available in a particular category, then the vacancies be filled up from amongst the same category candidates.
3. As per Govt. Instruction no 22/10/2010-1GS III Dated: 23.05.2014, if suitable candidates of Ex-Servicemen are not available in a particular category, then the vacancies be filled up from amongst the same category candidates.
4. While every care has been taken in preparing and uploading the result, possibility of inadvertent/technical errors cannot be ruled out. The Commission reserves the right to rectify the same later on.
5. The result is also available on the website of HSSC i.e. www.hssc.gov.in.
Sd/-
Secretary
Haryana Staff Selection Commission
Dated:-21.10.2022
13424/HRY

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर
Email ID- eedwsd.jamshedpur@gmail.com
शुद्धि पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित ई0 निविदा सूचना संख्या- RWSS-13/JSR/2022-23 दिनांक 08.10.2022, जिसका PR No. 279525 Drinking Water & Sanitation(22-23)#D में निम्नांकित संशोधन किया जाता है, जो इस प्रकार है।

पूर्व में प्रकाशित	संशोधित
प्राक्कलित राशि अग्रिम जमानत की राशि वेबसाइट पर निविदा ऑपलोज की तिथि एवं समय	28309 लॉख 28.39 लॉख दिनांक-22.10.2022 को 9:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न
प्री बीड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय	2627.45 लॉख 26.27 लॉख दिनांक-01.11.2022 को 11.30 बजे पूर्वाह्न, अभियन्ता प्रमुख, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, राँची के कार्यालय कक्ष में
निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक-09.11.2022 को 4.30 बजे अपराह्न तक
परिमाण विपत्र एवं अग्रिम जमानत की राशि जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि (मूल रूप में) एवं स्थान	दिनांक-10.11.2022 को 2.00 बजे अपराह्न तक कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर/अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, जमशेदपुर क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियन्ता, राँची प्रखेत्र, राँची, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, राँची
निविदा खोलने की तिथि	दिनांक-11.11.2022 को 1.00 बजे

निविदा की अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
PR 280876 Drinking Water and Sanitation(22-23).D

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पश्चिम, राँची

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट अलपकालीन निविदा सूचना
Tender Reference No. - DWSD/RW-10/2022-23
Date - 26-10-2022

S. No	Name of the Work	Estimate Cost (in Lac)	Ernest money (in Lac)	BOQ cost (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of R.C.C. Intake Well cum Pump House, Infiltration Gallery, R.C.C. capacity 50 M long and 3.00 M wide, 1.00 MLD capacity Unconventional Water Treatment Plant, RCC Elevated Service Reservoir- 3 nos., Staff Quarter, Compound wall, Approach road, S.H. Crossing, Supplying and laying Raw and Clear Water rising main and Distribution Network, House Connection, Supplying and Installation of VT and Centrifugal pump motor, Five years operation & maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for Tumang Adjoining villages Rural Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S. Division Ranchi West on turnkey basis.”	1125.17	11.26	10000.00
2	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	18 Months + 3 months (trial and run)		
3	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	07-11-2022 at 05:00 P.M 09-11-2021 /12:30 P.M		
5	प्री-बीड बैठक का स्थान एवं तिथि	O/o Engineer-in-chief, DWSD, Nepal House, Ranchi.		
7	बीड प्राप्ति के लिए अंतिम तिथि /समय	16-11-2022 up to 04:00 P.M 17-11-2022 up to 04:00 P.M		
6	निविदा की हार्ड कॉपी जमा करने की तिथि /समय/स्थान	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पश्चिम, राँची / अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता, राँची अंचल, राँची/ क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, राँची प्रखेत्र, राँची।		
7	बीड खोलने की तिथि /समय	17-11-2022 up to 05:00 P.M		
8	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता।	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पश्चिम, राँची।		
9	ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन संख्या	0651-2491247		

- किसी भी प्रकार का बदलाव <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।
- अन्य किसी भी प्रकार की सूचना <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।
- निविदा में प्राक्कलित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है, तत्पश्चात अग्रजन की राशि मान्य होगा।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पश्चिम, राँची।

PR 280928Drinking Water and Sanitation(22-23)#D

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM
THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1.	Name of work	Construction of Pre-cast in situ RCC/Brick work boundary wall with fencing-provision of steel gables, ballast retainer & other allied work underADEN/DLI.
2.	Approx cost of work	Rs. 89,32,383.62/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Three & Sixty Two paise Only)
3.	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs 1,78,700/- (Rupees One Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Only)
4.	Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5.	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	18.11.2022 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6.	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. * For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. * No manual offers are acceptable. * Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/82/2022-23/W-3 Dated: 25.10.2022 2851/22

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1	Name of Work with its location	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 Kv ac OHE for electrification of DLT Washing Line no. 1 & 2 & Rajdhani Washing Line no. 11 & 12 at New Delhi Yard under "Mission Rafar Project".
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs 10969536.37/-
3	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 204900/-
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	08.11.2022
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	22.11.2022 (15.00 hrs.)
6	Fund Allocation	PH-43424103
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 16A-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Dated 26.10.2022 2858/2022

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Neelam Navel W/o Sh. Darshan Lal, R/o C-1/150, 2nd Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 3516/2016 U/s 138 NI Act P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Neelam Navel cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Neelam Navel have absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused women Neelam Navel of FIR. No. 3516/2016 U/s 138 NI Act P.S.: Vijay Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 10.01.2023
By order
Sh. Vaibhav Chaurasia
Metropolitan Magistrate (North-west)
Room No.112, 1st Floor,
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP2227/RD/2022

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WORLD

**FIRST CABINET MEET:
SUNAK WARNS OF
TOUGH DECISIONS**
**GUNMEN ATTACK
SHIA SHRINE IN IRAN,
15 KILLED**
PAGE 16**Print Lakshmi,
Ganesh images
on currency
notes, Kejriwal
tells Centre**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday appealed to the Union government and the Prime Minister to print images of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh on new currency notes for the country's "economic prosperity", inviting a barrage of criticism from rival parties, with the BJP calling it an attempt by the AAP to "hide its anti-Hindu face".

Kejriwal's remarks, which also drew criticism from the Congress and other Opposition parties such as the RJD, comes at a time the AAP is making a concerted push to emerge as a viable alternative in poll-bound Gujarat by projecting its administrative credentials and religiosity.

"Our economy is not improving. We need to make multi-pronged efforts to develop our country. We need to build schools, hospitals, strengthen our power and roads infrastructure among others. But our efforts will bear fruit only when we have the blessings of God upon us," Kejriwal told a press conference.

Claiming that the idea occurred to him while performing Lakshmi puja during Diwali, he said, "I appeal to the Centre and the Prime Minister to retain the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

MORE REPORTS

PAGES 8, 15

NARAIN SET TO APPEAR BEFORE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TEAM IN PORT BLAIR TOMORROW

Over 20 women taken to ex-Andamans Chief Secy house in 'job-for-sex' racket, key witnesses tell police probe team



The official residence of the Chief Secretary in Port Blair where the women are suspected to have been taken. Ritu Sarin

CDRs match woman's sequence of events; CCTV footage erased before Narain left for Delhi: Police

**EXPRESS
EXCLUSIVE**RITU SARIN
PORT BLAIR, OCTOBER 26

PROBING ALLEGATIONS of gangrape and sexual assault against former Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands, Jitendra Narain, and Labour Commissioner R L Rishi by a 21-year-old woman, the

Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the A&N Police has found evidence and recorded key witness statements pointing to an alleged job-for-sex racket, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

As part of this, over 20 women are alleged to have been taken to Narain's residence in Port Blair during his year-long tenure and some of them are said to have got jobs in lieu of being sexually exploited, investigators have been told.

Narain is expected to appear before the SIT on October 28, the



Narain has denied charges, alleged 'conspiracy'

last date set for his appearance by the Calcutta High Court.

Senior police officers in Port Blair confirmed to *The Indian Express* that CDRs (call data records) of mobile phones of the two bureaucrats, both suspended, and of the 21-year-old

"match" the alleged sequence of events on two dates, as provided by the woman.

Sources have also confirmed that the hard disk of the DVR (digital video recorder) of the close circuit (CCTV) camera system installed at the Chief Secretary's house was first erased and, subsequently, the DVR was removed at the time of his transfer from Port Blair to Delhi in July.

It is understood that a PWD official and a local CCTV expert have given their testimonies confirming the alleged destruc-

tion of electronic evidence.

While arguing for denial of transit bail to the bureaucrat, the A&N prosecutor had, before the Delhi High Court, said that the statement of the victim had been corroborated by a "protected witness" and by electronic evidence. The October 20 order also states that there are "instances of tampering the evidence by the petitioner (Narain)."

Denying the charges, Narain, in letters to the Home Ministry and A&N administration, has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

UKRAINE WAR

Russia alerts Rajnath on 'dirty bomb', he warns against n-option

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

RUSSIAN DEFENCE Minister Sergei Shoigu called up Defence Ministers of India and China Wednesday to convey Moscow's concern about a purported Ukrainian plan to use a "dirty bomb", repeating an allegation that Ukraine and the West have already rejected.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on his part, told Shoigu that the Ukraine conflict should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy and the nuclear option should not be resorted to by any side.

Shoigu briefed Singh on the evolving situation in Ukraine, including his concerns about possible "provocations through use of 'dirty bomb'", the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

The conversation took place at the initiative of the Russian Defence Minister amid escalation of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine.

"Singh reiterated India's position on the need to pursue the path of dialogue and diplomacy for an early resolution of the conflict," the Ministry said.

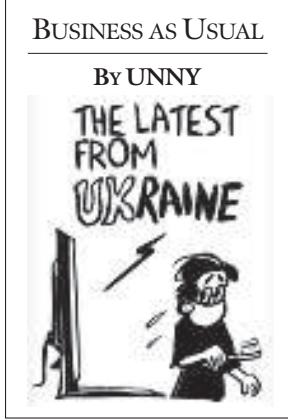
"He pointed out that the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

**PUTIN MONITORS
PRACTICE LAUNCHES
BY RUSSIA'S
NUCLEAR FORCES****INDIAN STUDENTS
REMAIN IN UKRAINE:
'DO WE HAVE A
CHOICE?'**

PAGES 12, 16



FAREWELL CALL

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with outgoing Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong in New Delhi, Wednesday. "Emphasised that development of India-China relations is guided by the 3 Mutuals. Peace and tranquility in border areas essential," Jaishankar tweeted. PTI

PAGE 14

8 former Indian Navy officers, working for Qatar company, being held in Doha

NIRUPAMA
SUBRAMANIAN
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 26

EIGHT FORMER Indian Navy officers, working in Qatar with a company providing training and other services to the Qatari Emiri Navy, are in custody in that country.

The Indian Embassy in Doha is said to be aware of the incident, according to sources.

The incident came to light af-

ter a tweet Tuesday from the handle of @DrMeetuBhargava — the Twitter bio identifies her as an 'Educator and a spiritual being' — who said the veterans have been in "illegal custody/detention" in Doha for "57 days".

The post tags the Prime Minister and several ministers including External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister for Petroleum and

Natural Gas Hardeep Puri.

The former Navy officers worked for a company called Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services, *The Indian Express* has learnt. The company describes itself as a "local business partner" of the Qatar defence, security and other government agencies, and its key competencies as defence equipment operation and maintenance.

The group CEO, Khamis Al Ajmi, is a retired Squadron Leader

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

GEAC MEETING

First GM food crop may be on way, mustard trials get nod

DMH-11 said to produce 25-30% more grain/seed than high-yielding varieties

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

THE GENETIC Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under the Union Environment Ministry has approved seed production "prior to commercial release" of India's first indigenously-developed transgenic hybrid mustard.

This opens up possibilities for the cultivation of India's first genetically modified (GM) food crop by farmers amid opposition from green groups and the so-called swadeshi lobby.

The country's regulator for GM organisms, at its meeting on October 18, recommended the "environmental release" of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED
E Significant possibility

IT IS not clear at this point whether the GEAC's green signal amounts to final clearance by the government. But the field trials could open up the possibility of the cultivation of India's first genetically modified (GM) food crop by farmers amid opposition from green groups and the so-called swadeshi lobby.

EXPLAINED
PAGE 15

Sickness to migration to death in family: 18% of Delhi govt school students absent since academic year start

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

SINCE THE start of this academic year, more than 3 lakh children in Delhi government schools, accounting for 18% of the total students enrolled in them, have been identified with "chronic absenteeism", meaning that they have been absent from school for seven consecutive days or 20 out of 30 working days.

REASONS CITED FOR ABSENTEEISM

Sickness: 30,499

(41% of total); 14,686 back

Moved back to village/**different state: 18,438**

(25%); 6,402 back

Denied absenteeism/**unaware of it: 7,905**

(11%); 7,905 back

Death in family: 915 (1%);**450 back; Death of parent: 207**(0.3%); **78** back**Child labour: 144** (0.2%);**11** back**Child marriage: 51** (0.1%); **1** back**Sexual abuse/physical abuse/****bullying: 96** (0.1%); **23** back

* OF 73,513 FAMILIES CONTACTED

Of the 3,48,344 children identified with "chronic absenteeism" from April 1 to October 20, the biggest chunk is between the ages of 11 and 16, together making up 71.6% of these absentees. In the 11-13 age category, 1,35,558 children, or 19% of the students of this age, had this attendance track record and in the 14-16 age category, it was 1,13,876 children or 16% of the students of this age. Boys make

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPRESS NETWORK

**KHARGE TAKES OVER
AS NEW CONG CHIEF,
SETS UP STEERING
COMMITTEE****TN SEEKS NIA PROBE
INTO COIMBATORE
CYLINDER BLAST**
PAGES 8, 12

Three linked to Assam 'Miya Museum' held, UAPA among charges invoked

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, OCTOBER 26

A DAY after the authorities sealed a 'Miya Museum', set up with the aim of preserving the culture and heritage of Bengali-origin Muslims in Assam, the state police Wednesday arrested three persons associated with the private initiative.

The three have been charged, among other sections, under the

anti-terror legislation UAPA. Police said the charges were unrelated to the setting up of the museum, which was sealed on Tuesday, two days after its inauguration.

The three arrested include All Assam Miya Parishad president M Mohar Ali, in whose house in Dapkarbhita area of Goalpara district the museum was set up; its general secretary Abdul Baten Sheikh, who was held from his residence in Alamganj, Dhubri

district; and Tanu Dhadhumia, who launched the museum and was arrested from Dibrugarh.

Goalpara Superintendent of Police V V Rakesh Reddy told *The Indian Express* that Ali was arrested in connection with a case registered in Nalbari district. The museum had been sealed on the grounds that it was set up in a house allotted to Ali under the PMAY-G (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

PAGE 1
ANCHORPRATYUSH RAJ
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

ON A cold December night in 1984, Khushi Cheema returned home and asked his wife to pack their belongings. The following day, the Sikh family from village Cheema Khurd near Jalandhar boarded a train for Delhi. During the 52-km ride, 5-year-old Harpreet kept asking his father where they were going. He only got a smile as an answer.

"I can never forget that night

and the next morning. It still feels like it happened yesterday. My father took that decision to keep his family safe after the rise of insurgency in Punjab during the mid-1980s," Harpreet tells *The Indian Express* over phone from Amstelveen in the Netherlands.

Cut to the present, Khushi Cheema is back on his farm in Jalandhar, and Harpreet is running a transportation company in Amstelveen.

His 19-year-old grandson, Vikramjit Singh, tipped to be one of the brightest cricketing talents

in the Netherlands, will take guard against India, the country of his forefathers, on Thursday, which he calls "the biggest match of my international career".

After the win against Pakistan in the opening game, India will start as favourites against a nation where cricket isn't a mass sport.

"I was five when I came to the Netherlands. It was very hard; you didn't know the language, it was a completely different culture. It took me a few years to settle down," says Harpreet.



Vikramjit Singh faces India in Sydney today

He goes down memory lane, recollecting his family's hardships and the discrimination he faced growing up.

"Back then, there was racism. I faced a lot because of my skin colour, turban and beard," says Harpreet.

But with time, things eased. Khushi Cheema, who started driving a taxi in his new country, handed over his transportation company to his son before moving back to India in 2000.

"My father handed over the business to me and moved back

to India. He said his duty as a father was done, we are well settled here now, and he wanted to go back to his pind (village), to his people," Harpreet says.

The family's bond with India was too strong to cut off. Vikramjit was born in Cheema Khurd and he moved to the Netherlands only after he turned seven. He never had to face problems like his father.

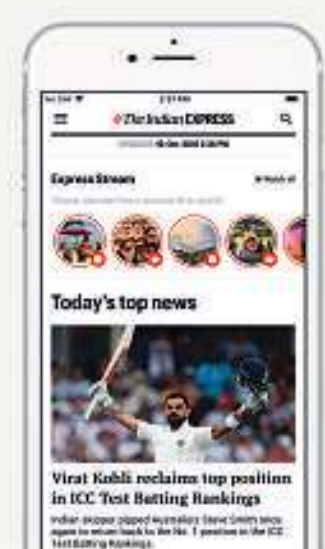
At 11, he was spotted at an U-12 tournament by then Dutch skipper Peter Borren, who spent hours and hours in the nets to

groom the youngster. He also got a sponsorship from Beat All Sports (BAS), a sports goods manufacturers company that made bats for Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Harbhajan Singh.

At 15, he was already in the Netherlands' A' side and two years later, made his senior team debut.

"For me, cricket started in Cheema Khurd. When I moved to the Netherlands, I used to go with my father as he used to play in the local leagues. At 12,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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EXPRESS

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College mates, neighbours, and an assassination attempt in court

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Two collegemates, turned neighbours fought each other in court until one tried to assassinate the other

TRIPURA

Minor’s gangrape: Six held, BJP junks Opp charge that minister’s son is involved

DEBBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, OCTOBER 26

AMID PROTESTS against the ‘in-action’ regarding the October 19 gang rape of a minor in Tripura’s Unakoti district and Opposition’s accusation that a minister’s son was involved, the ruling BJP on Wednesday defended Labour Minister Bhagaban Das, saying the allegations against his son were “politically motivated”.

The BJP reaction came shortly after the state police issued a statement, saying six persons have been arrested for the crime and further investigation is in progress.

In a statement on Wednesday evening, Tripura Police Assistant Inspector General (Law and Order) Jyotishman Das Chowdhury said police received a complaint on October 20, a day after the alleged crime had taken place during a party, where the survivor was taken by another girl.

Soon after the police statement, BJP leader and Information and Cultural Affairs (ICA) Minister Sushanta Chowdhury addressed the media at party’s state headquarters,

saying vested interests were behind the allegations since the police didn’t find any link of the minister’s son with the crime.

“Six persons have already been arrested. The minister’s son was out of station since October 10. We aren’t like the erstwhile Left Front government that used to compromise with crimes against women. Our government works for empowerment of women,” Choudhury said.

The allegation against minister’s son was first levelled by Congress leader Ashish Kumar Saha. Speaking to reporters, Saha had said, “The BJP minister’s son was involved in the incident. No action was taken against him. We think, the CM himself is well aware of the issue but is staying silent.”

CPIM state secretary Jitendra Chaudhury on Wednesday took to social media and said that “law and order is going down in BJP-ruled Tripura”. “I want to draw attention of everyone to the gangrape of a girl... where the son of a minister allegedly kidnapped and gangraped her... along with others. We have come to know through reliable sources that the absconding son of the minister is at the official residence of his father,” Chaudhury said.

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

First GM food crop may be on way

transgenic mustard hybrid DMH-11, developed by the Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP) at Delhi University. It is not clear at this point whether the GEAC’s green signal amounts to final clearance by the government.

DMH-11 contains two alien genes isolated from a soil bacterium called *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* that enable breeding of high-yielding commercial mustard hybrids. Proponents of the GM technology-based crop say it is necessary for boosting domestic production of oilseeds and vegetable oil. India produces only 8.5-9 million tonnes (mt) of edible oil annually, while importing 14-14.5 mt. Edible oil imports led to a record foreign exchange outgo of \$18.99 billion in 2021-22 (April-March). India has so far approved GM breeding technology only in cotton. Previous attempts at commercial release of GM brinjal were foiled by environmental activists. Even with respect to the transgenic mustard, the GEAC, following a meeting on May 11, 2017, had decided that matters related to its environmental release be “kept pending for further review”.

Mustard is a largely self-pollinating crop, which makes development of hybrids (which typically yield more than normal varieties) difficult in the natural course. The CGMCP scientists, led by former Delhi University vice-chancellor Deepak Pental, have developed what they claim is a robust and viable hybridisation system for mustard. Their GM hybrid is a product of crossing two plants containing alien ‘barnase’ and ‘barstar’ genes derived from a soil bacterium.

“I am happy at the GEAC decision. We have enough seeds for multiplication,” Pental told *The Indian Express*. DMH-11 is claimed to produce 25-30 per cent more grain/seed than the existing high-yielding mustard varieties. But given the limited time — mustard is generally sown by the end of October — it remains to be seen if any planting for seed multiplication is possible in the current rabi season.

The GEAC recommended the “environmental release” of DMH-11 for seed production as well as of its parental lines for developing new hybrids based on the same GM technology.

Russia alerts Rajnath on ‘dirty bomb’ threat

nuclear option should not be resorted to by any side as the prospect of the usage of nuclear or radiological weapons goes against the basic tenets of humanity,” it stated. The Ministry said the two ministers also discussed bilateral defence cooperation as well as the deteriorating situation in Ukraine. The conversation Wednesday follows Shoigu’s calls to British, French, Turkish and US counterparts Sunday in which he made the same claim. Britain, France and the US rejected that claim as “transparently false”.

On October 10, within hours of Russia firing cruise missiles at Ukrainian cities including civilian facilities in Kyiv that killed at least 11 people, India had said it was “deeply concerned” over the escalation of the conflict, including targeting of infrastructure and death of civilians.

This was one of the sharpest statements by New Delhi after Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Russian President Vladimir Putin that “today’s era is not an era of war” on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. India has not yet publicly condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

MiYa Museum in Assam: Three linked to it arrested

“We have simply facilitated the arrest, we don’t have details of the case. It was an inter-district matter,” Reddy said, adding that it had nothing to do with the MiYa Museum issue.

Sources said all three had been brought to Nalbari district over a case registered at Ghograpar Police Station, and booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). While police superintendent of Nalbari refused to comment, Special Director General of Assam Police G P Singh took to Twitter to say the three were charged with waging or attempting to wage war against India under Sections 120(B), 121, 121(A), 122 of the IPC, read together with Sections 10/13 of the UAPA. “Further investigation and interrogation would be carried out about their association with AQIS/ABT,” he tweeted.

Recently, four private madrasas in Morigaon, Bongaigaon and Goalpara districts of Assam had been demolished over alleged involvement with these two terror outfits — al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, and Ansarulлах Bangla Team. Three of these four were demolished by government authorities while officials claimed that the fourth had been pulled down by the people themselves.

Miya Parishad chief advisor Giasuddin Hazarika told the media that they were “still unaware” as to why the authorities had sealed the museum or arrested Ali. Hazarika said he had told the Parishad to meet Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma before launching the MiYa Museum, and apprise him of their concerns.

Both the Congress and AIUDF questioned the arrests, saying action against someone “trying to uphold culture” is “an example of the politics of domination and communal divide”.

AIUDF general secretary Aminul Islam told *The Indian Express* that though his party doesn’t support the idea of a MiYa Museum, arresting someone for putting a few items on display to showcase culture was unnecessary. “Earlier there was MiYa poetry and now MiYa Museum. We should find out the roots of these. We are all Assamese and we don’t support further division into sub-groups like Goria Muslims, MiYa Muslims and the like,” Islam said.

The MiYa Parishad had displayed in the museum items used generally by members of the community, such as *lungi*, *langol*, *pitha* (a form of rice cake), and some farming equipment. Questioning the same after the sealing of the museum, CM Sarma said these items did not belong to the community but were “Assamese”. “Only the lungi is theirs.”

The Congress criticised the arrests as “an effort of religious polarisation”. “It’s a free country. Anybody can keep their forefather’s things and call it a museum. From what I have heard, the CM too has reacted on the issue. There are other serious things a CM must ponder about and act upon,” Leader of Opposition Debabrata Saikia said.

• Doha

of the Royal Oman Air Force.

Among the eight Indians in custody is Commander Purnendu Tiwari (retd), the managing director of the firm. He received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award in 2019 from the then President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.

His profile on the company website says he commanded a minesweeper and a large amphibious warship when he served in the Indian Navy.

There are no details about why the men were picked up and what the charges against them are. The men were granted a consular visit by officials of the Indian mission in Doha earlier this month, The Indian Express has learnt.

Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, could not be reached for comment. The company has impressive credentials posted on its website. Its work has received praise from the Indian mission in Doha. Ambassador Deepak Mittal has said the company was doing “great work” to “build capacities and capabilities of Qatar Defence Forces”. “You are testament to the vision of the Indian leadership to partner with friendly countries and share our experiences,” he has said.

Periasamy Kumaran, the previous ambassador, had praised the company’s work for its “effective showcasing of India’s defence capabilities and has created new opportunities for cooperation and collaboration” between the two countries. Calls to phone numbers listed on the company website went unanswered.

• 18% of Delhi govt school students absent

up 55% of such “chronic absentees” while girls make up 45%.

Until September 30, as many as 7516 of the children enrolled in these schools did not attend school for a single day and attempts to contact their families were unsuccessful.

This data has been compiled by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights as part of its Early Warning System to curb absenteeism and drop-out rates in Delhi government schools.

After a two-year disruption because of the Covid-19 pandemic, compulsory attendance for students of all grades in Delhi schools was put back in place with the start of the 2022-2023 academic year on April 1.

This attendance tracking system began with the start of the academic year to identify children at risk and curb absenteeism.

Of these 3.48 lakh children who have been chronically absent, the DCPCR has had telephonic conversations with the families of 73,513 children, which provides a picture of the reasons for their absence. Within these 73,513 cases, the overwhelming majority, 41%, were reported by parents as being because of sickness. With the migrant character of the families of a large number of students, in 25% cases, parents said they had taken the child back for a visit to their village.

In 11% cases, the parent said they were not aware that their child had been absent from school — within this there is a section of cases where fathers answered the phone and were not aware of their child’s school attendance, and the other section is of parents who assumed that their child had gone to school but the child had not. These three reasons make up the bulk of the reasons reported by parents. These are followed by death in a family (1%), death of a parent (0.3%), child labour (0.22%), child marriage (0.1%) and sexual abuse/physical abuse/bullying (0.1%). Of these 73,513 children, 33,131 or almost half, returned to school after interventions — with an attendance of at least 33% monitored over a period of 30 working days being the metric of “back to school”.

The highest rate of success has been with those whose parents reported that they were not aware of their children’s absenteeism — 87% of such children whose parents were contacted were “back to school” after this intervention.

However, the lowest rates of success was for cases reported as being because of child labour and child marriage. Child labour was reported as being the reason in 144 cases, of which 11 have been “back to school” while child marriage was reported in 51 of the cases, of which 1 returned.

For child labour cases, the poor rate of return can be primarily attributed to the low willingness of student or their family to let go of the additional household income. A significantly higher number of child labour cases, almost 90%, were reported amongst male students. A large portion of this can be due to the worsened economic situation because of Covid. For child marriage cases, the willingness of the girl child’s in-laws to send the girl child back to school has been low due to household responsibilities assigned to her.

“In many cases, the girl shifts back to their ancestral village where DCPCR has no jurisdiction,” said DCPCR chairperson Anurag Kundu. The responsiveness to interventions has also varied across age categories. While 16% of children aged under 5 identified as chronic absentees were “back to school”, this tapered down to 9% each in 11-13, 14-16 and above 16 years categories.

Explaining the gap between the 3.48 lakh children identified as “chronic absentees” and the 73,513 with whom conversations have taken place, Kundu said, “Since our systems have been expanding, a majority of the interventions have only been in place in the last few months which is when these conversations have taken place. This is the major reason for the gap. Another small part is because the phone numbers provided by parents to the school are no longer in use.”

• ‘Job-for-sex’ racket

said there is a “conspiracy” against him and claimed that he has “specific materials which demonstrate the fake nature of the case.”

He has challenged his presence in Port Blair on one of the two dates given in the FIR and cited air tickets and appointment schedules to show his presence in New Delhi. On Wednesday, his lawyers moved a petition in the Sessions Court apprehending destruction of that evidence.

However, the 21-year-old’s family members are understood to have told the police there was a mix-up in the dates given by the woman and have since clarified this in their testimonies to the SIT.

When contacted in New Delhi, Narain said he could not comment on the latest developments since the matter was sub judice. His lawyer, who filed the latest petition in Port Blair today, declined to comment. A day after *The Indian Express* reported on the allegations, Narain was suspended on orders of the Home Ministry on October 17 and has got interim bail until November 14. Rishi has also been suspended and non-bailable warrants have been issued in his name after his bail plea was rejected in Port Blair.

On October 18, a team of the A&N police, accompanied by officers of the Delhi Police, reached the residence of Narain in New Delhi, with a notice for him to appear before the SIT. While he was not at his residence, “electronic” evidence, including laptops and mobile phones, were collected by the police team and taken to Port Blair for forensic examination. The missing DVR player was not among the evidence traced by the A&N police.

When contacted, A&N’s Director General of Police Neeraj Thakur told *The Indian Express* here that the immediate priority is to pursue the gangrape allegation for which the 21-year-old lodged an FIR on October 1. “We have formed an SIT and are confident about the oral and electronic evidences collected by them. As the investigation progresses, we are preparing to present a strong case in court,” Thakur said.

Crucial to the probe are testimonies (some recorded under Section 164 CrPc) to the SIT by members of the former Chief Secretary’s staff including drivers, cooks and other household help. At least one of them has been listed as a “protected witness” by the SIT for fear of his security.

One staff member said: “I was threatened by the then Chief Secretary about danger to my life if I ever spoke about the (women) guests that visited the house.”

The staff member, among others, spoke to *The Indian Express* and alleged that between 20-25 women were escorted by him to the former Chief Secretary’s house with the pattern of visits “matching” the sequence described by

the 21-year-old in her original complaint to the A&N police and later in the FIR.

At least one staffer has testified to the SIT about how he would be instructed to “pick up the women,” often pick up food from a local restaurant, serve it at the Chief Secretary’s house and later be asked to drop the women off at a pre-destined place. At least two “guests” of the Chief Secretary were escorted by him to his house even after the two visits of the 21-year-old in April and May, the staffer said.

Speaking to The Indian Express, the 21-year-old woman said that she had provided “every minute detail” to the SIT. She added that on both her visits, she found the door to the kitchen locked from the outside to confine the staff inside and that it was a “driver” who served them food and snacks. She said she was asked to “deposit” her mobile phone in a bowl placed at the entrance of the house and that Rishi and Rinku, a hotel owner who had introduced her to the Labour Commissioner — he is also absconding — warned her against speaking about the violent sexual assault to anyone.

The woman has also given the SIT an audio conversation purportedly between herself and Rinku in which the latter warns her against going public and promises her a Government job. She has since been taken by the SIT for a medical examination and to the alleged scene of the sexual assault to help investigators reconstruct the events. She is said to have identified the car in which she was taken.

“I was repeatedly assured by the Chief Secretary and the Labour Commissioner that a job for me was confirmed. Then all this happened and when Rishi told me that the Chief Secretary has been transferred and there was no chance of a job, I decided to go to the police” she said. Her family members said they now propose to move the Supreme Court for cancellation of the former Chief Secretary’s interim bail, granted by the Calcutta High Court.

SIT officials said they have collected “all possible, detailed” evidence in the case and will be ready to file a chargesheet in the next few weeks.

In her complaint, the woman said that in search of a job, she was introduced to Rishi through Rinku, the hotel owner, and Rishi took her to Narain’s residence. There, she said, she was offered liquor which she refused and was assured Government employment. Subsequently, she alleged, she was brutally and sexually abused by the two men.

Two weeks later, she alleged in the complaint, she was again called at 9 pm by them to the Chief Secretary’s residence and the assault was repeated.

• 19-yr-old at T20 for the Netherlands

I played alongside him when he was captain,” Vikramjit says from Sydney. Borren got Vikramjit enrolled at his club VRA, Amsterdam, where he was captain. “Not sure what he saw in me but I feel lucky that someone like Peter, with so much international experience, is my mentor. He has guided me throughout my crick-eting career so far,” says Vikramjit.

It is not easy to be a professional cricketer in a country obsessed with football with a cricket season ending in September before resuming in March.

Here, Harpreet came to his son’s rescue. During his playing days, he had become friends with Amit Uniyal, a former Punjab and Rajasthan Royals bowler, who used to play league cricket with him in the Netherlands. From 2015-16 to 2019-20, the young-ster spent six months at Uniyal’s Gurusagar Cricket Academy in Chandigarh.

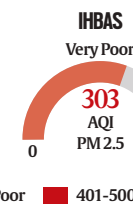
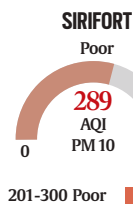
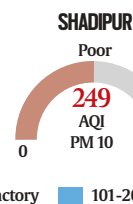
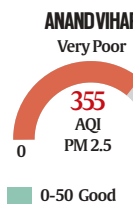
“I had my doubts first. NRI kid, will he be able to train twice a day? Will he be able to get along with the local lads? But he surprised me with his temperament, his immense self-belief and hard work. He never complained and I am not surprised to see his rise in International cricket,” says Uniyal.

In 2021, Vikramjit shifted his base to Jalandhar and started training with former India U-19 player Taruwar Kohli, who also used to play for a club in Amsterdam.

“The sole reason was that Taruwar Kohli’s academy was near my village (Khurd Cheema), and now my mother doesn’t have to worry about me anymore. It was kind of exhausting for her too. Above all, I got to spend more time with my Dadu (grandfather),” says Vikramjit, who has gifted his Netherlands jersey to his grandfather, a die-hard cricket fan.

“He has supported India throughout his life. Hopefully, not on Thursday because it will be the biggest match of my international career so far,” he says.

New Delhi



0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe

SKYWATCH
FORECAST: October 27
Clearsky.

MAX: 32
0.3°C above normal

MIN: 15
1.7°C below normal

HC CONSIDERS HER SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Man sentenced for raping woman he met on Tinder granted bail

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

THE DELHI High Court recently granted bail to a man convicted by a trial court for raping a woman he met on the online dating application Tinder.

A single judge bench of Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta was hearing an application moved by the man seeking suspension of sentence and release on bail during the pendency of an appeal, also moved by the man before the HC.

The man had challenged the judgment and sentence order of the trial court holding him guilty for offence under section 376(2)(n) (punishment for committing rape repeatedly on the same woman) of the Indian Penal Code and sentencing him to undergo rigorous imprisonment of 10 years along with fine of Rs 6 lakhs.

The trial court had however acquitted the appellant for offence under Section 313 (causing miscarriage without woman's consent) of the IPC.

The High Court in its order of October 12 reiterated that at the stage of suspension of sentence and release on bail till disposal of appeal, the appellate court has to examine if there is any "patent infirmity in the order of conviction that renders the conviction prima facie erroneous".

The HC observed that "evidence is not to be re-assessed or re-analysed to suspend the execution of the sentence and de-

tailed observations on merits of the case are not called for at this stage".

The appellant argued that the trial court had erred in concluding that he obtained the woman's consent for sexual intercourse on a false promise of marriage.

He further argued that the judgment of the trial court was patently illegal as there were "glaring lacunas" in the prosecution's evidence. He contended that the woman had herself written blogs posted on social media stating that she did not believe in the institution of marriage, and the same was un rebutted.

The appellant argued that he had met the woman on 'Tinder', "which is known for casual dating".

The appellant said that as the woman herself did not believe in the idea of marriage, it was improbable by her conduct and circumstances on record that she was misled on alleged promise of marriage. The appellant additionally argued that the woman knew about the appellant's children, relying on his wife's testimony in this regard. He further said that his father is old and requires dialysis on a daily basis and his two daughters are dependent on him for their "education and life", hence bail be granted.

The prosecution contended that the woman was unaware of the appellant's marital status and that her social media posts could not be relied on as the

Sisodia says
BJP pressuring
officials to stop
yoga initiative

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

A DAY after issuing notice to the Directorate of Training and Technical Education (TTE) secretary, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia Wednesday alleged that the BJP is exerting pressure on bureaucrats to deter the AAP government's flagship 'Dilli ki yogshala' initiative.

The yoga and meditation programme launched in December last year will be discontinued from November 1. "The BJP is conspiring to stop the city government's flagship 'Dilli ki yogshala' programme and is deliberately trying to hamper a healthy and happy lifestyle of people by pressuring the officers to scrap it," said Sisodia. He said the government has the approval of CM Arvind Kejriwal to continue the programme and has forwarded the file to L-G V K Saxena.

"The file is now pending at the L-G's end. We hope that the L-G will allow us to continue the programme in the best interest of Delhiites," he said. Sisodia also alleged that the BJP is pressuring and threatening the officials with suspension if they are not agreeing to their baseless demands.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 read with Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 10th November, 2022 to inter-alia consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and period ended on 30th September, 2022 and declaration of 2nd Interim Dividend for 2022-23, if any, to the shareholders. Further, in terms of SEBI (PIT) Regulations, 2015, as amended, the Trading Window for dealing in Equity Shares of the Company is closed for all designated persons & their immediate relatives for the period from 01st October, 2022 till the expiry of 48 hours after declaration of the Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and period ended on 30th September, 2022.

This information is also available on the website of the Company and the websites of the Stock Exchanges where the Company's shares are listed viz. BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com).

For & on behalf of
Container Corporation of India Limited

Place: New Delhi Date: 19.10.2022

sd/-
Executive Director (Finance) & CS

Chhath Ghats are latest battleground as L-G blames CM for 'misleading public'

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

AFTER ACCORDING his approval to celebrate Chhath Puja at designated Ghats on the Yamuna, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena Wednesday asked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to stop "misleading and premature publicity" and ensure clean ghats and water for devotees.

Quoting Kejriwal's tweet, the L-G in his approval said, "I consider it important to place on record my serious concern regarding the premature publicity made by Hon'ble CM regarding the celebration of Chhath Puja on ghats of the Yamuna vide his tweet."

Kejriwal on October 21 had tweeted, "Chhath puja will be celebrated as before on the ghats of the Yamuna. Orders have been



The L-G advised Kejriwal to "refrain from such acts in future"

given to all the officers that all arrangements will be made to ensure that Yamuna is not polluted."

Saxena added that the publicity was done even before the matter was placed for his consideration and before he could formulate an independent opinion on the subject.

on the subject.

"This tweet also gives the impression that the Chhath festival will be celebrated on all Yamuna Ghats, which is misleading and may cause confusion in public as Hon'ble NGT has allowed Puja only on the 'designated sites'.

This is seriously problematic as it violates the basic principles of the scheme of governance. Needless to state, that premature publicity of the decision creates interest and thus influences the decision-making process independently in the matter which is extremely sensitive as it relates to religious beliefs and practices of a large section of people," said the L-G in a document issued on Wednesday.

The L-G further advised Kejriwal to "refrain from such acts in future, in the larger public interest." The AAP, meanwhile, said "the L-G is hungry for cheap publicity and wants to see his name in newspapers every day".

"We strongly object to the language used by the L-G for Hon'ble CM. He is lowering the dignity of the chair he occupies by publicly abusing the CM every day," the party said.

AKKALKOT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, AKKALKOT

e-Tender Notice No. 9 for 2022 (Nagari Sewa Suvideheche Kame)

No. 2022/ANP/Works-11/Desk-1/RR/Kavi-1190
Date 25/10/2022

Sealed online e-Tenders for the Different Development works (under Nagari Sewa Suvideheche Kame Karane Scheme) are invited by the Chief Officer Municipal Council Akkalkot from contractors Registered with Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department in appropriate class. Details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-Tendering portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from Date 27/10/2022 to 22/11/2022 at 4:00 p.m.

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

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WIND ENERGY

(Under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India)

Velachery - Tambaram Main Road, Pallikaranai, Chennai - 600 100.

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION No.03/2022

National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) is the technical arm of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India established to serve as a technical focal point for orderly development of Wind Power deployment. This Institute proposes to recruit the following posts purely on **contract basis**.

Sl.No.	Details of Posts	Post Code	No. of Positions
1.	Program Coordinator – Management	VSDP-PCM-01	1 No.
2.	Program Coordinator – Financial	VSDP-PCF-01	1 No.
3.	Project Assistant – Technical	VSDP-PAT-01	1 No.
4.	Project Assistant – Grade I	IWSRA-PAGI-07	7 Nos.
5.	Project Assistant – Grade II	IWSRA-PAGII-03	3 Nos.
6.	Project Engineer – Grade I	NABCB-PEGI-01	1 No.
7.	Project Engineer – Grade I	NABCB-PEGI-02	1 No.
8.	Project Engineer – Grade I	NABCB-PEGI-03	1 No.

Details of essential qualification, experience, age limit, consolidated remuneration and other terms & conditions are available in the website: <https://niwe.res.in/careers.php>. The Last date for receipt of online application is 11.11.2022.

Division Head
[Finance & Administration]

EXPRESS explained.Live



China after the Party Congress



Vijay Gokhale
Former Foreign Secretary and
India's Former Ambassador to China



Shubhajit Roy
Associate Editor
The Indian Express

In conversation
with

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China has confirmed Xi Jinping as General Secretary for a third five-year term. No leader of China since Mao Zedong has ruled for more than two terms.

What does this mean for China — it's politics, economy, military and its people? What is its impact on global politics at a time of geopolitical flux and disruption? What does that mean for India, which shares a long and contested border with China?

Listen to Vijay Gokhale, former Foreign Secretary and India's former Ambassador to China, at the latest edition of Explained.Live at The Indian Express.

For a major part of his 39-year career, Gokhale focussed on China — either through diplomatic assignments in the country or at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi. After his retirement, Gokhale has authored three books, 'The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India', 'Tiananmen Square: The Making of a Protest' and, most recently, 'After Tiananmen: the Rise of China'.

31 October
2022

06:00 PM

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SCAN



To register, SMS - IEEXP <space> "IE" <space> "Your name and email ID" to 56161
Confirmation SMS will be your registration

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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 footfall 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 Zenskar Festival, Drass Ladakh Festival, Mami 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 Astro turf at Leh and Astro turf 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-G 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" -Leakizes Angmo, Cyclist from Leh, who took part in Khelo India Games



BRIEFLY

Amit Shah to lay foundation stones of 4 projects today

Chandigarh: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of various projects worth Rs 6,629 crore from Parade Ground Sector-12, Faridabad on Thursday. The projects include laying the foundation stone of Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor project, the inauguration of the Rail Coach Refurbishment Factory in Sonipat, the country's first longest elevated railway track built in Rohtak, and Haryana Police Residence Complex, Bhondsi.

Online admissions to DU's NCWEB begins

New Delhi: Online admissions for Delhi University's Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board commenced Wednesday. The NCWEB has notified its first cut-off list for admissions to its BA (programme) and BCom courses. The NCWEB admissions are based on Class 12 marks and cut-offs.

Man sent to 5 years in jail for sexual assault

The Delhi High Court recently sentenced a man to five years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a four-year-old girl in 2015, seven years after he was released on probation by a trial court. **ENS**

Woman killed while making firecrackers

A 62-year-old woman died and a youth got injured in a blast at a house in northeast Delhi's Welcome area allegedly while he was making firecrackers, police said on Wednesday. **PTI**

‘No one helped him’: 35-yr-old farmer’s brutal murder in Ghaziabad leaves family fumbling for answers

ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR
GHAZIABAD, OCTOBER 26

ON TUESDAY evening, 35-year-old farmer Arun Singh stopped with two friends to eat at a Ghaziabad dhaba, on his way home after dropping off his wife to celebrate a festival with her family. Later that evening, he was declared dead on arrival at Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital, having been beaten to death with bricks.

According to the Ghaziabad police, a group of four-five men arrived at the dhaba after Arun, a little after 9 pm. A scuffle then broke out in front of the eatery, and while police are still probing what provoked the violence, officers speculate it may have been related to parking.

A shaky video recorded by a

passing driver purportedly shows two men standing over Arun, who is lying motionless on the ground, before one of them violently strikes him on the head with what appears to be a brick.

Police said he was taken to GTB Hospital by his relatives. At the scene of the crime the next afternoon, local shopkeepers, including workers at the restaurant in front of which Arun was beaten, said they had not seen anything as their establishments were closed at the time. The dhaba where he had stopped was not open. The remnants of the fatal incident were still visible, with fragments of brick smeared with blood scattered about, along with shattered glass from Arun's car, which had allegedly been vandalised by his attackers.

At his home in Ghaziabad's



35-year-old Arun Singh; the spot with fragments of brick smeared with blood



Javli village, members of Arun's family gathered on Wednesday afternoon after his last rites. Arun's father Kavar Pal Singh, a Delhi Police sub-inspec-

tor who retired one and a half years ago, said that no one had intervened to save his son. "Everyone was just standing there watching. No one helped

him, not even the people in the dhaba where he was eating. They could have called the police, the Teela Mod thana is on the same road. When people

from our village came to know about the incident and went there, he was still lying in the same place."

He also blamed two friends that Arun was accompanied by, saying that their behaviour was suspicious. "Why didn't they call the police or take him to the hospital? They just fled from the spot. After a while one of them called my nephew and told him about the incident."

Speaking about his son he said, "He was a typical farmer, always very straightforward in his behaviour. He was also rather quiet, not the type to get into a fight. We performed his last rites today. He has left two children behind, a 6-year-old girl and a 4-year-old boy."

According to SP City-2 Gyanendra Kumar Singh, "The incident happened when some

people, perhaps four-five, came and got into a fight with the victim. The motive behind the fight is being investigated."

Police said the men who beat Arun have not been identified so far, but their vehicle's registration number has been identified. Arun's family has also named the two friends who were with him in the FIR, and they are currently being questioned.

Kavar Pal, a 39-year veteran of the police force, now has to rely on it for justice. He said, "The station house officer, the superintendent, and circle officer had all come (home today)... they assured us that they will catch the culprits as soon as possible."

A case has been registered at the Teela Mod police station under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 427 (mischief causing damage).

Slim pickings for students in DU round 2

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

WITH THE process for Delhi University's second round of admissions having begun on Wednesday, there are slim pickings for candidates in prominent colleges, with no unreserved seats remaining vacant in their popular arts and commerce courses.

The popular BA (Hons) Psychology course is available in only 12 colleges and none of them has any unreserved seats vacant going into the second round of admissions.

Other popular courses also only have a handful of unreserved seats vacant, mostly in remote or lesser-known colleges.

BA (Hons) Political Science is offered in 46 colleges. Going into the second round, there are only 23 vacant seats across 10 colleges. BA (Hons) Economics is offered in 40 colleges, and there are nine seats vacant across just four colleges—Aurobindo College (Evening), Shyam Lal College (Evening), Satyawati College (Evening) and Bhim Rao Ambedkar College Evening.

The popular BCom (Hons) course still has a few seats available in a higher number of colleges—it is offered in 55 colleges, and there are 86 seats vacant across 22 colleges. BA (Hons) English is offered in 48 colleges, and there are 40 seats vacant

across 22 colleges.

Among the science courses, BSc (Hons) Mathematics is offered in the highest number of colleges—it is offered in 42 colleges, and it has 103 seats vacant across 20 colleges.

As of 7.15 pm on Wednesday, 21,312 candidates who have been admitted to various seats in the first round of admissions have opted to "upgrade". Candidates who opt for upgradation will automatically be upgraded in the second round to a course-college combination they have ranked higher in their preference list 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".

Popular colleges have few seats available in any course. There are no vacant seats in Shri Ram College of Commerce in BA (Hons) Economics and two in BCom (Hons) reserved for PWD candidates. Lady Shri Ram College for Women does not have a single unreserved seat remaining vacant. Across its 23 courses, there are 52 vacant seats in different reserved categories, of which 28 are seats reserved for PWD candidates. In St Stephen's College as well, all seats except those reserved for PWD candidates are filled, except for two unreserved

VACANT SEATS (UNRESERVED) IN POPULAR COURSES			
BA (Hons) Political Science			
Motilal Nehru College	1	Mata Sundri College	4
Vivekananda College	1	Maharaja Agrasen College	2
Shyam Lal College*	1	Lakshmi Bai College	7
PGDAV College*	3	Kamala Nehru College	1
PGDAV:	2	Kalindi College	6
Motilal Nehru College*	3	Janki Devi Memorial College	3
Mata Sundri College	3	Dyal Singh College*	6
Maharaja Agrasen College	1	Delhi College of Arts and Commerce	1
Deshbandhu College	2	Bhagini Nivedita College	3
Bharati College	4	College of Vocational Studies	1
BCom (H)			
Zakir Husain College*	2	Bharati College	5
Zakir Husain College	2	Aryabhatta College	3
Vivekananda College	2	BA (Hons) Economics	
Swami Shraddhanand College	3	Sri Aurobindo College*	2
Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College	6	Shyam Lal College*	1
BA (Hons) English			
Zakir Husain College*	1	Satyawati College*	4
Zakir Husain College:	2	Bhim Rao Ambedkar College	2
Swami Shraddhanand : College	5	BSc(Hons) Mathematics	
Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College:	3	Zakir Husain College	8
Sri Aurobindo College*	2	Vivekananda College	5
Shyama Prasad Mukherji College:	2	Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College	5
Shyam Lal College:	3	Shyama Prasad Mukherji College	2
Satyawati College*	1	Shaheed Bhagat Singh College	1
Ramanujan College	5		
Motilal Nehru College*	2	<i>*Evening college</i>	

seats in BSc (Hons) Chemistry, five in BSc (Hons) Physics and one each in its two BSc programme courses.

Hindu College has no vacant unreserved seats in any of its arts or commerce courses except one each in BA (Hons) Sanskrit and BA Programme (Sanskrit and Political Science). Miranda House presents the same picture — among its arts courses, there is one vacant unreserved seat each in two BA programme combinations. However, candidates still have opportunities in science programmes in popular colleges as these still have a relatively higher number of vacancies. Hindu College has eight vacant unreserved seats each in BSc (Hons) Botany, BSc (Hons) Physics and BSc (Hons) Zoology; six in BSc (Hons) Chemistry; and eight across its two BSc programme courses. Hansraj College has a number of seats available in its Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Electronics, Geology, Physics, Zoology and BSc programme courses.

Candidates will have till 4.59 pm on Thursday to opt for "upgrade" and reorder their higher preferences in a way to maximise their chances of being upgraded to a preferred vacant seat. The second round seat allotments will be released to candidates at 5 pm on October 30, and candidates will have from 10 am on October 31 to 4.59 pm on November 1 to accept their seats.

In the capital, an arts festival to remind students from Kerala of time growing up

AISWARYARAJ
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

AS KERALA School at Delhi's Canning Road geared up for an arts festival, many in attendance would be reminded of the annual school and college competitions conducted back in the state.

Conducted by the Kerala government's information and public relations department and Kerala House in Delhi, Thina Delhi Kalostavam 2022, organised on October 22 and 26, has participants from universities such JNU, Jamia Millia Islamia, University of Delhi, Central University of Rajasthan, Amity University and Ambedkar University Delhi.

Following the demands by Mythri, the DU north campus Malayali students' organisation, for an arts festival similar to the one held in Kerala schools and colleges, Kerala House chalked out a plan to replicate it in the national capital this year. In a first, they hosted 21 competitions, off-stage and onstage, with a turnout of 800-1,000 participants.

Haris Pattalam, Mythri's member, said they approached Kerala house officials with demands for a cultural event two months ago. "The timing could not be better because it is Kerala Piravi on November 1 (the day Kerala was given the status of a state). Since we have Diwali holidays, we are not anxious about studies falling behind. We have a seven-day event from November 1. All Malayali organisations and student groups have been invited to it," Haris said. "There are 4,000 Malayali students just at DU and we have been seeing an enormous turnout over these two days. All expenses are borne by the Kerala government. I have not heard any other student groups from other states at DU speak of such cultural events being organised by their respective governments," he added.

Emil Jose, a BA programme student from DU, said, "Thina means a place where everyone gathers – home. The word is from the Sangam period. We wanted to convey the parochial element among Malayalis."

Prepping up for nadanpaat (folk song) category, Sumayya from Lady Shri Ram College for



Students perform oppana, a Muslim dance form popular in Malabar. *Express*

Women said, "I was so happy when I came to know about this competition. After school festivals in Kerala, I used to miss not having any cultural or art events in college. I'm participating in three events. The crowd, bustle and audience take me back to my school days."

At Kerala School, mohiniyattam played out on the first stage as voices rent the air in stage three hall, where Malayalam elocution was being held. Stage two had a group song event, attracting a small crowd.

Beaming after his victory in the elocution event, Shaded Hassan from Hindu College said, "I used to frequently participate in elocution competitions in school. After coming to Delhi, I was envious of colleges back home and the arts fest they had. This event was par excellence. It had 30 contestants and many used to participate in state-level school events. The bar was quite high, and I'm happy Kerala House could deliver on its promise."

While watching mohiniyattam on stage one, Shrilima from Miranda House College said: "Unlike the competitions back home where it gets reflected in your academics, this does not provide us with any tangible result, but it certainly makes us feel at home. I know almost everyone seated here, and a level of acquaintance can weed out an unhealthy competition."

After her group was done practising oppana, a Muslim dance form popular in Malabar, Liya Shareef from Jamia said she already bagged third prize in nadanpatt and hoped for a first in oppana. "We started practice a week ago. This competition takes away the stress, and we are enjoying it," she said.

Matter of pride, says Khattar on Sunak becoming UK PM

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, OCTOBER 26

REFERRING TO Rishi Sunak becoming the first Indian-origin Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Wednesday said, "It is a matter of pride, right? *Ek desh jo Bharat par sainkno varsh raj kar ke gaya... isliye aaj humein khushi hoti hai ke Bharat varsh ka ek mool sanskritik vichar rakhne wala vyakti aur wo aaj UK ka pradhan mantri bana hai... bahut badi uplabdhi hui hai* (A country that ruled over India for many years... That is why we feel happy that a person of Indian origin has become prime minister of the UK... it is a big achievement)."

Addressing the media in Delhi, where he released a book-

let of his government's achievements, Khattar said, "Indian diaspora is huge abroad... *aur phir Bharat ki sanskritik dhavaja bahut badh rahi hai*. Its latest example is from England."

While mentioning the work done by the state government in promoting cultural identity of the state, Khattar said the state had organised an International Gita Mahotsav at Kurukshetra on a large scale and after the festival, there was demand from abroad to host similar programmes.

Further, he highlighted the achievements under his governance over the past eight years. Khattar said, "In these eight years, we have continuously strived to promote 5S — *shiksha, swasthya, suraksha, swavalamban* and *swabhiman*. At the same time, we have worked to uproot 3 Cs — cor-

ruption, caste and crime... it is the job of opposition parties to criticise... they should criticise."

Listing out the achievements of the government, Khattar said, "Through Parivar Pehchan Patra scheme, we have created a database of all families to extend benefits of welfare schemes." He said for the benefit of farmers, the government started 'Meri Fasal, Mera Byora' portal, which helps farmers to sell crops and get information on procurement and in realising compensation in case of crop loss.

Stressing the government's efforts in digitising access to services, he said, "Through common service centres, people in villages can access these services. Over 12 lakh complaints were received on CM window in eight years and 90% have been resolved."



BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Migratory birds on the banks of the Yamuna in Delhi. *Praveen Khanna*

On music at weddings, expert to HC: ‘Balance rights of owners, users’

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

THE DELHI High Court was recently informed by an independent expert that while interpreting the provisions of the Copyright Act with respect to the use of music in marriages, a delicate balance has to be drawn between the rights of the owners of the music and the rights of the users and the society.

A single-judge bench of Justice Prathiba M Singh was hearing a suit filed by an entity, which licences the sound recordings of its member record labels for com-

munication to the public by public performances and broadcast. The record labels are owners of the copyright in the "sound recordings". The entity sought an injunction against an event management company, which provided DJ services at social events, including weddings.

The plaintiff argued that the defendant, while organising its events, should have obtained the licences for playing music, but it had refused to do so despite correspondences between the parties.

To assist the court on this issue, the HC had on May 11 appointed Dr Arul George Scaria,

Associate Professor of Law and Co-Director, Centre for Innovation, IP and Competition at National Law University Delhi, as the court felt that the issue in the present case would have large-scale implications for all artists and entities involved in the organisation and management of weddings and other social events. Scaria filed his written submissions in July.

The case before the HC involved the interpretation of section 52(1)(za) of the Copyright Act which states that certain acts would not amount to a copyright infringement, including "the performance of a literary, dramatic or



Scaria submitted that while deciding the scope of the provision, the court must take into account that marriage is one of the most important social institutions in India. *Archive*

musical work or the communication to the public of such work or of a 'sound recording' in the course of any bona fide religious ceremony or an official ceremony held by the Central Government or the State Government or any local authority. For the purpose of this clause, a religious ceremony includes a marriage procession and other social festivities associated with marriage".

Scaria submitted that while deciding the scope of the provision, the court must take into account that marriage is one of the most important social institutions in India and marriage ceremonies

and related festivities are given the highest importance by most communities in India.

"Section 52(1)(za) needs to be interpreted in a manner that protects and promotes the right under Article 21 of the Constitution to perform marriage and engage in marriage-related festivities in accordance with one's own tradition and culture," the order records.

The expert submitted that since the Supreme Court has interpreted copyright infringement as a cognizable and non-bailable offence under the Act, therefore, a narrow reading of the provision

may lead to "potential harassment by police officers and copyright owners" during ceremonies associated with marriage. The expert said that a delicate balance needs to be drawn between the rights granted to copyright owners through "exclusive rights" and those given to society and users of copyrighted works through "limitations and exceptions".

When the matter came up on October 10, the court was informed that the parties had resolved their disputes amicably. In view of the settlement between the parties, the HC dismissed the suit as withdrawn.

Governor wants ‘appropriate action’ to be taken against Kerala minister, CM says no

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCTOBER 26

AFTER DEMANDING the resignations of 11 Vice-Chancellors in the state, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has asked Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to take “constitutionally appropriate action” against Finance Minister K N Balagopal, accusing him of “violating his oath” and “undermining the unity and integrity of India”.

Vijayan immediately rejected Khan’s demand, saying his “trust and confidence” in Balagopal “remains undiminished”.

In his letter to Vijayan dated October 25, Khan cited media reports on a purported speech by Balagopal at a university campus on October 18. “Some people who are accustomed to the practices in places like Uttar Pradesh might not be able to understand the democratic nature in which universities function in Kerala, he (Balagopal) said, while claiming that V-Cs in universities, including Banaras Hindu University, required protection by armed security personnel,” Khan said.



Governor Arif Mohammad Khan; CM Pinarayi Vijayan

He said such comments “seek to stoke the fire of regionalism and provincialism and, if allowed to go unchecked, may have an erosive and baneful influence on our national unity and integrity”.

“The reported statements of Balagopal are nothing short of violation of the oath I had administered to him. As a minister who deliberately violates the oath and undermines the unity and integrity of India, he cannot continue to enjoy my pleasure. In these circumstances, I am left with no option but to convey that Balagopal has ceased to enjoy my pleasure. I hope that you will consider the matter with the seriousness it deserves and take action which is constitutionally

appropriate,” Khan said.

He said the comments by Balagopal and Higher Education Minister R Bindu, who also attended the function, were “clearly aimed at tarnishing the image of the Governor and lowering the dignity of office of the Governor”.

Rejecting the demand, Vijayan, in his reply said: “My trust and confidence in K N Balagopal, a member of the council of ministers of the State of Kerala, holding charge of the Finance portfolio, still remain undiminished. I hope that the Governor will appreciate that no further action needs to be taken in the matter.”

He said Balagopal’s remarks, “viewed from a constitutional perspective, factoring in the democratic conventions and traditions of our country, ... cannot warrant a ground for cessation of enjoyment of the Governor’s pleasure”.

Meanwhile, Balagopal said: “I don’t want to go into the merit of what I had stated. Neither do I have comments on the Governor’s letter to the Chief Minister.”

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Exploring all possible measures, says CPM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCTOBER 26

WITH GOVERNOR Arif Mohammed Khan locked in a confrontation with the Left government in Kerala, ruling CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan on Wednesday said the state government would explore all possible measures to face the situation.

He told reporters that the constitutionally wrong stand of the Governor would be opposed legally, administratively and by all other means. “We would use all possible means... the Governor has to act as per the Constitution, as per the law and as per the precedent. The Governor is not meant to implement the RSS agenda. It is a serious lapse that the Governor is not acting in a democratic way in consonance with the norms of

a constitutional body,” he said.

After demanding the resignation of V-Cs of 11 universities in Kerala, Khan on Tuesday wrote to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to take “constitutionally appropriate action” against Finance Minister K N Balagopal as he had ceased to enjoy his (Governor’s) pleasure.

Indicating that the Kerala government is seriously mulling to remove Governor as the Chancellor of the universities in the state, Govindan said the UGC norms do not say that Governor should be the Chancellor of the universities. “He is continuing as the Chancellor of the universities under the benefit of the law enacted by Kerala. The state can take another decision (review) any time. In many states, including those ruled by the BJP, the Governors do not have the role of Chancellor. That possibility is before us (Kerala),” he said.

‘DRUG TRAFFICKING AND NATIONAL SECURITY’

Need to break drug supply chains, Shah at regional meet

SOHINI GHOSH
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 26

CHAIRING A high-level meeting of the western region states on ‘Drug trafficking and national security’ at Gandhinagar on Wednesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that other states must adopt the Gujarat model to check drug trafficking as the state has achieved a major success in drug seizures from its coast in the recent years. He also underlined the need to break the drug supply chains.



Amit Shah addresses a meeting on ‘Drug Trafficking and National Security’, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, Wednesday. PTI

The meeting was conducted in a hybrid mode. Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel was present on the dais, while Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant, his Madhya Pradesh counterpart Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Maharashtra deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, among others, joined through video conference.

Drugs weighing nearly 1.65-kg kilos seized by the Delhi and Ahmedabad units of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Gujarat Police were also destroyed on the day.

According to Shah, the drug-seizure cases saw a sharp rise of 152 per cent in the period from 2014 to 2022 as compared to between 2006 and 2013.

“It is important to crack down on heroin smuggling from the

West Coast side of the country and Gujarat has done a great job in this direction. For this, I want to specifically congratulate the Gujarat’s Police, Gujarat CM and home minister. Operations carried out by the Gujarat’s narcotics control department in coordination with the Central agencies delivered results... Goa and Maharashtra has to step up and play a proactive role. In the entire western region, we are seeing increasing use of couriers and parcels for trafficking drugs... We will have to take strict steps and devise a mechanism to screen parcels.”

Urging all states to adopt “top-to-bottom and bottom-to-top approach” to identify the entire chain and network, Shah said, “We had

done an investigation and the NCB came out with a new (top-to-bottom and bottom-to-top) approach to check drugs. When a person is caught at a ‘paan’ shop selling drugs, we can’t see it as just one isolated case... It is our job to track and identify the entire network. And when a big drug consignment is caught at a port, then the network needs to identify the last person downwards... otherwise we won’t be able to destroy the entire network... We can’t win this fight if we limit ourselves to seizing drugs.” The Home Minister further said: “The fight against narcotics is a delicate turn. If we fight with all seriousness, we will win but if we take this as just another offence, then the drug traffickers will win.”

Adopt Swadeshi, self-reliance to keep culture, art alive: PM

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Wednesday emphasised the importance of promoting indigenous products and self-reliance for prosperity and said that by adopting them one can keep India’s traditional art, culture and civilisation alive.

Addressing a gathering to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Jain saint Vijay Vallabh Surishwar through video conference, Modi said the message of Swadeshi and self-reliance is extremely relevant in present times. “This is the mantra of progress for self-reliant India,” he said.

“The world is experiencing a

crisis of terror and violence, and is looking for inspiration to break out of this vicious circle,” Modi said. “In such a situation, ancient traditions and philosophy of India, coupled with its power, is giving hope to the world today.”

He added, “The path shown by him (Acharya Surishwar) and the teachings of Jain gurus is the solution to these global crises.”

Noting that religious tradition and indigenous products can be promoted simultaneously, the Prime Minister quoted Surishwar and said: “The prosperity of a country is dependent on its economic prosperity, and by adopting indigenous products, one can keep the art, culture and civilisation of India alive.”

The event was organised by



PM Narendra Modi delivers his address via video link, on Wednesday. PTI

the Union Culture Ministry to conclude the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of the Jain guru. As part of the occasion, a commemorative postage stamp and coin dedicated to Acharya Surishwar was also released.

Recalling the beginning of the celebrations two years ago, Modi recalled the “privilege” he had had of unveiling the statue of Acharya Surishwar. “Today, once again, I am among you saints with the help of technology,” he added.

In November 2020, the Prime Minister had unveiled the ‘Statue of Peace’ in Rajasthan’s Pali to mark the Jain monk’s birth anniversary celebrations. The 151-inch-tall statue has been made from ashtadhatu (eight metals), with copper being the major constituent.

Modi said the “Statue of Peace” is one of the largest statues of saints, while the ‘Statue of Unity’ dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Gujarat’s

Narmada district, is the tallest in the world. Recalling their contributions, he said Patel had united the country, which was then divided into many princely states, while Acharya Vijay Vallabh travelled to different parts of the country and strengthened its unity and culture.

“These are not just tall statues, but they are also the greatest symbol of ‘Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat,’” he said.

Modi said Acharya Surishwar’s insistence on peace and harmony was clearly visible even during the horrors of Partition. He noted that during the freedom movement Mahatma Gandhi had adopted the path of “aparigraha”, or renunciation, as laid down by the Jain gurus.

Gujarat govt says state achieved 100% household water connections

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 26

THE GUJARAT government on Wednesday announced that it has achieved 100 per cent household water connections under the Centre’s Jal Jeevan Mission. The announcement came weeks ahead of the notification for the Gujarat Assembly elections is out.

According to a release issued

by the Gujarat government, 91.73 lakh houses had been connected to the water supply network under the project through 63,287 kms of pipeline network, 3,498 underwater sumps, 2,398 overhead tanks, 339 wells and 3,985 tubewells. Apart from this, the project involved 324 minor schemes and 302 solar powered distribution schemes.

Announcing the achievement on the Gujarati New Year day, State Minister of Health and Family

Welfare Rushikesh Patel said in a release that the State had achieved 100 per cent coverage of direct water connection in the rural areas “two years before the target” set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi tweeted, “Yet another achievement on the auspicious occasion of #NewYear Gujarat declared as 100% #HarGhar Jal state.” He added that every household of Gujarat now has “Jal”.

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Ms. Lakshmi Kanchaan, Executive Director, Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI)
Email: lakshmi.kanchaan@pafi.in

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8 Govt & Politics



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Kharge takes over as Congress chief, party calls Sonia 'icon of sacrifice'

Forms steering panel comprising all CWC members but 1; holds meet to pick Gujarat poll candidates

MANOJ JCG

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE on Wednesday formally took over as the new president of the Congress — the first non-Gandhi to assume the party's top post in two-and-a-half decades — and vowed to fight the BJP and break its "system of lies, hoax and hatred".

Kharge also said he will implement all decisions taken at the party's Udaipur conclave, including 50-per cent representation for those below 50 years of age at all levels of the organisation.

Handing over charge to Kharge, Sonia Gandhi said she is confident that he will inspire the party and strengthen it under his stewardship.

The Congress, on its part, lavished praise on Sonia, calling her an "icon of sacrifice". It passed a "statement of gratitude", saying the "party and crores of its workers are grateful for her leadership, and that they look forward to her continued affection and guidance".

As soon as Kharge took over as the new party chief, AICC general secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal announced that all Congress Working Committee (CWC) members, AICC general secretaries and in-charges of states, have tendered their resignations, ostensibly to enable the



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with his predecessor Sonia Gandhi at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Wednesday. Tashi Tobgyal

new chief to choose his own team.

Hours later, Kharge constituted a steering committee — a constitutional requirement — consisting of all members of the CWC, barring one, to function in place of the top body. The special invitees to CWC were also not included in the steering committee.

Vivek Bansal, who is Congress's Haryana in-charge, was not included — his role in that position had come under scanner after the party's candidate, Ajay Maken, lost the Rajya Sabha election from Haryana in June.

The steering committee will decide the date and venue for the next plenary session and oversee preparations for holding the conclave, during which Kharge's election as Congress president would be ratified and a new CWC will be elected. The plenary is expected to be held in February-March 2023.

Rahul Gandhi had similarly converted the CWC into steering committee in February 2018, two months after he had taken over as president and a month before the plenary session.

On Wednesday, hours after he took over, Kharge also chaired a meeting of the party's central election committee at the AICC headquarters in Delhi to finalise candidates for Gujarat Assembly elections. Sonia attended the meeting.

Meetings of the election committee used to be generally held at her 10, Janpath residence. At the function in which Kharge was handed the certificate of Congress president by Madhusudan Mistry, head of the party's election authority, the

party praised Sonia sky high, saying she had set an unique example of "human dignity, simplicity, discharge of duty and discipline", and "instilled confidence in the ordinary Congress worker to walk on the same bright path in a difficult time".

The entire top leadership of the party was present at the event, including Shashi Tharoor, Kharge's challenger in the party president's election.

"We may miss you as Congress president, but we will never miss you as a guiding light for the party's future endeavours," Venugopal said.

Kharge said: "Sonia-ji has been our guiding light. She anchored the Congress party through difficult times, through highs and lows, personifying the values of courage, sacrifice, grace and respect. She will always remain our source of strength as the party gears up for the future challenges."

Sonia thanked the party and said, "I am very happy today. To tell the truth, I am feeling relieved. The president you have chosen is an experienced leader who is connected to the ground. He has reached this position through dedication and hard work... I am confident he will inspire the party..."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Gujarat transfers more than 900 officers, 51 still to be moved out

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

THE GUJARAT government has transferred more than 900 officials ahead of the state Assembly elections, but 51 officials, including six senior IPS officers, are yet to be moved out as per the Election Commission's guidelines, sources said on Wednesday.

The decision came after the Election Commission (EC) pulled up the state government last week, seeking an explanation of the "circumstances as to why compliance reports have not been furnished so far, even after the stipulated time limit, despite issuing another reminder in the matter."

On Wednesday, the poll panel is learnt to have asked the state Chief Secretary to ensure that the remaining officers report to "respective headquarters" and a compliance report is sent by 4 pm Thursday.

The six IPS officers, among 51 officers yet to be transferred, are Additional Commissioners of Police Premvir Singh (Crime, Ahmedabad city) and A G Chauhan (Traffic, Ahmedabad city), and Deputy Commissioners of Police Harshad Patel (Control Room, Ahmedabad city), Mukesh Patel (Zone-IV, Ahmedabad city), Bhakti Thakar (Traffic, Ahmedabad city), and Rupal Solanki (Crime, Surat city).

INFLECTING FRICTION

KERALA GOVERNOR Arif Mohammad Khan's running feud with the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front government in the state seems to have left the BJP divided so far as positioning the party amid this high-decibel political battle is concerned. A section of BJP leaders in the national capital appreciates Khan's moves, but another section is not as appreciative. While some leaders in the latter segment say the Governor has replaced the Opposition in Kerala and BJP leaders there have almost lost their relevance in the middle of these political developments, a few others feel Khan's "over-enthusiasm" in grabbing the headlines and locking horns with the Pinarayi Vijayan government has deviated attention from the allegations against the Chief Minister's family members, as well as some senior state CPI(M) leaders after gold smuggling case accused Swapna Suresh levelled charges of sexual harassment against them.

NOT QUITE QUIET

WHEN CONGRESS leader Shashi Tharoor was removed as chairman of the IT standing committee, many feared his absence would take the sheen out of the high-profile Parliamentary panel. But the new chairman, Shiv Sena MP Prataprao Jadhav, seems determined to keep the panel in the headlines. In its meeting, the committee is expected to discuss the telecom Bill. Standing committees usually discuss a Bill after it gets referred to the panel by either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha. Although the move to take up the draft of the Bill before it gets introduced in Parliament comes on the back of the Opposition's vociferous demands, as the Bill in its current form would get some changes, questions were asked whether the panel should take time to discuss before it gets its final shape. But it seems ruling party members also do not have much objection to it, as it is in line with Telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw's interest to bring a Bill with consensus.

WHAT'S COOKING?

SEVEN MONTHS after the Culture ministry had to cancel 'Askini', a festival to celebrate the ancient heritage and syncretic culture of Jammu and Kashmir, following protests that the invitation poster had "hurt religious sentiments", the ministry is again caught up in a similar controversy — with another event. 'Askini' was cancelled following outrage after the poster put Adi Shankaracharya's image next to the word 'Wazwan', a multi-course meal in Kashmiri cuisine with meat-based dishes. Now another invitation card for 'Stree Desh', a dance drama on forgotten legendary women of J&K, is under attack. The invitation for the programme by Sonal Mansingh — Union minister Meenakshi Lekhi is chief guest at the event — also has Shankaracharya's picture with kebabs and harissa (Wazwan dishes) on it, and social media is boiling over with agitated posts.

Cops say busted bid to lure TRS MLAs into defecting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 26

THE TELANGANA police on Wednesday said that they busted an attempt by three people who were allegedly trying to lure four ruling TRS MLAs to leave the party.

Cyberabad Police Commissioner Stephen Raveendra told reporters that the TRS legislators provided information to them that the trio were trying to entice them with several offers.

The police official said the four TRS MLAs — G Balraj, B

Harshavardhan Reddy, R Kantha Rao and Rohith Reddy — were allegedly being offered cash, posts and other incentives to switch loyalties.

"We are inquiring into details like which party the three persons belong to," Raveendra told PTI.

Government Whip Balka Suman alleged that this was the work of the BJP, which he said is trying to lure away TRS legislators.

"That TRS party MLAs are soldiers of KCR and representatives of Telangana's self-respect has been proved once again," he said on his Twitter handle.

BJP's 'chaiwala' candidate in Shimla is a crorepati, says don't discount my struggle

OM PRAKASH THAKUR
SHIMLA, OCTOBER 26

THE 'chaiwala' tag may be a throwback to the past, but that doesn't take away from his long and hard struggle to be where he is, says Sanjay Sood.

The BJP candidate for Shimla (Urban) Assembly constituency, who has replaced a four-time MLA in the seat, has been feted by his supporters for the tea outlet he owns at Shimla's busy Old Bus Stand — clearly hoping to cash in on the 'chaiwala' connection to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, Sood has come a long way from the time he ran that outlet himself, and now has assets worth around Rs 3 crore.

The affidavit filed by him at the time of his nomination lists his occupation as businessman and social worker, and shows that together with his wife, an



Sanjay Sood (right) now has assets worth around Rs 3 crore. File

advocate, and daughter, he has movable assets worth Rs 1.1 crore and Rs 1.75 crore of immovable assets. The family has land in Sarahan in Shimla district, and at his native place Ram Nagar in Kangra district, be-



queathed to him as inheritance, as per his affidavit. They also own property in buildings in Kaithu and in Shimla. "My political opponents are looking at my property, *par unhone mere paaon ke*

FROM ARTICLE 370 TO NATIONALISM TO RAM TEMPLE: THE KEJRIWAL STANCE

▶ August 2019: AAP chief and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal says his party supports the Centre's move to scrap Article 370 of the Constitution, revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

▶ February 2020: He declares that he is a staunch Hanuman bhakt (devotee) and goes on to recite the Hanuman Chalisa while defending himself against claims that he is anti-Hindu.

▶ March 2021: Kejriwal says he wants to see students become kattar desh bhakts (staunch nationalists), and that he would introduce patriotism classes in schools.

▶ March 2021: Kejriwal tells the Delhi Assembly that his government is striving to establish a model of 'Ram Rajya' in Delhi.



▶ March 2021: He announces free pilgrimage to the Ram Temple for senior citizens when the temple is ready.

▶ November 2021: Kejriwal and his Cabinet colleagues celebrate Diwali with a grand puja. The event featured a pandal that was a replica of the Ram Temple being built in Ayodhya

▶ May 2022: He promises to take every elderly person in Gujarat on a pilgrimage to Ayodhya if his party is voted to power in the state in the Assembly election due to be held later this year.

the BJP off guard. AAP wants to prove that it is not any of the things that the BJP accuses it of — such as being Left-liberal, anti-Hindu or urban Naxalite."

Plus, as the leader said, with such measures, Kejriwal "is trying to pitch himself and AAP right against the BJP and its leadership".

Noting that Kejriwal's suggestions were "irresponsible", another leader pointed out the dilemma the BJP was left in. "Kejriwal does not have the responsibility of a national party, he can make any such irresponsible appeal. But the BJP has to counter it so as to defend its image as the pro-Hindu party."

Among AAP's "anti-Hindu" actions, Patra listed the ban on firecrackers by the Delhi government, AAP leader Rajendra Pal Gautam taking an oath denouncing Hindu gods and goddesses at a conversion event, and former AAP leader Tahir Hussain's alleged involvement in the Delhi riots. Patra said while Gautam had stepped down as minister following the row, this was an "eyewash" as he remains in AAP.

Patra added: "The blessings of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi are already on India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi due to his hardwork and commitment. That is why India has risen to become the fifth largest economy in the world from 11th in the last decade."

FULL REPORT ON
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Telangana bypoll: Congress raises alarm over BJP's pitch on 4% Muslim quota

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 26

ACCUSING BJP leaders including Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy of trying to polarise the Munugode Assembly bypoll by raising the issue of the subjudice Muslim quota, the Congress in Telangana has lodged a formal complaint with the Election Commission.

The bypoll, on November 3, is a keenly contested fight as it will indicate which way the wind is blowing ahead of the Assembly elections next year. The BJP, which has notched up several poll wins in the state in recent years, and is making an aggressive push in Telangana, is hoping to add Munugode to the list.

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government in the state has retained the 4% quota for Muslims, first introduced by a Congress regime in 2004-05. Congress



Congress accused Union minister G Kishan Reddy of trying to polarise the Munugode Assembly bypoll

leader and former minister Mohammed Shabbir Ali pointed out that the issue is currently before a five-member Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court. Ali is a petitioner in the case.

In its campaign in Munugode, the BJP has been promising to quash the quota if voted to power. Saying they strongly object to these remarks considering the

matter is before the Supreme Court, Ali and former chairman of the Hyderabad Minorities Department Sameer Waliullah have accused Union minister Reddy of violating the Model Code of Conduct and delivering a "provocative speech against the Muslim community". Ali said they had written to Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar seeking action against Reddy.

"Kishan Reddy addressed a series of meetings in the last few days where he deliberately raised the issue of 4% Muslim reservation. He promised the people that if the BJP was voted to power, the government would scrap the 4% quota in jobs and education for Socially and Economically Backward Classes among Muslims, and distribute the same among other castes," Ali said.

He said the senior BJP leader's remarks "not only amount to contempt of court, but they also violate the Model Code of Conduct

wherein the BJP leader is trying to lure voters by provoking them based on religion".

Urging the EC to restrain BJP leaders, Ali said: "It is the duty of one and all to show some respect to the Supreme Court and trust its wisdom on sensitive matters like the 4% Muslim quota which is related to lakhs of poor people."

Defending the BJP, its Telangana president Bandi Sanjay Kumar said the party was against any religion-based reservations and not against a minority group.

In 2004-05, then heading a united Andhra Pradesh, the Congress government had proposed a quota for socially and economically backward Muslims, based on recommendations of a Backward Classes Commission. Initially, the quota was 5%, but was reduced to 4% following directions of the Andhra Pradesh High Court so as to ensure that the total reservations didn't exceed the 50% limit imposed by the Supreme Court.



साल
राख्या ख्याल

सुशासन ही आधार डबल इंजन हरियाणा सरकार

आठ वर्ष

The Indian **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CHECK & PLAY

CCI orders on Google stem from its mandate to curb anti-competitive practices. It must step lightly

LAST WEEK the Competition Commission of India imposed a penalty of Rs 1,337.76 crore on Google for “abusing its dominant position” in the Android mobile device ecosystem. On Tuesday, the Commission levied another penalty of Rs 936.44 crore on the firm for misusing its position vis a vis its Play Store policies. In its orders, the CCI has accused the company of adopting “discriminatory practices” and indulging in “anti-competitive” behaviour. The orders also lay out a set of corrective measures with regards to the Play Store policies and the Android ecosystem. This has far-reaching implications for the larger digital ecosystem in the country.

The CCI’s orders detail how Google was able to exploit the licensing of the Android operating system to its advantage. The company ventured into agreements such as the mobile application distribution agreement (MADA), which ensured that the “most prominent search entry points”, such as the search app and the chrome browser, are pre-installed on Android devices. This “accorded significant competitive edge to Google’s search services over its competitors”, the CCI has said. Such arrangements also allowed the company to gain advantage over its competitors in adjacent markets -- for instance, YouTube. The CCI also said that Play Store policies mandated the exclusive use of Google Play’s billing system by app developers for both receiving payments and in-app purchases. It pointed out that the UPI platform was placed at a disadvantage, with technological preference being given to Google Pay. The company has informed the Commission that it had recently changed its policies that placed UPI at a disadvantage.

India is not the only country where global tech giants have been caught in the regulatory glare. Last year, in August, South Korea mandated choice in app store payments, effectively barring firms like Google and Apple from compelling app developers to use only their payment systems. In India, the onus is on the Competition Commission to be vigilant against firms gaining unfair advantage by abusing their dominant market position. It must examine instances of discriminatory and anti-competitive practices of incumbents erecting high entry barriers to limit competition, and whether market dominance in one area translates into an unfair advantage in adjacent markets. It must ensure a level playing field. However, even while ensuring a competitive landscape, and nudging Big Tech to play by the rules of the land, considering the nature and characteristics of such digital markets, and the presence of network effects, the Commission must ensure that each instance of alleged dominance is examined independently. While it must implement its mandate, the CCI must be careful that its actions do not impede innovation. It must protect competition, not any competitor.

A NARROWER ASSAM

Government crackdown on ‘Miya museum’ sends out dispiriting signals in a state of rich diversity

ON TUESDAY, THE Assam government closed down a museum inaugurated two days earlier to showcase “Miya” culture. On Wednesday, three leaders of the All Assam Miya Parishad, including Parishad president Mohar Ali, were arrested and booked under the UAPA. Police have said that they will also be probed for alleged links with the Bangladesh-based terrorist outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team and al-Qaeda. The case must follow the due process of law, of course. But the fact also is that a cultural conflict has been brewing in Assam over “Miya” identity for some time now. The museum had reportedly been set up in the private residence of Ali, a school teacher, in Goalpara. Justifying the police action against it, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma claimed that its exhibits, barring the lungi, were a part of “Assamese culture”. Bodo leader and state minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma claimed that the museum was established with “the motive of creating a cultural conflict”.

Leaders like Sarma and Brahma have contributed towards the making of this polarising issue. To start with, “Miya” is now a derogatory term used to identify Bengali-speaking Muslims, most of them peasants living in the riverine islands of the Brahmaputra. They have been a target of the nativist politics that roils Assam and bore the brunt of the polarising NRC exercise. In recent times, however, the “Miya” community has successfully upended the discourse by embracing the pejorative to claim a distinctive identity within the rubric of broader Assamese and Indian identities. A 2016 poem, “I am a Miya”, spawned a genre of poetry that highlights the plight of a community targeted by the political establishment and elites as outsiders. While the “Miya” community describes these activities as cultural articulations, the BJP frames it as an act of divisive assertion.

In recent years, the BJP in Assam has given a communal twist to the state’s long-running nativist politics which has its roots in colonial era settlement policies and the post Partition social churn. The attempt to link Miya cultural politics with Islamist terrorism and illegal immigration threatens to further vitiate an already polarised environment. The action against the “Miya” museum comes in the backdrop of a demolition drive that targeted some madrasas for allegedly receiving dubious funding. It is unfortunate that CM Sarma has colluded in the attempt to redefine Assamese identity in narrow exclusivist terms, while downplaying the fact that the region is an ethnic, religious and linguistic melting pot. The state’s political leadership needs to respect, and in fact celebrate, the multiple cultural yarns that constitute the weave of Assamese identity and citizenship.

DO IT LIKE A CAT

They are affectionate, but they also show how to maintain healthy physical and emotional boundaries

NOT ONLY ARE cats “sensitive”, they’re also “communicative individuals” who respond to their human companions’ affectionate overtures. Sure, it might not be the bowl-you-over kind of love that dogs display, but in the restrained language of cats, even an upright tail or twitching ear speaks volumes when read correctly. Proof of this comes from a recent study by researchers at Paris Nanterre University, who published their findings in the journal *Animal Cognition*. They found that when cats hear a sentence spoken in the same tone by their human companion and by a stranger, they respond to the former while completely ignoring the latter. The conclusion: Cats do form bonds of affection with specific humans and don’t just use them, as anti-feline propaganda would have it, for food and shelter.

Cats have long suffered under the Garfield stereotype, perceived as self-centred creatures, not especially loyal or demonstrative. They don’t come when whistled to or fetch slippers and newspapers, they might hiss and swat even when a loving hand pets them without consent and they will, when overwhelmed by human attention, hide themselves away. But all that this means is that cats have a greater respect for their physical and emotional boundaries than most humans recognise.

If anything, the lesson to draw from the study’s conclusion is that to have a cat’s self-possession and ability to shut out the irrelevant is not such a bad thing. The world today is built to blur important lines — be it the one between work and leisure, noise and information, or society and private life. In such a world, cats offer a model of healthy boundaries for everyone to emulate.



RAMANATHAN KUMAR

ON OCTOBER 21, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, announced the removal of Pakistan from its “Grey List.” The announcement was expected.

The FATF, a 39-member inter-governmental organisation with its headquarters in Paris, was set up in 1989 by the Group of Seven (G7) countries with the aim of setting global standards for countering the menace of money laundering. Following the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, the objective of countering the financing of terrorism was added to the FATF’s mandate. Later, its objectives were further expanded to counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The FATF seeks to fulfill its three-pronged mandate by drawing up a list of guidelines. Known as the “FATF Recommendations” or “FATF Standards,” these are meant to “ensure a coordinated global response to prevent organised crime, corruption and terrorism.” They encompass a range of domestic legislative, regulatory and enforcement actions, as well as international cooperation measures, that states are expected to adopt and implement. The FATF and its associate, or regional, members such as the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) take their decisions on the basis of consensus. More than 200 countries and jurisdictions are committed to implementing the FATF’s recommendations.

The FATF monitors adherence to its recommendations by periodic evaluations of the anti-money laundering (AML), combating financing of terrorism (CFT) and proliferation financing (PF) regimes of member countries and jurisdictions which voluntarily submit to its monitoring. Countries which exhibit “strategic deficiencies” in their AML/CFT/PF regimes are placed under a scheme of “increased monitoring” informally known as “Grey Listing.” States placed under the “Grey List” are expected to swiftly put in place the requisite measures to address their deficiencies on the basis of “Action Plans” drawn up and evaluated through a process of consultation with the FATF.

States that exhibit “serious strategic deficiencies” in their AML/CFT/PF regimes are placed under a “Black List” formally known as “High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action.” While “Grey Listing” amounts to a warning, “Black Listing” entails serious economic consequences by making it incumbent on governments, international lenders and

FATF has removed Pakistan from its Grey List. But Delhi cannot afford to let down its guard

Although the threat of being moved from the ‘Grey List’ to the ‘Black List’ remained hanging over Pakistan’s head, this was never a realistic possibility, considering the likely opposition to any such move by Pakistan’s staunch friends in the FATF, such as China, Malaysia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. It was equally unrealistic to expect the US — which has studiously refrained from declaring Pakistan a ‘state sponsor of terrorism’ under American law despite the evidence in support of such a designation being overwhelming — to expend diplomatic capital on building a consensus that was bound to be resisted by the Chinese and others.



ADITI NAYAR

FROM A fiscal point of view, state governments are in a strong position to emerge as key drivers of economic growth this year. But while the availability of funds doesn’t appear to be a constraint, surprisingly, actual spending by states so far has been rather muted. Their ability to ramp up capital expenditure during the remainder of the year, and take advantage of the fiscal space that we believe they have, will be a key determinant of the aggregate fiscal impulse to the economy. This analysis is based on 13 major state governments — Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal — that account for 85 per cent of India’s GDP.

These 13 states had pegged their capital spending at Rs 5.8 trillion in 2022-23, a sharp uptick from the actual spending of Rs 4.1 trillion in 2021-22. Our estimates, however, suggest that these states actually have the fiscal space to ramp up capital spending significantly — roughly Rs 7.4 trillion this year — which would rival the central government’s budgeted capital expenditure for the year.

In order to estimate the capital outlay and net lending of these states, we have first calculated the resources that are likely to be available to them for funding their fiscal deficit. This includes the unconditional market borrowings of 3.5 per cent of their gross state do-

ROOM TO SPEND

States should utilise recently created fiscal space to ramp up capital spending

mestic product (GSDP), the additional borrowing linked to the completion of power sector reforms (0.5 per cent of GSDP) and the interest-free capex loan provided by the Centre. The latter was first launched by the Centre in October 2020-21 as part of the measures to support economic activity, but the government had stepped up allocation towards this scheme in 2022-23 to Rs 1 trillion from around Rs 150 billion in the previous two years. This amount is being given to states as an interest-free loan for 50 years, and is over and above their normal borrowing ceiling.

The estimated resource flows from these channels are then reduced by their off-budget debt which is to be adjusted in 2022-23, and the projected revenue deficit for the year.

The off-budget borrowings by states refer to loans taken by its entities, special purpose vehicles, etc., which are expected to be serviced through the state government’s own budget, instead of the cash flows or revenues generated by the borrowing entity. The Union government has recently clarified that henceforth, off-budget borrowings would be considered as borrowing of the state government and would be subject to the provisions of Article 293(3) of the Constitution of India. The Centre would be adjusting the incremental off-budget borrowings raised by the state governments in 2021-22 from their net borrowing ceiling over a one to four-year period, be-

ginning in 2022-23 and ending in 2025-26.

Alongside, ICRA estimates the combined revenue deficit of these states at Rs 2.1 trillion, higher than what has been budgeted for. While tax devolution as well as GST compensation grants are likely to exceed the amount budgeted by the states this year, this will not fully offset the estimated shortfall in other revenues and the projected higher-than-budgeted revenue expenditure in this year.

Based on this, we assess that the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal will have adequate resources to fully fund and/or exceed their budgeted capex this year. For others, however, that may not be the case. Regardless, actual capital spending by these states in the first few months of the year has been rather disappointing. We thus remain circumspect about whether their capex will exceed the budgeted level, despite ample fiscal space to do so.

With the global economic environment taking a turn for the worse, demand slowing down in advanced economies and continued aggressive monetary tightening by central banks, how effectively states ramp up their spending will have a critical bearing on the pace the Indian economy grows at in the second half of the year.

The writer is Chief Economist, ICRA Limited

OCTOBER 27, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

AMRITSAR BLAST

ONE PERSON WAS killed and several others injured when a grenade was thrown at a religious procession taken out on the eve of Dussehra in front of the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The dead could not be identified. The injured included the Superintendent of Police and 18 other police, CRPF and Punjab Armed Police personnel. On-the-spot inquiries failed to confirm the persons responsible for throwing the grenade. Tension also spread in the city when a young Nihang, Balwant Singh, shot at by the deputy superintendent of police, Lajwant Singh, later died in the Guru Tegh Bahadur hospital.

ASSAM ELECTIONS

THE ASSAM STUDENTS Union leaders reiterated that elections would not be allowed to be held for the state assembly next March without a solution to the foreign nationals problem. The AASU leaders said that though the Congress-S, CPM and CPI leaders voiced their reservations on postponement of elections, most opposition leaders agreed that elections should not be imposed.

PAKISTAN’S ROCKETS

PAKISTAN HAS SET up a rocket manufacturing plant at Karachi to monitor high altitude

in space, Radio Pakistan reported. The plant would also help communication through satellites, the radio said.

PEACE PLANS

THE ISLAMIC PEACE Commission has achieved “some progress” towards ending the two-year-old Iran-Iraq war, the Iraqi News Agency reported. A foreign ministry spokesman, told INA, “the proposals which call for an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal of the forces of both countries to internationally recognised borders, suggested the deployment of forces of observers from the members of the Islamic conference.”

THE IDEAS PAGE

Building a better architect

Architects must do more to ensure safety and welfare of construction workers. They cannot pass the buck



FAHAD ZUBERI

In Pradip Krishen's film, *In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones* — a comedy on the life of an architecture student — Radha, played by Arundhati Roy, is a rebellious design student in her early twenties. Bent over a drawing board with a cigarette in her mouth, Radha writes her graduation thesis on the disparity between the life of architects and construction workers. "This year's bleeding-heart thesis!" remarks Bilimoria, the professor. "Do you really think the jury is interested in this claptrap? We all feel this guilt, but that's separate from your professional skills as a designer, don't confuse the two... the jury wants results — plans, sections, elevations!" he insists.

Last week, *The Indian Express* published an investigative report on the death of construction workers in FIFA-related projects in Doha. In another report by *The Guardian*, published in 2014, Zaha Hadid, the architect of one of the projects — the Al Janoub Football Stadium — was asked about the death of construction workers there. Hadid responded by saying that although she is concerned about these deaths, just as she is concerned about this problem across the world, her firm has "nothing to do with the workers", and that it is an issue that the Qatari government should take up.

Hadid was not legally wrong about this. Issues of site safety and construction worker welfare are not covered under an architect's contract (or training). She was not wrong to say that worker safety and welfare is outside her scope of work. But she was dishonest to imply that she has no power to do anything about it.

While architects have less agency in the ecosystem of construction than large construction firms, developers, and the government, they have far more agency and influence than the socio-economically handicapped workers and citizen activists. Architects and their clients are the two most powerful non-governmental entities in the construction industry and as influential actors, for architects to pass the buck on worker safety is a matter of shame and calls for introspection.

There has been some discourse around the role of ethics in the practice of architecture. In his essays and lectures, Bangalore-based architect Prem Chandavarkar has argued for changes in the teaching of architecture to include exploration of ethics and morality in practice. Bombay-based architect Brinda Somaya ensures that building on-site temporary creches and schools for the kids of construction workers is included in her projects. But such practices are a tiny minority.

The hegemonic thought in the practice of architecture is that professionalism is cold and rational, and that professional practice is dissociated from social concerns such as workers' rights. "Don't confuse the two", as the professor says to Radha.

This is not true. A profession creates its own values which follow the larger moral



C R Sasikumar

zeitgeist of society. Architects are not the only professionals who have come under ethical scrutiny. Fashion designers have been questioned about their engagement with the exploitative garment sweatshops. While most luxury brands have maintained the status quo, for many designers, sourcing their products through ethical channels is a matter of market value. We have seen a similar discourse in the food retail industry and similar scrutiny in the practice of medicine.

The values of professionalism can be gradually created through discourse in the arenas of practice and education. Somaya's practice proves that influential architects are indeed capable of making changes in realms that might legally be outside their scope of work — the welfare of construction workers' children, in her case. Senior architects and large firms do hold sway over builders and the construction industry. They must lead the change and set standards for others to follow.

Secondly, a discussion around these values must be generated in academic spaces. Students' work in design schools is (rightly) very exploratory — bordering on fantasy, sometimes. Construction workers' rights are still closer to the reality of architectural practice than growing mangroves on building terraces or designing a colony on Mars, and educators in design schools must encourage students to explore questions of social ethics. While one does come across the occasional "deployable housing for construction workers" project, the exercise is still more rooted in design than in practice.

Students rarely explore questions such as pushing the agenda of workers' rights in the industry through their clients and contractors. The scope of work is still seen through the limiting lens of contractual re-

A profession creates its own values which follow the larger moral zeitgeist of society. Architects are not the only professionals who have come under ethical scrutiny. Fashion designers have been questioned about their engagement with the exploitative garment sweatshops. While most luxury brands have maintained the status quo, for many designers, sourcing their products through ethical channels is a matter of market value. We have seen a similar discourse in the food retail industry and similar scrutiny in the practice of medicine.

sponsibilities, and while architects can design an efficient structure that gives housing to workers, the more important thing is not the design of such housing but critiquing the fundamental structure of the ecosystem. Conferences and seminars, which also allow for exploration and are relatively sealed off from the economic pressures of the construction industry, are also spaces that need to investigate the role of architects in the issue of construction workers' rights.

Some governments in India have also taken steps to make life a bit easier for construction workers. In August, the Delhi government launched mobile day-care centres and "Doctor on Wheels" to provide creche facilities, regular health check-ups and first aid to construction workers. It has also taken significant steps in revamping the deteriorating Delhi Construction Board. Some construction companies in Karnataka and Maharashtra have also collaborated with NGOs such as Mobile Creches. Why should architects be bystanders?

In denying her responsibility for construction workers' welfare, Hadid followed Bilimoria's advice to Radha in *In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones*. She kept her sympathy towards the construction workers separate from her role as a designer. Her firm has successfully completed the project, while in the film, Radha was threatened with failure by the jury. It boils down to what we take as virtues and vices. All virtues are created over time. If a certain virtue does not exist in the practice at the moment, architects can create it. There is no reason to maintain the status quo.

The writer is an independent scholar and researcher of Architecture and City Studies

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"It is hoped that the US can fully and accurately receive the signals the 20th CPC National Congress has sent out, correct its strategic perception of China, meet China halfway, and push China-US relations back to the track of healthy and stable development."
— GLOBAL TIMES

On the brink, together

The climate crisis is getting worse. The EU, India and global community must join hands and act now



UGO ASTUTO

AFTER A DEVASTATING pandemic, the world is now grappling with a global energy crisis, triggered by Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the weaponising of energy supplies. Against this background, the climate crisis is getting worse by the day, as we face catastrophic extreme weather events. Global warming is fast approaching the 1.5 degrees level we have pledged to avoid. This is a tipping point that threatens lives and livelihoods across our entire planet.

The disruptive and increasingly lethal effects of unsustainable production and consumption patterns are by now beyond doubt, from degraded ecosystems, disappearing forests, collapsing glaciers to receding shorelines, heatwaves and floods. If we want our children to inherit a habitable world, we have to change the paradigm of our economic models. The changes we face are inescapable. No individual can stop climate change. Try as you may, you cannot negotiate a settlement with planet Earth. Yet, rather than fuelling despair, apathy or resignation, we must create hope and show determination to act for the climate. The solutions and technologies are well within reach but we must plan, invest decisively, and most importantly, act now, leaving no one behind. Time is not on our side.

At the COP27 climate conference in November 2022, the international community and each country individually must set out what it has done and intends to do to limit the increase of global temperature to 1.5 degrees. In the EU, our commitments are fixed by law: We will cut emissions by at least 55 per cent by 2030 and reach climate neutrality by 2050. India has also set very ambitious targets, including massive investments in renewables.

The EU does not claim to have all the answers, and we are eager to hear how others are pursuing their own climate ambitions.

We recognise that governments have a responsibility to ensure reliable and affordable energy services for their populations and economies. We know that the fastest way to deliver this — while creating jobs and lowering the long-term cost of energy — is to massively increase investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and in the resilience and flexibility of our energy systems.

In Europe, we are taking action on this with the Green Deal. At the same time, we have had to put in place exceptional measures to cope with the energy crisis provoked as a consequence of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The EU had to postpone some of the decommissioning of coal-fired power plants as a temporary emergency measure for the coming winter. But our climate commitments for 2030 and 2050 are not endangered. National coal phase out dates remain unchanged; we are implementing much stricter energy efficiency targets and we will move much more

swiftly to adopt renewable energy, using less gas than initially expected. In short, our overall climate commitments are not in jeopardy. To the contrary, we have increased our ambition for renewables deployment this decade.

As Russia's unjustified war of aggression in Ukraine and expensive fossil fuel imports are increasing our energy bills, this has increased in Europe our citizens' appetite for getting rid of fossil fuels as fast as possible.

It is clear that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts those who have the least, in the Global South but also in Europe. As climate change progresses, millions are at risk of losing their homes, water supply, livelihoods and even their lives, as witnessed also this year with extreme weather events in South Asia, Europe and elsewhere. Around the world, we need to put our forces together, accelerate mitigation measures to tackle the problem at the source, while ensuring a just transition for all. In parallel, we need to do more to support adaptation to climate change, and to avert and address loss and damage. Mitigation and adaptation must progress hand in hand.

The EU continues to be the world's biggest donor of climate finance — providing almost \$28 billion in 2020 — and of humanitarian support. European countries will intensify their efforts, but this crisis can be addressed only through a cohesive and consistent response of the international community as a whole, in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity. Efforts and buy-in of all countries are needed, especially major emitters, alongside a massive mobilisation of private finance to complement public funds.

India is a key partner in the fight against climate change. The ambitious announcements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Glasgow helped to keep the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement within reach. Ambitious long-term strategies will be key to the success of the COP27.

The EU is keen to step up its collaboration with India on the implementation of the Paris Agreement and on ensuring a more resilient and diversified supply chain for the energy sector. The EU and its Member States already work together with India on energy efficiency, renewable energy, smart grids and storage, green hydrogen, e-mobility, just energy transition and decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors. The EU has also strengthened its engagement with the India-based International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. Climate action has become a central feature of the strategic partnership between the EU and India, for a green and a resilient future.

It is time to join hands and to show even more ambition. We must demonstrate success through actual and effective implementation, influencing our peers, and persuading actors at all levels — from the UN to the individual — to do what they can. Future generations will judge us on what we do. So, let's do it right and let's do it now, together.

This article has been written by Ugo Astuto, European Union Ambassador to India and Ambassadors and High Commissioners of the 27 EU Member States



GARGI MISHRA AND BROTOTI DUTTA

A law for parenthood

Judiciary has a chance to expand scope of reproductive rights. It must take it

THE SURROGACY (REGULATION) Act 2021 and the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act 2021 (ART Act) came into force early this year. The Acts aim to regulate the multimillion-dollar industry of reproductive medicine, stipulate who can access assisted reproductive technologies and procedures such as in vitro fertilisation and surrogacy, the conditions under which gamete donation and surrogacy can take place, and specify requirements for clinics to operate.

The Acts allow only married infertile couples and certain categories of women to avail of ARTs and surrogacy. Sale of gametes and any payment to the surrogate mother, other than insurance coverage and medical expenses, has been prohibited. Clinics and banks offering ART procedures have to be registered.

Reproductive technologies allow people who are unable to conceive or achieve pregnancy, for medical and non-medical reasons, to have biological children. Inequities in access to healthcare, including infertility care, are pervasive and disproportionately impact persons from marginalised contexts. Equitable access to infertility care, including reproductive technologies, is part of the full spectrum of reproductive rights, including the right to make decisions about one's reproductive life, to health, and to equality and non-discrimination. In India, ARTs are offered by an expensive privatised medical industry that was unregulated for decades. The technologies can be used to transform traditional notions of family and strengthen the status of same-sex

and other queer couples by expanding the ability to reproduce beyond heterosexual marital unions. Use of ARTs can also entrench notions of genetic parenthood as the "true" form of parenthood. ARTs provoke complex legal, ethical and social dilemmas, and their regulation requires consideration and balancing of conflicting interests and values.

Petitions against the Acts have now been filed before the Supreme Court and Delhi High Court by an IVF specialist and persons desiring to become parents, respectively. Both petitions challenge the Acts as being discriminatory and violative of reproductive autonomy and choice by denying access to ARTs to single persons and people in live-in and same-sex relationships. The petitions also oppose the ban on commercial surrogacy, arguing that it is unreasonable and deprives surrogate mothers of reproductive agency.

The petition before the SC raises valid questions about the Acts' feasibility and workability. The availability of donor oocytes, considered fundamental for many ART procedures, is also in question since a limited number of oocytes can be retrieved and women can be oocyte donors only once. Such stipulations have been imposed to protect oocyte donors from health risks and exploitation, but they also imperil the ability of people to have children through ARTs. Shortage of oocytes due to regulatory pressures may lead to a shadow market of gametes. The ART Act also requires the oocyte donor to share their Aadhaar number, which threatens the donors' privacy.

The question of whether commercial surrogacy should be allowed is a particularly thorny issue. Prior to 2016, guidelines and bills allowed compensated surrogacy but in 2016 a significant shift occurred when the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill and subsequent bills prohibited commercial surrogacy. A Parliamentary Standing Committee in 2017 recommended compensated surrogacy and stated that mandating altruistic surrogacy was based on moralistic and paternalistic assumptions, and expecting free reproductive labour from women was "grossly unfair and arbitrary". The committee relied on the testimonies of surrogates who deposed before it. The women said that they chose to engage in commercial surrogacy because other livelihood options such as domestic or garment factory work were more exploitative, and surrogacy provided them with enough remuneration to positively benefit their families. However, a Parliamentary Select Committee which examined the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019 took the stand that commercial surrogacy was unethical and antithetical to the "noble" and "selfless" instinct of motherhood. The voices of persons acting as surrogates are conspicuously absent in the report. The petitions before the courts are a valuable opportunity to re-examine the ban on commercial surrogacy. At the minimum, persons acting as surrogates should have their voices reflected in this process.

The Delhi High Court petition also raises the question of whether surrogacy should be

an option for those who can biologically conceive but choose not to. One of the petitioners is a married woman without a medical indication of infertility, thus ineligible under the law, who wants to have a second child through surrogacy. She has spoken about her wish to pursue surrogacy because of the difficulties of her first pregnancy and her desire to focus on her career and health. Pregnancy and childbirth are a risky and often harrowing experience. And, in a society that offers little to no support for working women, choosing to become a mother also means taking a break from work or leaving work altogether. Surrogacy in cases as the one raised by the petition raises stark questions of privilege, exploitation and work. It makes one ask whether women should be forced to choose between their livelihood and childbearing and caregiving, and which women should bear the costs and burdens of that choice.

The Surrogacy and ART Acts have not adequately addressed or settled these and more questions. The SC and Delhi HC now have the opportunity to assess the Acts through the framework of reproductive rights and justice, and extend recent constitutional jurisprudence on the right to privacy, reproductive autonomy, and recognition of non-traditional families.

Mishra is Research and Advocacy Officer at the Center for Health Equity, Law and Policy at ILS Pune, and Dutta is the India Advocacy Adviser for Center for Reproductive Rights

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A FINE PIECE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Chup kar diya na sabko?' (IE, October 26). I have never before read the sports page with as much interest as I have in today's Indian Express: viz. Ravi Shastri speaking to Sriram Veera the day after the Indo-Pak T20 World Cup game. It is a prize literary piece straight from the heart! I only know of Ravi Shastri as a great cricketer and a superb coach. But the record of the interview is brilliant.

Fali S Nariman, New Delhi

TORY'S GAME

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'PM Rishi Sunak' (IE, October 26). Rishi Sunak is the "sacrificial pig" for many in the Conservative Party who supported him in his bid to become UK's Prime Minister. The logic is the same as when Liz Truss was elected PM over Sunak. None of the Tory MPs would want the PM's chair, given the financial mess that the country is in. Sunak admittedly has the best credentials for the job. Once he steers the UK out of the economic quagmire they are in, Tory MPs' approach to him will probably turn hostile. He should take up the challenge and show the people of the UK that a man of colour can do a stupendous job.

S Kamat, Goa

XI'S POWER

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Of, by and for Xi' (IE, October 26). Sooner rather

than later, the Chinese Communist party will have to deal with the external forces of modernity challenging its doctrinal rigidity. In any case, in this fight against the West, China will need middling powers like India to remain neutral. Its current antagonism with India on the LAC is a strategic blunder. India can exploit this scenario to its advantage if it plays its cards right.

HN Bhagwat, Chiplun

WRONG CALL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Still grey' (IE, October 26). It is shocking that Pakistan has been taken off the FATF grey list. It depicts a lack of sincerity on the US' part in walking the talk on terrorism. It also raises serious questions on the credibility of the UN. As far as India is concerned, we will have to continue fighting our own battle and manage our own backyard.

Bal Govind, Noida

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Still grey' (IE, October 26). For some time now, many have been writing off Pakistan as a player in regional and international affairs, and believed that its domestic troubles will reduce its salience to the West. But, post the US retreat from Afghanistan, Pakistan's strategic significance has been renewed. It is also important to remember that all the talk of Western support for democracy has historically been little more than propaganda.

Biswadeep Chatterjee, via email

BRIEFLY

NEW DELHI

Chit fund scam: Private firm director held

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested the director of a private firm in an ongoing investigation of a case registered in 2018 in connection with a chit fund scam. The accused, Sanjoy Kumar Singh, is the director of Tulips Infonet (India) Pvt Ltd. "Singh in conspiracy with Soumyarup Bhowmik had illegally transferred Rs 419.9 lakh from the trust account and misappropriated the same," a CBI spokesperson said. The accused will be produced before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Paschim Bardhaman, at Asansol (West Bengal). Sources said the CBI will seek a two-week custodial remand of the accused. **PTI**

NEW DELHI

India gets two more 'blue beaches'

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed delight at two more Indian beaches — Minicoy, Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach in Lakshadweep — being certified as "blue beaches". "This is great! Congratulations, particularly to the people of Lakshadweep, for this feat. India's coastline is remarkable and there is also a great amount of passion among our people to further coastal cleanliness," he tweeted. **PTI**

MAHARASHTRA

Factory blast: 3 killed, 12 injured

Palghar: At least three workers were killed and 12 injured in a blast at a chemical factory at Tarapur MIDC in Boisar town of Palghar district on Wednesday, officials said. The incident occurred at 4.20pm at the unit that produces gamma acid used in the textile industry, they said. The intensity of the blast was such that the roof of the plant ripped off. Police will seek technical support to probe the incident. **PTI**

HC rejects default bail plea of key accused in Gauri Lankesh killing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 26

THE KARNATAKA High Court has rejected the bail plea of a key accused in the murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh, who had sought default bail under CrPc Section 167 (2), claiming that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the murder did not file a charge sheet within 90 days of his arrest on January 9, 2020.

HC ruled that Hrishikesh Devadikar, 41, cannot seek relief under CrPc Section 167 (2) since SIT had filed a charge sheet against him before his arrest and had sought an extension of 90 days to file an additional charge sheet, as prescribed by Karnataka Control of Organized Crime Act, 2000.

Devadikar went absconding after Lankesh, 55, was shot dead outside her Bengaluru home on September 5, 2017. Arrested from Jharkhand in January 2020 by SIT, he had moved HC this year with the application for default bail.

The single-judge bench of Justice Suraj Govindaraj pointed out in its order of October 21 that SIT filed the additional charge sheet against Devadikar a month in advance of the 180 days available to it. He ruled that SIT submitted an additional charge sheet against Devadikar on June 25, 2020 — "within the said extended period" — and, thus, "there is no question of statutory/default bail". Devadikar, alias Murali, is linked to radical Hindutva group Sanatan Sanstha and its affiliate Hindu Janajagruti Samiti. He was named as accused number 18 in SIT's charge sheet.



Policemen search a vehicle in Coimbatore on Wednesday. Security has been increased after last week's car blast. **PTI**

Cylinder blast near Coimbatore temple: TN govt seeks NIA probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 26

A DAY after invoking the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday decided to seek an NIA probe into the LPG cylinder blast inside a vehicle, near a temple in Coimbatore, early on Sunday.

An engineering graduate, identified as Jameesha Mubin, 25, who was in the vehicle, was killed in the blast. In 2019, Mubin was "examined" by the NIA for suspected ties to a radical network linked to Zahran Hashim, alleged mastermind of the 2019 Easter Sunday blasts in Sri Lanka.

Earlier, Director General of Police C Sylendra Babu had said that Mubin may have been planning an attack. He had said they were considering all possibilities, and were not ruling out a terror plot either.

Five persons — Mohammad Dhalha (25), Mohammad Azarudheen (25), Mohammad Riyaz (27), Feroz Ismail (27) and Mohammad Navaz Ismail (27), all



Five persons have been arrested and charged under UAPA. **PTI**

from Coimbatore district — have since been arrested and charged under UAPA.

Following a high-level meeting held by Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday morning, the state government said it "decided to recommend to the Union Government to direct the National Investigation Agency to take over investigation in the case, keeping in mind the possible national and international ramifications".

Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu, Home Secretary K Phanindra Reddy, DGP Babu, and ADGP (Intelligence) Davidson Devasirvatham were among those who attended the meeting.

Police had said they had recovered "low-intensive" explosive materials including potassium nitrate, sulphur and charcoal from Mubin's house. According to police, 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. Police had said the vehicle had two LPG cylinders and three big containers, but the contents of the containers could be confirmed only after getting the forensic report.

At the meeting on Wednesday, a decision was also taken to create a special force to stop such incidents and install cutting-edge security cameras in populous areas and big cities like Chennai and Coimbatore, said the state government.

Deployment of more officers to the intelligence division, security to those who provide information on people who engage in anti-social behaviour, and building three new police stations in Coimbatore neighbourhoods of Karumbu Kadai, Koundampalayam and Sundarapuram were among other decisions taken in the meeting.

In a first, UNSC's Counter Terrorism Committee to meet in India this week

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

INDIA IS hosting a special meeting of the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC), which will discuss the overarching theme of 'Countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes'. The panel will also discuss terror-financing through crypto-currency and use of drones in the new-age terrorism.

This will be the first such meeting of the UNSC-CTC in India since its establishment in 2001. The Permanent Representative of India to the UN serves as the Chair of the CTC for 2022.

Announcing this, Foreign Ministry Secretary (West) Sanjay Verma said, "A special meeting of the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) will be hosted in Mumbai and Delhi on October 28 and 29, 2022, respectively, on the overarching theme of 'Countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes'."

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, along with representatives of the UNSC member states (15 current and incoming five), and senior UN officials will lay a wreath at the 26/11 memorial site in Mumbai and observe a minute's silence in memory of the victims.

According to Verma, the meeting will begin with a 'soft opening session and tribute to the victims

EXPLAINED Tackling terror

USE OF emerging technologies for spreading terror is an issue of increasing concern across the globe. Mindful of the increasing threat posed by misuse of new and emerging technologies, as well as the many positive uses of technologies for countering terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee proposes to hold this special meeting in India for the first time.

of terrorism' through a solemn ceremony at Hotel Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai on October 28. The discussions will continue in Delhi on October 29.

The meeting is expected to be attended by British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, along with his counterparts from Gabon and Ghana; and junior foreign ministers from UAE and Albania. The delegation will be led by Vladimir Voronkov, Under Secretary General, UN Office for Counter Terrorism. During the sessions in Mumbai, statements in memory of victims will be read out by Jaishankar, and President of the UNSC, Foreign Minister of Gabon. The discussions will focus on 'Countering terrorist exploita-

Channel, anchor pulled up for turning debate into 'communal issue'

DIVYAA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

THE NEWS Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA), a self-regulatory agency set up by news and digital broadcasters, has pulled up News18 India for turning a news debate on hijab into a "communal issue" and imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on the channel for not adhering to guidelines.

The NBDSA also directed the channel to remove the video of the programme from its website and all platforms.

Justice A K Sikri (ret'd), chairperson of NBDSA, stated in the order dated October 21 that in case "such violations are repeated in future, it may have to direct the broadcaster to ensure the presence of the anchor Mr Aman Chopra before NBDSA."

Chopra was not available for a comment.

On Chopra's failure to contain other panelists from crossing the line, the order said, "The anchor had not only acted in flagrant disrespect of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards and the Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage but also failed to abide by the decision of Hon'ble Bombay High Court in Nilesh Navalakha & Anr. vs. Union of India & Ors (2021) SCC Online BOM 56, which enjoins an anchor to apply his/her mind and avoid the programme from drifting beyond permissible limits, including

by muting the speaker who flies off the tangent."

In his complaint, Indrajeet Ghorpade had stated that in the show aired on April 6, the anchor made inflammatory statements against Muslim panelists. The complaint mentioned that tickers like "#AlQaedaGangExposed", "Al Zawahiri found behind the hijab" and "Al Qaeda has planned hijab controversy" were used.

The broadcaster submitted that it had reported facts publicly available and widely reported by other outlets about the hijab row. It also submitted that in the programme, it had questioned the motives of Al Zawahiri, and had not made any comment in reference to the girls who were raising their voice in support of hijab.

The NBDSA, which adjudicates upon complaints about broadcasts, said it did not have any problem with the subject but on the narrative of the debate. In its order, NBDSA noted that it was permissible for the broadcaster to have a debate on students wearing hijab in educational institutions after the issue was decided by Karnataka HC. It was also open for the channel to discuss if some hidden international forces were inciting people, it said.

The NBDSA rejected the channel's submission that terms such as "Hijabi Gang" and "Zawahiri gang" were used only in respect of "invisible powers behind the controversy", and not in respect of the students.

Woman killed, 22 injured as oil tanker catches fire after mishap

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 26

A 20-YEAR-OLD woman was killed and 22 others sustained injuries after a tanker carrying petrol and diesel overturned and caught fire in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district on Wednesday morning.

The incident occurred on Wednesday morning when the tanker carrying nearly 8,000 litres of petrol and 4,000 litres of diesel in separate compartments overturned and caught fire near Anjananga, 30-km away from Khargone city.

According to district officials, residents of nearby villages rushed to the spot to collect leaking petrol and diesel and at least 23 of them sustained injuries in the fire. Several vessels were found lying on the ground. The deceased woman was identified as Ranganbhai (20).

District Collector Kumar Purshottam said the BPCL tanker was filled in Indore and was heading to refill petrol stations when it overturned. "Of the 23 injured, 17 with considerable burns have been sent to Indore's MY Hospital while others are being treated in Khargone. One person was killed in the accident and at least six people are in critical condition," the collector said.

Month after his PMAY house razed, tribal man hangs self in MP; probe ordered

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 26

OVER A month after his under-construction house sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) was demolished by the Forest officials, Dhyan Singh Daver (45), an Adivasi from Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district, allegedly died by suicide on Tuesday afternoon. He hanged himself from a tree near a makeshift tent that the family was using as a shelter, prompting the Khargone collector to order a magisterial probe.

As the news of Dhyan Singh's death spread, members of Jai Adivasi Yuva Shakti (JAYS) staged a protest, blocking a road by placing the body, demanding that a case of abetment to suicide be registered against the forest officials.

They lifted the blockade only after Khargone District Collector Kumar Purshottam ordered a magisterial inquiry to be conducted by Kasrawad Sub-Divisional Magistrate Agrim Kumar with a 15-day deadline to submit the report. "Based on the findings of the report, action will be taken against those found guilty," said Purshottam.

Dhyan Singh of Navalpura village in Khargone's Kasrawad took the extreme step when his wife and son had gone to the collector to respond to a September 19 show-cause notice issued by the Forest Department. The notice stated that he was encroaching upon 0.010 hectares of forestland — a violation of Section 26 (1) of Indian Forest Act. He was asked to submit his reply by October 26 as to why further action shouldn't be taken against him.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Dhyan Singh's son Raju said their family of five had been living in a makeshift house on the forestland in Navalpura for the past six years. Two months ago, they were sanctioned a house under PM Awas Yojana and also received two instalments of Rs 25,000 and Rs 50,000. However, the under-construction house was demolished in the last week of September.

"Forest officials came, assaulted my parents and demolished our partially constructed house. We tried to reach out to the district administration but no one paid heed. We did not cut any tree; we were living there like 15-20 others are," Raju said the notice was issued after the house was demolished.

On Tuesday afternoon, Raju, a daily wage, and his mother Ramti Bai had gone to Khargone to meet a lawyer to file a reply to the no-

tice. "We had just reached there when I got a call from my grandfather that my father had hanged himself from a tree. My father had called my grandfather to tell him that he was tired of the ongoing harassment," said Raju.

Dayaram Korku, a tribal leader affiliated with JAYS, said: "After the family was assaulted in September, they were pressured to not report the matter. We also got them medically examined that confirmed minor injuries."

On September 30, JAYS in-charge of Khargone district Kolu Khode wrote to the authorities for permission to stage a protest against the assault on the family and demolition of their house. "The officials did not grant us permission to protest and kept on dilly-dallying a discussion on demolition of Dhyan Singh's house," said Korku.



In March, the Russia-Ukraine war forced nearly 20,000 Indian students studying medicine in Ukraine to return home. **File**

the country to leave in view of the "deteriorating security situation". It was around seven months ago, in March, that the Russia-Ukraine war forced nearly 20,000 Indian students studying medicine in Ukraine to return home. Since September, an estimated 1,000 students who fled

the war have returned to Ukraine to resume their education.

The latest set of advisories come amid stepped-up hostilities — the air strikes and missile attacks are now targeting the relatively safer western Ukraine cities of Lviv and Ternopil — and Russia's claim that it suspected Ukraine of plan-

ning to use a so-called "dirty bomb" laced with nuclear material. With Western countries rejecting Russia's allegation as a pretext for intensifying the eight-month-long war, many fear the worst is probably not over yet.

But as the fifth-year Lviv student said, for Indians in Ukraine, the situation doesn't offer them much of a choice. "We are not getting admission in India and countries such as Hungary, Poland, Georgia and Russia, where we are being offered transfers, are far more expensive than Ukraine. We cannot afford to pay our fee again. The government of India is well aware that we do not have any other option but to stay back in Ukraine... And even if we were to return to India, would our parents let us go back to Ukraine? Not at all. So what option do we have? Most of the students who have decided to stay back in Ukraine are in their fifth or sixth year. It's not

easy to start from scratch," he said.

Anurag Krishna, a fourth-year student of Vinnytsya National Medical University, said he has no plans of returning to India. "We have to watch for some time. I might shift to some safe place if the situation worsens. But currently we are attending our classes and concentrating on completing our degrees. Indian authorities know very well that we really don't have any other option."

Kritika Suman, a fourth-year student of Ivano-Frankivsk Medical University who is from Bihar, said, "What option do we have? Come back to India and then go back to Ukraine again? It's easier said than done. We might temporarily move to Hungary or Romania if the situation worsens in Ivano [western Ukraine], but at the moment, it's quite okay here."

Meanwhile, despite the MEA advisories, students say many of their friends have been returning

to Ukraine. "Twelve students arrived in Kyiv on Tuesday, a day after Diwali. More are expected to arrive now that the festivities are over," said a student.

Onkar Dhale, 19, a second-year student at Ukraine's Bukovinian State Medical University, is set to leave his home in Ahmednagar district for medical college on November 4. He plans to fly Mumbai-Istanbul and from there to Moldova, from where he will proceed to Chernivtsi, Ukraine, by bus or taxi.

Dhale says he is aware of the Centre's advisory, but isn't changing his plans. "The government has left us with no other option. They cannot give us admission in colleges here and they say they won't recognise our degrees if we don't complete 54 months of off-line classes. My parents have spent lakhs already. Thirteen students from our batch have already reached there," he said.

2 RPF cops killed after being hit by Duronto Express

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MORENA, OCTOBER 26

TWO HEAD constables of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) were killed after being hit by a speeding train in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district, an official said on Wednesday.

The incident took place around 8 pm on Tuesday at Sank railway station, seven km from Morena, when the victims were checking the Gwalior-Agra passenger train which had halted there, Morena RPF police station in-charge Harikishan Meena said.

Head constables Ashok Kumar (56) and Navraj Singh (40) were hit by the Duronto Express while they were on the middle track to check the stationary passenger train, he said. The victims could not run to safety as a goods train had halted on the other side track, he said.

The two cops died on the spot, the official said. A probe is on.

Finance directive to rural banks: staff security in J&K, HR issues a priority

MIHIR MISHRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

ABOUT A month after a non-local manager in a regional rural bank in South Kashmir's Kulgam district was killed on June 2 by militants, the Union Ministry of Finance directed the managements of RRBs and their sponsors to address the safety concerns of employees in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on a priority basis.

The directive issued by the ministry was accompanied by a broader direction to the RRBs to undertake a region-wise review "to understand their regional and local issues", reveal the minutes of a July 7 meeting chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, obtained by *The Indian Express* through an RTI.

The meeting was attended by

Minister of State (Finance) Bhagwat K. Karad and Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, senior officials of the Department of Financial Services, senior bank officials of RRBs and scheduled commercial banks.

On June 2, militants killed Rajasthan native Vijay Kumar Beniwal, a manager at the SBI-affiliated Ellaquai Dehati Bank (EDB) inside his chamber in Kulgam district. Another Grameen Bank employee - Vivek Kumar - was attacked outside his bank in the Pattan area in Baramulla on October 3, the day Union Home Minister Amit Shah commenced his three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir. Vivek Kumar, however, escaped unhurt.

"Concerns of banking personnel working in the UT of J&K with regard to their safety and HR is-

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW
AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

sues are to be addressed on priority basis," the minutes of the meeting said. "There is a need to undertake region-wise review of RRBs to understand their regional and local issues," according to the minutes of the meeting.

J&K has two RRBs - EDB and J&K Grameen Bank - with a branch strength of 343 across the state. It is estimated that around 200 non-local Grameen Bank employees are posted across the Kashmir region. An RRB official said non-local employees were averse to being posted in far flung areas and wanted to work closer

to urban establishments.

"There is a request to transfer non-local staff from far flung areas in the state to areas closer to urban establishments. There is no movement on that yet and employees continue to risk their lives," said an RRB employee. He said the problem is not just restricted to J&K, but there are instances and threats of employees being abducted and released for ransom in some states in the northeast too.

Recruitment of officers in RRBs is done through the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) that conducts a national exam for each rural bank. Based on the vacancy at a certain RRB, IBPS conducts an exam, where eligible candidates from across the country appear. Hence, a person from Rajasthan can end up working with an RRB in Kashmir upon qualifying the exam. The problem,

however, is that the rules do not allow transfers between RRBs, because of which the employees have to work in a particular state or region for their full tenure.

The ministry's diktat on undertaking a region-wise review of RRBs to understand their regional and local issues comes in the wake of a recent statement by the Nirmala Sitharaman on the need to depute officers who know the local language for customer facing banking sector jobs.

"What is the difficulty in learning a language? I am from the South. I do try to learn a bit of Hindi, however poor my delivery. As long as my karma bhoomi is here, I have to learn the language. I can't understand how IBA can entertain officers who get posted in an area and can't speak the area's language," she had said at an IBA event on September 16.

LG: Kashmiris should change their mindset, venture out for jobs

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

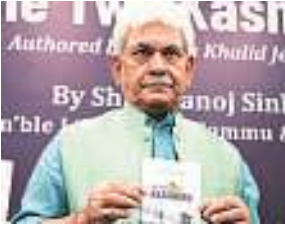
KASHMIRIS SHOULD not look for jobs in the Valley alone, but also venture out for opportunities, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday.

"There is peculiar social problem among Kashmiris. They don't want to go outside Kashmir. There is a Tata Technology Centre in Baramulla. I met 58 engineering graduates and post graduates. They had been trained in artificial intelligence, robotics, everything. But when I asked Tata guys how many of them were in job, they said 7. I was like what is the point of running a centre that can ensure jobs for only 7 out of 58. He said students were not ready to go outside of Kashmir. Kashmir needs to come out of this mindset," Sinha said.

He was speaking at an event to launch the book, "Two Kashmirs, A Comparative Analysis", by Sheikh Khalid Jehangir at Indian International Centre here.

Narrating a similar incident in Bandipora, Sinha said, "In Bandipora, the DM had organised a job fair. A Chennai-based mobile manufacturing company had come there and offered jobs to 18 people. Only two joined. So I wish to urge the Kashmir intelligentsia that it is important to create more opportunities in Kashmir and the same is being done, but we also need to go out and look for opportunities."

Under Sinha, according to his administration, investments of more than Rs 50,000 crore have been approved and as many as four corporates are setting up manufacturing units in the Valley that will generate thousands of jobs. Earlier, following the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, then Governor Satya Pal



J&K LG Manoj Sinha in New Delhi, Wednesday. Amit Mehra

Malik had announced that the administration would provide government jobs to 50,000 youth.

Sinha said that a lot of misinformation was being spread about Kashmir and foreign media was responsible for it. "They talk about democracy, but their contribution in spreading this misinformation is greater than Pakistan," Sinha said.

Ruling out talks with Pakistan on Kashmir, Sinha said, "Some people keep trying that nothing is set right in Kashmir until we engage with Pakistan. They are more dangerous than those directly associated with militancy. These are those people who feel that until a certain level of violence is maintained in the Valley, Delhi won't value them. But people have begun to understand these things."

Sinha also flagged the increasing age for marriage among women in Kashmir.

"The second social ill that I have recently observed is that the age of marriage is increasing in Kashmir. Terrorism has not just disturbed peace but also wrecked the economy, increased unemployment and pushed people into drugs. The average age of marriage of girls in Kashmir has gone up to 32 years. When asked about it people say they want to first economically secure themselves and build a house. We need to fight this together," he said.

LeT militant killed at LoC, Army says Pak trying to infuse terror

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26

AFTER A militant was killed while trying to cross the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara, the Army has said Pakistan is trying to "infuse terrorism in Kashmir" while putting on the "facade of ceasefire understanding".

The Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police foiled an infiltration attempt by militants on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Continued engagements along the Line of Control are uncanny reminders of efforts by Pakistan to infuse terrorism in Kashmir and disrupt peace and harmony while putting on the fa-

cade of ceasefire understanding," the defence spokesperson said in a statement. "Youth in PoJK (Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir) are being used as cannon fodder by Pakistan state policy from last three decades with a fruitless aim to constantly disrupt progress towards collective peace."

Police said militant who was killed was from the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), while his associate managed to flee back to other side of the LoC after a gunfight. The infiltration attempt took place on the LoC in Tangdhar area of frontier Kupwara district.

According to police, on Tuesday night, a joint team of Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Army launched a cordon and search operation in the forward

areas of Sudhpura in Tangdhar after specific inputs that militants might were to infiltrate.

Police said that during the search operation, an infiltrator was challenged by the joint party, and he started firing indiscriminately, leading to an encounter.

"In the ensuing encounter, one terrorist of proscribed terrorist outfit LeT was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter. He was identified as Mohammad Shakoor son of Mohammad Yaqoob, a resident of Syedpora Leepa (in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir)," police said.

While police mentioned only one militant, the Army said his associate managed to flee back.



ACCESSION DAY

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina and other party leaders pay tribute to the last Dogra monarch, Maharaja Hari Singh, on the occasion of Accession Day (Vijay Diwas), in Jammu on Wednesday. PTI

‘What has to be axiomatic is that Sri Lanka has to be mindful of India’s strategic interests’

Former Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Dr Indrajit Coomaraswamy analyses the island nation's economic crisis and the debt restructuring needed for IMF to release the \$2.9 billion package. The session was moderated by Nirupama Subramanian, National Editor, Strategic Affairs

EXPRESS
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Associate Partner

YOJNA IAS

On the Sri Lankan economy and status of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout

The gross external reserve level is just under \$1.8 billion but \$1.4 billion of that is a swap arrangement with the People's Bank of China, which is not very usable. You've got to have three months' worth of import cover before you can draw on that, so the reusable reserves are only about \$300 million. Of that about \$100 million account for Special Drawing Rights Holdings with the IMF. A little bit of gold is left after the sale of some gold stocks that the Central bank had. So actually it's about \$300 million that exists, and that's about a week's high imports.

On the positive side, the queues for fuel and cooking gas have largely disappeared and the 10-12 hour power outages are now down to just one or two hours. Food supplies are available. Affordability is a significant challenge with food price inflation running over 90 per cent and our overall inflation close to 70 per cent but the rate at which inflation has been rising is coming down. The Central Bank governor is of the view that we are now near the peak of inflation.

Various measures, including the very aggressive tightening of monetary policy through an increase in the policy rates of the central bank by about 700 basis points, are beginning to take hold. As you know, monetary policy becomes effective after a transmission lag. There also is a combination of policy measures and administration on the ground. Import restrictions have banned everything except the most essential imports now. The currency depreciation, the interest rate increase, the tax increases - all of that is compressing demand and bringing down imports. A QR-based rationing system has been brought in for fuel, which has been working quite effectively. There is a better balance between the demand and the supply of essential goods.

Measures to reduce inflation have meant that



(Left) Dr Indrajit Coomaraswamy and (right) Nirupama Subramanian

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

On China's debt trap and clashing with India over assistance to Sri Lanka

The President and others have been clear that India is like family and China is a very good friend. So we need to deal with both countries and we need their support. One thing that has to be axiomatic in Sri Lanka's foreign policy is that it has to be mindful of India's strategic interests. The narrative on the Chinese debt trap is unfounded as it's only ten per cent of the debt stock. We need to take advantage of China's capital but we must look for it in the form of equity.

On Indian investment opportunities

India gave funds to Sri Lanka as part of its "Neighbourhood First" policy. Historically, we have had proximity forever. However, the infrastructure in both countries has tended to be very poor until recently, so the transaction cost of doing cross-border business has been high. Now with infrastructural improvements, that's not a hurdle. Also if India becomes a global hub for supply chains, there will be opportunities for other countries in the region as well. Sri Lanka is now trying to implement free trade agreements.

the economy is expected to contract by over eight per cent. The IMF says 8.7 per cent, the World Bank says 9.4 per cent this year. In addition, the World Bank said in a recent report that the poverty ratio doubled between 2021 and 2022. About two-and-a-half million people have slipped below the poverty line and there are some protests even now but not at the scale we had earlier. So contraction of the economy and an increase in poverty levels are really longer-term challenges which have to be resolved. The government has to move from the IMF's staff-level agreement to a full Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme as fast as possible. For that, it has to present a debt restructuring package.

On debt restructuring talks with India, China and Japan

I want to acknowledge the tremendous assistance extended by the Indian Government and the Reserve Bank's \$4.8 billion emergency package which helped us tide over the crisis. The government has been saying that there has to be radio silence on the details of the debt restructuring but from the outside, I think one can say that progress has been made. Two things need to happen for the EFF. The official creditors, both bilateral and commercial, need to give an indication or re-assurance of financing. They need to say they are willing to provide sufficient liquidity to Sri Lanka. Then the Executive Board of the IMF needs to consider the staff-level agreement and finalise it. This will trigger the money flow. Engagements are on between bilateral donor countries and the government of Sri Lanka. The government would like to have a common coordination platform to get

the Paris club members, who are the traditional donor countries, the West plus Japan and the non-Paris club members, namely India and China. But here it's a positive role in protecting livelihoods and businesses during the pandemic because the government didn't have the fiscal space to do it, so the Central Bank stepped in and played a very important role.

We need revenue enhancement-based fiscal consolidation. The government has already introduced a number of fiscal measures to increase revenue and I think more are on the anvil in November when the next year's budget is announced in Parliament. The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other donors are repurposing existing loans to strengthen social protection. We have to improve the targeting and design of the social cash transfer programmes. The Samurdhi programme is the main cash transfer programme but it is highly politicised. An academic has suggested a very good way of identifying the target group and that is to look at electricity consumption. About 98 per cent of households in Sri Lanka are linked to the National Grid. Like India, we need to get our digital ID going to transfer the money directly into the accounts of the beneficiaries so that the leakages can be reduced and administration costs brought down.

On the crisis of 2020 and the role of the Sri Lanka central bank

One is with the tax cuts and the very sharp reduction in revenue. The only way salaries and pensions could be paid was with the central bank essentially printing the money, and as you know if you print that much, you have inflation and some of the aggregate demand created by that excess money leaks into imports and puts pres-

sure on the balance of payments and the currency.

That's one line of instability which was associated with the central bank's policy at that time. This is out of deficit financing or in common parlance money printing. Second, the alternate strategy adopted in 2020 and 2021, which drew heavily from the East Asian model, where the cost of funds was kept very low. But they were able to keep the cost of funds low by having very strong macro-economic fundamentals. Their budgets were in balance, their monetary policy was forward-looking and data-driven.

They were not artificially created by financial repression. If you drive the cost of funds down through financial repression, you end up essentially overheating the economy. So those were the two channels through which the central bank's actions proved to be counterproductive - deficit financing and financial repression. But here it's a positive role in protecting livelihoods and businesses during the pandemic because the government didn't have the fiscal space to do it, so the Central Bank stepped in and played a very important role.

On Lanka being a 'donor darling' and its dependency on imports

Sri Lanka essentially had, like many countries in the global South from the 60s through the 70s, an inward-looking import substitution policy. This resulted in Sri Lanka ending up with low investment growth and a high unemployment syndrome. In 1977, a new government came in and liberalised the economy but the country didn't get the payoff it could have done for two reasons. The first was civil war, which meant that opportunities that would have come otherwise did not come Sri Lanka's way. Second, the Sri

Lankan polity was not able to function in a way that could avoid macro-economic stress. This stemmed from the government's fiscal operations. In fact, Cambridge economist, Prof Joan Robinson, during her visit to Sri Lanka in 1969, said, "You Ceylonese have eaten the fruit before you planted the tree."

So this is what happened. We had a very consumption-oriented model which came out of a toxic combination of populist politics and an entrenched entitlement culture among the people. These two things fed off each other in a negative loop and dragged the country down. So the transformation of the economy didn't take place even after the liberalisation in 1977.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Navjit Kaur Brar.
@Navjitkaurbrar/Twitter

CANADA

Sikh woman is new councillor of Brampton

Toronto: Navjit Kaur Brar, an Indo-Canadian health-care worker has become the first turban-wearing Sikh woman to be elected as a city councillor of Brampton city in Canada. Brar, a respiratory therapist, was on Monday elected the Brampton city Councillor in the recent municipal council polls after she won the race in Wards 2 and 6. The mother of three beat Jermaine Chambers, a former Conservative MP candidate for Brampton West, as she secured 28.85 per cent of the votes cast. Chambers, the nearest contender received 22.59 per cent and Carmen Wilson came in third at 15.41 per cent, the Brampton Guardian reported. **PTI**

GERMANY

Cannabis liberalisation plan unveiled

Berlin: Germany's health minister unveiled a plan Wednesday to decriminalise the possession of up to 30 gms of cannabis and to allow the sale of the substance to adults for recreational purposes in a controlled market. Berlin will check with EU if the plan is in line with its laws and would proceed with legislation "on this basis" only if it gets the green light, Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said, adding that the new rules could serve as "a model for Europe." Realistically, they won't take effect before 2024, he said. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Few breast cancer patients could skip surgery: Study

A NEW study questions the conventional approach of fighting breast cancer, suggesting surgery may not always be necessary for all patients. The study, an early-stage clinical trial published on Tuesday in *Lancet Oncology*, found that a carefully selected group of patients who responded remarkably well to chemotherapy could skip surgery altogether. Fifty patients over age 40 with two types of breast cancer and early-stage disease were enrolled in the trial. Thirty-one patients responded well and were able to forgo surgery, experts found. **NYT**



Rishi Sunak during the Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons in London, Wednesday. **AP**

In first Cabinet meet, Sunak warns of tough decisions, delays plan on public finances

AGENCIES
LONDON, OCTOBER 26

RISHI SUNAK faced the Opposition in Parliament for the first time as Britain's prime minister Wednesday, promising to restore economic stability after his predecessor's tax plans triggered market tumult.

Sunak ripped up more of predecessor Liz Truss' flagship policies, reinstating a moratorium on fracking for shale gas that Truss had lifted. Plans for large-scale deregulation of the economy, part of Truss' vision to unleash economic growth, are also under review, Sunak's spokeswoman said.

One of his first acts was to delay a key economic statement by more than two weeks, until November 17, so the government can use the most accurate possible forecasts as it seeks to

OPP SEEKS PROBE INTO SUELLA RETURN

London: The Liberal Democrats have called for a Cabinet Office probe into Suella Braverman's re-appointment as the UK Home Secretary, a media report said on Wednesday. Sunak, at the Cabinet meeting, addressed the issue and denied an allegation by Labour leader Keir Starmer that he had made a "grubby deal" with Braverman in return for her support in the leadership contest. **AGENCIES**

tackle the cost-of-living crisis. "We will have to take difficult decisions to restore economic

stability and confidence," Sunak told the House of Commons. "We will do this in a fair way." "I will always protect the most vulnerable. We did it in Covid and we will do it again," he said.

The government is drawing up spending cuts and cancelling tax cuts just as the rising cost of mortgages, food, fuel and heating is squeezing many household budgets to their limits.

"I have been honest. We will have to take difficult decisions to restore economic stability and confidence," Sunak told parliament, promising to protect the most vulnerable. The Chancellor (Jeremy Hunt) will set that out in an autumn statement in just a few weeks."

"It will contain the UK's medium term fiscal plan to put public spending on a sustainable footing, get debt falling & restore stability," the Treasury said on Twitter.

COMPLETED MOST OF INDIA TRADE DEAL, WILL SIGN ONCE HAPPY: UK

London: Britain has completed the majority of sections of a free trade agreement with India but will only sign off on the deal once happy that it is fair and reciprocal, trade department minister Greg Hands said on Wednesday.

"We have already closed the majority of chapters and look forward to the next round of talks shortly," Hands told Parliament. The government had previously said it wanted to complete the deal by Diwali, a deadline which has passed. "We are working towards the best deal for both sides and won't sign until we have a deal that is fair, reciprocal and ultimately in the best interests of the British people and the UK economy." **REUTERS**

KILLING OF JOURNALIST IN KENYA

Pak drops ISI representative from probe team

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 26

THE PAKISTAN government on Wednesday reconstituted a panel probing the killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya by dropping an ISI representative from the team, days after he was shot by the Nairobi police.

On Wednesday, the Interior Ministry removed a representative of the Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) from the list of officials who will be part of the team that will ascertain facts in the killing of Sharif from the Kenyan



Protesters at a vigil for Amini at the entrance hall of the Khajeh Nasir Toosi University of Technology in Tehran. **Reuters**

Iran protesters rally to mark 40 days since Amini's death

REUTERS
DUBAI, OCTOBER 26

IRANIAN SECURITY forces opened fire at mourners who gathered in Mahsa Amini's Kurdish home town of Saqez to mark 40 days since she died in police custody, a witness said on Wednesday, while state media said people at the cemetery had clashed with riot police.

"The riot police shot mourners who gathered at the cemetery for Mahsa's memorial cere-

mony ... dozens have been arrested," the witness said. Iranian authorities were not available to comment. Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency said 10,000 people had gathered at the cemetery, adding that internet was cut off after clashes between security forces and people there.

Videos online showed thousands of Iranians marching towards the cemetery where Amini is buried despite the heavy presence of riot police. Authorities closed all schools and universities in the Kurdistan province.

FRANCE

'BEYOND BLACK' PAINTER PIERRE SOULAGES DIES

Pierre Soulages, the French abstract painter best known for experimenting with different shades of black, has died aged 102, the museum dedicated to his life and work in his southwestern hometown of Rodez said on Wednesday. Soulages, who died on Tuesday evening, had worked exclusively with black since 1979, notably in a series of works he called "Outrenoir", or "Beyond Black".



RUSSIA REHEARSES RESPONSE TO NUKE ATTACK

Putin accuses Ukraine of 'dirty bomb' plans, says world conflict risks high

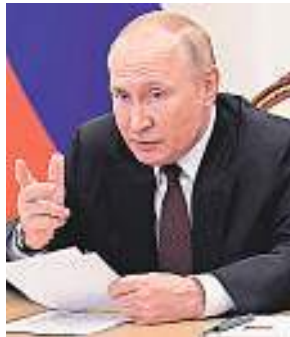
THE NEW YORK TIMES
OCTOBER 26

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR V Putin on Wednesday repeated Russia's unsubstantiated warning that Ukraine was preparing to explode a so-called dirty bomb, amid concerns that the Kremlin is seeking a pretext to escalate its war in Ukraine.

Putin joined the chorus of senior Russian officials who have claimed in recent days that Ukraine planned to detonate a dirty bomb. It was the first time the Russian leader made the claim, which Western officials have dismissed, suggesting Moscow could use it as a pretext for launching its own attack.

At the same time, the Russian military conducted an annual exercise involving land, sea and air field tests of its missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. State television broadcast short clips of the launches as well as an excerpt from Putin receiving a briefing from Russia's defence minister, Sergei K Shoigu, saying the tests had been successful.

The military exercises added to the concerns of a possible escalation of the war. On Wednesday, in a video address to a conference of intelligence chiefs from heads of the security agencies from former Soviet states, Putin accused Washington of supplying Ukraine with "heavy weapons" and said the risk of conflict was high in the region and around the world. Security should be heightened around key infrastructure sites, he said. "It is also known about plans to use a so-called dirty bomb for provocation," a Kremlin summary of the message quoted Putin as saying.



Putin attends a training to test the strategic deterrence forces, via videoconference in Moscow, Wednesday. **AP**

EXPLAINED What are dirty bombs

THEY ARE improvised bombs that use conventional high explosives to spread radioactive material into the surrounding area. But the fact that no military is known to have fielded one in its arsenal is a good indicator that they are not useful on the battlefield.

Will be serious mistake: Biden warns Russia against nuclear attack

THE NEW YORK TIMES
OCTOBER 26

PRESIDENT BIDEN renewed his warning to President Vladimir V Putin that it would be an "incredibly serious mistake" to use a tactical nuclear weapon in Ukraine, reflecting the increasingly urgent concern in Washington and among Western allies that Russia may be searching for a pretext to unleash such a weapon.

Biden said on Tuesday that he was still uncertain if Russia was trying to put together a "false flag operation" in which it would detonate a dirty bomb and blame the Ukrainians. A dirty bomb is not a nuclear weapon, but an improvised device that uses conventional explosives to spread radioactive material.

But it was clear from Biden's comments that he is far less concerned about a dirty bomb than about the possibility that a set of incidents could result in Russia detonating a battlefield nuclear weapon.

"Let me just say: Russia would be making an incredibly serious mistake for it to use a tactical nuclear weapon," Biden said in response to a reporter's question about whether Russia was preparing a dirty bomb. "I'm not guaranteeing you that it's a false flag operation yet, don't know, but it would be a serious, serious mistake." American intelligence officials are divided about Russia's intentions. Some believe that the repeated threats are a bluff; others say they are part of a Russian military doctrine called "escalate to de-escalate."

Shehbaz to visit China next week

Beijing/Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will be the first head of government to visit Beijing next week to felicitate Chinese President Xi Jinping, who secured a record third five-year term. During the visit from November 1-2, the two sides



will review the all-weather strategic cooperation partnership and exchange views on regional and global developments. The two countries will also sign new deals, including firming up of the \$60 billion CPEC cooperation, said Pakistan officials. **PTI**

Police and relevant authorities.

The ministry removed ISI Lt Col Saad Ahmed's name hours

after it had issued an earlier notification stating the names of three officials part of the high-

Arab voters key to breaking deadlock in Israel election

ASSOCIATED PRESS
UMM AL FAHM, OCTOBER 26

THE VOICES of Israel's Palestinian citizens are often drowned out or delegitimised in the country's noisy politics. Yet in the upcoming Parliament election, they could hold the key to breaking an entrenched political deadlock.

Israelis vote on November 1 for the fifth time in under four years. The country remains di-

vided over former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's fitness to serve while on trial for corruption. Polls show those numbers have barely budged.

What could tip the scales is the vote of one-fifth of Israelis who are of Palestinian descent, with family ties in adjacent territories Israel captured in 1967.

Turnout among these voters will be key: High numbers could swing the election in favor of Netanyahu's opponents, while a drop could pave the way for

Netanyahu's return. "I can hardly remember a single election campaign that all depended on the vote of Arab citizens," said Arik Rudnitzky, who studies Arab voting patterns at the Israel Democracy Institute, a think tank.

Most polls predict a historically low turnout among Arab voters, even though the outgoing coalition government included an Arab party, a first in Israel's history.

That first-time participa-

tion in government hasn't generated much excitement among voters disillusioned by rampant crime, the rising cost of living and a loss of hope for change from within a slow-moving political system.

This could be a boon for Netanyahu, who in his lengthy political career has both played on ethnic tensions to drum up support for his nationalist Likud party and sought support from the same Arab voters he derided to bolster his party's chances.

PAINTING THAT WAS SCARRED BY 2020 BLAST IS ATTRIBUTED TO 17TH-CENTURY ITALIAN PAINTER

Damaged by an explosion in Beirut, the canvas emerged a Gentileschi

JORI FINKEL
OCTOBER 26

WHEN A deadly explosion rocked the port of Beirut in August 2020, antiques were reduced to rubble and paintings torn to shreds. But in one Lebanese mansion an anonymous painting — pierced by shards of glass from a blown-out window and impaled by wood from the window frame — gained something extraordinary. It is now recognised by experts as a long-lost painting of Hercules and Omphale by Artemisia Gentileschi, the great 17th-century Italian painter known for por-

traying strong women from biblical and mythological scenes.

"This painting is definitely by Artemisia," said Davide Gasparotto, the Getty Museum's senior curator of paintings, who has brought it to the Getty for restoration and exhibition under a long-term loan agreement. "It's a very powerful, convincing painting — one of her most ambitious in terms of size and the complexity of the figures."

Sheila Barker, a leading Gentileschi scholar who has yet to see the painting in person, says consensus for the attribution, proposed by Lebanese artist and art historian Gregory Buchakjian, is strong: "I don't

know of anyone who has a dissenting opinion."

"A lot of would-be Artemisia paintings have come along hopeful of attaining consensus from the market and scholars, and we've been largely disappointed," she added. "And yet from this completely unexpected corner of the southern Mediterranean, there has emerged this stunning example of Artemisia's mature genius."

With the addition of "Hercules and Omphale," the number of existing paintings by Gentileschi now stands at 61, according to Barker. Gentileschi was one of few women to succeed in the male-dominated art



'Hercules and Omphale,' by Artemisia Gentileschi, is being repaired at Getty Museum's conservation studio in LA. **NYT**

market of her time and has been a feminist hero of sorts since the 1970s. Her bloody rendering of

Judith beheading Holofernes at the Uffizi is especially famous, seen by some as a creative form

of revenge for her rape at age 17. Her version of Hercules and Omphale also delivers on the gender role reversals, though more playfully. In the classical myth, the couple falls in love after Jupiter sentences Hercules to become a slave to Omphale, the queen of Lydia, as punishment for a crime. In the painting, which measures more than 6-by-8 feet, an elegantly dressed Omphale towers over Hercules, who holds a spindle and yarn — a woman's tools — instead of his usual club. In another twist, it is the man shown to be disheveled and half-naked.

Buchakjian identified "Hercules and Omphale," which long hung at the Sursock Palace

as an anonymous 17th-century painting, as a Gentileschi in the art magazine *Apollo* soon after the Beirut explosion, based on graduate-level research he had undertaken at the Sorbonne several years before.

Invited by Barker to do an on-line presentation, he made a persuasive case for the new attribution based mainly on stylistic traits shared with Gentileschi's known artworks, such as Hercules' pose and her treatment of jewelry such as cameo brooches and pearl drop earrings. He also noted that a similarly sized painting by Gentileschi on the subject of Hercules was recorded in 1699

in the Naples collection of Alonso de Cárdenas.

The painting is now in terrible condition, with a 20-inch tear near Hercules' knee. Leaning on an easel at the Getty conservation studio in Los Angeles, the canvas has so many holes and tears it gives the impression of Swiss cheese, with light streaming through. A nearby jar is filled with chunks of debris. Getty's paintings conservator, Ulrich Birkmaier, has just begun the restoration process — removing some particularly stubborn shards of glass the size of teeth. The next steps for his team include relining the back of the canvas and repairing tears and areas of paint loss. **NYT**



GOLD

₹50,702



RUPEE

₹82.73/\$



OIL

\$90.11



SILVER

₹57,501

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of October 27

Stock, bullion and forex markets were closed on Wednesday for 'Divali Balipratipada'; International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
REINSURANCE

IRDAI puts restrictions on cross-border reinsurers

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 26**EXPLAINED**
Curbs on operations

INSURANCE REGULATOR IRDAI has put restrictions on the operations of over 300 cross border reinsurers (CBRs) which are active in the Indian reinsurance market.

Among other things, CBRs will have to retain a minimum 50 per cent premium by way of premium deposit with the clients. It will be the responsibility of the insurers to maintain this premium in a separate designated or escrow account as well as to invest such amount into Government of India securities. In the order of preference with which Indian general insurers can reinsure the business, CBRs are almost placed at the bottom. Before giving business to them, an insurer has to be declined by Indian reinsurers like GIC Re, foreign reinsurance branches (FRBs) and Lloyd's and reinsurers who are present in IFSC (Gift City). CBRs don't have any offices in India and just have to register with the IRDAI to get business through brokers. They normally offer cheaper pricing than other reinsurers.

IRDAI said maximum overall ceiling limits allowed per CBR will be 10 per cent for CBRs with BBB rating, 17.5 per cent for rating BBB+ and up to A+ and 25 per cent for rating above A+. On the other hand, the IRDAI has proposed to bring in major changes in the existing reinsurance regulations and has reduced the capital requirements of foreign reinsurance branches (FRBs) in India to Rs 50 crore from existing Rs 100 crore. According to insurance industry observers, by putting more restrictions on the activities of CBRs and by relaxing norms for Indian FRBs, the IRDAI wants these CBRs to set up operations in the country or at the IFSC.

CROSS BORDER reinsurers will have to retain a minimum 50% premium by way of premium deposit with the clients. It will be the responsibility of the insurers to maintain this premium in a separate designated or escrow account as well as to invest into government securities.

FRBs had earlier informed the IRDAI that for doing business in India, they have to invest in many things including bringing in substantial capital and comply with many regulations while the CBRs don't have to do any such things which is not creating a level playing field among the players. Led by the state-owned GIC Re with a premium of Rs 43,000 crore, the size of the Indian reinsurance market is around Rs 75,700 crore where over 300 CBRs have almost mobilised around Rs 15,000 crore premium while 10 FRBs have done of business of around Rs 17,500 crore of premium in 2021-22.

In the year 2020-21, 332 CBRs participated in Indian reinsurance business as against 378 CBRs in the year 2019-20, IRDAI Annual Report says. According to IRDAI, every Indian reinsurer should maintain a minimum retention of 50 per cent of its Indian business. The retrocession to IIO (IFSC insurance office) up to 20 per cent of Indian reinsurance business is reckoned while computing with the minimum retention of 50 per cent of the Indian reinsurance business, it said.

Meanwhile, IRDAI on Wednesday allowed FRBs and Lloyd's India to repatriate excess capital.

RBI'S OCTOBER 21 LIQUIDITY INJECTION HIGHEST SINCE APRIL 2019

Liquidity in system tightens on rising credit demand, RBI forex intervention

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 26

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) injected Rs 72,860.7 crore of liquidity into the banking system on October 21 — the highest since April 2019 — after liquidity condition tightened on higher demand for credit during the festival season and the central bank's intervention in the foreign exchange market to curb volatility in the rupee. On April 30, 2019, the net infusion of liquidity by the RBI was Rs 96,150 crore.

On October 24, 2022, the RBI again injected Rs 62,835.7 crore of liquidity into the system. Last month, the liquidity condition turned into a deficit mode on September 20 for the first time since May 2019, and the RBI had to inject Rs 21,873.4 crore into the system. Liquidity in the banking system refers to readily available cash that banks need to meet short-term business and financial needs. On a given day, if the banking system is a net borrower from the RBI under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF), the system liquidity is said to be in deficit. If the banking system is a net lender to the RBI, the liquidity is said to be in surplus. The LAF refers to the RBI's operations through which it injects or absorbs liquidity into or from the banking system.

"Liquidity condition has tightened due to the RBI intervention in the forex market. Through intervention, the RBI sells dollars and sucks out rupee liquidity from the system. Also, seasonal demand for credit has gone up, which has resulted in less cash surplus with banks," said a banker.

So far in 2022, the rupee has depreciated by over 11 per cent. Between September 1 and October 25, the domestic currency has seen a sharp decline of 4.2 per cent and, it fell below the 83-mark for the first time on October 19. The RBI has been using the country's foreign exchange reserves to stem the rupee's fall. From a record high of \$642.5 billion on September 3, 2021, reserves have fallen to \$528.3 billion on October 8, 2022, the latest RBI data showed.

TURNED INTO DEFICIT MODE LAST MONTH

■ On October 24, the RBI again injected Rs 62,835.7 cr of liquidity. Last month, liquidity condition turned into deficit mode on September 20 for first time since May 2019

lion on September 3, 2021, reserves have fallen to \$528.3 billion on October 8, 2022, the latest RBI data showed.

Since April 2022, the reserves have depleted by \$78 billion. RBI, however, has said that two-thirds of the fall in forex reserves in the current fiscal is due to valuation changes arising from an appreciating US dollar and higher US bond yields. Bank credit hit a decade high after it rose by 17.9 per cent in the fortnight that ended October 7. 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 RBI data. The rise in the same period of last year was Rs 6.71 lakh crore.

The growth was driven by retail credit, higher working capital demand amidst high inflation, and lower funds raised in the capital market, Care Ratings said in a report. The rise in advances is expected to remain elevated in the short term due to the ongoing festival season, it said. "Rise in demand for credit during festivals leads to higher growth in credit than in deposits. If credit is higher than deposits, then automatically there is a liquidity issue," Bank of Baroda's chief economist Madan Sabnavis said. He said whenever there is a liquidity shortage in the system, RBI injects liquidity by buying back government securities (G-sec) through open market operations (OMO).

"It is not a formalised kind of G-SAP (G-sec acquisition programme) where securities are

bought through open market operations. On any particular day, when the RBI sees a liquidity problem, it does buy securities, but the purchases get reported later," he said. Open market operations (OMO) means buying and selling of government securities in the open market in order to expand or contract the amount of money in the banking system. Purchases inject money into the banking system and stimulate growth while sales of securities do the opposite. Some experts believe that this liquidity infusion by the RBI on October 21 was on behalf of the government, which has started its spending.

"The government was to start spending from the beginning of October, but it got delayed. On October 21, the government would have released some amount for welfare and developmental activities," a banker said.

The government is likely to spend around Rs 3-4 lakh crore in developmental activities before the next budget, he said.

CBDT extends ITR deadline for companies till November 7

New Delhi: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Wednesday extended the due date for filing returns of income (ITR) by businesses by seven days to November 7.

The last date for filing a return of income by companies whose accounts are required to be audited was October 31.

"In consequence of the extension of due date for various reports of audit in the case of assesseees to 7th October... the CBDT extends the due date of furnishing of Return of Income under sub-section (1) of section 139 of the Act for the Assessment Year 2022-23, which is 31st October 2022 in the case of assesseees referred in clause (a) of Explanation 2 to sub-section (1) of section 139 of the Act, to 7th November 2022," it said.

Last month, the CBDT extended the deadline for filing audit reports by 7 days till October 7.

The due date for the return filing of domestic companies for 2021-22 was October 31. However, if the company was having any international transactions, the due date to file ITR is November 30, 2022. **FE**

Zee-Sony deal: 3 channels to be sold to allay anti-competition concerns

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 26

THE PROPOSED merger between Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL) and Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) is inching to a closure, with the firms agreeing to sell three Hindi channels to mitigate regulatory concerns.

The media firms have voluntarily agreed to divest its Hindi general entertainment channel Big Magic, and Hindi film channels Zee Action and Zee Classic, according to the proposal filed with Competition Commission of India (CCI). All the three channels proposed to be sold off are owned by ZEEL.

ZEEL and Sony have a combined viewership share of 36 per cent in Hindi general entertainment segment, according to Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC) data.

The merger, which would create the country's largest media en-

The two firms agreed to divest Big Magic, which is a Hindi general entertainment channel, as well as Zee Action and Zee Classic, which are Hindi film channels

tainment firm, had received the anti-trust regulator's approval on October 4 with certain conditions such as ensuring no unfair dominance in any market. The companies had voluntarily agreed to changes proposed by CCI. According to the CCI order, a number of requirements are to be fulfilled by the purchaser before buying the three channels. These include obtaining relevant regulatory approvals for the acquisition and divestment of the three channels.

The order had also stated that the merger should not create any

"prima facie competition" concerns. One of the conditions of CCI was that the purchaser of the channels that would be divested should not be Star India or Viacom18, both rivals to Zee and Sony.

Another condition for CCI approval, which would create the country's largest media entertainment firm, states that the acquirer should be independent and with no connection with the resultant entity or its affiliates. Further, it should not be either a past or present employee or director of the merged firm.

In its order, CCI said that the companies — ZEEL and SPNI — agreed to the changes following its observations that the deal is likely cause an "appreciable adverse effect on competition".

On August 3, the competition watchdog had sent notices to the two companies, stating its initial review of the proposed deal terms the merged entity's "humongous market position". **FE**

BRIEFLY
FM, AIIB

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday asked Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to scale up investments in priority areas like clean energy and infrastructure sector with a special focus on education and health.

Govt, LIC

New Delhi: The government is nudging LIC to tweak its product strategy to maximise profitability in a bid to help the insurer realise its full growth potential and yield better returns for investors, an official said.

IT Min, WhatsApp

New Delhi: The IT Ministry is learnt to have asked Meta-owned WhatsApp to share reasons behind Tuesday's service outage of the platform, sources said.

India, China trade

Beijing: India and China bilateral trade continued to boom, crossing \$100 billion for the second year in the first nine months of 2022 while India's trade deficit climbed to over \$75 billion, according to Chinese customs data. **PTI**

Google reforms

Washington: The US Justice Department said on Tuesday it had reached an agreement with Alphabet Inc's Google resolving a dispute with the search engine giant over the loss of data responsive to a 2016 search warrant. **REUTERS**

Remain committed, evaluating next steps: Google on ₹936-cr CCI fine

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

STATING THAT it remains committed to its users and developers, Google India on Wednesday said that it is reviewing the Competition Commission of India's order to evaluate the next steps.

"Indian developers have benefited from the technology, security, consumer protections, and unrivaled choice and flexibility that Android and Google Play provide. And by keeping costs low, our model has powered India's digital transformation and expanded access to hundreds of millions of Indians," Google India said in a statement.



A Google Store in Manhattan, New York. Reuters File

The CCI imposed a total fine of Rs 2,274 crore on Google in a span of last five days. On Tuesday, it slapped a fresh Rs 936-crore fine on the company for abusing its dominant market position on its Android mobile app store and

ordered it not to prevent app developers from using third-party billing or payment processing services in India.

Last week on Thursday, it had slapped a fine of Rs 1,338 crore on the tech major for abusing the

dominant position of its Android smartphone operating system.

Last week, Google said that Android has created more choice for everyone and supports thousands of successful businesses in India and around the world.

"The CCI's decision is a major setback for Indian consumers and businesses, opening serious security risks for Indians who trust Android's security features, and raising the cost of mobile devices for Indians," a Google spokesperson said, adding that the company will review the decision to evaluate next steps.

Appeals against CCI orders can be filed in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). **FE**

Dabur to acquire 51% stake in Badshah Masala for ₹588 cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

FMCG MAJOR Dabur India on Wednesday said it will acquire a 51 per cent stake in Badshah Masala Private Limited, the owners of the Badshah Masala brand which is engaged in the business of manufacturing, marketing and export of ground spices, blended spices and seasonings.

Announcing that it has signed definitive transaction agreements, Dabur said the acquisition is in line with its strategic intent to expand its foods business to Rs 500 crore in three years and into new adjacent categories. Dabur will acquire the

CONSOLIDATED NET DROPS

■ Dabur India reported a near 3% decline in its consolidated net profit on a year-on-year basis to Rs 490 crore as high raw material inflation continued to impact profitability and amid a dip in rural demand

balance 49 per cent shareholding after five years.

"Dabur is acquiring 51 per cent stake in Badshah for Rs 587.52 crore, less proportionate debt as on the closing date, with the Badshah enterprise being valued at Rs 1,152 crore," the

company said in a statement. This translates to a revenue multiple of around 4.5x and Ebitda (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation) multiple of around 19.6x of financial 2022-23 estimated financials. The transaction is expected to be cash EPS neutral in the first year and accretive thereafter. The acquisition also marks Dabur's entry into the over Rs 25,000-crore branded spices and seasoning market in India.

"This acquisition will accelerate our growth strategy as we continue to build our foods business. We intend to leverage our international market presence to grow this business globally," Mohit Burman, chairman, Dabur India, said. **FE**

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS)

SL.NO.	TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY	SPECIFICATION No.	TOTAL
1	CE/Tr.Pr.-I	TP1-00112	1

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website, www.tantranenco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app,
"தனதரன எலக்ட்ரானிக்ஸ்" www.tntenders.gov.in www.nicgep.gov.in

DIPR/4769/TENDER/2022

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH
Advertisement No. PGROB/10/2022/14 Dated: 22.10.2022

RECRUITMENT NOTICE
Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh invites online applications from the citizens of India who fulfill the prescribed eligibility conditions for selection to various 225 posts of Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' for PGIMER, Chandigarh. Parat and for selection to 31 posts of Group 'C' for PGIMER, Chandigarh on DIRECT RECRUITMENT basis. Important timeline will be as under:-

ITEM(S)	TIMELINES/REMARKS
OPENING DATE FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR FILLING UP OF ONLINE APPLICATION ON PGIMER'S WEBSITE	01.11.2022
CLOSING DATE FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION & SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS	28.11.2022

APPLICATION FEE
• Persons with Bench-mark Disabilities (PwBD): Exempted from payment of fee.
• SC/ST category: Rs. 800/- plus Transaction Charges as applicable.
• For all others including General/OBC/EWS: Rs.1500/- plus Transaction Charges as applicable.

IMPORTANT: The candidates willing to apply may visit the Institute's website www.pgimer.edu.in (Recruitment link at Home page) for detailed guidelines, eligibility criteria, age, pay scale, experience etc. All subsequent Correspondence/ Addendums/updates will be uploaded on the Institute's website only.

DIRECTOR



Elon Musk. AP file

acquisition of Twitter Inc that he plans to close his buyout of the social media firm by Friday, according to a person familiar with the matter. Equity investors, including Sequoia Capital, Binance, Qatar Investment Authority and others have received the requisite paperwork for the financing commitment from Musk's lawyers, the source added.

Satcom: Govt unveils new policy reforms

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday unveiled new policy reforms for satellite communications services to ease procedures and streamline clearances to expedite the rollout of Satcom across the country, especially in remote areas. Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw exhorted the industry to increase tower deployments for a speedy 5G rollout.

The current pace of tower deployment needs to increase from 2,500 towers a week to 10,000 towers per week, he said. The government has done its bit in ushering in reforms, and it is now up to the industry to show its commitment, the minister added. **PTI**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 92/SE/PHC/TSR/2022-23
Jal Jeevan Mission (JMM)-JMM-WSS to Mattathur, Varadarappilly, Kodakara (Part II) & Alagappanagar (Part) in Thrissur District - Providing Distribution Networks, Street main Extension and FHTC 2640 nos & Road restoration charges to Kodakara (Part II) Panchayaths.-General Civil Work EMD : Rs. 500000/- Tender fee : Rs. 17700/- Last date for submitting Tender : 15-11-2022 03:00pm Phone : 04872423230 Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer PH Circle Thrissur
KWA-JB-GL-6-951-2022-23

BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISES)
CIN No. U27310/0819200003603
"KANKARIA CENTRE", 4th & 5th FLOOR, 2/1, RUSSELL STREET, KOL - 71
Notice Inviting eTender (eNIT) No. BandR / HO / NCR / 51199 / RFO1 (PHASE-1) / DAUDKHAN-ALIGARH 3RD LINE / NIT / CW / 01(R)
Online Percentage Rate Bid(s)/Offer(s) in two part system are invited from reputed, resourceful and experienced parties meeting prescribed qualifying criteria for "Construction of 3rd Line comprising of Earthwork in formation, Minor Bridges, P Way works, Drain, Boundary Wall, Retaining Wall, Utilities Shifting and other Allied works including Testing and Commissioning etc. in connection with Construction of RFO-1 (PHASE-1) under North Central Railway (NCR), Ministry of Railways, Govt. of India."
Date of Availability of Tender Document in Website as well as CPP Portal: 26.10.2022 and Last Date of submission of Bid (On-Line) is 15.11.2022
Interested Bidder(s) will have to be enrolled & registered with the Government e-Procurement System; through logging on to <https://eprocure.gov.in>.
Addendum / Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted in Company's Website: www.bridgeroof.co.in and CPP portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in> only

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was admitted in LNJP Hospital on dated 17.09.2022 and doctor declared him dead during treatment on 29.09.2022.In this regard a **DD No. 94A, Dated 17.09.2022** has been lodged in **P.S. Kotwali, Delhi**. The dead body has been preserved at Mortuary of MAMC for 72 Hours. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** Approx 60 Years **Height:** 5'5" Feet. **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Hospital Cloth
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O
P.S. Kotwali, Delhi
DP/2243/N/2022 Ph.: 8750870121, 9582030930



APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this Male **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 25-30 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Red colour T-shirt & pant, was found in Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital, Jahangirpuri, Delhi on dated 05.10.2022. He was admitted in L.N.J.P. Hospital, Delhi and during the treatment doctor

declared him dead on dated 11.10.2022. The dead body has been preserved at L.N.J.P Hospital, Delhi of mortuary for 72 hrs for identification. In this regard a **DD No. 81-A, dated 05.10.2022** has been lodged at P.S. Jahangirpuri, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Jahangirpuri, Delhi
DP/2223/NW/2022(UIDB) Ph.: 011-27631600, 8750870228

Govt. of Bihar

Rural Works Department

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Works Department, Bihar
BRRD4,3rd Floor, Land Development Bank Building,BudhMarg, Patna, Bihar -800001
(बिहार ग्रामीण पथ अनुसक्षण नीति, 2018)

Notice Inviting Tender for Rural Roads Maintenance based on Output and performance based Contract through e-procurement mode on Model Bidding Document (MBD).

1. Designation and Address of the Advertiser :
2. Date of Issue of Notice Inviting Tender :
3. Period for downloading of Tender documents :
website-http://pmsgsyntenderbih.gov.in
4. Date, Time & Place of Pre- Bid Meeting :
Place O/o Concerned Superintending Engineer
5. Last Date & Time for uploading tender :
Document by bidder http://pmsgsyntenderbih.gov.in
6. Date, time for online opening of Technical bid :
7. Last date, time and place for submission of Original instrument of EMD, Cost of BOQ, Bank credit facility certificate and an Affidavit regarding correctness of Information provided with bid document :
Till 15:00 hrs on **30.11.2022**
Place- O/o concerned
(i) Executive Engineer Or (ii) Superintending Engineer Or (iii) Chief Engineer
8. The Engineer in chief, Rural Works Department on behalf of Governor of Bihar invites bids from the eligible bidders for the works detailed below.
9. Details of Works:-

SL. No	Package No.	District	Name of Division	Block	Name of Road	Length (In Km)	Cost of Initial Rectification with Surface Renewal (In Lakhs)	Cost of 5-Years Maintenance (In Lakh)	Total Estimate d Cost (In Lakhs)	Cost of BOQ (In Rs)	Bid Security (In Lakhs)	Amount Payable to Works Division
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	MR-N/22-23 Banka-2/24	Banka	Banka-2	Katoriya	Karmatan Dolbanga Nauvadih to Behrabank	4.120	180.086	49.752	229.838	10000	10.120	EE. RWD Works Division, Banka-2
		Banka	Banka-2	Katoriya	Malbathan to Jamua	4.850	219.909	56.259	276.168			
		Total for the Group				8.970	399.995	106.011	506.006			
2	MR-N/22-23 Banka-2/25	Banka	Banka-2	Katoriya	Karjhausa to Sathiyari Tak	4.290	169.648	54.651	224.299	10000	4.486	EE. RWD Works Division, Banka-2
		Total for the Group				4.290	169.648	54.651	224.299			
3	MR-N/22-23 Banka-2/26	Banka	Banka-2	Katoriya	Enarawaran Road to Badladih Path Tak	5.426	324.252	73.057	397.309	10000	7.946	EE. RWD Works Division, Banka-2
		Total for the Group				5.426	324.252	73.057	397.309			
4	MR-N/22-23 Jamui/17	Jamui	Jamui	Lakshmipur	Mohanpur-Mangrar Village Road	2.530	105.508	30.535	136.043	10000	2.721	EE. RWD Works Division, Jamui
		Total for the Group				2.530	105.508	30.535	136.043			
5	MR-N/22-23 Patna/12	Patna	Patna	Sampatchhak	Karnapura Raod to Citizen Chak	0.990	51.772	10.330	62.102	10000	1.814	EE. RWD Works Division, Patna
		Patna	Patna	Sampatchhak	Patna-Masaurhi Path Bairiya Rice Mile Bairiya Tola Primary School Tak	0.650	25.555	3.046	28.601			
		Total for the Group				1.640	77.327	13.376	90.703			
6	MR-N/22-23 Patna/13	Patna	Patna	Sampatchhak	Kandap Taranpura Kandap PMGSY Sadhu Pandey Ke Ghar Hote Huye Jaiswal Tola Se Kumhar Tola Tak	0.930	44.793	8.353	53.146	10000	2.079	EE. RWD Works Division, Patna
		Patna	Patna	Sampatchhak	Primary School Rmanagar More Par to Anganbari Centre	1.000	45.077	5.749	50.826			
		Total for the Group				1.930	89.870	14.102	103.972			
7	MR-N/22-23 Paliganj/12	Patna	Paliganj	Bikram	Lai To Janpara Via Babhan Lai Mahandra Nagar Barah	5.000	171.453	55.984	227.437	10000	10.654	EE. RWD Works Division, Paliganj
		Patna	Paliganj	Bikram	Datiyana Village to Bhatsara more via Gorakhri	3.450	144.038	35.359	179.397			
		Patna	Paliganj	Bikram	NH-139 to Mahajipura Nahar Bridge	2.100	106.167	19.721	125.888			
		Total for the Group				10.550	421.658	111.064	532.722			
8	MR-N/22-23 Paliganj/13	Patna	Paliganj	Bikram	Sheogarh(Bihta Sikariya Road) to Dehri Canal Via Govindpur	2.300	150.058	20.434	170.492	10000	12.562	EE. RWD Works Division, Paliganj
		Patna	Paliganj	Bikram	Kanpa Bihta Path Ke Shailgarh Cana North to Dehri Canal	6.141	204.919	68.165	273.084			
		Patna	Paliganj	Bikram	Bikram Bihta Road to Datiyana Gorakhri Via Baliyari	3.910	107.121	47.035	154.156			
		Patna	Paliganj	Bikram	Shivpur Babhanai Raod to Pakrandha	0.660	27.267	3.081	30.348			
		Total for the Group				13.011	489.365	138.715	628.080			
9	MR-N/22-23 Phulparas/10	Madhubani	Phulparas	Phulparas	SH-51 To Kalapatti Suggapatti PMGSY Road Via Jhakrahi Barhi Uttar Tol	2.240	226.920	26.930	253.850	10000	5.077	EE. RWD Works Division, Phulparas
		Total for the Group				2.240	226.920	26.930	253.850			
10	MR-N/22-23 Forbesganj/01	Araria	Forbesganj	Forbesganj	NH-57 Rahikpur Thilamohan to Kankhudiya Dha	0.850	91.619	9.617	101.236	10000	5.228	EE. RWD Works Division, Forbesganj
		Araria	Forbesganj	Forbesganj	Construction of Road From Kothihat Chowk To Kishan Chowk	2.000	138.032	22.153	160.185			
		Total for the Group				2.850	229.651	31.770	261.421			
11	MR-N/22-23 Jagdishpur/02	Bhojpur	Jagdishpur	Bihiya	Ranisagar Sahodih Shivpur Road To Birpur	1.400	81.610	12.957	94.567	10000	1.891	EE. RWD Works Division, Jagdishpur
		Total for the Group				1.400	81.610	12.957	94.567			
12	MR-N/22-23 Kishanganj-2/01	Kishanganj	Kishanganj-2	Thakurganj	Thakurganj Pangachi Mahadalit tola To Suhagi Hote Hue Bhanga Pul Tak	2.200	62.647	24.550	87.197	10000	3.479	EE. RWD Works Division, Kishanganj-2
		Kishanganj	Kishanganj-2	Thakurganj	L034 T01 To Bhagkharna	1.573	78.776	7.979	86.755			
		Total for the Group				3.773	141.423	32.529	173.952			
13	MR-N/22-23 Kishanganj-2/02	Kishanganj	Kishanganj-2	Pothia	L073-L040 to Adhikari	3.073	87.360	34.304	121.664	10000	6.661	EE. RWD Works Division, Kishanganj-2
		Kishanganj	Kishanganj-2	Pothia	L083-T04 To Taalbasti	2.885	86.174	32.184	118.358			
		Kishanganj	Kishanganj-2	Pothia	REO Road To Adivashi Tola	2.240	68.019	24.998	93.017			
		Total for the Group				8.198	241.553	91.486	333.039			
14	MR-N/22-23 Kishanganj-2/03	Kishanganj	Kishanganj-2	Dighal Bank	Garwandanga Hat To Suribhita	2.173	63.116	24.135	87.251	10000	4.632	EE. RWD Works Division, Kishanganj-2
		Kishanganj	Kishanganj-2	Dighal Bank	Kakiya Chowk To Taalgach Kamat	1.164	27.763	12.721	40.484			
		Kishanganj	Kishanganj-2	Dighal Bank	Harwadanta To Haribhitta	2.110	82.209	21.649	103.858			
		Total for the Group				5.447	173.088	58.505	231.593			
15	MR-N/22-23 Barh/04	Patna	Barh	Pandarak	Manjhalbigha To Sarahan	2.790	111.600	31.800	143.400	10000	2.868	EE. RWD Works Division, Barh
		Total for the Group				2.790	111.600	31.800	143.400			
16	MR-N/22-23 Banka-1/21	Banka	Banka-1	Belhar	Belhar Sangrampur Road to Lahariya More Via Goachak	3.500	150.355	37.833	188.188	10000	3.764	EE. RWD Works Division, Banka-1
		Total for the Group				3.500	150.355	37.833	188.188			
For further details please visit website State.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar												
PR. No.9763 (RWD) 2022-23												
नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।												
Engineer in Chief Rural Works Department, Bihar, Patna												

18 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

ELECTRICAL WORKS AT KATIHAR DIVISION
E-Tender Notice No. EL/29/ TRD/13, 2022-23/K/ Dated: 20-10-2022. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:
Name of Work: At New Jalpaiguri: Electrification of new proposed line no 47 & 48 and connecting line at New Jalpaiguri yard. **Tender Value:** ₹1,65,58,228.80/- . **Earliest Money:** ₹2,32,800/- **Date & Time of closing of E-tender:** 15.00 hrs. of 11-11-2022 & opening at 15.30 hrs. of 11-11-2022. For details please visit www.lreps.gov.in
Sr. DEE (TRD & OP), Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE
My CLIENTS: SURINDER PAL SINGH SON OF SHRI JAI DEV SINGH AND SMT PARVINDER KAUR WIFE OF SHRI SURINDER PAL SINGH BOTH R/O B-217, FIRST FLOOR & SECOND FLOOR, HARI NAGAR, CLOCK TOWER, NEW DELHI-64, have downsized/abandoned their SON SHRI AJAN PREET SINGH AND HIS WIFE SMT.JASNEET KAUR AND THERE LEGAL HERIS from all their movable and immovable properties, due to their misbehavior, quarrelsome nature & out of control towards my client and other family members and severed all their relations with them. My client shall not be responsible in future for any acts and deeds of them.
Sd/- B.N.N. DEO, Advocate
S.Rt.Ind.B Campus,Janak Puri,NewDelhi-68

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public notice is given to the general public that my client namely Shalika Parveen W/o Late Mohd Zaki R/O Ridayat Colony Ward No. 8 Nuh Mehndi Haryana 122107, has severed her all relations with her son namely Mohd Akram S/o Mohd Zaki and his Second wife namely Souhalla Parveen W/o Mohd Akram D/o Abdul Kader H. No. 44, Near Kowal, Moti Bazar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248001. She has disowned them from all her movable and immovable properties and my client shall not be held responsible for any act of them.
Sd/- Niharika Rai (Advocate)
Chamber No. 618
Western Wing Tis Hazari Court Delhi- 110054

सार्वजनिक सूचना
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे मुनीकसलन (1) जयपाल सिंह पुत्र ख. खरार किसान सिंह (2) भीमती कुमारी कीर्त पत्नी श्री जयपाल सिंह निवासी नवान नं. H-78, विकास पुली, नई दिल्ली-110018 ने अपने बड़े पुत्र परनील सिंह और उनकी पत्नी सुप्रिया सिंह से, जो उनके ससुरा जयपाल, गुलशर कौर सेन निवासी बरह रोड के खरार जवले अपने सभी ससुरा के पारिवारिक संबंध विच्छेद करने हूँ उन्हें अपनी ससुरा ससुरा जयपाल से बेवतल कर दिया है और आज के बाद मेरे मुनीकसलन अपने किसी भी अपने बड़े कार्य वा सैन-के से लिए जिम्मेदार नहीं हूँ।
Deepak Diwan Advocate
M-109, Prem Nagar Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that my client, MEERA KUMAR D/O SH. JAGJIVAN RAM & W/O SH. MANJUL KUMAR R/O D-1029, NEW FRIENDS COLONY, NEW DELHI-110025, Alottee/ Mahala/Owner of Plot No.26, Block No.B, Mahanagar, Bagh CHBS Ltd., Mahanagar Bagh, New Delhi. The original documents i.e. COMPLETION CERTIFICATE, FORM of the above said plot has been lost. An P.O.R./NCHLR No.321684/2022, dated 20/10/2022 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (CS) or Director (CS), DDA, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

सार्वजनिक सूचना
मेरी मुनीकसलन नमारी पुता सुगुनी श्री सुनील गुप्ता निवासी आर-83, विहार नगर, कानन नगरी, नौदल दर्जन-3, दिल्ली-110009 ने अपने पति गिरीश देव सुगुनी श्री चन्ना लाल देव निवासी उरोकन से उनकी अपराधिक मनीषिवादी से परवाना लेकर निम्न: 21.10.2022 को लालक लेकर संबंध विच्छेद कर दिया है अब मेरी मुनीकसलन नमारी पुता अन्ना उनकी पुत्री निमिता को विच्छेद देर से निमिता भी अन्ना को कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है। अब मेरी मुनीकसलन से अपनी पुत्री निमिता ने अपने निम्न कार्य से जो अपराधिक है एमन उरोकन निवासी से भी विच्छेद देर वा कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है।
अजित गुप्ता (अधिवक्ता)
सीट नं एएस-38, सिविल सॉल्ट्स, लौस हवाई रोड, दिल्ली-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE
This Public Notice is issued on behalf of my client Shri Parashob Budhija son of Shri Kishan Lal Budhija. He became the owner of Property bearing No.B-289, built-on land area measuring 237.22 sq.yds., situated at Saranasi Vihar, Pimpura, Delhi, through WILL dated 07.06.1985 executed by Ms. Basanti Devi D/o Late Shri Dattatray Lal Budhija. She had expired on 05.05.1986 and after her death my client became the owner of said property as per WILL. General Public is hereby inform that if any person have any right claim on the said property he/she can contact me within 7 days of issuance of this Notice.
Sd/- VIKAS KUMAR JAIN Advocate
12, RU-Market, Pimpura, Delhi. Mobile No.9810293343 Enrol. No.D/198081

INTERLOCKING OF LC GATE AT RANGIYA DIVISION
Tender Notice No.- RN-ST-26-2022-23, Date: 20-10-2022. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work:
Tender No.:- RN-ST-26-2022-23; Name of Work :- Interlocking of LC gate RM-57 of BG-III section in Rangiya division.
Tender Value: ₹ 25,54,09,742. Earnest Money: ₹ 51,100/- Date & time of Closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 16-11-2022. For details please visit in website www.nrps.gov.in
DRM (S&T), Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

For All Advertisement Booking
Call : 0120-6651214

I,Manju Singhal W/o Hari Om Singhal,R/o House.No-131,Near Community Center Sector-15,Escortsnagar, Faridabad -121007, have changed my name to Manju Rani Singhal. 0040637966-6

I,Km Sarita W/o Dalip Kumar Pal R/o H.No.55, Mamura, Sector-66, Noida(U.P.) have changed my name to Sarita Pal for all purposes. 0040637930-3

I,Km Devika Singh/ Devika D/o Ravendra Singh R/o H.No.121, Gali-2, Challera Sector-44, Noida(U.P.) have changed my name to Devika Singh for all purposes. 0040637930-1

I,Hari Om S/o Mithan Lal R/o, House.No-131,Near-Community Center Sector-15,Escortsnagar ,Faridabad-121007, have changed my name to Hari Om Singhal. 0040637966-4

I,Gaurav S/o-Hari Om Singhal,R/o House No-131,Near-Community Center Sector-15,Escortsnagar, Faridabad-121007, have changed my name to Gaurav Singhal. 0040637966-5

I,GAGANDEEP SIGH,S/o TARVINDER PAL SINGH,R/O B-44,S/F RANJEET-VILHAR NILOTHI-EXTENTION NILOTHI,DELHI 110041, have changed my name to GAGANDEEP SINGH. 0040637966-2

I,FAUZIA NILOFER/ FAUZIA NEZLOFER,W/O IMTIYAZ AHMED,R/O-D-11/391,SECTOR-7,ROHINI,DELHI-110085, have changed my name to FAUZIA AHMED 0040637983-1

I,Dalip Kumar S/o Mange Ram Pal R/o H.No.55, Mamura, Sector-66, Noida(U.P.) have changed my name to Dalip Kumar Pal for all purposes. 0040637930-2

I,Aqsa Ahmed W/o Zaid Ahmed R/o-174,Sahbiswa, Muradnagar, Ghaziabad,Uttar Pradesh-201206, have Changed My Name from Simran to Aqsa Ahmed for all,future purpose. 0040637966-7

I,Aparna Gupta R/O-G-122,Ashok Vihar Phase-1,North West Delhi-110052, have changed my minor Son name from Zayn Ali to Aryan Gupta. 0040637974-9

I,GARGEEdaughter of 727925K Ex-Sgt UMESH CHAND, resident of village- Chhajipur, Distt Meerut 250205 (UP) have changed my name from GARGEEd (Existing name as per POR/Service Documents) to GARGEEd PANWAR (Proposed/adopted new name) vide Affidavit dated 19-10-2022 at Patiala House, New Delhi-01. 0040637928-2

I,SEEMA CHAND PANWAR (Existing name of spouse as per change of Next-of-kin POR/Service Documents), spouse of 727925K Ex-Sgt UMESH CHAND (Name of husband) resident of village- Chhajipur, Distt- Meerut- 250205 (UP) have changed my name from SEEMA CHAND PANWAR (Existing name as per POR/Service Documents) to SEEMA PANWAR (Proposed/adopted new name) vide Affidavit dated 19-10-2022 at Patiala House, New Delhi-01. 0040637928-1

I,Naresh Pal Singh S/o Niranjan Singh R/o Village Garhi Bhoopal Post-Jarkhi, District Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh 283204 have changed my minor daughter name from Shuhana to Suhana Singh for all future purposes. 0040637923-1

I, Naina Agarwal W/o Yogesh Agarwal R/O Flat No.15091, ATS Advantage, Ahinsa Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Nainaa Agarvaal for all future purposes. 0040637932-1

I, Mohammad Furkan F/o Mohd Maaz Rajput R/o H.No.852, Gali No.9, Old Mustafabad, Delhi-110094, have changed my minor child name from Mohd Maaz to Mohd Maaz Rajput for all future purposes. 0040637926-2

I, Manpreet Kaur W/o Rajbeer Singh Sachdeva,R/o Y-15, Third-Floor, Hauz Khas, Delhi-110016, have changed my name to Manpreet Kaur Sachdeva. 0040637966-1

I,Shibli Javed,W/o Javed Alam,R/o-D-278/9 Okhla Village Jamia Nagar ND-25, have changed my name to Shibli Zafar

Austruck by Kohli

His strokeplay apart, Australians are impressed by his fitness and fielding standards, says Lisa Sthalekar



EXPRESS IN SYDNEY

DEVENDRA PANDEY
OCTOBER 26

A MATCH between India and the Netherlands would not be considered box-office material, but a certain Virat Kohli has ensured that the eyes of the cricketing world would be fixed on the Sydney Cricket Ground on Thursday.

After his monumental match-winning innings against Pakistan, every move of the charismatic master batsman will be followed by the legions of fans, and not just those from India. Aussies are also fascinated by the former India captain, who plays the game with an approach traditionally associated with champion sides and players from these shores.

The other day, among the multitudes of Pakistan and India fans was a section of Australians, chanting aloud Kohli's name. This was when he was fielding, before he struck the two most historic sixes he had ever hit.

It's understandable that a cricketer of his stature is universally loved. But in Australia, they consider him one of their own. His traits are their own — the in-your-face machismo and the you- don't-mess-with-me attitude, the single-minded determination to win, what they call Australianism.

So feels former Aussie cricketer Lisa Sthalekar. "The way Virat Kohli plays his cricket is actually Australian. You look at what he has done to Indian cricket, he has pushed the fitness element and prioritised fielding. That core principle is what Australian cricketers admire and not just his ability," she tells *The Indian Express*. Add to that the manic running between wickets and aggressive body language. "His is a name that even those who don't follow cricket will definitely know. And needless to say, he captures the imagination of people who love cricket," the former all-rounder adds.

Kohli, for them, is as Australian as it could be. Which other cricketer could win the affection of the same crowd that he had snapped his middle finger at, as he did on his first senior tour of Australia in 2011-12?

They have loved Sachin Tendulkar and Sunil Gavaskar too, Brian Lara and Viv Richards also. Yet, none was one of their own. Kohli is their own. A raft of former Australian cricketers have expressed the same sentiment in the past. Declared Greg Chappell in a column for the *Sydney Morning Herald* two years ago: "Kohli is the most Australian non-



■ Virat Kohli on the front page and the sports page of the *Herald Sun* after his match-winning knock against Pakistan on Sunday. (Right) Kohli lofts Shaheen Shah Afridi over extra cover.



“The way Virat Kohli plays his cricket is actually Australian. You look at what he has done to Indian cricket, he has pushed the fitness element and prioritised fielding. That core principle is what Australian cricketers admire and not just his ability.”

LISA STHALEKAR
FORMER AUSTRALIA WOMEN ALL-ROUNDER



“Kohli is the most Australian non-Australian cricketer of all time. Many previous Indian cricket teams tended to play with undue deference to their opponents, as if in accord with the Gandhian principle. Virat Kohli does not believe in passive resistance. He is a proponent of all-out aggression.”

GREG CHAPPELL
WRITING FOR THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Australian cricketer of all time." He struck a Gandhi metaphor to drill his point: "Many previous Indian cricket teams tended to play with undue deference to their opponents, as if in accord with the Gandhian principle. Virat Kohli does not believe in passive resistance. He is a proponent of all-out aggression."

For the Pakistan-India match in Melbourne, Sthalekar had tagged along a couple of her Australian Football League friends to experience the electric atmosphere of the game as well as watch Kohli.

"The two guys who I was with were saying that the AFL Grand Final is all about corporates, just want-to-be-there-to-be-seen type of scene. When they saw this match, they said everyone is so emotionally invested in this match. I said, ya. Live and die by this result on who wins and who doesn't," she narrates.

In Sydney, where India play the Dutch, there has been no shortage of buzz to watch Kohli. The trams in the SCG line have been warning passengers about a busy Thursday. Needless to say, the trams and buses, the alleys and roads that lead to the SCG on Thursday would be packed.

Social media too has helped forge an emotional connection between Kohli and fans from different countries. Cricketers of the past were aloof and detached, whereas Kohli is active on social media. "Virat is more accessible than any of those guys because of the technological age we are in. People have deeper connections and at the same time, more cricket has been played. When Sachin retired, he had played only one T20 International. The game has changed so much and Virat is more accessible and that is (a reason) why the love affair continues," Sthalekar says.

Kohli has loved Australia back too. It was

here that he first stamped his world-beating class, during the hurricane chase against Sri Lanka in Hobart. On these shores, he scored his first Test hundred, became Test captain for the first time and later became the first Indian captain to win a Test series Down Under. Here, he averages 54 in Tests, 47 in ODIs and 64 in T20Is. Add to the list of his epic performances the 82 not out against Pakistan on Sunday — a knock straight from the Australian playbook of winning games that seemed lost at one stage.

Sthalekar is still in awe of that innings. "What ability!" she gushes. "Those two balls at the end of the 19th over will go down in history. It's a shot not many people in this world can play — on the up, weight going backwards, and to deposit it straight up over the bowler's head for six. It's amazing what that gentleman can do," she says.

A missing cog in Pakistan's T20 wheel

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
OCTOBER 26

PAKISTAN'S LAST-BALL defeat to India on Sunday in their opening match of the T20 World Cup may well have increased the pressure on their contrarian T20 strategy, in the absence of a genuine seam-bowling all-rounder.

In a format where most top sides have come to rely on their batting heavyweights outgunning the opposition — India have almost been forced to adopt a more aggressive batting approach after their 2021 T20 World Cup debacle — Pakistan still swear by scoring just about par and trusting their high-quality bowling attack to defend it, game after game.

There is no doubt that the strategy has worked more often than not when bowlers of the calibre Pakistan have are setting up the game. Since the 2021 T20 World Cup, Pakistan have lost only three and won 10 matches while chasing a target, as their bowlers rarely end up conceding above par.

But the story is not as one-sided when Pakistan have to bat first, like they had to against India after losing the toss in Melbourne. It was their seventh defeat against six wins while batting first since the 2021 T20 World Cup. During this period, Pakistan's batsmen have scored at a strike rate of just 127.22 while batting first; the top three teams, England, India and South Africa, have gone at 152.77, 148.06 and 146.74 respectively.

When setting a target, Pakistan have relied overwhelmingly on the opening pair of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, the most prolific partnership in T20 history. Sunday's game was a rare failure for the duo in difficult batting conditions against the new ball, and it was largely to Iftikhar Ahmed's credit that Pakistan managed to post a target of 160.

And they did seem to have the game almost in the bag when India required 48 runs off the last three overs, two of which were to be bowled by the crack pace duo of Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf. However, both bowlers, usually reliable at the death, came up short against the rampaging genius of Virat Kohli.



A pace-bowling all-rounder could be the way forward for Pakistan after the hammering left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz received.

alone in a chase against the arch rivals in a World Cup where conditions have been decidedly pace-friendly?

Contrast this with how India were able to adapt after one of their bowlers had an off day, thanks to the presence of Pandya. Axar Patel had gone for runs in the 12th over — like Nawaz did — when Pakistan batted. But because Pandya could be relied upon to bowl his full quota of four overs, India were able to take Axar out of the attack altogether after the solitary expensive over.

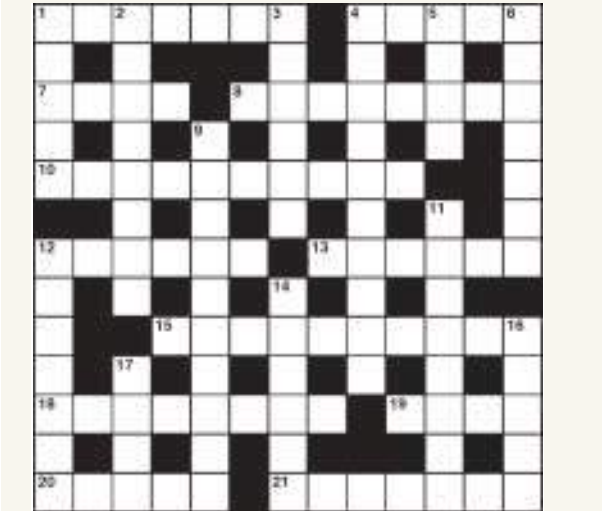
Pakistan have spin-bowling all-rounders — Shadab Khan, Nawaz, even Iftikhar Ahmed can bowl some off-spin — more suited to Asian conditions, but the closest they have to a seam-bowling all-rounder is young Mohammad Wasim, who averages close to 20 in T20Is and 25 in one-dayers with the bat. He has never batted above No. 8 in his six T20I innings so far, but after the loss to India, there have been calls to include him in place of either Haider Ali or Asif Ali.

It is early days in the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup, but there is a six-run gap right now in the averages of pacers (20.47) compared to spinners (26.25). The difference has been starker in Perth, where Pakistan play their next two matches, against Zimbabwe on Thursday and the Netherlands on Sunday. Pacers are averaging 19.25 and going at 6.67 runs an over, while the corresponding figures for spinners are 30.14 and 7.49.

It was only one narrow loss to an all-time great knock from an opponent alright, but it was still against India, and has certainly hit Pakistan's semi-final chances. What will be their response?

Will it make them drop a batsman and include Wasim to increase seam-bowling options in helpful conditions, despite the pedigree of their five-man attack? Will it make their top order take more risks — something they have been reluctant to do in the first half of the innings — to give their bowlers more of a buffer should one or two of them have an off day? Or could Wasim's inclusion make the top order even more risk-averse and make it harder for them to achieve a par score?

CROSSWORD 4883



- ACROSS**
1 One might expect them to stick to rock (7)
4 Leave word in France (5)
7 Stood up for England (4)
8 Battle colours? (3,5)
10 Snowdrops? (10)
12 Is afraid of disturbing adders (6)
13 A leader of Zulus in tough venture (6)
15 Coming to sure reappraisal of risks (10)
18 A partner placed inside is cut off (8)
19 Ready and willing for tennis? (4)
20 Birds from other nests (5)
21 Contrasting points in a track promoter (7)
- DOWN**
1 She upsets Roland endlessly (5)
2 Team sink badly being wide of the mark (8)
3 Take a little time (6)
4 Parcels apt to go astray - they have fruit in them (10)
5 Flower girl (4)
6 Intrude clumsily lacking experience (7)
9 Frank gains the new seat - these wanted it too (10)
11 Good routes for long-distance drivers (8)
12 Kind of seaside complaint (7)
14 Deep water shelter put up around small port (6)
16 It's very much inclined to deviate (5)
17 Empty sort of pun about a preposition (4)

Solutions Crossword 4882: Across: 1 Trepidation, 9 Dubious, 10 Arena, 11 Lily, 12 Compiled, 14 Spirit, 16 Tongue, 18 Eighteen, 19 Trim, 22 Train, 23 Abandon, 24 Penetration, Down: 2 Rebel, 3 Poop, 4 Despot, 5 Teaspoon, 6 Opening, 7 Adolescents, 8 Daydreaming, 13 Distance, 15 Ingrate, 17 Repair, 20 Rodeo, 21 Fast.

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.

As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so a well spent brings happy ____ - Leonardo da Vinci (4,5)

VWAAE

FFYIT

AERRDL

ORTUFH

SOLUTION: WEAVE, FIFTY, LARDER, FOURTH
Answer: As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well spent brings happy death.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 5000

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

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4999



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Once you're past the present period, you'll see that home and family life have indeed been strengthened immeasurably. A word for those in the property market: strange as it may seem, current difficulties are working in your favour. As someone once said, there's no gain without pain.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Venus is still offering you its blessings, but while this planet normally brings love without strings, right now it indicates that relationships are nothing without responsibility and commitment. You're still in a secretive mood, but that's only to be expected.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The best friendships are likely to be formed with people who are older or wiser than you. Certainly, you'll value age and experience and you may be attracted to people you work with, or with whom you share common activities. One other thing: make sure that all social engagements are firmed up.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
As the next lunar alignment approaches, partners, loved ones and offspring all seem to want your undivided attention. You must do what you can to protect your territory and preserve your personal space. If you're called on to do extra work, then go ahead, but make sure that every extra atom of effort counts.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Solar and lunar influences over the next twenty-four hours may lead you to new conclusions. Even though there's a chance you may feel briefly undermined, the outcome will be positive if it forces you to think again. You'll get it right next time around - all with the benefit of hindsight.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Your talents are many - and have often been underestimated. Politically-minded Virgos will be coming into their own. Even those of you who have never regarded yourselves as political creatures will be moving inexorably towards involvement in the community.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You probably won't notice any change today, but the opposition is now beginning to crumble both at home and at work - and not before time. Arguments which have been used to deny you your rights will dissolve under the steady drip of the waters of Libran truth.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
There are certain ties and associations which must now be handled with great tact, not to mention sympathy and understanding. Fortunately, there is nobody better than a Scorpio at dealing with such delicate tasks. Hopefully partners will recognise this.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
Making choices is a Sagittarian speciality, but the decisions that are looming now concern more than the everyday details of daily life. In a sense, it is your entire lifestyle which must shift, but just how and when may not be revealed for another two months.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Given that a special but little-known celestial point, the Moon's north node, is hovering in helpful regions of your chart, you can be confident that whatever the daily ups and downs, your financial situation is still moving from loss to profit.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Most of the conflicts in your solar chart at the moment relate to your inner feelings of insecurity. The trouble is that while the astrological causes are so simple, the remedy may require a great deal of self-knowledge and discipline. So, stop for a while - and think.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Listen carefully to what relatives or colleagues have to say. You see, it's your Piscean intuitions that help you understand the problem and offer the best advice. This is a fine day for taking financial decisions, but only if you're into long-term benefits.

Irish dream

Ireland’s pluck and luck script historic victory against England in rain-affected match in Melbourne

SRIRAM VEERA
OCTOBER 26

AT WHAT point was a dream upset on the cards?

As rollicking as the 82-run partnership between captain Andrew Balbirnie and Lorcan Tucker was, talk of victory was still premature as a collapse ensued and Ireland were “restricted” to 157.

Was it when left-handed Joshua Little, with a snap in his wrist and ambition in his eyes, took out Jos Buttler and Alex Hales within a couple of overs? Too early again, with this England line-up.

Things turned pursed-lips worthy at the sight of Mark Adair harassing Dawid Malan. Time and again, from over and round the stumps, the right-handed pacer either swung the ball in or curled it away past the bat and stumps.

There was a moment as early as the fifth ball of the second over when Adair swung a peach of an outswinger through the bat-and-pad alley of a startled Malan as the ball almost landed a kiss of death on the off-bail. One sensed that the chase wasn’t going to be easy for England, and when Adair repeatedly teased Malan’s outside edge, it was clear that it was going to be a battle.

Tough conditions

Unlike the English bowlers, who barring Mark Wood to an extent, couldn’t quite come to terms with the damp run-ups and the conditions, Ireland were on song from the start.

But this is England we are talking about. Batting-heavy, right till the end. They can tonk their way out of any crisis. Ireland had come close to beating India and New Zealand at home a couple of months ago, but couldn’t get over the line.

“Questions were asked if they were mentally tough to close out those moments,” former Irish player Kenny Carroll would tell this newspaper.

The first answer came on the first ball of the sixth over. Fionn Hand, on his World Cup debut, running in to bowl his first ball to the tattooed swaggering Ben Stokes. Blink. Hand was losing his head in a celebratory run. What happened there? A curving cracker had found its way through an iffy prod to clatter the stumps.

A few years back, Hand had skipped the chance to play a series in India as he was at school and wanted to focus on his exams. A couple of months ago, he would hit the highest score by a debutant batting at No. 9 with a breezy 36. Now, a dreamy first ball at the World Cup to take out an iconic player. “I dare say as a former Irish international, we can’t even dream of those episodes, it’s crazy,” Carroll again.

Dreams come true

29 for 3 in 5.1 overs at the fall of Stokes. But young Harry Brooks, who treasures his Pakistan Super League experience for helping him mature quickly, carried a battling Malan along in a 38-run stand.

Then came a moment of double jeopardy for the Irish. Off two successive balls, both Brooks and Malan were dropped in the deep by Adair and Gareth Delany off George Dockrell’s spin.

But in the same over, Delaney would move further to his right at deep midwicket to snap up Brooks: 67 for 4 in 10.5 overs. Thirteen balls later, Barry McCarthy would hit the deck and get one across Malan who misicued a pull: 86 for 5 in 13.1 overs.

The dark clouds began to move in closer, enveloping the hallowed Melbourne Cricket Ground where remarkably the Irish players



Ireland players celebrate the memorable victory with their fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

AP

A few years back, Hand had skipped the chance to play a series in India as he was at school and wanted to focus on his exams. A couple of months ago, he would hit the highest score by a debutant batting at No. 9 with a breezy 36. Now, a dreamy first ball at the World Cup to take out an iconic player.

were playing for the first time. Another dream first date, then. Three years back, Irish luck had smiled on an England captain from Ireland, overthrows off the bat and, what not, culminating in a memorable 50-over World Cup triumph. Now, Irish luck came via a familiar Dublin sight: rain.

Drip, drip, drip, it began to fall on Moeen Ali, who started to swing his bat. Couple of boundaries came, the drizzle became a tad heavier, and when they were just 5 runs short of the par score (105 for 5 in 14.3 overs), the Irish clouds opened up in Australia.

“Did you know we have more than 11 per cent of the Irish diaspora in Australia? You must have seen the green-costumed fans?” Carroll again. One did see. One of the fans even had “Australian flies are more annoying than this rain” written on his costume. That was when Ireland were batting.

It wouldn’t be a surprise if he had scrubbed off ‘rain’ from his jersey by the end: there was nothing annoying about it for them, but a harbinger of joy. As they say in Ireland, it was an evening to get scuttered, to get stocious, to get drunk in delirious joy in the rain.

where Ireland was playing for the first time. It was the icing on the cake.”

However, there were nerves when Moeen Ali switched gears, and no one in the Irish dressing room was moving.

“None of us moved until the players started walking off the ground. If that over would have gone on, they (England) could have gone ahead of us. They were only behind by five runs, three balls were left, and Moeen Ali knew about it. But it was our day,” Singh said.

From Bangalore to Melbourne

Eleven years ago, it was a Herculean effort from Kevin O’Brien, who stunned England with the fastest hundred in ODI World Cup history as Ireland secured a monumental three-wicket triumph over their Big Brothers.

Singh feels the Melbourne win ranks right up there with the Bangalore one.

“The win in Bangalore inspired a generation of cricketers. The likes of (Harry) Tector, (Curtis) Campher, (Josh) Little, all of them started playing cricket after that Kevin O’Brien show. This win in Melbourne will inspire the next generation. It is right up there with Bangalore,” he said.

Not many would have given Ireland a

‘England’s changed, they don’t help Ireland’

SRIRAM VEERA
OCTOBER 26

KENNY CARROLL was an Ireland player who played his part in the historic 2007 World Cup win against Pakistan. He was also simultaneously a postman, clutching a grey-clothed postbag of dreams and regrets, of hopes and hurts, across Dublin.

“They were different times!” Carroll says minutes after Ireland’s epic win over neighbours England. He offers a lot of laughter, great insights, a touch of hurt, some nostalgia, pride, and a whole lot of positivity about the future, all these feelings being mutually related.

Carroll explains why it’s so special to beat England. They had done it once earlier at the 50-over World Cup stage in Bangalore in 2011; the second time is a lot sweeter in some ways. “It’s sweeter because England have had a funny attitude towards us in recent years. They don’t help Ireland or European countries. They used to be helpful before but it seems the country has changed.”

Then comes his punchline. “Which is strange because it was an Irish guy (Eoin Morgan) who helped them to an ODI World Cup triumph!” Carroll chuckles. “Playing us seems to be almost as if they are doing us a favour.” In the past, Irish players used to populate English domestic cricket. But of late, they have been classified as overseas professionals and have been losing out on The Hundred and county cricket. “I was surprised they went with that rule.” According to current rules, foreign Test players have to be deemed overseas professionals in English

They used to be helpful before but it seems the country has changed. Which is strange because it was an Irish guy (Eoin Morgan) who helped them to an ODI World Cup triumph!



KENNY CARROLL,
FORMER IRELAND INTERNATIONAL

domestic competitions. Irish players had previously counted as local players on the county circuit, but after they became a Test-playing nation, anyone playing international cricket and signing a new contract is counted as an overseas player.

This has resulted in some disinclination among counties to sign top Irish players. It has helped stir not just hurt but hard self-reflection in the Irish cricket fraternity, Carroll says. “Questions were asked here: Why can’t we raise our standard so much that they are forced to select us overseas players. We have a few of course but it was good to see it raised ambitions in Irish cricket.”

Now for the positivity as Carroll offers his biggest takeaway from Wednesday’s win.

“I have to look at the big picture here. No longer can it be said that it is a one-team wonder. As in old players from past teams. It’s an almost fresh new team. For them to do this, it

means cricket is developing nicely in Ireland. Young new players are coming along, rising up, and doing well - we can take big heart from that.” In recent series against India and New Zealand, Ireland had pushed them close in a couple of games but couldn’t get over the line. “Questions were asked whether they are mentally tough enough to get over. They were getting the runs and bowling well, but something was holding them back. This World Cup, they have stepped across that line - first against the West Indies and now against England.

“It also says much that this is the first time they were playing at the iconic MCG. We don’t get to experience such moments. With this win, the future does look bright.”

Talking about the future takes him back to the past. “I am indeed happy and proud to have played a part in that great win against Pakistan in the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies. No one gave us any chance. We thought then that this might turn out to be a once-in-a-lifetime thing. But that win has triggered a love for cricket and a spike in ambition for young kids all over the country. Many of the current players would have celebrated and got inspired by that win.” Carroll might have been a postman who played cricket but he did deliver a cricket revolution, didn’t he? Carroll laughs long.

He has one more thing to say. “We are not Cinderellas of cricket any more; no longer a surprise win here and there. The boys are professional.” No need to return to the sack cloth after midnight or wait for the prince; Cinderella’s shoes were buried deep inside MCG. They can now walk out free, holding their heads high, anytime, anywhere.

‘WE’RE ALL NUMB’

One eye on screen, the other on the heavens: the scene inside the dressing room

PRATYUSH RAJ
OCTOBER 26

SIMI SINGH didn’t play against England because the team management decided to pick an extra seamer looking at the overcast conditions in Melbourne. He was replaced by medium pacer Fionn Hand, who might have bowled the ball of the tournament to knock out Ben Stokes.

The 35-year-old narrated the raw emotions in the Irish dressing room after they upstaged England by five runs on the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method.

“It started raining heavily when (Gareth) Delany started the last over (15th of the England innings). One eye was on the big screen, where they were showing the DLS score, and the other was on heaven. We were keenly following the DLS score. Everyone was hoping for the rain to stay on, and it did,” Singh told The Indian Express from Melbourne.

“When we actually found out that we had won the match, everyone started celebrating in the changing room. Everyone started hugging each other, and there were tears in almost every eye. We’re all numb. Beating England is huge, and that too at the MCG,



Irish players on the team bus after the win.

chance against England. But Singh says, be it hockey, rugby, football or cricket, Irish teams will never go down easily against England.

“Every time Ireland plays against England in any sport, it is a big rivalry. To be able to beat them, with the resources we have, is surreal. It is a huge day for Ireland cricket,” he said. Ireland was 92-1 after 10 overs, but lost momentum in the second half of their innings.

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SIMI SINGH,
IRELAND CRICKETER

“After 10 overs, we’re hoping somewhere close to 180-200. We didn’t finish as well as we would have liked. It was a par score. But with the kind of wicket it was, we knew that if we bowled in the right channel, it would be a tricky chase. With the bigger boundaries, we always knew that we were in the game,” said Singh, who has played 35 ODIs and 53 T20Is for Ireland.

Singh, who moved to Ireland in 2005 to pursue a hotel management course, has seen the change in Irish cricket from close quarters.

“When I came here, the cricket culture in Ireland was taking baby steps, simply be-

cause as a field sport, it comes after football, rugby and hockey. Not everyone wants to play cricket. But over the years, I have seen cricket growing in Ireland. Kids are playing cricket in public parks. That is a huge thing,” he said.

“Cricket has become more professional. The facilities have got better. Obviously, we are still nowhere near England, Australia, India or the other big countries, but still, with the limited resources, it has been managed very well,” he said.

Talent pool

Ireland are giant-slayers when it comes to ICC events. They had already eliminated two-time champion West Indies in the preliminary stage of this tournament. A few months back, they came close to beating India and New Zealand in T20Is.

“Talent has always been there in Ireland. Despite being such a small cricketing community, we keep producing world-class cricketers who are enough to beat teams like England. We came close to winning against India and gave stiff competition to New Zealand.

“Cricket is becoming popular, it is on the rise, and this win will start a cricketing revolution,” Singh signed off.

PLAYING TODAY

T20 WORLD CUP

8.30am: Bangladesh vs South Africa
12.30pm: India vs Netherlands
4.30pm: Pakistan vs Zimbabwe
Live on Star Sports Network

BRIEFLY

British minister tells gay World Cup fans to ‘be respectful’

London: British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly faced criticism Wednesday after telling gay soccer fans heading to the World Cup in Qatar that they should show some “compromise” and be “respectful of the host nation.” The comments were quickly disavowed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s office, while a senior figure in the opposition Labour party called them “shockingly tone deaf.” Homosexuality is criminalized in Qatar and Cleverly was asked about the issue in the wake of British activist Peter Tatchell being questioned by police after holding a one-man protest in front of Qatar’s National Museum, holding up a sign accusing the country of jailing members of the LGBTQ community. **AP**

French Open: Kidambi outperforms Sen

Paris: Kidambi Srikanth prevailed over Lakshya Sen in an all-Indian duel to advance to the men’s singles second round of the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Wednesday. Sameer Verma, meanwhile, registered an upset win over Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia to also make it to the second round. Srikanth beat junior compatriot Sen 21-18 21-18 in a first round match that lasted 46 minutes. This was only the second career match between the top two Indian shuttlers. Sen had lost to his senior compatriot in their earlier meeting at the semifinals of the 2021 World Championships to settle for a bronze medal. **PTI**

Spain face Colombia in U-17 WC title clash

Margao: Defending champions Spain beat Germany by a solitary goal in a closely-fought semifinal here on Wednesday to set up a summit clash against Colombia in the FIFA Women’s Under-17 World Cup. Lucia Corrales scored the lone goal of the match in the 90th minute at the Nehru Stadium here. The final will be played at the D Y Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Sunday. Spain thus avenged their loss to the same opponents in the European qualifying tournament on penalty shootout in May. **AP**

Messi on target as PSG reach last 16

Paris: His first goal was a nonchalant, outside-of-the-foot finish. His second was pretty much his trademark — fast feet outside the area and then a precise curler into the corner. Lionel Messi kept up his stellar pre-World Cup form to help rampant Paris Saint-Germain become one of four teams to advance to the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday, along with Chelsea, Benfica and Borussia Dortmund. That’s more than half of the round of 16 lineup confirmed now — five clubs had already gone through — and PSG will be one of the teams its rivals are looking to avoid, especially with Messi in this mood. Kylian Mbappe, too. **REUTERS**

TOO CLOSE TO CALL

	P	W	L	NRR	PTS
New Zealand	2	1	0	+4.450	3
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	+0.450	2
England	2	1	1	+0.239	2
Ireland	2	1	1	-1.169	2
Australia	2	1	1	-1.555	2
Afghanistan	2	0	1	-0.620	1

■ With two matches played by every team, there are no clear frontrunners in Group 1 for the two semifinal spots. New Zealand seemed well-paced after beating Australia, but after the washout against bottom team Afghanistan, they have a lot of work to do. The loss against Ireland has left England fans anxious. Australia started their recovery by thrashing Sri Lanka, and the two teams would aim to win their remaining matches to remain in contention.