

## Ace the **UPSC CSE 2023 Prelims Exam** with our **Prelims Test Series**

# 36 TESTS

### 19 Sectional Tests

### 17 Full-Length Tests

9 GS Full length tests and 8 CSAT tests



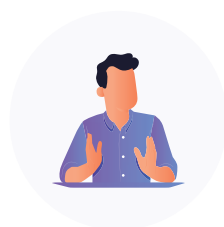
### • Features of the Prelims Test Series •



Available in  
offline & online  
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Hindi & English  
languages



Detailed discussion  
of the test paper with  
IAS Exam Experts



Complimentary  
current affairs  
crash course

## Register for the First **FREE Prelims Mock**

Date: **6th Nov 2022** | Timing: **9:30 AM to 11:30 AM**



Scan to Register

### Our **UPSC CSE 2021 Achievers**



**RANK 01**  
Shruti Sharma



**RANK 05**  
Utkarsh Dwivedi



**RANK 06**  
Yaksh Chaudhary



**RANK 12**  
Yasharth Shekhar



**RANK 13**  
Priyamvada Ashok

**03** Ranks in  
Top 10

**10** Ranks in  
Top 20

**36** Ranks in  
Top 100

**206** Total  
Selections





**R.K. Mathur**  
Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh



सत्यमेव जयते

The Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh  
Department of Information & Public Relations

*Celebrating*

3

**YEARS OF UT LADAKH**  
ECONOMIC GROWTH, PROSPERITY & PROGRESS

"We are striving tirelessly to fulfil the aspirations of our sisters and brothers from Ladakh, ensure all-round development of the region and provide a range of opportunities to the dynamic youth there."

— PRIME MINISTER  
NARENDRA MODI

## Leap in Infrastructure building

- Major focus on increasing connectivity through black-topped & all-weather roads, new bridges under various schemes
- Work on the Zoji-la tunnel; Kargil-Zaskar road and Nimmo-Padum-Darcha road going on as per schedule
- Internal passes being kept open for longer period; around 600 km road upgraded since 2019
- From 3% in 2019 under Jal Jeevan Mission, 68% house holds in rural Ladakh now have functional tap connections
- Since 2019, 233 additional Mobile Towers, 148 VSATS, 80 satellite phones made functional to bridge the communication gap even in the remotest corners
- 38 additional helipads have taken the count to 42 across Ladakh
- 31 villages electrified with grid connectivity after formation of UT



## Strengthening Primary Sector

- 660 Ladakh Greenhouses and 2100 Vermi Compost units established
- 1,590 kanals of land brought under micro irrigation system; solar borewell & water lifting systems being used
- 5,000 hectares of land brought under organic certification under Mission Organic Development Initiative Ladakh (MODI)
- Apricot Processing Unit established to increase income of growers
- Dairy Processing Unit to be set up to promote A2-rich Ladakhi cow milk under brand 'Oma'; 80 Dairy Cooperative societies registered
- 100% registration & tagging of entire cattle & yak population done; FMD vaccination in full swing
- 110 MT Cold Storage facility constructed for bulk storage of food items



## Ensuring Quality Education

- Transition of affiliation of Government schools from JKBOSE to CBSE
- Students from Class 6 to 12 provided with YounTab - preloaded educational tablets
- 40 Astronomy/Astro Physics Lab set up in schools; 24 Atal Tinkering labs/Robotic labs set up in Higher Secondary Schools
- 18,000 winter uniforms (blazers) distributed to students from KG till Class 8 under Samagra Shiksha
- Community Radio being set up for educational purposes in all zones of Ladakh
- Collaboration with IITs for internships & sponsored MTech programmes; 45 students interning & 12 engineering graduates sent for MTech programme at IIT Delhi, Bombay & Kanpur
- Courses in colleges & University increased over 3 years resulting in increased GER
- MoU signed with Universities and Institutes across the country to strengthen Higher Education
- Infrastructure expansion with hostels, sports hall & labs in all the colleges & university; Geo-Thermal energy for space heating alongwith winter-friendly construction coming up at the University of Ladakh



## Promoting Entrepreneurs and Building Skills

- Fresh Halman apricots & apples exported to foreign countries for the first time
- Brand Ladakh emporium established to promote & showcase handloom, handicraft & processed food products
- Incubation Centre for handloom & handicraft set up; hand holding & capacity building of entrepreneurs being done
- PMFME of Micro Food Processing Enterprises launched; new entrepreneurs & SHGs on-boarded
- 'Enchanting Ladakh' Fair provided platform to small businesses & SHGs; Ladakh took part in World Expo'20 at Dubai
- Floriculture and Horticulture trade introduced in ITIs in 2022
- Youth trained in voice artist training, mobile filmmaking, screen acting through FTIL; youth also trained as Assistant Hair Dressers & Stylists
- Screenwriters Fair held to build capacities of filmmakers from Ladakh
- Ladakh Skill Development portal launched



## Towards a Carbon Neutral Ladakh

- 7.5 GW solar power project coming up at Pang
- 1 Megawatt Geo Thermal Field Development pilot project coming up at Puga
- e-Cars for UT Administration officials launched by Lt. Governor on 9th October 2022
- e-Vehicle policy introduced, early bird subsidy of 20% to 50%; e-Buses being utilised for public transportation
- 19 DG sets of 1345 KVA capacity, phased out in 2021 and 5 Nos DG sets of 810 KVA capacity phased out in 2022



## Developing Sustainable Tourism

- Country's first Dark Sky Reserve being developed at Hanle to promote Astro-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 & Kargil; incentive items worth Rs 5 crores distributed
- To boost winter tourism, Ladakh Winter Conclave, Zaskar Winter Sports Festivals being organised
- Wayside amenities at major tourist routes for the convenience of tourists
- 4,86,590 tourists visited Ladakh in 2022 against 2,79,937 in 2019



## Aiming for Healthy Ladakh

- Genomic Sequencing Lab established in Ladakh; MRI, Digital X-ray & Digital Radiography Machines; high-end eye operating microscope made available
- 300-bedded District Hospital Complex at Kargil ready for launch
- COVID-19 Vaccine: 1st dose to 100% population, 2nd dose to 88.12%; boosters to 67.88% population
- 56% health institutions providing regular tele-consultation services; the number of doctors increased from 163 in 2019 to 274 in 2022
- 83% of eligible households covered under PMJAY
- Beds capacity in hospitals has been doubled; Capacity of Oxygenated beds, Pediatric ICU beds increased manifold
- National Institute of Sowa Rigpa has been set up as Centre-of-Excellence for research & education in Sowa Rigpa system of medicine under the Ministry of AYUSH



## Promoting Fitness and Sports

- Open stadium with Astroturf at Leh and Astroturf football ground at Kargil constructed;
- State-of-the-art ice hockey rinks with chilling facilities being constructed in Leh & Kargil
- Sports equipment worth 10 crores purchased for local sportspersons.
- Players from Ladakh represented the UT at various national & International tournaments; 26 sports associations registered & affiliated with national associations.
- Tournaments at the UT level organised viz. LG Polo Cup, LG Ice Hockey Championship in addition to district level games



## Striving For Inclusive Growth

- Winter-friendly and model Anganwadi centres being built for covering every eligible child under ICDS scheme
- Year 2022-23 was declared as the Year of Persons with Disabilities in Ladakh to make every public building and government services accessible to all
- Unique Identity Card to cover all PwDs being carried out in a mission mode; 3,386 UDID generated
- First government Old Age Home being built at Leh & Kargil; Child Care Institutions and Working Women Hostel also coming up
- Helpline for Senior Citizens, 'Elderline' was launched on 30th September 2022; old age pension beneficiaries increased by 57% since 2019
- Concerted efforts being made to provide scholarship to all eligible students; beneficiaries increased by 15.8% in last one year



## Towards Efficient Governance

- Ladakh integrated Financial Management System (LIFMS) implemented from 1st April, 2022 for paperless budgeting, effective monitoring, budget planning and expenditure audit
- Capacity building of manpower for efficient governance.
- Financial services expanded post formation of UT with banking services reaching remotest villages; e-seva portal launched
- Digitisation of land records has been undertaken
- Emergency Response Support System through helpline No. 112; Cyber-crime unit being set up with state-of-the-art Cyber Lab with cyber forensic capabilities



## Meeting Local Aspirations

- Local governance being strengthened to take up developmental projects at the village & municipal level
- Ladakh has 193 Sarpanch, 1360 Panch, 31 Block Development Council Chairpersons & 240 Nambardar (Goba) functioning at the grassroot level
- Three-fold increase in budget allocation (from Rs 166 crore in 2019 to 516.64 crores in 2022) to both Hill Councils to empower them in formulating big projects
- Development Conclaves convened by the UT Administration with elected representatives to devise policy interventions







Government of Rajasthan

# Model State Rajasthan Dedicated Towards Duties

Rajasthan has emerged as a Model State in the country with its unique schemes and positive results of all the schemes started in the interest of people of state

## Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme

Free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh.  
25.36 lakh patients given free treatment of Rs 2963 crore till now.

## Old Pension Scheme

Old Pension Scheme (OPS) implemented for the employees appointed on and after January 1, 2004.

## Low-Priced Domestic Electricity

Zero electricity bill of 38.18 lakh families.

## Low-Priced electricity to farmers

No hike in agriculture electricity tariff.  
Annual Subsidy of Rs. 16000 crore.

## Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana

Subsidy of Rs 1000 per month to farmers on agriculture electricity connections.  
Zero electricity bill of 7.85 lakh farmers.

## Social Security Pension

Pension given to approximately 1 crore people including elderly people, specially-abled, widows and single women.

## Palanhaar Scheme

Assistance of Rs 500 to Rs 2500 per month to orphans and other children as per eligibility, 6.51 lakh children benefitted so far.

## Scooty distribution to girls

Scooty distribution to 20,000 school and college going girls every year.

## Studying in abroad becomes easy

Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship for Academic Excellence - Annually the state government is bearing the cost of education of 200 students studying abroad.

## Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme

Guarantee of 100 days employment in cities.  
More than 3.17 lakh job cards issued till now.

**State Government is providing 25 days additional employment in MGNREGA.**

## Government Jobs

1.32 lakh government jobs given.  
1.21 lakh government recruitments in process.  
1 lakh recruitments on additional posts proposed.

## Indira Raso

Nutritious and quality food for Rs. 8.  
870 Indira Rasos functional.  
State government subsidy of Rs. 17 per plate.

## Udaan Scheme

12 free sanitary napkins per month to girls and women.  
Around 1.45 crores Adolescent Girls and Women beneficiaries.

## Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools

Quality education in 1658 English Medium schools in the State.

## Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympic Games

Biggest sports event in the world.  
Participation of around 30 lakh people.  
Urban Olympic Games will also be organized.

## Mukhyamantri Dugdh Udadadak Sambal Yojana

Subsidy of Rs 5 per litre to milk producers.  
Subsidy of Rs 718 crore given so far.

## Tablet distribution

Approximately 93,000 meritorious children will be given tablets

## Development through Technology

- Unique IT Institute - Rajiv Gandhi Fintech Digital Institute, Jodhpur.
- Research on advanced technology on Medi-tech, Climate Tech and Agritech etc. in Rajasthan Institute of Advance Learning, Jaipur.
- Rajiv Gandhi Knowledge Innovation Hub at Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota for Plug and Play facility for Startups
- Finishing School - R-CAT.



**Ashok Gehlot**  
Chief Minister, Rajasthan

Department of Information and Public Relations, Rajasthan



No. 3007/Registration/F3/dated 20 Oct 2022

**REGISTRATION/RENEWAL OF SUPPLIERS/FIRMS IN 19 BRTF OF PROJECT DANTAK FOR THE YEAR 2022-23****CAT 'A'/B' ITEMS**

Applications are invited from eligible enlisted suppliers of BRO and enlisted/ un enlisted suppliers working with other Govt. departments meeting eligibility criteria for issue of enquiry documents for procurement of stores.

Applications are invited for Registration/Renewal of Suppliers/Firms for the year 2022-23, interested firms are requested to apply in following category along with the under mentioned documents :- Hardware, Electrical, Sanitary, Stationary/ Computer Stationary, Constructional Stores, Tentage & Tarpaulin, Cat 'A' Spares, Tyre/Tube, Battery & Misc Stores/Items. Enlisted Firms/Suppliers have to deposit Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) as Standing Security Deposit in the form of Bank Guarantee Bond or F.D.R through any Nationalized Bank in favor of Chief Engineer (Project) Dantak.

- Form No. 03 Registration form.
- Dealership Certificate (if any).
- Copy of Trade License.
- Income Tax Pan Card.
- Income Tax Return Verification Form.
- GST Registration.
- Copy of Registration in Registration of Firm.
- Details of Partnership deed if any.
- Photograph of Proprietorship.
- Specimen Signature and seal of Proprietorship.
- Mandate form from respective Bank along with Bank cancelled cheque
- Certificate that only original firm and no sister firms are applying for the registration process.
- AD Code (Authorized Dealer Code) which is issued by Bank.
- EC Code (Import/Export Code).
- LUT or Bond Paper.
- HSN Code (Harmonic systems) it is part No of item when supplied.
- Standing Security Deposit of Rs. 50,000/-
- Copies of Supply Orders placed on the firm by other agencies like GE/ CWE/ CPWD/BRO Projects.
- Firms having authorize dealership/authorized stock/manufacture will clearly be indicated.
- Contact Number and mail ID or the applicant.

All above details to be handed over to Board of Officer on or before **15 Nov 2022** along with a soft copy through e-mail on Mail Id **bro-19brtf@nic.in/bro-1055fw@nic.in/CD** at HQ 19 BRTF. Phuentsholing (Bhutan) for consideration of enlistment. All above. documents to be submitted together, piecemeal receipt of documents will not be entertained. All documents are required to be produced for successful enlistment.

Sd/-  
(Manish Sobti)  
Lt. Col  
OC, 1055 Fd Wksp (GREF),  
Presiding Officer

davp 10901/11/0027/2223

**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

**Capt PV Vikram, SM**  
(24 Oct 73 – 02 Jun 99)



**DMT Jugal Ramesh**  
(01 Jun 80 – 06 Jul 99)

**17<sup>TH</sup> HONOUR TITLE DAY: 141 FIELD REGIMENT (KARGIL)**

On the occasion of 17th Honour Title Day of 141 Field Regiment (KARGIL) on 31 Oct 2022, the Commanding Officer, all ranks, their families and the Buzurgs of the unit pay homage to the martyrs who have made the supreme sacrifice for the Nation during 'OP VIJAY'. Their valour & heroism continues to inspire all of us. All ranks of **TEAM KARGIL VICTORS** pray to **ALMIGHTY** to grant eternal peace to the departed souls. We also pledge to take the honour of the unit to even greater heights and glory in the times to come.

**CO & All Ranks 141 Field Regiment (KARGIL)**

**DISPLAY/BULK ADVERTISEMENT IN KATIHAR DIVISION**

E-Auction is invited for Display/Bulk Advertisement in Katihar Division. **Auction Catalogue No.:** C/ADVT-KIR-NJP. **Auction Start (All Lots):** 10:00 hrs. on 25-11-2022 **Seq No.:** AA/1; **Lot No./Category:** ADVT-KIR-NJP-OH. 162-22-1. **Description:** Award of contract for display of advertisement through vinyl wrapping (Graphic films according to RDSO specification) on the exterior surface on GSICFLIB BG coaches (451 nos. coaches available) over Katihar Division. **Rate Unit:** Annual Licensing Fee; **Days:** 1095; **Seq No.:** AA/2; **Lot No./Category:** ADVT-KIR-KIR-OH-161-22-1. **Description:** For award of bulk advertisement contract for the specified marked location of tender only in Katihar-Jogbani section over Katihar Division; **Rate Unit:** Annual Licensing Fee; **Days:** 1095; **Closing date & time:** At 10:40 hrs. on 25-11-2022. **Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successive lots closing interval 10 minutes. Note:** Prospective Participants/bidders are requested to visit e-Auction module of IREPS website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for more details.

DRMIC, Katihar  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Setting Coaches with A Sails

**यूको बैंक UCO BANK**

**Head Office, Retail Banking Deptt**  
**2nd Floor, 10 B.T.M Sarani, Kolkata – 700 001**

Sealed offers are invited from interested Agencies for empanelled of Corporate Gold Appraiser for valuation (Appraiser and Re-Appraiser) of Gold loan accounts. **Last date for submission of offers 21.11.2022 at 4.00 PM.** For details visit our website: **[www.ucobank.com](http://www.ucobank.com)**

**Honours Your Trust**सत्यमेव जयते  
Government of Rajasthan

“Nothing is impossible for those who serve their country”  
- Indira Gandhi

Remembering  
India's First Woman Prime Minister  
**Bharat Ratna**

**Indira Gandhi**(19<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 - 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1984)**on the anniversary of her martyrdom**

“Indira Gandhi's contribution towards maintaining the unity and integrity of the nation is incomparable. She laid down her life for this noble cause. During her tenure, the Indian Army displayed historic valour & courage, defeated Pakistan and Bangladesh was created. Indira Gandhi ji led the country on the path of self-reliance through the Green Revolution. She was always a benefactor of the poor. Her life remains a source of inspiration for us.”

Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

Department of Information &amp; Public Relations, Rajasthan

Rajasthan Samwad

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that this person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 70 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'7", **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Oval, **Identification Mark:** Small mole on right side face, **Wearing:** White colour shirt & Black colour sweater and bare footed, was found dead at Gate No. 1, Jama Masjid, Delhi on dated 25.10.2022 at

7:46 am. The dead body has been preserved in MAMC Hospital, New Delhi mortuary for 72 hours for identification.

In this regard a **DD No. 06-A, dated 25.10.2022**, has been lodged at P.S. Jama Masjid, 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.

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

SHO  
PS. Jama Masjid, Delhi  
DP/2345/CD/2022(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23269777, 8750870422

**छावनी परिषद, मथुरा**  
(एन एस सी एन एस)

**ई-नीलामी सूचना**

सूचनार्थ प्रकाशित है कि छावनी परिषद मथुरा द्वारा पुराने वाहनों की ई-नीलामी में भाग लेने वाले इच्छुक कबाड़े के व्यापारी/देकेंदर नीलामी में भाग लेने के लिए प्रारम्भिक दिनांक 31.10.2022 सांय 5:00 बजे से ई-नीलामी अंतिम दिन दिनांक 11.11.2022 सांय 5:00 बजे तक समस्त दस्तावेजों के साथ अपलोड करेंगे। ई-नीलामी से सम्बन्धित शर्तें वेबसाइट <https://eauction.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

मुख्य अधिशासी अधिकारी,  
छावनी परिषद, मथुरा  
(अभिजीत भागवत)

**ARMY WELFARE EDUCATION SOCIETY**  
(Registered under Society Act XXI of 1860)

**NOTICE**

RFP for Learning Management System issued vide RFP No AWES-2022/RFP/LMS/01 dated 26 Aug 2022 stands annulled.

For details please log on to **[www.awesindia.com](http://www.awesindia.com)**

**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, Tamil Nadu

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**

Contract Name	Tender for providing Security Manpower Services at CMRL Metro Bhawan, Nandanam, Chennai
Contract No	CMRL/Security Services/Metro Bhawan/2022
Documents downloaded	From 31/10/2022 to 29/11/2022 up to 17.00 hrs through e-tendering website <a href="http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app">http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app</a>
Date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting	14/11/2022 @ 11.00 hrs at Admin Building, Koyambedu, Chennai - 107.
Due Date of Bid Submission	29/11/2022 up to 17.00 hrs.
Date and time of opening of Bid (Technical Bid)	30/11/2022 @ 17.05 hrs.

For complete details, Please visit e-procurement website <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

For further help refer to 'Vendor guide' given in MSTC website. For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidder has to register as 'New Vendor' at MSTC website link [https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprocurement/nmdc/buyer\\_login.jsp](https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprocurement/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp) and search tender through tender enquiry number 3. MSTC portal - [https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprocurement/nmdc/buyer\\_login.jsp](https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprocurement/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp)

**Chief Security Officer**  
DIPR/ 4831 /TENDER/2022

**NMDC Limited**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
'Kharaj Bhawan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028  
CIN:L13100TG1958GOI001674.

**CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT**

E-Tender Notice [Open Tender Enquiry for Domestic Bidding]  
Tender Enquiry No:HO (Contracts)/ Automation/SP-4/KDI/RT/2022/853  
Dt. 31.10.2022. MSTC REF.NO. NMDC/HO/6622-23/ET/541

NMDC Limited, A 'NAMARATNA' Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from experienced domestic bidders for the work of "Replacement of existing Relay Logic Circuit (RLC), Power, Control & Communication Cables etc. by Automation System & Cabling etc., of Screening Plant-I at Bailadila Iron Ore Mine (BIOM), Kirandul complex on Lumpsum Turnkey (LSTK) Basis and Comprehensive AMC (CA/MC) for 5 years after the guarantee period of 2 years".

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and downloaded from 31.10.2022 to 30.11.2022 from following website links; 1. NMDC website-<http://tenders.nmdc.co.in>  
2. Central Public Procurement portal-<http://www.eprocure.gov.in/>  
publish/app and search tender through tender enquiry number 3. MSTC portal - [https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprocurement/nmdc/buyer\\_login.jsp](https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprocurement/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp)

For further help refer to 'Vendor guide' given in MSTC website. For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidder has to register as 'New Vendor' at MSTC website link [https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprocurement/nmdc/buyer\\_login.jsp](https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprocurement/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp) and search Tender Event No. NMDC/HO/6622-23/ET/541. For further help, refer to 'Vendor guide' given in MSTC website. The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Limited e-procurement website.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted: Chief General Manager(Contracts), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad. Faxno. +91-040-23534746, Tel No. +91-040-2353 2860. email: [contracts@nmdc.co.in](mailto:contracts@nmdc.co.in)

**Chief General Manager (Contracts)**

राजस्थान सरकार  
राजस्थान स्टेट हेल्थ एजेंसी एजेंसी  
पुराना आरटीवीसी मुख्यालय भवन, होटल स्वयंसेवक केम्प, जयपुर जंक्शन रेलवे स्टेशन के सामने,  
जयपुर-302006, फोन 0141-2200113/2200611

No. F-1008/(146)/IV Phase/2022-23/2945 Dated: 22.10.22  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

Government of Rajasthan through Department of Medical, Health and Family Welfare under Rajasthan State Health Assurance Agency (RSHAA) is inviting bids for selection of Insurance Company under Rajasthan State Health Assurance Agency for implementation of Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana (MMCSBY). The work shall be awarded to the Insurance Company eligible as per the criteria mentioned in the RFP document. For selection of Insurance Company, the RSHAA is adopting a single stage in two part bidding process, Part A for technical bid and part B for financial bid, under which applications are invited from the interested bidders up to 03.00 PM on 25.11.2022. The RFP document can be viewed and downloaded from the departmental website <http://spp.rajasthan.gov.in>, <https://chiranjeevi.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>.

Cost of RFP document is Rs. 59,000/- (Rupees Fifty Nine Thousand Only) shall be payable by way of DD/Banker's cheque in favour of Chief Executive Officer, RSHAA Rajasthan before the last date and time prescribed for submission of online proposals. Estimated cost of the RFP is Rs. 6000.00 crores (Rupees Six Thousand Crores Only) for a period of 3 years.

NIB- 14/2022-23  
UBN- MHS 2223SLOB04127

Sd/-  
(Aruna Rajoria)  
Chief Executive Officer,  
RSHAA

DIPR/C/13713/2022

**Classifieds****PERSONAL**

I, Shailendra Kumar Devel S/o Kesari Lal Devel R/o FF-2 Plot No 569 Sec 1 Vaishali Ghaziabad have changed my name from Shailendra Devel to Shailendra Kumar Devel

0050206752-1

I, Gunjan D/o Pankaj Arora born on 11-11-1994 residing at 272 3rd floor Sainik Vihar Pitampura Delhi-34 have changed my name to Gunjan Arora vide affidavit at Delhi

0050206694-1

I, Virender Kumar Vats, S/o Suraj Parkash Vats, R/o Flat.No.254,GH-13,DDA-Flats, Paschim-Vihar,Delhi-110087,have changed the name of my-minor-daughter Mishita aged-8-years and she shall hereafter be known as Mishita Vats.

0040638357-3

I, Sandeep Kumar, S/o-Suraj Prakash, R/o Flat.No.250,GH-9,Near-MTNL-Office, Paschim-Vihar,Delhi-110087, have changed the name of my-minor-daughter Khushi aged-12-years and she shall hereafter be known as Yashika Vats.

0040638357-1

I, Sandeep Kumar, S/o Suraj Prakash, R/o Flat.No.250,GH-9,Near-MTNL-Office, Paschim-Vihar,Delhi-110087, have changed the name of my-minor-daughter Khushi aged-12-years and she shall hereafter be known as Khushi Vats.

0040638357-2

I, Priya Tyagi, D/o Naresh Tyagi, W/o Anuj Tyagi, R/o H.N. 274, Chhaparaula-2, Police Station, Badalpur, Tehsil Dadri, Gautam Buddha Nagar-201009, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anishka Tyagi.

0070810236-1

I, NIDHI KUMARI, D/O LATE.MADAN PRASAD, W/O MR.MOHIT KUMAR GUPTA, R/O,WZ-169,FIRST-FLOOR, VILLAGE, DASGHARA, NEW DELHI - 110012. I CHANGE MY NAME AFTER-MY-MARRIAGE, NIDHI GUPTA, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSES.

0040638357-4

I, Manish Sharma, S/o Pawan Kumar, R/o House No-5842, Mohalla- Khasapura, Rewari, Haryana-123401, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manish Sharma.

0070810239-1

I, Kanwar Faiz Mohammad, S/o Hasham Ali, R/o 195, Mohalla Rehman Shahi, Nahal-Gzb, have changed my name to Kunwar Faiz Mohammad.

0070810316-1

I, Ashwani Vyas S/O Shashi Prakash R/O RZ 180/2 Gali No1, Main Sagar Pur, South West Delhi, 110046 have changed my name to Ashwani Kumar for all purposes.

0040638305-1

I, Dipi Arora W/o Kunal Bhatia R/o House No-77, FF, Tagore Park, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Dipi Arora Bhatia.

0040638355-1

I, Sharwan Lal, S/o Chote Lal, R/o A-206, Block-A, J J Colony, Madipur, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi-110063, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sharvan Kumar.

0070810244-1

I, Snehlata, W/o Shivraj Singh, R/o House No- G-033, New Town Heights, Sector-91, Wazirpur (115), Gurgaon, Haryana-122505, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Snehlata Pawar.

0070810237-1

I, Vaibhav Gupta, S/o Arun Gupta, R/o 1138, Behind Sarvodya School, Mukherjee Nagar, North West Delhi-110009, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vaibhav Jindal.

0070810235-1

I, R N Bansal Alias Rajender Nath Bansal, S/o Lachhman Dass, R/o BE-96, West Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rajendra Nath Bansal.

0070810240-1

I, Amit, S/o Rajender, R/o Birhi Kalan (93), Charkhi, Dadri, Haryana-127026, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Amit Singh.

0070810238-1

I, Areej Zaidi, D/o Rafat Ali Zaidi, R/o B-146, Ekta Vihar Colony, Rampur Road, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh-244001. Declare that Name of My Mother has been wrongly written as Saba Zaidi in my 10th Class Certificate and 12th Class Certificate. The actual name of My Mother is Shamshida, which may be amended accordingly.

0070810243-1

I, Anurag Walia, S/o Suresh Kumar, R/o F-1001, 10th Floor, Antriksh Golf View 2, Sector-78, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Declare that Name of My Father has been wrongly written as Suresh Kumar in my Educational Documents and Pan Card, that the name of My Father has been wrongly Written as Suresh in my Passport. The actual name of My Father is Suresh Kumar, which may be amended accordingly.

0070810242-1

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Commissioner for Industrial Development  
and Director of Industries & Commerce

**Dr. E. V. Ramana Reddy, IAS**  
Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Commerce and Industries Department

**Dr. Murugesh R. Nirani**  
Hon'ble Minister for Large and Medium  
Industries, Government of Karnataka



# 6 THE WORLD



## IN ITALY, WITH MARCHERS FROM BELGIUM, US THOUSANDS COMMEMORATE MUSSOLINI

Several thousand black-clad fascist sympathisers sang in praise of Benito Mussolini as they marched to the slain Italian dictator's crypt Sunday, 100 years after Mussolini entered Rome and completed a bloodless coup that gave rise to decades of fascist rule.

## TOP OF THE WORLD



A day after Saturday's car blasts in Somali capital Mogadishu. **AP**

## SOMALIA Toll in Saturday car blasts 100, says President

Somalia's president has said at least 100 people were killed in Saturday's two car bombings at a busy junction in the capital and the toll could rise. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in a statement at the site of the explosions in Mogadishu told journalists early Sunday that nearly 300 other people were wounded. It was the deadliest attack in Somalia since a truck bombing at the same spot in October 2017 killed more than 500 people. Somalia's government has blamed the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group, which often targets the capital. **AP**

## UNITED KINGDOM Firebomb attack on immigration centre, 1 killed

AN ATTACKER threw firebombs an immigration center in the English port town of Dover on Sunday before killing himself, officials said. One other person was lightly injured. The Kent Police force said "two to three incendiary devices" were thrown at the facility where recently arrived migrants are taken, and "one minor injury has been reported." The Kent Fire and Rescue Service said its crews had put out fires at the site. Dover is the arrival point for many migrants who cross the English Channel from France in small boats. **AP**

## LEBANON President's term ends without a replacement

PRESIDENT MICHEL Aoun left Lebanon's presidential palace on Sunday, marking the end of his six-year term without a replacement, leaving the nation in a political vacuum likely to worsen its historic economic meltdown. As Aoun's term ends, the country is being run by a caretaker government after PM-designate Najib Mikati failed to form a new Cabinet following May 15 elections. Aoun and his supporters warn such a government doesn't have full power to run the country. **AP**

## TOLL 53, PRESIDENT SUK-YEOL DECLARES PERIOD OF MOURNING

# Bolt from blue sky: As Seoul mourns, focus on how festivity turned deadly

REUTERS & NYT  
SEOUL, OCTOBER 30

SHOCKED FAMILY members collected bodies, parents searched for children and a country sought answers on Sunday after at least 153 people, 22 of them foreigners, were crushed to death when a crowd in South Korea surged in an alleyway during Halloween festivities.

President Yoon Suk-yeol declared a period of national mourning and designated Seoul's popular Itaewon district a disaster zone after the Saturday night disaster.

"This news came like a bolt from the blue sky," said a father who burst into tears as he collected his daughter's body.

As families and friends desperately sought word of loved ones at facilities for missing people, many blamed the police of being caught off-guard by the spontaneous crowds. "The government should have sent more police to control the crowd," said Kim Seo-jeong, 17, a high school student who survived the crowd surge.

"There was a Halloween crowd in Itaewon last year despite the pandemic," she said. "The government should have anticipated a much bigger crowd this year, because most of the pandemic restrictions are gone."

The police said they were unprepared, partly because their forces had been diverted earlier on Saturday to nearby districts where anti-government and other protest rallies were being held, officials said.



A man pays tribute to the victims, near the scene of the deadly stampede in Seoul, Sunday. **AP**

## Survivor: Many were laughing, they couldn't process what was happening

Seoul: As he watched a dozen or more unconscious partygoers carried out from a narrow backstreet packed with youngsters dressed like movie characters, an overwhelmed Ken Fallas couldn't process what was happening.

Fallas, a Costa Rican architect working in Seoul, said Saturday's Halloween festivities at the city's nightlife district of Itaewon were a long-awaited occasion to hang out with fellow expats following years of Covid restrictions.

Instead, the 32-year-old became a front-row witness to one of the most horrific disasters South Korea has seen.

The smartphone video Fallas took following the deadly crowd surge shows groups of Halloween revelers carrying out their unconscious peers, one after another, passing by throngs of people dressed in capes and movie costumes. Some people are seen administering CPR to people on the pavement while others shout for help above blaring dance music.

"I saw a lot of (young) people laughing, but I don't think they were (really) laughing because, you know, what's funny?" Fallas said. "They were laughing because they were too scared. Because to be in front of a thing

like that is not easy. Not everyone knows how to process that."

Fallas said he and his friends were trapped among the huge throngs of people pushing toward the alley when police officers began breaking the lines from behind to approach the injured. He said people near his group didn't initially know what was happening.

"We were unable to move back. The music was loud. Nobody knew what was happening. People were still partying with the emergency happening in front of us," he said. "We were like, 'What's going on from here, where we can go?' There was no exit." **AP**

## MOSCOW'S PULLOUT FROM UKRAINE GRAIN EXPORTS

# As US says Putin 'weaponising food', UN, Turkey work for Russia rethink

AGENCIES & NYT  
OCTOBER 30

OFFICIALS FROM the UN and Turkey were pushing on Sunday to bring Russia back into an agreement that allowed the export of grain from Ukrainian ports, as Western leaders urged Moscow to reconsider a move they warned would unleash dire consequences on a hungry planet.

The UN secretary general, António Guterres, postponed his travel to an Arab League summit so he could instead "to engage in intense contacts" over Russia's decision to withdraw from the deal, according to a statement from his office.

And Russian state media re-



People cross a destroyed bridge to collect aid in Donbas. **Reuters**

ported that officials from Turkey were in touch by phone with Russian officials "at all levels" over the fate of the agreement.

On Saturday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Russia's

move was weaponising food. "Any act by Russia to disrupt these critical grain exports is essentially a statement that people around the world should pay more for food or go hungry," Blinken said.

## Clashes as Iran students defy protest ultimatum

REUTERS  
DUBAI, OCTOBER 30

WEEKS OF protest in Iran entered a more violent phase on Sunday as students defied an ultimatum by the Revolutionary Guards and were met with tear gas, beatings and gunfire from riot police and militia, social media videos showed.

The confrontations at dozens of universities prompted a threat of a tougher crackdown in the seventh week of demonstrations

since 22-year-old Mahsa Amini died after she was arrested by the morality police for attire deemed inappropriate. Iranians from all walks of life have been protesting since Amini's death.

The top commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards told protesters that Saturday would be their last day of taking to the streets, the harshest warning yet by Iranian authorities.

Nevertheless, videos on social media, unverifiable by Reuters, showed confrontations between students and riot police

and Basij forces on Sunday at universities all over Iran.

One video showed a member of Basij forces firing a gun at close range at students protesting at a branch of Azad University in Tehran. Gunshots were also heard in a video shared by rights group HENGAW from protests at the University of Kurdistan in Sanandaj. Videos from universities in some other cities also showed Basij forces opening fire at students.

Across the country, security forces tried to block students in-

# Imran after flak: Want Pak Army to be strongest

Sends message to India: No tiff with Army, don't misunderstand remarks



Twitter/@InsaFPK

Sunday was the third day of Khan's march to Islamabad.

SAJJAD HUSSAIN  
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 30

AFTER CRITICISM over anti-army remarks, former prime minister Imran Khan said on Sunday that his party wants the Pakistan Army to be "strong" and his "constructive" criticism was not intended to harm the powerful force as he demanded early elections to end the political impasse in the country.

On the third day of his long march dubbed as Hageeqi Azadi March, Khan, the chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led his supporters towards Islamabad while addressing them at various places, targeting his opponents for alleged corruption.

Addressing his supporters, Khan said that his criticism against the establishment had been constructive. "I want the army to be strong. We need a strong army. My constructive criticism is not [intended] to harm them," he asserted.

Khan also clarified that he was being misunderstood, days after he was criticised by the government for his anti-army stance that made headlines in Pakistan and India.

"India don't misunderstand, we stand with our army," he said, adding that the neighbouring country was celebrating after the spy agency ISI chief Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum's press conference as it believes that the army and Imran Khan are having "a face-off".

Khan also rejected as "untrue" claims made by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that the opposition leader sent him a message expressing his desire to have consultation over appointment of the army chief and elections. **PTI**

## EXPLAINED On the back foot

THE PAK army wields considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy. Khan is on the backfoot since admitting he had offered an extension in the tenure of Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa in March amid the opposition's attempt to topple his government.

## March halted after journalist crushed to death

Islamabad: A female Pakistani journalist covering Imran Khan's long march died on Sunday after being crushed under his container, an incident that forced him to halt the march for the day.

The deceased was identified as Channel Five reporter Sadaf Naeem.

According to Channel Five, the reporter was run over by Khan's container after she fell from it near Sadhoke.

After the tragic incident, Khan said: "We are ending today's march due to an accident. We have decided to stop here," Khan said.

Khan also sent his condolences to the family of the deceased and said that he would pray for the departed soul.

The long march would start from Kamoke on its fourth day on Monday. Earlier, it was planned to reach Gujranwala by the end of its third day. **PTI**

## King Charles sends Diwali message to Hindus

HSRAO  
LONDON, OCTOBER 30

BRITAIN'S KING Charles III has sent a special Diwali message to the Hindus, highlighting his commitment to all faiths and communities. The message was delivered by his Principal Private Secretary Sir Clive Alderton at the Hinduja Diwali reception held at their Carlton House Terrace on Wednesday.

More than 300 guests including peers, MPs, Ambassadors, diplomats, business leaders attended the event. Conservative Party chairman Nadhim Zahawi, MP, former Health Secretary Matt Hancock, Foreign Office Minister Lord Ahmad, Mayor of London Sadiq Khan were also present on the occasion.

Welcoming the guests, Gopichand Hinduja, co-chairman of the Hinduja Group, spoke of the significance of Diwali and how real wealth comprises blessings and contentment earned through acts of giving.

GP Hinduja fondly mentioned missing his elder brother S P Hinduja, who is unwell. His other two brothers Prakash and Ashok were present on the occasion.

Arjun Rampal with his partner Gabriella, playback singer Kunika Kapoor were also present on the occasion. **PTI**

## WAS A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT SPECIALISING IN INDIA IN THE 1970s

# ‘Outsider with incurable curiosity’: Ian Jack, former Granta editor, dies

UDBHAV SETH  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

IAN JACK, veteran British journalist, columnist for Guardian and former editor of Granta literary magazine, died Friday after a brief illness in Scotland. He was a foreign correspondent specialising in India in the 1970s and had mentored Indian writers such as Suketu Mehta and Basharat Peer in his role as Granta editor.

In the introduction to Granta's 130th anniversary edition, the second devoted to Indian fiction and prose, Jack gave an account of the development of Indian fiction and non-

fiction post-Independence, citing numerous domiciled and non-domiciled writers who stamped the subcontinent on the global literary map.

"[In the 1980s] a new post-imperial generation recognised themselves in a novel that brilliantly evoked the India in which they'd come of age, and its worldwide success encouraged young Indian writers to see that their country not only offered important things to describe but also that they might be the best people to describe them," he wrote.

"At first, the impulse was almost entirely confined to fiction – the novel was the thing – but by the late 1990s one or two

writers were publishing non-fiction that had a decidedly literary ambition. Granta's India issue of 1997 introduced Arundhati Roy to Western readers with the first published extract from her novel, The God of Small Things, which later won the Booker," he wrote.

He added, "... [the 1997 edition of Granta] published pieces by Urvashi Butalia and Suketu Mehta, both in their different ways reportorial, that laid the foundations for their fine books on Partition and Bombay. In the years since, most forms of narrative non-fiction have found gifted practitioners in India."

"India has developed a



In Granta's 130th anniversary edition, Jack gave an account of post-Independence Indian fiction and non-fiction

bustling publishing industry, where once a few respectable imprints specialized in educational titles and refined works of socio-economic history. The



Indian writer need no longer look over his shoulder at his imagined audience abroad; many if not most of his readers are much closer – are Indian like

him," he wrote.

In his last Guardian column, Jack, also a beloved mentor to young journalists and keen observer of the industry, wrote that the British Broadcasting Corporation, the United Kingdom's national broadcaster, is "one of the world's great cultural projects... it looks unlikely that Britain will ever again invent anything so admired and influential; we have been lucky to have it."

Jack's death evoked condolences worldwide from the journalistic and literary fraternity.

Alan Rusbridger, a former editor at Guardian, tweeted, "Ian Jack was one of the best. A beautiful prose stylist who loved the



New Delhi







West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee with CJI U U Lalit and Calcutta HC CJ Prakash Shrivastava (left) at the National University of Juridical Sciences in Kolkata on Sunday. *ANI*

## Democratic power being seized by a section of people, Mamata tells CJI

CM appeals to judiciary to ‘save democracy’

**ATRI MITRA**  
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 30

CLAIMING THAT “all the democratic power is being seized by one section of people”, which may lead to a presidential form of government, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday appealed to the judiciary to “save democracy”.

Speaking at the convocation ceremony of the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS) here, where she shared the stage with Chief Justice of India U U Lalit who is the Chancellor of the university, Banerjee also urged the judiciary to ensure that the federal structure of the country remains intact.

Addressing the CJI, she said: “These two months, we have seen what is judiciary. People

had their faith restored. I am not saying people had lost their faith in judiciary, but the situation nowadays is the worst.”

“All the democratic power is being seized by one section of people. If this goes on, then our country will go to presidential form... where is democracy? Please save democracy. This is my only request,” she said.

“I believe that the judiciary must save the people from disaster. Judiciary must save the people from injustice. Judiciary must hear the cries of the people. Nowadays, people are crying behind closed doors,” she said.

Saying that justice is always “for the people, by the people and of the people”, Banerjee said: “Our prestige is our respect... If our prestige is lost, then everything is lost... If someone takes away our

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

## NDRF, ARMY, IAF, NAVY DEPLOYED FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS

# 60 killed as bridge collapses in Gujarat, days after reopening

Officials say at least 60 injured are in critical condition; women and children among those who fell into river

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJKOT, AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 30

AT LEAST 60 people were killed when a century-old suspension bridge on the Machchhu river in Morbi town of Gujarat, about 240 km from Gandhinagar, collapsed on Sunday evening, officials said. The bridge had reopened just four days ago, after being closed for about seven months for repair work.

Chief District Medical Officer of Morbi P K Didhrejiya said at least 60 of the 79 injured people admitted in the Morbi Civil Hospital were in critical condition.

Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi, who rushed to Morbi, said about 150 people were on the bridge at the time of the accident.

According to reports, several women and children were on the “hanging bridge” when it snapped, plunging them into the water below. The incident occurred at about 6:30 pm, when dozens of people were walking on the bridge, a major tourist attraction of Morbi.

“More than 60 bodies have been fished out (by 9:45 pm)

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



People cling on to the collapsed suspension bridge in Morbi. The structure on the Machchhu river was a century old. *Express*

**FULL COVERAGE**  
[PAGE 14](#)

## NCERT PROPOSAL FOR ‘PARAKH’

# Global bodies express interest in setting up school exam regulator

**SOURAV ROY BARMAN**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THREE GLOBAL educational non-profits — Educational Testing Services (ETS), American Institutes for Research (AIR) and the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)—have expressed interest in helping to set up India’s first national school-level examination and assessment regulator, according to sources.

While ETS is internationally recognised for conducting TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and GRE (Graduate

Record Examination), which are gateways to higher education in top institutes worldwide, AIR and ACER are leading names in research on behavioural and social science domains and learning assessment studies.

The organisations approached the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), responding to an Expression of Interest (EoI) for selecting consulting services to set up the proposed regulator PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), which is envisaged as an

instrument for “establishing comparative measures and equivalence” among school examination boards and promoting collaboration among them.

This means that PARAKH will be expected to address the issue of disparities in scores of students affiliated to different boards. Also, it will not just conduct future rounds of National Achievement Surveys (NAS) and other surveys on learning outcomes, but also “review all aspects of the design and conduct of the NAS 2017/2018 and 2021 exercises and identify areas for improvement”.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



**IDEA EXCHANGE**

‘India may be compelled to test again, and when it does, it’s in US interest to avoid penalising it’

**ASHLEY J. TELLIS**  
TATA CHAIR FOR STRATEGIC AFFAIRS

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## INSIDE



**AT J&K EVENT, PM MODI SAYS TIME TO LEAVE BEHIND OLD CHALLENGES**

**CAA DOESN’T AFFECT CITIZENSHIP REGIME: CENTRE TELLS SUPREME COURT**

[PAGES 16, 14](#)

## LAYS FOUNDATION STONE

# Tata-Airbus unit: Make in India, Make for Globe, says PM

Project will transform aerospace in India, create new ecosystem: Modi

**ADITI RAJA**  
VADODARA, OCTOBER 30

LAYING THE foundation stone for the Tata-Airbus C295 transport aircraft manufacturing project at Vadodara on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the project was a “big step” in the direction of making India a defence aerospace manufacturing hub, and preparing it to meet the rising demand for cargo and passenger aircraft in the future.

“Today, we are taking a big step in making India a defence manufacturing hub. India is making its fighter planes, tanks, and submarines... This Tata-Airbus project will push forward our motto ‘Make in India, Make for Globe’. Now, India will also manufacture transport planes... Soon, big passenger planes will also be built in India. The project will transform the defence aerospace sector of India and create a new ecosys-

tem...,” Prime Minister Modi said. The Prime Minister said India is “reaching the top three countries in the world in terms of air traffic”. “As new passengers are being added, in 10-15 years, India itself will need more than 2,000 passenger and cargo aircraft. It shows how the sector will rise rapidly. India is preparing to meet this demand,” he said.

“India has been manufacturing parts for airplanes for a long time but now it will manufacture an entire airplane. This project will be supported by more than 100 MSME and export orders will also be taken up,” Modi said. The new facility is expected to undertake aircraft manufacturing and assembly and deliver mission-ready aircraft in transport configuration, equipped with an

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

**EXPLAINED**  
[PAGE 17](#)



PM Narendra Modi, with Tata Chairman N Chandrasekaran and Airbus Chief Commercial Officer Christian Scherer, lays the foundation of the C295 plant in Vadodra. *Bhupendra Rana*

# Telangana withdraws general consent to CBI, High Court told

**SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 30

THE TELANGANA government has withdrawn the general consent given to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe cases in the state.

The order was issued by the Principal Secretary (Home) on August 30. The matter, however, came to light after the Additional Advocate General to the Telangana High Court informed the court on Saturday about the withdrawal of consent during arguments in a petition filed by the BJP seeking a CBI probe into an alleged attempt to bribe four TRS MLAs.

On Wednesday (October 26) evening, the Cyberabad police had arrested three persons from a farmhouse at Moinsabad while allegedly discussing plans to bribe the four TRS MLAs. Tandur MLA P Rohith Reddy had tipped off the Cyberabad police who set up cameras and voice recorders to trap the three men discussing deals to pay Rs 50-100 crore to

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Friction over CBI consent

THE WITHDRAWAL of general consent to CBI by states has now become a political tool, with rising friction in Centre-state relations. In March, Meghalaya withdrew its general consent. Earlier, eight states withdrew consent: Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Mizoram. In Maharashtra, the current government reversed the MVA’s move to withdraw consent.

lure TRS MLAs into the BJP.

The BJP had moved the High Court seeking a CBI probe on the poaching allegation by TRS. The withdrawal of the general consent to CBI through the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

## PAGE 1 ANCHOR

**MOHAMED THAYER**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 30

THEY WERE one of the most dreaded mafia groups in Mumbai known for extorting money from celebrities and gunning down people. Today, the D-Company’s presence in the city has been curtailed and the gang has been reduced to “settling” land and property deals by cashing in on the fear still associated with the names of its founder and boss Dawood Ibrahim and his trusted aide Chhota Shakeel, both declared fugitives by the government.

Behind the shrinking and

rescaling of D-Company’s operations in Mumbai lies a change of its fortunes after the death of one of its most powerful leaders, Dawood’s sister Haseena Parker, as well as the dogged efforts of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Mumbai police to wipe out their reach and threat in the city.

The recent arrest of brothers-in-law of Chhota Shakeel by the NIA first, and later by the Mumbai crime branch, has shed light on the modus operandi of the gang.

After Parker died in 2014, Salim Qureshi, alias Fruit, and Arif Shaikh, alias Arif Bhajjaan, took over the mafia network.

## THE D-COMPANY, AFTER DAWOOD LEFT



**HASEENA PARKAR**

Dawood Ibrahim’s younger sister got involved in

the gang after her husband was killed by the Arun Gawli gang in 1991. After Dawood left the country, Haseena handled D-Company till she died of a heart attack in 2014. Arif Shaikh and Salim Qureshi then took over the gang.



**ARIF SHAIKH**

Arif Shaikh, also known as Arif Bhajjaan, is the husband

of Chhota Shakeel’s younger sister Fehmida, who died in 2020. Arif, with nine others, was deported to India from Dubai in 2006 over the killing of Haren Pandya. The Crime Branch arrested him on Oct 12 in an extortion case.



**SALIM QURESHI**

Salim Qureshi handles operations in south and

central Mumbai. Known as Salim Fruit — he has a fruit business — Qureshi was deported by UAE in 2006. He was held for extortion and was in prison till 2010. On Oct 1, the Crime Branch took him into custody for extortion.

## LOW-RANKING MEMBERS

Officials say Shaikh and Qureshi are assisted by a network of several small-time goons and middlemen, who help them approach potential victims. In its probe, the NIA had claimed to have identified ‘21 operatives’ of D-Company who were still functioning and assisting Qureshi and Shaikh in Mumbai.

An officer from the Mumbai crime branch said that the Mumbai police has registered at least four FIRs against D-Company members in the past two months after the NIA arrested Qureshi and Shaikh on August 5 on charges of extortion and terror funding.

The cases have been registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). Qureshi and Shaikh would be behind bars for at least a few years due to stringent bail conditions specified in the two acts.

“Earlier people would be worried about complaining

against Qureshi and Shaikh. However, after their arrest, four people have come forward to lodge FIRs and more complaints are likely,” the officer said, adding that while one complaint was registered with the Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai police, the other three were registered at Versova, Dadar and Dongri police stations.

All these cases were eventually taken up by the anti-extortion cell of Mumbai police for further investigation. The officer said that while the police knew that the D-Company had been extorting money from people

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



The IndianEXPRESS

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EXCLUSIVE



**WENDELL AND WILD MOVIE REVIEW: JORDAN PEELE AND KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY REUNITE**

Jordan Peele and Keegan-Michael Key reunite in The Nightmare Before Christmas director Henry Selick's long-awaited return to stop-motion animation.

LIFESTYLE



**BEHIND THE ART: GIRL BEFORE A MIRROR**  
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PUZZLES AND GAMES



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# EXPRESS AUDIO

## The Sandip Ray Show: How safe are the drugs we take, with Dinesh Thakur

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Ranbaxy whistleblower Dinesh Thakur on his book, *The Truth Pill*, which looks at the state of drug regulation in India

### WITH PTI INPUTS



**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

In a circular issued by her, it was said that despite repeated reminders, doctors failed to start OPD on time. "It has been brought to the notice of the undersigned that in spite of repeated reminders, some departments are not starting their OPDs on time at

A doctor at the hospital claimed some doctors do not report on time and are late by half an hour to 45 minutes. However, another doctor said only a few reach late: "The problem we need to focus on is the number of registration counters. There are only 3-4 counters which are fewer as compared to the number of patients who visit the OPD. There should be at least 15 counters."

For eating houses having gross floor area less than 90 sqm or seating capacity below 50 persons, the committee suggested these structures should comply with minimum fire safety measures as per guidelines prescribed by the DFS. It also suggested that a fire safety certificate must be mandatory for restaurants operating in the same building. **ENS**



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Transportation of RE Chloride flakes from IREL (India) Limited, OSCOM, Chatrapur, Odisha to IREL (India) Limited, RED, Udyogamandal, Kerala.	31.10.2022 14.00 Hrs.

For details visit the following websites  
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Any corrigendum/extension to the above tenders shall be hosted in the above websites only.

**Date: 31.10.2022** **GM & Head, RED**

**davp 48129/12/0053/2223**





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31<sup>st</sup> October - 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022




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# National Unity Day


31<sup>st</sup> October

Nation pays tribute to  
**Iron Man of India**  
**Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**  
 on his birth anniversary

**Tribute to Sardar Patel  
and inauguration  
of Ekta Diwas Parade by  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

**Place:** Statue of Unity,  
Kevadia, Gujarat

**Live telecast on DD News  
from 8:00 am onwards**



“Our every effort for the integrity  
and unity of the country while  
fulfilling our duties is a true  
tribute to Sardar Patel ji.”

**-Narendra Modi**

Today on 31st October, be a part of the **'Run for Unity'**  
to be organized from 7:00 am to 8:00 am at  
**75,000 locations** in all districts of the country

CBC/22201/130151/2223

केंद्रीय सतर्कता आयोग  
Central Vigilance Commission

# सतर्कता जागरूकता सप्ताह VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK 2022

31 अक्टूबर - 6 नवंबर | 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER - 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

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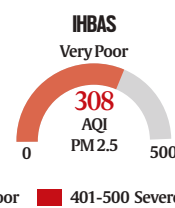
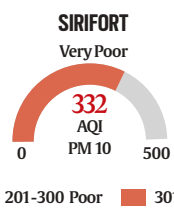
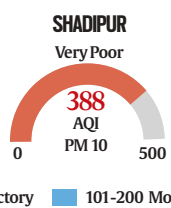
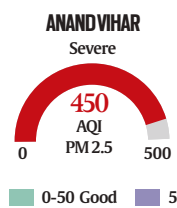
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0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe

## BRIEFLY

## Noida Police bans drone use till Nov 2

Noida: Noida Police Sunday banned use of drones by any individual or organisation till November 2 in view of President Droupadi Murmu and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's proposed visit to the city, an official statement said. "The programme of seventh edition of the India Water Week is proposed in Gautam Buddh Nagar on November 1 in which the president is proposed to participate while the UP chief minister is also scheduled to visit on October 30 or 31," the statement read. "Therefore, in view of the security of the president and the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, the operation of drones by any private person or organisation will be prohibited from October 29 to November 2," it said.

## Fire breaks out in West Delhi shop, 1 dead

New Delhi: A 40-year-old man was charred to death after a fire broke out at his shop in West Delhi's Baba Haridas Nagar area in the early hours of Sunday, police said. Information about the fire was received at 2.20 am, they said. Fire department personnel brought the blaze under control and found the charred body of shop owner Arun Kumar, DCP (Dwarka) Harsha Vardhan said. It seems the owner was sleeping inside, police said. "The body was taken to RTRM hospital mortuary for further legal proceedings. We are registering a case and investigating the matter," the DCP said.

## 2 more held for killing man in Ghaziabad

Ghaziabad: Police arrested two more people who had allegedly battered to death a 35-year-old man after an altercation over parking near a roadside eatery. The victim was identified as Arun, son of a retired Delhi Police sub-inspector. ASP (Second) Gyanendra Singh said, "They (the accused) were nabbed today around 1 pm from Rajpur village entry gate and have been identified as Mohit Bhati and Sachin." Police had earlier arrested accused Chiranjiv Sharma in connection with the case. **PTI**



Devotees celebrate Chhath Puja at Kalindi Kunj ghat on Sunday. Gajendra Yadav

## DJB official in middle of 'defoamer' row bathes in river water



DJB Director, Treatment and Quality Control, Sanjay Sharma collected Yamuna water and took a bath, in a bid to prove there was nothing hazardous in the defoamer. Abhinav Saha

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

DAYS AFTER he filed a complaint against BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma and Delhi BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga for "obstructing discharge of official duty and criminal intimidation", Delhi Jal Board Director, Treatment and Quality Control, Sanjay Sharma took a bath with Yamuna water after defoamer was sprayed into the river.

Ahead of Chhath puja, a controversy had broken out over the defoamer chemical which was supposed to get rid of the foam that develops on the river's surface. On Sunday morning, Sharma collected water from the river and took a bath on the banks, seemingly in a bid to prove that there was nothing hazardous in the defoamer.

On Friday, Verma had yelled at Sharma over the spraying of a defoamer in the Yamuna near the Okhla barrage. On video, Verma was heard telling the official: "Tere sar pe daal doon yeh chemical? Tum yahan pe chemi-

cal daal do paani mein aur yahan pe log lagayenge dubki, yeh main tere sar par daal doon?" (You will spray the chemical in the water here and people will come to take a dip in the water. I'll pour this over your head?) Verma was also heard calling the official a "besharam, ghatiya aadmi (shameless person)".

Sharma was then seen explaining that the chemical is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and that spraying was also approved by the National Mission for Clean Ganga.

A statement issued by the DJB said Sharma took a bath in the presence of the locals and the media to prove that the cleaning chemical will not harm devotees coming for Chhath Puja.

ADJB official had earlier told *The Indian Express* that the chemical had been approved by the US FDA as a defoamer and various types are available in the market. "This is a polyoxypropylene-based defoamer, and it is not poisonous. It is easily available in the market," the official said.

## Chhath puja politics: AAP, BJP spar over Yamuna cleaning

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE POLITICAL slugfest over cleaning the Yamuna continued Sunday morning, with BJP leaders targeting the AAP over cleaning the river while AAP hit back at the "state of the Yamuna" in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh. Later in the evening, politicians across parties thronged Chhath Puja ghats, with no Covid restrictions in place for the first time in two years.

Releasing a video, Northeast Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari claimed that water from the Najafgarh drain is responsible for polluting 70% of the river. "You can see how polluted water from Najafgarh drain is entering the Yamuna. (Chief Minister) Arvind Kejriwal is trying to stop people of Delhi from seeing."

Tiwari added, "Till now, we have only seen videos of the CM saying every year that the Yamuna will be cleaned soon and he will take a dip. But we all have seen how the river has been converted into a drain. People who take dip in this water are actually risking their lives."

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay

Singh hit back, tweeting a video and claiming it is from Mathura which shows foam all over the river bank.

Later in the day, senior leaders including BJP MPs Tiwari, Parvash Verma, Ramesh Bidhuri, BJP Delhi chief Adesh Gupta, AAP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Environment Minister Gopal Rai, and AAP MLAs Durgesh Pathak, Saurabh Bhardwaj and Kailash Gahlot visited the ghats.

Rai said, "After CM Kejriwal formed the government in Delhi, Chhath Puja has expanded at a large scale. Chhath Puja was held at more than 1,100 ghats across Delhi. There was a slight interruption due to Covid, but this year, the festival is being organised with great enthusiasm."

Chhath Puja is celebrated in states like Bihar, Jharkhand, and eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is tied to politics in the capital as it is one of the major festivals of Purvanchal, who constitute more than 30% of Delhi's population. People from eastern UP and Bihar are believed to be in the majority in 16 of 70 Assembly seats, as per a survey by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS).



Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, (right) BJP MP Parvash Verma at Chhath ghats, Sunday



## AQI REMAINS 'VERY POOR' ON SUNDAY

## In capital, 586 teams deployed to monitor construction ban

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

DELHI'S AIR quality saw some improvement, though it remained in the very poor range on Sunday. While the AQI value was 397 — just shy of turning severe — Saturday, it improved to 352 on Sunday.

The share of farm stubble burning in PM2.5 concentration, however, rose to 26% from 21% a day ago. According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), the overall contribution of PM2.5 was around 54%.

"Local surface winds will be blowing at a speed of around 6 to 8 km/h and temperature will be in the range of 32 to 15 degrees Celsius for the next three days. These conditions cause weak dispersion of pollutants. Low mixing height is also leading to inefficient dilution and dispersion of pollutants. The share of stubble burning emissions in PM2.5 is 26% due to favourable winds at transport level blowing from the northwest direction. Air quality is likely to remain within 'very poor' for the next three days due to a combined effect of transport as well as local weather conditions," the SAFAR forecast said.

Delhi's AQI has been in the very poor category since Wednesday. It has not hit the severe category so far this season. Meanwhile, the Delhi government's environment department is going to monitor the ban on construction and demolition activities that was announced on Saturday as part of stage 3 of the Graded Response Action Plan.

"As many as 586 teams have been formed to monitor the construction-demolition ban. Water sprinkling has been intensified in view of the pollution situation. A total of 521 water sprinklers, 233 anti-smog guns, and 150 mobile anti-smog guns have been deployed to tackle pollution in Delhi," Environment



521 water sprinklers, 233 anti-smog guns have been deployed to tackle pollution in Delhi. Prem Nath Pandey

## EXPLAINED

## What's allowed, what's not

As per norms, some construction activities are allowed. This includes construction work of Railways Department, work in Metro stations, airports, ISBT and its terminals and also any activity related to national security. Other exceptions include work in hospitals, construction for linear public projects such as highways, roads and flyovers, and interior work such as plumbing-related activities and other furniture-related work, Rai said. Activities that will remain banned are construction and demolition work that does not fall in the mentioned exceptions, boring and drilling, digging, movement of soil, and movement of vehicles on unpaved roads.

Minister Gopal Rai said.

Rai also appealed to the Uttar Pradesh government to avoid plying diesel buses in areas bordering Delhi. He said AQI may turn

severe in the coming two-three days. "The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) system had earlier announced that during this winter season, the GRAP system will be set in three days earlier based on the Air Quality Index (AQI) at the time. Right now, as per the information we are getting from experts, after November 1, the speed of the wind is likely to be in the range of 4-8 kmph, the direction of the wind is likely to turn towards the Northwest, and based on the available information, we have been told that AQI levels are likely to cross 400, which comes in the 'severe' category," he said.

He added, "Today in Delhi, we held a meeting with all stakeholders, particularly those who are engaged in the construction business — PWD, CPWD, MCD, DDA, Railways and all agencies working in the construction sites — and informed them about the ban on construction and demolition work. According to the CAQM order, we will implement all regulations for Delhi. This year, we have also worked towards ensuring better implementation of the order. In previous years, we had noticed that despite a ban being enforced, there were some sites where work was still ongoing."

## Day after Class 12 student fell to death from 8th floor, police lodge murder case

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

A DAY after an 18-year-old student of Delhi Public School in Gurgaon allegedly fell to his death from the eighth floor of a society in Sector 45, police on Sunday registered a case of murder against unknown persons.

A complaint was lodged by the boy's father who stated that his son went to meet a friend and was later found dead. Officers said the victim was found lying in a pool of blood and was rushed to a private hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. The family has alleged foul play.

"My wife got a call from someone at their school who said our son was not feeling well. My wife and I reached the building... my son was lying in a pool of blood, and police were already there. We took him to a hospital in an ambulance where he was declared dead. Legal action should be taken against the guilty. My son was a football player and was mentally and physically healthy," said the father in the police complaint.

Police sent forensic and fingerprint teams, as well as a dog squad, to collect samples from the spot. The FIR states that a special report in this regard will be submitted to higher officials and the magistrate.

The victim's friend will be asked to join the investigation, said a senior police officer. Police said they are also checking the contents of the victim's phone as part of the investigation.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (East) Dr Kavita had ear-

## A complaint was lodged by the boy's father who stated that his son went to meet a friend and was later found dead. The family had alleged foul play

lier said that the boy went to meet a friend and a former schoolmate to borrow a book on Saturday.

"The victim first went to the friend's house, where the guard connected him via intercom... and his friend's family told him he was asleep. Around 15 minutes later, at 12.53 pm, he again went to the friend's house on the fourth floor. His friend told us they had a brief conversation, of two-three minutes, during which he told him he did not have the said book," she said.

"The friend said he went back to his house, and he saw the victim take the lift... The circumstances of the next few minutes are not clear — how he reached the eighth floor of the same tower and fell to his death. His friend said the two had not spoken to each other since July and that he did not have his phone number. They earlier studied in the same school," the ACP added.

The family alleged that the boy's slippers were found on the eighth floor and they suspect someone pushed and killed him. Police said they are looking into the family's allegations.

Investigators said the post-mortem examination was conducted and the body was handed over the family Sunday.

## Woman found hanging from fan, husband held for dowry harassment

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

A 26-YEAR-OLD woman was found hanging from a ceiling fan at her house in Outer Delhi Saturday morning. Soon after her death, police arrested her husband on charges of domestic abuse and dowry harassment based on a complaint from the woman's family.

The woman lived with her husband and in-laws. Police said her husband is a businessman and runs a shop in the area. He and his family told police they were not at home when the incident took place. Police said her in-laws found her and took her to the hospital, where she was declared dead on arrival.

DCP (Outer) Sameer Sharma said, "We received information and an MLC from Sanjay Gandhi hospital about the hanging. Since the couple had been married for less than seven years, an enquiry by SDM Kanjhawala was initiated. A chunni was seized. The woman's mother told the magistrate that her daughter was being harassed by her husband and his mother over dowry and other things. Based on the allegations, we arrested the husband."

Police said the accused has been booked under IPC sections 304b and 498a. An autopsy was conducted and the report is awaited, said police. The woman's family said the couple got married three-four years ago and alleged that the husband and his family would "harass" her over dowry. They also alleged that she was killed.

Police said the family did not report the dowry harassment and that they haven't found any evidence of assault or murder so far.

## Three men rob SUV at gunpoint on NH-8

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THREE ASSAILANTS held a 35-year-old man at gunpoint and made off with a white SUV he was driving in the early hours of Saturday on National Highway-8. Police said the incident took place when the man, a driver, was coming back from IGI Airport and going towards Meerut.

According to police, a PCR call was made about the incident at 5.19 am on Saturday. "The call was made from NH-8 near Jharera village and was received by staff at Delhi Cantt police station. The complainant, Rahul, told us that three unknown persons came on a bike. While he was going towards a shop, they stopped him and robbed the Toyota Fortuner at gunpoint," said DCP (Southwest) Manoj C.

In a purported video of the incident that went viral on social media, three men are seen on a bike parked on the side of the road. The white SUV comes to the same spot after some time and the driver steps out. The men are then seen threatening the driver with a pistol. They try snatching the car keys from him, but he resists. One of the accused then corners the



Screengrab of CCTV footage shows one of the accused cornering and taking the keys from the victim

victim and takes the keys from him. His associates jump in the car, and they all flee as the victim and others watch.

No arrests have been made yet in the case. A senior police officer said the motive behind the incident is also not clear. "As per our information, Rahul is the driver and had dropped the car owner's relatives at the airport on Saturday. When he was returning, the accused targeted him. We are not sure if this is a carjacking incident or if the accused and the victim are known to each other."

## DU UG admissions: Round 2 seat allocation list delayed

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

CANDIDATES WHO opened their Delhi University admission dashboards to check their second round seat allotments on Sunday found that the declaration was pushed till late in the night, after 10 pm.

As per the admission schedule released by the university, the second round of seat allocations was scheduled to be shared with candidates at 5 pm on Sunday. However, when they logged into their personal admission dashboards, they were greeted by a statement from the university which read: "2nd Round of CSAS Allocation will be available after 10 pm 30-Oct-2022."

In the first round of admissions, which concluded last Tuesday, nearly 60,000 candidates were allotted seats in various colleges and programmes.

These candidates had been given the option to either "freeze" their seats or to "upgrade" them — the latter means they want to be considered for upgradation to a college-course combination they placed higher in their preference list.

Those who chose the "freeze" option will remain with the seats they have been allotted, but



In the first round of admissions, nearly 60,000 candidates were allotted seats. Amit Mehra

those who chose "upgrade" might be allotted a higher preference course-college combination, subject to vacancies.

The upgrades are automatic, and candidates will not have to cancel their admission in the earlier allotted seat. According to a university notification, "If a new preference is allocated, the claim for the earlier seat admitted stands forfeited automatically leading to its auto-cancellation".

Once a candidate is allotted an upgraded seat, they will have to follow the same process as the first round of admission: They need to "accept" their allotted seat between 10 am on October 31 and 4.59 pm on November 1; colleges will have

to verify and approve applications of candidates who have accepted by 5 pm on November 2; and candidates will have to complete payment of their fees by 4.59 pm on November 3.

Those who have opted for an upgrade are a large majority of candidates who are already admitted to various colleges in various programmes — 35,388 candidates had opted for upgrades as of Thursday evening. Though a large number of candidates have opted for an "upgrade", this does not necessarily mean they will be upgraded. This is subject to vacant seats in their higher preferred college-course combinations and their position in the CUET marks-based merit list.



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by

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Prime Minister

In gracious presence of

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Governor, Gujarat

**Bhupendrabhai Patel**  
Chief Minister, Gujarat

**Ashwini Vaishnav**  
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## OWNING TWITTER

Musk’s takeover of the platform sets stage for more disruption in Big Tech. The challenges need all his talent — and more

LAST THURSDAY, AFTER months of uncertainty, Elon Musk closed his \$44-billion deal to buy social media platform Twitter. Musk wasted no time getting down to business, removing four top executives of the company including chief executive officer, Parag Agrawal and chief financial officer, Ned Segal. But the culmination of the deal has put Twitter in an unknown space — as a privately owned, global public platform. In an increasingly polarised world, where platforms, including Twitter, often come under criticism for the decisions they take and, at times, they don’t, and when there is a growing push back by governments against Big Tech over the governance of global public platforms, the new owner has his task cut out.

Both Tesla and SpaceX, companies that have propelled Musk to the top of the global rich lists, have been pioneering initiatives. Both have been industry leaders, revolutionising the electric vehicles segment and the aerospace industry. They have benefitted consumers by bringing down costs, and lowering entry barriers. In both these areas, Musk has displayed an uncanny ability to not only articulate a bracing vision, but to ensure its fructification. But Twitter is another animal. As one of the most widely used social media platforms in the world, it lies at the intersection of society, politics and government. And considering the critical role it plays in the dissemination of news and the shaping of global public opinion, it wields immense power. However, its decisions in the past, including the manner in which it effectively blocked former US President Donald Trump, have been considered to be shrouded in opacity, with many accusing the platform of not being either accountable or transparent in its decision-making process.

While it’s too early to pronounce judgement, turning Twitter private may perhaps reduce the transparency and scrutiny that comes naturally from being a publicly listed company. The veil of secrecy that comes with being a privately owned company as well the sheer indispensability of social media platforms in itself warrant a more robust and elaborate system of checks and balances and far greater transparency and accountability. More so when there is the possibility of conflict of interest. After all, the new owner has business dealings with governments across the world, even those who are not receptive to his views on free speech — Musk has described himself as a free speech absolutist. This has triggered both enthusiasm and alarm. How he addresses the contentious issues of hate speech and disinformation will be keenly watched. The takeover, which comes at a tumultuous moment — with the West facing acute economic turmoil while a war rages on in Europe and an ambitious China aggressively charts its own trajectory — is, inarguably, a moment of disruption. The stakes couldn’t be higher.

## PUTIN’S OUTREACH

Russian president’s overture to Europe, praise for India at Moscow event are overshadowed by escalating war rhetoric

MUCH OF WHAT Russian President Vladimir Putin’s speech at the Valdai Club, a much awaited annual feature at the Moscow think tank, was along predictable lines. He railed at the West of creating its own rules and trying to impose them on others. He lashed out at the American desire for a unipolar world, and said he was not for unipolarity or even a bipolar world, but a multipolar world in which all would be respected. He alleged that the West was “seeking some kind of nuclear incident” and trying to create a false flag incident with a “dirty bomb” to pin against Russia, and thus to escalate the war. But between the lines, there was also an intriguing outreach to Western Europe — particularly Germany, whose relations with Russia in the post Cold War phase were built on the belief that Moscow could never be isolated in any plan for peace and security in Europe. Putin’s appeal to Europe sought to differentiate between the “the genuine traditional West” as opposed to the American-led West in which “even allies are sanctioned” and they “lower their heads and agree to everything”. He asked Europe to “rediscover/restore its political and economic independence” as this was the only way to a multipolar world.

Putin’s effusive praise for India and its political leadership, in response to a question after his main speech, may have embarrassed Delhi as it tries to walk the tightrope and stay neutral in this war. In another era, Putin’s description of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his “independent” foreign policy, and of India under his watch as an “icebreaker” “moving calmly” towards its chosen destiny would have been received with more enthusiasm in Delhi. But days after high praise for Modi in the West for telling Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation that “this is not the time for war”, the Russian president’s remarks sought to throw a very different light on Indian “neutrality”. Understandably, Delhi was lukewarm. Despite India’s abstentions at the United Nations on resolutions to do with Russia’s actions in Ukraine, the Indian establishment’s patience with Putin’s actions has been wearing thin. In the phone call between the two foreign ministers, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh rightly told his counterpart Sergei Shoigu that the use of nuclear weapons “should not be resorted to by either side” as these weapons go “against the basic tenets of humanity”.

It is unfortunate that neither side in this war, which continues to cause real economic consequences across the world, is making efforts to pursue a diplomatic end to this outrageous conflict. Instead, on both sides, the rhetoric is all about escalation.

## FREEZE FRAME

## E P UNNY



ARUN PRAKASH

INDIA’S NEWLY ANOINTED Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), even as he tackles thorny issues related to the management of two live borders, force-modernisation, competing budgetary claims and new personnel policies, will be under pressure to expedite the creation of new joint command structures. While he receives unsolicited advice from many quarters, the only counsel that the CDS should heed is “to make haste slowly”. This is because, contrary to popular impression, the appointment of a CDS did not call for the immediate creation of theatre commands.

The December 24, 2019 PIB note announcing Cabinet approval for creation of the post of CDS drew a clear line between achieving “integration” and the “creation of theatre commands”. In one paragraph, the CDS is tasked, “As the Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee... to bring about jointness in operations, logistics, training ...etc of the three Services, within three years”. A separate paragraph mandates the Department of Military Affairs with “facilitation” of the “restructuring of Military Commands for optimal utilisation of resources, by bringing about jointness in operations, including through establishment of joint/theatre commands,” with no time stipulation.

Possibly due to a misinterpretation of the Cabinet’s intent, the process of reform got off to a false start in 2020 with the coining of a new term — “theaterisation” — which became its driver. The creation of theatres should have been an end-state or ultimate aim of a process for engendering jointness and integration. But once the “cart was put before the horse”, the process, predictably, ran into inter-service conflict, resulting in a logjam that persists.

The nine-month delay in the appointment of the second CDS may turn out to be a blessing in disguise if it leads to introspection by our military and political leadership. Such introspection must take place against the background of the 30-month-old military confrontation with China and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Apart from this, there are some other imperatives that cannot be wished away.

First, any conflict with China will de-

In creating new joint command structures, new CDS must proceed with caution

mand forces/resources from 4-6 of India’s 14 single service, and two tri-service commands (none of them co-located), as well the space and cyber agencies and the Special Forces division. Facing them will be the PLA’s combined-arms forces under the unitary commander of its Western Theatre Command. One can imagine the command/control and logistic nightmare such a situation could create for India’s operational commanders and the fiascos that could ensue. The obvious imperative is to integrate these 14 commands into 4-5 geographic or threat-based theatres and place necessary forces under a single commander charged with conduct of operations.

Second, the service chiefs have to reconcile themselves to the reality that once theatre commanders assume the “warfighter” role, they will be divested of operational responsibilities, and assume the “raise-train-sustain” functions, involving recruitment and training of personnel as well as acquisition of combat wherewithal. The theatre commanders will have service “component commanders” of two/three-star rank to render service-specific advice.

Third, while the component commanders may retain a linkage with their chiefs, the question of who will provide operational guidance to the theatre commanders still remains open.

The last issue relates to air power, which has been the cause of fierce controversies over resources, roles and missions. Beneath the facade of inter-service bonhomie hides this germ of discord, which no one wants to talk about. The idea that strategic bombing alone was the path to victory was propagated by air-power proponents, Billy Mitchell in America and Giulio Douhet in Italy. Command of the air, according to them, meant quick, cheap and decisive victory, making surface forces redundant.

Notwithstanding the failure of the WW II allied bomber offensive, a continued Western belief in the decisiveness of air power via “air dominance” has persisted during asymmetric conflicts in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya and Syria. However, none of these conflicts resulted in a “decisive victory” for the West

nor did air power make a significant contribution.

While the IAF was justified in taking umbrage at being described as a “support arm” by the previous CDS, it is undeniable that as far as armies and navies are concerned, air power plays a “support function”, albeit, vital and indispensable. One of the lessons of 20th century conflicts was that wars are won and lost neither at sea nor in the air but on the ground by armies. Possibly, the same playbook is being re-enacted in Ukraine!

While “indivisibility of air power” may have been a good hypothetical construct in the past, the need of the hour is to find pragmatic modalities for sharing air power to enable future theatre commanders to counter the threat. The IAF’s reluctance to share assets must be tempered by the fact that the theatre air assets will be deployed on the advice of and by the IAF component commanders.

An area where the services have been remiss is in failing to initiate changes in professional military education even before the reform sequence was initiated. The very first step should have been to re-cast the present Staff College as a “Joint Services Staff College” with changes in its curriculum to produce “joint staff officers,” ready to serve in sister-service HQs, learning in the process to function as future component commanders and theatre commanders. Likewise for the three war colleges.

Finally, for those on Raisina Hill, there is much to be learnt from study of the thorny path of the US National Security Act of 1947, pushed through by President Truman in the face of bitter opposition from the US Navy. Or about the “Revolt of the Admirals” over cancellation of the “super-aircraft carrier,” which followed in 1949. Or how Secretary Defence Forrestal resolved the air power “roles & missions” conundrum via the “Key West Agreement” of 1948. And lastly, how it was two deeply concerned politicians, who persevered through four years of bitter debate, in the Pentagon, Congress and media to have the Goldwater-Nichols Act passed in 1986.

The writer is a retired chief of naval staff

## THE DEMISE OF HOPE

By mixing religion with politics, Kejriwal has proved AAP is no different from others



ASHUTOSH

I FELT very proud when I joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in January 2014. Today, I feel relieved that I am no longer with them. The AAP then was seen as a revolutionary force that claimed to be in politics not to play politics but to change it. It has changed beyond recognition. Integrity, honesty and good character were the only qualities for the selection of the candidates, the party had said in the run up to the 2013 Delhi assembly elections.

The AAP fielded candidates like Rajmohan Gandhi, Anand Kumar and Medha Patkar as candidates in the 2014 general election. It did not talk about religion or gods and goddesses and chalked out a programme of welfare measures — education, health, free electricity and supply of clean water at a subsidised rate were central to that model of governance. But today, Arvind Kejriwal does not lose an opportunity to woo Hindu voters by appealing to their religious sensibilities. The latest demand that the Modi government should put the images of Laxmi and Ganesh on the rupee notes if it wants the Indian economy to get better is a perversion to garner votes.

During the 2015 Delhi assembly elections, Prashant Bhushan and Yogendra Yadav had raised the issue of the party fielding certain candidates whose past was not as clean as expected. Both were expelled from the party soon after the AAP won a historic mandate. The slide that started then had alarmed many senior AAP leaders but they kept quiet. The loss in the Punjab assembly

Once Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister and Hindutva became the dominant formula to win elections, AAP was in a fix. Moreover, Kejriwal has a fatal flaw. He wants to win at any cost. After the bad loss in Punjab in 2017, where he took his victory for granted, he did not want to take any chances in the 2020 Delhi assembly election. So, he not only hired the services of Prashant Kishor but also recited Hanuman Chalisa.

elections in 2017, followed by the rout in the MCD elections, were the final tipping points. The AAP has given tickets to wealthy individuals with shady pasts and has been accused of selling tickets for the Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and assembly elections in different states. The party has never given a satisfactory explanation to why it deviated from its chosen path.

Once Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister and Hindutva became the dominant formula to win elections, AAP was in a fix. Moreover, Kejriwal has a fatal flaw. He wants to win at any cost. After the bad loss in Punjab in 2017, where he took his victory for granted, he did not want to take any chances in the 2020 Delhi assembly election. So, he not only hired the services of Prashant Kishor but also recited Hanuman Chalisa.

After winning Punjab, Gujarat, the Hindutva’s original laboratory, is the AAP’s next target. It started well in this endeavour in the local bodies’ elections, especially in Surat and Gandhinagar. With very smart ma-

nipulation of the media space and through a visible campaign, the AAP emerged as the third force in the state. Kejriwal started visiting the state every week. A buzz was created on the ground and it was debated loudly if the AAP could replace the Congress as the main opposition to the BJP. But two incidents rattled his confidence. First, the AAP state convener, Gopal Italia, spoke ill about Modi and asked women not to go to temples as that could be unsafe. Second, video clips of AAP minister Rajendra Pal Gautam saying at a Buddhist ceremony that he won’t worship Hindu gods. To minimise the damage, Kejriwal took the Laxmi-Ganesh route. In one of his rallies, he was seen chanting Jai Shri Ram — a war cry of the BJP and Sangh Parivar invented during the Ram Mandir movement. He also said he was born on Janmashtami (the day of Lord Krishna’s birth) to annihilate the sons of Kansha.

I am not sure if his exhortation to Hindu deities will fetch votes. But this certainly proves that he is not the same Arvind Kejriwal I knew, who used to talk about cleaning Indian politics of all its ills. What needs thought is why a “party of hope” could not resist taking the dangerous route of mixing religion with politics. Winning and losing elections is a part of the democratic process but the demise of the hope the AAP represented is tragic.

The writer is a senior journalist and former AAP member

## OCTOBER 31, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

### KHAN ARRESTED

KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR Khan, who has spent several years in Pakistani jails since independence, was once again put under house arrest. The North-West Frontier Province Government said he had been placed under house detention for participating in political activities which were restricted under the law.

### PM ACCEPTS DEMANDS

THE PRIME MINISTER, Mrs Indira Gandhi, may accept some demands of the Akalis before November 4 — the deadline fixed by the

Akalis for the announcement of the next phase of their agitation. Mrs Gandhi’s announcement may be made on November 1, the birthday of Guru Nanak and also the day when Punjab was reorganised in 1966. It is possible the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab may also be announced along with some of the religious demands.

### PM ON LANGUAGE

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi has said that she was against regional parties wherever their “narrow thinking weakens the nation”. The Prime Minister reiterated that Hindi would not be forced on anybody, but

stressed the need to have one language that the entire country could speak. Otherwise others would feel that India has no common language, she said.

### MANIPUR ACTOR KILLED

KHAIDEM MAIMU SINGH, well known amateur theatre artiste of Manipur, was shot dead during an exchange of fire between the police and a group of alleged extremists at Yumnam Leikai in Imphal. Twenty-two-year-old Maimu Singh, described by the police as an extremist, received several bullet injuries while trying to slip away from a place surrounded by them. He died on the spot.



# 13 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Getting Nutrition Wrong

Using the FAO's food balance sheets could enable the Global Hunger Index to iron out its deficiencies, make it more representative for India



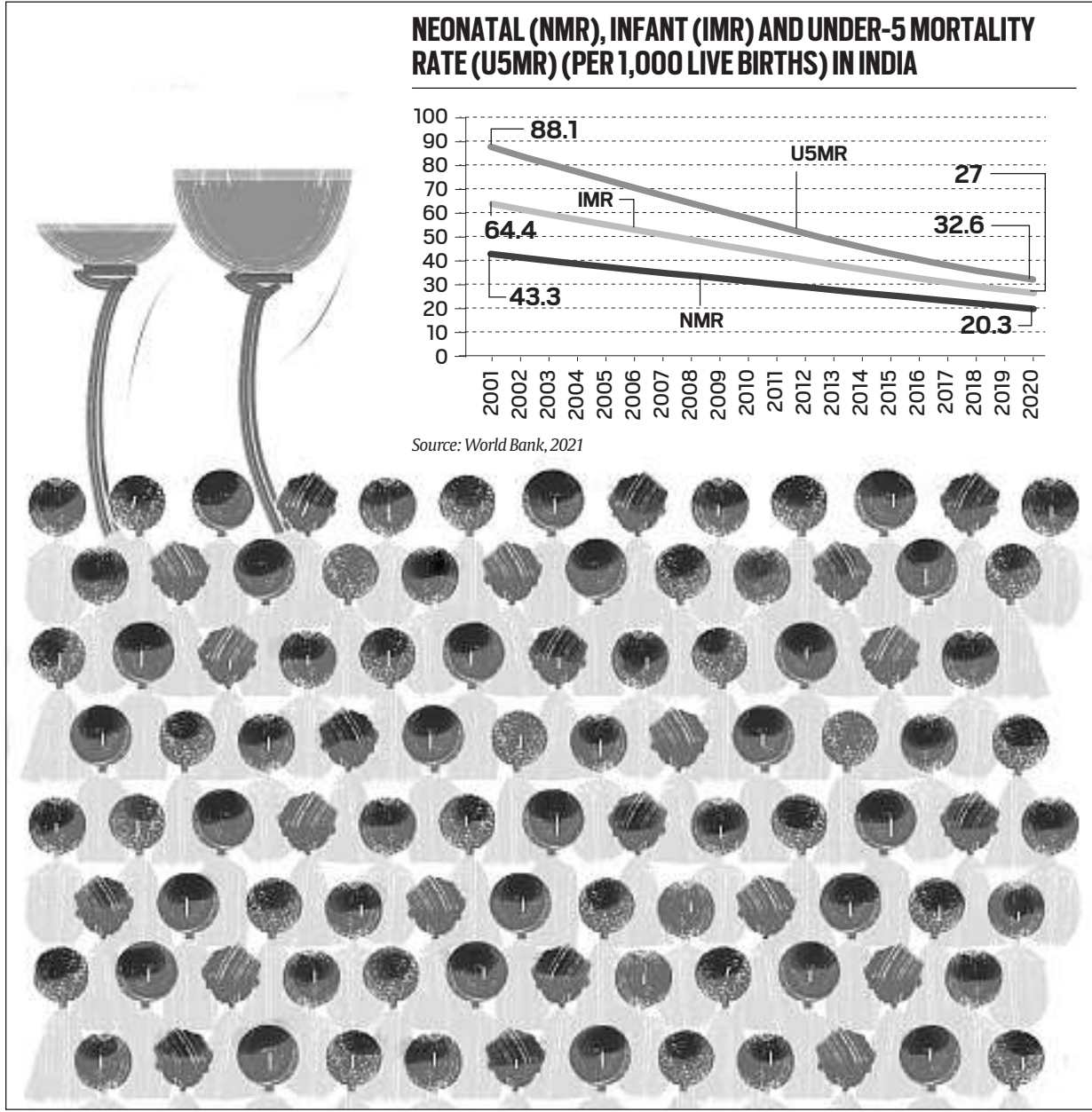
FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH  
BY ASHOK GULATI

INDIA'S RANK OF 107 among 121 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI, 2022), released earlier this month by the aid agencies Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe (CWV), has caused some anguish within the Government of India. The Opposition parties have cited India's poor score as "evidence" of the poor policies and performance of the government, which hit back by rejecting the GHI and alleging that the index is a deliberate attempt to taint India's image. Let me try to dig a little deeper to locate the problem with the GHI and suggest ways to improve it.

Many readers may not know that the GHI had its genesis at the IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute), where I had the privilege to serve for more than a decade. Let me say at the very outset, the IFPRI is a very responsible and credible organisation, and would never ever venture into maligning any country's image. Having said that, let me also add that any index of such nature can have conceptual and empirical problems, and there is always scope to improve. I recall when the GHI was envisioned, we at the IFPRI had discussed and debated many things from its nomenclature to weights of the different components that comprise the index. I, for one, had my reservations at that time and have so even now. So, I sympathise with the government's contention, "Three of the four indicators used for calculation of the index are related to the health of children and cannot be representative of the entire population. The fourth and most important indicator estimate of the proportion of undernourished population is based on an opinion poll conducted on a very small sample size of 3,000." I agree with this statement and even go further in saying that the weightage diagram in this GHI needs a revisit if it has to represent the entire population.

What is the first problem with the GHI? The very nomenclature suggests a link to starvation — from the index, it might seem that a lot of people in the country do not get basic food. That's not the case in India. India has been giving literally free food (rice/wheat), 10/kg per person per month to more than 800 million people since April 2020 in the wake of Covid-19. It also exported more than 30 MMT of cereals in 2021. This helped avert starvation deaths not only in India but also in many other countries. India's gesture has been applauded by multilateral agencies like the UNDP, IMF, World Bank, etc. The government's anguish stems from the fact that the GHI does not consider this mega scheme of free food under the PMGKY (Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana), but instead relies on an "opinion survey" of 3,000 in a country of 1.4 billion. In defence, the authors of the GHI say that NSSO's consumption data has not been generated after 2011. So they relied on this limited 'opinion survey'. This is not a credible excuse for a large country like India.

My humble suggestion to the authors of the index is to use the calorie intake based on FAO's food balance sheets. I say so because even the NSSO data on consumption has se-



CR Sasikumar

rious problems of underestimation. Statistical experts caution using NSSO consumption data for total consumption. Our own research at ICRIER shows that the gap in calories consumption as estimated from NSSO consumption surveys and those from production statistics of food has been growing over years. The food balance sheet approach gives 15 to 20 per cent higher calorie consumption than the NSSO. For 2019 we estimated 2,581 calories while the NSSO consumption survey of 2011 is stuck at 2088 calories. More research is needed by the agencies that produce the GHI to refine the numbers. I am sure with this improvement, India's ranking will also improve. And since India is such a large country, even global numbers on hunger will undergo significant changes.

But let me turn to other variables that go into the GHI and their weightage. Besides the malnourished population, which has a weightage of 0.33, the other variables are stunting (low height for age) and wasting (low weight for height) of children below the age of 5, which together have a weight of 0.33. The fourth variable is that of mortality rate of children under 5 years, which also has a weight of 0.33. So, in the overall GHI, two-thirds of the weightage are of children under 5 years. No wonder the government has been saying that the GHI is more reflective of children's health status than that of the entire population. In children's health status

Even the NSSO data on consumption has serious problems of underestimation. Statistical experts caution using NSSO consumption data for total consumption. Our own research at ICRIER shows that the gap in calories consumption as estimated from NSSO consumption surveys and those from production statistics of food has been growing over years. The food balance sheet approach gives 15 to 20 per cent higher calorie consumption than NSSO. For 2019 we estimated 2,581 calories while the NSSO consumption survey of 2011 is stuck at 2088 calories.

much of the data used in GHI is from National Family Health Surveys.

What we need to note however is the following: In the case of mortality rates, no matter how you measure, there is a significant drop over time. The mortality rate for under 5 years age group (U5MR) has fallen from 88.1 in 2001 to 32.6 in 2020, per 1000 live births (see infographics).

The progress in stunting and wasting is much slower as measured by NFHS because when children are saved from dying, they often increase the inflow of malnourished children. The outflow from this reservoir of stunted and wasted children is still not large enough to show as dramatic a decline as mortality rates have shown. But once mortality rates stabilise at low levels, I am sure the fall in stunting and wasting will be much faster.

However, it must be noted that stunting and wasting is not just because of lack of food (hunger). It is a multi-dimensional problem that requires focus on female education, access to immunisation, and better sanitation facilities. The upshot of all this is that we need a much more comprehensive index, like the Multi-dimensional Poverty (MPI) index of the UNDP, than the GHI to capture the status of the entire population.

Gulati is Distinguished Professor at ICRIER. Views are personal

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The globally agreed target of 1.5C is on track to be missed. For those working to prevent disaster, the only option is to keep trying." — THE GUARDIAN

## The successes of the loser

Kharge won internal party contest but Tharoor, too, is a winner. Congress is led by Kharge, provoked by Tharoor



PETER RONALD  
DESOUZA

KHARGE WON, he got 84 per cent of the vote. Tharoor lost, as expected. His vote share was not insignificant. I believe that this election for the president of the Congress party is a defining moment in the history of the party system in India, or even perhaps of Indian democracy.

Reading the tea leaves today is to distinguish between the probable and the possible. Causal explanation is required to make sense of the data, as many commentators have mechanically done when noting the challenges before Kharge, while prophecy is required to rearrange the data and read it imaginatively through the lens of history. Prophecy's value lies in its acknowledgment of the intangibles of human nature thereby producing a narrative that combines aspiration, realism, and fact.

The election of the Congress president, after about 25 years, with no member of the Gandhi family as a candidate, is such a fluid moment in Indian history. Agency is at play. Whether it will redefine the future of the party, and of politics in India, will depend on how the various actors of this moment — Kharge, Tharoor, Gandhis, party grandees, young turks, new recruits who have joined after the Bharat Jodo yatra, allies, especially NCP, RJD, TMC, DMK, Shiv Sena (T), ex-Congress men and women, and of course the NDA — respond to this fluidity. Such a moment of openness is ephemeral and requires the many agents to make a choice. Will they be daring or timid, change the system or submit to it?

Tharoor's role has just begun. He lost. But he also won. While most commentators have focused on Kharge's victory, his years of public service, closeness to the Gandhis, fierce commitment to Congress ideology, caste identity, challenges before the party, formidable opposition of the BJP etc, I shall comment only on the successes of the loser.

With his posh accent, Tharoor's campaign began at the heart of the British establishment, the Oxford Union debate. He charged Britain's favourite Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, with a crime against humanity for diverting food from Indian peasants leading to the tragic famine in Bengal. He criticised British colonialism for the damage it caused Indian industry, asked for the Kohinoor back, and demanded reparations for the harms done. Tharoor won that debate. The embarrassed and overwhelmed Britishers in attendance politely applauded. His performance charmed nationalists of every hue in India, including many Sanghis. His speech was a brilliant illustration of the Nehruvian idea of inclusive nationalism very different from the whining nationalism of the Savarkarites. And not a whimper from the NDA.

His second success is his insistence on forcing an election for the Congress president against the many who wanted unanimity. By forcing the election, he silenced, or maybe weakened, the voices that called it a sham, a front for the Gandhis. He thereby opened space for genuine party reform.

Whether it will be taken up depends on the various actors mentioned earlier. Will they seize the moment? Four sets of actors are important to turn this political space into an opportunity for a new party politics. The first are the 23 signatories, the party grandees. The second are the former Congressmen who preside over their own parties. The third are the state-level parties who are the Congress' allies. And the fourth are the assortment of civil society organisations who, having joined the Bharat jodo yatra, still adopt a holier than thou stance of not wanting to be soiled by Congress politics.

Led by Kharge, provoked by Tharoor, enthused by the two-month media coverage the election produced, the Congress is back. The more open-minded among this set of actors are being challenged to recognise the historic opportunity and accept their responsibility. Tharoor's candidature created this space for choice. At this moment it may not be farfetched to suggest that maybe, just maybe, the Gandhi family may wish to withdraw from the centre of party life, fade into history, and do so without being accused of abandoning the ship. It may be the pivotal moment of restoring the practice of genuine competitive succession. Tharoor prepared the ground for collective party building, for new ideas to be tried without fear of offending the Gandhis, for a post-Gandhi Congress. It is today a real possibility.

Although the next point reads as a continuation of the second, it, in fact, has independent status. Tharoor's third success is the removal of the fear of the family. Criticism of policies, especially those prepared by the leadership, can now move from behind the darbar curtain to the darbar hall itself. This will be a huge advance for the Congress party. It will open up the feedback loop blocked by years of sycophancy. A feedback loop is necessary for any successful political organisation. The BJP, in contrast, has diminished its own feedback loop, thereby setting the stage for its eventual decline. Will the Kharge Congress grasp this opportunity, using digital technology and PCC platforms?

The fourth success is the respect for ideas that Tharoor's candidature has brought back into public discourse in opposition to the current climate of anti-intellectualism. He has done it in style. He has made ideas vibrant and fun. Tharoorisms proliferate on social media. Through his self-deprecatory humour, a style in short supply during this NDA regime, he has restored an important element of a healthy democratic politics. Having vanquished the colonialists, Tharoor must continue to flail the rakes of Indian politics who mock his Lutyens colleagues and his Khan Market friends.

His final success lies in effectively nudging the Indian polity towards the Kerala model of politics for the nation. We are too diverse a society to have a two-party national political system. We must accept that we are a federal party system that must be nudged towards supporting a two-front competitive party system. This must be encouraged through a relentless campaign in all media. For him this will be easy. Social media loves him. He still has work to do.

Peter Ronald deSouza is the DD Kosambi Visiting Professor at Goa University. He has recently co-edited the book Companion to Indian Democracy: Resilience, Fragility and Ambivalence, Routledge, 2022. Views are personal



VRINDA SHUKLA

## The case of consent

Law needs to be in sync with growing sexual liberation of young Indians

TWO MUCH-IN-LOVE college mates, belonging to different castes, would often discuss the impending challenge of convincing their families about their marriage. Driven by the force of their mutual affection, however, their emotional and physical relationship continued. With the boy distancing himself eventually, under the pressure of his family's opposition, the girl approached the police wanting to file a case of rape against her boyfriend of many years.

Police stations around the country receive thousands of such applications each year from women alleging "rape" when long-term relationships, including live-in-relationships, come to an end or when there is family pressure to register an FIR once a woman's sexual relationship is discovered.

The case for rape is made out from a joint reading of Sections 375 and 90 of the Indian Penal Code. As per Section 375, a man is said to have committed rape if he has sexual intercourse with a woman "without her consent". Section 90 spells out that consent given "under a misconception" is not consent in the eye of the law. Hence, a woman who indulges in sexual intercourse with a man on the promise of marriage argues that her consent was accorded under the "misconception" that the accused was going to marry her. As the marriage did not take place, for any of the

several plausible reasons, the consent to sexual intercourse is to be considered null.

Courts have long grappled with the question of whether such consensual sexual relations between adults, often over a protracted period, ought to be deemed as "rape". Several judgments have pronounced that such relations do not amount to rape, unless it can be conclusively proven that consent was sought by fraudulent means. Amid rising complaints of this nature, the Supreme Court, too, has ruled that the alleged "misconception" created to obtain a woman's consent for sex has to be close to the incident and not stretched over years.

Relationship dynamics are further undergoing a quantum change with young men and women increasingly engaging in casual dating and short-term sexual liaisons via a growing array of social media apps designed for the very purpose. The legal challenge borne out of this trend is evident in the latest relief granted by the Delhi High Court just days ago, suspending the 10-year sentence of an appellant convicted by the trial court for obtaining the prosecutrix's consent for sexual intercourse on a false promise of marriage. The appellant successfully argued that he had met the complainant on Tinder. While sexual liaisons via Tinder and similar apps are by no means a promise of marriage,

in this case, there were also past blog posts of the prosecutrix stating that she did not believe in the institution of marriage.

The failure to understand the situation of a woman having sexual relations, of her own volition, on a future promise of marriage has subjected the law on rape to gross misuse. The problem begins when a relationship goes south. If the male partner is more invested in the relationship and feels let down by its breakdown, he has no choice but to live out his frustration and grief. However, to a woman in the same boat, the law offers a potent recourse. Given the seriousness accorded to Section 375, especially in recent years, a crime reported as rape must be registered immediately. The risk-averse tendency of the police in cases of sexual offences often leads to arrest and filing of chargesheets despite patchy evidence, leaving it to the courts to grant bail and, subsequently, to acquit the accused, if deemed innocent. Such overkill in cases of consensual relationships has led to the law being used as an instrument of arm-twisting, blackmail, extortion and disproportionate revenge. It causes immense harassment, including imprisonment, the financial burden of seeking bail and getting through long-winded trials, to men who had no criminal tendencies per se. It also results in an undue burdening of

the criminal justice system. There is an urgent need to institute a system of detailed preliminary enquiry for such complaints before registering an FIR, as prescribed by the Lalita Kumari v/s State of UP judgment, for instance, to gauge the veracity of the allegations. This would help protect the genuine victims while curbing the abundant abuse of the law.

To link the legitimacy of sexual intercourse between consenting adults to their future marriage may have outlived its utility in the wake of the growing sexual liberation of young Indians. To sustain an interpretation of the law that seeks to protect unmarried adult women from being "hoodwinked" into sexual intercourse also appears patently paternalistic, as if they are incapable of assessing the significance of the act, and of understanding the risk that a relationship may not reach the intended fruition. A law that allows only women to revisit their past consensual sexual choices, and subsequently criminalises the same, is also paradoxical to women's sexual liberation and empowerment, which comes with both the freedom and the responsibility to own up to their choices and desires.

The writer is an IPS officer. Views expressed are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### UNETHICAL POLITICS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'God as currency' (IE, October 29). Arvind Kejriwal's rise started with his assurance to cleanse the then existing polluted systems of governance and administration. To quickly achieve his aims, many people-friendly projects were initiated. Now, it seems the Aam Aadmi Party has strayed from the ethical course and started mixing religion with politics. These cunning political games clearly indicate that the party is no different than the rest.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'God as currency' (IE, October 29). In a country of multiple gods and conflict between faiths, the very idea of having pictures of deities on Indian currency notes is misconceived. Even the use of pictures of eminent personalities or historical monuments is fraught with controversy because of the prevailing environment of competitive politics. The status quo should continue. If we want a change, mobilising for secular figures should be the way forward.

YG Chouksey, Pune

### NUTRITION & HUNGER

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Nutrition, not hunger' (IE, October 28). The author, in light of the contemporary improvements in production of various agro-commodities in India, shuns the Hunger Index, claiming that the "problem of scarcity" does not apply to India. However, it must be kept in mind that the mere availability of food does not preclude hunger or starvation. This is quite clear from the works of Amartya Sen on the Bengal famine. Despite availability of food, hunger can still creep in, if there is an absence of "entitlements" for various reasons — most importantly, a lack of purchasing power.

Jai Vikram Singh, via email

### PAY PARITY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Closing the gap' (IE, October 29). BCCI has made the right decision with this move towards pay parity. There was a gulf between men and women's match fees earlier. With women's IPL planned for 2023, it seems women's sports in the country are inching towards a new dawn.

Bal Govind, Noida



# 14 EXPRESS NETWORK

## BRIEFLY

### KARNATAKA

#### Student dies while playing Bhagat Singh

**Bengaluru:** A 12-year-old boy accidentally hanged himself while practising the role of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh to perform it on Kannada Rajyotsava in November, his family and the police said. Sujay Gowda, a student of Class 7, was at home, practising the role, when he died. A resident of Chitradurga town, his parents ran a tea shop in the town. According to Chitradurga extension police, Sujay had worn a monkey cap and put a saree to the fan and around his neck. His family said he was supposed to recite some dialogues before the hanging scene and that he might have lost balance while he doing it. Police said they are further probing the case. **ENS**

### ODISHA

#### Bridge built in 1952 collapses

**Bhawanipatna:** Two cars got stuck as a pre-independence bridge collapsed in Odisha's Kalahandi district on Sunday afternoon, an officer said. Firefighters and police rescued the persons who were trapped in the cars. The incident happened near Bhagirathi Park at Bhawanipatna around 3 pm. The bridge, which connects Bhawanipatna to Thuamul Rampur and Kashipur, was built in 1925 by the engineering department of the erstwhile princely state of Kalahandi. PWD superintending engineer Ajit Babu said a 40-metre-long bridge will be constructed at the spot, he said. **PTI**

### MAHARASHTRA

#### Five killed in building collapse

**Mumbai:** Five men were killed after the roof of a dilapidated two storied building collapsed in Amravati city on Sunday. The owner of a shop on the ground floor, where the five deceased men were present, has been booked for causing death due to negligence for employing them despite knowing the structure was declared dilapidated and a notice was served to vacate it back in 2020. The five men who died were said to be labourers. **ENS**

### HIMACHAL PRADESH

#### Russian woman held with charas

**Mandi:** A Russian woman was arrested with over two kilogram charas from a bus in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district on Sunday, police said. According to Mandi Superintendent of Police Shalini Agnihotri, during checking 2,412 Kg charas was recovered from Olga Brashkova (49), resident of Moscow, Russia. The police has registered a case under the NDPS Act. **PTI**

## SC TO HEAR PLEAS AGAINST ACT TODAY

# CAA doesn't affect citizenship regime, Centre tells top court

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE CITIZENSHIP (Amendment) Act, 2019 is a "narrowly tailored" piece of legislation that does not affect the existing regime for obtaining Indian citizenship, and legal migration, on the basis of valid documents and visa, continues to be permissible from all countries, the Union government told the Supreme Court on Sunday.

These submissions were part of an affidavit filed by the government in response to petitions by the All Assam Students Union (AASU) and others challenging the validity of the CAA.

Urging the top court to dismiss the pleas, the government said in its affidavit that the Act "does not in any way encourage illegal migration into Assam" and termed

it an "unfounded...apprehension".

"It is submitted that the existing regime for obtaining citizenship of India by foreigners of any country is untouched by the CAA and remains the same. It is submitted that the legal migration, on the basis of valid documents and visa, continues to be permissible from all countries of the world including from the three specified countries", the government said.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to take up the petitions Monday.

Explaining its stand, the government said that Article 6 of the Constitution deems all migrants in India from Pakistan (including present-day Bangladesh) as citizens of India if such persons or their parents or grandparents were born in undivided India or such persons had migrated into India before 19th July, 1948. If

such persons had migrated after this date and got registered before a competent officer and had been resident in India for at least six months before the date of registration, then such persons were also deemed to be Indian citizens.

"It is thus obvious that Article 6 deemed a special class of migrants post-partition [which clearly took place on religious lines and resulted in large scale migration on religious lines] as citizens of India due to their very special circumstances".

The Centre submitted that CAA "is a benign piece of legislation which seeks to provide a relaxation, in the nature of an amnesty, to specific communities from the specified countries with a clear cut-off date... the CAA is a specific amendment which seeks to tackle a specific problem prevalent in the specified countries (Pakistan,

Afghanistan and Bangladesh) i.e. persecution on the ground of religion in light of the undisputable theocratic constitutional position in the specified countries, the systematic functioning of such States and the perception of fear that may be prevalent amongst minorities as per the de facto situation in the said countries."

The government said that the CAA does not seek to recognise or provide answers to any kind of persecution that may be taking place across the world. "In that regard, the CAA is a narrowly tailored legislation seeking to address the specific problem which awaited India's attention for a solution since several decades," it said.

The government also said that the constitutionality of CAA should be tested within that legislative domain and cannot be conflated to extend beyond that object.

## Govt printed 10,000 electoral bonds of Rs 1 cr each recently, show RTI replies

**DAMINI NATH**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE UNION government printed 10,000 electoral bonds worth Rs 1 crore each sometime between August 1 and October 29, according to two Right to Information replies from State Bank of India (SBI) on those dates.

The most recent tranche of electoral bonds went on sale from October 1 to October 10, in the run-up to the Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat elections.

The last time the government printed electoral bonds was in 2019, when bonds worth

Rs 11,400 crore in different denominations were printed at the India Security Press in Nashik, according to the October 29 reply by SBI to RTI activist Kanhaiya Kumar. SBI, the only bank authorised by the government to sell electoral bonds, said in the same reply that 10,000 electoral bonds worth Rs 1 crore were printed in the calendar year 2022. In reply to Kumar's earlier RTI query with the same question, SBI had on August 1 provided details of the printing of electoral bonds in 2018 and 2019 as the only instances of the same.

Asked whether the expenditure incurred on printing of the electoral bonds was borne by the exchequer or the purchaser of the bond, SBI in its October 29 reply stated: "The stationary is acquired from Govt [Government of India] by SBI for Sale at its Authorised Branches (sic)."

Citing data provided by SBI in its recent reply, Kumar said the government had printed 10,000 of the new Rs 1 crore-denomination electoral bonds even when 5,068 of the bonds with the same denomination were ly-

## EXPLAINED Most popular choice

OVER THE years, poll bonds of Rs 1 crore denomination, the highest denomination available in the scheme, have been the most popular choice for corporates and individuals. The scheme also includes bonds with denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh and Rs 10 lakh. These, however, find few takers.

ing unsold after the sale of a tranche in July. Since the start of the scheme in 2018, the government has printed 24,650 Rs 1 crore-denomination bonds so far, selling 10,108 of them.

According to SBI's RTI reply, about 94 per cent of the value of total electoral bonds sold so far have been in the form of bonds of Rs 1 crore denomination.

In the run-up to the Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur elections earlier this year, SBI had sold electoral bonds worth Rs 1,213 crore in January. Most of these bonds (Rs 784 crore) were cashed in at the SBI's New Delhi branch, where national parties have their accounts.

On August 19, India Security Press said in its reply to RTI activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (retired) that the government had spent Rs 1.85 crore on the printing of electoral bonds so far. The number of electoral bonds printed till then — 6,64,250 — did not include the recently printed 10,000 Rs 1-crore denomination bonds as mentioned in SBI's RTI reply.

## MORBI BRIDGE COLLAPSE: AT LEAST 60 KILLED



Rescue operation underway after an old suspension bridge over the Machchhu river collapsed in Morbi district on Sunday. **PTI**

## Govt announces relief; Cong asks its workers to join rescue efforts

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed grief after a bridge collapsed in Gujarat's Morbi city on Sunday, claiming at least 60 lives.

Prime Minister Modi announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the families of each of those who died in the incident, his office said. Expressing sadness, Modi, in a tweet said he has spoken to Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and officials. "Relief and rescue operations are going on in full swing and all necessary assistance is being provided," the PM said.

President Murmu, in a tweet, said, "The tragedy in Morbi, Gujarat has left me worried. My thoughts and prayers are with the affected people."

Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, "Very sad news coming from Gujarat. Many people are reported to have fallen into the



Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel at the site Sunday night. **PTI**

river after a bridge collapsed in Morbi. I pray to god for everybody's life and well-being."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah in a tweet said he has spoken to Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghvi and other officials. "Local administration is fully engaged in relief work, NDRF is also reaching the spot soon. The administration has been directed to provide immediate treatment to the injured," Shah said.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel announced Rs 4 lakh to the family of each deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge tweeted, "Deeply saddened by the tragedy that has struck us with the collapse of the suspension bridge in Morbi, Gujarat... I appeal to the @INC Gujarat workers to extend every possible assistance in rescue work & helping the wounded..."

In a tweet, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said: "I extend my deepest condolences to all the bereaved families in such difficult times. He also appealed to party workers to extend all possible assistance to the injured."

## PM, CM cancel, defer events

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDHINAGAR, OCTOBER 30

GUJARAT CHIEF Minister Bhupendra Patel cancelled all his remaining programmes for the day and rushed to Morbi following the Jhulto Pool (shaking bridge) collapse that left more than 60 dead Sunday evening. In addition, at least two programmes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in Gujarat on a three-day tour, were also deferred or cancelled following the mishap.

The PM was scheduled to virtually address the page committee members of Gujarat BJP from Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar on the occasion of Diwali on November 1. However, a party statement stated that the programme—which was to be held at all 182 assembly constituencies of the state—has been postponed.

The PM was to hold a roadshow in Ahmedabad before inaugurating some Indian Railways projects Monday. A party release said the roadshow has been cancelled and PM will only attend the function to inaugurate the projects.

## SC agrees to hear plea against first amendment to Constitution

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE SUPREME Court has agreed to examine a PIL challenging changes made to the right to freedom of speech and expression by the first amendment to the Constitution in 1951, with the petitioner contending that the amendment damages the basic structure doctrine.

A bench presided by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, which took up the plea earlier this month, said there is a "legal issue", which arises "for consideration", and sought the Centre's views. "As legal issue arises for consideration, it will be open to the petitioner, who appears in-person, and learned counsel for the respondents to file written synopsis, not exceeding five pages, along with relied upon judgments," the bench, also comprising Justice J K Maheshwari, said in its October 17 order.

In his plea, the petitioner,

Senior Advocate K Radhakrishnan, said Section 3(1) of the 1951 Amending Act substituted original Clause (2) of Article 19 — dealing with reasonable restrictions on the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) — with a new Clause (2), which contained "two objectionable insertions" allowing restrictions also "in the interest of public order" and "in relation to incitement to an offence". The new Clause (2) also omitted the expression "tends to overthrow the State" as appearing in the original Clause (2).

Section 3 (2) of the amending Act effected validation of certain laws even if they took away or abridged right to freedom of speech and expression, the petitioner said. The petition contended that these two insertions protect Sections 124A (sedition), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., by words, either

spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony, 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and 505 of the IPC "from the vice of unconstitutionality". "The two questionable expressions inserted unduly abridge the fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a)," the petition said. This undue abridgement "does not advance or subserve any constitutional objectives" but "damages, inter alia democracy and republicanism and supremacy of Constitution", it added.

The amendment also neglects national security by dropping the expression "tends to overthrow the State", Radhakrishnan said. "The glaring omission of the expression raises grave concern in the context of the dangers posed to secular democratic republic by radicalism, terrorism and religious fundamentalism," he added.

## Bommai denies sending cash to journalists, blames Cong 'toolkit'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 30

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday denied allegations that his office had attempted to bribe journalists of various media organisations by sending them Rs 1 lakh in cash as gifts during Diwali.

Speaking to reporters, Bommai said he had not instructed anyone to offer cash gifts to journalists. "This is a result of Congress toolkit. They are attempting to manufacture lies," he said, responding to questions regarding a series of posts on Twitter by the Opposition Congress about the issue.

The Chief Minister also alleged that the Congress had sent gifts to several people when it was in power. "They (Congress) don't have any moral authority to speak about the issue," Bommai said.

On a complaint filed with the Lokayukta about the incident, he

said that it would be investigated. "It is not right to infer that all journalists took these gifts. Let the investigation be completed," he said.

The Bommai administration is under fire from Opposition parties in the state after it emerged that wads of cash were allegedly kept inside boxes of sweets that were distributed from the Chief Minister's Office on the occasion of Diwali.

The Congress has demanded the registration of a corruption case as well as the resignation of the Chief Minister and state Home Minister Araga Jnanendra.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, the Congress's Siddaramaiah, the Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly, said Bommai "had no moral right to continue as CM".

"A criminal case should be filed against him (Bommai). The CM and the home minister should resign immediately," Siddaramaiah said.

## Lingayat seer suicide: 3 held for blackmail

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka police have arrested three persons, including a 21-year-old woman and a seer, in connection with the suicide of Kanchugal Bandemutt seer Basavalingeshwara Swamy.

Ramanagara SP Santosh Babu Sunday said that Basavalingeshwara was being blackmailed by Kannur mutt seer Mruthyunjaya Swamy and Mahadevaiah, a retired teacher. The third accused is engineering student Neelambike, who was allegedly close to Basavalingeshwara.

Basavalingeshwara was found hanging in his room on October 24 in the mutt. Basavalingeshwara and Mruthyunjaya were cousins before they became seers. "There were a lot of land litigations between the Mutts which led to a lot of differences," Babu further said.

Babu added that the plan to take revenge started in February and it is suspected that three videos were made to harass the former. "We are yet to ascertain whether the seer was honey-trapped," he added. **ENS**



Balkaur Singh

## Unhappy with murder probe, Moosewala's father threatens to leave India

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 30

SLAIN SINGER and Congress leader Shubhdeep Singh alias Sidhu Moosewala's father Balkaur Singh Sunday said that he will "leave the country if justice was not delivered in his son's murder case."

"I might go and start living in Bangladesh if need be, but I will leave this country if we don't get justice..." said Singh, while addressing the media at his residence in Mansa.

He said that if police and governments will try to prove his son as a gangster or his involvement in any gang war, then he will withdraw Moosewala's murder FIR on November 25 and leave the country. "Till then I will wait... and see if they deliver justice in my son's gruesome murder or not," he said.

Demanding a thorough probe into the role of the policemen who investigated Moosewala's murder case, Singh said, "Why no probe into the role of other cops? Pritpal Singh was the one who was the main investigator in our case... he must have spared and helped many other accused... we want proper probe," adding that governments and investigation agencies need to reveal names of those who got Moosewala killed.

"Don't ever think that we will forget Sidhu or close the case file thinking that it was a result of gang war..." said visibly angry father, adding: "My son has been murdered with a well-planned conspiracy..."

## UP girl slapped by boy: FIR lodged, juvenile among 2 held

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 30

AYODHYA POLICE have registered an FIR after a video of a schoolgirl being slapped by a youth went viral on social media. The FIR has been filed for assault "with an intent to outrage modesty", and under the provisions of POCSO Act.

A 19-year-old has been arrested and a juvenile has been detained. The main accused, who is seen in the video slapping the girl, is, however, at large. In the video of the purported incident, a youth is seen chopping a girl in school uniform from riding a bicycle and slapping her multiple times.

"The main accused, who assaulted the girl, is absconding. We

will arrest him soon. The other two accused were involved in planning the assault and were present at the spot. All the accused belong to the same village as the girl," Ayodhya Additional SP (Rural) Atul Kumar Sonkar said.

SHO of the police station where the FIR has been registered said the case was filed after a complaint from the girl's family. "When we asked her if there was a reason behind the incident, she could not tell us," the SHO said.

The FIR has been lodged under IPC sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 342 (mischievous causing inundation or obstruction to public drainage attended with damage) and POCSO Act.

## FAKE DOCUMENTS STORY

# The Wire files complaint with police against its researcher

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE WIRE news portal has filed a complaint with the Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police against its researcher, Devesh Kumar, senior police officers said on Sunday.

This comes a day after the police lodged an FIR against the portal, its founder and editors in connection with its report that BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya used his special privileges at tech giant Meta to take down over 700 social media posts. The report was later retracted.

"The complaint has been filed against Kumar for alleged fabrication of documents and forgery. This is in connection with all the Meta stories that were published this month," said a police officer.

The police said they are looking into the complaint. An FIR has not been registered yet.

According to the complaint filed by The Wire, Kumar was hired on contract basis last year. It claims that after The Wire, on October 6, 2022, published a story about an abrupt takedown of a post on Instagram, "Devesh Kumar, who had nothing to do with that story, got in touch with our reporter..."

The complainant said their re-

view revealed that the information — emails and videos — provided by Kumar were "fabricated". Kumar did not reply to calls and messages from The Indian Express for his version.

In October, The Wire claimed Meta had given certain special privileges to Malviya. The portal claimed that its reports were based on a document "sourced" from an alleged Meta insider. This was denied by Meta, which called the document fake. Following this, The Wire published a series of articles defending the report, citing what it called "internal emails" of Meta, which have all turned out to be fake.





As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

# Grand Celebration of National Unity Day

In the august presence of  
Prime Minister

**Shri Narendra Modi**



## Various Programmes

PM will offer floral tribute to  
Sardar Patel

Parade by BSF and State Police

Dog Show by BSF

Kalaripayattu Demo by CISF Women Team

Weapon Drill by Gujarat Women Police

Air Show by Indian Air Force

Cultural Events

Tribute to

**Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,**  
the architect of a United India,  
on his birth anniversary

“Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel accomplished  
the impossible task of uniting the country.”

**- Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**



Run for Unity to  
be held at 75,000  
places across India

**Date: 31.10.2022, Time: 8 am, Location: Ekta Nagar, Gujarat**



# 16 Govt & Politics

## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



### BRAND INDIA

SRI LANKA'S High Commissioner to India Milinda Moragoda has ditched fancy imported cars and gone for Maruti Suzuki's newest offering, the Grand Vitara. R C Bhargava, Chairman of Maruti Suzuki India Limited, on Sunday handed over the Intelligent Electric Hybrid variant of the Grand Vitara to the High Commissioner at the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi. Moragoda is said to be a Maruti fan and had introduced the Indian car brand to his country's market way back in 1986. He is said to be in love with Indian cars and earlier owned Hindustan Ambassador and Maruti Suzuki Gypsy.

### THE DAKOTA

LAST WEEK, when the Indian Army celebrated the 76th Infantry Day in Srinagar, the vintage Dakota, which had taken soldiers to Srinagar in 1947, also flew along with other fighter aircraft. It was for the first time after the 80-year-old Dakota was obtained from scrap in 2011 – and rechristened 'Parashurama' – that it flew to Srinagar. The Dakota, in its new avatar, also has a political connection. It was refurbished by Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar as a tribute to his father Retired Air Commodore M K Chandrasekhar. It was on October 27, 1947, when infantry men from the Indian Army became the first troops to land at Srinagar airport to push out invaders from the outskirts of Srinagar.

### ANOTHER STINT

DAYS AFTER the successful completion of the Interpol conference in Delhi, CBI Special Director Praveen Sinha has been given an extension of six months of tenure. Sinha, who is India's delegate to the Interpol, was instrumental in organising the Interpol conference and coordinating with representatives from 195 countries. A 1988-batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre, Sinha was appointed as Interim Director of the CBI in June 2021, after the tenure of then CBI chief Rishi Kumar Shukla came to an end. He was, however, not made a full-time Director and was replaced by Subodh Kumar Jaiswal. In November that year, five months ahead of his superannuation, he was elected as Interpol delegate. The appointment was seen as a compensation for Sinha losing out on the Director's post. A second stint in the job is now being seen as a reward for his work.

### 'SAFRAN PROJECT GONE TO HYDERABAD'

## Another project lost, says Maharashtra Opp

VALLABH OZARKAR  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 30

THREE DAYS after Opposition parties attacked the Shinde-Fadnavis government for "letting the Tata-Airbus aircraft manufacturing project go to Gujarat", leaders from the Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP on Sunday alleged another project of French aircraft engine manufacturer Safran has gone to Hyderabad from the state.

While Opposition parties have alleged that after the formation of the Shinde-Fadnavis government in the state, four projects – Vedanta Foxconn, bulk drug park, Tata-Airbus and now Safran – have gone out of the state. The ruling parties, however, claimed all these projects went out of the state during the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government and it was spreading false narra-

tive to defame the Shinde government and the state.

"Two crucial sectors have lost faith in 'khoke sarkar' (Shinde-BJP government) – industry and agriculture. Investors have lost faith in political stability and farmers have lost faith in government support in times of climate crisis. Monstrous ambition + complete collapse in administration = Maharashtra's loss," MLA Aaditya Thackeray said in a tweet.

Congress spokesperson Atul Londhe claimed the French company, which had shortlisted Mihan near Nagpur as one of its locations for its project, has shifted it to Hyderabad. "Shinde should realise this is an industrial state and if projects like these keep going out of the state, then Maharashtra will be stamped as an unfavourable destination for industries and investors," he said.

## Former foreign secy Vijay Gokhale is guest at Explained event today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE 20TH party congress of the Communist Party of China has confirmed Xi Jinping as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CCP) for a third five-year term. President Xi's confirmation as China's supreme leader for a third term is a widely expected break with precedent since no leader of China since Mao Zedong's death in 1976 has ruled for more than two terms.

What does that mean for China – its politics, economy, military and its people? What is its impact on global politics, at a time when geopolitics is in a state of flux and global norms are being disrupted?

What does that mean for India, which shares a long and contested border with China?

What does that mean for India's neighbourhood, which



Vijay Gokhale has served as India's envoy to China



has become a place for contestation for both New Delhi and Beijing?

To make sense of these developments and much more, Vijay Gokhale will be the guest

# Make transparency your utmost priority: PM to new J&K appointees at rozgar mela

'Leave behind old challenges, benefit from new possibilities'

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 30

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Sunday asked new entrants to the Union Territory administration to make transparency their utmost priority, saying that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have always laid emphasis on transparency and appreciated it.

Addressing through virtual mode the rozgar melas being held at 20 places across Jammu and Kashmir wherein 3,000 youth were handed over appointment letters, he said, "Jammu Kashmir ke logo ne hamesha transparency par bal diya hai, transparency to saraha hai. Aaj jo noujwan sarkari sewaon mein aa rahe hain, unhey transparency ko apni prathamika banana hai (Those youth who are today joining the government service have to make transparency their priority)."

Pointing out that whenever he met people of Jammu and Kashmir, he always felt their pain about corruption prevalent in the system, the Prime



PM Narendra Modi addresses the rozgar melas via video conferencing. PTI

Minister said that they (people) hate corruption and are fed up with it. He appreciated Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and his team for working hard to root out corruption and asked the new appointees that "it is their responsibility to give fillip to the honest efforts of the LG's administration to ensure transparency".

"I believe that those youth who are getting appointment letters today will fulfil this new responsibility with dedication and vigour," he said.

The Prime Minister described the current decade of the 21st

century as the most important one in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, saying that it is time for leaving behind the old challenges and taking up full advantage of new possibilities. "The Rozgar Mela in Jammu and Kashmir is also very special in a way as it is our youth who will write a new story of development" in the Union Territory, he underlined, expressing happiness that youth in large numbers were coming forward for participating in the development of Jammu Kashmir and its people.

He said that for carrying forward development at a fast pace in the transparent and sensitive system, the people have to work with a "new approach and a new thinking". Pointing out that the new appointees will get opportunities to serve in various departments in PWD, Health, Food and Civil Supplies, Animal Husbandry, Jal Shakti and Education and Culture, he said that preparations are in full swing to hand out more than 700 appointment letters in other departments in the coming days.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



## THE EXTRA MILE

Rahul Gandhi during the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Telangana's Mahbubnagar district on Sunday. Speaking at a meeting as part of the yatra, Rahul criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi over "price rise and unemployment" in the country, and asked why the PM was not addressing this issue. Rahul also targeted the Telangana government led by CM K Chandrasekhar Rao, saying it was privatising schools, colleges and universities in the state. PTI

## KCR alleges BJP bid to topple his govt, slams Modi

Telangana's self-respect is not for sale, CM says after three arrested for 'trying to bribe' TRS MLAs

REENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 30

TELANGANA CHIEF Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Sunday made a scathing attack on the BJP alleging that it conspired to topple the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government by trying to purchase its MLAs. Speaking publicly for the first time after Cyberabad Police arrested three persons for allegedly trying to bribe four TRS MLAs at a farmhouse in Moinalab on Wednesday night, at a meeting at



CM K Chandrashekar Rao

Munugode, KCR said "Telangana's self-respect is not for sale".

The CM held his first public meeting at Munugode where a bypoll is due on November 3.

Parading the four MLAS – P Rohit Reddy, G Balraj, Harvardhan

Reddy and R Kantha Rao – at the public meeting, KCR said, "These four MLAs of my party are with me. They refused crores of rupees offered to them by brokers sent from Delhi to switch loyalties. This is Telangana's flag of self respect. These are the real leaders in politics."

The TRS supremo hinted that BJP's top leaders were involved in the "operation lotus" to topple his government. Alleging that the operation was done with support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and RSS, KCR asked why the PM was encour-

## India doing wonders in solar, space sectors: Modi in Mann ki Baat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi said Sunday that ISRO's recent successful mission of placing 36 satellites in orbit has opened new doors of opportunities for India and helped it emerge as a "strong player" in the global commercial space market.

Addressing his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast, the Prime Minister said India is doing wonders in space as well as the solar sectors, adding that the whole world is surprised to see its achievements in these areas.

On October 23, ISRO successfully injected 36 broadband satellites of a UK-based customer into precise orbits. Modi said, "With this launch, India has emerged as a strong player in the global commercial market. With this, new doors of op-

portunities have also opened up for India."

He termed it as a "special Diwali gift from our youth" to the country. It will strengthen digital connectivity across India, including in the remotest areas, he said.

"I also remember those old days, when India was denied Cryogenic Rocket Technology. But the scientists of India not only developed indigenous technology, but today with the help of it, dozens of satellites are being sent to space simultaneously," said the Prime Minister.

Modi said IN-SPACE, which was announced in June 2020, was going to make a major difference in this sector. IN-SPACE is an autonomous and single window nodal agency under the Department of Space, which facilitates the usage of ISRO facilities by private entities.

## Gujarat: Patidar leaders Katheriya, Malaviya join AAP in Bhavnagar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 30

TWO PROMINENT leaders of the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) that spearheaded the Patidar quota agitation in the state – Alpesh Katheriya and Dharmik Malaviya – joined AAP in the presence of party convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in Gariadhar of Bhavnagar district Sunday.

Both Katheriya and Malaviya are conveners of PAAS. Malaviya is also the president of Surat unit of Khodaldham Trust, the influential Patidar outfit in the state.



A number of Congress leaders and workers also joined the AAP in Gariadhar. They are: leader of opposition in Gariadhar municipality Himmat Mania and six other Congress corporators – Ramesh Padiadar, Manisha Roy, Alu Kantaria, Samim Kasmani, Hira Kanmani and Ashok Bharodia.

Katheriya said, "Today, seven years have gone by since the Patidar Anamat Andolan... and we decided to enter the political arena. If there can be any political stage for nation building... it is the Aam Aadmi Party. The fight for society, self-respect, nation, education, health, honesty, corruption-free Gujarat, and for administration... we all have to come forward."

## EC asks candidate to explain fund transfer from firm

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Sunday asked the BJP candidate for the Munugode bypoll, K Rajagopal Reddy, to explain the recent transfer of funds from his family-owned company to 23 people and companies located in the constituency. According to the EC, this comes after a complaint by a TRS leader alleging that the funds would be used for "voter inducement". ENS

## Cracks in Kerala BJP back in the open as state party V-P airs disappointment

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE INTERNAL differences in the Kerala unit of the BJP seem to be intensifying, with state party vice-president Sobha Surendran publicly expressing her disappointment regarding her exclusion from the state core committee of the BJP.

Surendran is currently in New Delhi where she is set to meet National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma to seek action against Kerala CPI(M) leaders on the basis of allegations levelled by gold smuggling case accused Swapna Suresh. The visit comes amid criticism that the Kerala BJP unit had failed to corner the ruling CPI(M)

over the gold smuggling case.

In Delhi, Surendran did not hide her unhappiness about the state BJP's decision to not include her in the core committee.

"As far as I am concerned, I have been working with the BJP since 1995 in different roles. I have worked as a BJP leader even in the areas considered as Communist bastions, long before the party became influential in Kerala's political scene," she said. "There is a core committee for the BJP in the hearts of people in Kerala, and I am sure I have a membership there," she told *The Indian Express*.

On the allegations raised by Swapna Suresh that some CPI(M) leaders had sought sexual favours from her, Surendran said she would take up the issue with the NCW chairperson.

"The CPI(M) leadership is trying to divert attention from the issue by locking horns with Governor Arif Mohammad Khan. The allegations raised by Swapna are serious. As a woman leader, I have a responsibility to see that action is taken against them. The Kerala CPI(M) leadership and the Chief Minister (Pinarayi Vijayan) are silent on it," she said. Surendran said she had written to the NCW earlier about the issue.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Only defending law laid by SC: Kerala Governor on VC row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

KERALA GOVERNOR Arif Mohammed Khan on Sunday defended his action against Vice Chancellors of 11 universities, saying he was only performing his duty to defend the law which was laid down by the Supreme Court. Khan said there was no "other intention" or "controversy" behind the steps taken by him as he was only implementing the law laid down by the apex court and added that he has "no time to spend on petty fights".

The top court on October 21 had quashed the appointment of the VC of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University saying that as per the UGC, the search committee constituted by the state should have recommended a panel of not less than three suitable people among eminent people in the field of engineering science to the chancellor but, instead it sent only one name. Khan said that besides this, the court also ruled that according to UGC norms on VC appointments, the search or selection committee should not have a non-academic member.

"The Supreme Court was not hearing a matter on qualifications of a VC. They have not commented on that. They have said that the process which has been followed for appointing VCs was repugnant to the regulations of the UGC," he said. "The judgment does not deal with just one VC. They have laid down the law. I consider it my duty to defend and implement it if it is in my jurisdiction. Therefore, for me there is no controversy. I had no other intention. I am trying to do my duty as I am obliged to do. I do not have time to spend on petty fights," he said.

## Parody pages to hashtag battles, parties step up social media game in Himachal

AMIL BHATNAGAR & DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL  
SHIMLA, LUDHIANA, OCT 30

CATCHY SLOGANS, targeted programmes, and innovative outreach campaigns have become the rage on social media ahead of the November 12 Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections, with the Congress and the BJP pulling out all the stops for their online campaigns.

"Joiya mama sunda nahi (Joiya uncle doesn't listen)" is the latest of the social media slogans that the Congress is using to target Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. Having gained currency during the ongoing agitation to implement the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), the slogan has now become Congress's campaign tool of choice for targeting Thakur.

A parody page of the same name is being run by the party's social media team, with carica-



The various social media campaigns of political parties. Express



tures of the CM and the hashtag #VoteforOPS.

To counter this, the BJP has adopted the hashtag "Congress ke karnaame (Congress's misdeeds)" on its official pages. Another punchline at the centre of the BJP's campaign is "Naya Riwaaz banayenge, phir Bhaipalayeenge (We will bring in a new tradition, the BJP will come to power again)", which illustrates the party's confidence that the people of Himachal would



DECISION 2022 HIMACHAL PRADESH

buck the trend of voting for a new government every five years to bring back the party to power. The hill state has not seen an incumbent government retain power since the 1980s.

Previous electoral battles have seen well-known poll strategists and professional agencies such as Prashant Kishor's I-PAC, which helped strategise Captain Amarinder Singh's comeback as Punjab's CM in 2017, or Sunil

Kanogolu's Mindshare Analytics involved in the Shiromani Akali Dal's (SAD) campaign in 2022. But, in Himachal, parties are largely working with local agencies and relying on a dedicated team of workers to gauge the response on the ground. The agencies are offering constituency-wise packages and employing data analytics and other tools to help reach a bigger audience, said a source working for a campaign.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)





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EXPLAINED ECONOMY

# How RBI fell behind the curve on containing inflation



UDIT MISRA

ON THURSDAY, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will convene to formulate its response to the Government of India about the high rate of inflation in the country.

The RBI is by law responsible for maintaining price stability. Under the “inflation-targeting” regime that began in 2016, the central bank is required to target an inflation rate of 4 per cent, with a leeway of 2 percentage points on either side. Thus, for any given month, RBI’s comfort zone for inflation lies between 2 per cent and 6 per cent.

**What has triggered this meeting?**

Retail inflation for September was 7.4 per cent — which means the price level for retail

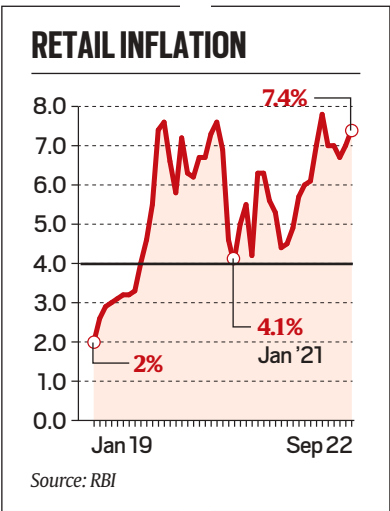
consumers last month was 7.4 per cent higher than what it was in September 2021. This also means that retail inflation — which is calculated using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) — has been outside the RBI’s comfort zone for three consecutive quarters beginning January (See chart right).

Under the RBI Act, 1934, if the central bank fails to meet the inflation target for three consecutive quarters, it is required to provide the following information to the government:

- reasons for the failure to achieve the inflation target;
- remedial actions proposed to be taken; and
- an estimate of the time period within which the inflation target shall be achieved pursuant to timely implementation of the proposed remedial actions.

**How does the MPC target inflation?**

The MPC has six members including the RBI Governor — three each nominated by the RBI and the government. The MPC meets every two months — that is, six times a year — in February, April, June, August, October, and December to evaluate the current status and outlook for inflation and economic growth. Based on that assessment, it tweaks



the repo rate, which is the interest rate at which the RBI loans money to the banking system. It is for this reason that movements in the repo rate influence the overall interest rates in the economy.

Typically, when the MPC wants to contain inflation, it raises the repo rate. Such a “dear money” policy makes all types of bor-

rowing — both for consumers (say, car loans) and producers (say, fresh business investments) — costlier and effectively slows down economic activity in the economy.

When inflation outlook is benign but growth is stalling, the RBI can choose to lower the repo rate and promote economic activity; such a “cheap money” policy incentivises people to spend money instead of saving it.

**How did RBI fail to check inflation?**

RBI’s response to the government — which it must provide by November 12 — will be privileged communication. However, reading previous MPC statements and comparing them to India’s inflation can provide clues on where RBI fell behind the curve. Note, however, that the MPC’s knowledge of inflation typically lags by two months — which means as it deliberates in October, it works with data until August.

The latest surge in inflation began from October 2021. This is what the MPC said after meetings since then:

**OCT 2021:** “The inflation trajectory is set to edge down during Q3:2021-22 (October to December)”. The CPI headline momentum is moderating with the easing of food prices which, combined with favourable base ef-

fects, could bring about a substantial softening in inflation in the near-term.”

However, Prof Jayanth R Varma, one of the government-nominated members, “expressed reservations” about the RBI’s continued “accommodative” stance. Varma flagged rising “core” inflation, which is the inflation rate without the effect of fuel and food prices, which often fluctuate wildly. Core inflation is a more stable measure that rises and falls more gradually than the headline number.

As the chart shows, India had been witnessing high headline inflation since late 2019. While there was some relief on the headline inflation front in the first half of 2021, core inflation became a concern by October. The MPC noted: “Core inflation... remained elevated and sticky at 5.8 per cent in July-August 2021.”

This was a clear red flag. It underscored India’s vulnerability to sudden spikes in inflation if either food or fuel prices went up. However, the RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent. In the limited context of what happened later in 2022, this was the first point where RBI fell behind the curve.

**DEC 2021:** By this time, RBI knew that core inflation in October had inched further up to 5.9 per cent. But it still chose to not raise

interest rates. “...The MPC decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent and to continue with an accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis,” it said.

**FEB 2022:** By this time, headline and core inflation were converging at the 6 per cent level. But the MPC still refused to raise interest rates, stating that “inflation is likely to moderate” between December 2021 and September 2022. Prof Varma again expressed reservations with the accommodative stance. As it happened, Russia invaded Ukraine later in February and crude prices went shooting up.

**APR 2022:** It was clear that inflation was unlikely to “moderate”, and the MPC recognised it formally by sharply raising the inflation forecast for the current financial year from 4.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent. And yet, it did not actually take action to raise interest rates.

In April the retail inflation rate came in at 7.8 per cent, the highest since the Narendra Modi government took charge in 2014, and almost double the mandated target rate. The MPC was forced to call an emergency meeting in May to raise the repo rate. Rates have since gone up by 190 basis points, including three consecutive 50 bps increases in June, August, and September.

## FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

### CRUSH KILLS 151 IN SEOUL: HOW, WHY DO CROWD SURGES TURN DEADLY?

HUMAN STAMPEDES of the kind that killed 151 people during Halloween festivities in Seoul have occurred earlier at music festivals, football matches, and several times during the Hajj pilgrimage. In India, hundreds of people have died over the years in crushes, mostly in religious gatherings.

Crushes occur when large crowds, often driven by fear or panic, surge towards narrow exits, and many can be literally squeezed to death — especially if they trip or lose balance and fall. In Seoul, the narrow street acted as a vice as a large crowd pressed forward.



Near the scene of the stampede in Seoul on Sunday. Reuters

#### It is mostly suffocation

Contrary to what is sometimes believed, most people who die in such tragedies are likely to have been suffocated rather than trampled to death. People die standing up and those who fall die because the bodies on top of them exert such pressure that breathing becomes impossible.

“As people struggle to get up, arms and legs get twisted together. Blood supply starts to be reduced to the brain,” G Keith Still, a visiting professor of crowd science at the University of Suffolk in England, told NPR after the Astroworld crowd surge in Houston last November.

“It takes 30 seconds before you lose consciousness, and in around six minutes, you’re into compressive or restrictive asphyxia. That’s generally the attributed cause of death — not crushing, but suffocation,” he said.

#### Gasping for breath

What is the experience of being swept into a crush of people like?

Survivors tell stories of gasping for breath, being pushed deeper under what feels like an avalanche of flesh as others, desperate to escape, climb over them.

“Survivors described being gradually

compressed, unable to move, their heads ‘locked between arms and shoulders... faces gasping in panic,’” according to a report after a human crush in 1989 at the Hillsborough football stadium in Sheffield, England, led to the death of nearly 100 Liverpool fans.

#### Fear, rumour, excitement

What triggers such events?

At a Chicago nightclub in 2003, a crowd surge began after security guards used pepper spray to break up a fight. This month in Indonesia, 131 people were killed after tear gas was fired into a half-locked stadium, triggering a crush at the exits. In Nepal in 1988, a sudden downpour sent football fans rushing toward locked stadium exits.

In Seoul, some news outlets reported that the crush occurred after a large number of people rushed to a bar after hearing that a celebrity was there. Cries of danger — such as someone shouting about a bomb or an armed attacker, or maybe about a bridge or a wall collapsing — can trigger a wave of panic and a stampede.

AP & ENS

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN  
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 30

PAKISTAN’S FORMER Prime Minister Imran Khan is on a “long march” from Lahore to Islamabad. He hit the road on Friday and, if allowed to complete the journey, aims to reach his destination on November 4. Along the way, he expects to gather tens of thousands of supporters to lay siege to the capital so that he can spook the “establishment” and force the government to call an early election.

Khan has already disrupted the *status quo*, forcing ISI chief Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum to appear before the media to give his side of the story on the tensions between the army and the former PM. It was the first time any head of Pakistan’s spy agency had addressed a press conference, and many saw it as a defensive move against the seemingly unstoppable Khan — the first crack in the wall against which he has hurled several stones since falling out with army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa last year.

#### Imran Khan’s gambit

Khan is an unlikely civilian combatant against the army, which managed his election and government formation in 2018. The two fell off the “same page” (to which Khan had referred many times) because, one, the army was worried about the bad name his government’s incompetence was giving the “hybrid” experiment and, two, Khan tried to retain Lt Gen Faiz Hameed as ISI chief as his insurance for re-election at a time when Gen Bajwa had decided to appoint someone else to the post.

This set in motion a chain of events that led to the no-confidence motion in Parliament, which Khan lost. He alleged that his removal was orchestrated by the US together with Bajwa and the political opposition — tapping into a deep vein of anti-Americanism that runs through a vast section of Pakistanis, and which leads to conspiracy theories about the US forcing immediate purchase.

The killing in Kenya of Pakistani journalist and television anchor Arshad Sharif gave more grist to Khan’s mill. A popular face on TV, the 50-year-old Sharif had made no secret of his allegiance to Khan and his antipathy for Bajwa. He had left the country a cou-



Imran Khan addresses supporters in Lahore on Saturday. AP

ple of months ago, reportedly on the advice of Khan and other leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, who convinced him that his life was in danger. Sharif had been charged with sedition after a Khan aide appeared to suggest on his show that the army should revolt against its leaders. The aide was arrested and allegedly tortured.

Why Sharif chose Kenya, and the circumstances of his killing by the police there, remain unclear. But in Pakistan, it is widely seen as a targeted hit ordered by the country’s “deep state”. The shock of the killing has brought the country’s polarised journalist community together. In a country where the body of journalist Saleem Shehzad (2011) was found in an irrigation canal, and where the attacks on Hamid Mir (2014) and Absar Alam (2021) are still fresh in memory, Lt Gen Anjum’s attempt to distance the ISI from Sharif’s killing have not succeeded.

Khan decided not to waste this moment of high public anger. Making Sharif and his family’s cause his own, he announced the date of the long march, and set off two days after the journalist’s funeral, which was attended by large numbers of mourners. He subsequently called the ISI chief’s press conference “foolish” — and said if he started to talk about all that happened behind closed doors, “it will ruin the army and Pakistan’s

national interests”.

#### Long march and the army

But it is the outcome of the long march — and the views of the new army chief after Bajwa steps down at the end of next month — that will decide who emerges on top from this chaos.

Khan has been talking of democracy, but as prime minister, he rarely attended Parliament — and has shown even less regard for democratic processes and institutions since being ejected from office. By his own admission, he was until recently trying to negotiate terms for holding elections with the military. He is not against a role for the army in national affairs, he only wants it to serve his political interests.

But Khan’s desire for an army subordinate to his authority — inverting the familiar Pakistani model of a civilian government under the thumb of the army — may be a bridge too far. If push comes to shove, the Pakistan Army may well decide to exercise its endgame option and take over power.

Long marches, which have a long history in Pakistan, have succeeded in achieving desired outcomes only when the “militablistment” has been supportive of them. The former chief justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Chaudhary used the long march instrument with success because the militablistment had decided that Pervez Musharraf had become too much of a liability and had to go — after the terms of his

departure had been negotiated.

On the other hand, Khan’s 2014 long march aimed at getting Nawaz Sharif to resign and order another election found no purchase despite his not-so-veiled appeal to the “third umpire”. The army did not rise to the bait, and Khan went home to fight another day.

The Tehreek-e-Labbai’s long march of 2017 was successful because the army was backing it to destabilise the PML(N) government, and to give Khan, who supported the protest, a readymade platform.

But the Labbaik’s long march of 2021 failed because the army had by then withdrawn its support.

#### Role of Bajwa’s successor

How seriously the new chief views Khan’s attacks against Bajwa will determine his relationship with Khan going forward. Khan wanted elections before the leadership transition in the army because he wanted to appoint his own candidate as chief — even though at least three times in the past, “favourite” generals, once elevated, have turned on their political benefactors. It remains unclear who is on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s shortlist.

In recent days, the term “Kakar formula” has been used repeatedly to explain the aim of Khan’s long march. The reference is to Gen Waheed Kakar, army chief from 1993 to 1996, who stepped in to defuse a spiralling political standoff between then President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif by getting both to resign as Benazir Bhutto led a long march into Islamabad. The new caretaker government called fresh elections, and as Kakar stayed neutral, Bhutto won.

Much will depend upon whom the army under its new chief feels is more trustworthy — the present ruling coalition that has a history of being anti-army but is now depending the “boys in khaki” to stand by its side, or Khan, who may have burnt his bridges with Bajwa but who might still strike a deal with Bajwa’s successor. The last few months have divided the army horizontally, with middle-level officers openly supporting Khan. The new chief’s move will be aimed at strengthening his own position vis-à-vis Khan, getting the army behind him, and restoring the *fauj*’s image as Pakistan’s most powerful “institution”. It has done this before — in 1971, 1977, 1999, and in more innovative ways, from 2008 onwards. It is unlikely to let go now.

# C295 tactical transport aircraft, to be built by Tata-Airbus in India

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA  
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 30

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Sunday laid the foundation stone of a Tata-Airbus plant in Vadodra to manufacture C295 transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF). This is the first project of its kind in which a private company will manufacture military aircraft in India, and the first time that the C295 will be manufactured outside Europe. The manufacturing unit will also cater to export orders for the transport aircraft.

#### Technical specifications

The Airbus C295 is a medium tactical transport aircraft that was originally produced by the Spanish aircraft manufacturer Construcciones Aeronauticas SA (CASA). This company is now part of the Airbus Group, and the aircraft is manufactured at the Airbus plant in Spain.

The C295 has a capacity of 5 to 10 tonnes, and a maximum speed of 480 kmph. It has a rear ramp door for quick retraction and para-dropping of troops and cargo. It can take off from and land on short runways and semi-prepared surfaces.

As per technical specifications released by Airbus, the aircraft has a cabin dimension of 12.7 metres or 41 feet, 8 inches. The company claims the aircraft has the longest unobstructed cabin in its class, which can accommodate 71 seats. According to Airbus, the C295 can carry more cargo than its competitors with direct off-loading through the rear ramp.

**IAF’s requirements**

In September 2021, India signed a Rs 21,935 crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space to procure 56 C295 aircraft to replace the IAF’s ageing Avro-748 planes, which entered service in the early 1960s.

Under the agreement, Airbus will de-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the foundation stone laying ceremony of the C295 transport aircraft manufacturing plant in Vadodra on Sunday. PTI

liver the first 16 aircraft in ‘fly-away’ condition from its final assembly line in Seville, Spain within four years, and the subsequent 40 aircraft will be manufactured by Tata

Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) in India as part of an industrial partnership between the two companies.

The 16 fly-away aircraft are scheduled

to be delivered to the IAF between September 2023 and August 2025. The first Made-in-India aircraft will be rolled out of the manufacturing facility in September 2026, and the remaining 39 will have to be produced by August 2031.

After the completion of the delivery of 56 aircraft to the IAF, Airbus Defence and Space will be allowed to sell the aircraft manufactured in India to civil operators, and export to countries which are cleared by the Government of India.

#### Indian component

All 56 aircraft will be fitted with an indigenous electronic warfare suite to be developed by Bharat Electronics Ltd and Bharat Dynamics Limited. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has said the indigenous content in the aircraft will be the highest ever in India, and that 96 per cent of the work that Airbus does in Spain to produce the plane will be done at the manufacturing

unit in Vadodra.

#### Operational role

Airbus has said the C295 operates in the jungles of Brazil and mountains of Colombia in South America, as well as the deserts of Algeria and Jordan in the Middle East and the cold climate of Poland and Finland in Europe. The aircraft has also flown in military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Chad.

As a tactical transport aircraft, the C295 can carry troops and logistics supplies from main airfields to forward operating airfields, and is capable of Short Take-off and Landing (STOL) on unprepared airstrips. It can operate from airstrips that are just 2,200 feet long, and can carry out tactical missions at low speeds of 110 knots, according to Airbus.

The aircraft can additionally be used for casualty or medical evacuation, disaster response, special missions, and maritime patrol duties.

(WITH PTI)



18

IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

**Shubhajit Roy: Can you give us a sense of what is the core argument of your book (*Striking Asymmetries: Nuclear Transitions in Southern Asia*) and why this book now?**

I'd written a book on the Indian nuclear weapons programme soon after the 1998 tests. I wanted to follow up with a comparative study of India, China and Pakistan but, between my joining the Bush administration and working on the US-India civil nuclear agreement, the opportunities for writing a serious book quickly disappeared. The Covid pandemic, however, produced enforced isolation and the opportunity to return to a subject where dramatic changes were afoot.

When I finally put pen to paper, I was struck by a few things. First, the importance of treating 'Southern Asia' as a unit of analysis because China had become an integral nuclear player in the Indian subcontinent. Second, the impact that external developments have had on the patterns of nuclearisation in the region, especially, the rise of US-China competition and the disappearance of Sino-Russian rivalry, both of which have shaped China's evolving nuclear programme. Third, the striking transformations in the nuclear weapons programmes themselves in China, India, and Pakistan since 1998.

Documenting these transformations constitutes the core of the book. In 1998, all three countries sought small nuclear arsenals; today, the arsenals are large, albeit with considerable variation, and growing. In 1998, all three countries pursued simple nuclear strategies centered largely on existential deterrence; today, the nuclear strategies are more complex and range from graduated escalation to, in the Chinese case, a growing capacity for counterforce strikes. In 1998, all three countries seemed satisfied with maintaining a placid nuclear posture; today, the shift toward executing speedy nuclear responses has become the norm. Despite these transitions, however, the three countries are also pulling in very different directions. These "asymmetries" have major consequences, including for the safety, security, and effectiveness of the respective deterrents, which the book examines at length.

If the Russians can successfully get away with such coercion, could the Chinese follow in their footsteps in the future? That is an unsettling thought. And it impacts India directly

**Shubhajit Roy: This framing of China as part of Southern Asia is a construct we have not really seen. Why has China been included as part of Southern Asia in your thesis?**

In the '80s and '90s, the United States aggressively pursued non-proliferation policies toward South Asia — aimed solely at India and Pakistan. At the time, India and Pakistan were viewed as the two main problem states for nuclear non-proliferation. The central objective of the United States then was to cap and ultimately roll back the Indian and Pakistani nuclear programmes. Washington's field of vision was limited to 'South Asia,' and that meant India and Pakistan. New Delhi would persistently make the point that looking at just India and Pakistan misses an important part of the non-proliferation problem, which is China.

A non-proliferation policy that overlooked China was bound to fail because China was an integral part of the security competition in 'South Asia.' China, of course, hated the idea of 'Southern Asia' because Beijing wanted to maintain the fiction that it had no role to play in the proliferation problems of the region. There were many in the United States who unfortunately bought into that argument. My book's use of the term, 'Southern Asia' emphasises the fact that there are three intertwined nuclear actors — China, India, and Pakistan — who each in their own way are responding to wider strategic developments that transcend the region.

**Shubhajit Roy: Can you tell us about the pecking order in terms of nuclear capacity and capability of these three countries?**

There is a temptation to rank-order nuclear capabilities in a way that we do with conventional military forces. But one must be careful about what can be inferred from such a rank ordering because there is a big difference between nuclear and conventional weapons. As (American military strategist) Bernard Brodie famously phrased it, nuclear weapons are 'absolute' weapons. Even the least capable nuclear state can inflict horrendous damage on the most capable nuclear state. That is important to keep in mind when thinking about relative capabilities.

Yet, relative capabilities do matter, especially in a crisis. So, if I was forced to rank order the three states, the most powerful would obviously be China. The reasons for China's pre-eminence are both historical and power political. Historically, China started its nuclear weapons programme first and thus enjoyed a longer lead time over India and Pakistan. Furthermore, China today is challenging the United States, which makes Beijing's imperative for possessing front-rank nuclear capabilities all the more important.

Pakistan comes next. Pakistan sees itself as a beleaguered state and one whose security is constantly at risk from India, a much more powerful country. Pakistan is, thus, driven both by its fears, on one hand, and its ambitions on another, to build up the largest and most sophisticated nuclear

arsenal possible.

India is last in this game for many reasons. There is still residual discomfort with nuclear weapons in New Delhi. But, more importantly, India is fundamentally secure because it is large and capable country. It can resist both Pakistani and Chinese aggression adequately with its conventional capabilities and, therefore, it has not invested inordinately in nuclear weapons. India really does not require nuclear weapons except to prevent nuclear attacks on itself and fend off nuclear blackmail. Except for the fact that its adversaries possess them, India does not need nuclear weapons. So, it is not surprising to me that India trails its competitors on this count.

**Shubhajit Roy: You've offered an analysis in your book, that it's inevitable that India would test a nuclear device at some point to upgrade or test its current capabilities. If India were to test a nuclear weapon tomorrow, what would happen?**

We talked earlier about the absolute weapon. But even 'absolute' weapons are accompanied by an asterisk because there is a fundamental distinction between atomic weapons and thermonuclear weapons. Crudely speaking, atomic weapons produce smaller yields, usually in the few tens of kilotons. Thermonuclear weapons, in contrast, can produce yields in the hundreds of kilotons and beyond into the megaton range. Hiroshima and Nagasaki admittedly were destroyed by 15-20 kiloton atomic weapons. But Hiroshima and Nagasaki were small towns. They were nothing in size compared to the megacities of Southern Asia — Beijing, Shanghai, New Delhi, Bombay, and Karachi.

Early in the nuclear era, it was concluded that high-yield weapons, which bestow 'one city, one bomb' destructive capabilities, made the most effective deterrents. Thermonuclear weapons are thus unique because their enormous de-

ASHLEY J. TELLIS

TATA CHAIR FOR STRATEGIC AFFAIRS AND A SENIOR FELLOW AT THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

‘India may be compelled to test again, and when it does, it’s in US interest to avoid penalising it’

Ashley Tellis on framing China as part of Southern Asia, why India could feel the need to retest its thermonuclear weapons, the India-US nuclear deal, and Russia's nuclear blackmail. This session was moderated by Shubhajit Roy, Deputy Chief of National Bureau



Illustration: Suvaqit Dey

IDEA

EXCHANGE

WHY ASHLEY J. TELLIS

The Tata Chair for Strategic Affairs and a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Ashley Tellis specialises in international security and US foreign policy with a special focus on Asia and the Indian subcontinent. His new book, *Striking Asymmetries: Nuclear Transitions in South Asia* examines the nuclear policies of China, Pakistan and India and how the three are responding to wider strategic developments



structive capabilities can produce successful deterrence despite small numbers. During the Cold War, for example, China had probably fewer than 200 nuclear weapons, but these were largely thermonuclear devices and hence were deemed sufficient for deterrence.

India attempted to acquire similar capabilities in 1998. I think that test failed. In the normal course of things, if a stable relationship exists with adversaries such as Pakistan and China, India may not, at the end of the day, need thermonuclear weapons. There are very few Pakistani cities that require high-yield weapons for extensive destruction. China, however, is a different matter. It has a huge landmass, very large cities, and significant nuclear advantages.

I conclude, therefore, that, depending on where Sino-Indian relations go in the future, India could feel the need to retest its thermonuclear weapons in order to deploy a powerful deterrent. When that happens, there will be consequences for US-India relations, because the entire US-India

civil nuclear deal and India's integration into the global nuclear order, particularly with respect to the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) waiver, were both premised on the assumption that India would not test nuclear weapons again.

**Shubhajit Roy: There are two provocative set of conclusions from your book: one is that India's nuclear test was a failure or did not yield optimum results. The second is that in case India tests a nuclear device, you would want the US to not respond the same way as it did post 1998.**

Yes, that is correct. There was widespread international consensus after the 1998 tests, including within the US government, that India's thermonuclear test had fizzled, that is, it had failed to produce its declared yield. Several Indian nuclear scientists who had intimate knowledge of India's thermonuclear design, such as PK Iyengar and K Santhanam, subsequently admitted to this failure. Today, the main divide is between those who know that

the 1998 thermonuclear test really failed and those who feel compelled to pretend otherwise because of understandable bureaucratic or political necessity.

None of this would matter if China was not engaged in a major nuclear expansion of its own and if Sino-Indian relations had remained amicable. Because both these problems will intensify, I think India may be compelled one day to test again. And when that happens, I believe it is in US interests to avoid penalising India in any way. In fact, I would go further: it is in US interests now to help India to build a survivable nuclear deterrent. And the best avenue for doing that is foreign assistance to India's nuclear submarine program. And the best candidate to offer that cooperation is France — with US support.

**Nirupama Subramanian: Going by what is happening around the world, between India and Pakistan in 2019, between India and China since 2020, and also moving away from, as you described it, Southern Asia, between Ukraine and Russia, and on the other side between China and the US around Taiwan... do we need to understand deterrence differently?**

Nuclear weapons hopefully deter nuclear conflicts, but even as they can deter such threats, they stimulate other kinds of conflicts. What the Russians have now reminded us of is what the Pakistanis actually first taught us in the 1980s: while nuclear weapons can prevent full-scale attacks on a nuclear-armed defender, they do not guarantee the eradication of dangerous revanchist impulses. The Russians, in effect, are pursuing a revanchist conventional war against Ukraine while brandishing their nuclear weapons to prevent other countries from supporting Kyiv's defence. This is unadulterated nuclear blackmail.

If the Russians can successfully get away with such coercion, could the Chinese follow in their footsteps? That is an unsettling thought. And it impacts India

India can resist both Pakistani and Chinese aggression adequately with its conventional capabilities... India really does not require nuclear weapons except to prevent attacks and fend off nuclear blackmail

directly. As long as Sino-Indian relations remain stable, India does not have to worry too much about the character of the relative nuclear balance. And as long as there is no US-China competition, there will be few knock-on effects on India's nuclear deterrent. But both these elements appear to be changing fundamentally, and that leads me to the conclusion that India needs to think seriously about both the character of its nuclear capabilities and how they stack up against the Chinese threat. These realities take me in the direction of saying that India has to think about nuclear deterrence in a more sophisticated way.

**Nirupama Subramanian: We haven't seen an operationalisation of the India-US nuclear deal so far. What has gone wrong with that deal? Or was the agreement more symbolic signaling an acceptance of India into the nuclear club?**

I would disagree with that conclusion substantially for several reasons. It was, of course, symbolic because it was meant to signal to the international community that India was different, and that the United States was prepared to treat India differently. But the US-India nuclear deal was far more important than that: it created the preconditions for the NSG waiver, which allowed the international community to resume nuclear trade with India. The biggest benefit of the nuclear deal actually has been that it has allowed India's Department of Atomic Energy to buy nuclear fuel abroad to run its domestic reactors and to participate once again in international nuclear R&D cooperation. The US-India nuclear deal thus gave India's civilian nuclear energy program a new lease on life—not to mention all the other strategic transformations that came in its wake.

**Nirupama Subramanian: In 2020, you wrote that China's actions at the LAC were actually triggered by what India did in Kashmir through the reorganisation and reading down of Article 370, revocation of the special status and also the speech that the Home Minister gave in Parliament, which mentioned Aksai Chin. Three years later, is there reason to reassess that? And,**

**how has it changed India-Pakistan relations?**

I think that Pakistan will continue to complain about the changes that India made to Article 370 but it is really not Islamabad's prerogative, because these changes pertain mainly to the relationship between the Indian union and the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan is involved only to the degree that it claims ownership of the state. But I think Islamabad is also realistic enough to know that this is a done deal — and that Pakistan has to live with it.

There was a Sino-Indian crisis in the making long before the changes to Article 370. The events surrounding this merely provided the trigger. The Chinese government misread this decision completely, thinking not about the domestic exigencies that provoked it but rather viewing it as the leading edge of New Delhi's evolving challenge to China's control over Tibet, a neuralgic subject in Beijing.

When bilateral protests cut no ice, China upped the ante by working with Pakistan to force a discussion and a resolution in the UNSC that would condemn India. This effort was jointly defeated by the United States and India in partnership with other friends, which produced a humiliation for Beijing.

**Shubhajit Roy: Do you think India's relationship with the US and Europe is being tested in the last two decades in a way that it has possibly not been done so far in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine?**

For the first time in a long while, the West is deeply at odds with Russia at exactly the time when New Delhi is attempting to protect its longstanding relationship with Moscow. It is clearly a stress test. And as Russian-Indian relations persist, even if they do so only in narrow areas like energy and defence, the anxieties in Western capitals will increase, especially as Putin doubles down on egregious behavior like issuing nuclear threats.

Western policymakers are sophisticated enough to know that they cannot pursue a singular agenda with an important country such as India. So, they will balance their discomfort with India's relations with Russia against the benefits that India brings to the concurrent competition with China. That is the tightrope that different Western capitals are trying to walk currently, but it could be severely buffeted again depending on the character of future Russian escalations in Ukraine and India's response to them.

**Shubhajit Roy: What is that one thing that surprises you that you would have thought could never take place in the Indo-US relationship?**

I think it would be how fast the relationship has evolved. I always imagined that we would get to where we are today someday, but I thought it would take much longer. We had always envisaged such a relationship when we first began thinking about its transformation in 2001-2004. But I never thought we'd be able to pull this off in 20 years.



# 19 ECONOMY

## Deposit growth lags behind credit offtake

On a year-on-year basis, credit offtake rose by 17.9 per cent as against 6.5 per cent a year ago

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 30

THE BANKING system has witnessed a lower growth of 4.9 per cent in deposits in the current financial year so far while credit offtake surged by 8.1 per cent since April 2022.

Deposits of banks rose by Rs 15.17 lakh crore since April 2022 to Rs 172.72 lakh crore, according to the latest RBI data. The deposit growth in the same period of last year was Rs 14.53 lakh crore. "The lower growth in deposits when compared to the higher credit offtake indicates that competition will hot up among banks to garner deposits at a time when interest rates are on the rise," said a senior banking source.

On a year-on-year basis, credit offtake rose by 17.9 per cent as against 6.5 per cent a year ago. On the other hand, deposits rose by 9.6 per cent as compared to 10.2 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

According to a Bank of Baroda report, with a changing financial landscape, volatility in the interest rate regime and risk taking appetite increasing, there has tended to be a change in the

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Report flags shift in pattern

ACCORDING TO a Bank of Baroda report, with a changing financial landscape, volatility in the interest rate regime and risk taking appetite increasing, there has tended to be a change in the pattern of deployment of financial savings.

pattern of deployment of financial savings. RBI's recent report on financial assets of households show that there has been a shift in pattern, where mutual funds and equity witnessed sharp increase in FY22 with shares of 6.3 per cent and 1.9 per cent in overall financial assets respectively (ratio was 2.6 per cent and 1.1 per cent in FY20), while share of bank deposits declined to 25.5 per cent in FY22 from 34.4 per cent in FY20.

However, it must be pointed out that the quantum of bank deposits is much larger, about 4.1 times than that of mutual funds

denoted by AUM (assets under management). In this context, we examine whether there has been any substitution between bank deposits, mutual funds-debt and equity in the past 6 years, according to Dipanwita Mazumdar, Economist, Bank of Baroda.

Since FY16 (till September 2022), total bank deposits have shown an accretion of Rs 77 lakh crore. Within that, term deposits have increased by Rs 66 lakh crore.

A secure interest rate regime and risk averse sentiment have worked in favour of garnering bank deposits at a faster pace, BoB said.

Bank deposits would face competition from mutual funds as households get more market savvy and are willing to take their chances in the capital market. "Mutual funds provide a safer way by pooling resources and investing the same based on professional judgment. Within various mutual funds schemes, debt funds have still not caught on relative to equity and hybrid ones. A rather under developed secondary market and a more complex market to understand could be the reasons behind this phenomenon," BoB said.

### Google plans to challenge 'faulty' CCI fines

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

GOOGLE PLANS to appeal against the two orders of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), which recently imposed a total fine of ₹2,274 crore on the US tech giant. The company has identified three grounds on which it feels the judgment of the antitrust regulator is faulty, sources aware of the development said. The CCI orders can be challenged in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.

The first ground on which Google finds the order faulty is the nature of the fine, which it sees as penal instead of being token. The CCI's assumption is that the company indulged in anti-competitive business practices with a malafide intent. "There was no violation by Google of any laid down laws. Still, if the CCI found its practices to be anti-competitive, a token fine could have been levied under the provisions of competition laws. However, the nature of fine imposed by the CCI is penal, which is levied only in cases of malafide intent," sources said.

The second ground being considered by Google is with regard to patent laws, which according to it have been given a go by in this case. "Android is a patented product of Google. Under patent laws, the company is entitled to set boundaries on the usage of the open source versions to ensure the overall security of the ecosystem," sources said.

The third ground is the absence of evidence from all the stakeholders like consumers. "The order is based on the evidence provided by app developers and manufacturers who use the open source versions, but users who get to feel a uniform experience across devices are also stakeholders and their point of view should have been taken into account," sources said. **FE**

## FPIs selloff at slow pace; pull out Rs 1,586 crore from equities in October

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

AFTER WITHDRAWING over Rs 7,600 crore last month, foreign investors have slowed down the pace of equity selling in India in October so far, as they pulled out Rs 1,586 crore from capital markets. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) were net buyers of Rs 51,200 crore in August. The month of November is expected to have net inflow of more or less similar to this, K Dileep, Head of PMS at Geojit Financial Services, said.

According to the data from the depositories, FPIs withdrew Rs 1,586 crore from equities in October (till 28). The one trading session is left for the month.

However, in the last few days, FPIs slowed down on selling substantially. In fact, they invested more than Rs 6,000 crore in the last four trading sessions.

Shrikant Chouhan, Head-Equity Research (Retail) at Kotak Securities, attributed October's outflow to higher cost of capital, ongoing geo-political risk among others.

"The quantum of FPI outflow/inflow in October was less compared to previous month, but in line with global market movements especially the sentiments in US market had influenced as usual," Geojit Financial Services' Dileep, said.

In July, FPIs made a net investment of nearly Rs 5,000 crore. Before that, foreign investors were net sellers in Indian equities for nine months in a row which started in October last year.

## Future Enterprises defaults on principal amount of Rs 126.13 crore in September

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

DEBT-RIDDEN Future Enterprises has defaulted on a principal amount of Rs 126.13 crore in September, which includes payment obligation of Rs 98.35 crore for NCDs and Rs 27.78 crore to banks, under a one-time restructuring (OTR) scheme.

Future Enterprises Ltd (FEL) had entered into the OTR scheme for COVID-hit companies with its consortium of banks and lenders on October 27, 2020, as per the RBI guidelines.

The due date for payment of the principal amount of Rs 126.13 crore to various banks and lenders, who were part of OTR scheme, was on September 30, 2022. "The company was not able to discharge the aforesaid obligations to banks and lenders, on the Due Date," FEL said in a regulatory filing on Saturday.

FEL has missed a deadline for payment of the principal amount of 12 non-convertible debentures (NCDs) totalling Rs 98.35 crore. These NCDs had Coupon Rates ranging between 9.25 per cent to 10.50 per cent.

It has defaulted on principal

repayment of a term loan of Rs 15.76 crore from IDBI Bank, Rs 9.35 crore from Indian Bank and Rs 2.65 crore from the Central Bank of India. FEL also said it "regrets for delayed disclosure" from its end "due to certain interpretation issues" with respect to the present disclosure.

Like other Future group firms, FEL is also trying to pare the debt through monetisation of assets.

According to the company, in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal, it had disposed of part of its investment in its General Insurance Joint Venture for a total consideration of Rs 1,266.07 crore.

**ANAND RATHI, FOUNDER CHAIRMAN, ANANDRATHI GROUP**

## 'Less regulation and more trust in people will push India's growth'

EVEN AS the world economy is facing macroeconomic challenges, the Indian economy has been termed as relatively stable and so have been the Indian equity markets. ANAND RATHI, chairman AnandRathi Group told SANDEEP SINGH that India should target a GDP growth rate of at least 8-10 per cent for the next decade or two. Stating that India needs to build infrastructure at a faster pace, he also said that it was important to ease regulations and trust people in order to nurture entrepreneurship and business environment. Edited excerpts:

**How do you see India in the current global environment?** I think it is the beginning of India taking a different turn and role with respect to the western world. While I think that we may not be able to replicate what China did, we are moving in that direction in terms of growth. A lot of changes that have been pushed by the government over the last few years have been far reaching ones and I believe they will have an excellent effect.

India should target a minimum GDP growth rate of 8-10 per cent for the next 1-2 decades to take care of the population it has.

Historically, if we look at any country, their highest growth was achieved when they were



Anand Rathi

Express

developing their infrastructure — a long-term investment — and that is what is going on in India, though at a slower pace than desired. If that is one area we need to address, another area is capital goods and defence.

I am hopeful that the changes would be visible from this decade onwards and we won't miss out on the opportunities that are there. India is going to be a happening place and there is going to be faster growth.

**What is required from the government to achieve this minimum 8-10 per cent growth?**

Government has played a key role in whatever we have achieved so far and the biggest

While I think that we may not be able to replicate what China did, we are moving in that direction in terms of growth. A lot of changes that have been pushed by the government over the last few years have been far reaching ones."

act was opening up the economy in 1991. Even going forward, it has to play a role but the key advantage that India has is its entrepreneurship. The country has reached to this level because of the huge entrepreneurial drive. I think managing business in India is most difficult in comparison to anywhere in the world, but still people have succeeded as they are willing to face hurdles and difficulties as they grow.

We have to make it easier to do business in India and all reforms will have to be part of it. While we have done away with some approvals, but at the same time some more are being added. I believe that bureaucratic involvement should be reduced. I can see that some ad-

ministrative departments take 6 months to a year to approve. An individual may have the land but he can't do anything. Besides that, we also need agricultural, land and judicial reforms.

**What are the key challenges that you think can come in the way of India's growth?**

Infrastructure is the first and foremost challenge; second is reforms which we need particularly to make it easy to do business. Third, our financial system should become stronger and availability of money — debt or equity — should be easy.

At some stage, people are a bit scared and the system of trust has taken a beating. There is a feeling of distrust and we need to make things easier for people to both live and do business. We have enormous opportunity and entrepreneurship and if we can do that, India will take-off.

**While huge investments have come in equity markets both from domestic investors and FPI, don't you think the investment basket has not increased and that is creating some risk?**

There are companies that are growing from small to medium cap and from medium cap to large cap, but yes we need more companies. I would say that there are many companies in India that

can go public but many promoters feel that there is too much regulation. So, sometimes over-regulation, which is something we must look into, is a concern. In fact, many people are even thinking of taking their publicly listed companies, private. There is a sense among promoters that even though they have 70-75 per cent stake, they are made answerable to everyone.

I believe that regulation should be minimum and there has to be trust in people. How much can you regulate? Whatever regulation you have, some bad apples will always be there. One basic principle is that there must be trust between the government and the people. What we have seen is that additional powers that are being given to various authorities is resulting in more misuse than use and it is emerging as a big challenge.

**What would you advise a retail investor?**

I think that retail investors should leave equity investment decisions with mutual funds. They should not become a risk fund and should not put money in risky assets, but instead go with proven companies. Equity is a great investment avenue and I think it is the best way to put money, if it is meant for the long term. I expect 13-15 per cent CAGR over the next 5-10 years.

## Musk fired Twitter execs in attempt to avoid payouts, layoffs planned, say reports

**REUTERS**  
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 30

TWITTER'S NEW owner Elon Musk fired top executives in an effort to avoid hefty severance payouts, while lining up other layoffs as soon as Saturday to avoid stock grants due on Nov. 1, according to media reports on Saturday.

Musk fired Twitter Chief Executive Parag Agrawal, Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal and legal affairs and policy chief Vijaya Gadde on completion of a high-profile \$44 billion buyout of the social media platform on Thursday, people familiar with the matter told Reuters. He had accused them of misleading him



Elon Musk

and Twitter investors over the number of fake accounts on the platform. According to research firm Equilar, the executives stood to receive separation payouts totalling \$122 million.

Citing unidentified people familiar with the matter, The Information reported that Elon Musk terminated four top Twitter executives, including Agrawal and Segal "for cause," in an apparent effort to avoid severance pay and unvested stock awards.

### BRIEFLY

#### Delayed projects

**New Delhi:** The road transport and highways sector has the maximum number of delayed projects at 262, followed by railways at 115 and the petroleum sector at 89, showed a report. **PTI**

#### Bima Sugam

**New Delhi:** Insurance regulator IRDAI is working on Bima Sugam, which will act as a game changer in the insurance sector by providing a one-stop platform for multiple services including the sale of policy, renewal, and settlement of claims. **PTI**

#### Cars recalled

**New Delhi:** Maruti Suzuki India Ltd is recalling 9,925 units of its three models, Wagon R, Celerio and Ignis, to rectify a possible defect in rear brake assembly pin, according to a regulatory filing by the company. **PTI**

#### Corporate loans

**New Delhi:** Going ahead with its stated objective to downsize its corporate loan exposure, PNB Housing Finance wants to bring down the delinquency levels before it starts financing the sector again, its MD and CEO Girish Kousgi said. **PTI**

#### UBL capex

**New Delhi:** United Breweries Ltd plans to infuse around Rs 350 crore as capital expenditure in 2023 to meet the expected volume growth in India, an official said. **PTI**

### Four companies set to go public next week

Four firms, including Global Health Ltd, which runs hospitals under the Medanta brand, and micro finance lender Fusion Micro Finance Ltd, lining up IPOs next week.



**The initial share sale of DCX Systems will open for public subscription on October 31 and conclude on November 2, while that of Fusion Micro Finance will be open during November 2-4.**

**63** IPOs raised more than ₹1.19 lakh crore in 2021, according to data from the exchanges

**₹4,500 cr** - Amount these four companies are expected to fetch through the IPOs, according to merchant banking sources.

**Apart from** these, Uniparts India and Five Star Business Finance are expected to come out with their respective IPO in November, they added.

**The IPOs** of Global Health and Bikaji Foods will open for subscription on November 3 and close on November 7.



Source: PTI

## 'India, GCC group likely to start free trade pact negotiations next month'

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

INDIA AND the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries are expected to start negotiations for a free trade agreement next month with an aim to boost economic ties between the two regions, an official said.

GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.

"Terms of reference for the agreement are being finalised and we expect to launch the negotiations next month," the official said.

India has already implemented a free trade pact with the UAE in May this year.

According to experts, the GCC region holds huge trade potential and a trade agreement would help in further boosting India's exports to that market.

Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Director, Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bangalore, said the

**GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain**

GCC market is unexploited by domestic exporters and it holds huge potential. "GCC is a major import dependent region. We can increase our exports of food items, clothing and several other goods. Duty concessions under a trade agreement will help in tapping that market. It will be a win-win situation for both sides," Joshi said.

Mumbai-based exporter and founder chairman of Technocraft Industries India, Sharad Kumar Saraf said the GCC has emerged as a major trading partner for India and there is huge potential for increasing investments between the two regions.

"FTA will have a major benefit for both the sides," Saraf said. Sharing similar views,

Federation of Indian Exports Organisation (FIEO) Vice Chairman Khalid Khan said sectors like chemicals, textiles, gems and jewellery and leather will get a major impetus by this agreement.

India imports predominately crude oil and natural gas from the Gulf nations like Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and exports pearls, precious and semi-precious stones; metals; imitation jewellery; electrical machinery; iron and steel; and chemicals to these countries. India's exports to the GCC increased by 58.26 per cent to about USD 44 billion in 2021-22 against USD 27.8 billion in 2020-21, according to data of the commerce ministry.

The share of these six countries in India's total exports has risen to 10.4 per cent in 2021-22 from 9.51 per cent in 2020-21. Similarly, imports rose by 85.8 per cent to USD 110.73 billion compared to USD 59.6 billion in 2020-21, the data showed.

The share of GCC members in India's total imports rose to 18

per cent in 2021-22 from 15.5 per cent in 2020-21.

Bilateral trade has increased to USD 154.73 billion in 2021-22 from USD 87.4 billion in 2020-21.

Besides trade, Gulf nations are host to a sizeable Indian population. Out of about 32 million non-resident Indians (NRIs), nearly half are estimated to be working in Gulf countries.

These NRIs send a significant amount of money back home.

According to a November 2021 report of the World Bank, India got USD 87 billion in foreign remittances in 2021. Of this, a sizeable portion came from the GCC nations.

Saudi Arabia was India's fourth-largest trading partner last fiscal. From Qatar, India imports 8.5 million tonnes a year of LNG and exports products ranging from cereals to meat, fish, chemicals, and plastics.

Kuwait was the 27th largest trading partner of India in the last fiscal, while the UAE was the third-largest trading partner in 2021-22.

## Indian investors hit hard by US tech rout

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 30

THE RECENT rout in the share price of Facebook parent's Meta Platforms on Thursday and the estimated \$1-trillion loss in the market cap of big US tech giants this week have hit Indian investors quite hard.

Worse still, most of these stocks were already down be-

tween 30% and 70% since the beginning of the year. The latest crash would have put further pressure on the investors holding these stocks.

According to data from primemfdatabase.com, Indian mutual funds held stocks worth a little more than ₹1,100 crore in Meta at the end of September 2022. In total, the schemes had over ₹12,300 crore invested in top tech companies like Meta,

Netflix, Alphabet, Amazon and Microsoft. These holdings would have taken a significant beating in the recent crash.

For example, Meta, alone, is down over 30% in the past month while Alphabet is down around 8%.

Several schemes have invested a substantial portion of their corpus in the technology stocks given their high weighting in indices such as Nasdaq 100

and NYSE FANG. Tech stocks account for over 25% weighting in the S&P 500 index as well.

That's not all. Indians sent \$19.6 billion abroad in FY22 as per the RBI data, of which investment in equity/debt comprised \$747 million. Of this, \$300 million would have made its way into stocks and ETFs, with 40% or more being invested into technology stocks, industry estimates suggest. **FE**



## Bangladesh scrape home after last-over drama

PRATYUSH RAJ  
OCTOBER 30

THE BANGLADESH players thought they had won it; stumps were taken as souvenirs, and the two teams shook hands. The players were back in the dressing room, and the broadcasters had started preparing for the presentation ceremony.

That was before third umpire Chris Gaffaney signalled a no-ball since wicket-keeper Nurul Hasan had collected the ball in front of the stumps, not behind, before stumping Blessing Muzarabani. Rule 27.3 stipulates that the 'keeper has to stay behind till the ball passes the stumps.

Zimbabwe needed 4 runs off the final ball, but Mosaddek Hossain kept his cool and Muzarabani could not connect.

The last over was full of drama. With 16 needed from six deliveries, Mosaddek (2/34) held his nerve, mixed up his pace and lengths, reacted to trigger movements, kept the non-striker in check, was nevertheless hit for a six, but eventually won it for Bangladesh.

Chasing 151 for the win, Zimbabwe were blown away inside the Powerplay. They lost their top order, including talisman Sikander Raza for a duck. Taskin Ahmed (3/19) and Mustafizur Rahman (2/15) snared two wickets each in this period.

Generally, captains keep their best bowlers for the last two overs. But Shakib Al Hasan bowled out Taskin and Mustafizur by the 17th. With 40 needed from 18 balls, Hasan Mahmud conceded 14 runs. However, Shakib, bowling the 19th, turned the match with a superb piece of fielding off his own bowling. He hit the bulls-eye to run out Sean Williams, who was looking to take Zimbabwe home.

The veteran Zimbabwe batter almost pulled off a brilliant win for his side. After a disastrous Powerplay, he first forged a 34-run stand for the fifth wicket with Regis Chakabva to steady the ship. Thereafter, a 72-run stand with Ryan Burl (27 not out) turned the tide towards Zimbabwe.

Williams, on the last two balls of the 18th over, hit two boundaries to reduce the target to 26 off 12 balls. But Shakib's athleticism and direct hit ended his knock. Williams scored a 42-ball 64, with the help of eight boundaries. Najmul Hossain Shanto battled a hamstring injury, and an early burst by the Zimbabwe pacers to score his maiden T20I fifty, Bangladesh's first in the tournament.

The 54-run stand for the third wicket with Shakib brought Bangladesh back in the match after a poor Powerplay.

**BRIEF SCORES: Bangladesh:** 150 for 7 (Najmul Shanto 71, Afif Hossain 29; Richard Ngarava 2/24, Blessing Muzarabani 2/13) bt **Zimbabwe:** 147 for 8 (Sean Williams 64; Taskin Ahmed 3/19, Mustafizur Rahman 2/15) by 3 runs.

# Obsession to succeed

Dropping out of school, selling their house, taking loans, changing food habits, make Sankar Muthusamy a Junior Badminton Worlds finalist

SHIVANI NAIK  
OCTOBER 30

BOLD, AMBITIOUS parenting decisions with clarity of thought on goals and paying no heed to society's conventions helped Muthusamy Subramanian raise a junior badminton Worlds medallist in Sankar. The 18-year-old was given the freedom by his father to drop out of the schooling system in Class 8 because even the "one week to give exams through open school would eat into his badminton time," recalls sister Priyanka, who too was encouraged to go deep into the sport till an ankle injury ended her dreams.

Taking on a massive debt, selling the house and facing crinkled noses of relatives, allowing Sankar to not be restricted to four conventional meals, but eating 12-13 portions so that he stayed flexible about food when travelling, arranging for meat even when the family grew up vegetarian, and sticking to a smaller academy in Chennai were some of the unconventional calls taken by the family in raising the finalist. Sankar is also hoping to stay true to his defensive-retrieval style of play, when international badminton demands an attacking finishing stroke.

When he went down to Kuo Kuan Lin 21-14, 22-20 in the finals at Santander, it was the difference in power strokes that was most visible. The taller opponent's blistering game also put pressure on Sankar's defence and shortened the rallies, taking his biggest strength out of the equation. A bunch of errors cascaded, though Sankar showed grit to go from 14-20 down in the second game to 20-20 by revving up his speed. But Kuo's cross smashes proved far too much.

Muthusamy's family hasn't shirked away from veering off the conventional path.

It started with encouraging a young Sankar to learn to write, eat and play badminton with either/both hands. "We forced him to eat with the right, though he was a natural left-hander, but not for superstition. My father wanted him to grow up ambidextrous. So initially he played badminton with both hands, but was slightly more comfortable with left," Priyanka recalls. "When we played cricket, he could easily bowl with his



Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian with his family.

File

right hand."

"When playing and travelling costs increased, we sold the house, moved to a rented place. And there's lots of loans which I hope get cleared after this World Championship result," she adds.

Priyanka recalls relatives piling on the pressure - first the hoo-ha when Sankar quit school, and later on the loans. "The way people look at you, and give their opinion about how sports was a waste of money. When we sold the house, there was more unnecessary advice and pressure from relatives. But Dad doesn't bother, he's so clear," she recalls of the cost of shuttles, tournament entry fees and her father calmly selling the house to fund Sankar's career.

### The road less travelled

Quitting school flowed on the same lines. "Initially, the school principal was encouraging and he played CBSE cluster meets. But then, a strict one came and his attendance was poor because he was always in practice or resting. That one week of exams was also a drain on his time. So, he stepped away from the schooling system," Priyanka recalls.

Nutrition was another priority, and Sankar consciously learnt to adapt to whatever was available when travelling and not fussing, refusing to see comfort in food. "My mother used to work long hours earlier and never liked cooking. But she ensures he gets all the nutrition, and arranges for non-veg for him so he gets stronger though we are vegetarians. Sankar keeps on eating, not the

fixed four meals. He'll have 12-13 portions of healthy food at small intervals and eat whatever he gets when travelling," she says.

Sankar was obsessed with Chinese southpaw legend Lin Dan as a child, and watched his videos for hours - learning foot-work and grip and mimicking strokes. Later, Japanese Kento Momota would embolden his decision to stick to a defensive game. "In age-group tournaments, Sankar never had any power and was tinier than the rest. One reason he developed a rally game was because other boys were bigger and stronger and he couldn't match their power. So he worked on speed and stamina," Priyanka explains.

Training drills at the Fireball Academy were designed around him - and he was given access to the gym and swimming pool to work out whenever he pleased. "He never misses fitness sessions, loves it more than court drills. He follows Virat Kohli in that. He used to cry earlier when he lost and Dad would counsel him. But he never lost the slightest interest in badminton. I would feel dejected. But Sankar - win or lose, his focus never waned. It came from my Dad's clarity."

The family is determined to stick to Chennai and continue with unconventional drills for Sankar to rise in badminton. "The power will come by age 21. But right now, we want to take him to a gear higher in speed and fitness. And I personally want to drag him to a vacation. The last one needed a knee injury to whisk him away from the sport," Priyanka says.

## Fast-paced Satwik-Chirag take French Open Super 750

SHIVANI NAIK  
OCTOBER 30

SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY and Chirag Shetty played a flat, fast-paced scorcher to win the French Open Super 750 beating Lu Ching Yao/Yang Po Han of Chinese Taipei, their biggest Tour title yet. A year that started with a fighting India Open win for a Super 500 title saw the duo win at their favourite venue where they have a bunch of quarters, semis and a maiden final in 2019.

This was only the second instance in a Super Series of all 8 quarterfinalists coming from different countries - and not one from Denmark - pointing to how competitive the men's doubles category has become.

The Indians took a 5-0 lead to start the match, and were in aggressive mode - smashing generously against Lu/Yang, ranked 18 in the world. Short, snappy, smoldering rallies gave them a 8-2 lead with Chirag particularly blistering from the forecourt.

Playing more of a cross-attack from either flank against the left-right Taiwanese combine, Satwik was gunning for the angles and placement, while Chirag preferred to pull no punches attacking from the back - but always crossing in an X-attack.

They would cross even against what was coming back straight, torquing their torsos, managing angles that neutralised the left-right combine.

This was the third left-right combination they were up against, after the Popov brothers and the top ranked Hoki-Kobayashi, but the Indians had their plans set. The serve variations were limited on the day though they would sneak in a tumble serve in the opener.

The easier passage of play in the opening game suggested that the Taipeise had been wildly nervous, error-prone, and rather clueless about how to stem the Indian attacks. Paralysed in their movement, and constantly under the assault of smashes, they seemed to bottle up their own game, conceding the opener.

The second game got more exciting as the Taiwanese, after trailing 5-11, jogged up to 15-all on the back of a speed surprise. The Indians seemed to have taken the foot off the pedal a tad, and that was enough for their opponents to sense an opening and go blitzing in.

### Nervy times

Coach Mathias Boe, who had run out of scoldings since the Indians had been playing well, would get to the edge of his seat. He had legitimate reasons to worry, as the Taipeise had switched gears and Yang especially was hassling and harrying Satwik-Chirag, crowding them with their returns and nervousness leading to sweaty palms.

There have been instances in the past replete with the Indians botching these kinds of leads, and a thought might have crossed their

**Playing more of a cross attack from either flanks against the left-right Taiwanese combine, Satwik was gunning for the angles and placement, while Chirag preferred to pull no punches attacking from the back - but cross always in an X-attack**

minds of another meltdown. But this is a different Indian pairing from the one that lost in 2019. Bolstered, fortified by playing many pressure games and finals, they were not about to let go of yet another big one. Their temperament carries a gleam of steel now.

Attentative serve at 18-19 from Satwik had a scrambled desperate second- and third-shot parry. They would survive gamely, and a Satwik smash would give them match point to relieve the pressure. Lu/Yang, playing their first final at this level, had piled on the pressure in the second. But Chirag would hold his nerve to fight off finishing body-shakes and send back a neat angled return from the front court to scythe the one across the Taiwanese throats. It was a smart angled return, with the cross again working wonders.

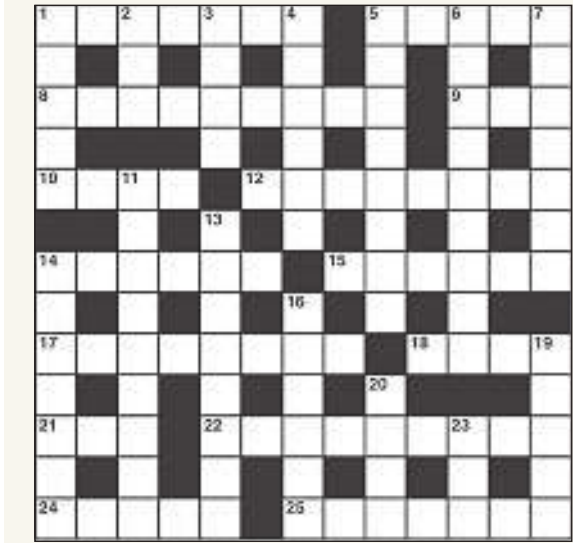
This caps a brilliant 2022 for the Indian doubles pair, easily India's most consistent. They have achieved bigger glory at the Thomas Cup and Commonwealth Games as part of contingents and teams. But the French Open tour title, their first Super 750, was crucial for the World No. 8 coming as it did at the venue of the Paris Olympics with Plumy the mascot expected to welcome them back at the Games two years later.



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty after winning the French Open Super 750 title.

File

### CROSSWORD 4886



- ACROSS**  
1 Aspired to make American babywear (7)  
5 One with no faith in father backing a horse (5)  
8 Bizarre request - go out (9)  
9 Pull out of Portugal (3)  
10 Confidence trickster's aim spells trouble (2-2)  
12 No occasion for generosity in the interim? (8)  
14 Prudence West is taking Benedictine (6)  
15 Wrongly think it's about middle age for a horseman (6)  
17 Dead estate agent (8)  
18 In certain charts it may indicate a mile (4)  
21 Energy with which an opening may be closed (3)  
22 Examples of incessant change (9)  
24 A charmer about to be detected in depravity (5)  
25 Given medical care at another's expense (7)
- DOWN**  
1 Poke it with a finger (5)  
2 A cheat implies trouble (3)  
3 There's need for variety in a garden (4)  
4 A part that is succeeding (6)  
5 Cleaning down (8)  
6 Well past one's prime yet still making progress (7,2)  
7 Slight oversight (7)  
11 A dog's upset the paint (9)  
13 The answer to a mix-up (8)  
14 Breathes with difficulty and gags (7)  
16 Stays in company with the right clique (6)  
19 Drenched with water so he'd have to change (5)  
20 Forced to be a servant we hear (4)  
23 Reduced share of the proceeds? (3)

Solutions Crossword 4886: Across: 1 Students, 5 Opus, 9 Belle, 10 Initial, 11 Taking charge, 13 Absent, 14 Lustre, 17 Forestalling, 20 Aimless, 21 Armistice, 22 Toot, 23 Interest. Down: 1 Subs, 2 Unloads, 3 Eyewitnesses, 4 Twinge, 6 Prior, 7 Silvered, 8 Without leave, 12 Half-mast, 15 Tonsure, 16 Pass on, 18 Romeo, 19 Bent.

### JUMBLED WORDS

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

Imagination is the \_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_.-Joseph Joubert (3,4)

HTTEE  
[Shaded squares: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

AMSYLU  
[Shaded squares: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

BGUOS  
[Shaded squares: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

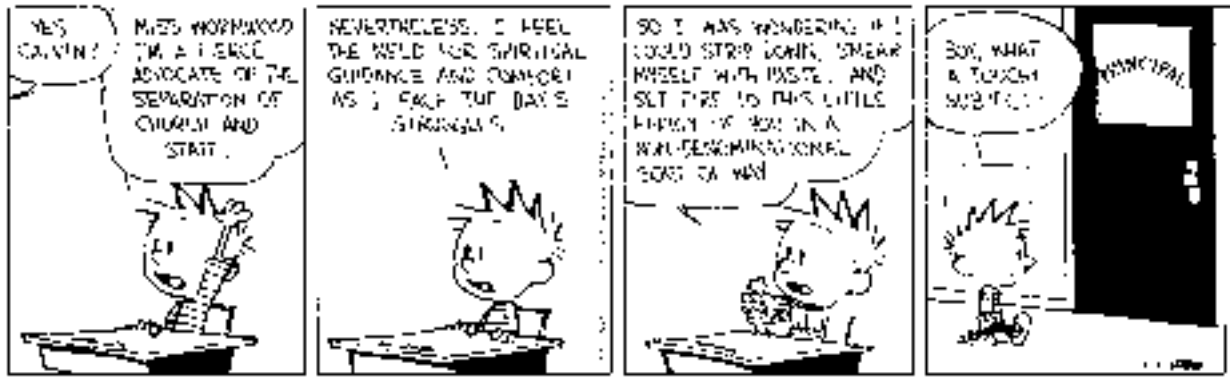
ALNRSY  
[Shaded squares: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

SOLUTION: TEETH, BOGS, ASYLUM, SNARY  
Answer: Imagination is the eye of the soul.-Joseph Joubert

### OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



### CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



### MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



### SUDOKU 5004

Difficulty Level 5s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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



### SOLUTION SUDOKU 5003





GROUP 2 SCENARIO

How India’s loss has dented Pakistan’s hopes of reaching semis

THE PROTEAS defeating India has made Pakistan's already tough road to the semifinals even tougher.

PAKISTAN

After two narrow losses, they opened their account with a routine win over the Netherlands on Sunday. Pakistan was in the unusual position of cheering on arch rivals India in the next match. But South Africa defeating Rohit Sharma & Co has drastically reduced their semifinal chances. Now they not only have to beat both the Proteas and Bangladesh, but also hope that Temba Bavuma's men lose to the Dutch, or India lose at least one of their two remaining matches. Pakistan have a net run rate close to India's, as of now, but need to put points on the board. Winning their two games by big margins is their only hope. South Africa seems uncatchable for them, even if Pakistan beat them, as the Proteas have an extra point due to an abandoned match against Zimbabwe.

INDIA

They have matches against Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, both of which they will expect to win. If they do, they will be confirmed in the last four. Lose one of the two games, and they may be dependent on other results or net run rate calculations. Their fate is still firmly in their own hands, but even if they lose one of their games, they need to ensure that their net run rate doesn't take much of a hit.

SOUTH AFRICA

They sit at the top of the table, with a big advantage as far as net run rate is concerned after they thrashed Bangladesh by more than a 100-run margin. A win over either Pakistan or the Netherlands will take them into the semifinals, but ideally they would like to beat Babar Azam's men in Sydney on Thursday to eliminate them from contention.

BANGLADESH

They play India and Pakistan, and need to win at least one of them to stay in contention. If they win both, they will definitely be through, and nothing less than that may not be enough due to their poor net run rate.

ZIMBABWE

They would back themselves to beat the Netherlands in Adelaide on Wednesday, but need to beat India too next Sunday to have a chance.

THE NETHERLANDS

Out of contention after three consecutive defeats.

GROUP 2 STANDINGS

	P	W	L	NRR	N/R	PTS
South Africa	3	2	0	2.772	1	5
India	3	2	1	0.844	0	4
Bangladesh	3	2	1	-1.533	0	4
Zimbabwe	3	1	1	-0.050	1	3
Pakistan	3	1	2	0.765	0	2
Netherlands	3	0	3	-1.948	0	0



EXPRESS IN PERTH

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
OCTOBER 30

TILL THE end, the match continued to twist and turn as only a low-scoring thriller could.

For India's fans the Group 2 encounter against South Africa in Perth was a match they lost, won and lost again. The defeat-stamping moment came when David Miller gloved Bhuvneshwar Kumar's third ball off the last over beyond the keeper's head, reducing the required target to one from three balls.

Miller shovelled the next ball through cover to close out a riveting thriller that had everything a T20 game could offer, from unending drama to a high-class skill-set.

The devastating what-could-have-been moment came in the 12th over of the game. At this juncture, South Africa still needed 72 off 51 balls. Miller and Aiden Markram had stitched a partnership that had restored hope. Then Ashwin laid a carefully-woven trap. He stationed a long-on and deep midwicket. He deliberately pulled his length back and bowled slower through the air.

Markram swung the ball to the direction of the deep midwicket fielder, Virat Kohli, the team's safest pair of hands in the deep.

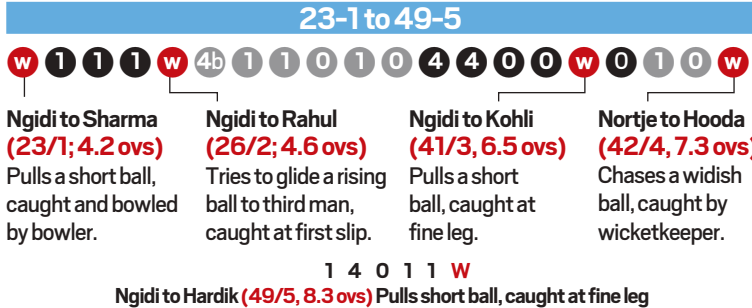
He had to backpedal but seemed to find the spot to complete the catch reverse cup. But Kohli slipped, metaphorically.

He watched agonisingly as the ball bobbed out of his palms. Kohli, after his superhuman innings the other night, was rendered human, prone to mistakes as all humans are prone to. Such is the cruel nature of the sport. It was that precise moment when India seemed to desert hope.

Five balls later, Sharma himself missed a run-out chance of Markram. He had all three stumps in sight, and was 10-odd yards from the stumps but his underarm shy evaded the stumps. Miller then began to bring on the afterburners. He struck Ashwin for a six; so did Markram. The target in the giant electronic scoreboard read 34 off 27 balls. Yet, somehow, India somehow regrouped and rediscovered hope. Hardik Pandya snaffled Markram and later, Ashwin nailed Christian Stubbs. Belief kept bubbling up till the third ball of the last over. The moment that India finally gave up in this bewitching match.

The short-ball barrage the South Africans orchestrated dusted up memories of Curtly Ambrose and Co. frightening batsmen at the WACA, just over the bridge across the Swan River. The Optus is steadily gathering that intimidating aura of Perth. But having a bouncy pitch and exploiting it are entirely different propositions. South Africa's seamers came well equipped and drummed up sustained hostility. They were relentless in pounding the surface for hard length balls that bulletted into

5 WICKETS, 26 RUNS: HOW INDIA'S BATSMEN CRUMBL



EMOTIONAL  
ROLLERCOASTER

Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game

Miller turns match-winner, Virat drops match, Rohit misses crucial runout

David Miller, the IPL hero, turns national hero

AT THE start of the final over, with India needing to defend 6 runs, Rohit Sharma would have an animated chat with the bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar. The pacer would do a mock-run-up to warm up. The skipper would have one more chat. More arm-waving would follow. All set.

Bhuvneshwar ran in to bowl to Wayne Parnell, who tried to get the strike back to David Miller with a little onside dab, but the ball rolled off the pad to the offside. Parnell waddled for a run, Miller says 'don't be suicidal, get back'. Next ball, a dab to the off gets Miller on strike, needing 5 from 4. In the crowd, there were prayers, some sitting tensed. In the middle, more chat from Rohit.

The short-ball gamble arrived and Miller swivelled into a pull and it flew off the edge to the fine-leg boundary. Rohit winced and held his head. Miller finishes it off the next ball with a slice past point, roars, punches

gloves and hugs Parnell. Miller, the IPL hero, and now South Africa's World Cup hero. He has allowed his countrymen to dream of that elusive ICC medal. He hit a match-winning 59 as South Africa flew to the top of the group with a 5-wicket win.

Dislodge bails or hit stumps

AFTER KOHLI'S dropped-catch over, came Rohit's missed-runout over. Mohammed Shami bowled a heavy ball, David Miller didn't have room to free his arms. He blocked the mean and sharp rising ball close to his pads. The call for the single was not clear, Aiden Markram wasn't sure and slow to take off. Soon he gave up, as he was sure he was not going to reach the other end. Rohit now had a dilemma. Should he run to the stumps and dislodge the bails or opt for the safe underarm throw to hit the target. Maybe, it's this dilemma that made him miss the opportunity. Had he just gone with the flow and thrown, he might have had a better chance. Rohit wanted to pull out his



hair, and Kohli in the background was a picture of disappointment. He tapped Rohit on the back, they carried on.

Perth pulls Rohit down

ROHIT SHARMA lived and left by the pull. The stroke is his staple. He got off the blocks with



South Africa's Lungi Ngidi celebrates after taking the wicket of India's Hardik Pandya in Perth on Sunday. AP

Before becoming star, Surya would ponder listening to ‘Apna time aayega’

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
PERTH, OCTOBER 30

SELDOM HAS a star's arrival in a World Cup as anticipated as Surya Kumar Yadav's in the current T20 edition. There was never doubt about his talent, the wait was about him delivering on international cricket's biggest stage. That ended at Perth on Sunday.

The stardust would scatter over a pacy bouncy pacer-friendly Perth pitch when no other Indian looked even remotely comfortable. Surya would shine all alone, and nearly drag India to a win. Surya has had to wait till he is 30; and with the attention still scattered on Virat Kohli's revival and Rohit Sharma's first stint as a World Cup captain. The cricketing world outside was already ready, and if India were still blinking, they would now just stare, jaws-dropped, at a talent whose time has finally come.

Surya has been waiting for this for a long time. In 2019, speaking to *The Indian Express* even as he stared at his food at a restaurant, he would mutter, "Do you know why I haven't been selected yet for the Indian team? What more do you think I need to do?"

It turns out, nothing but what he has been doing thus far: scoring runs, silencing doubters, breaking down selection doors - and then charming the nation.

But back then, doubts surfaced in his mind. Was he too late? Had the selection bus moved to the next batch of under-19 kids. "Am I that bad, is there something wrong," he would ask his close friends. The doubts remarkably weren't erased by the selectors or even by peers but by the fans. Be it airport, hotel, ground, Yadav used to say that he would hear one constant call, "When you are



Suryakumar Yadav accounted for half of India's runs and three-fourth of their boundary count.

playing for Indian team". Somedays, in his room he used to hear the Bollywood song 'Apna time aayega', and ponder.

In the meanwhile, he continued doing two things: scoring runs and helping his friends and family. When the pandemic hit, and a former Ranji Trophy team-mate was seriously ill, he would give Rs 5 lakhs for the treatment. Yadav helped another friend Javed Khan financially to set up a cricket academy. "Post Covid, things were getting tough for me and I wanted to open an academy. I wanted some money and I messaged Surya. He just transferred it," Khan says.

His friends would joke about the colour of his hair and watches. His wife Devisha recently had said how he keeps rewinding old movies and keeps laughing out loud. He loves his comic movies and shows like Hera Pheri and The Kapil Sharma Show. On phone calls, when the mood seizes him, he would fool around saying filmi dialogues. His favourite being the popular 'Nonsense' line from Singham.

None of his friends were surprised at his ballsy attitude at the crease. "He had a certain belief which none of us other players had even when young. I remember once he was sledged by the Uttar Pradesh players, and he said, 'wait and watch. I shall reverse hit the first ball and then launch one massive hit'. He did exactly that to smash a double hundred," says Javed. Or in how he turned his anger at being dropped from Ranji team by piling on the runs to storm back.

On Sunday, at Perth, he convinced the world, if there remained any rare doubters, of his talent. Former India opener Gautam Gambhir, one of the early backers of Suryakumar's talent at the IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders, would proclaim on Star Sports: "This is the best T20 knock ever by an Indian".

India were 49/5 and the top order was bounced out one by one, after uncomfortable and awkward brief stays. Against Pakistan, the issue wasn't about survival but about runs. Here, the very survival seemed at stake. In a low scoring game, his 68 came off 40 balls at a strike rate of 170.

There was one crucial difference to his way from his team-mates. They tried to get on top of the bounce, an attempt inevitably leading to failure with the steep tennis-ball bounce that Perth threw up. Surya got under the ball, at unique angles, to tap the bouncing ball further along. It needed special skills, eyes, hands, wrists, and a big heart to do it his way. It was also very smart. A special tennis-style fore-hand off Kagiso Rabada that flew to the long-off boundary was a take-away moment. Or this one time when he shuffled across to lap-pull a pacy Anrich Nortje hard-length ball over fine-leg. At the biggest stage in world cricket, he was India's lone hero; the boy on the burning deck slashing away in style.

Panic-stricken to glorious attacker

Lungi Ngidi once had a very scary Indian experience. Back in 2015, he was in India for a Universities World Cup. The games were in Dehradun and the teams had to take the busy narrow hilly roads on most days. On one such trip, on the foothills of the Himalayas, the young 'Gentle Giant' had a panic attack. With a lot of honking around on the sinuous, vertiginous route with traffic jams, Ngidi, not used to such noise back home, would suffer a panic attack. Those on the tour say the young boy was screaming and going crazy as he lay on the floor of the bus as he couldn't take it anymore. Since then, the tables have turned. His Test debut was against India at Centurion. And now in this very important T20 World Cup game, he had the Indians on the hop. Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul and Virat Kohli - the Big Three - fell to the tall boy who speaks Zulu at home.

Rabada: catcher in the fly

The Kagiso Rabada catch-counter would cruelly read thus: Caught 2; dropped one. The one he dropped was off his own bowling when Rohit Sharma check-drove him in the air and the ball deflected off his thumb. But he made quick amends, first with the well-judged catch of Virat Kohli, wherein he carefully maintained his balance when running alongside the boundary-line to complete the catch, side-on. His athleticism and judgement shone more spectacularly when he charged and flung himself forward to pounce on a dipping catch from Hardik Pandya's bat.



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