

EXPRESS NETWORK



**N-E MY GOVT'S FIRST PRIORITY: PM IN ARUNACHAL P 7**

**J&K POLICE SEARCH HOMES OF SEVEN JOURNALISTS; CITE TERROR THREAT P 9**

THE WORLD

**COP27 ALL SET TO DELIVER ON LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND PAGE 14**

**Exemptions for start-ups in data Bill have 'sunset' clause; penalties may go up later**

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

THE PENALTIES proposed for violating provisions of the recently released draft data protection Bill, such as failing to take adequate safeguards for preventing data breaches, will be periodically reviewed and could potentially increase going forward, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar told *The Indian Express*. He also said that exemptions carved out in the Bill for private entities are aimed at giving a concession to the country's start-ups, and that these come with a "sunset" clause.

The draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022, released Friday, proposes to impose significant penalties on entities for data breaches and for failing to notify users when breaches happen.

Entities that fail to take "reasonable security safeguards" to prevent personal data breaches will be fined as high as Rs 250 crore. If an entity fails to notify users and the Data Protection Board about a data breach, the fine could go as high as Rs 200 crore. The maximum penalty

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**EXPLAINED**  
**Respite for start-ups, for now**

THE BILL imposes penalties as high as Rs 250 crore on entities for not having safeguards to prevent data breaches and Rs 200 crore for not notifying users about a breach. While the exemptions for start-ups mean they're not "burdened" with weight of such fines initially, the "sunset" clause ensures that these entities eventually move towards compliance.

## In Morbi, BJP banks on old face; his rescue video becomes campaign theme

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**GOPAL KATESHIYA**  
KHIRAI (MORBI), NOVEMBER 19

"THAT DIRTY water...However I being a resident of Morbi dared to jump into it (Machchu river). There were four-five policemen, they also jumped. Then came the Muslim boys, others...When saheb (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) called, I didn't have even my phone with me. But only one per cent of rescue work was done by me while the rest 99 per cent was done by 99 others



Kantilal Amrutiya campaigns in Morbi. *Express*

and yet they gave the credit to me...Then I came back and uploaded a video... I have that much of wisdom," says

Kantilal Amrutiya in one breath, highlighting his role in the rescue work in Morbi's Machchu river following the bridge collapse there on October 30 that

DECISION 2022

**HALF THE TOTAL VOTERS THIS TIME BELOW 40, DECLINE IN FIRST-TIMERS**

**IN SOME SEATS, 2002 GETS REFRESHED IN 2022 PAGE 6**

killed 135 people including 55 children.

His audience comprised of residents of Panchvati locality of Khirai village in Maliya taluka of Morbi district, listening intently as Amrutiya, the BJP candidate from the Morbi constituency for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Gauhati HC Chief Justice slams bulldozer action: 'Gang war or police op?'

**DEBRAJ DEB**  
AGARTALA, NOVEMBER 19

COMING DOWN heavily on an Assam Superintendent of Police for bulldozing the house of an arson accused, the Gauhati High Court has said police cannot, "under the guise of investigation", bulldoze anyone's house without permission, and if such practices continue then "nobody is safe in this country".

Hearing a suo motu case on the demolition of the house of a person accused in an arson case in Nagaon district, Chief Justice R M Chhaya, heading a division

bench also comprising Justice Soumitra Saikia, said, "Show me from any criminal jurisprudence that for investigating the crime, the police, without any order, can uproot a person, apply a bulldozer. As per the report... police needed an excavator to dig the house. For that, he requires permission."

When the SP's counsel tried to argue that police had permission from the District Magistrate to search the house, Chief Justice Chhaya said the permission was for searching, not bulldozing.

He said any police officer, however senior the person may

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At the opening of the FIFA fan festival in Doha on Saturday. *Reuters*

## Not 'fake fans': Volunteers to food vendors, Indians make presence felt



**SANDIP G**  
DOHA, NOVEMBER 19

RINGTONES BLARING from smartphones is perhaps the most evident betrayal of your

roots. In Doha, even though the world — from Africa to Australia — has descended for a carnival of football in the heart of a desert, the muffled silence in a metro is frequently infringed by Guru Randhawa's *Lagdi Lahore Di*, or *Kannil Pettele* from the popular Malayalam movie *Thallumala*, or the eponymous title song from Kamal Hasan's *Vikram*.

If the ringtones don't strike

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Artists from India, Pakistan painted the walls of a metro station in Doha. *Sandip G*

## 'NO MONEY FOR TERROR' CONFERENCE

# Shah calls for economic crackdown in terror havens: Rise above geo-political interests

Some use terror as tool of statecraft... cut across political divides: Jaishankar

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

A DAY after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's veiled attack on China and Pakistan for "supporting terrorism", Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated his views, saying that some countries have made terrorism their "state pol-

icy" and calling for a "strict economic crackdown" in such "terror havens". Saying that terrorism has no international boundaries, Shah urged all countries to "rise above their geo-political interests", and fight "shoulder-to-shoulder" against the threat.

Addressing the concluding session of the third 'No Money for Terror' conference here, Shah

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



**Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the conference, in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI**

## India proposes permanent secretariat to coordinate bid to fight terror funding

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah on Saturday put forward a proposal to set up a permanent 'No Money For Terror' (NMFT)

Secretariat in India that would be expected to coordinate global efforts against terror funding more efficiently.

Announcing this at the NMFT conference, Shah said the "time is ripe" for a permanent secretariat. Sources in the security

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## CITES CONFERENCE: PROPOSAL DEFEATED 83-15

# Thanks to Namibia for cheetahs? India abstains on ivory trade vote

Under cheetah deal, Namibia sought India's support to lift ban

**JAY MAZOOMDAAR**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

FOR THE first time since joining the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) in 1976, India did not vote against a proposal seeking to re-open the ivory trade.

That proposal, to allow a regular form of controlled trade in ivory from Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe, was defeated 83-15 at the 19th meeting of the CITES Conference of



One of the cheetahs brought from Namibia. *File*

the Parties (CoP19) in Panama City Friday evening.

India's abstention — a break from its past stand — was in tune

with what Namibia had asked for when it agreed to transfer cheetahs this summer.

Under that agreement signed in July, first reported by *The Indian Express* on October 12, the two countries committed to promoting "sustainable utilisation and management of biodiversity" by supporting each other "at international forums including meetings" of the CITES.

While the word "ivory" was not mentioned, Namibia sought India's backing, under the commitment to support "sustainable

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## Himanta pitch for Modi '24: Aaftab in every city if no powerful leader

On Gujarat campaign trail, he says Delhi murder is a case of 'love jihad'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 19

REFERRING TO the murder of Shraddha Walkar, allegedly by her live-in partner Aaftab Poonawala, in South Delhi as a case of "love jihad", Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that "an Aaftab will be born in every city" if the country doesn't have a powerful leader, and called for the re-election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024.

Addressing a BJP poll rally in Adipur, in Kutch district, on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## SUNDAY STORY

PAGE 12

## Shraddha & Aaftab

**INTERFAITH COUPLE'S WEDDING RECEPTION CALLED OFF IN VASAI PAGE 10**



### RESEARCH & EVIDENCE based ayurvedic medicine, for Arthritis, Cervical, Spondylitis, Slip Disc, Sciatica and other Vata Dosha related diseases.

Regenerates damaged cartilage, improves blood circulation, rejuvenates degenerated cells and regulates pain markers.



Highly beneficial in knee pain, backache, shoulder pain, neck pain and pain in hips and joints.

Made with 38 precious herbs

Goodness of powerful herbs such as Vrihatvaat Chintamani, Punarnavadi Mandoor, Shuddh Guggal, Svam Bhasm etc.



All our medicines are available at Patanjali Stores, leading medical, ayurvedic and others stores across India.

The usage of the medicine mentioned above is suggestive in nature and it is the choice of the treatment in the management of above-mentioned diseases. Avoid self-medication and always take the medicines under medical supervision.

Shop Online- [www.patanjaliayurved.net](http://www.patanjaliayurved.net) | Customer Care Number - 18001804108 | Email ID - [feedback@patanjaliayurved.org](mailto:feedback@patanjaliayurved.org) | Website - [www.patanjaliayurved.org](http://www.patanjaliayurved.org)

Grey Blue Yellow Black

Grey Blue Yellow Black

Grey Blue Yellow Black

New Delhi

Grey Blue Yellow Black

Grey



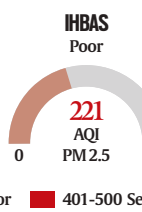
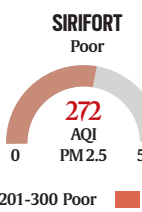
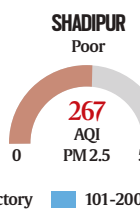
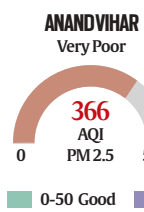
--	--







## 4 THE CITY



## SKYWATCH

**FORECAST: November 20**  
Mainly clear sky.  
Mist in the morning

**MAX: 26**  
1.8°C below normal

**MIN: 9**  
3.4°C below normal

## AAP MINISTER JAILED IN ALLEGED MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

# Message in Tihar video is latest flashpoint as BJP targets Jain; Sisodia calls it ‘ghatiya soch’

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

A VIDEO of jailed Aam Aadmi Party minister Satyendar Jain getting a massage in his cell in Tihar jail surfaced on Saturday, prompting a fierce war of words between the BJP and AAP.

While the BJP accused the AAP of ‘abuse of power’ and promoting ‘VVIP culture’, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia clarified that Jain was receiving physiotherapy after two spinal surgeries and alleged that the BJP was trying to make a mockery of Jain’s illness to win elections in Gujarat and MCD.

BJP leader Gaurav Bhatia, at a press conference, said, “The ‘katar beimaan’ thug is getting a massage in jail by violating laws. He’s been jailed for five months now but has still not been sacked as a minister. The video shows VVIP culture.” He also termed the AAP a ‘spa and massage party’.

Reacting to the allegations, Sisodia said Jain had suffered a spinal disc injury when he fell in jail and the accident pinched his



**Jain has been in prison since May in connection with an alleged money laundering case registered by the ED**

nerve. He was hospitalised, underwent two surgeries, and was recommended regular physiotherapy by doctors, he said.

Stating that Jain was diagnosed with L5-S1 disc damage, Sisodia accused the BJP of politicising an illness and conspiring to keep Jain in prison. “I cannot even imagine that the BJP has stooped so low that it is making fun of someone’s illness. Firstly, they put a man in jail who is innocent; now they are making fun of his illness by leaking this video

of treatment,” he said and called it “ghatiya soch, ghatiya harkat”.

Asked if Jain would be removed from his ministerial post, he said: “BJP ki manohar ka-haniyon se mantripad se thodi hata diya jaayega kisi aadmi ko (A person will not be removed as a minister simply because of the BJP’s cooked up stories).”

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sisodia added: “Desh ke pradhan mantri bhi beemaar ho sakte hain, unhe bhi ilaaj ki zaroorat padh sakti hai (The Prime Minister of the country can also fall sick. Even he may require treatment)... But only BJP can go low and do cheap tactics just to win elections. It is BJP’s forte to do politics on someone’s ailments and treatment. No other party except BJP can do this.”

“To win elections, you are making fun of a sick person. Don’t you (BJP) feel ashamed? You should feel ashamed to resort to such cheap tactics,” said Sisodia.

Sisodia added, “A person in jail has the right to receive treatment and therapy. The court instructed the Enforcement

Directorate (ED) to ensure that videos should not be leaked. Yet the video was leaked to give effect to BJP’s conspiracy to make a mockery of Jain’s ailment. This is contempt of court order. We will take action on this separately.”

Jain has been in prison since May in connection with an alleged money laundering case registered by the ED. Earlier this week, a jail superintendent was suspended by Delhi Chief Secretary Nareish Kumar over alleged VIP treatment to the AAP minister. He was posted in cell number 7 where Jain is lodged.

“The sacking of the jail superintendent... was just an eyewash for the people of Delhi. The truth is that Jain is the master of corruption and he is running the business for Kejriwal from jail that’s why he is being provided special treatment...,” alleged BJP’s Bhatia.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta has also written to L-G VK Saxena demanding a high-level inquiry into the arrangements at Tihar and requested an order for 24-hour surveillance of Jain’s cell.

## Minister moves court against ED over ‘leak’

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

AAP MINISTER Satyendar Jain has moved a court in Delhi seeking contempt proceedings against the Enforcement Directorate for allegedly leaking CCTV footage in which he is seen receiving massage inside Tihar Jail, his lawyers said. Special Judge Vikas Dhull issued a notice to the ED on Jain’s plea, asking the agency to file its response by Monday.

Jain has in his plea accused the ED of leaking the footage “despite an undertaking given in the court” that no material related to the case will be divulged to the media. “The ED had in a hearing before the special court given an undertaking that it will not leak the footage that was contained in a pen drive. We have moved contempt proceedings against the agency, which will have to explain

how this leak took place. We have submitted a list of social media accounts which out the video along with relevant case laws relating to contempt proceedings,” a defence lawyer for Jain said.

CCTV footage of Jain getting massages at Tihar jail emerged on Saturday morning.

Earlier, during a bail hearing, the ED had accused Jain of getting special treatment inside the jail.

The court had ordered the ED as well as Jain’s legal team not to leak any content of affidavits or video related to the case to the media and had taken their undertakings in that regard.

The court had, however, refused to put any restriction on or pass any direction to the media.

The court had on November 17 denied bail to Jain. It observed that “Jain was actually involved in concealing the proceeds of crime by giving cash to the Kolkata-based entry operators”.

## REPLIES TO UKRAINIAN EX-WIFE’S PLEA

## ‘My son isn’t safe in a war zone’: Man accused of kidnapping child

**MALAVIKA PRASAD**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

AFTER BEING accused of kidnapping his three-year-old son by his former wife, a Ukrainian national, an Indian man has claimed before the Delhi High Court that his son is an Indian citizen and “cannot be sent to a war zone area”.

The man stated in his reply to the woman’s petition that his son has an Indian passport issued on July 9, 2020. He stated that he brought his son “through proper channels after getting necessary approvals from officials of both countries” as Ukraine is a war zone since February 22 and his son was “not safe in a country which is in the state of war”.

The man denied that his son was “ever a citizen of Ukraine” or was issued a passport by the government there and claimed he is the “natural guardian of the minor child”. Further, the minor child is an Indian citizen, and an Indian citizen cannot be sent to a war zone area which is not safe even for the petitioner, he said. Claiming that the woman’s pleas based on a concocted story, he sought its dismissal.

The man denied the woman’s assertions that he is addicted to alcohol or that he had physically and orally abused her. With respect to the two complaints lodged by the woman with Ukrainian police, he said the police did not take any action against him as the “officials found both complaints baseless”.

The remarks made by the police of Ukraine made it clear that the petitioner was habitual of making false complaints against the answering respondent and she was harassing him as he was not a citizen of Ukraine, the reply filed through advocate Harsh Gupta stated. He further alleged that his son was suffering from “malnutrition, calcium deficiency and even suffered a fungal infection which only got recovered after returning to India”.

“It is submitted that at present, the petitioner (Ukrainian woman) is living with her daughter and the latter’s boyfriend in a two-room apartment, out of which, one is acquired by the couple. Hence, the petitioner has no sufficient space for the upbringing and child’s life,” he stated.

He claimed he had to make a

police complaint to meet his own son, and the decision of the Vinnytsia City Council passed on July 15, 2021, requiring the contact of the father with the child after the couple’s divorce was passed for the “well-being of the child as the involvement of the father is necessary to participate in the upbringing of the minor child”.

Contending that he was never informed by his ex-wife about his son’s admission to a kindergarten school in Vinnytsia, he said, “The answering respondent asked many times to the petitioner to get admission of the child in the pre-school and paid money twice for the said purpose to the petitioner...”

“He again gave her the money, but the petitioner never informed him whether she had admitted the child to any preschool.” The man later learnt that the child was studying in sssthe same school where the woman was working as a helper.

The man also argued that “all the vaccination of the child was done solely by (him) and the petitioner never accompanied (him)”. He further submitted that his son is currently studying in a pre-school in Ghaziabad.

As to the effect of the war between Russia-Ukraine on Vinnytsia city, the father claimed “on 16.03.2022, a missile struck at a distance of 500 m from the house of the answering respondent”. He claimed he asked the woman to leave the country with the children as the city was not safe, but she pushed him out of her house. He allegedly told the woman he would accompany her to the country of her desire, but she “blatantly refused”. He further submitted that according to the “rules of border crossing for children under 16 years during the war, reminded by the Centre for Combating Disinformation at the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine”, there was no need for the minor child to be accompanied by both parents. He submitted that he brought his child from a war zone after completing all formalities.

He further alleged that while staying with his mother, the minor child was under “trauma and... was not able to respond properly, but after reaching India, a great improvement came in the child... mentally and physically”.

## Radisson Blu Ghaziabad owner found dead at home

New Delhi: The owner of Radisson Blu hotel in Ghaziabad, Kaushambi was found dead at his home in Delhi’s Commonweath Games village Saturday morning.

According to police, Amit Jain, who was in his 40s, was found hanging by his family.

Police said they received a PCR call at 12.25 pm. DCP (East) Amrutha Guguloth said, “We rushed to the spot and found that Jain had come to his house in Delhi in the morning after having breakfast at his new house in Noida. The family is currently shifting to Noida. Yesterday, everyone stayed back at their Noida house. On Saturday morning, he left the house after breakfast and dropped his brother,

Karan, at their office in Ghaziabad. He then went to CWC village. Later, when his son Aditya and their driver reached the Delhi house for some work, they found him hanging.”

Aditya told police that he and the driver had gone there to pick up some goods for work. Jain was rushed to Max Hospital in Patparganj, but doctors declared him dead on arrival. “We have taken down statements of relatives and eyewitnesses. There are no allegations of foul play so far. Further inquiry is underway and proceedings under Section 174 CrPc are being carried out. It has come to our notice that the deceased was under heavy debt,” added the DCP. **ENS**

## BRIEFLY

### Tunnelling work on Phase 4 Metro stretch complete

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Saturday completed tunnelling work between Krishna Park Extension and Keshopur on the upcoming Janakpuri West-RK Ashram Marg corridor under Phase IV. Officials said that on Saturday at Krishna Park Extension, the tunnel boring machine bored a 1.4-km tunnel in the presence of Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, DMRC chairman and other senior officials.

### NGT orders realtor to pay Rs 10 cr for illegally felling trees

**Gurgaon:** The National Green Tribunal has ordered a real estate company to pay a compensation of Rs 10 crore for illegally cutting over 500 trees on five acres of protected forest land in Faridabad.

### AQI remains ‘poor’, GRAP stage 1, 2 curbs to continue

**New Delhi:** The ongoing measures under stage 1 and 2 of the Graded Response Action Plan will continue, with the air quality remaining in the ‘poor’ category. The CSAQM sub-committee on GRAP decided “there doesn’t seem to be a need to invoke stage-3”. **ENS**

# Cops find CCTV footage ‘showing Aaftab with bag and backpack’, more searches in Gurgaon

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

THE DELHI Police Saturday conducted further searches in Gurgaon to look for the missing murder weapon and other evidence in connection with the murder of 27-year-old Shraddha Walkar. Police teams went to a forested area in DLF Phase 3 and searched for hours, but couldn’t find anything significant, investigators said.

Officers have been questioning the accused, 28-year-old Aaftab Poonawala, and conducting searches across four states to find key evidence. He is accused of allegedly killing his live-in partner and chopping her body into multiple pieces. Delhi Police



**Visuals purportedly show Aaftab carrying what appears to be a backpack and a bag and walking in the lane around 3-4 am**

say he allegedly told them that he discarded the pieces in

Mehrauli forest. On Saturday, teams went to

Gurgaon, where Poonawala worked at a call centre, and conducted searches in the forest area as they suspect he might have dumped the murder weapon, Walkar’s phone and body pieces on his way to work. “There are many discrepancies in his disclosure statement. We have to widen our search since the phone’s last location was captured outside Delhi,” said an officer. Police officials were seen with metal detectors, and they returned after almost two hours.

CCTV footage, almost a month old, has also been recovered from the Chattarpur Pahadi area, where the couple lived. Visuals purportedly show Poonawala carrying what appears to be a backpack and a bag and walking in the lane around

3-4 am. The footage is being checked and will be mapped to see what route he took.

Another police team in Mumbai is questioning Walkar’s ex-employers and friends who were in touch with her and knew about the alleged fights between the couple. Police also took Poonawala and seized clothes and other articles from his house. They will be sent to a forensic lab for examination.

The alleged murder weapon, a mini-saw, is yet to be recovered. Bloodstained clothes, which Poonawala allegedly threw in the MCD garbage van, have also not been found.

Police will be sending Poonawala for a narco-analysis test soon as his custody ends on Tuesday.

# Hired in 2019, 54 managers working at 13 Delhi govt hospitals say contracts not being renewed

**ANKITA UPADHYAY**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

FIFTY-FOUR hospital managers across 13 Delhi government hospitals have claimed that authorities asked them not to mark their attendance from Saturday onwards and not join work as their contracts have expired and will not be renewed again. They also claimed they have not been given anything in writing and were only verbally informed by their medical directors and superintendents on Friday.

“Our contract ended on June 31, but we continued working in the hope that it will be extended again... as it has happened for the last three years. However, neither did we receive our salary nor were our contracts renewed in these last four months,” said

Saurabh Kumar, superintendent (Facilities Management), at Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital. The hospital administration was unavailable for comment.

Kumar and others were hired in 2019 after a recruitment circular was issued by the Directorate General of Health Services, which approved the proposal for creation of 92 posts of superintendents for hospital management in Delhi government hospitals.

While the initial plan was to allocate 92 seats, 54 were finalised at 13 government hospitals. Each hospital was given between four and 12 managers, depending on the number of beds. Hospitals with more beds such as Lok Nayak and Guru Tegh Bahadur were allotted 12 such managers. Others such as Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital

and GB Pant Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research were allotted eight managers each. Four managers each were provided to hospitals with 100-300 beds.

According to sources, the managers were to be in-charge of services ranging from house-keeping, sanitation and kitchen management, to specialised medical requirements and equipment handling.

Jaan Mohammed, superintendent (Hospital Manager) at Lok Nayak Hospital, said hospital superintendents were hired in four categories — Equipment & Stores, Facilities Management/Caretaking, Patient Facilitation and Caretaking. “On Friday, we were told not to come to the hospital from Saturday. Higher authorities said state health secretary Amit Singla has conveyed to

not take work from hospital managers as the Delhi L-G has approved taking on hospital managers from Government e-Marketplace (GEM). But he has not given any directions regarding the present 54 hospital managers working in 13 Delhi government hospitals... no direction has been issued regarding hiring from GEM,” he claimed.

When contacted, Lok Nayak medical director Dr Suresh Kumar refused to comment on the same. Amit Singla and officials at the L-G’s office remained unavailable for a comment.

According to the note issued in 2018 for the council of ministers by Raajiv Yaduvanshi, then principal secretary, health and family welfare, the decision to hire hospital managers was taken to free up doctors from administrative work. “Involvement of

doctors in administrative work leads to reduction in their clinical output. These doctors may not have the requisite formal training in hospital management. Governments in states of Bihar, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh envisioned the requirement of professional manpower with managerial competence to work as hospital managers and have created these posts under National Health Mission,” the note stated.

These hospital managers are MBA graduates with degrees and diplomas and were working with private and government hospitals before this appointment. “We worked thinking our contracts will be renewed, but so far we have got nothing. No one from the Secretariat and DGHS has conveyed anything to us in writing,” said Rekha, one of the hospital managers at DDU hospital.

# Cong poll pitch: ‘This Delhi will be Sheila ji’s Delhi’

**ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

THE CONGRESS is harking back to the times of “Sheila ji’s Delhi” as part of its campaign for the upcoming MCD elections.

Congress leaders who are part of the campaign for the MCD polls are turning to what they say was a better Delhi under former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit.

Anil Chaudhary, President, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, said, “This election will be fought over a polluted Delhi and a clean one. In the past eight years, the AAP has polluted Delhi, not just the environment, but also the politics. In the past 15 years, the BJP-ruled MCD has been in a bad shape and corrupted it. The ‘meri chamakti Dilli’

campaign is against this... this Delhi will be Sheila ji’s Delhi.”

“The Congress has given the city 15 years under Sheila ji. When work happened then, it proceeded with a vision. There was thought that went into where we should be and what the path to that goal should be. For instance, on pollution, diesel buses were removed from the streets. Taxis and autos were converted to CNG. Sheila ji and the Congress were concerned about the city. There were efforts then to increase the green cover,” he said.

On pollution now, only temporary arrangements are made, like the ‘Red light On, Gaadi off’ campaign and the odd-even rule, rather than permanent ones that are needed, he said.

The ‘vision document’ released by the party on Saturday



**The ‘vision document’ released by the party on Saturday identified 11 priorities. Praveen Khanna**

identified 11 priorities, including reducing air and Yamuna pollution levels, clearing unprocessed waste and the landfill sites, “doubling the income of the municipality” through “zero corruption” and strengthening the revenue base, and sustainable solid waste

management. The tagline is for a pollution-free, corruption-free, dhalao-free, garbage-free Delhi.

Haroon Yusuf who was a minister in the Sheila Dikshit government, said, “Our government in Delhi was sensitive towards the people. With the issue of pollution, vehicles were converted to CNG. This government is depending on hoardings and posters. As a minister, she (Dikshit) used to tell me that we must not spend much on advertisements. Delhi life has gone down so much. In the MCD elections, people are remembering us... the Congress government and Sheila Dikshit.”

Regarding AAP campaign that say that the Congress is “zero in Delhi”, Chaudhary said: “Delhi is now number one in pollution. The government is now number one in corruption. Satyendar Jain

is running his office from jail. Was the Aam Aadmi Party around before 2013? The Congress is among the oldest parties in the country. Whether we win or lose elections is part of the democratic process. Based on winning or losing elections, you cannot decide whether the Congress is in Delhi. Congress workers have been highlighting important issues. Hum chunav haarte hain, lekin apne manviya pehlu pe khare utarte hain. On important issues, Kejriwal has remained silent.”

The last time that the Congress won a majority in the MCD polls was in 2002, later losing its hold over the MCD to the BJP in 2007 and in 2012 after the corporation was trifurcated. In 2017, the party won 30 seats. The Congress has released a list of 250 candidates for the polls.

# 21 star campaigners, 14 roadshows: BJP to begin mega campaign today

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

FOURTEEN ROADSHOWS on Sunday with 21 ‘star campaigners’ including union ministers and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states — the party is pulling out all the stops ahead of MCD polls.

According to party officials, the leaders have been roped in to appeal to a certain section of voters based on regional and local issues. For instance, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar will cover areas where population of Haryana is in large numbers. Similarly, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari will conduct roadshows in Northeast Delhi’s Pushta and

Bhajanpura Chowk to reach out to Purvanchalis. Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Dhami will hold roadshows from Shriram Chowk, Mandawali to Mandawali village, which has several voters from the Garhwal region. Union Water Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will campaign in areas facing water issues such as Mehrauli Vidhan Sabha.

“This will be a major campaign for the polls. The leaders will reach out to people to tell them about the developmental works done under the leadership of PM

Narendra Modi at the Centre and MCD. They will talk to people, listen to their problems and take suggestions. All 14 leaders have been given different areas as Delhi has people from different states,” said party members.

BJP general secretary Kuljeet Singh Chahal said, “The campaign to wipe out AAP and (CM) Arvind Kejriwal’s

corruption in Delhi will start tomorrow. We are expecting 51% of the votes.”

The roadshows are being held under the supervision of BJP national president JP Nadda.







# Diabetes: Spiralling out of control

14 November is World Diabetes Day. This year, India is in sharp focus due to the rise in the prevalence of diabetes in the country. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there has been a 150 per cent increase in the number of Indians with diabetes. Nearly 77 million Indians suffer from diabetes and related complications in the country. This means that every sixth person in the country is diabetic. The age at diagnosis of diabetes is often 10 years less among Indians. Triggering concerns that India may soon become the diabetes capital of the world. Dr (Col) Sudhir Tripathi speaks on the various facets of diabetes as seen in India.



## What is your greatest concern about the rise of diabetes in India?

While there has been a significant rise in the prevalence of diabetes in India, my concern relates directly to the theme of World Diabetes Day 2022 - Access to Diabetes Care: Education to protect tomorrow. Awareness regarding diabetes and its complications, is abysmally poor. The population at large, and diabetics in particular need to be educated about diabetes and its myriad manifestations and complications. While patients have access to quality care in the metro cities, the conditions in smaller towns and villages remains poor. The awareness, availability and access to diabetes education, blood sugar monitoring devices, and essential medication, in large parts of India, is still very poor. Insulin injections, which are the life line for survival in type 1 diabetic patients and some insulin requiring type 2 diabetics as well, are unaffordable for many. Things are improving but not at the pace at which the number of patients with diabetes is rising in the country.

**What causes diabetes?**  
While most of us think of diabetes as one disease, we should remember that there are several different types of diabetes, with widely differing causative factors, treatment modalities and outcomes.

- Type 1 diabetes, formerly referred to as 'Juvenile onset diabetes' or 'Insulin dependent diabetes' constitutes ~ 5% of all diabetics. Type 1 diabetes has its onset in childhood, though it can also be diagnosed for the first time in adults. It is caused by the complete destruction of the insulin producing beta cells in the pancreas, by antibodies. Insulin treatment is life long and also lifesaving. Akin to Type 1 diabetes, latent autoimmune diabetes in adults (LADA), is also an autoimmune condition which destroys the beta-cells that produce insulin. These patients too need insulin for survival.
- Type 2 diabetes, formerly called 'adult-onset or maturity-onset Diabetes', is the more commonly recognised condition. Type 2 diabetes constitutes nearly 90% of all diabetics. The pancreas can make insulin, however the various organs are unable to effectively utilize the insulin pro-

duced. This is referred to as 'insulin resistance' which is often associated with excess body weight or obesity, unhealthy food habits, lack of exercise etc.

Many women develop diabetes during pregnancy, called gestational diabetes. The prevalence of gestational diabetes (GDM) is also increasing steadily. Its implications are obvious both for the mother and the foetus. GDM is also most often treated with insulin.

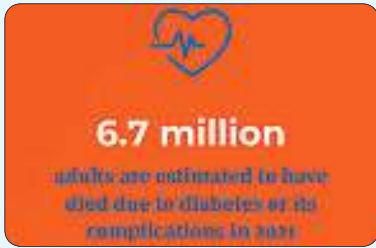
Diabetes can also be caused by various other conditions such as chronic pancreatitis or due to the use of certain drugs like steroids etc.

## What are the classic symptoms of diabetes?

The classic triad of diabetes symptoms include-Polyuria - frequent urination, particularly at night, called nocturia, Polydipsia - excess thirst, & Polyphagia - excess hunger. Most patients would also complain of weakness, fatigue, loss of weight, and asthenia. Some patients may also be diagnosed to have high sugars when they present with urinary /chest infections, heart attacks, strokes, blindness or kidney failure.

As a consequence of the insulin resistance in type 2 diabetes, or complete lack of insulin in type 1 diabetics the sugar cannot enter the cells of the various organs. Thus the body is starving for glucose in the midst of plenty of sugar in the blood stream. The excess sugar in the blood stream, passes out through the kidneys. Hence excess urine is passed to facilitate the elimination of the excess sugar content in the blood. This leads to the classic triad of symptoms referred to earlier.

It is quite surprising, but true, that nearly 50 % of diabetics do not experience any significant symptoms. They can remain undiagnosed for long periods of time and this can lead to complications, which are often devastating. Regular screening for those at risk can help with the diagnosis of these patients.



## Diabetes is often referred to as the "sugar disease". Does consumption of excess sugar cause this condition?

Not exactly. In a normal, healthy person, producing normal amounts of insulin and without insulin resistance, the sugar levels are kept in a narrow normal range, despite eating food or excess sugar. Thus the consumption of sweets and desserts does not directly cause diabetes.

However, if the individual is genetically prone to develop diabetes, the consumption of large amounts of sugars, would certainly exhaust the beta cells, pushing them to make lesser amounts of insulin and ultimately develop diabetes. When the beta cells are unable to keep up with the insulin requirements caused by refined carbohydrate intake, there is a spike in blood glucose levels. Overtime, this causes Type 2 diabetes.

## What are your suggestions for the prevention of diabetes?

Various scientific studies have shown that life style management plays an important role in prevention of diabetes. The two components of life style which are critical in the prevention of diabetes include dietary modulation and regular exercise.

With 'work from home' becoming a common practice, we have seen a spike



**Dr. (Col) Sudhir Tripathi**  
Chairman & Senior  
Consultant in the  
Department of Endocrinology  
& Metabolism at Sir Ganga  
Ram Hospital,  
Delhi. With over four decades  
of experience as a clinician, he  
has been at  
the forefront of treating  
diabetes and endocrine-related  
disorders across all  
sections of society and in all  
parts of the country.  
Dr Tripathi's medical  
philosophy focuses on  
helping people achieve good  
health and high  
quality of life.

in obesity and diabetes in the past few years. My first recommendation is to stay active and moving. Even if you are working from home or have a job requiring long hours of sitting at a desk, it is important to take breaks every hour or so and do some exercises. Move around and walk for about 5-10 minutes. Even if you are unable to go out due to excess air pollution or any other factors, you can use indoor equipment (exercycle or treadmill or light weight dumbbells) to get into a fitness regimen. We have seen these home-based fitness programs work well during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We recommend at least 60 minutes of exercise a day, of which 50 % should be dedicated to light weight resistance exercises, and the remaining 50 % to

cardiovascular exercises such as walking, jogging, and swimming. Light-weight resistance exercises, in particular, reduce insulin resistance weight and help in preventing diabetes.

Another factor to consider when it comes to diabetes prevention is the diet. Unfortunately, it has become very easy to order food online, and indulgence in junk food has become very common. Therefore, focusing on a healthy and balanced diet is very important when it comes to preventing diabetes. Adopting traditional Indian diets are good to combat diabetes.

## What are the foods to be avoided to prevent diabetes?

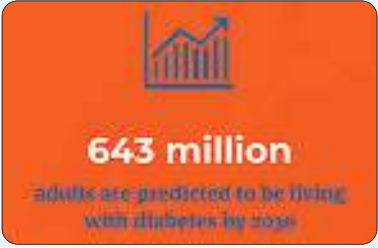
The proportion of carbohydrates, proteins and fats should be balanced.

ADVERTORIAL



## Insulin at 100: A life-saving discovery but more remains to be done

Nearly 500 million people are currently living with diabetes worldwide. Without action, the figure could rise to 700 million within the next 25 years. This potentially debilitating chronic condition can lead to life-threatening complications when left untreated and an early death.



It is said that Indians consume excessive amounts of carbohydrates in their diet, (61-64% of energy intake). It is recommended that this be reduced to 49-56% for the prevention or remission of type 2 diabetes. The protein intake should be increased to provide 14-20% of total energy intake. Fat should contribute to roughly 21-27% of energy intake. Refined carbohydrates top my list of foods to be avoided.

## Where does India stand in this diabetic epidemic?

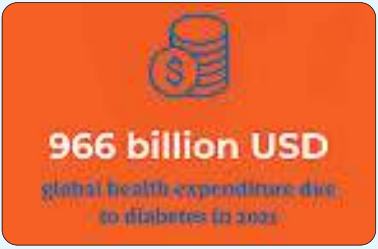
India is often referred to as the diabetic capital of the world. The increasing prevalence of diabetes in India is attributed to a strong genetic predisposition coupled with poor dietary habits, lack of physical exercise and obesity, in particular abdominal obesity. The prevalence has increased across all age groups, including the younger generation, at an alarming rate. Numerical data estimates that by 2030, 98 million Indians could develop diabetes. Thus India seems to be spearheading the diabetes wave globally.

## Are there any genetic factors that make Indians more prone to obesity and diabetes?

The development of type 2 diabetes is the result of interaction between environmental factors and a strong hereditary component. However the environmental factors do not impact everyone in the same way. Some people are more susceptible to developing diabetes, than others. This increased risk appears to be inherited. But the precise genetic variables responsible for this increased risk, are not completely known. The advent of modern genetic technology has contributed to the identification of several genetic loci that are responsible for this increased heritability of type 2 diabetes.

## What has been the impact of COVID-19 on diabetes?

The number of people who have developed diabetes since the outbreak of the pandemic has definitely increased. There are several reasons for this - The COVID-19 virus is known to affect the beta cells in the pancreas leading to new onset diabetes, akin to type 1 diabetes. Some patients who were treated with steroids for COVID-19, develop steroid-induced diabetes with high sugars persisting even after the treatment has stopped. The lack of activity and indulgence in an unhealthy lifestyle has led to the development of



Type 2 diabetes, among many others.

## Is diabetes a problem that primarily affects the elderly?

Not really. The number of young patients affected by diabetes has been greater than ever before. There are a number of factors that we as Indians need to remember. If both your parents or either parent is diabetic, there is a genetic propensity for you to develop the disease at a younger age. Indians in any case develop diabetes about ten years ahead of the Caucasian population.

One alarming development we see now is that even young children are developing Type 2 diabetes. We know that Type 1 diabetes affects children. However, these days we see children as young as 10 -12 years old, with morbid obesity developing Type 2 diabetes. The obesity epidemic has driven up the number of people who have diabetes. This is particularly true of the urban population.



## What type of screening do you recommend for people who are at risk?

In a large country like India, it is impossible to screen everyone for diabetes. Individuals at high-risk of developing diabetes should be identified and tested for diabetes. Mandatory diabetes screening of all patients who go to a medical facility like a hospital, even if there is no history of diabetes or if they are being treated for an unrelated ailment is important. Pregnant women should be tested for diabetes, and are a captive population as they are motivated to look after themselves and their progeny.

## With the advent of 5G, many companies are trying to get into the Diabetes Medical Management Plan (DMMP) space in rural India. Do you think this holds out hope?

The introduction of 5G and diabetes tracking devices is a great opportunity for the rural masses. But before these can bring any impactful change, a lot needs to be done about creating awareness and educating people in villages and smaller towns. In addition, they need access to affordable healthcare and medicines, for technology to take diabetes management forward.

## What is your message to the readers on World Diabetes Day?

In the context of the theme for World Diabetes Day 2022, I think it is very important for each one of us to disseminate knowledge about diabetes, its manifestations, and ways to prevent its development. This mass awareness would lead to adoption of a healthy life style, and hopefully blunt the tsunami of diabetes that threatens to engulf our country.





## I HEREBY DECLARE



HARSH SANGHAVI, 37

Gujarat Minister of State, Home, contesting from Majura seat for the second time

### MOVABLE ASSETS

**₹12.32 crore**  
Wife's investment in shares of listed companies worth **₹10.51 crore**

### IMMOVABLE ASSETS

**₹5.10 crore**

### LIABILITIES

**₹8.31 crore**  
Wife's liabilities worth **₹6.10 crore**

\*(All assets include his own, his wife's two dependent children, and one HUF account) Profession and source of income: Diamond business, earnings from Aarush Gems, MLA salary and bank interest

### CRIMINAL CASES

No criminal cases, one conviction with penalty in a case from 2011 at Parliament Street police station in Delhi, for protesting and demonstrating outside Parliament. No appeal was made against the said conviction

## ELECTION COMMISSION DATA

# Half the total voters this time below 40, but first-timers in state continue to fall

18-19 age group numbers have fallen, even as total number of voters in state have been increasing

### AVINASH NAIR

AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 19

IN THE coming elections to the Gujarat Assembly, almost half the total number of eligible voters are below 40 years of age. However, the share of first-time voters in this group is on the decline, continuing a trend that began 10 years ago.

As per the latest enrolment data by the Election Commission, of the 4.9 crore voters, nearly 2.35 crore are below 40. Of these, first-time voters number 11.74 lakh, which is lesser than voters in the 18-19 age group in the 2012 and 2017 polls.

The first-time voters this election form 2.39% of the total voters, compared to 2.7% (11.8 lakh of total 4.33 crore) in the 2017 polls, and as much as 3.5% (13.3 lakh of 3.81 crore) in 2012. The drop in their numbers has coincided with the rise in overall voter strength in the state.

The highest chunk of under-40 voters belong to the 30-39 group. There are 1.21 crore voters in this group, which makes them as many as one-fourth of the total voters in the state. In



A voter awareness drive by a school in Surat on Saturday. The EC held several such campaigns in bid to boost numbers. PTI

2017, the 30-39 age group voters numbered 1.12 crore.

The second highest number of voters (1.03 crore) are in the 20-29 age group. There are 9.8 lakh voters who are 80 years of age and above, a sharp rise from 6.3 lakh in 2017.

In August, Chief Electoral Officer P Bharathi had told *The Indian Express* that one of its challenges was the enrolment of first-time voters. "The number of first-time voters in age group of 18-19 years should be 3.66% of total. But we are currently at 1%," she had said in an interview.

The 18-19 age group is the

only cohort which has seen a decrease in number of voters in the last five years, in fact. The decrease is more glaring as the Election Commission had permitted the enrolment of those turning 18 till October 1, 2022, and organised special campaigns in September for the same.

Asked the reason for the decline in voters, a senior EC official said: "The numbers are only slightly less than 2017. The current Census is from 2011. Things will only be clear once a fresh Census is in place."

Pankti Jog, the state coordinator of the Association of

### BREAK-UP

Total voters

**4.9 crore**

Below 40 are nearly half of that

**2.35 crore**

First-time voters (18-19)

**11.74 lakh**

Highest chunk of voters (30-39 age group)

**1.21 crore**

Second-highest (20-29)

**1.03 crore**

■ Ratio of first-time voters:

**2.39% of 4.9 cr total**

■ Ratio of first-time voters in 2017:

**2.7% of 4.33 cr total**

■ Ratio of first-time voters in 2012:

**3.5% of 3.81 cr total**

Democratic Reforms (ADR) said the decrease in first-time voters

# How in some Gujarat contests, 2002 refreshed in 2022

A candidate chosen, an MLA retained, a wannabe politician, a controversial ex-cop: Some issues, names in the fray, and those that are absent

### SOHINI GHOSH & LEENA MISRA

AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 19

TWENTY YEARS on, the 2002 riots continue to figure in the Gujarat Assembly elections, in both the candidates and issues in the fray — or in their absence.

While the BJP has repeated the MLA who was part of the panel that recommended the early release of convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape and murder case, the outrage outside over it finds little echo on the ground.

The BJP has also fielded the daughter of a convict in the Naroda Patiya massacre — in which over 90 were killed — with the party's only leader to be tried for the violence present to witness the nomination.

On the other side is the star witness in the Gulberg Society massacre during the riots, who has been trying hard to make an electoral debut. Somewhere in the middle is a former police officer who shot to limelight for alleged encounters related to the riots.

### PAYAL KUKRANI

The 29-year-old MBBS graduate is the daughter of Manoj Kukrani, who was convicted in the Naroda Patiya massacre, and is now out on bail. Maya Kodnani, a former Gujarat minister, who was acquitted in the Naroda Patiya case but is still undergoing trial in Naroda Gam — and is out on bail on medical grounds — accompanied Payal to her nomination filing. Naroda Gam, like Naroda Patiya, is part of the Naroda Assembly constituency.

The BJP dropped its sitting MLA (one of the 48 to be

dropped), Balram Thawani, to name Payal from its Naroda bastion. Thawani had won last time by a margin of over 60,000 votes.

Naroda, in fact, has always voted in the BJP handsomely — Kodnani won by a margin of over 1 lakh in 1998 and 2002 polls, increasing this to 1.80 lakh-plus in 2007. Nirmalaben Wadhvani won in 2012 by around 58,000 votes. The Congress last won from Naroda in 1985.

Thawani, who was denied a ticket by the BJP, told *The Indian Express*: "I was told by the party that the plan was to field a woman candidate this time. She (Payal) is like my daughter. I will be campaigning for her, and will ensure she wins by a margin greater than 80,000-90,000."

On Payal's father being a riot convict, Thawani says this is not an issue. "The media may publish what it wants, but people here remember the truth. The FIR was lodged 90 days later, upon instructions of (Congress leader) Sonia Gandhi, and the public knows it was a motivated allegation. In fact, I remember that the Kukrani family was not even in the city at the time. Payal was only a child (9 years old) at the time."

### C K RAULJI

The MLA who was in the Jail Advisory Committee that cleared the remission of Bilkis Bano convicts, and was later quoted as calling the men "san-skari Brahmins", has been renominated by the BJP from Godhra. Unlike Thawani, who was dropped despite his thumping 2017 win, Raulji, 68, got lucky as his victory margin last time was the second-lowest of the election in the state — 258 votes.



A BJP rally with party chief J P Nadda and others in Rajkot on Friday. ANI

Incidentally, in 2012, Raulji had won the Godhra seat — from where the 2002 violence began, with the fire on board the Sabarmati train — on a Congress ticket, by 2,800 votes. In 2007 too, he won as a Congress candidate. Before that, he had won on a Janata Dal ticket in 1990, and a BJP ticket in 1995. The BJP has won from Godhra only once, in 2002, in elections following the riots.

Raulji was among the Congress leaders who defected to the BJP ahead of the 2017 Rajya Sabha elections.

In its manifesto, the Congress has promised to revoke the remission of the 11 Bilkis convicts. However, no other major party, including the Aam Aadmi Party, is making it an election issue.

### IMTIAZ KHAN PATHAN

The Gulberg Society massacre remains one of the most well-known incidents of the

2002 riots, with its survivor Zakia Jafri seeking trial of then chief minister and now Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the violence, till this year — when she lost in the Supreme Court. Among those who died in the violence in the heart of Ahmedabad city was Jafri's husband and former Congress MP Ahsan Jafri.

Pathan, 45, was one of the star witnesses in the trial, that led to conviction of 24, and now stands in appeal before the Gujarat High Court. In the coming elections, Pathan is contesting from the Bapunagar seat on a Janata Dal (United) ticket, after resigning from the AIMIM saying it had refused to field him.

Pathan, who first declared his electoral ambitions in 2019, says: "As a victim of such riots, I know I can be an effective voice for the Muslims. I have Hindu friends and they are encouraging me to take my political dream forward.

But elections are money-oriented. I was rendered penniless in the riots and the situation has not changed. I have nothing to my name still," says Pathan.

Pathan says he decided to take the dive into politics as there is no voice in Gujarat raising Muslim issues, including the Congress and its late leader Ahmed Patel.

Pathan first contested as a candidate of the Apna Desh Party, an Uttar Pradesh-origin outfit, from the Lok Sabha constituency of Kheda, in 2019. He came fourth, getting 4,800 votes.

Pathan joined the AIMIM just ahead of the 2021 civicbody polls.

"I joined seeing the qualifications of Asaduddin Owaisi (the AIMIM chief). He is a barrister, who raises issues affecting us in Parliament. But the Gujarat leadership of the AIMIM is opaque. I wanted to meet Owaisi sahab to explain how I could win. But the meeting was never arranged by

the Gujarat leaders," Pathan says.

He resigned from the party the same day as he filed his nomination papers from Bapunagar as a JD(U) candidate. In 2017, the Congress's Himmatsinh Patel had won the seat by a margin of around 3,000 votes.

The AIMIM has so far fielded 14 candidates across Gujarat. None is contesting from seats which saw the major massacres of 2002.

On Saturday, addressing a rally in Jamalpur, Owaisi slammed the BJP for "rewarding" people such as Manoj Kukarni and Raulji. "What justice is being done by you?" he said.

### DG VANZARA

A retired IPS officer, he is one of the most controversial cops of the state, having a quick rise during the Modi years as the Ahmedabad Crime Branch DCP, and as swift a fall.

Discharged in at least three cases of alleged encounters — the Ishrat Jahan encounter case of 2004; the Sohrabuddin Shaikh case of 2005; and the Tulsiram Prajapati case of 2006 — Vanzara has thrown his hat too in the electoral ring. He has launched a Praja Vijay Paksh and fielded candidates in 38 seats. He himself is not contesting, saying he "does not want to focus on just one seat" and would rather "campaign for his candidates".

There is no clear pattern as to how the 38 seats were chosen. The clearance to a poll symbol for his party is still pending.

Vanzara, 68, says he took the plunge because of "the circumstances he faced" and will contest on the plank of "rajsatta (political power)" and "dharmasatta

(spiritual power)".

Speaking with *The Indian Express*, Vanzara talks of "fear all-around of those in power", "rampant corruption" owing to "the absolute reign of the BJP for the past 27 years". But he refuses to confirm or deny whether there could be an alliance with the BJP. On the early release of convicts in the Bilkis Bano case, Vanzara says: "It has been done as per legal procedure... There is a rule of law... My clean chit was also through legal procedure."

### AMIT POPATLAL SHAH

The former Ahmedabad mayor and city BJP president has been fielded from Ellisbridge, a BJP bastion. The BJP dropped two-term MLA Rakesh Shah to give the ticket to Shah.

Ellisbridge was once a bastion of the late Gujarat minister of state for home Haren Pandya, whose assassination in March 2003 was probed by the CBI and eventually concluded as a reprisal killing for the 2002 riots.

Recently, Pandya's wife Jagrutiben objected to Shah's claim that while under the late leader, the BJP would win 66% of the votes in Ellisbridge, this was now up to 80%. Jagrutiben, who fought for a long time for "truth" behind Pandya's killing, wrote to BJP Gujarat president C R Patil demanding that Shah withdraw his statement, and calling it "unbecoming, made out of jealousy".

In 2012, Jagrutiben herself had unsuccessfully contested on a Gujarat Parivartan Party (GPP) ticket from Ellisbridge. In 2016, she was made chairperson of the Gujarat State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

## STAR CAMPAIGNER

# Rahul to hold two rallies Monday, party hopes for wind in its sails

### MANOJ CG

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

HE HAD refrained from campaigning in Himachal Pradesh, leaving the task of leading the party's efforts to his sister and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. But with a perception gaining ground that the Congress campaign is not taking off in Gujarat, and that the Aam Aadmi Party is far ahead in the optics and narrative game, Rahul Gandhi will address two rallies in the state next week — his first such political engagement since the Bharat Jodo Yatra began on

September 7.

Rahul will address a rally each in Surat and Rajkot on November 21. The Bharat Jodo Yatra has a rest day on November 21 as well as November 22.

Rahul was in Gujarat last in the first week of September — just two days before he began his cross-country march from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu. Rahul has not campaigned in the state so far. This has been surprising for party supporters since he had led an energetic campaign in 2017, powering the Congress to 77 seats (its highest since 1985) and stopping the BJP from reaching the 100 mark..



Congress leaders oversee preparations on Saturday for Rahul Gandhi's public meeting in Rajkot. Express

In Surat in south Gujarat, where the Congress could not make any inroads in 2017 despite the anti-GST protests, the expected impact of demonetisation and Rahul's aggressive campaigning, he will address a rally in the tribal seat of Mahuva.

Although the BJP had won in Surat and adjoining areas in 2017, the Congress had performed well in the tribal belts. Overall, the party had won 17 of the 27 ST reserved constituencies, 14 of these in south Gujarat.

The party hopes to better its tally this time, but the feedback from the ground is worrying. With Rahul addressing a rally in

Mahuva, the party hopes that it will have an impact in nearby reserved constituencies like Vyara, Nizar, Valsad, Kaprada and Dangs. Prime Minister Modi had launched the BJP's campaign from Kaprada on November 6.

Party leaders claim the Gandhi still retain much goodwill among the tribals and it was important that the family visit to send a message to the tribals, who form 14% of the electorate.

The Congress is said to be also keen that Priyanka address some rallies in the tribal region.

Apart from Surat, Rahul will address a public meeting in Rajkot, a BJP bastion which is at

the centre of the Saurashtra region. Although the party faced a rout in the Rajkot district in 2017, it had, yet again, performed better than expected in the Saurashtra region, winning 28 seats, up from 15 it held earlier.

The BJP has been winning all the three Assembly seats in Rajkot for a long time. It was from Rajkot West that Modi had contested his maiden election in 2001, to enter the Assembly.

Sources in the party said Rahul is likely to return to Gujarat towards the end of the month to campaign for the second phase. He is expected to address two rallies in North and Central Gujarat.

FOR MORE LOG ON TO

**INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS**



### ● EYECATCHERS

**BJP'S NEW CAMPAIGN STRATEGY: STREET DANCERS ACROSS THE STATE**

**OWAISI ATTACKS BJP, CONG; ASKS WHY THOSE WITH RIOT LINKS PROMOTED**

## HASHTAG POLITICS



● **Row over Medha Patkar at Bharat Jodo Yatra**



BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla tweeted a photo of Rahul Gandhi walking with the Narmada Bachao Andolan activist at Bharat Jodo Yatra and asked: "Is Medha Patkar being pushed as a face of Congress in Gujarat elections? Lot of buzz...! Why else would she join Bharat Jodo Yatra! She has done whatever she could do for Gujarat ka Vikas Roko... From Teesta Setalvad to Sanjeev Bhatt to Medha Patkar, Congress has always backed... those who have run a campaign of calumny against Gujarat!"





Arun Goel, File

## Retired IAS officer Goel made Election Commissioner

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu on Saturday appointed retired IAS officer Arun Goel as an Election Commissioner, a day after the former Punjab cadre officer took voluntary retirement from the service.

"The President is pleased to appoint Shri Arun Goel, Indian Administrative Service (Retd.) (PB: 1985) as the Election Commissioner in the Election Commission with effect from the date he assumes the office," the Union Law and Justice Ministry said in a statement.

The post of one Election Commissioner in the three-member commission has been vacant since May 15, when then-Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar took charge as the Chief Election Commissioner upon the retirement of Sushil Chandra from the post.

Goel was Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, till Friday, when he took voluntary retirement, according to an order of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet that appointed Uttar Pradesh cadre officer Kamran Rizvi to replace him.

Goel was earlier expected to superannuate from service on December 31.

Before being appointed as Heavy Industries Secretary in 2019, Goel was Secretary, Culture Ministry.

He has also served as Vice-Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority.

## Parliament Winter Session from Dec 7-29

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

THE WINTER Session of Parliament will begin on December 7 and conclude on December 29, with sources saying it is likely to be held in the old building, as the new one is still under construction. In separate notifications, secretariats of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha notified the dates.

"Subject to exigencies of government business, the session is likely to conclude on Thursday December 29, 2022," notifications issued by both Houses said.

Before the start of the session, both Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar will call all-party meetings to build consensus for smooth functioning of the Houses. The government will also call an all-party meeting to finalise legislative business for the session.

# Northeast my govt's priority, border village now first village, not last: PM

Says connectivity, energy infrastructure will bring new dawn

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AGARTALA, NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

UNDERLINING THAT his government and the one led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee have worked for remote border villages by considering them "the first village", unlike "the last village" treatment they had to endure under other governments, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday the development of the Northeast is getting top priority, "be it in tourism or trade, telecom or textiles, drone technology or Krishi Udan".

The Prime Minister, who inaugurated the Donyi Polo airport near Itanagar and dedicated the 600 MW Kameng hydro-electric power plant to the nation, said, "Connectivity and energy infrastructure will bring a new dawn of development for the Northeast region."

He said the inauguration of the airport - he had laid the foundation stone in February 2019 - was a "befitting reply" and a "slap on the face" of political commentators who had called it an "election gimmick" then. They should stop seeing



PM Modi with Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and Arunachal CM Pema Khandu in Arunachal Pradesh. PTI

everything through the prism of politics, he said.

He said he works hard for the development of the country. "I am starting the day from the state of the rising sun and I will end the day where the sun sets in India, in Daman, and in between, I will be in Kashi," he said.

Modi said the Northeast states faced indifference and neglect under the tenure of several governments. He said the first significant attention to the N-E came during the rule of the Vajpayee government which had first formed the Ministry of Development of Northeastern

Region (DoNER) as a separate ministry to take care of developmental activities in the region.

The momentum for developing the N-E, he said, was lost later but it picked up again in 2014 after his government took charge.

"Our government worked by considering the villages in the border areas as the first village of the country. This has resulted in making the development of the Northeast a priority for the government, be it tourism, trade, telecom or textiles, Northeast gets top priority," he said and added that N-E development gets priority across sectors.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a roadshow at Vapi in Gujarat's Valsad on Saturday. ANI

## PM to first first-time voters: Be part of shaping Gujarat's destiny

KAMAAL SAIYED  
VALSAD, NOVEMBER 19

Appealing to the first-time voters to vote and become a participant in the "shaping of the destiny of Gujarat", Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said that it is the people who are fighting in the Assembly elections and not the BJP.

Addressing the Vijay Sankalp Jan Sammelan at Jujuwada village in Valsad, Modi said, "This election, neither is the BJP fighting, nor the BJP candidate, nor chief minister Bhupendra Patel nor is Narendra Modi. This election, Gujarat's people are fighting,

Gujarat's youth have taken the responsibility for this election."

Asking the crowd to switch on the flashlights on their mobile phones, Modi claimed that it was his government's achievement that the cost of mobile data today was Rs 10 per GB compared to Rs 300 per GB when the Congress was in power in Delhi.

"This illumination is that of Bharat's progress, its capability. If anywhere in the world this mobile data is cheapest, then it is in India... All of you who are using mobile phones if it were the

earlier government, your bill would have been Rs 4,000-5,000. Today because of the Modi government's policy that for Rs 250-300 your phones are lighting

up," the Prime Minister added.

Modi, who came from the Union Territory of Daman through a road show close to the venue in Valsad, said that all surveys had already predicted a thumping victory for the BJP.

"People ask me, 'why are you working so hard? why are you running around?'. All surveys say BJP is getting a shining victory. But it is my duty as a citizen of this country that I go to the people and give them an account of my works and seek blessings," he said.

Indirectly attacking the AAP, Modi said, "Be alert. A gang has become active in Gujarat who wants to defame the state and spread falsehood. Tell them not to use such language in Gujarat. There is no place for such a gang in the state."

## In Varanasi, PM push for preserving Tamil legacy

LALMANI VERMA  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 19

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday called for "re-mov-ing linguistic differences" and protect as well as enrich the heritage of Tamil. Modi was speaking after inaugurating 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' - a month-long programme being organised in his Lok Sabha constituency, Varanasi.

He said that India has the "oldest language of the world" - Tamil, and that language was still popular and alive. The Prime Minister said that a country with a rich heritage should be proud of its legacy. "People across the world are surprised when they come to know that the oldest language is in India. But we lag behind in honouring it fully," the PM said.

"It is the responsibility of 130 crore countrymen to preserve the legacy of Tamil and enrich it. If we forget Tamil, that will cause loss to the nation and it will cause great harm to it also if we will keep Tamil confined in restrictions... we have to remember

that we remove linguistic differences (bhasha bhed) and establish an emotional unity," PM said.

The 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' is being organised to celebrate, reaffirm and rediscover the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi (Varanasi). During the inaugural programme, the PM also released a book, 'Tirukkural', along with its translation into 13 languages.

In his address, the PM also spoke about the importance of sangamams in the country, be it the confluence of rivers, ideology, science or knowledge, and said that every confluence of culture and traditions is celebrated and revered in India. He remarked that in reality, it is a celebration of India's might and characteristics, thus making Kashi-Tamil Sangam unique.

Elaborating on the connection between Kashi and Tamil Nadu, the PM said that on one hand, Kashi is the cultural capital of India whereas Tamil Nadu and Tamil culture is the centre of India's antiquity and pride. He said Kashi and TN are "timeless centres of our culture and civilisation."

## JAMAL KHASHOGGI KILLING

# Modi in examples cited by US for immunity to MbS

Day after ruling by Biden administration

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

A DAY after the Joe Biden administration declared that the high office held by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman should shield him from lawsuits in the killing of a journalist, the US State Department has cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi as one of the examples for being given similar kind of protection from prosecution in the US.

When asked about giving immunity to the Saudi Crown Prince over the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, US State Department principal deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel said in a briefing on Friday, "This is not the first time that the United States has done this. It is a long-standing and consistent line of effort. It has been applied to a number of heads of state previously."

He said: "Some examples: President [Jean-Bertrand] Aristide in Haiti in 1993, President [Robert] Mugabe in Zimbabwe in 2001, Prime



The Saudi crown prince was made PM in September. File

Minister [Narendra] Modi in India in 2014, and President [Joseph] Kabila in the DRC in 2018. This is a consistent practice that we have afforded to heads of state, heads of government, and foreign ministers."

The Special Investigation Team gave a clean chit to Modi, the then Gujarat chief minister, and others over allegations of conspiracy in the 2002 riots.

In June this year, the Supreme Court rejected an appeal against his exoneration in one of the cases linked to the killings.

The US had placed a visa ban on Modi in 2005 since the riots took place under his watch. It was removed after Modi became the PM in 2014.



## Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

3<sup>rd</sup> call for applications under

# Fund of Funds - AcE

for Biotechnology Innovations



### Who can apply?

**SEBI registered category I and II Alternative Investment Funds :**

- Keen to invest in Healthcare, Life Sciences, Pharma, Biopharma, Med-tech, Diagnostics, Industrial-Biotech, Agri-tech, Bio- IT/Services and allied areas
- Support Startups and SMEs

See guidelines at <https://www.birac.nic.in>

**So far, INR 733 Cr investment done in 65 Biotech Startups, SMEs by 10 AcE daughter funds**

**Submit before 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 by 5.00 PM**

**Email for submission/ queries:**  
[user-27@birac.nic.in](mailto:user-27@birac.nic.in) & [sped.birac@gov.in](mailto:sped.birac@gov.in)

**GOVT. OF BIHAR**  
**BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD**  
I.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.

**UNDER GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (UGMAC)-2022** for MBBS / BDS / B.V.Sc. & A.H. in Govt. Medical / Dental / Bihar Veterinary Colleges and Private Medical / Dental Colleges of Bihar

Adv. No.- BCECEB(UGMAC)-2022/07 Dated 19.11.2022

**आवश्यक सूचना**

विज्ञापन संख्या-BCECEB(UGMAC)-2022/05 दिनांक 17.11.2022 के क्रम में UGMAC-2022 से सम्बन्धित सभी अभ्यर्थियों / संस्थाओं / सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि UGMAC-2022 के आधार पर 2nd round seat allotment हेतु choice filling की तिथि दिनांक 14.11.2022 से 16.11.2022 तक निर्धारित था। परन्तु कतिपय अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा प्रायः सूचना अनुसार उल्टे प्रथम चक्र की काउन्सिलिंग में कोई सीट आवंटित नहीं हुआ और उन्होंने अपना पूर्व के भरे हुए choice retain रह जायेंगे, सोचकर दुबारा द्वितीय चक्र की काउन्सिलिंग हेतु choice नहीं भरा। परन्तु ऐसे अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा भरे गये प्रथम चक्र का choice null & void हो गया। ऐसे अभ्यर्थियों को ध्यान में रखकर छात्रहित में choice filling एक दिन के लिए अर्थात् दिनांक 21.11.2022 को 11.59 बजे रात्रि तक Open किया जाता है।

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् choice filling एवं 2nd round seat allotment से सम्बन्धित कार्यक्रम निम्नवत् पुनर्निर्धारित किया जाता है::

क्र.	कार्यक्रम	पूर्व निर्धारित तिथि	पुनर्निर्धारित तिथि
i.	Special choice filling period for seat allotment (2nd round)	-----	21.11.2022
ii.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round provisional seat allotment order publication	24.11.2022	25.11.2022
iii.	Downloading of allotment order (2 <sup>nd</sup> round)	24.11.2022 to 28.11.2022	25.11.2022 to 29.11.2022
iv.	Document verification/Admission (2 <sup>nd</sup> round)	25.11.2022 to 28.11.2022	26.11.2022 to 29.11.2022

2. Choice filling से सम्बन्धित विवरणी एवं प्रक्रिया विज्ञापन संख्या-BCECEB(UGMAC)-2022/04 दिनांक 23.10.2022 को पर्वद के website पर उपलब्ध है, से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

**परीक्षा नियंत्रक**



Ministry of External Affairs  
in collaboration with Seher presents



# ASEAN-India MUSIC FESTIVAL 2022

18th - 20th November 2022  
PURANA QILA, NEW DELHI  
6:00 PM ONWARDS  
FREE ENTRY



Day 1 (18th November)  
Tri Minh's Quartet - Vietnam  
Instamuzika - Malaysia  
RizekSuffor - Cambodia  
Empty Waller - Brunei Darussalam  
Papon Live - India

Day 2 (19th November)  
Lao Traditional Music Troupe - Lao PDR  
Makaohang - Thailand  
Faridkot ft. Amar Jalai - India  
Linying - Singapore  
Jonita Gandhi Live - India

Day 3 (20th November)  
Bayang Barrios at Ang Naliyagan - Philippines  
Riau Rhythm - Indonesia  
Raghav Meattle - India  
MRTV Modern Music band - Myanmar  
Sukhbir - India

Enquiries  
011-61628600  
admin@seher.in



## Ambedkar, Gadkari among new-era icons, says Maharashtra Governor





# EXPRESS NETWORK

## Citing threat from militants, police in Valley search houses of 7 journalists

**EXPRESSNEWSSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 19

JAMMU AND Kashmir Police on Saturday conducted search operations at houses of seven journalists in different parts of the Valley in the “wake of the recent threat issued to journalists” by a militant outfit. A few journalists have been detained for questioning, police said.

Searches were also conducted at houses of a lawyer, two active militant commanders and two alleged militants, who are based in Pakistan and Turkey, police said.

“In the wake of recent threat issued to journalists by a proscribed terror outfit, Srinagar Police conducted simultaneous searches at various locations across Kashmir,” police said in a release. Stating that SP, South City, Srinagar, Lakshya Sharma supervised the operation, police said searches were con-



One of the places searched by police on Saturday. *Express*

ducted at “12 locations across the Valley, including houses of fugitives like Sajjad Gul, Mukhtar Baba, active terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF), and other suspects in Srinagar, Anantnag and Kulgam districts”.

On November 13, a group of journalists from the Valley’s two prominent local English newspapers received threat from the mil-

itant outfit The Resistance Front (TRF), which police say is a shadow group of Lashkar-e-Taiba.

The threat had triggered a series of resignations from local journalists working for a local English daily — at least six journalists announced their resignation on social media.

On Saturday, police conducted search operations at the

houses of seven journalists. Police identified them as freelance journalist and author Gowhar Geelani; Dr Raashid Maqbool of *Rising Kashmir*; former *Greater Kashmir* correspondent Khalid Gul; Qazi Shibli, who runs the portal *Kashmiriyat*; Sajad Kralyari, who runs the magazine *Discover Kashmir*; and freelance journalists Wasim Khalid and Mohammad Raafi.

The name of one of these journalists figured in the militant threat list, which was removed in a subsequent threat letter issued by the militants.

“During searches, all legal formalities were followed and consequent to the searches some suspects have been brought for examination and questioning,” police stated. “The seized materials include mobiles, laptops, memory cards, pen-drives & other digital devices, documents, bank papers, rubber stamps,

passports, other suspect papers, cash, Saudi currency etc.”

Houses of Sajad Gul and Mukhtar Baba were also searched. Police said Baba, who ran a public relations firm in Srinagar and moved to Turkey some years ago, is behind the threat to journalists. Gul, who police say runs a website that issued threats to journalists in the past, is based in Pakistan.

Police also conducted search operations at the house of Lashkar commander Basit Dar at Kulgam and the Srinagar residence of a militant, Moomin Gulzar. The Srinagar house of a lawyer named Adil Pandit was also searched.

Police had searched the houses of four journalists in the Valley in the past. Then Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar had said that the role of these journalists had been found in the threats and that they were to be arrested after collecting evidence. Police dropped the case later.



Gautam Navlakha enters the community hall in Navi Mumbai where he will remain under house arrest for the next month. *Narendra Vaskar*

## Released from jail, Navlakha reaches Navi Mumbai ‘home’

**SADAF MODAK**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 19

ACTIVIST GAUTAM Navlakha, an accused in the Elgaar Parishad case, was released from Taloja Central Jail on Saturday evening and placed under “house arrest” following the Supreme Court’s order on November 10.

Navlakha, who was arrested after he surrendered on April 14, 2020, had been behind bars since. He has been shifted to a community hall space in a building in Navi Mumbai, which will be “home” for the next month for him and his partner, Sahba Husain. The Supreme Court had directed that he be placed under house arrest for an interim period that will be reviewed and a decision on whether to continue it will be taken after a month.

On Friday, the apex court had dismissed the National Investigation Agency (NIA)’s plea to vacate the November 10 order and directed the agency to comply within 24 hours, paving way for Navlakha’s release. Following this, the NIA submitted a com-

pliance report on Saturday before the special court in Mumbai through special public prosecutor Shrikant Sonkawade. The report stated that an open grill on the premises where Navlakha is staying will be locked and a second exit from the kitchen to the ground floor will be permanently locked during his stay. As per orders of the SC, CCTV cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the premises. After the compliance report was taken on record by the Mumbai court, a release order was issued.

“Accused number 11 Gautam Navlakha shall be sent under house arrest at the address mentioned... The commissioner of police, Navi Mumbai, shall provide the necessary escort for shifting of the accused and house arrest purpose for the safety and security of the accused,” special judge Rajesh Katariya said in his order on Saturday.

The court directed the Taloja jail superintendent to hand over Navlakha’s custody to the police escorts provided by the Navi

Mumbai police to take him to the premises. A copy of the release order issued by the court was emailed to the Navi Mumbai police and the jail.

Last week, after the SC order, the NIA had taken ‘serious objections’ to the proposed premises where Navlakha had said he would shift for the house arrest, the first floor space in a building named after Communist Party leader and trade unionist B T Ranadive. Based on this, the special court had said that it would not be proper to shift Navlakha. On Friday, the SC rejected the objections and directed his transfer within 24 hours.

Among the conditions set for Navlakha’s house arrest are that he will pay for the police escorts guarding the premises. He has also been directed to install CCTV cameras. While his partner can use a basic mobile phone with calling and SMS facility, it cannot have any Internet facility. Navlakha has only been permitted use of a phone provided to him by the police personnel for 10 minutes in a day in their presence.

## ‘Where will this lead to’: Rijju on lawyers’ protest over transfer of judges

**APURVA VISHWANATH**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

AMID PROTESTS in Gujarat, Telangana and Tamil Nadu against the proposed transfer of High Court judges, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju Saturday criticised lawyers for questioning the decisions of the Collegium.

“I heard some lawyers are meeting the CJI for a transfer... but if this becomes a recurring instance, for every decision of the Collegium which is being supported by the government, then where will it lead to?” Rijju said an event organised by the Bar Council of India to felicitate Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud.

“When I saw lawyers going for the protest... I heard some information that some lawyers are going for some strike on some issues. And in the days to come,

these are some of the things which we may see more frequently. We have to think and we have to decide whether this will be good for the institution,” the minister added.

On Monday, representatives of the Gujarat Bar are expected to meet CJI Chandrachud over the proposed transfer of Gujarat High Court judge Nikhil Kariel.

Although the Collegium is yet to finalise the transfers, it is learnt that apart from Justice Kariel, two judges of the Telangana High Court — Justices Abhishek Reddy and Lalitha Kanneganti — and Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Justice T Raja, are slated to be transferred.

Speaking on behalf of the Gujarat Bar on Thursday, senior advocates Mihir Thakore and Asim Pandya said: “We are here to oppose the death knell, death to the independence of judiciary because of the transfer of Justice Kariel.”

## Police probe auto explosion in Mangaluru, call for calm

*Mangaluru:* A moving autorickshaw exploded in Mangaluru Saturday, causing fire and heavy smoke, and the driver and a passenger were among those who sustained burn injuries.

While CCTV visuals, shared by police, showed the auto catching fire following what appeared to be a minor explosion, a police official, however, did not confirm if it was a “blast”.

City police commissioner N Shashi Kumar rushed to the spot and told reporters that there was “a fire” in the auto and that there is no need for panic. He appealed against spreading rumours.

Kumar said the passenger and driver were among those who sustained injuries and they were rushed to a hospital. When asked whether it was a blast, he said: “We don’t know anything prima facie.”

“We have called the Special team and the Forensic Science Lab team to verify the reasons behind the incident. Some people are being treated for burns,” he said. **PTI**

## France reaffirms support to India for permanent UNSC seat

*United Nations:* France has reaffirmed its support for India, Germany, Brazil and Japan as permanent members in an expanded UN Security Council, underlining the need to take into account the emergence of new powers willing and able to assume the responsibility of a permanent presence in the powerful world body.

“France’s position is constant and well known. We want the Council to be more representative of today’s world, in a way that further strengthens its authority and effectiveness,” Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the UN Nathalie Broadhurst said on Friday.

She was addressing a UN General Assembly plenary meeting. “We must indeed take into account the emergence of new powers that are willing and able to assume the responsibility of a permanent presence in the Security Council,” Broadhurst said. **PTI**

## ‘If we bring down India’s emissions, then that will be good for us globally’

ARRIVING IN New Delhi from COP27, at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, **RACHEL KYTE**, Dean, The Fletcher School Tufts University, member of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Action and adviser to the UK government for UN climate negotiations, talks to **ESHA ROY** about advances made at COP27 and India’s G20 presidency. Excerpts:

### How has climate changed the international political landscape?

This world is changing very quickly... The last 100 years were based on the industrial revolution and then modern development of the 20th century was fuelled by oil... the next 100 years will be fuelled by renewable energy. Anybody who has large amounts of renewable energy as a resource makes them now an energy superpower, which will be different, and that changes the map. We are not in that world yet but we are moving into that world. We need to cooperate more... need to cooperate more on health.

**At COP26 in Glasgow, India and China were blamed for pushing “phase down” instead of “phase out” of coal. India has maintained that it is the West’s hypocrisy that brings focus on just coal, and not all fossil fuels.**

In COP27, India has been pushing very hard for language that calls for “phase down” of all fossil fuels. There was a big push before COP26 to “phase out” coal, and “phase down” other fossil fuels. What you see this year is a slight nuance in that the agreement needs to say phase down of all fossil fuels. Because of the changed situation this year, people are air-brushing the difference between coal, gas, etc.

The big issue is, who is going to finance and help countries build up the renewable energies that they need to make their transitions and break down their dependency on fossil fuels.

The West now has their own recessions and their own energy



crisis, trying to ensure that people on low income have access to energy and the war in Ukraine and then its reconstruction... This of course is not to excuse the West. Even when all these issues have not been there, the West has not come forth with the money. It is therefore not just about the \$100 billion promised and not delivered, but how do you get the international financial system to allow countries to access the finance that they need — public or private.

### What progress do you see being made in COP27?

What’s different this year from Glasgow is the conversation around institutional reform at the IMF and in multilateral development banks, so that more investment flows more aggressively, on better terms to countries — that agenda is moving along now. And that was also echoed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bali when he said international institutions have to change. The G20 leadership of India becomes profoundly important.

The real question is how do we get massive amounts of investments into RE in countries like India, and in this decade, and not in 20 or 30 years’ time. Otherwise, who can blame

countries for getting its hands on whatever resources they can.

### Do you agree with the language of phasing down instead of phasing out?

I think we should be out of coal. In countries like India, there is a social dimension to phasing out of coal, that goes well beyond just emissions. I understand the resistance to that simple statement. But by the time you get to the middle of the century, we’ll effectively be out of coal, because no one will invest in it. If you invest in coal, it won’t be good for the Indian public financially, as these will be stranded assets within the next decade.

Of course, in India this involves a huge social dimension because of the number of people working in coal mines, thermal power plants and the railways. So the issue is having a pathway forward. For that the international community must help.

What should not happen is a new wave of investment in coal infrastructure. It will be poor people in poor countries who will suffer the most, because they are most vulnerable to the impact of emissions. The international community must understand that if we bring down India’s emissions then that will be good for us globally. We have a duty of care, we caused the problem, we need to help fix it.

### How much impact are we seeing of the Ukraine war on climate?

The European decision to get off Russian hydrocarbons has had an immediate impact on Europe’s energy profile. Europe will burn gas that it will source from elsewhere. We have seen Europe enter the gas markets to secure that — Europe now has a very healthy gas reserve. The EU will burn more coal this winter, and probably next year. It has entered global coal markets and pushed up prices. Over the medium to long term, this has sped up Europe’s transition to renewable energy.

**FULL INTERVIEW ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

## 2013 UP riots case: HC suspends sentence of disqualified BJP MLA

**ASAD REHMAN**  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 19

THE ALLAHABAD High Court has suspended the sentence handed out to disqualified BJP MLA Vikram Saini in a 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots case and has listed the hearing for the suspension of his conviction for Monday.

“The prayer for bail/suspension of sentence is allowed,” said Justice Samit Gopal of the Allahabad Bench on Friday.

On October 11, a court in Muzaffarnagar had sentenced Saini, an MLA from Khatauli in Muzaffarnagar, and 10 others to two years imprisonment in a case related to the 2013 riots. The court had acquitted all accused from the charge of attempt to murder.

The Muzaffarnagar riots that spread to neighbouring districts left 62 people dead and displaced an estimated population of over 60,000.

Nearly a month after a court in Muzaffarnagar sentenced BJP

MLA Vikram Saini, the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Monday declared his constituency, Khatauli, vacant. A bypoll is scheduled for the seat on December 5. For the bypoll, the BJP has fielded Saini’s wife Rajkumar Saini against RLD’s Madan Bhaiya.

The High Court was hearing an appeal against the Additional District and Sessions Judge/Special Judge MP/MLA Court order which convicted Saini.

Government Advocate Ankit Srivastava, who appeared on behalf of the state, opposed the prayer for suspension of sentence/bail.

On the High Court order, Government Advocate Srivastava said only Saini’s sentence has been suspended, and not his conviction in the court’s order on Friday.

“There are two things — suspension of sentence and suspension of conviction. The suspension of sentence has been allowed, while his application for suspension of conviction will be heard on Monday,” he said.

## Top RIL executive succeeds Amit Shah as Gujarat cricket body chief

**EXPRESSNEWSERVICE**  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 19

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES Ltd group president Dhanraj Nathwani has been elected as the president of the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) Saturday. Nathwani, who was the vice-president, will take over the position left vacant by Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah after he resigned in 2019.

Shah had succeeded Narendra Modi as the GCA president. The state cricket body also announced the appointment of Hemantbhai Contractor as the vice-president, Anilbhai Patel as secretary, Mayurbhai Patel the joint-secretary and Bharat Zaveria as treasurer with immediate effect.

Nathwani played a key role in the development of the Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium, Ahmedabad—the largest cricket stadium in the world.

Nathwani said: “I am determined to accelerate their (former presidents’) vision and that of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, of spreading the sport into the remote areas.”

## Tabassum, India’s original celebrity talk show host, passes away at 78

**ALAKA SAHANI**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 19

MUCH BEFORE actor Simi Garewal and filmmaker Karan Johar brought celebrities and a slice of their lives into our living rooms, there was Tabassum Govil, widely and fondly known by her first name.

Draped in a sari with a flower tucked in her hair, the ever-smiling actor presented her lively and endearing interactions with film personalities on Phool Khile Hain Gulshan Gulshan programme on Doordarshan from 1972 to 1993. Apart from spread-

ing much joy among viewers craving celebrity chats and trivia, this show was the inspiration behind Johar’s famous chat show ‘Koffee With Karan’, something the filmmaker always acknowledged.

Tabassum died at a hospital on Friday evening. She was 78.

On Saturday, her son Hoshang Govil told *The Sunday Express*, “She passed away last night, around 8.40 pm, of cardiac arrest. She was absolutely healthy. We shot for our show 10 days ago, and we are about to shoot again next week. It happened all of a sudden.”

As news of her demise

spread on Saturday, there were nostalgia-filled posts shared online by many who have followed Tabassum over the decades and been a fan of her warm persona, gentle humour, and non-gossipy interactions.

Although known as a show host, Tabassum, born as Kiran Bala Sachdev in 1944, was a popular child actor of the 1950s. As a child artiste, she acted in movies such as Jogan (1950), Deedar (1951) and Baiju Bawra (1952). Later on, she featured in films such as Talash (1969), Heer Raanjha (1970), Johnny Mera Naam (1970), and Tere Mere Sapne (1971).



TABASSUM GOVIL  
1944-2022

In 1985, she directed and wrote a movie titled Tum Par Hum Qurban. She shared a warm and friendly rapport with many of her co-stars and people from the industry. They often appeared on her show as guests.

In a recent conversation with Twinkle Khanna on Tweak India, Johar had said that he had always harboured the desire to be like Tabassum when he grew up. He said: “We were once at Dilip-saab’s [Dilip Kumar] house and Tabassum was there and... I wanted to meet her. So, once my father [asked], ‘What do you want to

become?’ I said I wanted to become Tabassum — and I have become Tabassum now — because I wanted to do a chat show. She is truly iconic.”

In recent years, the actor-turned-chat show host had been running a YouTube channel, ‘Tabassum Talks’.

Calling her a “legend”, Khanna wrote on social media: “As a child, I used to watch Phool Khile Hain Gulshan Gulshan with Tabassum-ji as its spectacular host. I don’t remember her guests. Just her... all these blurry recollections wrapped around me like cashmere layers on a winter morning.”

Unlike Johar’s conversations, Tabassum’s shows rarely indulged in making conjectures or talking about the private life of the celebrities. She nudged Jeevan to talk about his mannerisms that contributed to his popularity and Tanuja to open up about playing mother to Jeetendra in Jeene Ki Raah (1969).

She, at times, deviated from bubbly chats to talk about the fickle nature of fame in the industry, or the tragedies suffered by celebrities. For instance, she once talked about Bharat Bhushan losing his assets and bank balance. What hurt the Baiju Bawra

protagonist the most was the fact that he had to sell his precious book collection at a throw-away price. Talking about how death can creep up suddenly, she mentioned actor Divya Bharti’s passing away and how it’s shrouded in mystery.

Tabassum was married to Vijay Govil, brother of actor Arun Govil. A prayer meeting will be held at 5.30 pm Monday at Arya Samaj, Santacruz West, to celebrate her life and legacy.

Tabassum embodied grace, empathy and genuine admiration for her guests. They don’t make chat show hosts like her anymore.



New Delhi





BRIEFLY

KARNATAKA  
3 students raise  
pro-Pakistan  
slogans, booked

**Bengaluru:** Three engineering students of a private college have been booked for allegedly shouting “Pakistan Zindabad” slogans during a cultural festival held on the college campus in Marathahalli in Bengaluru on Thursday. The incident came to light when the video of these students shouting pro-Pakistan slogans went viral. Some of the other students caught the accused, thrashed them, and even made them say “Jai Hind” and “Jai Karnataka Mathe” before they were taken into off. Police took suo motu cognisance and booked the accused under sections 153 (provocating to cause rioting) and 505 (public mischief) and have let them out on station bail. A police officer said the students did it for fun. **ENS**

KERALA  
Four arrested  
for model's  
gangrape

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Kochi city police on Saturday arrested three Kerala youths and a woman from Rajasthan in connection with the gang rape of a 19-year-old model in a moving SUV in Kochi on Thursday. Police had nabbed the accused on Friday after the woman filed a complaint. The accused — Nithin, Sudhi, Vivek and Dimple Lamba — were booked for rape, abduction and conspiracy. Kochi city police commissioner C H Nagaraju said they were probing if the woman's drink at a party she attended was spiked. **ENS**

PUNJAB  
Mann to people:  
Write signboards  
in Punjabi

**Amritsar:** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday exhorted people to start a mass movement to use “Punjabi language” in signboards on private and public buildings across the state. Addressing a state-level event to mark Punjabi Language Month at Guru Nanak Dev University, the CM cited examples of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. People should ensure signboards in Punjabi are put up before International Mother Language Day on February 21, he said. **ENS**

PUNJAB  
Dera follower's  
murder: Cops  
arrest 2 persons

**Chandigarh:** Two people were arrested for allegedly providing logistics to the shooters involved in the murder of a Dera Sacha Sauda follower Punjab's Faridkot district, police said Saturday. In a joint operation, the Faridkot police and the counter intelligence wing arrested Vicky Chauhan and Sawarn. They provided shelter and weapons to the shooters and helped them to escape, police said. The duo took three of the shooters in a car and dropped them in Chandigarh. **ENS**

WEST BENGAL  
27-yr-old man  
found dead with  
bullet injuries

**Kolkata:** The body of a 27-year-old man with bullet injuries was found at his friend's house in Sonapur of South 24 Parganas district on Saturday, said police, adding that Laltu Hazra was shot twice from point-blank range. A friend of Hazra spotted his body and alerted police. A person has been detained in this connection. **ENS**

# Maharashtra: Wedding reception of interfaith couple called off as right-wing activists protest

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 19

WITHIN HOURS of an interfaith couple's wedding reception card going viral on Twitter on Friday, right wing activists searched for details of their marriage hall in Vasai (West) on the Internet and called its owner, asking him to cancel the event. The reception, organised for 100-odd family members and friends on Sunday, was called off by Friday evening. On Friday morning, Suresh Chavhanke, who runs Sudarshan News, got hold of the wedding reception invitation card and posted it on his Twitter handle — which has nearly 6 lakh followers — with hastags #LoveJihad, act of terrorism and #Shraddha.

Chavhanke linked the wedding of the interfaith couple in Vasai (West) to the gruesome murder of Shraddha Walkar, who was allegedly murdered and chopped into 35 pieces by her live-in partner Aaftab Poonawala in Delhi. Both Shraddha and Aaftab were residents of Vasai (West).

In the process, Chavhanke also spread wrong information that the interfaith couple was getting married, though the invitation card clearly mentioned it was a reception and not a wedding.

Over 12,000 people retweeted and liked Chavhanke's by Friday night. By Saturday evening, it trended further with 10,200 likes, 5,481 retweets and over 2,000 comments on the post.

The reception was to take place at Vishwakarma hall in Vasai (West) at 6.30 pm on Friday. But as Chavhanke's tweet became viral, right wing activists started calling up the hall owner from across the country. Finally, the reception was cancelled.

When *The Sunday Express* visited the Vishwakarma hall on Saturday, the owner refused to speak on the issue. “I am a small-time businessman. I do not want any trouble and just want to do my business. Several media channels came here but we did not speak to anyone. I have no complaints against anyone and I do not wish to approach the police,” he said.

An employee from the hall's management said, “We received over 25 calls from across India, in-

cluding a few from Uttar Pradesh. Even today, we have kept our phones on silent mode and received over 30 missed calls. We are losing business due to this.”

The employee said it at first, it was clarified to several callers that no wedding was taking place and it was instead a reception for which the hall had been booked two months ago, long before the news of Shraddha's murder broke. “We said that this couple had a court marriage a few days ago and kept a reception for their near and dear ones,” the employee added.

But the calls did not stop. The employee said the management then spoke to the inter-faith couple, “who too said that it's better to call it off.” “We returned their money and they said they will

host the reception somewhere else. We do not see the religion of couples before renting out halls. For us, all are clients. This hall was established in 1989 and till today, we had not faced such an issue. We heard they are big people (those opposing) and we do not want any issue. We are not interested in going to the police,” said a person from the management.

Despite repeated attempts, the bride did not respond to calls and messages.

When contacted, an officer from Manikpur police station, said, “We are aware of the post made by Chavhanke but we have neither received any complaint from the inter-faith couple nor from the hall management. Hence, we cannot initiate any action.”

## Punjab notifies old pension scheme, mum on implementation

KANCHAN VASDEV  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 19

THE PUNJAB government Saturday notified the old pension scheme only mentioning briefly that the employees covered under national pension scheme would be given benefits of the old scheme. This comes a day after the state Cabinet approved its implementation and nearly two months after Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced that Punjab would be reverting to the old pension scheme.

The notification issued by the finance department, however, did not shed light on when the government would stop taking contribution from the employees. The notification said that the detailed scheme and standard operating procedures (SOPs) would be notified later.

“In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution, and all other powers enabling him in this behalf, the Governor is pleased to notify that all government employees presently being covered under the Defined Contributory Pension Scheme also referred to as National Pension System (PS) will be given the benefits of Old Pension Scheme (OPS),” read the notification. It further said, “Detailed scheme and Standard Operating Procedures pursuant to this notification shall be notified in due course of time.”

The state is supposed to request the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority to refund Rs 16,746 crore, the corpus accumulated under the NPS. The Cabinet on Friday had given nod to notify the OPS, stating the move would benefit 1.75 lakh employees currently covered under NPS.

# Most-wanted terrorist dies of drug overdose in Pak: agencies

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 19

HARVINDER SINGH Sandhu alias Rinda, a most-wanted terrorist carrying a reward of Rs 10 lakh announced by the National Investigation Agency, is learnt to have died at a hospital in Pakistan's Lahore, multiple sources in state and central intelligence agencies said Saturday.

A senior Punjab Police official and one from a central agency told *The Sunday Express* that Rinda, who was under the protection of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) and had carried out several terrorist acts in India, was being treated for a kidney ailment probably triggered by drug overdose.

Rinda was named as the mastermind behind the RPG attack on Punjab Police's Intelligence headquarters at Mohali in May this year and the grenade attack at state police's Crime Investigating Agency (CIA) building in Nawanshahr last year in November. He was named in over two dozen criminal cases and apart from Punjab was wanted in Maharashtra, Chandigarh, Haryana and West Bengal. He carried a reward of Rs 10 lakh announced by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for any information about him. The Interpol had issued a Red notice against Rinda in June this year.

“We have learnt that Rinda died due to drug overdose,” a senior Punjab Police official said.

A senior central agency official, requesting not to be named, said that Rinda was “suffering from a kidney problem and was admitted to hospital.” The official added, “Information is also trickling in that Rinda died due to drug overdose, which is likely to have caused the kidney problem.”

Meanwhile, two government run hospitals in Lahore — Jinnah Hospital and Services Hospital — denied any such death in last two days. There were reports in a section of media that Rinda died at a military hospital in Lahore. When contacted, a Combined Military Hospital (CMC) official, requesting not to be named, told *The Sunday Express* that “a 33-year-old man named Mohammad Usmaan died of drug overdose.” The official said there was no person named Rinda who died in the hospital in past two days.

A senior Punjab Police Official, however, said that they were taking the latest “develop-



Harvinder Singh Sandhu, alias Rinda

ment with a pinch of salt”. “In the past, there were reports that Pakistan-based terrorist Harmeet Singh PhD had died. Six months later, we realized he was very much alive as we analyzed his activities and call details. He died sometime later,” the official said.

Rinda, a member of the banned Khalistani outfit Babbar Khalsa International, had been taking the help of local gangsters to carry out anti-national activities in India, especially Punjab. He was seen as the main link between gangsters and Pakistani-based terror groups.

As per the latest dossier maintained by Punjab Police, mentioning his involvement in RPG attack at Intelligence headquarters, Rinda is son of Charat Singh Sandhu, originally a resident of Nanded Sahib in Maharashtra where he had “migrated to from village Sarhali in Punjab's Tarn Taran many years ago”.

“He is most wanted A+ category gangster of Punjab. Besides this, he is also involved and wanted in many cases by police forces of Maharashtra, Chandigarh, Haryana and West Bengal,” read the dossier accessed by *The Sunday Express*.

The dossier cites information harvested from various channels and sources to cite his “direct links with Pakistan-based terrorist groups”, and his “involvement in large scale cross-border smuggling of drugs and weapons”.

“Rinda is a threat to national security” and is currently “suspected to be living in Pakistan”, it further read. A look out circular (LoC) was issued against Rinda on August 18, 2017 and a red corner notice request against him was sent to the Central Bureau of Investigation by Punjab Bureau of Investigation on May 5, this year, four days before the RPG attack took place at Punjab Police Intelligence headquarters in Mohali. Another dossier accessed by *The Sunday Express* states that Rinda was associated with Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) international chief Wadhawa Singh Babbar, based in Pakistan, to carry out terror acts in Punjab.



The spot where a woman's body was found bundled in a red suitcase near the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, on Friday. Amit Mehra

someone from the area... and we villagers usually don't keep such suitcases,” said one.

Police at the station in Raya are inclined to agree. Gathered around a table on the chilly evening, they offered their opinions on the case. Said one personnel: “The body was not in a decomposed state. She must have been left there during the night.”

There are some clues as to what might have killed her, with police saying that she seemed to have a head injury, as well as what appeared to be a gunshot wound near her shoulder — but these will have to be confirmed by a doctor.

A day earlier, the area's circle officer, Mahavan Alok Singh, had said: “It seems that she was murdered somewhere and her body was left here. There is a suspected gunshot wound near her shoulder; we will find out through a post-mortem whether it is indeed a gunshot.”

None of the missing persons

complaints at the station match the profile of the dead woman. A dozen missing person notices with descriptions are pinned to a board here — some of them worn from time and exposure.

Getting useful CCTV footage will also be difficult, said investigators. While there are cameras on the expressway, they are some distance away. Police have also put out a call to the rest of Mathura's stations regarding the incident, and are hopeful that social media attention and press coverage will help with the identification.

The Raya station is small, catering to a village of about 20,000 and the surrounding area, but this has not stopped them from deploying teams to check for missing persons cases in Hathras, Bulandshahr, Noida, Aligarh, and Agra at the District Crime Record Bureaus.

On Saturday morning, despite attention around this case, the station was back to its regular routine, taking complaints from local residents. But the suit-

case in the evidence room and the body it held are never far from conversation.

The woman's body is currently resting in a freezer at the Mathura district mortuary, a nondescript building with a garden at its front.

According to Dr Mathuresh Bihari, who is currently posted at the mortuary, unidentified bodies are not an uncommon sight. “From October to November, about 30 of the bodies that have come to the mortuary were of unidentified persons. They died of various causes, such as accidents, or falling off trains... Out of the nine bodies that are in freezers here right now, five are unidentified. Once we receive the panchnama from the police after 72 hours pass, we conduct the post-mortem.”

Families of deceased individuals wait near the gate, occasionally conversing with arriving police personnel. But for now, there is no one waiting here for the unknown woman.

## HC dismisses Samata Party plea on symbol for Uddhav's Sena

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

DISMISSING AN appeal by Samata Party over its claim on the ‘flaming torch’ symbol allotted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to Uddhav Thackeray's party, the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), the Delhi High Court has held that the symbol had become free after de-recognition of Samata Party 18 years ago, and the poll panel was within its domain to allot it to another party.

A division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad issued the order while hearing an appeal moved by Samata Party against an order of the single judge of HC, which had upheld ECI's decision to award the symbol to Thackeray's party, formed after the original Shiv Sena's split.

In its order on November 3, the bench observed that Samata Party was de-recognised as a “state party” in 2004. The party had contended that since its candidates contested elections in 2014 under the symbol of ‘flaming torch’, the symbol cannot be allotted to any other party.

The HC referred to a 2008 judgment of the Supreme Court in Subramanian Swamy v ECI and reiterated that a symbol is not a tangible thing, nor does it generate any wealth.

“It is only the insignia which is

associated with the particular political party so as to help millions of illiterate voters to properly exercise their right to franchise in favour of the candidate of their choice belonging to a particular party,” the court ruled. “The parties concerned cannot consider the symbol as its exclusive property. The Election Symbols (Reservation And Allotment) Order, 1968, makes it very clear that the right to use the symbol can be lost with the dismal performance of the party.”

The division bench observed that even though members of Samata Party were permitted to use the ‘flaming torch’ symbol, due to de-recognition of the party in 2004, it had become a free symbol, and it was within the ECI's domain to allot the symbol to any other party.

Dismissing the appeal, the bench held, “No fault can be found with the communication-order dated 10th October, 2022 issued by the Election Commission of India allotting the symbol of ‘flaming torch’ to ‘Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray)’ and the Order dated 19.10.2022, passed by the learned Single Judge...”

The appeal states that the single judge dismissed the Samata Party's plea on the very first date of hearing and without issuing notice to the respondents: the ECI, the Shiv Sena through Uddhav Thackeray, and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

## Khalid Jawed's novel wins JCB Prize for Literature

UDBHAV SETH  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

‘THE PARADISE OF Food’ by Khalid Jawed, translated from Urdu by Baran Farooqi, won JCB Prize for Literature on Saturday. The book, originally published as ‘Nemat Khana’ in 2014, is the fourth translation to win the award and the first work in Urdu.

‘The Paradise of Food’ tells the story of a middle-class joint Muslim family over a span of fifty years where the narrator struggles to find a place for himself, at odds in his home and the world outside.

Jawed received the prize money of Rs 25 lakh along with a trophy. Farooqi received an additional Rs 10 lakh for the award.

Speaking after receiving the award at a function held in New Delhi, Jawed said, “I'm experiencing a real moment of joy to-



Khalid Jawed, along with Baran Farooqi, who translated his book, in New Delhi, Saturday. Express

day. I didn't expect this at all. I wrote this novel in 2014 in Urdu, and today its star has shone. Because of Farooqi, it has been transported into another language and world. Now it has received international recogni-

tion.”

Farooqi said, “Salman Rushdie used a Chahil quote in one of his own books translated by my father, Mehr Afshan Farooqi. It goes: ‘If there is a knower of tongues here, fetch

him/There's a stranger in the city/ and he has many things to say.’ Urdu is not spoken as much in our country today, and someone needed to speak for it.”

The jury consisted of journalist and editor AS Panneerselvam,

## 9-day international film festival kicks off in Goa today

DIVYAA  
PANAJI, NOVEMBER 19

ACTORS PANKAJ Tripathi, Suneil Shetty, Prabhu Deva, Manoj Bajpayee and Ajay Devgn will be felicitated with Special Honours at the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which kicks off in Goa on November 20.

The honours will be given at the inaugural ceremony on Sunday evening, which will be attended by Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag

Thakur, MoS I&B L Murugan, Goa Governor PS Sreedharan and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

There will be a special announcement for the Indian Personality of the Year award, which has been presented to actors Hema Malini, Amitabh Bachchan, Rajinikanth and lyricist Prasoon Joshi in the past.

Besides, short films on 75 years of the Independence will be released. An exhibition showcasing technology and various elements pertaining to cinema and aesthetics were also being



(Clockwise from top left) Pankaj Tripathi, Suneil Shetty, Manoj Bajpayee and Prabhu Deva will be felicitated

organised by Film and Television Institute of India this year. The exhibition highlights what's new in the arena of entertainment technology.

Austrian film, Alma and Oskar, directed by Dieter Berner, will open this year's edition, which has 280 films from 79 countries. The Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award is being given to Spanish film director Carlos Saura. Also part of the line-up is an eight-film retrospective dedicated to Saura.

France is the ‘Spotlight’

country this year, with eight of its films to be screened under the Country Focus package. Three films featuring Dadasaheb Phalke-awardee Asha Parekh — Teesri Manzil, Do Badan and Kati Patang — will be screened, while the festival closes with on November 28 with Krzysztof Zanussi's film Perfect Number.

To promote films from the North East, five feature and five non-feature films will mark the golden jubilee of Manipuri cinema.



## E-TENDER NOTICE

Please join us on   /NWRailways



on is as under:-

**Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641** **Mob. No.: 8750870833**  
**Fax No.: 011-24368639** **DP/2924/SD/2022**

**Stressed Asset Management Branch, Patna, Khajpura, Jagdeopath, Bailey Road, Patna-800014**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) Stressed Asset Management (SAM) Branch, Patna, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **08.12.2022**, for recovery of bank's dues from the following borrower and guarantors.

Detail of encumbrance, Outstanding Dues of Local Govt, Electricity, Property tax, Municipal Tax, etc. if any known to the Bank: Not Known

\*Applicable tax to be borne by the bidder.

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://libapi.in> and [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com).

Date : 16.11.2022	Authorised Officer
Place : Patna	Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

**Stressed Asset Management Branch, Patna, Khajpura, Jagdeopath, Bailey Road, Patna-800014**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) Stressed Asset Management (SAM) Branch, Patna, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **08.12.2022**, for recovery of bank's dues from the following borrower and guarantors.

Detail of encumbrance, Outstanding Dues of Local Govt, Electricity, Property tax, Municipal Tax, etc. if any known to the Bank: Not Known

\*Applicable tax to be borne by the bidder.  
Bidders are advised to visit the website ([www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)) of our e-auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online

In and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131'.  
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://ibapi.in>

Date : 16.11.2022		Authorised Officer
Place : Bikaner		Indian Bank (Esterhuysen) Allocated Bank

Place : Patna Indian Bank (erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

Place: Circle Office, Bengaluru  
Date: 07.10.2022

**Stressed Asset Management Branch, Patna, Khajpura, Jagdeopath, Bailey Road, Patna-800014**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) Stressed Asset Management (SAM) Branch, Patna, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **08.12.2022**, for recovery of bank's dues from the following borrower and guarantors.

Detail of encumbrance, Outstanding Dues of Local Govt, Electricity, Property tax, Municipal Tax, etc. if any known to the Bank: Not Known

\*Applicable tax to be borne by the bidder.

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://ibapi.in> and [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com).

Date : 16.11.2022	Authorised Officer
Place : Patna	Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

---

**Stressed Asset Management Branch, Patna, Khaipura, Jagdeopath, Bailey Road, Patna-800014**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) Stressed Asset Management (SAM) Branch, Patna, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **08.12.2022**, for recovery of bank's dues from the following borrower and guarantors.

Boring Road, Patna.	ii) All that piece and parcel of landed property having Khata no.212, Khesra No.1302, Touzi No.765, Thana
3. Shri Anvind Kumar	

No.342, Ward No.15 at Village-Mirzapur, Banduwaar, Pargana-Baliya Sub Registry and Dist-Begusarai, Area-02 Katha, Sale Deed No.6276 dt. 04.07.1997 in the name of Smt. Draupadi Devi (As per judgement dated 27.06.2015 passed by the District Subordinate Judge, Patna Bench-1, in the Title Suit No. 1 of 2015, 2d Dist. Jd. Patna Bench-1).

dated 27.06.2015 passed by the Ld. Subordinate Judge 1st, Begusarai, in the Title Suit No.2 of 2015 Sh Dilip Choudhary is the exclusive owner of the land), Bounded and buttet as under: North-Nij, South-Anamika Chaudhary, East-Anamika Chaudhary, West-Arvind Kumar Jha.

		Property ID: IDIB1868
Detail of encumbrance. Outstanding Dues of Local Govt. Electricity. Property tax. Municipal Tax. etc. if any known to the Bank; Not Known		

**Last Date & time for Registration and Submission of EMD amount: 06.12.2022 through <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi> Till 5.00 PM.**

**Date & Time of e-auction: 08.12.2022** from 11.00 AM to 3.00 PM at the platform of <http://www.mstcecommerce.com> with unlimited extension. Bid incremental amount is Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only).

For downloading further details and Terms & Conditions, Please Visit: (i) <https://www.msicecommerce.com> (ii) <https://www.ibani.in>

\*Applicable tax to be borne by the bidder.

For Technical Assistance please call MSTC HELPDESK No.033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd please contact [ibhanip@mstccommerce.com](mailto:ibhanip@mstccommerce.com) and for EMD status please contact [ibhanip@mstccommerce.com](mailto:ibhanip@mstccommerce.com)

For Registration status visit MFC Ltd, please contact [help@mtseccommerce.com](mailto:help@mtseccommerce.com) and for EMD status please contact [ibapin@mtseccommerce.com](mailto:ibapin@mtseccommerce.com). For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://ibapi.in> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131'.

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://ibapi.in> and [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com).

Date : 16.11.2022	Authorised Officer
Place : Patna	Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

Downloaded from <http://ajph.org/> on November 10, 2015





Aftab Poonawala after his arrest on November 14. PTI

**A** SPIDER-BITE piercing on the lip, short hair with side bangs, T-shirts with hoodies, and her “favourite” — the goofy, charming ‘Joey Tribbiani’ of the popular sitcom *Friends*, the best friend anyone could ask for. And dreams — lots of them — of setting off on long treks, finding love, moving abroad someday. That was Shraddha, the girl from Virar, a Mumbai suburb, trying to find her feet as the ground beneath her rocked unsteadily at the best of times. And then, one day, Shraddha stopped trying. Messages from her friends went unanswered.

Until, last week, six months since she went missing, the Delhi Police arrested her boyfriend, 28-year-old Aaftab Poonawala, who allegedly confessed to killing Shraddha at their rented flat in Delhi’s Chattarpur Pahadi area on May 18, chopping her body into several pieces and dumping them in an alleged attempt to erase all evidence.

A week into the investigation, save for Aaftab’s claims, police are yet to find any concrete evidence linking him to the murder, with questions swirling over some of macabre details that have emerged so far. Police have formed multiple teams to visit Gurgaon, Mumbai, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in connection with the investigation.

The “tomboy” who fell in love

“I was in Class 6 when I first met Shraddha. Both our families had moved into this building in Vasai around the same time and we soon became best friends. We were part of a small circle of friends but we had fun together. She was the tomboy of our group — always in T-shirts, hoodies and pants; never wore any make-up. She was the same all through her school and junior college days,” says a friend of Shraddha’s who kept in touch with her all along.

After school and junior college from New English School in Vasai, Shraddha pursued a Bachelor’s degree in Mass Media (BMM) from Viva college in Virar, over 15 km away.

Conversations that *The Sunday Express* had with Shraddha’s friends from school and college, all of whom spoke on strict condition of anonymity, paint the picture of a girl drawn to global culture and music, someone who followed the Billboard charts as keenly as she did a Lebanon radio station. She also loved watching reruns of the popular 90s’ sitcom, *Friends*, with Joey Tribbiani, played by Matt LeBlanc, her favourite character.

“She had a lot of expectations from life. She wanted to do a lot of things. She had plans to save money and settle down abroad with Aaftab. She told me she wants to be either in Canada or Dubai,” says one of Shraddha’s friends from junior college.

The friends say her dreams were possibly her way out of some of the unpleasantness at home. Growing up, Shraddha and her younger brother Jay were witness to frequent fights at home between their parents. Eventually, in 2016, her father, who had a sales job, started living separately with his mother in the same locality, while Shraddha and her brother stayed on with their mother.

The father and daughter drifted apart, with his few visits home taken up by discussions with her mother Suman over the ownership of the house.

It was around this time that she met Aaftab on dating app Bumble. He, incidentally, was from the same Vasai suburb as she was. He appeared, her friends said, to be the emotional anchor she needed — someone who liked cooking, photography, tattoos and was an animal lover. Most importantly for Shraddha, like her, Aaftab loved travelling and long treks, something that is said to have brought the two closer.

Aaftab, who did his schooling from St. Francis High School in Vasai and had enrolled for a Bachelor’s in Management Studies from a well-known college in Santacruz, however, dropped out, saying he wanted to get into “business”. A year later, he resumed studies

and completed his graduation.

His friends say that around this time, he developed a flair for cooking, having taken to watching food shows.

Unlike Shraddha, though, Poonawala was very expressive on social media, where he posted selfies and photographs with his mother, brother and friends. A Facebook post from 2017 has Aaftab endorsing a campaign to stop the cutting of trees in Aarey Colony, along with posts supporting the LGBT movement and an appeal to not burst crackers.

But the ones to have caught the attention of many now are, ironically, those on women’s empowerment — among others, a post from 2014 that says “women are not born with labels #StopDiscrimination”.

“Engaging, intelligent, and pleasant,” says Shraddha’s friend from junior college, talking about his first impression of Aaftab when Shraddha introduced him in 2019. “In that first meeting, I liked the guy so much. He seemed kind and composed. It never occurred to me that he could be dangerous,” says the friend.

As Shraddha and Aaftab began dating, they were to discover more things in common: both of them often spoke about “making it big” and living on their own terms, a way to escape the disconnect they felt with their families.

Shraddha’s childhood friend says that with Aaftab by her side, she was now no longer the “tomboy” that she was all through her school and college days. “She started wearing make-up, wore western clothes and was more aware of how she looked and what she wore. She also grew her hair. I once helped her with her make-up after she said she was considering that as a career option,” the friend said.

In 2019, Shraddha told her mother Suman that she wanted to leave home and live with Aaftab. In his complaint to the Mumbai Police, filed on October 6 this year, her father said, “My daughter told my wife in 2019 that she wants to be in a live-in relationship with Aaftab Poonawala... my wife and I told her not to, because I am Hindu and... that boy is Muslim.

We don’t do inter-religion/inter-caste marriage.”

But Shraddha had made up her mind. As matters heated up, Shraddha stormed out of her house, saying, “I am 25 years old now and I have every right to make my own decisions.”

Aaftab’s parents, too, tried to dissuade him from an inter-faith relationship, but he was adamant. In 2019, the couple moved into a flat in Kinni Complex in Naigaon East, and later moved to Regal Cooperative Housing Society in Vasai’s Evershine City, where they lived for 11 months from October 2020 to September 2021. It now emerges that they described themselves as a married couple while taking the Vasai house on rent.

A relationship sours

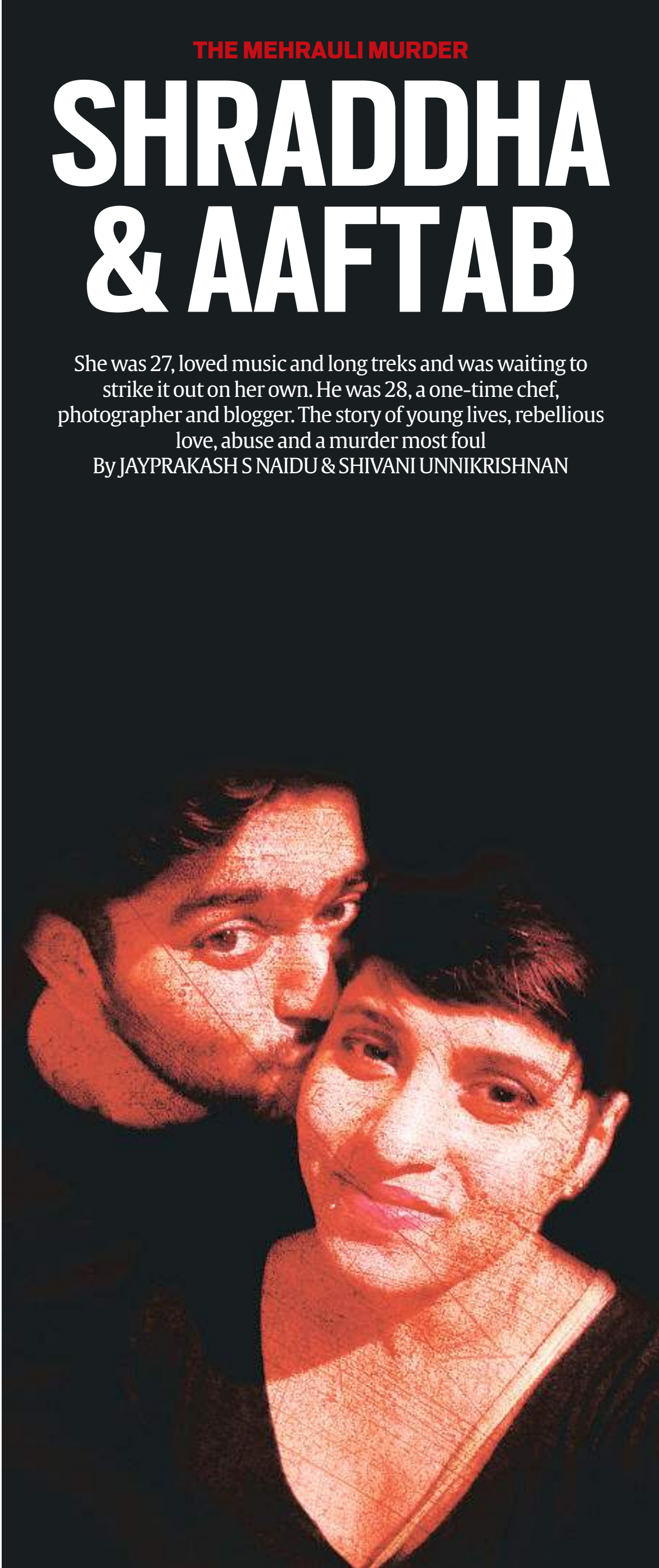
The fights began soon after, with verbal exchanges ending in physical assaults. Initially, it was all very confusing, says the friend from junior college.

“Shraddha used to tell me that Aaftab would cook for her, even feed her with his own hands. She also told me how the same man would thrash her brutally at other times,” he says.

Shraddha’s father says she informed her mother Suman of Aaftab’s violent ways, but insisted that she would give him another chance. In January 2020, Suman died of a heart ailment.

In Aaftab’s statement to the Mumbai Police — who called him twice for questioning following the complaint filed by Shraddha’s father — he said that it was after the death of her mother that Shraddha began fighting with him.

As the fights turned ugly, Shraddha moved between the flat she shared with Aaftab and her family’s flat in Vasai. Her younger brother had by then moved in with their father. The relationship between the



She was 27, loved music and long treks and was waiting to strike it out on her own. He was 28, a one-time chef, photographer and blogger. The story of young lives, rebellious love, abuse and a murder most foul

By JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU & SHIVANI UNNIKRISHNAN



Kinni Complex in Mumbai’s Naigaon East, where the couple first moved into. Jayprakash S Naidu

**It didn’t help their relationship that their finances were strained as both of them failed to keep their jobs, and neither of them had a family to fall back on. Shraddha quit as team leader of a BPO firm in September 2021 — after short stints at a sports store and a call centre — while Aftab never managed to hold down his job**

Shraddha called him later that year in 2020 and told him about Aaftab’s abusive behaviour. In June-July last year, she reached out to him again after being beaten up by Aaftab. “My friend and I went to their flat and confronted Aaftab and threatened to file a case against him. Shraddha stayed for two days at the house of a common friend, but then, she again went back to him. I do not know what influence he had on her but one thing was clear: she loved him and was emotionally dependent on him,” said the friend.

It didn’t help their relationship that their finances were strained as both of them failed to keep their jobs, and neither of them had a family to fall back on. Shraddha quit as team leader of a BPO firm in September 2021 — after short stints at a sports retail store and a call centre — while Aftab never held down his job. After dropping out of undergraduate programme in Management Studies from a well-known college in Santacruz, he had tried his hand at business, before working in a call centre and as a chef. By the time he met Shraddha, he had turned into a food vlogger and taken to posting pictures on his Instagram page.

On Instagram and other social media, on which he used the handle “HungryChokro Escapades”, Aaftab had introduced himself and his younger brother as “photographers and culinary professionals”.

In March this year, the couple decided to go on a trekking trip to Himachal Pradesh before eventually relocating to Delhi. This, their friends said, was an attempt to rekindle their relationship.

Her friend said Shraddha was banking on the small amount that she had saved up and hoped it would last them at least two months — “they were hoping they would come back from the trekking trip and look for jobs in Delhi. She had called me up in April to discuss job interviews”, said the friend.

While in Himachal Pradesh with Aaftab, Shraddha told at least two of her friends that Aaftab had not changed his ways and that they have almost broken up. She was killed on May 18 — two days after the anniversary of their relationship and three days after they moved into a rented flat in Delhi.

In September this year, alerted by one of her friends about his messages to Shraddha having gone unanswered, her father lodged a complaint at the Manikpur police station in Vasai.

Later that month, Aaftab was called in for questioning by the Mumbai Police. Incidentally, it’s around this time that he went home to Vasai and helped his parents move to a house in the Mira Road area of Mumbai.

A neighbour said, “Around 20 days before Aaftab’s name appeared in the case, the family shifted somewhere. His parents told us that their younger son had got a job in Mumbai and that they were moving out of the suburbs to some place near Mumbai.”

At the Vasai housing society, where the Poonawalas own a flat and where Aaftab grew up, residents expressed shock at the gruesome details that have been emerging of the murder.

Aaftab grew up here, the elder of the two children of the Poonawalas, who own a footwear business.

Building secretary Abdul Khan says Aaftab’s family mostly kept to themselves but visited the Jamatkhana, the community space. A volunteer at the Jamatkhana said that while Aaftab’s father visited often, he never saw Aaftab around.

CHALLENGES IN THE PROBE

1 RELIABILITY OF Aaftab’S STATEMENTS

In a status note on the murder case, the Delhi Police said “each uttering of the accused, Aaftab Poonawala, is being assessed upon the crucible of admissible evidentiary value”. Police also said it would be premature to provide any single theory which can stand the test of judicial scrutiny. A Delhi court has ordered a forensic lab in Delhi to conduct a narco-analysis test on Aaftab.

daughter and father strained further over the ownership of their house, the friend said. With no family to turn to, Aaftab was the only emotional anchor that Shraddha had.

“After her mother’s death, Aaftab was by her side. But they also fought — and then, he would beat her like an animal. Despite all

2 GETTING FORENSIC LINKS TO ESTABLISH MURDER

While police have inspected the crime scene in Delhi and seized bones and blood samples, which they believe could be of the victim, this can only be established after a forensic examination. Experts had told The Indian Express that the process of DNA sampling is challenging as the samples are old and the analysis would take at least two weeks.

that, Shraddha still wanted to marry him and start a family, but he kept putting it off,” said her friend from junior college.

He says the fights and bitterness soon took a toll on Shraddha. “Though she had confidence issues all along, they got worse. She would always be insecure and believe

3 TRACING THE JOURNEY OF THE RELATIONSHIP

While a number of the couple’s friends have deposed on their interactions with the couple, police are still joining the dots. Multiple teams have fanned out across Gurgaon, Mumbai, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in connection with the investigation. Officers said they would will look for evidence they haven’t been able to recover from Delhi.

that people were talking about her and passing judgments. Aaftab fuelled that sense of insecurity, telling her nobody cared for her — neither family, nor friends,” says the friend, adding that she eventually stopped messaging him.

This friend says he was “shocked” when



Across  
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in  
Twitter @Pchidambaram\_IN

Gujarat is a Model of how (not) to treat women, starting with the girl child. The sex ratio (female to male) is 919 as against the All India average of 943... The Gujarat Model does not burden youth with work. The unemployment rate among youth aged 20-24 years is 12.49 per cent... Gujarat is a Model of (not) caring for children, their nutrition and their health. Among children, 39 per cent are stunted and 39.7 per cent are underweight

inside  
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



STUDY IN CONTRAST

THE CONGRESS in Himachal Pradesh is disappointed with the Gandhi family for taking little interest in the recently concluded Assembly election. Both Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi did not visit the state and though Priyanka Vadra remained in Himachal throughout, her efforts were minimal. Since she made clear that she could not tour all the Assembly constituencies, the local leadership drew up a list of 42 swing seats in which a close contest was expected. Priyanka, however, agreed to hold rallies in only a dozen districts and finally even this programme was pared down to meetings in the four Lok Sabha constituencies. In contrast, the BJP left no stone unturned. Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally telephoned rebel candidates urging them to withdraw from the fray and he addressed several rallies. Amit Shah visited a large number of Assembly constituencies and BJP president JP Nadda, who is from Himachal, campaigned even at the village level. Congress persons grumble that what should have been a victory for the Congress has instead turned out to be a photo finish. An MLA complained that in the BJP, the leaders carry the party while in the Congress, it is the other way round – the party carries the leaders.

SECURING PRIVACY

There are some 40 Z-category protectees in the Home Ministry's security list which entitles them to round-the-clock surveillance by 55 personnel, including four to six commandos and guards drawn from central security services and the local police. In the case of the Z+ security category, the Yellow Book detail includes 150 security personnel. As long as the protectees lived in government accommodation, such elaborate protection measures could be easily enforced, but it is less feasible in private residences. With the government turfing out from their government bungalows those considered inimical to Prime Minister Modi, the neighbours of the protectees in private residential areas are feeling the pinch. For instance, Priyanka Vadra resides behind Sujjan Singh Park in Lutyens Delhi and the entrance to her lane has a barrier with security men hovering around, so many assume the road is closed. For BJP leader Subramaniam Swamy's protection in his East Nizamuddin residence in Delhi, a large sentry box has been erected on the pavement and the neighbours are taken aback by the presence of gun-toting

she  
SAID

DEEPIKA SINGH

deepika.singh  
@expressindia.com



AS THE world was grappling with the aftermath of 9/11, a bumbling, diffident, government worker in her late 20s came up with her own way of dealing with the madness around: Cooking every single dish out of the 500-plus recipes in Julia Child's iconic book – *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* – while documenting her journey in a blog. Her writings, as witty and funny as they were naked and messy, found a captive audience. A book deal followed and soon, the story made its way to the big screen as *Julie and Julia*, with Amy Adams playing the amateur cook and Meryl Streep her idol. Late

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi has visited Gujarat several times since October and he is expected to pay more visits in November before the state goes to elections on December 1 and 5. He has held programmes in practically every one of the 33 districts of Gujarat. As long as the Election Commission was indulgent, the PM was on an 'inaugural' spree. These were billed as 'official' events, but there was nothing 'official' about the contents of the PM's speeches. In all his speeches (in Gujarat, elsewhere in India and even abroad) there is one recurring theme: the history of modern, resurgent India began in 2014. By the same reasoning, the history of modern, resurgent Gujarat began in 2001. If there is something jarring in those statements (*Gujarat, even before India?*), I leave it to you to crack the puzzle.

According to the PM, Gujarat is the model for India. He is one step away from claiming that India is the model for the world. The people of Gujarat will vote on the PM's claim in early December. Unfortunately, the people of the world will not have an opportunity to vote on the other claim. I suppose it is their misfortune.

NOT TO BE ENVIED

Let's examine the Gujarat Model. I noticed some unique features:

■ The BJP government has been in power but, since 2016, there have been

three chief ministers. Among the three, the longest serving was Mr Vijay Rupani – from 2016 to 2021 – but he left such an indelible mark that he was unceremoniously removed from office along with his *entire Council of Ministers*. 'Revolving door chief ministers' is the preferred model for modern, resurgent Gujarat (precedents: Karnataka, Uttarakhand).

\* Another feature of the Gujarat model is the 'double engine' government. You may think the double engines are 'PM & CM'. You are wrong. The double engines are 'PM & HM'. Nothing moves in Gujarat unless the double engines are fired. When the rest of India follows the Gujarat model, we can get rid of state governments, and get rid of the states as well, and create 'One India, One Government'.

PRIDE IN DECLINE

■ A notable feature of the Gujarat model is declining growth rates, but ascending Gujarati pride. The state GDP's growth rates in four years have been the following:

2017-18: **10.7** per cent, 2018-19: **8.9**, 2019-20: **7.3** and 2020-21: **-1.9**. You may ask if the All India GDP's growth rates were on the decline since 2017-18. The answer is 'of course, yes'. It is because India emulated the Gujarat model. If post-pandemic, there was a bounce in Gujarat's GSDP of 2021-22, there was a bounce in the All India GDP too. What

Gujarat did yesterday, India will do tomorrow.

■ Another feature that India will adopt is the principle of 'No apology, no resignation'. The Morbi bridge's collapse killed 135 people including 53 children. The scale of the tragedy did not call for the PM to address the media and take questions. The High Court pointed out that there was a one and one-quarter page agreement; no Expression of Interest; no tender; no pre-qualifications; no competitive bids; no conditions; no fitness certificate after the bridge got a fresh coat of paint (so-called repair); and yet the bridge was opened to the public. As a principle, Gujarat believes in 'no apologies and no resignations'. In the future, India too will follow this principled principle of no accountability.

■ Like a pride of lions (preferably from the Gir forest), there is pride in numbers. The numbers enhance Gujarati *asmita* (pride). For example, look at this table of promised investment and actual investment in Gujarat:

Year	Promised Investment	Actual Investment (In Rs crore)
2003	66,068	30,746
2005	1,06,160	37,939
2007	4,65,309	1,07,897
2009	12,39,562	1,04,590
2011	20,83,047	29,813

India's *asmita* too will be enhanced as the gap widens between promise and reality.

# Gujarat: A model not to follow

## WOMEN, YOUTH AND CHILDREN

■ Gujarat is a Model of how (not) to treat women, starting with the girl child. The sex ratio (female to male) is **919** as against the All India average of **943**. While the Labour Participation Rate (LPF) is 41.0 per cent, the LPF for females is 23.4 per cent. Where are the missing girl children? And if they survive, 76 per cent do not work outside their homes.

■ The Gujarat Model does not burden youth with work. The unemployment rate among youth aged 20-24 years is 12.49 per cent. They are well-rested before the elections.

■ Gujarat is a Model of (not) caring for children, their nutrition and their health. Among children, 39 per cent are stunted and 39.7 per cent are underweight. Wasted children amount to 25.1 per cent. In these indicators, Gujarat ranks between 26 and 29 among the 30 states of India.

■ The Gujarat Model faithfully followed the RSS' dictum that 'all Indians living in this country are Hindus'. Consequently, Muslims constituting 9.67 per cent of the state's population are Hindus. Therefore, under the Gujarat Model, the BJP has not fielded a Muslim candidate (in 182 seats) in the quinquennial Assembly elections since 1995.

The Gujarat Model must be exported to other states and other countries as well. A vote for the Gujarat Model will ensure those goals are achieved. Amen.

Fifth  
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter @tavleen\_singh



# Two kinds of developed countries

"TELL ME", the Prime Minister asked in Bali last week, "what is the change you have noticed in India since 2014?" Modi, Modi, Modi came the response from the fawning group of non-resident Indians he was addressing. The Prime Minister smiled modestly before saying, "No. The change is not Modi. It is scale and speed. When we build a statue, we build the tallest in the world. When we build a cricket stadium, we build the biggest in the world. India no longer thinks small." His audience responded with raucous cheers and applause.

There is nothing the Prime Minister seems to love more than addressing NRIs in foreign lands. So, wherever he goes, his team scouts around for suitable, non-dissident, Indians before whom he can make a speech. As someone who was in that vast audience in Madison Square Garden in 2014 when he made his first speech as India's prime minister on foreign soil, I believe he likes NRIs better than resident Indians because they remain as devoted to him today as they were then. For them the Modi magic has not faded even if the promise of real 'parivartan' has not fully materialized.

It is true that highways are being built faster than before. True that more Indians have bank accounts. True that sanitation in rural India is hugely improved. True that we now have the tallest statue in the world and the largest cricket stadium and that it is named after Narendra Modi. A unique privilege for a living leader. But is India truly closer to becoming a developed country? Are most of India's people truly better off than they were in 2014? Sadly, as any resident Indian knows well, not that much has changed. And the fact that rich Indians continue to flee in droves to better countries speaks for itself. A global Wealth Migration Review report estimates that 23,000 Indian millionaires have fled since 2014. Over 8,000 dollar millionaires are likely to flee before this year ends. And poorer Indians pay small fortunes to human traffickers to desperately find a developed country in which to live.

In the summer of 2014, when Modi first became prime minister, he used to promise when he addressed NRI gatherings that he would build an India from which nobody needed to flee as an economic refugee. This promise remains unfulfilled, and one reason is that we have not seen enough 'scale and speed' when it comes to creating new jobs or building a system of public education that would make finding a decent job easier. To this day, an average Indian child attending an average government school leaves without being able to read a story book, calculate difficult sums or learn the basic use of a computer.

Modi's 'new India' remains a welfare state in which government largesse serves mostly to 'alleviate' poverty. Not eradicate it. But there is no question that India has changed since 2014 in ways that most NRIs remain blissfully unaware of. In Modi's 'new India' the scale and speed with which dissidence is crushed is so remarkable that a political journalist said to me ominously the other day 'political journalism is dead'. We in the media know this but saying this outright is a risky business.

The other change that has taken place with remarkable speed and on remarkable scale is the rise of an idea of Hindutva that makes non-Hindus, especially Muslims, feel that they are lesser Indians. Whenever these subjects are raised in the shrill, hysterical primetime debates that pass for political journalism these days, BJP spokesmen speak in one voice. They point out that if dissidence had been crushed there would be no primetime TV debates and is it not true that the Modi government's largesse has been distributed without discrimination based on caste or creed.

True. But it is also true that if you happen to be a Muslim dissident you are more likely to end up rotting in a prison cell without any hope of bail. It is also true that if you happen to be a Muslim caught in a riot you are more likely to have your home demolished. Are these signs of India moving towards a bright and shining future or signs that we are moving backwards into a time of hatred and violence? Hatred and violence are usually the biggest obstacles to a country joining that privileged developed nations club.

These are not questions that Modi likes to be asked. And so far, he has chosen not to speak about these things perhaps because it is easier to forget that these changes have occurred since he became prime minister. Could that be the reason why the prime minister prefers to talk directly to Indians when he is in foreign countries and not when he is in our dear old Bharat Mata? At home the only time that he talks directly to ordinary Indians is when he addresses election rallies or when he tells them what he is thinking through Mann Ki Baat.

This leads to a troubling question. What kind of 'developed' country does Modi hope India will one day become? Is he inspired by the model that has been created in China? Or is he inspired by democratic, western countries in which dissidence is applauded and not called treason? The 'scale and speed' of certain changes that have happened in India since 2014 are slightly scary.

life &  
WORK

RANENDRA



# Life, legend of tribal icon Birsa Munda



Born in the late 19th Century, Munda was a Christian convert and healer before he turned a rebel

"*BIR BIRSA ne baagh mara* (The brave Birsa killed a tiger)". This passing reference is all I could recollect on tribal icon Birsa Munda during my early years of education. That was because while mainstream historians recognised the contribution of leaders such as Chandragupta Maurya right up to socialist politician Jayaprakash Narayan, very few acknowledged the role Birsa Munda played in India's tribal rights movement and freedom struggle.

It wasn't until JC Jha, professor of history at Patna University, published his seminal work on the 'Kol revolt' – the mutiny of the tribal people against economic exploitation in 1831-1832 - in the 60s and his student, Kumar Suresh Singh, took his work forward that Birsa Munda began to be recognised as an important historical figure. Singh went on to become an IAS officer and served in Khunti, the epicentre of the Birsa Munda rebellion.

It was his book, originally titled *The Dust Storm and the Hanging Mist* and later published by Oxford University Press as *Birsa Munda and his Movement 1874-1901*, that offered the first mainstream account of the life and times of Birsa Munda – from his transformation from a Christian convert to a healer and prophet and finally, a rebel who is credited with coining the war cry "*Ulgulan* (Revolt)".

Born in the late 19th Century, around 1874, in a poor, peasant family, Munda grew up at his aunt's home in Chlakad, away from his father's birthplace in Khunti. There are stories of the crippling poverty that surrounded him and of days spent without food.

Munda converted to Christianity in 1886 and a ceremony was performed on this occasion. At the root of such conversions lay the community's struggle for survival: the promise that their land, which they had been deprived of due to the rise of the feudal system and the resultant economic exploitation, would be returned to them.

Though Munda trusted the missionaries, he fell out with them and quit his missionary school. This was to be the turning point of his life, resulting in him coining the catchphrase: "*Saheb Saheb ek topi* (The British and missionaries wear the same hat)." It laid the seeds of anti-missionary and anti-British ideas in his mind.

Birsa was deeply influenced by tribal chieftains – also known as Sardars – and by their silent resistance between 1858

and 1896 to British repression. Their petitions and complaints to the police and collector, and even to the court, against their economic exploitation and demanding restoration of land rights fell on deaf years. According to Ranchi Gazetteers, the tribal communities paid Rs 1 lakh over a decade as fees to lawyers, clerks and court staff. Such was the exploitation. The tribal socio-economic system was disintegrating, yet the resistance remained peaceful until 1886.

Between 1894 and 1896, Birsa turned spiritual and was known as "Birsa, the roghar (healer of diseases)" and with that grew tales of his miraculous powers. He also briefly propagated his own religion, Birsait, which was said to be influenced by both Christianity and Vaishnavism. Birsa also painted himself with turmeric, throwing a powerful aura around him. Here we also get a peek into the mind of a master strategist: he was willing to set the narrative and communicate, whether through social or religious means.

The last decade of the 19th century was also the culmination of various rebellions across the country: Rampa revolt on the banks of the Godavari by Alluri Sitarams Raju, Bhil Revolt in Rajasthan under Guru Govindgiri, Dhur rebellion in Chhattisgarh and, simulta-

# For the love of cooking, and Julie Powell

last month, Julie Powell, the writer who inspired the moving picture, died of a cardiac arrest, 18 years after Child in 2004.

Barely in my teens when the blog made news, I discovered Powell much later, sometime in 2014. I heard about the film, decided to read the book and was hooked. It was as hilarious as it was insightful. But most importantly, it was raw, it was honest, it was no-holds-barred. "Who is this woman? Is she even for real?" I thought. As a twenty-something working woman who cooked for herself, I had found my heroine.

As someone who had to cook everyday while holding down a full-time job, but minus a supportive and indulgent husband, I found comfort in Julie. She was so much like me: Perennially broke, late and disorgan-

ised; had PCOD and a predilection for ribald humour (Who thinks bone marrow tastes like really good sex? Julie Powell, it seems); was impulsive, only a whisker away from a full-blown mental breakdown; and brazenly open about her life. I was always all those things but Julie convinced me that it was okay to be all those things.

She taught me it was okay to not be normal, that it was okay to not have it all together. That it was okay to not know there is a "drip pan under the fridge" that needs to be regularly emptied out, that sometimes you have to choose between a "slice of truffle" and rent, that "in the physical act of cooking... dwelled unsuspected reservoirs of arousal – both gastronomic and sexual". She described food in a way that no one could

and helped me find words for the immeasurable joy I felt when cooking.

She was clumsy and unapologetic about it. And in being so, she convinced me that I could be unapologetically clumsy too. She taught me that it didn't matter where and how you cooked, what mattered was the end product. And even if you screw up there, it was still okay. You could swear and curse and punch the air, and start over.

The circumstances of my life have undergone a sea change since when I first read Julie Powell. I can afford a cook now, for example. Plus my now-retired mother is here for most part of the year and is forever eager to rustle up a meal at any hour. I still love cooking, but I also love vegetating on my bed watching Instagram reels and memorising

memes. I barely have the motivation, or the need, to enter the kitchen these days.

But the other day, the day Julie left this world, I felt the irrepressible urge to cook. I decided to go with Chinese, a far cry from Julie's elaborate French cooking. I took my own sweet time cutting the vegetables, taking in the sensuality that only a fresh, plump capsicum can offer, artfully slicing bright orange carrots into wafer-thin ribbons. As the wok hissed and whooshed, I felt like a music conductor in my own little concert. I ladled the final product into a pasta bowl and offered the first bite to my mother. "Good," she said, and then raised her eyebrow at the hot mess that I had turned the kitchen into. But before she could say anything, I went: "It's okay, mom. Julie would approve."





19TH WEDDING IN THE HISTORY OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

## WHITE HOUSE WEDDING FOR BIDEN GRANDCHILD

It's wedding day at the White House. President Joe Biden's granddaughter Naomi Biden and her fiancé, Peter Neal, were set to be married Saturday in what will become the 19th wedding in the history of the White House.

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Elizabeth Holmes with her partner in California. *Reuters*

## USA

## Holmes gets over 11 yrs in prison for Theranos fraud

*San Jose:* A federal judge on Friday sentenced Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes to 11 years and three months in prison for defrauding investors in her now-defunct blood-testing startup that was once valued at \$9 billion. In San Jose, US District Judge Edward Davila sentenced Holmes on three counts of investor fraud and one count of conspiracy after a jury convicted her last January following a trial spanning three months. During the sentencing hearing, Holmes cried as she said she was "devastated" by her failures and would have done many things differently if she had the chance. "I have felt deep shame for what people went through because I failed them," Holmes said. **REUTERS**

## MALAYSIA

## Muhyiddin leads in polls, Anwar close behind

*Kuala Lumpur:* A new coalition led by former Malaysian PM Muhyiddin Yassin was leading a hotly contested general election on Saturday, with opposition chief Anwar Ibrahim a close second, early results from the Election Commission showed. As Malaysians headed out to vote in a country that has seen three prime ministers in as many years, opinion polls were forecasting Anwar's alliance would take the most seats in parliament, but fail to reach the majority needed to form a government. Meanwhile, veteran leader Mahathir Mohamad suffered his first election defeat in 53 years. **REUTERS**

## SRI LANKA

## Keen to solve Tamil community issues soon: Ranil

*Colombo:* Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Saturday said he is keen to solve all issues, including land and housing, pertaining to the Tamil minority community in the country's Northern Province by next year when the island nation celebrates its 75th anniversary of Independence. Speaking in Vavuniya, where he opened up the president office's northern co-ordination sub office, the president said the move would help in expeditiously dealing with the outstanding issues such as lands, housing and agriculture relating to the community. **PTI**

## TAIWAN

## Symbol of reunion with China, panda Tuan Tuan dies

*Taipei:* Tuan Tuan, one of two giant pandas gifted to Taiwan from China, died Saturday after a brief illness, the Taipei Zoo said. No cause of death was given, but earlier reports said the panda was believed to have a malignant brain tumor, prompting China to send a pair of experts to Taiwan earlier this month. Tuan Tuan did not respond and after a series of seizures Saturday was placed in an induced coma, according to Taiwanese news reports. **AP**

## NEGOTIATIONS MAY EXTEND TILL TODAY

## COP27 set to deliver on loss and damage fund, but little else until now as talks go on



## EXPRESS AT COP27

## AMITABH SINHA

SHARMEEL-SHEIKH, NOV 19

THE COP27 meeting was all set to deliver on a key demand of developing countries to create a new fund for loss and damage, but there was little else in the draft agreement to trigger greater and more urgent climate action.

Negotiators were still at work on Saturday night, in a last attempt to inject some stronger provisions on emissions reductions, but these have the potential to run into trouble because of the additional burden being put on the developing countries. One of the most contentious of



An informal stocktaking session during the COP27 climate summit, in Sharm el-Sheikh. *Reuters*

these calls every country to update their climate action plans, formally called nationally-determined contributions or NDCs, every year with progressively stronger actions. As of now, countries have to submit their NDCs in five-year cycles, with the next submission due in 2025.

A proposal to urge all countries to phase-down the use of fossil fuels, originally raised by India, is also expected to make a last-minute comeback. Several developing countries, including China and oil-producing nations like Saudi Arabia, have been opposing this. The developed coun-

## EXPLAINED

## US stand on creating fund

THE UNITED STATES is willing to accept the creation of a fund to compensate poor, developing countries for climate damage, reversing decades of opposition and marking a major breakthrough in one of the most contentious issues at the heart of United Nations climate talks.

tries, and the small island states, also want a more explicit acknowledgement of the need to restrict the temperature rise to within 1.5 degree Celsius, and a commitment to let the global emissions of greenhouse gases peak no later than 2025.

As a result, the final rounds of negotiations, later on Saturday night

and possibly on Sunday morning, are unlikely to be smooth.

But more than anything else, Sharm el-Sheikh conference would be remembered for the progress made on the loss and damage finance. A long pending demand of the developing countries, loss and damage had remained on the periphery of climate negotiations for several years. This year, it was not just put on the main agenda for the first time, but the conference is also all set to deliver on the creation of a special fund to help developing countries hit by climate disasters.

There are more fights that have been left for the other day. One of them is the tussle over the donor base. EU and the US had been insistent that large economies, mainly China and possibly India, as well, must also contribute to this fund. Both these countries reject this demand.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

## Xi, Harris call for open lines at US-China latest meet

## KRUTIKA PATHI

BANGKOK, NOVEMBER 19

US VICE-President Kamala Harris spoke briefly with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Saturday in another step toward keeping lines of communication open between the two biggest economies.

Harris and Xi exchanged remarks Saturday while heading into a closed-door meeting at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Bangkok. "I greeted President Xi before the APEC Leaders Retreat," Harris wrote on Twitter. "I noted a key message that President Biden emphasised in his November 14 meeting with President Xi: we must maintain open lines of communication to manage the competition between our countries."

A statement from China's Foreign Ministry also referenced the Biden-Xi meeting at the Group of 20 summit in Bali. It said it hoped the vice-president will play an active role in working with China to promote the two nations' relations "to return to a healthy and stable track."

Harris later took part in a handover ceremony in which Thai PM handed over chairmanship of APEC to US, which will host the group's meetings next year. **AP**



## KIM WITH DAUGHTER AT MISSILE SITE

North Korea has unveiled the little-known daughter of its leader Kim Jong Un at a missile launch site. The North's state media said Saturday that Kim had observed the launch of its new type of intercontinental ballistic missile with his wife Ri Sol Ju and their daughter. It's the first time that the North Korean media is publishing the photo of Kim's daughter, whose name and age were not revealed. **AP**

## Nepal set for national elections today

*Kathmandu:* Nepal will hold national and provincial elections on Sunday which the Nepali Congress-led ruling coalition is expected to win but unlikely to provide much-needed political stability in the country sandwiched between India and China. More than 17.9 million people

are eligible to vote in seven provinces across the Himalayan nation. The polling will start at 7 am local time and close at 5 pm.

Out of a total of 275 members of the federal Parliament, 165 will be elected through direct voting, while the remaining 110 will be elected through a propor-

tional electoral system. Similarly, out of a total of 550 members of the Provincial Assembly, 330 will be elected directly and 220 will be elected through the proportional method. The counting of the votes will begin soon after the polling ends but the final results can take a few days. **PTI**

## ROW OVER INDIAN HISTORIAN

## Google sets rules for HQ guest speakers

## REUTERS

OAKLAND, NOVEMBER 19

ALPHABET INC's Google this week introduced rules for inviting guest speakers to its offices, days after it cancelled a talk by an Indian historian, Rajiv Malhotra, who has disparaged marginalised groups and their concerns, according to company emails seen by *Reuters*.

The policy released Thursday

is Google's latest effort to preserve an open culture while addressing divisions that have emerged as its workforce has grown.

Workers at Google and other big tech companies in recent years have clashed and protested over politics and racial and gender equity. The Google speaker rules, seen by *Reuters*, cite risk to the brand from certain talks and asks workers to "consider whether there's a business reason for hosting the speaker and if

the event directly supports our company goals."

Malhotra was scheduled to speak about India's positive global influence, according to an invitation. But organisers cancelled November 10, the day before the planned talk at Google offices in Silicon Valley, according to a follow-up announcement.

Some workers complained about Malhotra, according to a message soliciting complaints. A linked document organised by

Alphabet Workers Union noted Malhotra had described homosexuality as a medical condition and Islam as a destructive force.

Malhotra told *Reuters* he supports marginalised communities but opposes "politicising of bias in ways that divide societies and make them vulnerable to foreign colonisation." The new speaker policy states that workers "must submit a proposal and have it approved" by a "cross-functional" review team.



Police break up a protest in Tehran. *AP File*

that it had been irreparably damaged. Saman is one of hun-

dreds of victims to have suffered severe eye injuries inflicted by



Rishi Sunak promised 125 anti-aircraft guns and other air-defence to Zelenkyy in his first visit to Kyiv on Saturday. *Reuters*

## Citing daughters as motivation, Sunak to make UK streets safer

## ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, NOVEMBER 19

BRITISH PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak has spoken of his worry as a parent for his daughters, which is a key motivation behind his determination to crack down on crime and make the country's streets safer.

The father of 11-year-old Krishna and nine-year-old Anoushka told reporters on the way to the G20 Summit in Bali last weekend that the issue of safety of women is important to him.

Sunak referenced some recent incidents of attacks on women and girls in the UK to highlight that the issue was a priority for him. "I want to make sure that my kids and everyone else can walk around safely; that's what any parent wants for their children," said Sunak, as he admitted that "many of us men" take safety "for granted".

"So, tackling that and making it safer for people is something

that's just personally quite important to me," he said.

According to a *BBC* report on Saturday, Sunak shared how Krishna had wanted to walk to her primary school in London by herself when she turned 11, which was the reason why his family had previously moved out of their 11 Downing Street flat earlier this year and closer to her school before he resigned as chancellor in July.

They have since moved back into the 10 Downing Street flat after he took office as PM.

Asked about life back at Downing Street, he said moving back into the flat the family lived in when he was chancellor above No 10 had made the transition "easier than it otherwise might have been".

On tackling crime, Sunak said people in disadvantaged backgrounds were more likely to be affected by crime and he wanted to "deliver for those people" by putting more police officers on the street. **PTI**

## Appointment of new Army chief: Pakistan govt stands divided

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 19

DIFFERENCES SEEM to have intensified in the Pakistan government over the appointment of the new Army chief with top brasses of the ruling coalition making contradictory statements on the key issue.

The appointment of a successor to Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, 61, who is set to retire on November 29, is an administrative matter. Under the law, the incumbent prime minister is empowered to select any one of the top three-star generals. But politically, it means installing someone who may pull the strings and even determine the fate of the person who appointed him.

PM Shehbaz Sharif on Friday initiated the anticipated consultations with his government allies on the appointment of a new Army chief, even as Defence Minister Khawaja Asif revealed that a name would be announced by Tuesday or Wednesday, the *Dawn* reported on Saturday.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said consultations had been completed and the new Army chief would be appointed in a day or two. He said any delay would not be "appropriate".

Defence minister Asif told Geo News on Friday that the pa-



General Bajwa is set to retire on Nov 29

## REACH RAWALPINDI ON NOV 26 FOR MARCH: IMRAN

*Lahore:* Imran Khan on Saturday urged his supporters to reach Rawalpindi on November 26 where he said will announce his "next plan of action" for the march against the government. Addressing his party virtually, Khan said the nation cannot remain "neutral" at this critical juncture. "Reach Rawalpindi on November 26 where I will meet you and give the next plan of action (to reach Islamabad)," he said. **PTI**

perwork on the appointment of the new Army chief would be started on Monday and the appointment made on Tuesday or Wednesday. The induction ceremony of the new Army chief will take place on November 29.

## FORCES HAVE BEEN FIRING AMMUNITION THAT HAS RUPTURED EYES OF DEMONSTRATORS

## Hundreds of Iran protesters blinded by metal pellets, rubber bullets

## CORA ENGELBRECHT

NOVEMBER 19

THE PROTESTER was speeding toward a demonstration in Tehran on his motorbike when an Iranian security officer standing 10 feet away raised his gun and shot a rubber bullet into his left eye.

"We locked eyes and then everything went dark," said the protester, who goes by the nickname Saman. He cupped his hand to his mutilated eye, afraid that it would drop from its socket, as he drove himself to a hospital where doctors refused to treat him, he said. He was finally admitted to the government-run

Farabi Eye Hospital, where he was operated on nearly 24 hours after he had been shot.

The officer who aimed at his face, he said, had recognised him as one of the frontline activists who had gone night after night to Valiasr Square in Tehran to face off against security forces, hurling back the tear gas canisters they fired into the crowd.

"He knew my face, and I knew his," he said.

The impact of the shot, fired at such close range, left him blind in that eye. He provided medical documents and photographs of CT scans of his eye, which *The Times* asked two ophthalmologists to review. They confirmed

Iranian security forces since mid-September, according to doctors and medical facilities. That month, anti-government protests swept across the country, prompting a violent crackdown. More than 300 Iranians have been killed, according to rights groups. Thousands have been injured.

Among the most irreversible effects of the government's efforts to crush the uprising has been the blinding of people taking part in them. Across Iran, scores of protesters have gone to hospitals with eyes ruptured by the metal pellets and rubber bullets that security forces fire to disperse crowds.

The reports of mass eye injuries echo those in recent years from other places, including Kashmir and Chile, where street protests have been met with security forces firing pellet guns.

Many protesters have no choice but to plead for treatment in government-run facilities, which are often patrolled by security forces. Some of the wounded have been denied treatment, and others have been arrested after surgery, according to lawyers and doctors.

Images and videos of CT scans, shared by medical staff and rights groups, present an eerie tableau of faces pockmarked by metal pellets.

One batch of medical records detailed the ordeal of a 22-year-old protester whose eyeballs had both been ruptured. In a voice message left with a Kurdish rights group, a father lamented that he did not have enough money to pay for six surgeries for his son who had lost a retina.

"He is 18 years old and he has lost his vision completely," the father said. "In most cases, there is nothing we can do," one ophthalmologist said by telephone from Tehran. Like others who shared information for this article, he spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from the Iranian government. **NYT**



# 15 ECONOMY

## ‘THREE SHOCKS WARRANT CONSTANT VIGIL’

# After-effects of Covid, war, global policy tightening still unfolding: Das

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 19

RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das Saturday said the after effects of Covid-19 pandemic, Russia-Ukraine war and global monetary tightening are still unfolding and need constant monitoring.

He said the research function of RBI must remain prepared to respond to these multiple possibilities as it has done in the past.

“Since March 2020, three major shocks – the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Europe and the aggressive tightening of monetary policy across countries – have posed very different set of challenges for economic research

“The after effects of the three shocks are still unfolding and would warrant constant vigil,” Das said while speaking at the annual research conference of its

**EXPLAINED**  
**The three shocks**

SINCE MARCH 2020, three major shocks – the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Europe and the aggressive tightening of monetary policy across countries – have posed very different set of challenges for economic research. These have led to globalisation of inflation, as per the RBI Governor.

Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR). According to him, the economics profession today faces one of its toughest times as the global economy has been hit by multiple shocks one after the other.

### ‘WORSENING GLOBAL FOOD, ENERGY SECURITY’

**THE SHOCKS** resulted in deteriorating global food and energy security situation, realignment of global supply chains and policy-induced deglobalisation and weakening influence of multinational institutions in providing coordinated solutions to address global problems

These shocks have led to globalisation of inflation, with advanced economies (AEs) facing multi-decadal high inflation and sustained slowdown in economic growth and trade, together with rising concerns

about a possible global recession. They have also resulted in deteriorating global food and energy security situation, realignment of global supply chains and policy-induced deglobalisation and weakening influence of multinational institutions in providing coordinated solutions to address global problems.

“Emerging market economies (EMEs) face an additional challenge from threats to their external sector stability,” he said.

The governor said synchronised tightening of monetary policy globally has progressively increased the risk of a hard landing, i.e., a recession to tame inflation.

“India is, however, differently placed,” Das noted.

He said the triecta of deglobalisation, climate change and deeper penetration of technology appears to be the most antic-

ipated trend for the future.

“This can be potentially disruptive, requiring strategies to mitigate the associated risks,” the governor said.

The governor said the world we face today is aptly described by using the acronym ‘Vuca’, which stands for volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. “Many of the backward-looking models that run on past data, may fall short of providing useful information and estimates for policy,” he said, adding that DEPR should further strengthen its consultative approach to collect first-hand information directly from the stakeholders. Das said a team from RBI is working jointly with the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) to develop a food inflation projection framework, involving eminent agri-experts and market leaders in different food items.

## INTERVIEW WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS & IT

# No incentive for govt to do anything in non-transparent manner: Chandrasekhar



Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics and IT. File

ONE OF the reasons behind allowing cross-border flow of data in the recently released draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022, is that it is increasingly becoming an important aspect of digital trade negotiations, Minister of State for Electronics and IT RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR told SOUMYARENDRA BARIK in an interview. He said that regions where data will be stored to be decided by the government on the basis of “reciprocity”. He also spoke about government exemptions in the Bill and the independence of the Data Protection Board. Edited excerpts:

### What are your key objectives under the revamped Bill?

Since the 2017 right to privacy judgment, there has been discussion and debate on how we create legislation that addresses the issue of legalising and creating a need-based proportional use of data. Having a data protection law is in many ways a first for many countries across the world, everybody is stumbling and learning. We withdrew the previous Bill as it had become complicated, and posed an issue for us because of the success of our innovation and start-up ecosystem. The new Bill makes sure that consumer rights to data protection are captured as rights. Data fiduciaries’ obligations are light and easy to comply with so that it does not slow down innovation, the economy, and India’s position as a safe destination for data processing for the world’s citizens. It also ensures that the government’s governance objectives based on data governance are met.

### Where does the Bill place India in the global digital economy?

Now we have released the Bill for public consultation, we have also released a policy on non-personal data to harness data for our start-ups, and soon we will have the Digital India Act which will replace the Information Technology Act and create an ecosystem of laws that protects consumers and allows innovation to flourish. This also positions India where the entire digital economy can be viewed through the prism of trust and protection as people can participate in the growth of the digital economy in a manner that is predictable.

For the government, it will also help us to move towards more data-led governance where we can create analytical models to figure out where the gaps are and then plug them.

### The Bill has finally allowed

cross-border data flows after years of focusing on data localisation. Why did you decide to go back on local storage? What would be the criteria behind notifying regions where data can be taken?

In a globalised world where Indian software firms are servicing global customers and vice versa, data flow across geographical boundaries is almost like a given. Our startups must have the ability to choose the best services. But the government also needs access to data for law enforcement purposes. That’s how we arrived at the provision in the Bill, where we will identify trusted geographies where data can be stored and processed. It serves the purpose of our startups and at the same time ensures that we don’t create artificial walled gardens around the Internet like some of our neighbouring countries have done. We are a liberal democracy, we don’t want to create an Internet like that. By bringing in the concept of trust, it means there are still some factors that will decide where one can store data which will be decided by the government. There will be a lot of reciprocity built into this.

### So will we be looking at bilateral agreements with such geographies?

It is safe to assume that given data and digital trade are becoming important parts of the global economy and free trade agreement (FTA) conversations, such agreements will also be negotiated.

One of the biggest concerns so far in the Bill has been the wide-ranging government exemptions. Earlier the Parliamentary committee had said that exemptions be given in a just, fair, proportional way, but these words don’t find a mention in the Bill. Why is that?

I personally believe that given

our government’s track record it is clear that we are doing everything very transparently. Also, given that every citizen and every data fiduciary has the right to approach courts, it is clear that if we don’t do things in a fair, transparent and just way, people can seek recourse in courts. It is not our intention to have a data protection law where people who are, in a sense, invested in creating the data economy are dissatisfied with it. So putting words like that would only be stating the obvious because there is no incentive for the government to do anything in a non-transparent manner.

### The Data Protection Board’s independence has also been called into question. How independent will it be?

We have clearly stated in the Bill that the Data Protection Board will be very independent.

Yes, but in essence it might not be, especially since it is appointed by the government and will ultimately take decisions in matters where the government could be a party. Will that not create a conflict of interest?

The Board will have a purely adjudicatory mechanism to decide on the issue of data breaches. It carries the same rank as a civil court and its decisions will be appealable to a High Court. This fact is enough of an incentive or disincentive for the board to work transparently. Simply saying that it would be appointed by a third-party will not guarantee its adequate performance. The objective of this government is that the board adjudicates on disputes fairly and transparently because it can otherwise be legally challenged. I believe the system’s structure is efficient and cost-effective. Anyone who insists that the board is not independent enough is missing the point that the board will have to establish its credibility through its own performance.

## AVIATION WATCH New-Gen Aircraft

# Air India in talks for ‘historic order’

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 19

AIR INDIA CEO and MD Campbell Wilson on Saturday said the airline is in “deep discussions” with Boeing, Airbus and engine manufacturers for a ‘historic order’ of latest generation aircraft.

The Tata-owned airline is meeting its immediate needs by leasing planes and repairing grounded aircraft, he said. The airline has finalised leases for 30 additional aircraft that will be delivered over the course of the next 12 months, beginning next week, in addition to restoring long-grounded aircraft, with more in the final stages of negotiation, Wilson said.

“Beyond these short-term additions, we are in deep discussion with Boeing, Airbus and engine manufacturers for a historic order of the latest-generation aircraft that will power Air India’s medium and long-term growth. At the risk of gross understatement, the investment will be substantial,” he said at the 118th Birth Anniversary Celebration of J.R.D Tata.

He said Air India is planning to launch premium

### The airline has leased 30 additional aircraft that will be delivered over next 12 months

economy class on certain international flights. The airline will increase its market share to at least 30 per cent in domestic and international routes, Wilson said.

“We’ve recently completely revamped the domestic inflight menu, and will be launching premium economy on certain long haul international flights next month,” Wilson said.

He said the short-term actions have been to replace carpets, curtains, seat cushions and covers. “To fix defective seats and inflight entertainment systems as fast as supply chains will allow... where parts are no longer available in the market, to work with the likes of Tata Technologies to design and manufacture parts ourselves,” he said.

The airline has brought nearly 20 aircraft back into service that were on the ground for years due to a lack of funds and parts, he said.

## ‘95% firms experienced new fraud incidents in past 2-years’

Following pandemic, businesses have been exposed to new risks related to digital security, said the PwC’s ‘Global Economic Crime and Fraud Survey 2022’ report



**The new types of fraud experienced by companies include misconduct risk (67%), legal risk (16%), cybercrime (31%), insider trading (19%), and platform risk (38%)** Source: PwC/PTI

# Greenwashing: Regulations needed to check on corporate actions, says ReNew Power CEO

AMITABH SINHA  
SHARM EL-SHEIKH (EGYPT),  
NOVEMBER 19

ACKNOWLEDGING THE widespread prevalence of greenwashing in corporate world, Sumant Sinha, CEO of ReNew Power, India’s largest renewable energy company, has said there was a need for regulation and robust processes of measurement and validation of claims being made by companies on their green actions.

In an interview with *The Indian Express* in Sharm el-Sheikh, Sinha said a lot of corporations were making unrealistic claims on climate actions and still “getting by easily” in the absence of institutions and structures to measure and monitor.

“We have to be a lot tougher with people on what disclosures they are making. There is no doubt about it. A lot of double counting is going on. And a lot of times, the green capital a corporation is claiming to raise is just not there. Someone needs to verify these claims. Right now, there is no one verifying,” Sinha said. Last week, at the COP27 meeting, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned companies with net-zero targets not to indulge in greenwashing, and gave them a year to upgrade their processes to show the actual results of their climate actions. “We must have zero tolerance for net-zero greenwashing,” Guterres had said.

Greenwashing refers to a range of activities that companies or even countries indulge in to present misleading or dubious claims about their climate action. Sinha said the biggest problem was the lack of standards and regulations.

“There is a lack of common standards across the world. So that has to come up. Initially, there will be a fight over standards. The western world might put up some standards, we might want to put up our own standards. But eventually common standards will evolve. The second thing is that there aren’t any independent bodies that are measuring any of this. So, there are no standards, there are no baselines, there is no measuring and there is no validation. All this infrastructure needs to evolve quickly. But, I don’t see a lot of efforts going on in this direction right now,” he said.

Sinha said companies would be forced to take more effective climate actions because eventually they too would start to get impacted. “It hasn’t happened in a big way till now, but it will. If there are unseasonal, unexpected rains, for example, and my entire solar farm is flooded, the company would be affected. And if this happens at frequent intervals, the returns will simply not stack up. There are quite a bit of uncertainties. Over time, the radiation levels may change, wind levels may change. And many of these are very hard to forecast. The corporate world has a very large stake in this,” Sinha said. “Maybe, things

have not reached a point where companies have had to draw up contingency plans, but they eventually they would have to. And, I think it is not very far away in time. There are very large assets of companies that are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change,” he said.

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD, CIRCLE, BHILWARA

No. - 5014 Date:- 10.11.2022  
**Notice Inviting Bid 11/2022-23**  
Bids for Road works under Budget Announcement & DMFT Works are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM 05.12.2022 (Monday). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in>), (<http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state. The approximate Values of the procurement is 1177.01 Lacs, (Total 3 Bid)  
**UBN No:- PWD2223WSOB10674, PWD2223WSOB10677 PWD2223WSOB10679**  
Sd/-  
(P.R. Meena)  
Superintending Engineer  
PWD Circle Bhilwara  
DIPRC/14523/2022

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H.E.D., CIRCLE SRIGANGANAGAR**  
Near DAV School, Water Works Campus, Sriganaganagar,  
Phone No. 0154-2445031 Email [rj\\_segana@nic.in](mailto:rj_segana@nic.in)  
No. 9266-96 Date:- 12.11.2022  
**NOTICE INVITING BID No. 64-67/2022-23**  
Online Bids for 04 Works sanction under Jal Jeevan Mission are invited from interested bidders upto 05-12-2022 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in>, (<http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state and [www.phedwater.raajasthan.gov.in](http://www.phedwater.raajasthan.gov.in) departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 819.16 Lacs.  

NIB No.	UBN No. on SPP Portal	NIB No.	UBN No. on SPP Portal
64/2022-23	PHE2223WSOB09225	65/2022-23	PHE2223WSOB09226
66/2022-23	PHE2223WSOB09228	67/2022-23	PHE2223WSOB09229

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer  
PHED CIRCLE Sriganaganagar  
DIPRC/14592/2022

### कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, रा.प्र.सा. एवं ज.सा. बांध वृत्त कोटा

—:: ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 04 वर्ष 2022-23 ::-  
इस कार्यालय की निविदा सूचना संख्या अधी. अभि./ 04 वर्ष 2022-23 वाले Renovation and modification work of Bundl Ka Gothra dam Tohsil Hindoli District Bundi & Palbalapura dam Tehsil Nainwan District Bundi के कार्य विनकी अनुमानित लागत रुपये 299.47 लाख के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में जल संसाधन विभाग, राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग / रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से जो कि राजस्थान के "ए" "एए" श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से कायों हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। निविदा निधारित प्रश्न में ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से [www.eproc.raajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.raajasthan.gov.in) की वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड की जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट [www.waterresources.raajasthan.gov.in](http://www.waterresources.raajasthan.gov.in), <http://www.Eproc.raajasthan.gov.in> & <http://sppp.raajasthan.gov.in> पर भी देखा जा सकता निविदा दि० 09.11.2022 प्राप्त. 9.30 बजे से दि० 30.11.2022 सांयः 6.00 बजे तक से [www.eproc.raajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.raajasthan.gov.in) is download/upload की जा सकती है / देखी जा सकती है  
**UBN No. :- WRD2223WSOB02000** हस्ता./-  
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,  
राप्रसा एवं जसा बांध वृत्त कोटा  
DIPRC/14422/2022

### KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 44/2022-23/SE/PHC/MVPA  
(JMM)-JMM PROVIDING FHTCS TO ALL HOUSEHOLD IN ERATTAYAR AND KAMAKSHI (PART) PANCHAYATHS IN IDUKKI DISTRICTS-JMM PROVIDING FHTCS TO ALL HOUSEHOLD IN ERATTAYAR AND KAMAKSHI (PART) PANCHAYATHS IN IDUKKI DISTRICTS. Supply and laying of RWPM and CWPM EMD : Rs. 200000 Tender fee : Rs.11025 Last Date for submitting Tender : 12-12-2022 04:00:pm Phone : 04852835637 Website : [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in) [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)  
Superintending Engineer  
PH Circle  
Muvattupuzha  
KWA-JB-GL-6-1079-2022-23

### KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 103/2022-23/KWA/PHCD/17/TMRT1, 124/2022-23/KWA/PHCD/3/TVM  
(1) JMM-2021-2024: WSS to Adjoining Panchayaths of Varkala Phase II- Supplying, Laying, Joining, Testing, and Commissioning of distribution networks and providing FHTCs in Cherunnayoor Panchayath in Thiruvananthapuram District A- Pipe line Work -recast Estimate(2)JMM -2021-24 "Anadu and Nanniyode panchayaths"-CWSS to Anadu Kurupuzha and Palode villages "Phase III - Clear water pumping Main (Gravity main & clear water Pumpsets EMD : Rs. 2,00,000/- each Tender fee Rs.10000/- each Last Date for submitting Tender :12-12-2022 03:00:pm Phone: 0471-2322303 Website : [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in) [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)  
Superintending Engineer  
PH Circle  
Thiruvananthapuram  
KWA-JB-GL-6-1077-2022-23

### कार्यालय अधीक्षाी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड नोखा

क्रमांक:- 2239-50 दिनांक :- 7.11.22  
**Notice Inviting Bid - 12/2022-23**  
Bids for Various Works related **Remaining work of SRO Building Nokha and Construction of BT Road** are invited from interested bidders upto 10.11.2022 [09:30 AM] to 30.11.2022 [06:00PM], other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://www.pwd.raajasthan.gov.in> & [eproc.raajasthan.gov.in](http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in) & <http://sppp.raajasthan.gov.in> of the state and departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 323.00 Lakh.  
**NIB CODE No: PWD2223A2676**  
**UBN:- PWD2223WSOB10564 PWD2223WSOB10568**  
Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
PWD Dn. Nokha  
DIPRC/14449/2022

### Office of The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Zone, Kota

क्रमांक : F /CEWRZ/BRN/e-NIB-7/ 2022-23/ दि :-10.11.2022  
**E-NIB No.- 07/2022-23**  
Bids for Repair, Strengthening and Renovation of Hatwari Khiriya Minor Irrigation Project and Distribution network for pressurized Irrigation to CCA of 175 Hectare on Engineering and Procurement basis (E.P.C.) single responsibility turn-key Basis and its operation and Maintenance (O and M) for 8 years Tehsil-Shahabad District-Baran (Rs. 464.03 lakh) is invited from interested bidders from 11.11.2022 (9.30 Hr) to 01.12.2022 till 18:00 Hr other particulars, terms & conditions may be seen on the procurement portal <http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in> & <http://sppp.raajasthan.nic.in>, [www.dipr.raajasthan.gov.in](http://www.dipr.raajasthan.gov.in) & [www.water.raajasthan.gov.in](http://www.water.raajasthan.gov.in). UBN No.:- WRD2223WSOB02027  
Sd/-  
Chief Engineer,  
Water Resources Zone, Kota  
DIPRC/14513/2022

## BRIEFLY

### NFRA, audits

**Bengaluru:** To boost the quality of audits, NFRA chief Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey has pitched for crowdsourcing efforts to identify risks as that will help auditors in meeting stakeholders’ expectations as well as in looking at new risk areas.

### NCLAT

**New Delhi:** The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has stayed insolvency proceedings against BPTP after the real estate firm informed NCLAT that it has settled the dispute with its operational creditor.

### India ranks 61st

**New Delhi:** India has climbed up six places to 61st rank in the Network Readiness Index 2022 report prepared by US-based non-profit body Portumans Institute, the telecom ministry said on Saturday. “India has improved its position by six slots and is now placed at 61st rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2022 (NRI 2022) report released recently,” the statement said. **PTI**

# Export duty on steel, iron ore cut

**New Delhi:** The government has cut the export duty on steel products and iron ore with effect from Saturday in order to provide a fillip to the domestic steel industry and boost exports. Besides, import duty on anthracite, coking coal and ferromanganese — used as raw material in the steel industry — has been hiked, as per a finance ministry notification issued late on Friday. Also, export duty on outward shipment of iron ore lumps and fines with less than 58 per cent iron content will be ‘nil’. **PTI**

# India to be third largest economy ‘well before’ 2030: Gautam Adani

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 19

INDIA IS on the cusp of extraordinary growth and will become the world’s third largest economy ‘well before’ 2030, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani said on Saturday. The country is on a path to emerge as a high-income na-

tion without compromising its democracy and diversity, he said, while speaking at the World Congress of Accountants. It took India 58 years to get to its first trillion dollars of GDP, 12 years to get to the next trillion and just five years for the third trillion. “Given the pace at which the government has been executing a vast multitude of simultaneous

social and economic reforms, I anticipate that within the next decade, India will start adding a trillion dollars to its GDP every 12 to 18 months,” he said, adding that this will put the country well on track to be a \$30 trillion economy by 2050 and with a stock market capitalisation that will possibly exceed \$45 trillion. *Full report on* [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)









POINT OF VIEW

Twist in the Tale

Writer-director Vasanth Bala on his crime caper, *Monica O My Darling*, subverting tropes and his 'rogue' interpretation of a Satyajit Ray story

BOOKS

- Review of Jerry Pinto's *The Education of Yuri*
- Review of Ashish Avikunthak's *Bureaucratic Archaeology: State, Science and Past in Post-colonial India*
- Review of Rana Safvi's *In Search of the Divine*



# STEEPED IN BLUE AND WHITE

As the FIFA World Cup gets underway in Qatar, there is renewed hope in Argentina that Lionel Messi's last World Cup would be his destiny-fulfilling one — establishing, yet again, not only his greatness, but also his unquestionable fidelity to his country

Sandip G

FROM THE dazzling light of the fireworks that spread over Rio de Janeiro's iconic football theatre Maracana, Lionel Messi walked into the darkness of the dressing room. His head sunk, one hand wiping sweat and tears, and from the other hung the Golden Ball trophy. This was how the 2014 FIFA World Cup had ended for Messi. He had won the award for the tournament's best player but it was Germany that took home the Big Cup.

Among the heart-broken and tired faces that gazed sympathetically at him near the change room, Messi found Alfredo Pernas, his closest friend among the group of strategists. He tossed the trophy to Pernas and told him to do whatever he wants with it. Messi would slink into a corner of the change room and weep like a child.

"He just flung the Golden Ball at me and told me to do whatever I want with it. It was not what he wanted," Pernas would later tell Canal 24. Pernas took it home and preserved it. "He has never asked me about it again, but who knows he might ask me some day. You cannot shove it into the dust-bin," he would add.

Messi would later say, "I do not care about the Golden Ball. That was the worst night of my life." That night when he reached the closest to holding the World Cup, fulfilling his dream and destiny. But like being woken up from your sweetest dream and thrust into your worst nightmare, that night when Germany beat Argentina in the final, eight years ago, remains an unhealed wound.

He has never rewatched the match, even when an interviewer of FIFA.com once showed him the footage. He turned his eyes away from the television, stared hollowly into the distance and told him, "I don't know what to say, it's a pity. I think we had the better chances in the game. For the rest of our lives we'll regret having those chances, and not being able to put them in."

Last year, after Argentina won the COPA Cup, the symbol of South American football supremacy, at the same venue, beating Brazil no less, he was asked a specific question: Were the ghosts of 2014 exterminated? "No," he paused, and firmed up his tone: "Never".

The 2014 loss will live on whether he wins this World Cup or the next. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni would later explain, "A champion footballer like him, who never likes to lose a single game, would never forget the losses. He remembers every single game he has lost, for club and country. I don't know whether he remembers the wins!"

A win cannot undo a defeat, just as the present cannot change the past. But there dwells hope for the future. There is renewed hope in Argentina that Messi's last World Cup could perhaps be his destiny-fulfilling one, too. Under Scaloni, Messi has been a liberated force, Argentina has strung together 35 undefeated games, played beautiful, free-flowing football as their fans had yearned for, and built a suitable stage for their finest player to bury the pain of Maracana and leap into absolute footballing immortality.



For Messi, winning the World Cup is not just about winning the World Cup. It has deeper meanings and relevance. It's not

merely about fetching the last piece of silverware into his cabin, or earning the final stamp of greatness, or being an equal to Diego Maradona, but about proving that he is as Argentinian as any Argentinian. Or, perhaps, more Argentinian.

It's cruel that he's made to prove his Argentinian-ism every time he pulls on the blue-and-white stripes of the country. But that's how it has been. He was not Pibe, the boy from the streets. He was not from the two big Argentina clubs, River Plate or Boca Juniors. He has not played for any club in his country.

His game was moulded in La Masia Academy and not in the alleys of Buenos Aires. He was unemotional on the field, not anarchic. His rendition of the national anthem is soft; he has won everything for Barcelona, but none for Argentina, before the COPA triumph last year.

For a deeply emotional country, there was an irrepressible disconnect and distrust with Messi, even though they loved him and he loved them back. He is aloof, distant, and not them. Maradona was, for his vices and virtues, a true representation of his country.

Messi is aware of the complexities. He has been asked numerous times of his real affiliations: Spain or Argentina? Messi has defended his roots, his loyalty, his heart. Once he recounted an incident: "I was offered to play for Spain when I was 15, I refused. After Spain won the World Cup, a friend in Barcelona joked, 'If you had accepted the offer, you would have been a World Cup winner.' I told him, 'Winning with Spain is not the same as winning with Argentina.'"

There are shades and shadows of Argentina between his words, tones and accent, too. He left his hometown Rosario when he was 13 and spent most of his teenage and adult life in Barcelona, yet his Spanish is sparkingly Argentinian. To defend his commitment, his heart and soul, for the country, he even had to write a column in the newspaper, *The Patriot*. He launches a teary self-defence: "People ask me why I have not picked up the Spanish accent and it is simple: I do not want to pick it up, or to lose any identification with my country. These are the only colours I want to wear."

His former coach Jorge Sampaoli would sympathise: "The World Cup is like a revolver to his head."



But never perhaps has the revolver been the farthest from his head than it is now. For he is no longer Barcelona's. Just Argentina's. Though he plays for the French club Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), the affiliations are not as strong. There is no envy, no unwanted comparison, no doubts or debates of his commitment. There is no distraction — if Messi seemed disenchanted last year in Paris, he has been reinvigorated this season, netting 12 goals and 14 assists in 18 games for PSG.

Perhaps, it's an illusion, perhaps it is real, perhaps it is neither real nor illusory, but Messi has seldom worn his passion as wildly as he has when playing for his country than in the last two years. Usually shy and mild, he has been animated and confrontational, picking fights with opponents, arguing with the referees and celebrating moments maniacally. He has never mocked his opponents.

He did when Colombia's Yerry Mina missed a penalty during the quarterfinals shootout in COPA. He charged down the halfway line and yelled at the goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez to dance, in the exact way Mina had danced during victory in the previous round. Messi, undeniably, was always passionate about playing for his country.

But seldom has that passion manifested this passionately. It could be a trick of the eyes, because when he wears the blue-and-white stripes of Argentina, you don't see an invisible purple and red underneath, as it always had seemed to exist. It's pure blue and white.

The jersey no longer seems to burden him, neither does the national team appear to be a gilded prison. Since Scaloni took over the reins of the team in 2018, both Messi and his country have finally found a method to harness the best out of each other. In the last four years, Argentina ended their long COPA America drought, hammered European champions Italy in the Cup of Champions and are unbeaten in the last 35 games. He has scored 25 times and assisted nine times in 36 games. That is nearly one-third of his goals for the country (90 from 164) has been scored in these games.

Scaloni, who was elevated from part-time to full-time manager because he was unglamorous and his fees not exorbitant, has managed what many of his more famous predecessors, from Jose Pekerman to Jose Sampaoli, could not. To get the best out of Messi, Scaloni realised that it was important to get the best out of his teammates, too. Rather than tuning their tactics to suit Messi, he was more eager on formulating a method that worked for the entire group. "It would be difficult for many to adapt to Messi's style of play, but Messi could adjust to anything (plan)."

27

Messi has netted 27 goals in 43 games this calendar year

25

Under manager Lionel Scaloni, Messi has scored 25 times in 36 games

3

If Messi manages to assist three more goals, he would break Maradona's record of most assists in World Cups (8)

In his staggering career, Messi has donned several roles with aplomb, and excelled in each. From right winger to false nine, to centre forward to deep-lying playmaker, there have been few roles he has left untried. His Argentina and Barcelona colleague Javier Mascherano would joke: "Make him a central defender, he would be the best in the world."

Scaloni, though, was initially inclined to a direct and vertical game, but soon changed to a possession-based game due to a dearth of quality wingers. His midfield is typically narrow, but the midfielders, especially the versatile Leandro Paredes and Rodrigo de Paul, are blessed with sublime passing range.

Messi has starred in a variety of roles, but usually he starts as second striker in a 4-2-3-1 or a centre forward in 4-3-3. But whatever his position is, he usually drifts to the right to receive and create from outside of their opponent's defensive block. The progressive passing ability of Scaloni's men, or Scaloneta as they are called, is sumptuous.

Even the central defensive pair of Cristian Romero and Lisandro Martinez are blessed with the eye for a defence-splitting, attack-initiating pass and ball player. It has helped Scaloni that some of the un-droppables who made Argentina top-heavy are retired, like Gonzalo Higuain and Sergio Aguero.

Scaloni picks his men carefully, too. Among a raft of conventional strikers playing in Europe, Scaloni chose Lautaro Martinez, whose chief task is to draw defenders out of their position, dishevel the defensive shape with clever runs beyond the defence-line and create space for Messi and Co. to manoeuvre.

Though Argentina is not much of a pressing side, they storm the final third. In a normal game sequence, Messi has at least four colleagues including the full-backs beside him. So, he has the freedom to move into empty spaces or drift wide, or drop deep with quick passing exchanges. Maybe, it's this freedom, the elevation of quality around him, that has made the gifts of Messi shine brighter than ever before in the robes of his country and made his

only unfulfilled dream on a football field look closer to fulfillment than ever before.

But Messi warns: "The World Cup is very difficult, many things have to happen (to win it), and there are many teams that want the same as us and that are doing well." He then allays the fears: "We are eager, we are going to fight, we are not afraid of anyone because we are ready to play against anyone, but with peace of mind."

There was an unusual rage in his voice when he uttered those words in a press conference last month. Not desperation but a burning desire to consummate his last shot at fulfilling his destiny, the last attempt at winning the only trophy that has eluded him, and, predominantly, the last leap towards proving that he is more Argentinian than any Argentinian.

The pain of Maracana might live on eternally, but the joy of Doha could make the memories of that night a little bit more bearable.



ILLUSTRATION: SUVAJIT DEY









MAXIMUM CITY  
A deserted Churchgate Railway Station

# Living and Loving in Bombay

With his new novel, Jerry Pinto has proved, yet again, that he is one of the finest chroniclers of a Bombay gone by

Anish Gawande

THE EDUCATION OF *Yuri* is the first book I sit down to read as I move into a new house in New Delhi. I seem to have brought the Bombay monsoons with me, and the constant clatter of raindrops falling on a tin terrace next door provides the perfect setting to embark upon Jerry Pinto's sometimes awkward, often funny — but always moving — coming-of-age novel set in Bombay in the 1980s.

If you have read Pinto's earlier works, *The Education of Yuri* offers a comfortingly familiar assortment of characters who clumsily navigate life in the big city. Surrounding our college-going, khadi *langot*-wearing, aspiring poet Yuri Fonseca is an array of peculiar Bombaywallas: Tio Julio and Mumtaz, Bhavna and Arif, Luigi and Muzzumil. On first encounter, each one appears almost caricatural. They drink country liquor on terraces of abandoned buildings in Breach Candy, flirt with Naxalism in secret meetings at nondescript libraries, watch rock musical *Tommy* in elegant Colaba flats, and ponder the mean-

ing of love between Mahalaxmi and Churchgate station. What sets them apart is Pinto's uncanny ability to put them through intricate trials and tribulations, which draws them out into making unexpected decisions and make his characters jump off the page as living, breathing individuals.

Early on, you realise that the novel's protagonist isn't Yuri but Bombay itself. "The British city looked back at them out of a hundred blind windows, encased in Malad stone," writes Pinto, as he describes a city in transition. Yuri forges unusual friendships on Bullet rides between Bandra and Fort, plods along the hallowed steps of the Jehangir Art Gallery, and meets his future mentee within the cramped confines of a relief camp in Bhiwandi. Yet, this isn't mere nostalgia: Pinto's depiction of Bombay is characterised by an exceptional alienating affection for a home that one has struggled to claim as their own.

There is a part urgent, part indulgent urge to fervently document the rapidly disappearing institutions that have shaped his own adolescence. Coffees at Samovar and Cafe Naaz become quiet homages to experiences

THE EDUCATION OF YURI  
BY JERRY PINTO  
Speaking Tiger  
408 pages  
₹599

that now exist only in their storied descriptions. Yuri ambles from one bookstore to another. At the New and Second-hand Book Centre, he picks up Eunice De Souza's *Fix*. From the venerable Mr Shanbhag at Strand Book Stall, he gets himself a copy of Nissim Ezekiel's *Hymns in Darkness*, at a "thirty per cent discount." As verses from the assortment of books he collects rattle by in quick succession, I am grateful for the copy of Jeet Thayil's magisterial *Penguin Book of Indian Poets* sitting by my bedside table.

For a Bombay boy who has grown up in the warm afterglow of the heyday of the city's bustling literary scene, this is a delicious — almost voyeuristic — peek into another era from one of its last remaining interlocutors. After all, most of the stalwarts who graced the hallowed corridors of Elphinstone College are now dead. The delightful Soonu Kapadia, cheekily named Soonu Goradia in the novel, who was my own English teacher and instilled in me an enduring love for Tennessee Williams and John Donne, for instance, passed away less than a year ago. But as she exchanges ridiculous quips of "away you three-inch fool" and "poisonous bunch-

backed companion" with the daunting Mehroo Jussawalla in the staffroom, I can almost see the twinkle in her eyes glimmer through the pages.

With *The Education of Yuri*, Pinto has proved — yet again — that he is one of the finest chroniclers of a Bombay gone by. Very few novels, after all, have the ability to command an almost unflinching loyalty so soon after the last page has been turned. I am ready to forgive Yuri's tortured verses, telling myself that we have all once written from a place of teenage angst. I am even ready to overlook his often tedious quest to understand his own sexuality with a passing dash of annoyance.

There's an almost familial familiarity as I give the book pride of place in a newly purchased bookshelf that now takes up an entire wall in my bedroom. The rains have stopped, but I know that I now have a little window that will let me breathe in a Bombay I want, one day, to claim as my own.

Anish Gawande is a writer and a translator. He is the director of the Dara Shikoh Fellowship and the curator of Pink List India, the country's first archival record of politicians supporting LGBTQIA+ rights

## The Keepers of the Past

An ethnographic study of the Archaeological Survey of India explores its history and hierarchy

Rajat Ray

IN *BUREAUCRATIC Archaeology*, an ethnographic study of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Ashish Avikunthak shows how the work of archaeologists, originally supposed to be scholarly, has degenerated into a performance of official duty. Instead of promoting professional and creative acts of intellectual inquiry, this "normalises" the work into mere occupation.

Archaeologists are moulded into typical government officers within a rigid hierarchical structure. Being a bureaucracy, the workforce becomes prone to disenchantment and corruption. Such an "obedient" national-level agency eventually becomes a useful apparatus to serve the political agenda of the government of the day.

The ASI founded in 1861 by engineer Alexander Cunningham, its first director-general, was formalised in 1902 by Lord Curzon as a new department with three branches — Conservation of Monuments; Exploration & Research and Epigraphy & Numismatics, and archaeologist John Marshall as the third director-general. The Exploration & Research branch was meant to study human history and culture, through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artefacts. A close study of Marshall's work between 1902 and 1928 can show how he negotiated the challenging dichotomy between official administration and archaeological practice, and maintained a scholarly image of the ASI, over and above juggling between conservation and archaeology and against disruptive attacks.

In 1939, Sir Leonard Woolley, an international expert in archaeology, invited by the government for an appraisal, scathingly chided Marshall and his progeny for their "incompetence". He, however, prophesied, "India will, in a short space of time, be in possession of a first-class archaeological service. The material for such a



BUREAUCRATIC ARCHAEOLOGY: STATE, SCIENCE, AND PAST IN POSTCOLONIAL INDIA  
BY ASHISH AVIKUNTHAK  
Cambridge University Press  
358 pages; ₹9,936

service is ready to hand and it only requires to be trained and organised to be of the utmost value" (*Current Science*, September 1939). This paved the way for the legendary Sir Mortimer Wheeler to become the (eighth) director-general in 1944. He converted ASI into an archaeological service, with each part blindly following its role.

Wheeler imposed a strict administrative hierarchy and made the system work like a disciplined machine. His stratigraphic documentation, mapping, drawing and noting were the hallmark of his organisation, as were the meticulous handling, processing and classification of portable artefacts, and their aesthetic pictorial displays. The body continues somewhat in this fashion but with Wheeler's departure in 1948, the ruthless yet philosophical 'mind' working as the spine of the ASI was lost.

The most original part of the book is Avikunthak's narration of his ethnographic investigation of archaeologists in six chapters out of nine. He spent almost two years at an archaeological camp, staying with workers, and, being an archaeologist himself, even participated in their work. His informants candidly tell him how they often mechanically follow the regimes set by senior archaeologists, who in turn, learned from Wheeler, and how being bound by administrative work affects their individual research.

The book also covers the story behind the Saraswati Heritage Project of 2012-13 (where Avikunthak did his research), which upholds the primacy of the Vedic civilisation and challenged the Aryan invasion theory. It also discusses the Ayodhya Ram Janmabhoomi excavation project, launched in 2002, meant to authenticate the existence of a Ram temple. Avikunthak argues that the ASI legacy has dwindled to a "scientific-craft" rather than being a science or even a philosophy. As a result, it remains a servant of ideologies while seeming to serve the writing of history. The book is an easy read, with undertones of irony and tongue-in-cheek humour. It seems the writer's expectation to build a powerful counter-theoretical discourse from the periphery of the Euro-American centre is defeated. To him, this is part of a larger intellectual crisis of the discipline itself. But, in the process, in the book, we have a remarkable piece of academic work. We get a sense of his disenchantment with that world: he is happy to dedicate the book to the Dalit labourers on site, who are hardly likely to read it.

Rajat Ray is professor of architecture, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi

## Acts of Valour

DURING MY childhood, an elderly relative in the neighbourhood would often tell us stories about his days in the Indian Air Force. Partly annoyed at being disrupted in the middle of our games, we would retort, "Appooppa (grandpa), you have told this before" and return to playing.

I recollected this with guilt as I read *1971. 1999. War Stories*, riveting accounts by war veterans put together by Air Commodore (ret'd) Nitin Sathe. It's a book that was born out of the author's interaction with those who fought the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War and 1999 Kargil War. The author, son of an Army colonel who served as a helicopter pilot with the IAF, has dug into the memories

of war veterans, most of them septuagenarians now, to bring to light untold stories and introduce us to these unsung heroes. A 1971 veteran explains how the first strike on East Pakistan on their fuel-storage tanks in the south of Dhaka was carried out by a helicopter and transport aircraft, lighting up landing areas with a Petromax lamp at an abandoned airfield near Tripura. "The armament was delivered on target and the fuel dump burst into flames... The mission was recovered... and Indira Gandhi's recorded speech of declaration of war went on air as soon as Delhi received the news of the success of the mission," says Air Commodore Chandra Mohan Singla. Air Commodore



1971. 1999. WAR STORIES  
BY AIR CMDE NITIN SATHE  
Vitasta  
232 pages; ₹525

Jawahar Lal Bhargava, a fighter pilot who had to eject on enemy territory from a damaged aircraft, recalls how he abandoned his heavy G-suit and changed into salwar kameez to blend with the local population. He had some Pakistani currency, a few bottles of water and a knife from his survival pack. When asked by a villager, he said he was a flight lieutenant with the Pakistani Air Force, Mansoor Ali Khan (Pataudi), borrowing the name of his childhood friend.

If mosquito-infested living spaces, depending on telephone calls from station masters at Jodhpur and Barmer railway stations for early warning about enemy aircraft in Khokhrapur, doing last rites of fallen brothers on the site, were among the innumerable challenges of the 1971 war, during Operation Vijay in Kargil, the

challenge was putting up a fight at the high altitude. The Kargil war unfolded before the people through television. "...we were behaving like heroes in action movies... of course, our hearts missed a beat or two as we got into our cockpits..." says Group Captain Alok Chauhan.

The book offers an interesting peek into the war of 1971 that was fought with basic weaponry, and, in 1999, with better equipment but on tougher terrain. The common protagonist in all the stories are grit, determination and an exemplary will to fulfil one's duty. For serving and aspiring soldiers, the book offers crucial insights, while for those who have retired after a life of service, it is a treasure trove of memories to be recollected over and over again.

YAMINI NAIR

## The Ways of the Sufi

In her new book, Rana Safvi, maps a millennium of shared spirituality

Raza Mir

Ye masaail-e tasawwuf,  
ye tera bayaan, Ghalib  
Tujhe hum wali samajhte,  
jo na baada-khwaar hota

(These scholarly Sufi discussions, and your speech, Ghalib, you thinker  
We would have thought you a saint, had you not been a wine drinker!)

THE ABOVE lines by Ghalib, characteristically mischievous, also point to the fact that the bard of 19th-century India thought of himself as being close to the Sufi tradition. Indeed, Indian Sufism, which traces its origin to the 12th century CE, was quite mature in the nation's ethos by Ghalib's time. A great number of *dargahs* already dotted the landscape of the subcontinent. These included the shrine

of Baba Fariduddin Ganjshakar (1188-1266) in Pakpattan, Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti's (1143-1236) resting place in Ajmer, the mausoleum of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya (1238-1325) in Delhi, and even as far south as Nagore in present day Tamil Nadu, where Hazrat Syed Shahul Hameed (d. 1570) was welcomed by the king of Thanjavur with a land grant to build a *khanqah*, or seminary. The last named saint is revered as "Nagore Andavar" by locals and is one among thousands of examples where Hindus and Muslims continue to share sacred spaces in India.

The word 'Sufi' has a rather prosaic meaning. It literally refers to "the act of wearing wool," perhaps referring to the shawls worn by the itinerant preachers who travelled the length and breadth of the Middle East, Central Asia and South Asia. These holy men (and a few women such as Rabia Basri) were not afraid to venture into lands where they knew neither language nor custom, begged for their

sustenance, and often spoke in incomprehensible metaphors. Yet, not only did many of them attract large multitudes of followers, they alarmed local rulers enough that several were put to death. The execution of Nurullah Shustari by emperor Jahangir in Agra, or the beheading of Sarmad Kashani by Aurangzeb are but two examples of the fate that befell some of these personages in India, often on the charge of apostasy. However, such acts of terror often had the opposite effect; the popularity of these saints often soared after their deaths, resulting in shrines, festivals, and stories about their miracles.

In *In Search of the Divine: Living Histories of Sufism in India*, Rana Safvi has attempted the daunting task of mapping out the Sufi traditions in the subcontinent. Combining personal testimony with a taxonomy of the different *silsilahs* of Sufism, Safvi weaves together a narrative that combines history and geography, myth and contemporary



IN SEARCH OF THE DIVINE: LIVING HISTORIES OF SUFISM IN INDIA  
BY RANA SAFVI  
Hachette India  
432 pages  
₹599

practice. Her writing is often imbued with a winsome visuality. Consider for example, the description of the Sarkhej Roza, a shrine in Gujarat: "These square panels were patterned in three ways: geometric, curvilinear, or a combination of both. Floral motifs were also used to heighten the sense of being in a garden — as that is how paradise is also described. In the tomb of Sheikh Ghaus Gwaliori, there are over a hundred panels with one screen comprised of both geometrical and stylized designs." Such descriptions bring the shrines to life in a unique manner. Safvi has clearly travelled the length and breadth of India to describe a variety of shrines, some immensely popular, others forlorn and forgotten.

The book offers valuable source material to those who are interested in the history of Sufism in India, its various orders (Chishti, Qadiriyya, Suhrawardiyya, Naqshbandi, and other minor traditions), its linkages to the family of Prophet Mohammad, and its interlinkages with Hindu traditions. Consider, for example, a conversation she reports with a caretaker of a shrine in Kakori in Uttar Pradesh: "Once he (Shah Kazim Qalandar) was in a state of deep anxiety when he saw Krishnaji in his dream. He said, 'I want

death.' Krishnaji soothed him and said: *Tum amar ho* (You are immortal), suggesting that someone whose heart is lit up with love is freed of the bondage of time and space, life and death."

These heartwarming depictions of an intertwined spirituality offer a space of optimism at a time when inter-religious relations in India assume more and more of a fraught dimension.

If I had one complaint with the book, it had to do with the relentlessly rosy picture it depicted, not just of Sufi myth but current practice. There is no mention of shrine caretakers duping gullible pilgrims, of them preying on the desperate by offering impossible cures, of rampant misogyny on the part of some administrators and so forth.

However, these are minor quibbles. The book itself is a bravura performance that maps the world of Sufism for both the neophyte and the serious researcher. By writing it, Safvi has done us all a singular service.

Raza Mir teaches management at William Paterson University, USA. He is the author of several books of translation and literary criticism on Urdu poetry as well as the novel, *Murder at the Mushaira*



## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

**I,Ashwani Kumar Rana,S/o.No.2673601X Rank HAV Lt. Vijay Singh Rana R/o,C-222,Pandav Nagar,Opposite Main Mother-Dairy,Shakarpur Baramad,Delhi-92,have changed my.name to Ashwani Rana vide- affidavit,dt.19.11.22,before,Del hi.**

0040641696-4

**I,SAFIQ S/O ABDULRASID,R/O G-1/55,GALINO.1,SITA PURI,PART-2,PALAM VILLAGE,DELHI-110045.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAFIQ AHMAD.**

0040641644-6

**I,Yudhvir Choudhary S/O Hardan Singh R/O.A-245,Khanpur Devli Road,Opp. Ambe Bajaj Showroom,New Delhi-110062,Have Changed my Name to Yudhvir Singh.**

0040641681-5

**I,Sumana Devi W/o.No.2673601X Rank HAV Lt. Vijay Singh Rana R/o,C-222,Pandav Nagar,Opposite Main Mother-Dairy,Shakarpur Baramad,Delhi-92,have changed my.name to Suman Rana vide- affidavit,dt.19.11.22,before,Del hi**

0040641696-5

**I,Shalini alias Bholi Puri,D/o Yashpal,W/o Ajay Puri,R/o 47, Block-AB, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi,Delhi-110088,have changed my name to Bholi Puri,for all future purposes.**

0040641699-4

**I,Satyanarain Umadutt Sharma S/o Umadutt Sharma,R/o H.No.32/2, Gaushala-Road,Mahendragarh, Haryana-123029 have changed my name to Satyanarain Sharma.**

0040641699-1

**I,Sarjeet singh S/o-Duli ChandAdd-Adhana Patti,near bus stand,village- tiganonTigaon(95),Tigaon Faridabad Haryana-121101,have changed my name to Sarjeet adhana.**

0040641681-6

**I,Sachin Kumar S/o-Sh.Rishi Kumar Gupta R/o-H-53,New Govind Pura,Chander Nagar,Delhi-110051,have changed my name to SACHIN KUMAR GUPTA,for all purpose.**

0040641681-2

**I,SUSHMA RANI W/O-LALIT KUMAR R/O 30/7, BLOCK-30,ASHOK NAGAR,TILAK NAGAR,DELHI-110018,have changed my name to ANJALI.**

0040641644-9

**I,SHADAB S/O-SAFIQ AHMAD,R/O 30A,FIRST-FLOOR,BLOCK-J1,CHANAKYA PLACE,PART-1,DK MOHAN GARDEN,DELHI-110059.CHANGED MY NAME TO SHADAB AHMAD.**

0040641644-7

**I,Ram Singh Yadav S/o Chokhey Singh R/o-223, Tagore Park,Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Bachchoo Singh for all purposes.**

0040641669-6

**I,Rajrani W/o-Raj Kumar Jindal,R/o NS-23, 3rd-Floor,Mainwala Nagar,Paschim Vihar,Delhi-110087,have changed my name to Raj Rani Jindal.**

0040641644-2

**I,Rajkumar S/o-Bhaiya Ram Jindal,R/o NS-23, 3rd-Floor, Mainwala Nagar, Paschim Vihar,Delhi-110087,have changed my name to Raj Kumar Jindal.**

0040641634-1

**I,Rahul,S/o-Tara Chand,R/o X/7582,Gali no.11,Amar mohalla,Gandhi Nagar,East Delhi,Delhi-110031,have changed my name from Rahul to Rahul chand Randhawa for all future purposes**

0040641702-1

**I,Rachna Singh W/o Jitendra Pal Singh R/o-B3/74,Rajasthal Apartment Madhuban,Chowk Pitampura Delhi-110034, changed my name to Rachna Jaiswar.**

0040641669-3

**I,PUNITHA W/O ASHOK KUMAR R/O I-4/31, BLOCK-I, POCKET-4,SECTOR-16, ROHINI, DELHI-110089,have changed my name to RITU GOYAL.**

0040641644-10

**I,Nagma Kumari D/o Radhe Shyam R/O-A-503 Nanakmata Udhram Singh Nagar Uttarakhand-262311,have changed my name to Nagma Bharti.**

0040641669-5

**I,Mohammad Kalam Azad S/o-Mohammad Mannudin Siddiqui R/O-250-B, Behind Rama Market Munirka-Village Delhi-110067,have changed my name to Kalam Azad.**

0040641681-3

**I,Manish Goel S/o Madangopal Agrwal R/O-46, 2nd-Floor Pocket-A-7, Sector-16 Rohini Delhi-110085,changed my name to Manish Kumar Goel.**

0040641669-4

**I,MH.RAIS AHMED,S/O.NAEEM AHMED, HOUSE-NO-454,GALI.NO-20 JAFFRABAD NORTH EAST DELHI 110053,changed my name to RAIS AHMED,for all,future Purposes**

0040641644-3

**I,LAKKARAJU SOWJANYA LAKSHMI, SPOUSE OF,LAKKARAJU MANIKANTA SWAMY,R/O.D.No.6-62, AGANAMPUDI,VISAKHAPATNA M,AP-530046,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM LAKKARAJU SOWJANYA LAKSHMI TO GOLLAVALLI SOWJANYA LAKSHMI,VIDE-AFFIDAVIT DATED-19/11/2022,BEFORE NCT-DELHI.**

0040641644-11

**I,Kritika D/o-Rajesh Sharma,R/o:BE-116,Gali No-2,Harinagar,New Delhi-110064,Have Changed My Name to Kritika Sharma,for all Purposes.**

0040641644-8

**I,Khushboo Satyanarain Sharma,D/o Satyanarain Sharma,R/o.H.No.32/2, Gaushala-Road, Mahendragarh, Haryana-123029,have changed my name to Khushboo Sharma.**

0040641699-2

**I,Kavita W/o Satpal Lakra R/o Plot.No.434/5,near shishu wala Talaab Village Mundka Delhi-110041,changed my name to Kavita Lakra.**

0040641669-2

**I,Jitender Kumar Maurya R/o-G-10/209, Sangam Vihar New Delhi-110062,have changed my minor son's name from Vishal to Vishal Kumar Maurya for,all purposes.**

0040641638-1

**I,Ishrat S/O Liyakat Ali,R/O-634 A-Block, Gali.No-3,Loni Sangam-Vihar, Ghaziabad,Uttar Pradesh-201102,Have Changed my Name to Ishrat Ansari.**

0040641681-4

**I,HASEENA BEGAM,W/O ASHRAF HUSSAIN,R/O C-22/B,NEW BANGLOW ROAD,ADARSH NAGAR,DELHI-110033.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HASEENA BEGUM.**

0040641644-4

**I,Satpal S/o Mehtab Singh R/o Plot.No.434/5,near shishu wala Talaab Village Mundka delhi 110041,changed my name to Satpal Lakra.**

0040641669-1

**I,Gurpreet Singh,S/O-Triлоchan Singh R/O-H.N.9,Second-Floor,Shivpuri,Delhi-110051,Have Changed My Name To Gurpreet Singh Dadiala,For All Purposes.**

0040641696-2

**I,Gurpreet Singh Dadiala,S/O-Triлоchan Singh,R/O-H.N.9,Second-Floor,Shivpuri Delhi-110051,Have Changed My-Minor Son-Name,From Jasman Singh To Jasman Singh Dadiala,For All Purposes.**

0040641696-1

**I,Ayush agarwal,S/o-Babu Lal aggarwal,22,UGF,Anand vihar, pitampura,North West Delhi,Delhi-110034,Have changed my name to Ayush Aggarwal.**

0040641699-3

**I,Angita Rana D/o.No.2673601X Rank HAV Lt. Vijay Singh Rana R/o,C-222,Pandav Nagar,Opposite Main Mother-Dairy,Shakarpur Baramad,Delhi-92,have changed my name to Ankita Rana vide-affidavit dt.19.11.22,before,Delhi**

0040641696-3

**I,ARIF HUSSAIN,S/O RASHID HUSSAIN,R/O-741,Gali Sauda Giran Ballimaran Delhi,have changed my name to Mohammad Arif,for all purpose.**

0040641696-6

**I, VIPIN SINGAL/VIPIN SINGHAL S/O PARSHOTAM DASS R/O H.NO-D-133, ASHOK VIHAR PHASE-1, DELHI-110052.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIPIN KUMAR.**

0040641681-1

**I, Surbhi Raghav, D/o Rajendra Singh, R/o A-410, Panchachuli Apartments, Sec-61, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P., have changed my name to Surabhi Singh for all future purposes.**

0070813792-1

**I, SHAZADA GULFAM, S/o NASRUDEEN, R/O- B-532, Gali No-13/9, Subhash Vihar North Ghonda, Garhi Mendu, Bhajan Pura, Seelam Pur, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to SHAHZADA GULFAM for all purposes.**

0070813761-1

**I, Neha Verma D/o Durgesh Kumar Verma R/o 542/1, Devli Village, Bank Colony, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Neha Kumari for all future purposes.**

0040641536-1

**I, Mangesh Kumar Tiwari S/o Vijay Shankar Tiwari residence A-51, Gandhi Gali, VTC Mandawali Fazalpur, Shakarpur, East Delhi-92,have changed my daughter's name Rasika Mangesh Tiwari to Anshika Tiwari for all future purpose.**

0070813789-1

**I, Mahima Arora W/o Sh. Ravi Arora R/o S-3, Plot No.4/7B, Shilpa Apartment 1, Sector-5, Rajender Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad U.P.-201005, have inform that Divya Aggarwal & Mahima Arora both are one and same person.**

0040641628-1

**I, Mahesh Kumar Chawla, S/o Jaman Lal Chawla, R/o K-68 B, Second Floor, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Maresh Chawla.**

0070813717-1

**I, Girish Raghav, S/o Yashvir Singh Raghuva, R/o A-410, Panchachul Apartments, Sec-61, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P., have changed my name to Girish Kumar Singh Raghav for all future purposes.**

0070813791-1

**I, Bhupendra Kour W/o Surinder Singh R/o-H.No.899/A, Sector-29, faridabad, have changed my name to Bhupinder Kaur for all purposes.**

0040641630-1

**I,hitherto known as Sanjay Kumar alias Sanjay Manchanda S/o Late Shri M.L. Manchanda residing at D-6/35 Vasant Vihar, Delhi-110057 have Changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sanjay Manchanda. it is certified that i have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.**

0040641629-1

**I,CIDRALA BALA PRABHU,son of,Chidrala Venkateswara Rao,Presently,residing at-17-116,Kothapeta,Bus Stand Back-Side,Nuzvid, Krishna-District,Andhra Pradesh-521201,have changed my name,from CIDRALA BALA PRABHU to CHIDRALA BALA PRABHU,Vide-affidavit,date-18-11-22.**

0040641696-11

**I,Sat Pal Singh S/o Late Sh. Bhool Singh R/o H.No.11/40, VPO Siraspur, Delhi-110042 have changed my name to Satpal for all purposes.**

0040641625-5

**I,Raj Kumari, Rajkumari Harishchandra Garhukh W/O, Harish Singh R/o 1/59, Roshan Garden, Old Kakrola Road, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043 have changed my name to Rajkumari Singh for all purposes.**

0040641543-1

**I,Rahul Alias Sagar Kumar S/o Ashok Singh R/o 84, Murari Nagar, Kharjia, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh-203131, have changed my name to Sagar Kumar.**

0070813760-1

**I,Meenu Talwar W/o-Vikram Kapoor R/o-D-6,Tulsi Apartment, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Priyanka Kapoor for all purposes.**

0040641631-1

**I,Amit Shantaram Varude S/o Shantaram Varude R/o H.No-136, Maruti Gali, Post- Hudali, Tehsil - Belagavi, Distt- Belagavi, Karnataka-590016, have changed my name to Amit Shankar Sontakki**

0070813776-1

**I, Akanksha D/o Sh. Ram Pratap Singh Chauhan R/o 20-23, 389-A, Masjid Mohd, South Ext-II, South Delhi, Delhi-110049 have changed my name to Akanksha Singh for all purposes.**

0040641625-4

**I,ASRAF HUSSAIN,S/O ABDUL AHMAD R/O C-22/B,NEW BANGLOW ROAD,ADARSH NAGAR,DELHI-110033.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHRAF HUSSAIN.**

0040641644-5

**I, Meera Jaiswal W/o Sh. Kishori Sharan Prasad Jaiswal R/O C-1/27, Near Nav Jeevan School, Madhu Vihar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, Have Changed my Name From Mira Jaiswal to Meera Jaiswal for All Future Purposes.**

0040637300-7

**I, Kavita Sherwal D/o Dharam Pal Singh R/o H.No. D/234, Gali No.8, Amar Colony, East Gokulpur, Delhi-110094, inform that Kavita & Kavita Sherwal both are one & the same person.**

### LOST & FOUND

**Lost my original Lease Deed, Possession Slip, Sanction Plan, C-Form & D-Form against my Plot No.3, AG-Block, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088. Finder may Contact-Anil Kumar Shokeen at D-8, Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110085**

0040641632-1

**I, Sanjay Agarwal S/o Late Sh. B.C.Agarwal R/o Flat No. 115, SFS Flats, Phase-4, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052 have lost Original title documents of Plot No.7, Block No.E, situated at Sushila Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033 except one gift deed dated 24.08.2016 in favour of Sh. Shiv Kumar Gupta. Finders may contact at above address.**

0040641625-3

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
BE IT KNOWN to all that my clients Sh. Kamlesh Pandey & his wife Smt. Ranju Pandey both R/o Khasra No. 969, Near Badli Industrial Area, Siraspur Road, Delhi have severed all their relations with their son namely Vikas Pandey age 18 yrs and have disowned and di-inherited him from all their movable and immovable properties due to anti-family activities and unsocial behaviour. Whosoever deals with him in any manner whatsoever and any act criminal or civil committed by said Vikas Pandey, my clients will not be held responsible for the same and any person dealing with him shall do so at his/her own risk, cost and consequences.

Dr. YASHWANT SINGH (Advocate)  
Ch.No. K-53, Tiz Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

### SITUATION VACANT

### APPOINTMENT

**NCPE COLLEGE OF LAW**  
(Run by Mahavira Pupils Education Society)  
(To be Affiliated to Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut)  
**Required Following Faculty of B.A.L.L.B. (5 years Integrated Course) for the session 2023-24**

**Principal-1 No.**  
(Ph.D. with 15 years teaching experience in law college

**Assistant Professor**  
in Law - 6 No.

**Assistant Professor**  
(English, History, Hindi, Pol.Sci, Economics, Sociology) 12 Nos. (Qualification as per UGC & University Norms)

**Notes:**  
(1).Educational qualification as per BCI, UGC & University Norms.  
(2).Salary as per U.P. Govt. & University Norms. Please send your resume along with photo and all testimonials latest by 05-12-2022 for the below mentioned address.

**College Campus:**  
Jawahar Vidhyalya Road, Vill. Dhoom Kapur, Near Daddi, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar - 203207, U.P.  
**Administrative Office:**  
Main Road, I-Block Market, Sector-22, Noida-201301, G.B. Nagar, U.P.  
Mob.: 9467774070, 9818938400, 9718832248  
**E-mail:**  
ncpedadri@gmail.com,Last

(Dr. Anil Kumar)  
**Date: 05-12-2022** Director

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Clients Radesh Bhandari S/o Gurmeet Bhandari R/o JG-3/46C, Vikas Puri S.O, West Delhi, Delhi-110018 have disowned her daughters Rhythim Bhandari & Senaa Bhandari and wife Meenakshi Bhandari from their all movable and immovable properties @ Business & Banking and my Clients have also Severed their all relations with them due to their mis-behavior & bad conduct. Anybody dealing with them in any manner whatsoever Will be doing at his/her own cost, risk & responsibility.  
**KAMAL SINGH (Advocate)**  
Enrl.No.D/748/2014.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
MY CLIENTS SMT. KRISHNA KUMAR W/O P P KUMAR AND MS. AKSHI KUMAR DO P P KUMAR BOTH R/O C-4B/70, JANAK PURI, NEW DELHI 110058 ARE JOINT OWNER OF THE PROPERTY BEARING NO. C-4B/72, JANAK PURI, NEW DELHI LOST THEIR PROPERTY DOCUMENTS (IE, ALLOTMENT LETTER, GPA, AGREEMENT TO SELL), AFFIDAVIT, POSSESSION LETTER IN MAY 2020, THE INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO THE POLICE VIDE F I R NO 989897/2022. ANYBODY FOUND THE SAME KINDLY RETURN TO MY CLIENT, IF ANYBODY MISUSE THE SAID DOCUMENTS SHALL BE DEALT ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF LAND.

Sd/-  
**SHWETA BAKSHI**  
ADVOCATE  
(Enrl no. D-543/2017)  
Ch.No. 40, Western Wing, Tiz Hazari Courts, Delhi-54.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that our Clients MS Infrahomes (India) Pvt. Ltd. is in process to mutate the name of Mrs. Mala Sharma @ Late Kaushal Kishore Sharma & Late Neera Sharma in respect of Flat No. D-204, 2nd Floor, Tower-D, in Bloomtown Homes, Raj Nagar East, Ghaziabad, allotted in the name of Mr. Kaushal Kishore Sharma & Mrs. Neera Sharma, and subsequently, after the death of Mr. Kaushal Kishore Sharma & Mrs. Neera Sharma, Mrs. Mala Sharma (daughter) and Ms. Shalini Sharma (daughter) became the owners of above said flat by virtue of lawful-inheritance and thereafter, Mrs. Shalini Sharma @ Late Kaushal Kishore Sharma & Late Neera Sharma has issued NOC in favour of her sister Mrs. Mala Sharma regarding mutation of flat.

Any person having any right or interest by way of agreement, sale, contract, or otherwise upon the said property are hereby required to give notice of the same to the undersigned on below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of publication hereof together with copies of all documents on the basis of which claims are made, failing which any such right, title, interest, or claim, if any, will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on our Client.

**C.K. JHA**  
Advocate  
E-524, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110052 (M)-9813255674

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is for the information to the public at large that my clients Dr. M. Meenu Ansari and her son Asif Ansari S/o Dr. Mohd.Yousuf Ansari, both R/o H. No-A1/1804, 18th Floor, Block-A, Gardenia Glory, Noida 46, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, do hereby declare that my clients heretby debates, disown and severed all their relationship with Dr. Mohd.Yousuf Ansari, Shueb Ansari both S/o Khaled Ahmed and his all family members due to their ill behavior and conduct towards my clients as they are cruel in nature and misbehavior and threatens my client for dire consequences. Now onwards Dr. Mohd,Yousuf Ansari has no right, title, interest and ownership or any other claim on my clients all movable and immovable properties including property bearing no. H. No. A1/1804, at Noida. My clients have no connection, relationship with him and his family members. Further my clients will not be responsible for any liability incurred or to be incurred by any actions of him during his life time as well as after his demise. My clients further inform that she and her son has no concern about any legal-illegal acts done by Dr. Mohd.Yousuf Ansari, Shueb Ansari his all family members.

**SATISH KUMAR BIRLA (ADVOCATE)**  
MOBILE NO. 9990011935

**J.C.MOVI-2 IN THE COURT OF SP. JUDGE IN CHARGE, DJ (COMMERCIAL COURT)-01, DWARKA COURTS, NEW DELHI. PUBLICATION NOTICE DEFENDANT**  
(Order S Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)  
Suit No. :CS (COMM) :195/2019 IDBI BANK LT. VS ASLAM NOORI AND ANR

1. MR. ASLAM NOORI S/O MOHAMMAD MUSTAFA PROP. OF M/S STAR COMPUTERS, HAVING ITS OFFICE AT : 835, BANGLA MOKHALA, NEAR HOLI CHOWK, DUNDHERA, GURUGRAM, HARYANA, 122016 ALSO AT H. No. 1064, BANK WALLIGALI, NEAR JANI SHIKOL, DUNDHERA GURUGRAM 122016  
2. MR. MANISH SHARMA S/O. MR. YASIN ALI 1805, PARK HOSPITAL WALI GALLI, DUNDHERA INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, GURUGRAM, HARYANA 122016.

Whereas you are intentionally avoiding services of summons. It is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the day of 13.12.2022 at 10.00 A.M. i.e. The day fixed in the matter, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 3RD day of NOVEMBER, 2022 to be published in English daily "INDIAN EXPRESS" newspaper.

Note:- Defendant is informed to file WS within a period of 30 days from the date of receipt of summons with advance copy to the plaintiff and filing of WS in commercial suit in 120 days period is mandatory and no extension can be granted.

COPY OF ORDER ATTACHED.

Seal Sd/- Judge

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sh. Yogesh Ghal and Smt. Sushma Ghal R/o 53482-A, Raghapur, New Delhi-11005 have severed all their relations/family connections with their son Ishan Ghal who has been misbehaving, harassing to their lives and now onwards my clients have disowned and disinherited him from inheriting their movable and immovable properties. My atleast clients shall not be responsible for the acts, conduct and Deeds of their son.

Sd/-  
**B.B. Sharma**  
Advocate  
Enrl No. D-2574  
Office: S-204, Anara Tower, LSC, Savita Vihar, Delhi-110092

### NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
**No. S N T-JU-28-2022-23**  
**256 Sig/28/2022-23 Dated: 17.11.2022**  
Open E-tender is invited by DRM(S&T), Jodhpur for and on behalf of the President of India for S&T Work. Details as below. 1. **Name of Work** : S&T associated works in c/w provision of machine siding at RNV, NOK, and OSN stations, CTR, TTR and replacement of switches and crossings in sections of ADSTE/MTD of JU Division of NW Railway. 2. **Estimated cost of the work** : Rs. 92,36,157/-(R/O); 3. **Address of the NIT Issuing office** : S:RST/JE/JU NWR, DRM Office Harish Joshi Marg, Jodhpur. 4. **Bid security to be deposited.** Rs. 1,84,700/- 5. **Last Date & time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender** : 08.12.2022 Upto 11:00 Hrs. through E-tendering Online Submission on IREPS. Tender will be opened at 15:00 Hrs. 6. **Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen and participated** : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **Note:** This is a E-Tender, so tenderer can participate through e-tendering process only on mentioned website. **961-AN/22**

Please join us on <https://www.facebook.com/NWRRailways>



Player payments digitalised by cricket board

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
NOVEMBER 19

THE INDIAN cricket board has introduced digitalisation of payment process to players, associations. "Players don't need our approval to receive their match fees anymore. For us players getting match fees on time is the priority. It will be a kind of blanket payment and an easy process will be followed," the BCCI secretary Jay Shah told *The Indian Express*.

Earlier, the Indian board had the system where players used to raise invoices to their respective state units, who would forward it, after approval to the concerned BCCI staff, who would then send it to the BCCI office bearers for approval. Only then payments used to be released. Not only a lot of paperwork was involved, but at times, as happened in the past, due to logistical issues, players' payments have been delayed. With digitalisation, the BCCI assures there won't be any delays.

Senior players, who have played up to 20 matches, are entitled to get Rs 40,000 per day while reserves get rupees Rs 20,000 per day. Those who are in playing eleven and have featured in 21 to 40 matches will now be paid Rs 50,000 (Rs 25,000 for reserves) while players who have played more than 40 matches will be entitled to receive Rs 60,000, with the reserves slated to get Rs 30,000. Board decision to move towards digitisation has come after there have been many instances in the past where BCCI received complaints of delay in payments of players of various state associations. A case in point, as reported by this newspaper in 2021, involved Prashant Singh, a U-23 Bihar cricketer, who hadn't received match fees (about 8 lakhs) from BCCI for two years from 2019. His father died in 2016, elder brother had tested Covid-19 positive. Those kinds of logistical issues won't rise any longer, the BCCI feels, with digitalisation.

India look for game-time vs Kiwis

*Mount Maunganui:* A young Indian team, seeking some game time, is expected to face tough resistance from New Zealand in the second T20 International on Sunday. The series-opener in Wellington was abandoned due to weather and the second match will be played at Mount Maunganui. PTI  
Ind vs NZ Live on Amazon Prime, 12 PM

BRIDGE

Dealer: East Vulnerable Both

NORTH			
♠	KQ73		
♥	743		
♦	A87		
♣	Q64		
SOUTH			
♠	A10		
♥	A86		
♦	J9642		
♣	AK10		
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH			
	1H ♥		1NT
pass	3NT	pass	pass
pass			

West led the ten of hearts and South was faced with immediate danger. South ducked the first two rounds of hearts and won the third. East started with five of them, as expected Eight tricks. Where will the ninth come from? One possibility is that East has a singleton king or queen of diamonds. If so you can lead the ace of diamonds and then continue diamonds, eventually setting up your suit. One possibility is that East has a singleton king or queen of diamonds. If so you can lead the ace of diamonds and then continue diamonds, eventually setting up your suit. Do you like this line? The West Hand: S-9654H-105D-53C-98752 The East Hand: S-J82H-KQJ92D-KQ10C-J3 If there is nothing better you might try it. However, East is pretty well marked with all the missing high card points and ought to have both the king and queen for his opening bid. If he gets in with a diamond he will cash the rest of his heart suit. However, if you can't think of another line, playing on diamonds is one way to go. You do have a very good line that requires an unusual finesse. Look at the spade suit. You only have three tricks if you start with the ace but your ten gives you an interesting option. Go to dummy with a club and finesse the ten of spades. There is a very good chance that it will win since East is marked with most of the high cards. If it does win you have nine tricks. If it loses, West will lead a diamond back and the hand will fall apart. If you don't mind going down a couple of tricks in return for a very real chance of making 3NT, then the spade finesse is the way to go. Just another example of how tens can contribute. Dealer: South Vulnerable None

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠	1084	♠	AQ97
♥	J10	♥	K84
♦	AK84	♦	J10
♣	AQ92	♣	QJ85
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH			
	1H ♥		2NT
pass	3NT	pass	pass
pass			

West leads the six of hearts, fourth best, and the jack wins. West seems to be the one with most of the high card points. Given that South now has eight top tricks, should he go after a ninth by finessing spades into the strong hand or should he finesse diamonds instead?

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.

Men die in despair, while \_\_\_ die in ecstasy. - Honoré de Balzac (7)

EHKIR	CLPUST
DTYIS	CILOYYP

SOLUTION: HIKED, DITSY, SCURRY, POLICY  
Answer: Men die in despair while spirits die in ecstasy. - Honoré de Balzac



“Why can’t a fan who looks Indian support an English team?”

Gianni Infantino, the FIFA president, has hit out at critics of Qatar ahead of the 2022 World Cup, accusing them of hypocrisy and racism a day before the opener

ON EUROPE'S TREATMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS

“Hundreds of thousands of migrant workers, they help their families to survive. And they do it in a legal way. We in Europe, we close our borders and we don't allow practically any workers from these countries to work legally in our country. We all know there are many illegal workers in our European countries, living conditions which are also not really the best.”

According to the European Commission, at the end of 2021, less than 10 percent of all the world's refugees and only a fraction of internally displaced persons were living in the European Union. A majority of refugees from Africa and Asia do not come to Europe, but rather move to neighbouring countries.

ON EUROPE'S 'HYPOCRISY' WITH REGARDS TO QATAR'S SITUATION

“If Europe would really care about the destiny of these people, these young people, then Europe could also do as Qatar did... Give them some work. Give them some future. Give them some hope. But this moral-lesson giving, one-sided, it is just hypocrisy.”

Migrant laborers in Qatar worked long hours under harsh conditions and were subjected to discrimination, wage theft and other abuses as their employers evaded accountability, according to the London-based rights group Equidem. The EU gives rights to its workers that far outweigh what Qatar provided to migrant workers.

ON QATAR BANNING ALCOHOL IN STADIUMS

“(There are) over 10 fan zones where over 100,000 can simultaneously drink alcohol. I think personally, if for three hours a day you cannot drink a beer, you will survive, especially because actually the same rules apply in France or Spain or in Portugal, or in Scotland. No beer is allowed in the stadiums.”

The issue is not whether alcohol will be available for fans to purchase at stadiums or not, but the timing of this decision and what other 'promises' the Qatar Supreme Committee could back out of. "If they can change their minds on this at a moment's



(Above) Mexican fans at the FIFA Fan festival. (Below) FIFA president Gianni Infantino

notice, with no explanation, supporters will have understandable concerns about whether they will fulfil other promises relating to accommodation, transport or cultural issues," the Football Supporters' Association (England and Wales) stated.

ON APPREHENSIONS WHETHER FANS WILL BE TREATED EQUALLY

“They've confirmed that I can confirm that everyone is welcome. If the odd person here or there says the opposite, it's not the opinion of the country and it's certainly not the opinion of FIFA. This is a clear FIFA requirement, that everyone is to be welcome.”

The first line of Infantino's quote lays bare who is calling the shots now. This is the precise issue as it is no longer wise to consider the Qatari state trustworthy when

“Today I have very strong feelings, today I feel Qatari, today I feel Arab, today I feel African, today I feel gay, today I feel disabled, today I feel a migrant worker. as a foreigner in a foreign country, as a child at school I was bullied because I had red hair and freckles.”

GIANNI INFANTINO  
FIFA PRESIDENT

it comes to its commitment to adhere to FIFA's requirement of all football fans descending into the tiny nation being treated equally, fairly and with respect.

ON THE MEDIA'S ALLEGATION OF INDIANS BEING 'FAKE FANS'

“This is racism, this is pure racism. Why cannot a fan who looks like an Indian and not English, support a team that is English or Spanish or French?”

There is no known data or investigation that proves Qatar's Supreme Committee paid for 'fake fans' to support certain countries. Despite this, the assumption made has been that a fan of a certain ethnicity cannot support a country of their choice and to do so would mean that they have been bought by Qatar as 'fake fans', and Infantino has called this racist. ENS

Manika first Indian woman to win Asian Cup TT medal

ANIL DIAS  
NOVEMBER 19

AFTER TAKING a surprising 2-1 lead against World No. 6, Japan's Hina Hayata, in the bronze-medal match of the Asian Cup in Bangkok on Saturday, India's Manika Batra was down four game points in the fourth at 6-10. Hayata had the momentum and Manika knew she couldn't afford to allow Hayata to level the match.

What the stunned audience then saw was a Manika masterclass. A masterclass that made her the first Indian woman to win a bronze medal at the Asian Cup.

The World No. 44 took a deep breath, gearing up to return Hayata's tricky serve. The Japanese only allowed her an inch of space to attack and Manika latched on to it. Her blistering forehand smashes were too much for Hayata to handle and suddenly she was up to 9-10. In that pressure situation, Manika's nerves of steel and long pimpled rubber on the backhand came into play.

Hayata chose to attack, Manika was forced to defend. On her second forehand smash, Manika just kept a calm head, and returned using her famed backhand. Her pimpled backhand rubber played the trick and Hayata skied her return, bringing the game to deuce. Hayata then faulted on her serve, and Manika made the most of hers, then letting out a cry of relief. She could smell victory.

The win would come, but not before Hayata pulled one game back. After losing the fifth 4-11, Manika absolutely dominated the sixth, allowing Hayata just two points to complete a 4-2 (11-6, 6-11, 11-7, 12-10, 4-11, 11-2) win. And get a cool \$10,000 in prize money too.

This has been a historic tournament for the 27-year-old Batra which included a win over China's World No. 7 Chen Xingtong in the Round of 16. While she did lose her semifinal against World No. 5 Mima Ito, she managed to steal two games in her 8-11, 11-7, 7-11, 6-11, 11-8, 7-11 loss, making it her best performance against Ito.

After her poor run which began with a medal-less Birmingham Commonwealth Games, Manika finally seems to have found her form.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* after her historic bronze, the paddler said she changed some aspects of her game after the disap-

Maybe it was the pressure of not doing well at the CWG or even at the World TT Team Championships that was playing on her mind, but Manika Batra said once she stopped overthinking, she got into her rhythm at this tournament.



This has been a historic tournament for Manika Batra which included a win over China's World No. 7 Chen Xingtong.

pointing out in Birmingham. "After the Commonwealth Games, I knew I had to change something to be back to my best. While I worked on some strategies, it was the off-table work that has helped me the most. The most important thing I learned was that I have to be calmer while playing. That's what helped me, especially in pressure situations," she said.

Quick turnaround

While that definitely helped her in that tense fourth game against Hayata, it also helped her recover from the semifinal loss to play the bronze-medal clash within an hour. "After losing (to Ito), I was disappointed but then I told myself that I hadn't lost badly. Ito is a great player and I gave my best. I just tried to remain calm and prepare for the bronze-medal match. I had nothing to lose as it was the last match of this tournament for me," Manika said.

Not thinking too much was also one of the aspects she worked on before this tournament. Maybe it was the pressure of not doing well at the CWG or even at the World TT Team Championships that was playing on her mind, but Manika says once she stopped overthinking, she got into her rhythm at this tournament.

"I just focused on the strategies and cleared my mind of everything else. When on the attack, I knew I had to be relentless and not stop, no matter what. I think that's what also worked for me here. I was able to enjoy this tournament and that's why I did well," she said. While Manika basks in this glory, she says she has her feet firmly on the ground and is not going to stop in her quest to beat top-10 players on a regular basis. She already has her sights set on the Asian and World Championships.

"This high will stay for a couple of days, though the memories will remain. I know that I have to be back on court soon and keep on working," she said.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
The right strategic moves will enable you to preserve and protect all you hold dear. You will find it easier to make financial decisions in the future, now that more information is to be released. It's a fine time to embark on extra spending, as long as you've consulted the experts.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
You know very well what must be done. Now that Mercury, planet of communication, has turned from an opponent into an ally, you will be far better able to make yourself understood and persuade other people that you are right. Travel stars are looking good, but do double-check all instructions.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
This is still a relatively secretive period, although you will be happier than before to let partners know about certain of your personal plans. Drop your guard and allow other people to charm you. Now is the time to trust that friends only have your best interests at heart.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
If someone has got the better of you in a business matter, there is no need to worry. Not only are your financial prospects looking up but you are now entering the initial phases of a new cycle of hope and optimism. Jupiter, the most beneficial of planets, is about to work its magic again.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
The current relationship between Jupiter and Mars impacts on that part of your chart associated with health and work. Could it be that you have been pushing yourself too hard lately? Or that you are beginning to feel worn out? Is it time to shed a number of commitments? I think it is.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
One important factor stopping you from making the most of yourself has been a deep fear of taking risks, perhaps a feeling rooted back in the distant past. However, you should by now have overcome such inhibitions and be ready to face the future with renewed optimism.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
Venus continues its challenge to your sign, urging you to take greater notice of partners' needs and wants plus, of course, family members' real desires. There is a great deal of affection coming your way. All you must do is open yourself up to the love and good feeling which other people have for you.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
It's a strange old week, to be sure. It will take a good deal of courage to swallow your pride and admit that you should change your plans. On the other hand, if you really must continue with your current proposals, be certain that close partners are reassured and reconciled.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)**  
Your fine words and elegant phrases are pouring oil on troubled waters. You have exactly the right touch, especially for getting people at work to buck their ideas up. You may have to knock heads together if that is what it takes. Venus brings excellent romantic developments.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
A series of extraordinary events will make the next week somewhat more lively than anticipated. If you are in tune with the mood of the moment you will get both the best out of opportunities and find the most appropriate solution to every problem. It's not a question of right and wrong, but of what works best.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
Not all Aquarians are happy-go-lucky creatures. It's time to show your serious face, in the knowledge that if you are careful now, you'll be in a much better position to take advantage of various bizarre events that are due to happen very soon.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
Most Pisceans pride themselves on being sensitive and compassionate. Mars is making you feel rather tough and unwilling to compromise but, instead of rubbing people up the wrong way, why don't you take the lead in some new charitable enterprise: selfless behaviour will make you feel good.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2400

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Most bashful or most timid (6)
- Ice-cream drink; Charlotte for one (6)
- Illicit drug (7)
- Slander (7)
- Extremely loud (10)
- Just (4)
- Crest (5)
- Divert (8)
- Violent outburst (8)
- Scoffs or jeers (5)
- A feudal estate (4)
- Near that place (10)
- Lease holders (7)
- Pillage or loot (7)
- Rider's seat (6)
- Group of seven (6)

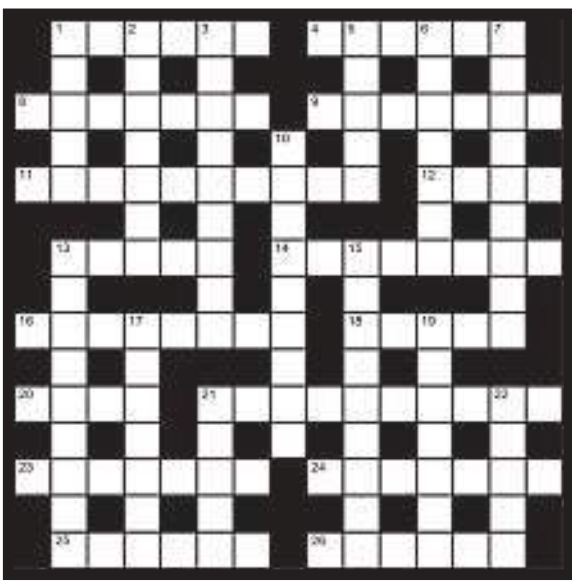
DOWN

- Laziness (5)
- Longed for (7)
- Genuinely (9)
- Mails (5)
- An idealist (7)
- Limits or confines (9)
- Declared unfit for use (9)
- Cheerful consent (9)
- Isolate from others (9)
- Extremepore (7)
- Relieve parents (4-3)
- Complete (5)
- Unabridged (5)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- The way to dress for discotheque lighting (6)
- Pole with a left shoe (6)
- Sleeping partner (7)
- Upset to find how big-headed one is (7)
- What chocolate eaters do on bicycle (6,4)
- Garb for a town in SA (4)
- She wasn't well when she got up (5)
- Drug Marsh, holding his heart in refreshment room (8)
- Cygnets' parent in Egyptian reservoir? (5,3)
- Chase away the pains (5)
- Number of the said van (4)
- Piece of cutlery of note ? (6,4)



- Income in respect of meeting-place (7)
- Type to take a dry turn in France (7)
- I go inside, chewing toast for follower of Chinese philosophy (6)
- Urges feature of toast at breakfast, perhaps (4,2)

- Hal's foe muddled baby mounts (2-5)
- Embraces after tea? You ruffians! (5)
- Stick at home and be a sculptor (5)

Solutions to 2399

**QUICK CLUES Across:** 6 Doors, 7 Eloquent, 10 Grenade, 11 Charger, 12 Spotted, 13 Exactly, 14 Ennoblement, 19 Vicome, 21 Enigmas, 23 Limping, 25 Fastest, 26 Language, 27 Items. **Down:** 1 Forebode, 2 Aslant, 3 Dependable, 4 Bosc, 5 Knight, 6 Digest, 8 Unaware, 9 Plays, 13 Eleven feet, 15 Numbing, 16 Tempered, 17 Evil, 18 Asit's, 20 Combat, 22 Instill, 24 Goat. **CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 6 Anele, 7 Marktime, 10 Beeline, 11 Prairie, 12 Meteout, 13 Top-hole, 14 Romney Marsh, 19 Picasso, 21 Leveret, 23 Carpark, 25 Dingbat, 26 Home brew, 27 Clash. **Down:** 1 Selector, 2 Mexico, 3 Umberto Eco, 4 Wrap, 5 Embryo, 6 Albums, 8 Trapper, 9 Ceres, 13 Tumbledown, 15 Mastage, 16 Hornbeam, 17 Spice, 18 Stitch, 20 Carton, 22 Venice, 24 Kurd.

DOWN:

- Some of the most elaborate carving on a tombstone (5)
- Redesign it about Elle (7)
- How material is sold on the part of the CID ? (2,3,4)
- Collect a body (5)
- Merit of French verse, perhaps (7)
- Sluggard who's hiding in LB zone, say (9)
- Drainage basin to capture soldiers on time (9)
- Shady district sparkled within (9)
- Displaying a relative having a fling about (9)
- Approve welcome in a ring (5,2)

SUDOKU 5024

Difficulty Level 4s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 5023





FIFA  
WORLD  
CUP

PREVIEW

SHOWCASE GAME  
IN A NUTSHELL

GROUP A

**Qatar vs Ecuador**

9.30 pm, Al Bayt Stadium

(LIVE ON SPORTS 18 AND JIO CINEMA)

The script

FOR QATAR, the first aim would be to avoid becoming only the second host country, after South Africa in 2010, to be eliminated in the group stages. And for that to happen, the Asian champions will feel nothing short of a win will be enough, especially given that they are in a group where the fight for the second spot – behind group-favourites Netherlands – is truly open.

Ecuador, who have one of the youngest teams in the tournament, will be a tricky first opponent. Brazil coach Tite has picked them as a side that has the potential to pull off some surprise results. However, it won't be easy for the South Americans against a side that likes to attack. Ecuador have not conceded a goal in their last five matches but they haven't scored many as well, finding the back of the net just once in the last five games.

How they'll line up

**Qatar: 3-5-2**

FELIX SANCHEZ has sworn by this formation, which easily shuffles between a 5-3-2 while defending and 3-5-2 when attacking, with the wing-backs pushing forward and joining the attack. Likely XI: Sheeb; Khoukhi, Rawi, Hassan; Miguel, Hatem, Haydos, Boudiaf, Ahmed; Afif, Ali

**Ecuador: 4-2-3-1**

COACH GUSTAVO Alfaro has flirted with a 4-3-3 formation but against the hosts, who are an attacking team by nature, he could go a little conservative, especially since defence is Ecuador's biggest strength. Likely XI: Dominguez; Arboleda, Torres, Hincapié, Estupinan; Mendez, Caicedo; Plata, Cifuentes, Ibarra; Valencia

The schemer

IF QATAR are to win this match, they'll rely a lot on Akram Afif, the 26-year-old attacker who is the team's heart-beat. Veteran striker Almoz Ali scores the goals but it's Afif who keeps Qatar ticking with his movement and

passing. Against a scrooge-like Ecuadorian defence, Afif's creativity will be severely tested.

Language of football

- **Tactica del murcielago**
- **Origin: Ecuador**
- **Translation: Bat tactics**

THE ECUADORIAN phrase is used to describe teams that sit deep in their own half and defend with backs to the goal, comparing them to a bat hanging upside down on a goal-post. Ecuador will hope the phrase they use for others isn't used to describe them.



PARTY BEFORE THE PLAY

Fans gather at an official FIFA festival in Doha on the eve of the World Cup. Despite the controversies surrounding the World Cup in Qatar, more than a million visitors from all over the world are expected to visit the country over the next one month. *Reuters*

# Time for main course in desert

After a troubled build-up, spotlight falls on footballing gods who are ready to sprinkle gold dust on the smallest nation to host World Cup



**EXPRESS AT WORLD CUP**

**SANDIP G**

DOHA, NOVEMBER 19

AS THE silvery, moonlit night emerged over the skyscrapers of Central Doha, drowning the tangerine Arabian Gulf, the digital billboards featuring footballers splashed on the facade of long and thin rectangular towers, suddenly glimmering to life, acquiring form and shape. The facial structures were defined, the eyes broader and prouder. In the mild yellow tint of streetlights, in the stifling quiet of the night, those looked like real, giant-sized figures, descending on the planet, to kick the skyscrapers into a distant, unknown orbit.

From Sunday, when hosts Qatar take on Ecuador at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, the country's lone port of connection to the world beyond Arabia in the days before the oil boom, the stars that glow on the towers will literally acquire life. All of Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe, who stares from every tunnel in the metro stations, Cristiano Ronaldo, whose body language has become a global footballing fetish, and Neymar will float in the fairyland that Qatar would be in the 30 days of football.

Even before a ball has rolled on the pitch, the shimmering aura of football's luminescent stars has clutched the football-dazed country. Thousands thronged the Hamad International Airport when Messi landed from Abu Dhabi in the dark hours of Tuesday. The metro-line to the Al Shahaniya SC Training Facilities, Portugal's base camp, has been running packed. Though entry of fans is regulated, more a whim and mood of the liaison officer, it has not deterred them from trying their luck. Mbappe is something of a raging home icon; after all, he turns up for Qatar-state-owned PSG. So do Messi and Neymar, but Mbappe is a player in his own frictionless prime, operating at a level where he could drop into any team, anywhere and improve it without breaking a stride or sweat. One in every three jerseys one spots in



**Kylian Mbappe, who was influential in France's World Cup triumph four years ago, during a training session in Doha on Saturday. Reuters**

Doha is theirs; one in every three jerseys sold in the world could be theirs.

A raft of fabulous footballers would take stage. Like England's Harry Kane, Croatia's Luka Modric, Wales' Gareth Bale, amongst others. So would a bunch of high-profile coaches, some dreamers and idealists, some pragmatists and realistic. There would be unknown talents waiting to scurry into the footballing galaxy; there would be scandals and controversies, un-intoxicated fans dancing and heav-

ing in the stands, bringing a slice of the world into the tiniest country to have hosted a World Cup. But the holy quartet, bestowed with an irresistible pull, other than being great footballers, would take centre-stage, float and glide, with their legs in the air like the djinns, pulling strings of joy and tears in their devout, shining brighter than their billboard cut-outs.

Stars rule

As much a team game as football is, per-

haps more than most, the stars are always the protagonists. The stars make the World Cup, even if they don't always take the World Cup. Like the 2014 edition. It would be remembered not just as the one Germany won, but the one Messi lost. The defining image of the Russia installment was not N'Golo Kante's relentless work-rate and ball-retrieving tenacity, but Mbappe's sprint through the heart of Argentina's defence in the Round-of-16 match. It's an old universal law, humans gravitating towards the most talented, most powerful person in the group. They make the rules; they bend their own rules. Myths, lores and narratives are inexorably spun around them with embellishments and exaggerations, with fiction and lies. The legendary Socrates once captured it as romantically as only he could. "The sky is always there, but the stars make it more beautiful."

Even among the holy quartet, Messi stands a notch above the rest in his universal adulation, in how the world wants him to win a World Cup before he sinks into the sunset. That football owes him a World Cup has been the most seductive narrative thread of the World Cup. The world wants to see a slice of Messi in the sky-blue and white stripes of his country. Unsurprisingly, tickets for Argentina's games were the first to be sold out.

His fierce competitor Ronaldo was a quiet presence in the larger build-up to the tournament, but in the aftermath of his stormy interview and public bashing of club Manchester United, he has grabbed some of the attention away from Messi. Characteristically, some scorn and sympathy too. His diehards believe that post the outburst, Ronaldo's fabled siege mentality would burn brighter than ever before and he would be motivated than ever before to add the only crown that he has not been crowned with. And a World Cup win could go a long way in settling the Ronaldo-Messi debate among their turbocharged fans.

Among the four, only Mbappe has experienced the joy of winning the World Cup. But like he told El Pais last year, "winning the World Cup is an addiction. It doesn't matter whether you have won it once or 20 times, you would

want to win it again, feel that moment again." His lead-up to the World Cup was tempestuous, with him publicly posturing that he would leave the club if it does tweak its style for him. Some claim his sense of self-importance has swelled, but his form nonetheless has been imperious, piling on an amazing

39 goals and 26 assists in 46 games last season. There are rumours of rift within the team, with Mbappe at the heart of it too.

Contrarily, Neymar has toned down his theatrics and tantrums. He has shunned his decorous style and trimmed his flourishes. He could be a less exciting player for the romantics to behold, but at the same time, less infuriating in that he has added a ruthless cutting edge to him. He doesn't tumble down at the mere poke of a toe or the wind of a push. Rather, he uses the Sao Paulo street footballer's smarts to wiggle and wriggle through the tightest of defensive labyrinths. But would the grandest stage channel his theatrics?

Stardom a double-edged sword

All four teams are title contenders. They are not dependent on the quartet alone, but they would define their team's World Cup fortunes, whether they win or lose. If Messi doesn't find the perfect farewell, he will be the

doomed tragic hero, the boy who could have been Maradona but couldn't. An early exit would push Ronaldo down the slope of damnation. And all the rage he had seethed on his club would come back to bite him back. Ronaldo, the Narcissist, would be a footballing epithet. Mbappe would be painted the self-centred divisive force in the team, and Neymar a star that never sparkled as brightly as he could have. It's the burden of stardom.

In the dazzle of the light they shed, the world will forget everything about the biggest, costliest and arguably most controversial tournament in the sport's history. Qatar would finally be ready for the moment it has been dreaming of – and dreading – for the past 12 years. And it would only be fitting if on the night of December 18 in Lusail, one among this quartet is holding the trophy into the moonlit sky.

## With an unmistakable Spanish influence, can Qatar unleash tiki-taka vs Ecuador?

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
NOVEMBER 19

FOR QATAR, this moment has been 18 years in the making.

In 2004 – six years before the Gulf state automatically qualified for the World Cup after being declared hosts – the country set up a \$1.4 billion Aspire Academy in its bid to produce home-grown players rather than rely on naturalised talents.

On Sunday, when The Maroons make their World Cup debut against Ecuador, 18 out of the 26 players to choose from for coach Felix Sanchez will be Aspire graduates who've grown up playing together.

This familiarity – and Aspire is just one of their many links – will be the key for Qatar, who are relatively unknown to the rest of the world given that their preparation has been shrouded in secrecy. The team has held training camps far away from public glare, in

Spain and Austria, since June and played a lot of matches behind closed doors, even ensuring that no one except their video analyst recorded them.

Sanchez may have held his cards close to his chest but Qatar have an unmistakable Spanish influence, which is apparent in the way they play. Almost one-fourth of their squad plays for the same club, Al Sadd, where Spanish World Cup winner Xavi was the manager before he moved to Barcelona. Xavi's methods and style have been imprinted on the minds of these players, with Akram Afif being an embodiment.

Watch out for Afif, Qatar's creative outlet who makes the team tick. At club and country, the 26-year-old has been given the freedom to float around on the pitch to make things happen. And if his partnership with Almoz Ali, who is on the verge of becoming Qatar's all-time top-scorer, clicks over the next fortnight, the tiny country will start dreaming.

Afif and Ali have been playing together since their pre-teen days and throughout their journey, Sanchez has been a constant. A La Masia graduate who counts Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp as his gurus, Sanchez led Qatar to the Under-19 Asian Championship title in 2014 where Afif and Ali played an influential role. Two years later, when he was handed over the reins of the Under-23 side, Qatar almost qualified for the Rio Olympics, and were crowned Asian champions in 2019.

Fluid attack, one-touch play

En route to the continental title, Qatar showed remarkable fluidity and looked a team that liked to attack, move the ball around swiftly with delightful one-touch football and hold possession – tiki-taka in the desert, if you will. Years of playing together, right from their academy days to the club level and finally for the country, has made Qatar a cohesive team.

But will that be enough to help them see off the group stage? In recent matches against Canada, Chile and Croatia U-23, which Qatar lost, Sanchez's approach was more defensive rather than the free-flowing attacking football which helped them become Asian champions in 2019.

The other big question is, will Qatar be able to come out firing on all cylinders as Russia did in 2018? They will have to on Sunday against Ecuador if the country hopes to avoid becoming only the second host country, after South Africa in 2010, to be eliminated in the group stages of the tournament, given their next two ties – against Senegal and the Netherlands – will only get tougher.

Qatar, though, will feel ready and confident. While the rest of the world coped with disruptions to their domestic schedule, Qatar have been training together for the last six months; trying to apply the finishing touches to a project that began 18 years ago.



**Qatar's Spanish coach Felix Sanchez (L) oversees a training session on Saturday. Reuters**