

**'HOW DID LAW MINISTER SHORTLIST NAMES?'**

SC asks Govt: Goel EC file moved superfast, any tearing urgency?

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

NOTING THAT the file relating to the appointment of former IAS officer Arun Goel as Election Commissioner had moved "in the shortest possible time, superfast... not travelled even 24 hours", the Supreme Court asked the Centre Thursday if there was "any haste or tearing urgency".

A five-judge Constitution Bench, comprising Justices K M Joseph, Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and C T Ravikumar, perused the file relating to Goel's appointment and inquired how the Union Law Minister had shortlisted the names of four civil servants for

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recommendation to the Prime Minister for appointment to the vacant EC post.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Justice Kariel is not in Collegium list of judge transfers recommended

Gujarat High Court Bar had opposed move to shift him, met CJI 3 days ago

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE SUPREME Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, met Thursday and recommended the transfer of seven judges of High Courts.

Its statement on the transfers did not include the name of Justice Nikhil Kariel of the Gujarat High Court where the Bar had protested and struck work following reports on a move to send

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**EXPLAINED****Closely watched**

COLLEGIUM DECISIONS are being monitored and the Law Minister has called its system on appointments "opaque" and "not accountable". Recently, there was a divide within over the format to recommend names of judges.



RONALDO ON TARGET, PORTUGAL WIN

Cristiano Ronaldo after scoring a penalty against Ghana. Portugal won 3-2. Reuters

PAGE 21

Former ISI head Asim Munir is new chief of Pakistan Army



Lt Gen Asim Munir will replace Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

ENDING SPECULATION, Pakistan on Thursday appointed Lt Gen Asim Munir as its next Army chief. He will replace Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, who retires on November 29 after two consecutive three-year terms.

Munir has served as chief of the Inter-Services Intelligence

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**EXPLAINED**
PAGE 15

Jama Masjid bars entry of unaccompanied girls, rethinks after outrage



The board at the Jama Masjid gate. Amit Mehra

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

DELHI'S JAMA Masjid, which had announced that it was restricting the entry of any unaccompanied girl or group of girls into its premises, rolled back the decision on Thursday.

Officials from Raj Niwas said Delhi Lieutenant-General Vinai

Kumar Saxena had spoken to the Shahi Imam, Syed Ahmed Bukhari, and had requested him to rescind the order.

"Shahi Imam Bukhari has agreed to revoke the order, with the request that visitors respect and maintain the sanctity of the mosque," officials said

The monument's management had put up a board at its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**INFIGHTING IN RAJASTHAN CONGRESS**

Pilot a traitor, how can he be made CM: Gehlot

Says colluded with BJP, not even 10 MLAs support him

MANOJ CG & HAMZA KHAN
NEW DELHI, JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 24

SENDING A clear signal to the party high command, amid the demand by his rival camp for a decision on the leadership issue before the Bharat Jodo Yatra enters Rajasthan next month, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched a sharp offensive on Thursday, calling Sachin Pilot a "traitor (gaddar)" who colluded with the BJP. Saying Pilot doesn't have the support of even 10 MLAs, Gehlot said he could not be made CM.

Gehlot's no-holds-barred at-



Sachin Pilot with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in MP on Thursday. @SachinPilot

tack came on a day when Pilot joined Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh.

In an interview to NDTV news channel, while responding

to a question on the party high command wanting to make Pilot the CM and indicating this to party observers, Gehlot said: "Nahin, nahin, nahin, usko nahin bana sakte. Woh koi na koi

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**FIRING ON ASSAM-MEGHALAYA BORDER THAT KILLED SIX**

Cops chasing timber smugglers, say govts; villagers have a different story

DEBRAJ DEB
MUKROH (MEGHALAYA), NOVEMBER 24

ON TUESDAY morning, the villagers of Mukroh, along the Assam-Meghalaya border, woke up to the sound of gunfire. At the far end of the village, six people lay in a pool of blood.

While the incident, which came days before the second round of border talks, threat-



Home Minister Amit Shah with Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma in New Delhi. ANI

ened to disrupt the uneasy peace between Assam and Meghalaya, the two state governments broadly agreed on the sequence of events: that the firing by the Assam Police was over an alleged timber smuggling bid.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**CB I TO INVESTIGATE BORDER FIRING**
PAGE 10**MARUTI SUZUKI**
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POLICE RECOVER 10-12 'SHARP OBJECTS' IN SEARCHES

Details of murder and evidence: Aaftab quizzed in polygraph test

**JIGNASA SINHA &
SAGAR RAJPUT**

NEW DELHI, MUMBAI
NOVEMBER 24

DURING HIS 6-7-hour polygraph test on Thursday, Aaftab Poonawala, who is accused of murdering his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar, was asked if and how he committed the crime, where he hid the evidence and questions about his childhood and family, among other things.

Earlier in the day, police sources said they had recovered almost 10-12 "sharp objects", including knives, blades, saws and other tools, from the couple's Chattarpur Pahadi flat and the Mehrauli forest over the past week. Continuing their search for evidence in other states, a Delhi police team in Mumbai's Vasai trawled through a creek in Bhayandar to search for Walkar's phone, which they suspect was destroyed by Poonawala.

Poonawala was taken to the Forensic Science Lab (FSL) in Delhi's Rohini for the first session of the polygraph test around noon and left with police around 8 pm. Sagarpreet Hooda, Special CP (Law and Order), confirmed



Police escort Aaftab out of FSL, Rohini, after the first session of his polygraph test ended on Thursday. *Abhinav Saha*

that the test had begun.

An FSL official said: "The aim was to ascertain the locations of the murder weapon, body pieces and Walkar's phone. The questions were mainly about the couple's history, Poonawala's early life, childhood, family, relationships, if/how he killed Walkar and hid the evidence, etc. He was cooperative and gave all the answers. The results will be analysed and compiled. We'll share the observations and report with police."

Forensic experts said the test would take a few hours to complete. "We check the health of the person before starting the test. After that, the test is conducted,

but we take breaks so the person does not feel anxious or pressured," said an officer.

Police had earlier taken Poonawala for pre-analysis questioning but had to delay the exercise after he complained of fever.

Earlier this week, police had sought permission from a Delhi court to extend Poonawala's custody and conduct polygraph and narco-analysis tests on him. The narco test will most likely be conducted next week, said police.

On the sharp objects recovered, a police officer said: "We are checking them for blood traces. Poonawala had said he used two-three mini-saws to chop Walkar's

body into 30-35 pieces in the bathroom. We haven't been able to find the exact weapon yet... We are verifying his claims."

A team of Delhi Police also went to Thane in Maharashtra to conduct searches. "As he came to Mumbai after Walker's death, he may have dumped her belongings and other evidence in Vasai or Thane," said an officer. Delhi Police said they also recorded Poonawala's father's statement. As per Walker's family and friends, Poonawala's family allegedly knew about the violent fights between the couple, said police. "His father said he doesn't know anything about the murder. He said Poonawala would rarely talk to them. We are trying to get details on their relationship and Poonawala's behaviour," added the officer.

On the search for Walkar's phone in Mumbai, a police source said: "Poonawala claimed he disposed of her SIM card in Delhi and threw her phone in the creek at Bhayandar. We have learnt he had come back from Delhi to help his parents shift to a new place from Vasai to Mira Road. While crossing the creek in the train, he is believed to have thrown the phone into it."

EXCISE POLICY CASE


Agencies acting in tandem, Vijay Nair tells HC

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday sought responses from AAP communications manager Vijay Nair and Hyderabad-based businessman Abhishek Boinpally in a CBI plea challenging bail granted to them by a trial court, related to alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped excise policy case.


A single judge bench of Justice Yogesh Khanna deferred the hearing of applications for stay of the trial court order after noting that Nair and Boinpally were already in custody of Enforcement Directorate in connection with an alleged money laundering probe into the excise policy.

Appearing for the CBI, special public prosecutor Nikhil Goel submitted: "Our case is that at instance of (Nair), large sums of money came to Delhi. We have evidence to show Rs 30 crore of cash was received... we have to investigate what happened to the cash and the person who paid what does he gain?"

Appearing for Nair, senior advocate Rebecca John said the agency can get "as many statements of witnesses to say I [Nair] influenced the policy. But there are layers of checks and balances... soon as this bail order was passed I was arrested (by ED). This is how agencies act in tandem". **ENS**



CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING
8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, CHANDIGARH, PHONE : 0172-4601826



Notice for inviting e-tenders for allotment of Built-up Dwelling Units/Commercial Units in U.T. Chandigarh

It is hereby notified for the information of general public that e-tenders are invited for the sale of Built-up Units. The Commercial Units are being sold on Leasehold and freehold basis & Residential units are being sold on Free-Hold Basis. E-tenders are invited individually for each of Built-up Unit.

1. The E-Tender process is open for all the citizens of India as well as NRIs/PIOs above 18 years of age. The persons already having any property (Residential or Commercial) can also participate in the e-Tender.
2. The Built-up units shall be allotted to the highest eligible bidder, quoting above the reserve price of the Unit. The GST will not be applicable on the consideration/premium of the unit.
3. All willing participants may visit the official website www.chbonline.in to understand the detailed procedure for submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and e-bids. The Terms & Conditions and the detailed list mentioning localities/sectors of the Built-up Units and reserve price can be downloaded from the official website of the Chandigarh Housing Board i.e. www.chbonline.in.
4. In order to submit e-bids, every prospective bidder is required to get himself/herself registered at <https://etenders.chd.nic.in>.
5. Stickers have been pasted at each of the Built-up Unit for better identification and Site Offices have been provided at different Sectors/Location to facilitate inspection by the prospective bidders.

The location of each of the unit on google map, address of the Site Offices and contact details of the officials are available on the official website www.chbonline.in. The days specified for the inspections of the units are as under:-

Sr No.	Built-up Units	No of Units	Days for inspections (10:00 AM to 05: 00 PM)
I	Residential Units on Free-Hold Basis	74	26 th November, 03 rd 10 th & 17 th of December 2022 (every Saturday)
II	Commercial Units on Lease-Hold Basis	92	30 th November, 7 th and 14 th December (every Wednesday)
III	Commercial Units on Free-Hold Basis	01	

Schedule of dates for e-Tenders of the Units:-

Sr No.	Event	Date & Time
1	Starting date and time for bid submission	From 25 th November, 2022 (10:00 AM)
2	Closing date and time for bid submission	Till to 20 th December 2022 (upto 10:00 AM)
3	Opening of e-bids	20 th December 2022 (From 10:15 AM onwards)

Chief Accounts Officer,
Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh


In Faridabad, suitcase with body parts found

Gurgaon: A suitcase with suspected body parts inside was found in a forest area in Faridabad's Surajkund Thursday afternoon, said police.


"It appears to be a torso. It seems the limbs, head and other parts had been decapitated. The remains are decomposed... Prima facie, it appears a person was murdered elsewhere and a part of the body was dumped here to avoid identification. The remains had been wrapped in a plastic bag and a sack. Two-three clothes and a belt were recovered near the suitcase. The entire forest area within the vicinity has been cordoned off and searched. Forensic teams are collecting samples, which will be sent for identification and DNA analysis," said a police officer.

Sube Singh, spokesperson, Faridabad police, said, "No identification has been done. The remains have been sent to civil hospital for the autopsy. We are checking CCTVs in the vicinity."


Police sources confirmed they had contacted the Delhi Police team investigating the Shraddha Walkar case. "We had contacted Delhi Police officers in Mehrauli to also look at the remains, but no association with the case in Delhi has emerged so far," said a police officer. **ENS**



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Symposium on

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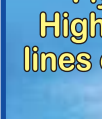
Saturday, November 26, 2022, 11:00 AM

at Gandhi Darshan (Near Rajghat)
Satyagraha Mandap, New Delhi

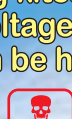
Vijay Goel

Vice Chairman, Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti
Former Union Minister

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75
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It is also informed to all of you that this banned kite string may also prove to be fatal if it touches the power line. Many such fatal incidents have already taken place in the past years. Both buying and selling of this banned kite string is an offense under law and can be punishable with fine or imprisonment of both if caught.


Therefore, the general public and all the villagers are requested not to let their children or relatives fly kites near these high-tension power lines. **POWERGRID will not be liable for any accident or loss of life or property related to this.**

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Short e-Tender notice

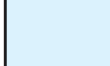

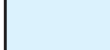
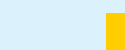
PPD/JNPA/Parking-T-51/2022

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority invites e-Tenders "ONLINE" in two Bid system (Technical and Price Bid) **from 25/11/2022 to 26/12/2022** from experienced, reputed National / International consultant fulfilling the Minimum Eligibility Criteria (MEC) as stipulated in the Tender for the Work of "Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report and Detailed Engineering for Centralized Parking Plaza (CPP) - 2 at JN Port." Detailed Notice Inviting Tender and Tender Document is available on JNPA website "www.inport.gov.in" and "<https://eprocure.gov.in>".

23/11/2022

Chief Manager (PP&D)

 <p>रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड Rail Vikas Nigam Limited <small>एनएसई सूचीय निगम</small> <small>(A Government of India Enterprise)</small></p>	<p>Registered office: 1st Floor, August Kranti Bhawan, Bhikai Cama Place, R. K. Puram, New Delhi. South Delhi- 110066 CIN: L74999DL2003G0118633, Email: investors@rvnl.org Phone: 011-26738299, Fax: 011-26182957</p>
<h2 style="margin: 0;">NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT</h2>	
<p>Notice of Postal Ballot is hereby given to the members of the Company pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 and Section 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the “Act”) and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Act read with Rules 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 (“Rules”), as amended from time to time, and other applicable provisions, if any, along with the General Circular no. 3/2022 dated May 5, 2022, read with Circulars nos. 14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020, 22/2020, 33/2020, 39/2020, 02/2021, 10/2021, 19/2021, 20/2021 and 21/2021 dated April 8, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 5, 2020, June 15, 2020, September 28, 2020, December 31, 2020, January 13, 2021, June 23, 2021, December 8, 2021, December 08, 2021 and December 14, 2021 respectively issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India (“MCA”) and Circulars”) and Regulation 44 and 17(1C) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (“Listing Regulations”) and other applicable laws and regulations (including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force) that the Special Business set out in the Postal Ballot Notice are proposed to be passed by the Members of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (“the Company” or “RVNL”) by the process of Postal Ballot through electronic means (E-voting) only. Communication of assent or dissent of the Members would take place only through the remote e-voting system.</p> <p>1. To approve the appointment of Shri Ram Prakash (DIN: 09746225), Additional Member (RE), also looking after as Additional Member (Planning), Railway Board as Part-time (Official) Government Nominee Director on the Board of the Company. The Company has completed the dispatch of Postal Ballot Notice along with the Explanatory Statements on Thursday, November 24, 2022 to all Shareholders of the Company, whose names appeared on the Register of Members/Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on Friday, November 18, 2022 (“Cut-off date”) through electronic mail to only those Shareholders whose email IDs are registered. Voting rights shall be reckoned on the paid-up value of equity shares registered in the name of Shareholders as on Friday, November 18, 2022, i.e. cut-off date.</p> <p>The Notice of the Postal Ballot is also available and can be downloaded from Company’s website at www.rvnl.org, the website of Stock Exchanges i.e. www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively and also on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com. A person, who is not a Member as on “Cut-off Date”, should treat this Notice for information purposes only.</p> <p>Members who have not registered their e-mail addresses are requested to register the same in respect of shares held in electronic form with the Depository through their Depository Participant(s) and in respect of shares held in physical form by writing to the Company’s Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, Alankit Assignments Limited, 208, Anarkali Complex, Jhandewalan Extension, New Delhi-110055 or by mail to virenders@alankit.com. Please refer to notes appended to Postal Ballot Notice for more details.</p> <p>The Company has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited (“NSDL”) for providing e-voting facility to the Shareholders. Shareholders are requested to note that the voting through Postal Ballot /e-voting will commence on Saturday, November 26, 2022 at 09:00 Hours (IST) and will end on Sunday, December 25, 2022 at 17:00 Hours (IST) both days inclusive. Communication of the consent/dissent of the members would take place only through e-voting. The detailed instructions for e-voting forms part of the Postal Ballot Notice.</p> <p>The Board of Directors of the Company have appointed Shri Naresh Kumar Sinha (FCS No. F1807 & CDP: 14984) Proprietor of M/s Kumar Naresh Sinha & Associates, Company Secretaries, as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the Postal Ballot process including e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.</p> <p>The resolutions, if passed by the requisite majority, shall be deemed to have been passed on Sunday, December 25, 2022, i.e., the last date specified for receipt of votes through the e-voting process. Further, resolutions passed by the Members through e-voting is deemed to have been passed effectively at a General Meeting. The results of the Postal Ballot through remote e-voting will be announced on or before Tuesday, December 27, 2022 by the Chairman or any other person authorized by the Chairman. The said results would also be available on the Company’s website at www.rvnl.org, website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com and simultaneously communicated to the Stock exchanges.</p> <p>All grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Soni Singh, Assistant Manager, National Securities Depository Limited (“NSDL”), Trade World, A wing, 4th Floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Lower Parel, Mumbai – 400013 or send an email to helpdesk@evoting.nsdlindia.com or call at toll free no.: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30.</p>	
<p>For Rail Vikas Nigam Limited S/- Kalpna Dubey Company Secretary & Compliance Officer</p>	
<p>Place: New Delhi Date: 24-11-2022</p>	

 		Asset Recovery Branch: 1st Floor, Steel House, Near Police Check Post, Boring Road, Patna-800001			
 		<div>DEMAND NOTICE</div>			
Notice under Sec. 13(2) read with Sec.13(13) & 13(8) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No.2 of 2002)					
Demand Notices were issued to the below mentioned borrower/guarantor in respect of loan availed by them and after the loan account becoming NPA giving them 60 days' time to pay the outstanding dues of the bank. Notice(s) sent but acknowledgment yet not received. We have indicated our intention of taking possession of secured assets detailed below in case of failure of borrower/guarantor in repaying the outstanding dues within the said time of 60 days. These borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) are notified hereby to repay the outstanding dues as mentioned below within 60 days from the publication of this notice to avoid further action under SARFAESI Act.. They are also advised to collect detailed notice lying in our office.					
Sl. No.	Name of Account / Borrower's / Mortgagor's and Branch	Description of secured assets	Date of NPA/ Date of Demand Notice	Total Outstanding Amount (Rs.)	
1.	Borrowers:- 1. Mr. Abhilesh Kumar S/o Late Shyam Narayan Prasad, 70 Feet Road, Mahaveer Nagar, Road No.2, Phulwari, Patna-800002. 2. Mr. Subodh Kumar Verma S/o Late Baleswar Prasad H No. 2/186, G D Mishra Path, Near Patliputra Colony, Patna-800013 Branch: ARB Patna (Base Branch: Patliputra) (eAB).	All the piece and parcel of Flat No. 508 on the 5th Floor, of the Building named Shree Ramanul Residency having super built up area of 1225 Sq Ft along with reserved Car Parking space and bounded as follows: North: Lift Space & Flat No. 506, South: Back Setback, East: Flat No. 507, West: Side setback	21.04.2021/ 26.10.2022	₹ 26,84,696.33 as on 30.09.2022	
2.	Borrowers:- 1. M/s AKASH FOOD PRODUCTS, PROP-ANITA DEVI W/O CHANDSI RAY, NEAR DEVI MANDIR, WEST GOLA ROAD, DANAPUR, PATNA-801503, 2. ANITA DEVI (PROPRIETOR) W/O CHANDSI RAY NEAR DEVI MANDIR, WEST GOLA ROAD, DANAPUR, PATNA-801503, Legal Heir of Deceased Mr. Chhatrapati Rai: 1. Mr. Chandraman Rai (Son of Late Mr. Chhatrapati Rai) Near Devi Mandir, West Gola Road, Danapur, Patna-801503, 2. Mr. Chandsi Rai (Son of Late Mr. Chhatrapati Rai), Near Devi Mandir, West Gola Road, Danapur, Patna-801503, 3. Mrs. Rita Devi W/O Mr. Yogendra Rai, (Daughter of Late Mr. Chhatrapati Rai), Sormadwa, Maner, Patna-801108. 4. Mrs. Sangita Devi W/O Mr. Hemant Kumar (Daughter of Late Mr. Chhatrapati Rai), Dargah Par, Maner, Patna-801108. 5. Mrs. Savita Devi W/O Mr. Rajendra Rai (Daughter of Late Mr. Chhatrapati Rai), Brahmacharya, Maner, Patna-801108. Branch: ARB Patna (Base Branch: Doctors Colony) (eCB).	Primary Security: i) Hypothecation of stocks in trade. Collateral Security: All the piece and parcel of land And building admeasuring area of 1 katha (1361 Sqft) in the name of Mr. Chhatrapati Rai, situated at Mohalla-Ram Nagar Near Devi Mandir, West Gola Road, Mauza-Danapur, Sahjadpur, Pargana-Phulwarisharif, P.S-Danapur, S.D.R.O Danapur, Thana No-21, Tauzi No-5138, Khata No.42, Khesra No. 127(P) Dist-Patna and bounded as follows: North: Nine feet Road, South: Punit Mahto & Suresh Rai, East: Punam Kumari, West: Chhatrapati Rai.	01.03.2021/ 15.10.2022	₹ 24,31,014.71 as on 30.09.2022	
3.	Borrowers:- 1. Mr. Anil Kumar S/o Shri Ramdas Sharma, Astha Enclave, Flat No.303, Lohiya Path, Bailey Road, Patna-800014, 2. Mrs. Shila Devi W/o Mr. Anil Kumar, Astha Enclave, Flat No.303, Lohiya Path, Bailey Road, Patna-800014, 3. Mr. Gyanseel Kumar S/o Mr. Anil Kumar, Astha Enclave, Flat No.303, Lohiya Path, Bailey Road, Patna-800014, 4. Mr. Anil Kumar S/o Shri Ramdas Sharma, Vill & P.O-Berra Nadaul, P.S- Masaurhi, Dist- Patna-804454 Branch: ARB Patna (Base Branch: Dhanaut) (eCB)	All the piece and parcel of land and building admeasuring 1005 Sq Ft belonging to Mr. Anil Kumar, situated at Mauza- Danapur Sahjadpur, Pargana- Phulwari Sharif, Thana No.21, Tauzi No. 5400, Khata No.253, S.Plot No.938, Samiti Plot No. 68(P), P.S.-Danapur, Patna and bounded as follows: North: 16 Feet Wide Rasta, South: Samiti Plot No.37, East: Hal Kharidar Sangeeta Singh wife of Nagendra Kumar, West: Part Plot of Smt. Sashi Devi and Sri Akhileshwar Kumar Pandey.	30.11.2020/ 08.11.2022	₹ 26,38,279.42 as on 31.10.2022	
4.	Borrowers:- 1. Mrs Husne Ara W/O Mr. Jasim Ansari, Ashiana Jaseen, Mahmood Shah Lane, Near Khaitan Super Market, Patna-800004, 2. Mrs Husne Ara W/O Mr. Jasim Ansari, Flat No 405, Araice Apartment, Near Shubhas Park, South Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800001, 3. Mr. Sheikh Alimuddin Ansari S/O Mr. Rafique Ansari, R/O Mahmood Shah Lane, Daryapur, Near Bank Colony, Arya Kumar Road, Patna- 800004, 4. Legal Heir Of Mrs. Asma Ansari R/O Mahmood Shah Lane, Daryapur, Near Bank Colony, Arya Kumar Road, Patna-800004, 5. Mr. Sheikh Alimuddin Ansari (Legal Heir of Mrs. Asma Ansari) S/O Mr. Rafique Ansari, R/O Mahmood Shah Lane, Daryapur, Near Bank Colony, Arya Kumar Road, Patna-800004. Branch: ARB Patna (Base Branch: Raja Bazar)	All that piece and parcel of Land and building admeasuring area 738 sq. ft. standing in the name of Mrs. Husne Ara w/o Mr. Jasim Ansari situated at Mauza-Dariyapur, Mohalla-Mokhtar Toli, P.S- Pirbahor, Sub Registry Office & Dist-Patna under PRDA & PMC Bearing Patna Nagar Nigam, Ward No.-8(oid), Present Ward No.-40, Sheet No-63, Circle No.-177, Holding No.-137D/113 Municipal Survey Plot No.-1000, Thana Code No.-409 and bounded as North: 8 Ft Wide Common Passage, South: Sri Lal Kishor, East: Md. Sarwar Alam and Md. Awasar Alam, West: Md. Jahid Hussain and M.S Plot No.-1000	01.03.2021/ 15.10.2022	₹ 24,89,126.08 as on 30.09.2022	
5.	Borrowers:- 1. M/s Maa Chemical Works, Proprietor Mr. Ashok Kumar, Mohalla-Chhoti Pahari, Kharoonia Doctors Colony, Agamkuan, Patna City, Patna-800007, 2. MR. Ashok Kumar S/o Lala Prasad, Proprietor of M/s Maa Chemical Works, Mohalla-Chhoti Pahari, Kharoonia Doctors Colony, Agamkuan, Patna City, Patna-800007, 3. Mrs. Kalpana Devi (Guarantor) W/o Mr. Ashok Kumar, Mohalla-Chhoti Pahari, Kharoonia Doctors Colony, Agamkuan, Patna City, Patna-800007. Branch: ARB Patna (Base Branch: Machharhatta)	All the piece and parcel of land admeasuring an area of 1.625 Decimal is lying and situated at Mauza- Pahari, Pargana- Azimabad under P.S- Alamganj present P.S- Agamkuan, Dist-Patna vide Thana No- 14, Tauzi-Samailat, Khata No-446, Khesra No- 80, Jamabandi No- 8726.	30.11.2018/ 15.10.2022	₹ 47,91,213.45 as on 30.09.2022	
6.	Borrowers:- 1. M/S Nalanda Granthalaya, Prop: Mrs. Mamta Devi, Kanti Factory Road, M G Nagar, Kankarbagh, Patna-800026, 2. Mrs. Mamta Devi (Proprietor), W/O Mr. Mukesh Kumar, Kanti Factory Road, M G Nagar, Kankarbagh, Patna-800026, 3. Mrs. Hira Devi (Guarantor), W/O Mr. Parmeshwar Singh, Vill-Ramchandrapur Ps-Piperiya, Dist-Lakhisarai-811311, 4. Mr. Mukesh Kumar (Guarantor), S/O Mr. Kitar Singh, C/O Umesh Narayan Dhar, M G Nagar, Kanti Factory Road, M G Nagar, Kankarbagh, Patna-800026, 5. Mrs. Hira Devi (Guarantor), W/O Mr. Parmeshwar Singh, Kanti Factory Road, M G Nagar, Kankarbagh, Patna-800026. Branch: ARB Patna (Base Branch: Doctor's Colony) (eAB)	1) All the piece and parcel of land admeasuring 1500 Sq Ft belonging to Mr. Mukesh Kumar, situated at land bearing plot no- 1768, Thana No-14, Tauzi No 229, Khata No-419, at Mauza- Pahari East of NH Masuri Road, Opp. RPS Residential School, Thana -Agamkuan, Dist- Patna and bounded as follows: North: Arvind Singh, South: Road, East: Sunil Kr Jha, West: Uday Kr Singh. 2) All the piece and parcel of urban Land admeasuring 1 Katha & 10 Dhur bearing Plot no.-2457, Khata no-650, Tauzi No-360, Thana-122, Mauza-Mampanpur Variya, Thana- Gaurichak, Survey Thana-Phulwari, Patna and bounded as follows: North: Shivaji Singh, South: Rinku Devi, East: Vijay Singh, West: Rajdeo Singh, Shatrughan Singh, Nageshwar Singh etc.	31.10.2017/ 15.10.2022	₹ 81,21,072.87 as on 30.09.2022	
7.	Borrowers:- 1. M/S Rishav Raj Enterprises, Prop-Mr. Sunil Kumar Singh, Lig Sector-6, Block-8, Flat No.-451, Bahadurpur Housing Colony, Patna-800026, 2. Mr. Sunil Kumar Singh (Proprietor), S/O Shri Ram Charitar Singh, Lig Sector-6, Block-8, Flat No.-451, Bahadurpur Housing Colony, Patna-800026, 3. Mrs. Manisha Singh (Guarantor), W/O Mr. Sunil Kumar Singh, Lig Sector-6, Block-8, Flat No.-451, Bahadurpur Housing Colony, Patna-800026. Branch: ARB Patna (Base Branch: Doctor's Colony)	All the piece and parcel of land admeasuring an area of 1500 Sq Ft belonging to Mr. Sunil Kumar in Thana No-14, Tauzi No-229, Khata No-419 and 356, Survey plot no- 1768 & 1769, situated at Mauza Pahari, South of N H & East of Masaurhi Road, P.S-Agamkuan Patna and bounded as follows: North: 25 Ft Wide Road, South: Part Plot No.1768, East: Rishikesh Kumar, West: Uday Kumar	31.08.2017/ 15.10.2022	₹ 60,76,989.2	

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW CHINA WATCH

CHINA DAILY 中国日报

Analysts laud Xi's thoughts on global future

By PRIME SARMIENTO, WANG XU and CHEN WEIHUA

Concepts of inclusive growth, common development receive positive reaction

Chinese President Xi Jinping's emphasis on more inclusive growth and common development for a community with a shared future for mankind resonates with the needs of all people in the world in addressing today's global challenges, analysts say.

In a speech delivered at the first session of the 17th G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, Xi said that all G20 members should take responsibility to make global development more inclusive, beneficial to all and more resilient.

He underlined food and energy security as the most pressing challenges in global development, calling upon nations to resolutely oppose attempts to politicise food

and energy issues or use them as tools or weapons.

Xi's speech, delivered in the same week the global population reached 8 billion people, laid out a vision for the world as a community of collective destiny, said Gal Luft, co-director of the United States-based Institute for the Analysis of Global Security.

"It transcended political and regional divisions and stayed above the flashpoints and crises du jour," he said. "In this, it is an evergreen speech which could be given years from now with a similar degree of relevancy as today's."

Luft noted that Xi was not in favour of those building "a small yard with high fences" to protect themselves and advocated instead

a tide-lifts-all-boats approach to global development.

"Needless to say which approach resonated more with the multiple Global South representatives present in the room," he said.

Airlangga Hartarto, Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, appreciated Xi's proposals on digital economy among others. Xi said China has proposed G20 Action on Digital Innovation and Cooperation, and called for narrowing the digital gap.

The digitalisation is in line with Indonesia's focus on digital transformation for stronger recovery, Hartarto said at a news briefing.

Irvan Tengku Harja, a researcher at the Indonesian think tank

Prakasa, and a delegate to Civil 20 Indonesia 2022 in Bali, noted that three main points promoted by Xi could be cures for the world's major problems today.

Global economic uncertainties because of conflict, among other factors, "are having an impact on the international community, especially low-income countries. If energy and food prices go higher, causing higher inflation, the poor and vulnerable citizens like women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, informal workers and so on will hurt", he said.

Carlos Martinez, a British commentator and co-editor of Friends of Socialist China, said that it's noteworthy that the G20 Summit was taking place at the same time as COP27 in Egypt, where developing

countries are loudly raising their demands for climate justice.

"In his G20 speech, Xi Jinping added his voice to those demands, reiterating the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities — a principle enshrined in international law," Martinez said.

He said that China is already working with a large number of Global South countries on green development projects, including Zambia, South Africa, Kenya, Argentina and Cuba.

Yosuke Tsuyuguchi, an economics professor at Teikyo University in Japan, said the Global Development Initiative proposed by Xi is in fact being realised gradually and its specific measures are worthy of high praise.

"Xi said global development would be impossible without a peaceful and stable international environment. Not only in terms of facilitating the common development and progress of all countries, but also in terms of maintaining stable and resilient supply chains, China itself is working hard towards these initiatives, it is also deserving commendation," Tsuyuguchi added.

Sisilia Nurmala Dewi, managing director for Asia at environmental group 350.org, agreed with Xi's concept that modernisation is the right of every country.

She noted that Xi made a strong pledge last year on China's phasing down coal. G20 countries should not backslide from the Paris Agreement pledge because of the current geopolitical tension, she said.

Expo spillover gives companies revenue boost

By WANG YING

From East to West, a growing number of small and medium-sized traders are tapping into China's great consumption appetite by exhibiting their products at the China International Import Expo, or CIIE, in Shanghai.

A set of aloe vera products from South Africa, which includes 4,000 bottles of aloe vera capsules for healthcare and 1,000 units of aloe vera gum for skincare were on display at the expo at the National Exhibition and Convention Centre in Shanghai, which ran from November 5 to 10.

After the exhibition, the products are available for sale at the Hongqiao Import Commodity Exhibition and Trading Centre, a permanent trading platform in Shanghai for the CIIE, said Le Jiayi, general manager of the Shanghai KJ Import and Export Co Ltd.

"Thanks to the solutions offered by the Hongqiao Import Commodity Exhibition and Trading Centre, we are allowed to sell our products on display rapidly."

Aloe vera products are favoured by Chinese consumers, but it usually takes a long time to make the products available for sale in traditional channels because of the goods category requirements, Le said.

Likewise, the Scotch whisky brand Glenroy made its debut in China at the CIIE, with nine products on display at this year's expo.

The plan was to exhibit and seek business negotiations during the expo, but the brand has already prepared to ship 200,000 British pounds (Rs 19.4 million) worth of products to China next year, said Li Xiang, official partner from China with the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.



Visitors participate in an environmental protection activity at sports retailer Decathlon's booth at the fifth China International Import Expo in Shanghai on November 6. TANG KE / FOR CHINA DAILY

Many companies in Scotland are seeking business opportunities overseas, and the 365-day trading platform offered by the CIIE provides handy support from beginning to end, Li said.

Li added that products from Glasgow including food, accessories, fashion, luxury items and consumer products as well as technology products are about to appear at next year's CIIE.

The Hongqiao Import Commodity Exhibition and Trading Centre will serve as the platform for expanding the spillover effect of the CIIE throughout the year, said Zhu Jing, deputy general manager of Shanghai Hongqiao International

Import Commodity Exhibition and Trade Co Ltd.

"Over the past four years more than 70,000 products of more than 6,000 brands from about 90 countries and regions have been exhibited and sold via the platform."

Organisers forecast that 10 categories of products both imported and exported through the platform will generate trade valued at about 100 billion yuan (Rs 1.1 trillion) a year by 2025.

Coffee and alcoholic drinks are among the 10 categories expected to reach a business scale of 10 billion yuan in 2025 at the Hongqiao Import Commodity Exhibition and Trading Centre.

The CIIE's spillover effect for business expansion means snowballing revenue on an annual basis for Wang Zhengxiang, chairman of Horgos Abeba Trade Co Ltd, a coffee bean trading startup in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

"After exhibiting our coffee beans imported from Ethiopia at the CIIE last year we joined the 365-day trading platform. Our annual sales expanded from about 100,000 yuan a year to more than 2 million yuan this year. And as our products became available for sale at this year's CIIE, our revenue may get a further lift to about 5 million yuan in the coming year."

Carpets from India weave their magic in Shanghai

When Imran Rah attended the inaugural edition of the China International Import Expo in Shanghai in 2018 he set up a booth covering just 18 square metres to display his products.

At this year's CIIE, the fifth, the cashmere carpet dealer from India expanded his presence to three booths covering nearly 100 square metres.

Rah's participation at the CIIE for five consecutive years has resulted in a substantial number of repeat customers as he continues to broaden his product range and improve quality.

"China is a huge market with great potential for handmade cashmere and silk carpets, and cashmere shawls," Rah said. "The CIIE helps profoundly to boost brand recognition, and brings quality clients from across the country."

"It could take a whole year to develop relations with new clients we get from a single attendance at the CIIE."

In 2013 Rah established his own hand-woven carpet brand. Since



Imran Rah rolls a carpet at his booth at the fifth China International Import Expo in Shanghai on November 8. BU DUOMEN / XINHUA

entering China in 2014 the brand has expanded its presence, with shops opening in cities such as Hangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing.

Rah said he is doing business in many other countries, but that "China is the most important market".

Pointing to a carpet of about 2 or 3 square metres, Rah said it takes at least six months for two

skilled artisans to make such an exquisite carpet, and that it is a labour-intensive process requiring exceptional artistry.

The target market for handcrafted cashmere or silk carpets is highly selective because of the high costs, Rah said, adding that he has seen many artisans in his hometown leave this line of business because making a living from it is so precarious.

He has established long-term partnerships with more than 1,000 artisans in his hometown, buys their products and consequently helped boost their standard of living.

"The sale of one fine handmade silk carpet can financially support a household for six months or even a year," Rah said.

Customer expectations of product quality are high because of the CIIE's prominence and scale, and goods that meet these standards are more likely to be well received, Rah said.

"This is also good for passing on the artisanship of carpets."

The success in the Chinese market has bolstered Rah's sense of responsibility. He has provided financial assistance to struggling artisans and their children as well as offered donations to several schools back home.

"The CIIE calls for sharing development opportunities. I hope that just like me, they are also given the opportunities to fulfil their dreams."

XINHUA

Yiwu now a go-to city for importers worldwide

By MA ZHENHUAN

In 2007 Dehghani Gholamhossein, 57, who is from the Iranian capital Teheran, founded a foreign trade company in Yiwu, East China's Zhejiang province.

Over the past decade, in particular, he and his company, Yiwu Hamid Import & Trade Co, which specialises in selling products such as scarves, handicrafts and Christmas ornaments, have witnessed the rapid development of Yiwu's foreign trade.

"In the very beginning when we came to Yiwu, this small-commodity city was not as large as it is now," Gholamhossein said. "However, the city's scale and the categories of commodities are growing, and the market has become more and more international."

The city had humble beginnings as agrarian land in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and has since developed into what is widely acknowledged as the world's largest small-commodities market.

Yiwu's commodities are now exported to more than 210 countries and regions. Statistics from Yiwu customs show that the city's exports of small commodities more than tripled between 2012 and 2021, rising from \$11.93 billion (Rs 973.8 billion) to \$40.78 billion and accounting for 31.2 per cent of China's total.

Indeed, many people worldwide, and even in China, are probably unaware that they have intimate connections with products from Yiwu, ranging from daily life items to sports-related products.

For instance, since the early 2010s, the rising volume of Christmas-related exports from Yiwu have made the city the world's largest manufacturing and distribution centre for Christmas products, including tree decorations, Yuletide clothing, greeting cards, festive lights and packaging. About 80 per cent of the world's Christmas goods come from this city, the city's commerce bureau said.

More recently, manufacturers have been busy producing and delivering football-related

products before the FIFA 2022 World Cup, which kicked off in Qatar on November 20. To facilitate the delivery of the merchandise to fans across the globe, Yiwu has even set up the World Cup Special Transport Network, by which goods can travel from the ports of Ningbo and Shanghai to Hamad Port in Qatar in just 20 to 25 days.

In addition, with the approach of winter, Yiwu has experienced surging demand from Europe for heating equipment amid the looming energy crisis there. By early November exports of products such as electric blankets and electric heaters had risen 41.9 per cent year-on-year to 190 million yuan (Rs 2.2 billion), the city's customs said.

In the past few years, Yiwu has tapped into the opportunities arising from the rapid development of digital economy, and the city has vigorously developed a combination of livestreaming and e-commerce, with a particular focus on overseas customers.

Many businesses in Yiwu, including Gholamhossein's, have begun to deploy overseas livestreaming in multiple languages.

Foreign business owners in Yiwu have built warehouses overseas that serve as miniature markets, solving many problems related to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gholamhossein's warehouse in Iran has been developing steadily in recent years, and "the warehouse area has also been expanding", he said.

More important, perhaps, Gholamhossein said he believes that businessmen like himself have benefited enormously from the continuously improving business environment, not only in Yiwu, but all over China.

"For example, the tax authorities' supporting policy of VAT (value-added tax) exemption is very important to us, as it reduces our investment risk, lightens our burden, saves on export costs and strengthens our competitiveness in the international market, thus improving our economic efficiency," he said.

Fang Xiaoying and Qi Xiao contributed to this story.



Customers purchase football-related products at the Yiwu International Trade Market in Zhejiang province on October 31. GONG XIANMING / FOR CHINA DAILY



A harvester gathers wheat grown on salt-affected land in Lijin county, Dongying, Shandong province, in June. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Barren terrain undergoes dramatic transformation

Hard work pays off as seawater grain is produced from salt-affected soil. **Zhao Ruixue** reports

A large expanse of fragrant seawater rice plants was harvested on November 1 at the Yuwang Wetland in Weifang, a coastal city in Shandong province. Such rice is salt-tolerant but is not grown in the sea. Several years ago the area around the wetland was dubbed “white land” by locals because the high salt content left a distinctive frost on the top layer of soil. Tian Guoqing, general manager of Shandong Binyuan Agricultural Science and Technology Co, which runs the seawater rice area in the city’s Hanting district, said: “The 3,866-plus hectares of crops are expected to produce more rice this year than last year.” After three years’ work to manage the salt-affected soil and cultivate salt-tolerant seed, the once-barren land has been transformed into a productive area for seawater rice, demonstrating efficient use of salt-affected soil. Carlos Watson, representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, or FAO, in China, said at an international conference on salt-affected soil in Weifang in September: “Soil salinisation is a significant problem worldwide.” According to the FAO last year, more than 1,100 million hectares of soil is affected by salinity and sodicity (which degrades soil properties), Watson said. Of this total, 60 per cent of the soil is saline, 26 per cent sodic, and the remaining 14 per cent saline-sodic. China has 100 million hectares of salt-affected soil, about the size of Egypt, and one-third of this soil has the potential for agricultural activities, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said. Agricultural workers are committed to comprehensively using salt-affected soil, using methods ranging from managing the soil to make it suitable for crops

to breeding salt-tolerant crop varieties. Xu Xing, professor of agricultural science at Ningxia University in Ningxia Hui autonomous region, said: “We have cultivated salt-tolerant *goji* (Chinese wolfberries), corn, rice and grapes on the Hetao Plain along the upper Yellow River, adding colour to this once-white land.” In Shandong more than 386,600 hectares of salt-affected soil has been treated to grow crops and fruit. Dongying, where the Yellow River flows into Bohai Bay in Shandong, boasts a large area of soil with high levels of salinity as a result of coastal erosion and high levels of saltwater saturation. Wang Guangmei, head of the Yellow River Delta field ecosystem scientific observation and research station responsible to the Yantai Institute of Coastal Zone Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, noticed cracks on the salt-affected land when he visited the delta four years ago. “There were salt stains everywhere, and plants were rarely seen,” Wang said. To develop the salt-affected soil, the State Council approved the establishment of the Agricultural High-tech Industrial Demonstration Area of the Yellow River Delta in Dongying in 2015. It is planned to turn the area into a new comprehensive model for the use of saline land, which can contribute to the modernisation of agriculture. The demonstration area covers 350 square kilometres, of which more than 80 per cent is salt-affected land, the local government said.

To improve the soil structure, Wang and his colleagues planted grasses to be used as forage. “By planting the forage grasses we can cover more areas with them, reducing the accumulation of salt on the surface soil,” Wang said. “When these grasses are ripe we plough them into the soil to enrich its composition by creating more nutrients and increasing its organic matter.” Wang’s team has also customised microbial fertilisers for the soil. After four years’ work the soil’s organic matter in the demonstration area rose by more than 8 per cent on average, and its salt content fell 21 per cent, according to observation and research station figures. While improving the soil quality, experts are also cultivating salt-tolerant plant varieties. Using modern cultivation techniques, 37 new varieties of salt-resistant plants, including quinoa, alfalfa, oats and triticale, have been grown in the area. Chen Xinguo, who oversees the Yellow River Delta Salt-tolerant Soybean Industrial Innovation Centre, said: “We plan to cultivate three new varieties of salt-tolerant soybean crops by 2025.” Located about 20 kilometres from the Bohai Sea coastline, the Yuwang Wetland was once a large, barren area with more than 12,000 hectares of salty soil in which crops could not survive. Since 2019 Shandong Binyuan Agricultural Science and Technology Co has worked with a team formed by the late Yuan Longping, who was China’s top agricultural scientist and was known as “the father of hybrid

rice”, to improve the salt-affected soil and cultivate salt-tolerant rice varieties. The company planted 1,673 hectares of rice on salt-affected soil at the wetland in 2020, with the average production of rice per *mu* (0.07 hectares) reaching 691 kilograms, double the yield in 2019. Tian, the general manager, said, “Salt-tolerant rice seeds developed by agricultural experts are key to ensuring a bountiful harvest.” These experts planted more than 30 varieties of rice on different areas of the saline-alkali soil, finally selecting six. In addition, they developed two local varieties. “The newly developed localised varieties of rice are more salt-tolerant, more resistant to disease, and they have thicker stalks to withstand the wind in areas close to the coast,” Tian said. To better make use of the salt-affected soil, Tian said, two pipes were laid underground for irrigation and to leach out salt. Aided by data from smart sensors and cameras, the artificial intelligence agricultural system provides the correct quantity of water for the soil. Compared with farmers traditionally irrigating their fields by using large amounts of fresh water, the new methods can save up to 30 per cent of water. Tian believes that planting seawater rice is a promising business. “We can make the best use of salt-affected soil by making the best use of seawater rice. Due to the special growing environment, the level of selenium in seawater rice planted in saline-alkali soil is seven times higher than in ordinary rice, making seawater rice healthier,” he said. Selenium is a trace element that works as an antioxidant in the body by preventing damage to the cells that some particles from the environment can cause.

“Salt-tolerant rice seeds developed by agricultural experts are key to ensuring a bountiful harvest.”

Tian Guoqing
GENERAL MANAGER OF SHANDONG BINYUAN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CO

Wonderland soaked in history casts its spell

By **YANG YANG** and **YANG JUN**

Over tens of thousands of years, rainwater and heat have combined in the subtropical weather in the south of today’s Guizhou province to allow fauna and flora to survive on rocky soil. But unlike many forests, much of the soil there has been washed away because rainwater erodes the rocks of the karst landscape, allowing soil to seep through. Tree roots have to work hard to carry out their function of nurturing growth with such scarce offerings. The Maolan National Nature Reserve in the south of Guizhou contains one of the few forests at 25 degrees north latitude on Earth.

This is the Libo karst forest, often called “the emerald on the belt of the Earth”. The 21,285-hectare reserve shelters more than 2,670 vascular plants, 586 vertebrate animals and 1,589 insect species, including endangered species. The Libo karst forest, the world’s only such extant forest, is part of the South China Karst, a UNESCO World Heritage Site recognised as a representative of karst landform development in the humid tropics and subtropics, with high aesthetic value. The forest displays the wonders of nature. On a clear day one can see giant conical peaks carpeted with



Tourists enjoy a refreshingly cool and clear stream running through the karst forest in Libo county, Guizhou province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

thick green trees standing sentinel. A ribbon of leaden cement, a trail for visitors, meanders through it. The diverse creatures that live there are less disturbed by human activities, so the forest is preserved as a typical, primordial ecosystem of evergreen deciduous broad-leaved trees. Indomitable as it is, life is

nonetheless fragile, especially in the ecosystem of the karst forest. Usually in southern China, with rainwater and heat, soil is thick and fertile, but in a karst landscape the rocks are shaped by water. There are many small openings and cracks on their surface, and over the years, because of the erosion of rainwater, caves form, so that when it rains the

Ruins help unravel longstanding riddles

By **WANG KAIHAO**

Almost a century after archaeological excavations began at the Yinxu site in Anyang, Henan province, fruitful new findings are helping decode the early stages of Chinese civilisation. The 3,300-year-old site is best known as the home of exquisite ceremonial bronzeware and oracle bone inscriptions, the oldest-known Chinese writing system. The evolution of the characters written on the bones is also seen as an indication of the continuous line of Chinese civilisation. The inscriptions, mainly carved on turtle shells or ox bones for fortunetelling or recording events, show the Yinxu site to be the location of the capital of the late Shang Dynasty (c.16th century-11th century BC). The inscriptions also documented people’s daily life. In the text, people then praised their capital as Dayishang, or “the grand metropolis of Shang”. Excavation findings at the site have been matched with the inscriptions to gain a more detailed picture of the Shang Dynasty, archaeologists working at Yinxu said at a news conference on November 10.

Xu Lianggao, a researcher with the Institute of Archaeology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the information helped confirm the location of key buildings and structures. In an area where palaces and ancestral temples were believed to be located, new unearthed findings indicate a 60,000-square-metre royal resort, including a lake with a central island, manmade waterways to the nearby Huanhe River and more architectural foundations. “Our previous understanding of the layout of palaces in Yinxu has been refreshed,” Xu said. “Images of the Shang civilisation now become more vivid and are more complete.”

A 15-metre-wide road north of the Huanhe River and two roads south of Yinxu’s palace area were also found. They were probably part of a complex road system, Xu said. Previous research has allowed researchers to determine basic structures, districts and various functions of the Yinxu site, Xu said. Interdisciplinary studies in recent years have deepened knowledge of Shang architecture, belief systems, handicraft industries

and many other fields, he said. Excavation started in 1928 at Yinxu, one of the first modern archaeological projects in China run by local scholars. In the decades that followed, generations of leading Chinese archaeologists honed their skills at Yinxu. “The site is just an incomparable milestone,” Chen Xingcan, head of the Institute of Archaeology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said. “Before the epoch-making finding of Yinxu, early Chinese history was widely doubted by Western scholars to have ever really existed. It (the find) then greatly enhanced Chinese people’s cultural confidence.” In 2006 Yinxu was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Archaeologists have also explored surrounding areas, and some nearby sites are probably even older than Yinxu, said Kong Deming, a researcher with the Anyang Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology. Since 2020 a large cluster of bronzeware workshops has been discovered at the Xindian site,

about 10 kilometres north of Yinxu’s palace area. More than 40,000 pieces of pottery moulds, which were used to cast bronze, were unearthed along with many other tools. About 2.5 km south of the palace area, three courtyard ruins have been found at the Shaojiapeng site. The discoveries include 18 houses and a graveyard with more than 20 tombs and four funeral pits in which chariots and horses are buried. “These findings give us a much bigger picture of Yinxu and about different clans living on this land then,” Kong said. Some of the archaeological findings may indicate that Yinxu was part of a much bigger network of communication, trade and shared learning among prehistoric civilisations. Kong said unearthed bronze arrow heads and analysis of human bones in a graveyard on the Taojiaying site, 7 km north of Yinxu, indicated that nomads had been coming from northern grasslands, such as present-day Inner Mongolia. “It is communication that makes cultures boom,” Xu of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said. “YinXu is our benchmark to better view other bronze civilisations of its time.”



An inscribed oracle bone unearthed at YinXu. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Bronzeware from the Shang Dynasty (c.16th century – 11th century BC) unearthed from the Taojiaying site in Anyang, Henan province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

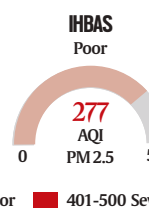
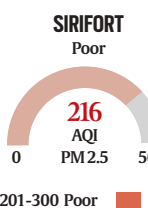
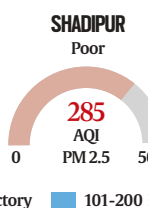
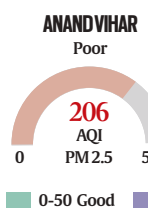
soil seeps through, said Yan Lingbin, a teacher from the College of Life Sciences in Guizhou University. “Little soil can be maintained in this ecosystem, and it is rare to have forests growing in such an environment. That’s why it’s fragile and unique.” A karst forest takes much longer to recover, he said. He cites a statistic that proves the point. It takes about 8,000 years to form soil of 1 centimetre in a karst space, compared with only dozens of years in other more fertile areas. The Libo forest has been preserved due to difficult access, a comparatively small population and the great respect for nature the locals have, said Yu Dengli, head of the management bureau of the reserve. In recent years the residents who lived in the core area of the reserve have been relocated to better protect this unique forest, he said.

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

ACROSS PARTIES, HIGHEST NUMBER OF CANDIDATES IN THEIR 40S

MCD elections: At 140, AAP fields highest number of women, candidates in their 20s

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE AAM Aadmi Party has the highest number of women candidates in the fray in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi elections this time. While AAP has fielded 140 women candidates, BJP has given tickets to 137. This is followed by 134 women candidates by Congress, which is contesting only on 247 seats out of 250.

Data available on the State Election Commission's mobile application for the MCD polls, analysed by *The Indian Express*, also shows that AAP also has the highest number of candidates in their 20s. The party has fielded 22 candidates who are between 21 and 29 years of age. BJP has four candidates in the age bracket, while Congress has 19.

For all three parties, the highest number of candidates are in their 40s. While AAP has 92 candidates in the age bracket, BJP has 103 and Congress 87.

In municipal elections, 50% of the seats are reserved for



Amit Mehra



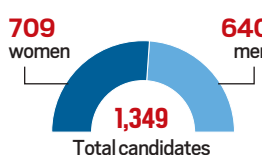
Gajendra Yadav

(Clockwise from top left) Flash mob by AAP members in Lajpat Nagar; Cong candidate Deepika Deshwal campaigns in Saraswati Vihar; Union Minister Anurag Thakur during an MCD poll campaign for a BJP candidate



PTI

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES



No of women candidates across parties



AGE WISE BREAK-UP

Age	AAP	BJP	Cong
20s	22	4	19
30s	69	48	58
40s	92	103	87
50s	55	84	65
60s	12	11	16
70s	0	0	2

women candidates.

The AAP has also given a ticket to a transgender person, who identifies as female. The

party said the women were selected based on the feedback received from the workers on the ground.

"These women have emerged as the first choice of the public in the survey conducted by ground workers. A better con-

nect with people of the area and active participation on issues of public interest was a plus point for these women who got tick-

BRIEFLY

L&T bags Executive Enclave contract

New Delhi: The Central Public Works Department has awarded the contract for construction of the Executive Enclave as a part of the Central Vista redevelopment to Larsen and Toubro Ltd.(L&T) at Rs 1,189 crore, the department tweeted. "The CPWD awarded the contract for construction of Executive Enclave to Larsen and Toubro Ltd. at 10.44% below the estimated cost put to tender, amounting to Rs 1,189 crore on November 15, 2022. The construction firm is required to complete work within 24 months," the CPWD said.

Dog bites woman, owner booked

Gurgaon: A 23-year-old college student sustained injuries after a German Shepherd allegedly attacked her near her home in Gurgaon, said police Thursday. Police have registered an FIR against the owner of the dog.

Girl killed in a hit-and-run

Gurgaon: A six-year-old girl was killed after a motorcycle allegedly hit her in a village in Manesar on Wednesday evening, said police. The accused is yet to be arrested. The deceased has been identified as Anshika Sharma. **ENS**

Give me control of CBI, ED for one day, half of BJP will be in jail: Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

ATTACKING THE BJP for allegedly filing "false" cases against members of the AAP, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Thursday that despite 167 cases filed against its leaders, no investigating agency had been able to prove any wrongdoing by an AAP member. Speaking to *NDTV*, Kejriwal said, "Over the last seven years, they have filed 167 cases against AAP leaders — not one has been proved in court. AAP leaders have been cleared in over 150 cases and the rest are pending... 800 probe agency officers are dedicated only to find wrongdoing by AAP leaders but they have found nothing. Agencies are getting pulled up in courts because they have filed false cases."

When asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim of running a completely clean government, Kejriwal said, "Give me control of the CBI, ED (Enforcement Directorate) for one day, half of BJP will be in jail."



CM Arvind Kejriwal

Delhi minister Satyendar Jain has been in jail for the past six months in relation to an alleged case of money laundering filed by the ED. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has been named as an accused in the CBI FIR in an alleged scam in the implementation of the Excise Policy 2021-22, and the party's communication in-charge Vijay Nair is in ED custody in relation to a case in the same matter. AAP has called all these cases politically motivated. Kejriwal also said AAP was going to win with a thumping majority in the MCD polls. "AAP will get 230-plus seats out of 250 in MCD. The BJP will get less than 20 seats. In Gujarat also, I feel AAP will win the elections," he said.

State can't tell anyone how to follow their religion: Jain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

JAILED AAP leader Satyendar Jain's lawyers Thursday told a court that the State has no right to tell anybody how to practise their religion, while doubling down on allegations that Tihar jail staff withdrew his special diet while he was on a religious fast. Special Judge Vikas Dhull will pronounce his order on Jain's ap-

plication Friday. The court is hearing Jain's application which alleges he lost 28 kg because his special diet was withdrawn.

Representing Jain, senior advocate Rahul Mehra said the State is nobody to tell anyone how to follow their religion. He argued if Jain was on a fast, then it was up to him to decide when to break the fast and the "State cannot stop him" from doing that.

On the jail authority's arguments that an indefinite fast was

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Thursday called the continuance of AAP's jailed leader Satyendar Jain as a minister in the Delhi government "shamelessness" and said such instances are unprecedented in public life.

Multiple videos of Jain have emerged purportedly showing him eating uncooked vegetables and fruits, getting massages and other special facilities in his Tihar prison cell.

"I had also gone to jail and resigned as a minister. Later, we fought before the court and the court said it was a political conspiracy and the case is fake. If there is injustice with you, then approach law/court. You can't act such shamelessly," the home minister said at an event.

When asked about Jain receiving "special treatment" at Tihar, Shah suggested that it should be posed to the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP to respond whether the video was genuine.

"If the video is genuine, the accountability lies on AAP. They



Home Minister Amit Shah

have to respond to why their jailed minister, even after going to jail, is not suspended, and sitting in jail, he uses such facilities. I do not have to answer (this question). Even today, he is the minister. I have never seen in such a long political life of mine that a party doesn't take resignation of a minister even after him going to jail," the home minister said at the Times Now Summit on 'India: A vibrant democracy, global bright spot'.

When asked about provisions allowing the Centre to remove a minister in such a scenario, he said even the Constitution makers had perhaps not seen such things coming, and hence, there was no such provision.

showing previous CCTV footage and now you don't have."

Advocate Abhijit Shankar, appearing for jail authorities, said Jain had not informed the prison that he was undertaking a fast and only informed that he was on a diet of fruits and vegetables.

He submitted Jain was provided nuts under directions from a medical officer and this opinion was later changed, suggesting that he supplement his protein intake through other sources.



CIVIC SENSE
MCD POLLS 2022

ets on unreserved seats," the AAP said in a statement.

BJP leaders said they had received thousands of applications for MCD tickets from both men and women and the distribution was done based on merit. "Half the seats in MCD are reserved for women and we have selected the strongest candidates from all seats. We have gone beyond the mandated 50% reservation mark in wards where women candidates were the strongest," said a party leader.

A total of 1,349 candidates are in the fray for the MCD elections from across parties this time around, of which 709 are women and 640 are men. The polls are scheduled for December 4 and the results will be announced on December 7.

Ransomware attack: For second day, services at AIIMS hit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

RAMBABU (55) from Kotla, suffering from an inflamed and swollen appendix, couldn't see his doctor at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, Thursday, a day after a ransomware attack affected the hospital's server.

This was the second consecutive day when e-hospital services, which runs the patient data system, and day-to-day activities, including OPD registrations and blood sample reports, were hit. The OP and inpatient digital services, including smart lab, billing, report generation, appointment system, were affected. As a result, Rambabu's information was inaccessible in the e-server. "I have been told to come on Monday for the next date," he added.

On Wednesday, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) said a ransomware attack affected the hospital server.

"Patients queued up the whole night to get appointments on Thursday morning which was done manually. Everything is happening manually now. The system has slowed down but OPD patients slots in each department were filled. In the morning, it was a bit chaotic," said a patient coordinator at the New RAK OPD.

AIIMS Delhi witnesses around 10,000 patients from across the country in its OPD every day.

The Delhi Police said an FIR has been registered and the case is being investigated by the cyber crime //ISO unit. AIIMS issued a statement on Thursday evening, stating that government agencies are helping to bring back the services. According to official sources, a limited Services of E Hospital will be started in two days.

BJP is hatching a conspiracy to kill Kejriwal: Sisodia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

RESPONDING TO a statement by BJP MP Manoj Tiwari, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Thursday alleged that the BJP was hatching a conspiracy to kill Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Earlier in the day, Tiwari, the MP of North East Delhi, had tweeted, "I am concerned about the security of Arvind Kejriwal because people and AAP volunteers are angry over sustained corruption, selling of tickets (for the MCD polls), friendship with rapist and massage (by them) in jail. Their MLAs, too, have been thrashed. It should not happen with the Chief Minister of Delhi..."

AAP in a statement said that if anything happens to Kejriwal or any other party leader, BJP should be held responsible.

"Threatening to kill Arvind Kejriwal, the Chief Minister elected with a huge mandate, the man who is the national convenor of the party running governments in two states, is an insult to the people of Delhi and the country. It is clear from the BJP's threat to CM Arvind Kejriwal that it has no faith in democracy, and that BJP can go to any extent for power," the party's statement said.

In a tweet, Sisodia alleged that the conspiracy to kill Kejriwal was being hatched owing to the fear of defeat in Gujarat and MCD polls.

Delhi L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena, meanwhile, is learnt to have reached out to the Commissioner of Delhi Police asking him to make sure no untoward incident takes place.

"The L-G has taken note of tweets and statements by AAP



Deputy CM Manish Sisodia was responding to a statement by BJP MP Manoj Tiwari on Thursday

leaders, including Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, and asked the Police Commissioner to ensure that such eventuality, orchestrated, or otherwise, does not happen, to the farthest possible extent," officials in Raj Niwas said.

AAP also raised the attack on the CM's residence in March during a Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha protest, when a group of people had rushed towards the gate of the CM residence and vandalised the area. The BJP has given a ticket to one of the accused in the case.

Recently, the Matiala MLA was punched and slapped, allegedly by party workers who were miffed at the MCD ticket distribution. BJP had alleged that the workers were angry over MCD tickets being "sold" to the highest bidder.

JNU has applied for Institute of Eminence status, says V-C

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU University applied for Institute of Eminence status earlier this month, Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit said Thursday, five years after the scheme was notified by the central government.

In an Idea Exchange session with *The Indian Express* in August this year, Pandit said the university had not applied for eminence status till then. On Thursday, she said it submitted its application in the first week of this month. "It's a huge document, we had to get everybody in it because I didn't want to make it just one school. We have included all schools," she said.

She said among the projects the university wants to work on are a think tank, a JNU publishing unit, a JNU bookstore, a faculty club and the university library.

Pandit said the university is emphasising that it will not tolerate violence by students. Earlier this month, the university had seen a clash between two groups of students following which the Delhi police registered two FIRs against two students. University authorities had said the violence stemmed from a personal dispute which had flared during a birthday party on campus.

"We have instituted a proctorial enquiry and we removed nearly 10 students from the hostel and (declared them) out of bounds of the university till the enquiry is completed. I have said that birthday celebrations and such things should be done outside the campus. That's where it started... At the university level, the dean of students is forming a flying squad," she said.

The university has constituted a committee to look into filling reserved seats at PhD level and introducing elements of the deprivation points level. Earlier this year, Pandit had expressed interest in reintroducing the deprivation points model at the PhD level.



Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit

EXPLAINED The IOE

THE UNION Cabinet had approved UGC's 'Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities Regulations 2017' in August 2017. The regulations are aimed at creating an enabling architecture for 10 public and 10 private institutions to emerge as world-class institutions, since the country has little representation in international ranking of educational institutions.

"We are not introducing it now because the Delhi High Court said that it's in conflict with the reservation policy. We are waiting for how we can adjust both the deprivation points and the reservation policies. I am told that earlier, we were unable to fill up the reserved positions and they went vacant. Then the deprivation points can come in. If they don't make the category, can we help students from deprived sections of society like street beggars or transgender people? We have put up a committee because we can't go against the High Court judgment. We have it at the BA and MA levels but not at the PhD level now. We are asking the committee how we can see that the reserved category seats do not go vacant and if we can use the deprivation points to help other students come to the university," she said.

NEXT MONTH AT IHC

Community Library Project returns with 4th edition

UDBHAV SETH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

"The research is clear," said Mridula Koshy, writer and trustee of The Community Library Project (TCLP). "Literature helps build empathy, be kind to our neighbours, and if we lock up books and knowledge, we as a society are shooting ourselves in the foot."

A fierce advocate of public libraries and engaged with TCLP since 2015, Koshy believes libraries are essential to any functional society "and that's why our society has arguably become a bit dysfunctional now". "We

don't have many excellent free-to-access public reading spaces in Delhi," said Koshy.

TCLP is holding the fourth edition of its book giveaway-cum-fundraiser at India Habitat Centre (IHC) on December 3 and 4. The format remains the same as previous iterations held at IHC, Alliance Française de Delhi and, once, even online. Koshy recalled the online edition, and said, "Vidya Balan gave us a sa-ree for the cause and we sold signed Gulzar books!"

At the event, one can donate anything upwards of Rs 50 and choose a book from thousands of titles donated by publishers and the public at large. Then,



TCLP has set up three community libraries, which have free-to-borrow books, in Khirki, South Extension Kotla, and Gurgaon. *TCLP*

there's a pop-up library where one can pick out a book for free, sit in the open on sofas and durries, and read with other readers.

The event also features a theatre performance by the Aaghaz theatre group and a storytelling session in collaboration with the Kutumb Foundation. The purpose of this fundraiser, Koshy said, is to involve the public in supporting free libraries, because, for centuries, reading has been a privileged activity and "has been kept away from certain communities".

TCLP aims at throwing open its doors to everyone and has set up three community libraries, which have free-to-borrow

books, in Khirki, South Extension Kotla, and Sikanderpur, Gurgaon, with an evolving catalogue of 35,000 titles.

Of the libraries' more than 7,000 members, most are children under the age of 18 but everyone, up to those in their seventies, are involved full time in making the effort a smooth operation. "We want people from all castes, genders, and classes to be able to access our libraries," said Koshy, adding that libraries aren't just places where "musty classics" are stored. They are crucial to building communities in an age of digital divide and helping people access the information they need, she said.

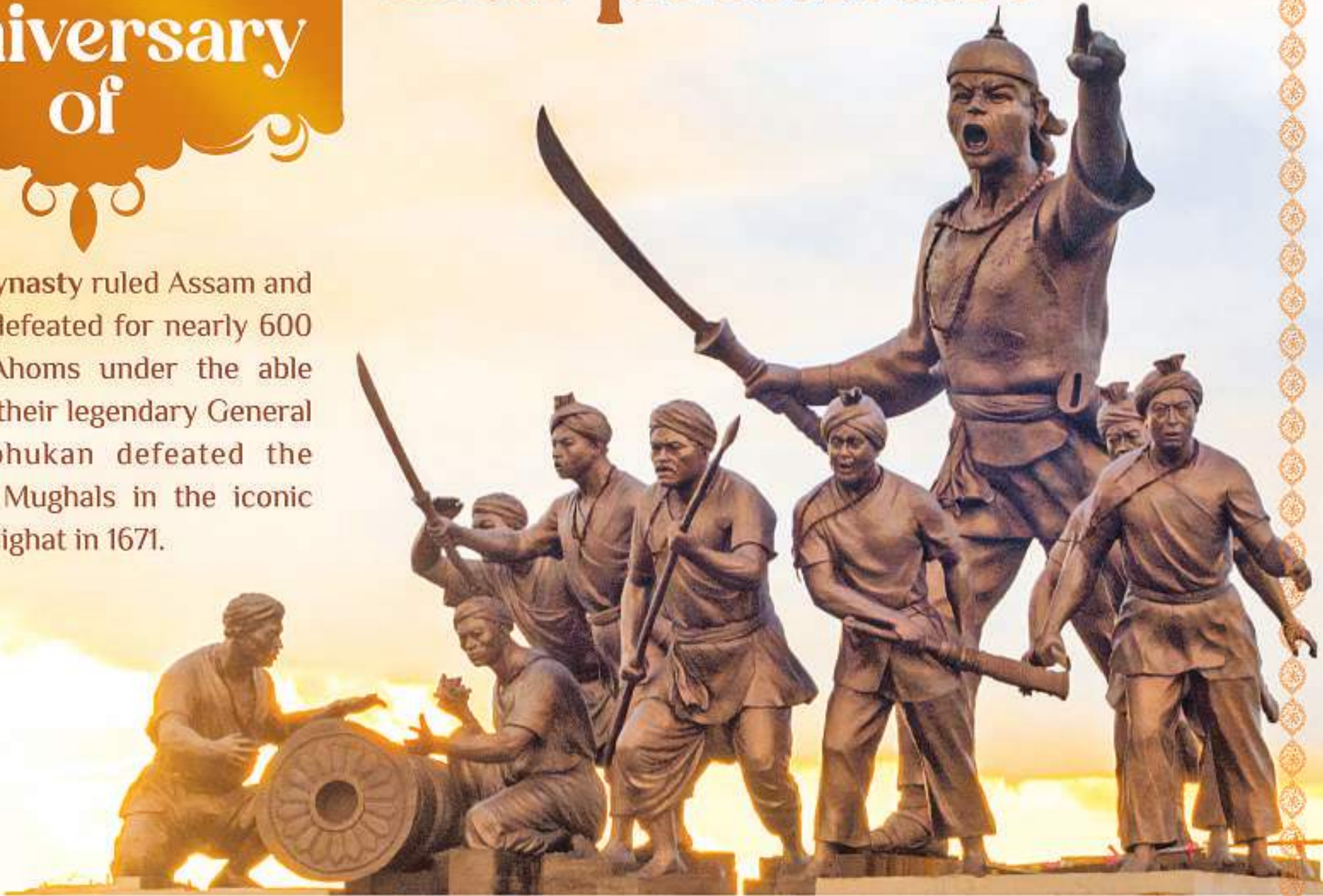


Celebration of
400th Birth
Anniversary of

Assam's Pride, India's Inspiration

Lachit
Barphukan

The Ahom Dynasty ruled Assam and remained undefeated for nearly 600 years. The Ahoms under the able command of their legendary General Lachit Barphukan defeated the expansionist Mughals in the iconic Battle of Saraighat in 1671.



Valedictory Function

Chief Guest

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“The courageous Lachit Barphukan was an outstanding leader and strategist, who played a pivotal role in protecting the unique culture of Assam. He is an iconic symbol of valour and integrity of the country.”

Narendra Modi

Venue: Vigyan Bhawan
New Delhi

Date:
25th November, 2022
Time : 10:00 A.M.



The programme will be streamed live on all the electronic news channels of Assam and social media handles of DIPR, Assam



Janasanyog/D16799/22

Exclusive/DIPR/11-2022



ADDRESSES RALLIES IN DAHEGAM, BAVLA, PALANPUR, MODASA

Modi counters AAP pitch: 'We got you schools, clinics and power'

Electricity a common plank at all four rallies; says Gujarat's education spend more than budget of many states

SOHINI GHOSH & PARIMAL DABHI
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 24

IN WHAT appeared to be a counter to the Aam Aadmi Party's campaign focus on health, education and electricity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi invoked all three issues at his public addresses throughout the day, even stating at Dahegam that over the past 20-25 years, the BJP in Gujarat has managed to fulfill and accomplish the basic necessities of roads, electricity and water in the state.

On Thursday, Modi addressed rallies across the state — Dahegam in Gandhinagar, Bavla in Ahmedabad, and the north Gujarat constituencies of Modasa (Aravalli district) and Palanpur (Banaskantha).

With electricity being a consistent plank taken by Modi at all four of his public addresses on Thursday, he said at Modasa that in the past 20 years, his government had worked towards ensuring round-the-clock electricity supply to farmers in villages. "Electricity is as important as water. Without electricity, development is not possible. None of you would be sitting with mobile

phones here without electricity... We set up so many electricity generation units that today Gujarat is electricity-surplus... Because of consistent electricity supply, during the Covid-19 pandemic, children in villages could continue their studies on cell-phones. This change has been brought about by the honest work of the BJP government... Today, we are producing electricity from wind and solar energy... The era of producing cheap electricity is over, it is the era of selling surplus electricity."

He made a similar pitch in Bavla.

At Dahegam and Bavla, Modi also exhorted BJP's development work on the educational front, stating that the state government has "transformed the education sector in the region".

"Around 20-25 years ago," Modi said in Dahegam, "Gujarat's education budget was Rs 1,600 crore. Today, it has reached Rs 33,000 crore... The (entire) budget of many states isn't as much."

He added that Gandhinagar was becoming a big centre of education in terms of higher secondary schools, engineering and diploma colleges, and other universities.



Narendra Modi campaigning in Dahegam on Thursday. Nirmal Harindran

At Bavla, Modi said, "Twenty years ago, there was hopelessness when it came to education... Twenty years ago, there was only one university in Ahmedabad district. Today, there are 23 universities in the district."

Saying that historically, Gujarat had a prevalence of malnutrition, and that his government had worked in the last 20 years to ensure nutrition, Modi claimed at Modasa, "Due to efforts of the past 20 years,

with the 'Double Engine Sarkar', BJP has taken the initiative to defeat malnutrition. It has especially benefitted our tribal women..."

Attributing the Chiranjeevi Yojana, introduced in Gujarat in 2006 to encourage institutional deliveries, as the reason behind fall in infant mortality rates in the state, Modi also hailed Ayushman Bharat for reducing out-of-pocket expenditures in his public addresses. Noting in

both Modasa and Bavla that women often suppress their health problems even when they are in extreme pain "because if they express their pain to their children, they think the family will be drowned in debt if she gets treatment", Modi cited the Ayushman Bharat scheme for easing such difficulties for women. He went on to mention Ayushman Bharat at three of his public addresses, at Palanpur, Modasa and Bavla.

Kem cho? Maja ma? A Gujarati twist to Kejriwal's campaign call

RASHI MISHRA
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 24

THE AAM Aadmi Party (AAP) put out a video Thursday that showed Delhi Chief Minister and party supremo Arvind Kejriwal appealing to Congress voters in Gujarat not to vote for the grand old party as it was, he said, "never going to form the government".

Kejriwal is shown in the video addressing the Congress supporters in the poll-bound state in Gujarati, saying: "Namaskar! Kem cho? Maja ma? Shu tame Congress na samrthak cho? Humesha Congress ne mat aapta aavyo cho? Toh maari tamane ek vinanti che... Aa vakhate Congress ne mat na aapsho. Aa vakhate Aam Aadmi Party ne mat aapsho. (Hello! How are you? Good? Are you the supporters of Congress? Have you always voted for Congress? I have one request for you... This time do not vote for Congress. This time vote for AAP.)"

The AAP's star campaigners like Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann, who have been regularly touring Gujarat for the past several weeks, have so far restricted their campaign pitch to Hindi in their rallies, road shows and public interactions except for greetings like "Kem cho? Maja ma? (How are you? Good?) or one-liners like "Tamne chinta karvanu zaroorat nathi, tamar bhai aavi gayo che (You don't need to worry, your brother has come)."

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KARNI SENA GUJARAT CHIEF RAJ SHEKHAWAT JOINS BJP

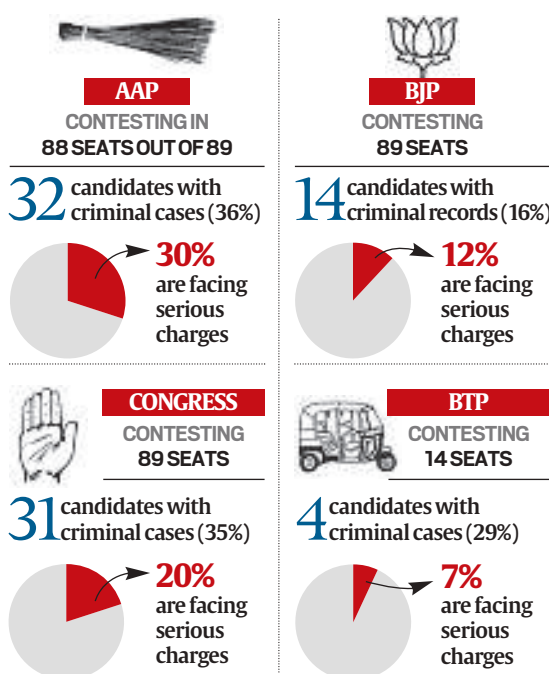
● BACK IN THE RING

PARTIES THAT GOT LESS THAN 1 PER CENT VOTES IN 2017 COME BACK WITH MORE CANDIDATES THIS ELECTION

Crime and politics

167 out of 788 candidates or 21% of those contesting the 89 seats in the first phase of Gujarat Assembly elections have criminal cases against them

100 OF THEM FACE SERIOUS CHARGES LIKE MURDER AND RAPE (13%)



Among BJP's rebels, armed with a cause and new tickets: Ex-MLAs, dairy head

Most of the 19, who have been suspended by BJP, are contesting as Independents

PARIMAL DABHI & ADITIRAJA
GANDHINAGAR, NOVEMBER 24

THE GUJARAT BJP has suspended 19 of its rebel leaders so far for filing nominations against the party's official candidates in the upcoming state Assembly polls.

While most of such BJP rebels took the Independent route, three chose the Congress and one the AAP to contest the polls.

Of the three rebels who bagged the Congress tickets — Khatubhai Pagdi (Shehra seat), Chhatrasinh Gunjariya (Dhrangadhra) and Kuldeepsinh Raulji (Savli) — Raulji's exit from the BJP in October after being "sidelined" by the party may hurt its prospects.

A director at the Baroda Dairy and a leader who started off as a milk union leader, Raulji is popular in Savli. He first won as an Independent candidate in 2009. He went on to join the BJP in

2012, winning on its ticket that year and in 2017.

The BJP rebel who switched to the AAP is Ketan Patel, a tribal leader from the Pardi constituency in Valsad district.

In Padra constituency of Vadodara, Dinesh Patel alias Dinu Mama, a former two-term BJP MLA from the seat, filed his nomination as an Independent. Padra has long been a bastion of the BJP, which has not lost a seat there since 1985 until 2017, when the Congress's Jaspal Singh Thakor won it with a margin of 20,000 votes.

Dinesh Patel is also on the board of Baroda Dairy and serves as its chairman. He first won as an Independent in 2007 and joined the BJP in 2012. Patel's exit from the saffron party could impact the voting patterns in the Padra constituency, where he is still said to have a support base.

Politician, actor and producer Madhu Shrivastav is another leader to have gone the



Raulji (left) is contesting on a Congress ticket, Madhu Shrivastav as Independent

Independent way. Shrivastav, the sitting Waghodia MLA since 1995, joined politics in 1982 by winning the civic body polls of Vadodara.

Shrivastav had in the past threatened to part ways with the party several times, but the BJP had largely been able to placate him. Following one such episode in March 2019, he was appointed as the chairperson of the Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Ltd.

BJP's Harshad Vasava, a former two-time MLA and the president of its tribal cell, has filed his nomination papers as an Independent candidate from

Nandod in Narmada district.

In Lunawada of Mahisagar district, the BJP suspended SM Khant and JP Patel, both of whom filed nominations as Independents against sitting BJP MLA Jignesh Sevak. The party also suspended rebels Ramesh Zala and Amarsinh Zala in Anand.

In north Gujarat, the BJP suspended several party leaders including Dhavalsinh Zala, Ramsinh Thakor, Mavji Desai and Lebarji Thakor for filing their nominations as Independents from Bayad (Aravalli), Kheralu (Mehsana), Dhanera (Banaskantha) and Deesa (Banaskantha), respectively.

Dhavalsinh Zala of the Bayad constituency has also filed his nomination as an Independent candidate. Zala is a close aide of OBC leader Alpesh Thakor.

In Keshod, Rajkot Rural, Veraval and Rajula constituencies of the Saurashtra region, BJP leaders Arvind Ladani, Bharat Chavda, Uday Shah and Karan Baraiya have been suspended.

NEW COLOURS

Congress's Rajkot East candidate Indranil Rajyaguru at a roadshow on Thursday. Rajyaguru, who quit the AAP after the party named Isudan Ghadvi as CM candidate, had won from the seat in 2012 as a Congress candidate. Chirag Chotaliya

I HEREBY DECLARE



HARSHAD PATEL, 59
BJP candidate from Sabarmati

Patel is a PhD holder and a retired teacher. He has listed income sources as pension and interest.

MOVABLE ASSETS
₹3.07 CR
(with wife) including 1.1 kg gold and a HUF account

IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹5.53 CR
(with wife) including agricultural land parcels in Gandhinagar and three commercial shops

LIABILITIES: None
CRIMINAL CASES: None

On home stretch, 'mahaul' and some cheers for Italia

KAMAAL SAIYED
SURAT, NOVEMBER 24

IT IS well past 9 pm on Wednesday. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s Gujarat president Gopal Italia arrives at Chikoowadi in the Katargam Assembly constituency in Surat district, from where he is the party's candidate. A stage has been set up on a key commercial street there, where people have gathered. Italia, 33, inaugurates his election office and steps onto the stage.

"This is a rehearsal... we are practising," Italia tells the gathering as people cheer. He shows them an orange mobile pouch with a lotus symbol on it. "Look at this mobile pouch carefully, the BJP is giving this toy free."

Italia then holds up a hair band with a lotus symbol. "This is for our daughters, from the BJP — free. And we are promising free education for our daughters," he says. He also shows a lapel pin marked with a lotus. "This toy is also being distributed free by BJP among all

houses of Katargam. Now you have to decide. They give mobile covers free and we give health and education free. They give free sares... but why don't they provide free schooling to our daughters? And if someone has a vice then they give that vice free too," he alleges, telling the rally: "They have free toys, we have free schools, healthcare and they ask us where will we get the money from if we give everything free."

"Mahaul aa loko nu chihe, pan jeetshe BJP (The atmosphere is theirs (AAP) but BJP will win)," says Mahesh Vyas after his eyes met Italia's for a few seconds during his door-to-door campaigning. Vyas has been running a cold drink shop at a shopping complex at Hari Darshan no Khado in Singhanpore for the last 13 years. "This is what I think. Who will give votes to Hindu virodhi?" he says, referring to some viral videos of Italia where he purportedly made remarks against temples and spiritual leaders.

A firebrand leader known for



Gopal Italia at Chikoowadi in Katargam on Thursday. Express

his oratorical skills, Italia is making his electoral debut in the upcoming Gujarat Assembly elections, with the Katargam seat, dominated by Patidars, Varyiya belongs to a fierce three-cornered fight involving him, Moradiya, the outgoing urban develop-

ment and urban housing minister, and the principal Opposition Congress's candidate Kalpesh Varyiya. While Italia and Moradiya are Patidars, Varyiya belongs to the Prajapati community (OBC).

Katargam has been the rul-

ing BJP's stronghold from where Moradiya had won by about 80,000 votes in the 2017 polls despite the Patidar quota agitation.

The leaflets that the AAP workers left on Vyas's shop counter grab his attention, as Italia proceeds to another shop in the complex, then canvassing from house to house, wearing marigold garlands, folding hands, obliging fans with selfies.

The drummer boys lead the Italia team into the local Panchvati residential society as the AAP activists follow shouting slogans like "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Jai Jai Garvi Gujarat". Women and children shower flower petals on Italia, some put a tilak on his forehead, garland him, as his team waves flags, puts stickers on the walls and distributes leaflets among the residents. The women read the leaflets carefully.

Hansaben Lakhani stands there with a bag of flower petals. "Savarno! (broom, AAP's poll symbol)," she says cheering Italia, when asked who will she vote

for. This becomes a chorus as a group of women and girls join in. Her daughter says, "Why not? We voted for them last time as well". They don't elaborate, just adding that "we are Patidars".

Outside another local shopping complex, where Italia has just finished canvassing, a group of men sits outside a car battery shop. "The youth will all go for AAP, because they want change," says Dinesh Bhadekiya, a migrant from Bhavnagar who works in a diamond factory. When asked for reasons, he says, "It's not that we don't like the BJP, but the candidate here (Moradiya) has a lot of attitude."

Italia's team accompanied by drummers move on, with their megaphone blaring: "For better schools, healthcare, for saving yourselves from fat power bills, one chance to Kejriwal. Vote for Badlaav (change)."

Italia makes sure he misses no one, his tall frame coming to his advantage. "I am your candidate, please vote for AAP," he says. A handshake here, a namaste there make up the rest of

his voter outreach.

A local councillor Kishore Ruparelia, who won the ward no 7 seat from Katargam on the AAP ticket last year, is one of the members of Italia's team, who tie AAP scarves to the gates of the societies they enter. Some gates already have lotus flags on them.

As Italia's campaign team leaves the society to head to Prabhanagar, a mixed neighbourhood of migrants, Ruparelia clears the litter from the street outside.

In last year's SMC polls, the AAP put up a remarkable show, bagging 27 of the total 120 seats. Although the BJP managed to clinch the SMC, the Congress was decimated with the AAP replacing the grand old party as the principal Opposition in the civic body. Four AAP councillors, however, defected to the saffron party since.

Italia ends up covering about 12 kms in his door-to-door campaign in Ved Road and Singhanpore areas of the Katargam constituency during the day.

9 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



FIGHTING DESERT STORM

WITH RAJASTHAN Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's outburst against Sachin Pilot leading to yet another crisis in the state Congress, the first meeting of the party's steering committee convened by new AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on December 4 has become interesting and significant. The steering committee meeting was called to finalise dates for the AICC plenary session to ratify Kharge's election as Congress president. The meeting would have reviewed the progress of the Bharat Jodo Yatra and discussed the strategy for the upcoming winter session of Parliament. But with Gehlot raising the heat in Rajasthan, deliberations in the meeting would now be keenly watched. After taking over as party chief, Kharge had reconstituted the Congress Working Committee as the steering committee in accordance with the party's constitution.

MOVE BACK

RAILWAY PSU Indian Railway Finance Corporation had as good as abandoned its official premises on Lodhi Road two years ago and shifted to the plush Ashoka Hotel on rent. While it ran its corporate headquarters from the rented space, paying around Rs 1 crore each month, its own building remained vacant, redesignated as a facility for "training". Now, it is learnt that the PSU is considering a move to get back to its own building, as it has been pointed out internally that precious government resources — money and space — are being wasted. It is being said that the company is incurring losses amounting to crores, as it had moved to a rented accommodation keeping its own building at a prime location vacant.

BILL TIME

WHILE THE Supreme Court's remarks on Thursday on appointment of the election commissioner may have stunned some in the ruling dispensation, an Opposition MP had sought to move a private member's Bill a month ago to amend the Constitution and "establish a selection procedure of CEC and other ECs with proper checks and balances". The Bill, placed by CPI(M) Rajya Sabha member John Brittas, seeks to amend 324(2) of the constitution to ensure a selection committee comprising the Chief Justice of India, the Lok Sabha Speaker and the leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha recommends names for CEC and ECs' appointment. The Bill, which also proposes an independent secretariat for the Election Commission, is to be moved in the upcoming winter session. It may get more attention from the government in the backdrop of the apex court's observations.

Anurag Thakur: Govt working on Bill to regulate digital media

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE GOVERNMENT is drafting a Bill to regulate digital media, according to Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur.

Addressing an event in Jaipur on Wednesday, the minister said that while we all turn to newspapers for verified news, it is the digital media that has enabled local issues to become national issues. "So, it (digital media) presents opportunities as well as challenges. To have a fine balance, the government will see what can be done about this. I would say that changes have to be brought into law, and we will bring that to make your work simple and easy. We are work-

ing to introduce a Bill," he said.

The I&B Minister also confirmed that the government will soon introduce a new law to replace the 1867 Press and Registration of Books Act, so that the registration process for newspapers would be made simpler. Under the new law, the registration process, which currently takes around four months, can be finished in a week via online mode, he said.

Thakur also said newspapers should bring the "right news before the public at the right time". He said along with the shortcomings of the government, public welfare schemes and policies of the government should also reach the common people. He urged the media to "do their work responsibly and avoid creating an atmosphere of fear and confusion".



Jaishankar at the pre-launch of the International Year of Millets 2023.

Twitter/@DrSJaishankar

Conflict and Climate. Each one of them in some way has actually impacted food security. "We saw during Covid, for example, that if you had very concentrated centres of production and something happened because they got disrupted, then

GOVERNOR'S REMARKS ON SHIVAJI HAD TRIGGERED ROW

Centre must take back its 'Amazon parcel': Uddhav, Pawar slam Governor Koshyari

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

SHIV SENA (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) president Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday took aim at Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari over his controversial comments on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Terming Koshyari an "Amazon parcel" sent by the Union government, Thackeray told mediapersons, "I am telling the Centre to take away the sample which you (BJP-led Centre) have sent to the state. Send him wherever you wish, send him to an old age home."

"The Union government decides who will be the Governor. Don't mind my words but people who don't get space in old age homes are now made Governors."

Koshyari raked up a controversy last Saturday by labelling Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj as an icon of "olden days" and called and Dr BR Ambedkar and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari "icons of modern times".

Urging on the Centre to remove Koshyari from the post of Maharashtra Governor, Thackeray said, "We don't want him here. We will not keep quiet if he is not shifted. Shiv Sena will



Shiv Sena leaders Uddhav Thackeray and Sanjay Raut at a press conference in Mumbai. xxx

do what it wants to do. The issue needs to be solved in two or three days. If this parcel is not sent back, we will do what needs to be done — be it Maharashtra bandh or hold a rally."

Speaking to mediapersons in Mumbai, Pawar also hit out at the Governor, saying "A person with no sense of responsibility has been sent to Maharashtra. The Governor seems to be on a mission to create animosity between communities. He had made objectionable statements against Mahatma Phule in the past as well, but we kept quiet respecting the constitutional position he represents. But now he has crossed all limits."

Thackeray and Pawar also criticised the BJP over Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai staking claim over 40 villages in the Maharashtra.

"Now, Karnataka is staking a claim over villages in Maharashtra. Can any leader speak without the permission of their senior party leader? If not, then did Bommai speak without the permission of his seniors?" Thackeray asked.

Pawar said, "Karnataka has a BJP CM and Maharashtra's deputy CM is also from BJP... therefore, this party cannot get away with not taking responsibility for such statements," he said.

Shah: BJP committed to bringing UCC after following all democratic processes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE BJP committed to bring Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country but only after following all democratic processes and discussions on it, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday.

Speaking at the Times Now Summit on 'India: A vibrant democracy, global bright spot', Shah said the UCC has been a promise of the BJP since its Bhartiya Jan Sangh days. "Not only the BJP, the Constituent Assembly had also advised Parliament and states that UCC should come in the country at an opportune time. For any secular country, laws should not be on the basis of religion. If a nation and states are secular, how can laws be based on religion? For every believer, there should be one law passed by Parliament or the state assemblies," he said.

He said that the commitment of the Constituent Assembly was forgotten over a period of time. "Except the BJP, no other party is in favour of the UCC. They did not even speak on it. If they don't have courage, they won't oppose it. But they won't say that, OK you implement it we are with you. We are a part of a democracy. In a democracy, healthy debate is a necessity. There is a need for open and healthy debate on the issue," he said.

Shah said in three BJP-ruled states — Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh — panels under the chairmanship of retired Supreme Court judge and High



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at an event to mark the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Barphukan, in New Delhi on Thursday. Anil Sharma

Court chief justices have been formed, where all groups and people of different faiths are putting forth their views. "We will take any action on the basis of advice coming after this exercise. The BJP is committed to bring UCC but only after the conclusion of all democratic discussions," he said.

On abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, Shah said, "This is not a personal achievement. I am a member of the Cabinet and the achievement is of the Modi Cabinet and the government. But yes, in Jammu and Kashmir, the Modi government has brought in a drastic change."

"It used to be said that Jammu and Kashmir is with India due to Article 370... Now, Article 370 is gone and Jammu and Kashmir is prosperous and it has also helped in getting terrorism controlled in the country," he said.

Modi bridged gap between N-E, 'mainstream' India: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi has bridged the gap that once existed between the Northeast and "mainstream India", Union Home Minister Amit Shah said at an Assam government event in New Delhi on Thursday.

Shah was speaking at a session on the second day of the Assam government's three-day celebration of the 400th birth anniversary of Ahom general Lachit Barphukan. November 24 was observed as Lachit Diwas in his memory.

Assam Chief Minister

BJP MP also seeks action over Governor's remarks

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, NOVEMBER 24

BJP'S RAJYA Sabha MP Chhatrapati Udayanraje Bhosale, also a direct descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, on Thursday emphasised that "only secularism (*sarvadham sambhav*) will keep the country united or else the country will fall apart in pieces".

Slamming Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi for "insulting" Shivaji, Udayanraje said, "When they insult Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, don't they feel ashamed? Have they lost their mind? They're insulting someone whose philosophy has kept the country united for nearly 400 years. People from different castes and religions have been living for years. It was Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj who laid the foundation of secularism and practised secularism during his regime. He respected people from every caste and religion. He gave pride of place to places of worship to every community. Even then, they (Koshyari and Trivedi) are making such state-



Rajya Sabha MP Udayanraje Bhosale

ments. It has angered me to no end."

Bhosale wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and state Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis, seeking the removal of Koshyari and Trivedi from their posts.

At a press conference in Pune, Udayanraje stressed on Shivaji's idea of secularism and said, "If we observe closely, we will realise that it was Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj who brought forth the idea of political, social, and educational thought. He espoused the cause of modern India during his regime. He placed the idea of secularism and swarajya (self-rule) before the people and reigned on these principles... He considered the entire country as his family. Today, the country has people from different castes, creeds, and religions. If we have to keep them united, we will have to take them along. Otherwise, it won't take long for this country to fall apart in pieces."

In MP village, Rahul seeks BJP apology for calling tribals 'vanvasi'

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 24

A DAY after Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan flagged off the 'Janjatiya Gaurav Abhiyan' from Badoda Aheer village of Khandwa, the birthplace of tribal icon and freedom fighter Tanya Bhill, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi arrived at the village as part of his Bharat Jodo Yatra and took on the BJP for referring to people from tribal communities as "vanvasis", or forest-dwellers.

Addressing a public rally in the village, Rahul said, "A few days ago, I heard a speech of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which he used a new word 'vanvasi', for 'Adivasi'. It means Adivasis are not the first owners of the country; that they only live in forests."

The thought behind using the "disrespectful" word may be that once forests disappear under the BJP-led government, tribals will

have no place to live, he said.

Rahul also said, "The British hanged Tanya Bhill to curb our freedom movements. And the RSS, which was against the freedom movement, helped the British to kill people (leaders from tribal communities) such as Tanya Bhill and Birsu Munda."

Rahul assured the residents that Adivasis will get all their rights when the Congress returns to power. At the village, Rahul offered tributes to Tanya Bhill and then interacted with the family of Sonibai, a fourth-generation descendant of Tanya Bhill.

While the villagers said they were excited to meet Rahul, they have little hope of their main problems getting resolved: houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, water connection, and proper roads. Many residents of Badoda Aheer, a village with a population of 845, say these visits of top political leaders mean little.



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with Priyanka's husband Robert Vadra during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, on Thursday. PTI

Jaishankar: Covid, conflict, climate biggest challenges to food security

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

HIGHLIGHTING "COVID, conflict and climate" as the three big challenges to food security, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday that "de-risking" the global economy requires more decentralised production.

Addressing a luncheon event jointly organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and the Ministry of External Affairs for Delhi-based high commissioners and ambassadors as part of a pre-launch celebration of the International Year of Millets 2023, Jaishankar said, "If there are three big challenges which we have experienced and continue to experience, they are to my mind, the three Cs — Covid,



Jaishankar at the pre-launch of the International Year of Millets 2023.

Twitter/@DrSJaishankar

Conflict and Climate. Each one of them in some way has actually impacted food security. "We saw during Covid, for example, that if you had very concentrated centres of production and something happened because they got disrupted, then

the entire global economy was at risk because there were problems in one particular geography," said Jaishankar.

Discussing the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on global food security, Jaishankar said one of the biggest concerns was what would happen when production is disrupted in two major food producers. "Ukraine was the leading producer by far, leading exporter of wheat," he said, pointing out that when disruptions happen in such countries, it leads to escalating food prices and shortages.

On the impact of climate change on food security, Jaishankar said, "We are seeing more and more of extreme climate. In fact, it is a double whammy — it can lower production and it can disrupt trade."

Ahead of Cong yatra in Rajasthan, festering factional saga

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 24

FOLLOWING WEEKS of relentless pressure by the Sachin Pilot camp, ahead of the entry of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra into Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot has said he hasn't received any "indication" from the party High Command about a possible change at the top in the state, while disparaging Pilot by saying he "doesn't even have 10 MLAs". The CM also termed Pilot's 2020 actions as *gaddari* (treachery).

In an interview to NDTV aired on Thursday, Gehlot asked: "How can a person—who doesn't even have 10 MLAs, and had led a revolt, which, by the way, is called *gaddari*—be acceptable to the people?"

On Pilot allegedly being hand-

in-glove with the BJP during his 2020 rebellion, Gehlot reiterated he had proof that Pilot was indeed involved, "and Rs 10 crore was distributed (to each Congress MLA willing to switch sides)".

The statements follow three weeks of relentless pressure by the Sachin Pilot camp, beginning with Pilot himself asking the central leadership to "end the climate of indecision in Rajasthan" on November 2, when he disparaging Pilot by saying it was "interesting" that PM Narendra Modi had praised the CM (on November 1, at Mangarh Dham), and that this "must not be taken lightly".

Subsequently, party leaders loyal to Pilot held press conferences in Jhalawar, Kota and Bundi districts and demanded that pending issues, including that of the state leadership, be addressed



Pilot and Gehlot have been at loggerheads. File

through one-on-one interactions between the central leadership and Rajasthan Congress MLAs. Incidentally, the Bharat Jodo Yatra is scheduled to enter Rajasthan through this cluster of districts, locally called Hadoti.

This was followed by parts of a letter, written by former state-in-charge Ajay Maken to party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, becoming public. In it, Maken had expressed his unwillingness to continue in the position; he was said to have

been unhappy, given that no action had been taken against state Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal, party Chief Whip Mahesh Joshi and Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation chairman Dharmendra Rathore, despite a disciplinary committee serving showcause notices.

While the Gehlot camp remained quiet on the issue, Pilot loyalist MLA Ved Prakash Solanki heaped praise on Maken, saying his letter had "embarrassed" party workers in the state.

This was followed by Osian MLA Divya Maderna, who has claimed her only allegiance is to the High Command. She attacked the Gehlot camp over the letter, saying, "A man with self-respect will have no other choice but to quit in such circumstances. That's what Mr Maken did." Since then, Pilot-camp leaders, such as Cabinet minister Hemaram

Choudhary, SC Commission Chairman and MLA Khiladi Lal Bairwa and former MLA Suchitra Arya, have all been vocally batting for Pilot. The recent back-to-back statements from the Pilot camp or their supporters created an impression that there is a growing demand to make Pilot CM, and that it cannot be delayed any longer.

It made sense when you recalled how Gehlot had dominated the headlines all of October—attacking Pilot and Maken without naming either, defending actions of his loyalists—first on October 2 and then again on October 17, saying there was no alternative to experience and that the youth need to have patience and wait for their turn.

The tide began turning only with Pilot's statements on November 2, followed quickly by those of his loyalists. It was then the turn of the Gehlot camp to go silent. Until now.

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

JAMMU & KASHMIR
Drone-dropped arms, Rs 5 lakh cash recovered

Jammu: In yet another seizure of a drone dropping by militants from Pakistan, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday seized a packet containing arms, ammunition and huge cash from a village near the international border in Samba district. Giving details, Samba SSP Abhishek Mahajan said the seizures include Rs 5 lakh, two Chinese pistols along with four magazines and 60 rounds, some detonators and two IEDs. The seized currency was in 10 packets of Rs 500 denomination, while the IEDs were yet to be assembled, he added. The consignment appears to have been dropped by drone sent from across the border as part of a major terror plan to strike somewhere in the UT, which has been timely foiled by the police of Samba district, SSP said. **ENS**

ODISHA

Two women Maoists killed in fire exchange

Bhubaneswar: Two women Maoists carrying cash awards of Rs 4 lakh each on their heads were gunned down in an exchange of fire with the special operation group (SOG) of Odisha Police in Gandhamardhan hills of Balangir district on Thursday. As per police sources, the exchange of took place in a forest under Khaprakhol police limit after the SOG along with the district voluntary force spotted Maoist camp during a combing operation. DGP Sunil Kumar said, "Around 10.30 am, we could see the movement of four or five Maoists and there was immediate exchange of fire. Two of them were killed." The DGP said combing operation has been intensified to capture the remaining. **ENS**

Sangma meets Shah, CBI to probe into border firing deaths

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE FIRING incident on the Assam-Meghalaya border in which six people were killed on Tuesday will be investigated by the CBI, the Ministry of Home Affairs said on Thursday. The statement came after a delegation of Meghalaya Cabinet led by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and demanded an inquiry by a central agency.

"Meghalaya CM @Sangma-Conrad met Union Home & Co-op Minister @AmitShah today and requested CBI inquiry into unfortunate incident on Assam-Meghalaya border. Govt of Assam has also requested CBI inquiry into the matter. HM @AmitShah has assured that GOI will conduct CBI inquiry," the MHA said in a tweet.

"We briefed Amit Shah ji regarding the unfortunate incident that took place in Mukroh village. We gave details of the circumstances that led to the incident... We have also seen that statements have come from the CM of Assam that the entire incident and the shooting that took place was unprovoked..." Sangma said after meeting Shah. "Keeping that in mind we requested Government of India to constitute a central agency inquiry..."

Six people were killed and several injured in firing by Assam Police during a clash with a mob early Tuesday over an alleged timber-smuggling attempt near a village in Meghalaya.

Sangma used the meeting to raise the pending border dispute issue. "We shared with the Home Minister that the root cause of the tension has to do with the long-pending border issue between the two states. Different incidents led to the situation becoming more tense, which led to the situation where this unfortunate incident happened. It is very important that all efforts be made so that the border dispute is resolved," he said. "Now that this incident has happened, the talks... have hit a certain hurdle... Hence intervention of the Government of India will be necessary." **FULL REPORT ON**
www.indianexpress.com



Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma with family members of the victims of the Mukroh firing incident, in Jaintia Hills on Thursday. **ANI**

Mukroh firing reopens old wounds: families seek justice

DEBRAJ DEB
MUKROH (MEGHALAYA), NOVEMBER 24

COMPENSATION IS not enough for families of five people from Meghalaya's Mukroh village who were killed in firing by Assam Police personnel on Tuesday. Two days after their lives turned into a phrase in government records — "next of kin of the deceased" — some family members refused to accept "blood money" from the "killers", while the others said they are in too desperate a situation to turn it down.

What the families — all of them lost their main breadwinner — agreed on is that only compensation is not enough. They demanded justice, bringing the guilty Assam Police personnel to book, and a more active role for Meghalaya Police in the inter-state boundary areas. Meghalaya and Assam have announced compensation of Rs 5 lakh each.

For Skhem Sten, 43, it was a repeat tragedy. In 2002, her brother Dia Sten was among Mukroh residents who were killed, purportedly by an armed insurgent. On Tuesday, her husband, Thal

Shabat, 60, was among the victims. On Tuesday, Skhem said, they had left home around 7 am to work in the paddy fields when they suddenly heard gunshots. The couple got separated in the melee. "I hid in the nearby forest. After about half-an-hour, I came out and... my husband lay dead. Other bodies were also lying around," she said.

With five children to feed — the youngest, Klemi Sten, is 7 — Skhem said she has no idea how to run the family. On compensation announced by both governments, Skhem said the money will come as a little support but the crisis will continue. Rooting for peace "at any cost", she said a Meghalaya Police border outpost (BOP) in the area would be a "good start".

Tlodra Sumer, 49, whose husband Silk Talang, 53, was killed, said her three daughters and two sons work on other people's farms. "We are scared to go to the forest and fields, but we have no way out. Violence here is not new," she said and accused Assam Police personnel.

Tlodra said she wants the compensation since she has to bring up her grandchildren but de-

manded justice, and an answer: "Who killed my husband?"

Nitawan Dkhar's husband Shirup, 39, also left home on Tuesday to work on the field. "I was later told he was shot. I don't know what transpired there but he was surely not there to protest," said Nitawan, 33. Shirup, she said, was the family's sole earner, and now she has to fend for eight children. But, Nitawan emphasised, the family does not need any blood money from "killers".

Nikhasi Dhar, 60, was among the five killed. His wife Klan Thawa, 48, was not allowed to see his body at the spot. She saw it hours later at the Civil Hospital in Jowai. Stating that she will accept the compensation, Dhar stressed that the guilty should be brought to book. Tal Nartiang, 42, was the fifth villager killed. The family of six remaining members had gone to pray when *The Indian Express* went to Mukroh. Rilif Nartiang, 39, the victim's sister who had come from Jowai, said she wants to see the guilty punished as per law. She added that she doesn't want "any money as compensation from killers".

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

'IT IGNORED WARNINGS ON BRIDGE CONDITION'

Why not dissolve Morbi civic body, HC asks Gujarat govt

SOHINI GHOSH
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 24

THE GUJARAT High Court on Thursday asked the Gujarat government why it was not considering dissolving or superseding the Morbi municipality by exercising powers under the Gujarat Municipalities Act, as being the owner, it was the responsibility of the municipality to ensure safety of the suspension bridge that collapsed on October 30, but it ignored early warnings on the critical condition of the bridge.

Pulling up the state government while hearing a suo motu public interest litigation (PIL) pertaining to the bridge collapse, a bench of Chief Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice AJ Shastri observed that the incident "prima facie cannot be brushed aside as not exhibiting the incompetency or default of the municipality".

During the proceedings on Thursday, CJ Kumar orally asked Advocate General (AG) Kamal Trivedi, "Does not this magnitude of tragedy warrant the superseding, takeover of the municipality," to which Trivedi responded,



The October 30 bridge collapse killed 135 people. **File**

"...we are waiting for SIT report." The CJ remarked, "Then we may have to issue appropriate directions. Either you exercise (powers in) your domain or if you don't do it, we will do it."

The CJ recorded, "Section 263 of the Gujarat Municipalities Act empowers the state government to dissolve or supersede municipality in case of incompetency, default or abuse of power. The catastrophe within the jurisdiction of Morbi municipality... prima facie cannot be brushed aside... it is for this precise reason that we had posed the question as to why the state has not exercised the power under S 263 of the Act to supersede or dissolve

the municipality. ...we do hope and trust the state would not only expedite in securing the opinion from SIT but would also act upon it in the true letter and spirit of Section 263 of the Gujarat Municipalities Act, 1963," the CJ added.

The bench also expressed its dissatisfaction that the state had only suspended the chief officer of Morbi municipality SV Zala and had not issued a chargesheet, despite there appearing to be a "prima facie dereliction of duty". It also pulled up the Morbi municipality for denying that it had not transferred possession of the bridge to M/S Ajanta Manufacturing Pvt Ltd.

Note ban decision was deeply flawed: Chidambaram in SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

SENIOR ADVOCATE P Chidambaram on Thursday termed the decision-making process leading to the Centre's 2016 move to demonetise currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 as "deeply flawed".

He told a five-judge Constitution bench of Supreme Court, presided by Justice S Abdul Nazeer, which is hearing a clutch of petitions challenging demonetisation, that the process could have started only from the RBI. Chidambaram referred to the Preamble of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, which said the right to regulate the issue of banknotes is entirely with RBI. It also



Process could have started only from the RBI: Chidambaram

generally operates the currency and the credit system. "That is why anything to do with currency must have emanated from the Reserve Bank of India," he argued. He said the government could have exercised the power to demonetise only on RBI's recommendation.

However, what was seen in 2016 demonetisation was a "reversal of process", he said. The Centre issued a "virtual command", and this was "merely and meekly" accepted by RBI, he told

Man dies during sex, woman's husband helps her dump body

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 24

THE INVESTIGATION into the death of a 67-year-old man, whose body was found in a plastic bag in Bengaluru's JP Nagar on November 17, has revealed that the body was dumped by his woman friend and her relatives after he died allegedly of an epileptic attack while having sex with her.

The police, after ascertaining the identity of the man, checked his phone call details and found that he had been to the woman's house.

The name of the victim and

the accused are being withheld as the probe is underway, a police officer said Thursday.

On interrogation, the woman said that the man came to her home and had an epileptic attack and died. She told the police that panicked and called her husband and brother. Once they arrived, they packed the businessman's body in a plastic bag and dumped it in an isolated place in JP Nagar, the woman told the police.

"The businessman's family members said he had left home saying he would be visiting his daughter-in-law's house but when he did not return they filed a missing complaint. The man

had several health issues and had undergone an angiogram in August," the police officer said.

The police have registered a case under sections 176 (omission to give notice or information to public servant by person legally bound to give it), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender), 202 (intentional omission to give information of offence by person bound to inform) of the Indian Penal Code.

"We are waiting for the post-mortem report to ascertain whether the claims of the woman are true," the police officer said.

Terror link: NIA arrests jailed gangster

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday arrested jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi from a jail in Punjab in connection with a case related to a conspiracy hatched by terror groups and criminal syndicates to carry out violent acts and sensational crimes in different parts of the country.

The NIA also secured from a Delhi court 10-day custody of Bishnoi, who is a key accused in the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala.

Additional Sessions Judge Shailender Malik, while remanding Bishnoi in NIA custody till December 3, directed to

transfer him from Punjab's Bhatinda jail to Delhi under proper security cover.

During the hearing, the court asked the agency, "What is the locus of NIA in the Moosewala murder case?" The NIA, while seeking Bishnoi's custody for 12 days, informed the court that "the material" was coming from Pakistan and people like Moosewala are targets. "An investigation into the larger aspect is being carried out, and links are being searched," the agency said.

The NIA said Bishnoi was arrested after it was found that most of the conspiracies were hatched from inside the jail by him and were being executed by an organised network of operatives based in the country and abroad. It told the court that



Lawrence Bishnoi

Bishnoi "conspired to recruit youngsters for terror attacks in India to 'strike terror in the minds of the people'".

A spokesperson of the NIA said, "The gangster is involved and wanted in many cases, including the conspiracy to carry out targeted and sensational

killings in Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi since last more than a decade". A resident of Fazilka in Punjab, Bishnoi has been in jail since 2014 after he was arrested during an encounter with the Rajasthan Police. He was shifted to Delhi's Tihar jail last year but was arrested by the Punjab Police on June 14 in connection with the sensational murder of Moosewala on May 29.

The case against Bishnoi was initially registered at the Delhi's special cell police station on August 4 under sections 120B of the IPC and sections 17, 18 and 18B of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The NIA re-registered the case on August 26, the spokesperson said.

Five councillors in Darjeeling municipality change sides

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 24

FIVE COUNCILLORS of the Darjeeling Municipality's ruling Hamro Party on Thursday joined Anit Thapa-led Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGP/M) which is likely to wrest control over the civic body with the support of the Trinamool Congress.

The BGP/M claimed that it now had the "majority" in the municipality even as Hamro Party president Ajoy Edwards alleged that his rival party will not succeed in its attempt to buy his councillors with money.

Earlier also, Edwards had alleged that Anit Thapa, the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) chief executive, was trying to bribe his party's councillors to topple the civic body.

He took to Facebook on Thursday, "Anit Thapa carries on with hunting for our leaders. We will continue being with the people. You keep saying politics should not be brought in this but do politicking from behind. You say you brought in peace and democracy and then you buy our leaders with money so that you can be a dictator."

The Hamro Party, which was formed in November 2021, had won the Darjeeling civic polls early this year by bagging 18 of the 32 seats. The BGP/M, which was formed in September 2021, had won nine seats, followed by Bimal Gurung's Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) that won three, and Trinamool that had two seats. The number of BGP/M councillors in the civic body is 14 and the TMC has already expressed its support to Anit.

If it gets the Trinamool support, the BGP/M tally will be 16 against the Hamro Party's number that will come down to 13.

IN 2017, A YEAR BEFORE INTRODUCTION OF SCHEME, ONLY 995 GIRLS TOOK ADMISSION IN IITs

Supernumerary seats: Steady rise in number of girls joining IITs

PALLAVI SMART
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

FIVE YEARS since the introduction of supernumerary seats for women in IITs, the scheme has continued to ensure a steady increase in the number of women taking admission in the institutes.

At the end of the admissions process for the 2022-23 academic year, 3,310 girls confirmed their admissions across the 23 IITs in India. This means that around 20 per cent of the total 16,635 seats available at IITs went to girls this year. Last year was the first time IITs reached their goal of 20 per cent new confirmed admissions being girls. At the time, out of a total of 16,296 new admissions, 3,213 were girls. In 2017, a year before the introduction of the supernumerary seats scheme, only 995 girls, making up just 9 per cent of all seats, took admission in IITs.

This was an improvement from the previous year, when just 847 girls — around 8 per cent of the total — took admissions.

V Ramgopal Rao, former director, IIT Delhi, said, "This is a significant increase, especially when compared to the years before the introduction of female supernumerary seats when the number of seats allotted to girls never crossed the mark of 10 per cent of the total seat allotment. The female supernumerary seats were aimed at correcting this and it has managed to do so for the fifth year in a row, with a gradual increase. The idea is to eventually do away with the female supernumerary seats and yet continue to have those many girls confirming the admission to IITs. But it is a slow and steady process, and is actually in the right direction now."

The female supernumerary quota in admissions to IITs was introduced in 2018, following rec-

UPWARD TREND					
Academic year	Total registered girls	Those who qualified JEE-Advanced	Number of girls among top 100	Seats allotted to girls	% seats going to girls
2018-19	33,811	4,179	6	1,780	14.7%
2019-20	36,669	5,356	6	2,307	17.6%
2020-21	35,121	6,707	10	3,025	18.8%
2021-22	34,525	6,452	1	3,213	19.7%
2022-23	35,124	6,516	3	3,310	19.8%

ommendations by a committee headed by then IIT Mandi director Timothy Consalves. Popularly known as "the required slight push", this was aimed at repairing the skewed gender ratio on IIT campuses, which have had a predominantly male presence. Instead of reserving seats in the already existing pool, additional seats were created for girls under

the supernumerary quota. With 14 per cent at the beginning of academic year 2018-19, the number of female supernumerary seats rose to 19 per cent in 2019-20. The aim was to have 20 per cent female supernumerary seats in all IITs by 2021-22. A comparative look at the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) data from the past five years shows a steady in-

crease in the number of girls in IITs. Thanks to the gradual increase in the number of female supernumerary seats, the number of girls confirming admissions in IITs is observed to be on the rise (See Chart).

"When comparing the number of girls coming to IIT, the correct way would be to check the situation before the female

supernumerary seats were introduced. Girls qualified even then, but the support of female supernumerary seats has led to an increase in the number of girls confirming admissions in IITs," said Shalabh, Dean Academic Affairs, IIT Kanpur.

While many girls qualified for IIT seats even before the supernumerary seats scheme was brought in, few actually took admission.

Rao said, "Starting from the branch of engineering to even the location of the IIT were important factors in decision-making for girls and their parents, as opposed to boys. Instead of joining the Mechanical or Civil Engineering branch in an IIT far away from home, girls and their parents would prefer to confirm admissions to a nearby non-IIT engineering college for IT or Computer Science."

Data from 2017 shows that while 7,259 girls qualified for a

seat at an IIT that year, only 995 ended up taking admission. In the year before that, 4,570 girls qualified, but only 847 took admission.

IIT Kanpur Director Abhay Karandikar said, "We have come a long way. The number of girls confirming seats in IITs is definitely on the rise. With the number of girl IITians increasing each year, we will see more and more girls preparing for JEE."

While most IITs have been able to reach the goal with the help of female supernumerary seats, the relatively new IIT Jammu managed to do so without it. With a smaller pool of seats at 240, the institute managed to have 20 per cent of its new admissions being girls within the existing number of seats.

Some IITs have taken special efforts to encourage more girls to join, including open orientation sessions for all of those qualifying JEE-Advanced.

Brothers ran portals selling personal data of residents of 3 states, held

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

THE MUMBAI Police Crime Branch, following a two-month operation, arrested two commerce graduates on Thursday for allegedly running portals that provided personal data of residents of Maharashtra, Delhi and Gujarat at a price.

The data was sold mainly to loan recovery agents at a monthly subscription of Rs 2,000, a half-year subscription of Rs 12,000 and an annual subscription of Rs 24,000, a police officer said.

The officer added that after getting access to the website, just by feeding in the person's name in the search option, the subscriber could get details like current and former cellphone numbers, Aadhaar card number, address, date of birth and phone numbers of family members, among other details.

A senior officer identified the two Mulund-based siblings as Rahul Eligati (28) and Nikhil Eligati (25). "Nikhil has in the past worked as a loan recovery agent, through which he came to know about the source from where data of loan defaulters was obtained by companies," the officer added.

Accordingly, during the first Covid-19 lockdown, when Nikhil did not have a job, he and his brother procured the data and started two websites.

"Once one enters a name, all the data linked to the person that he has not even shared with others, pops up, including personal numbers, Aadhaar card data, address, date of birth and numbers of other family members," said an officer. The police said there is no clarity on how the accused managed to get access to such a sensitive database.

The police said that the brothers were careful with whom they shared the database. "Only if someone approached them through a reference, did they take money and shared the ID and password of the websites. They were operating the websites as a start-up and one could approach them only if you came through a reference," the officer said.

"We are questioning the two to find out if they had hacked some government website or if an insider at such places parted with sensitive data. Another line of investigation is whether the accused purchased this data from the dark net where sometimes personal data is sold," the officer added. The magistrate court remanded the brothers in police custody for 12 days.

ODISHA SEX, EXTORTION SCANDAL

ED questions brother of BJD MLA; Opp wants Naveen's resignation

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHUBANESWAR, NOVEMBER 24

WITH THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) questioning the brother of a BJD MLA in connection with the sex and extortion scandal allegedly involving Archana Nag, opposition BJP and Congress on Thursday alleged involvement of more ruling party leaders in the scandal and demanded Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's resignation.

The ED, which has lodged a case on allegations of large amounts of money being laundered, on Thursday questioned Gangadhar Samal, a businessman and brother of Dhenkanal MLA and BJD leader Sudhir Samal, for allegedly transferring a large amount of money to Nag's account.

Raising the issue on the first day of the winter session of the Assembly on Thursday, Congress legislators and businessmen who are relatives of ruling party leaders.

Senior BJP leader and Opposition chief whip Mohan Majhi said the Chief Minister has not even ordered an inquiry into the matter despite alleged involvement of many influential persons. "Odisha had never seen such scandals in the past," Congress's Mishra said. "The SIT inquiring into black money (scam) has also directed the Income Tax Department to probe the matter. The ED has arrested

TELANGANA 'BRIBERY BID'

SC quashes order for HC-monitored probe, SIT says it is naming Santhosh as accused

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G & SREENIVAS JANYALA
NEW DELHI, HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 24

THE SUPREME Court has quashed the Telangana High Court division bench order which said that a probe by the state-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the alleged offer of bribes to four TRS MLAs, in a bid to make them join the BJP, will be monitored by a judge of the High Court.

In a November 21 order, uploaded Wednesday on the Supreme Court website, the bench of Justices B R Gavi and Vikram Nath also asked the "single judge... to consider the writ petition(s) filed by" the accused seek-

ing a CBI probe in the matter "on its own merits and in accordance with law, as expeditiously as possible and preferably within four weeks from" the date of its order.

On the ground, the SIT probe continues since the Supreme Court order only quashes the division bench order asking the team to report to the High Court judge.

In Hyderabad, the SIT has filed a memo in the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) court with a plea to issue a warrant against BJP national general secretary B L Santhosh to appear before the SIT.

On Thursday, the SIT filed another memo stating that it is naming Santhosh as an accused in the case. The ACB court has not yet issued any direction.

A day earlier, Justice B Vijaysen Reddy of the High Court



BJP leader B L Santhosh. File

had directed the SIT to issue fresh notice to Santhosh to appear for questioning in connection with the case. This direction came after the SIT could not serve its November 16 notice to Santhosh who, party leaders said, was campaigning in Gujarat.

Also Thursday, the ACB court rejected the SIT application seek-

ing custody of three accused - Ramachandra Bharati alias Satish Sharma, Nanda Kumar and Simhayaji Swami - for a week. The three men are in judicial custody, after their 14-day remand ran out November 12.

Earlier, the High Court single judge bench had rejected the plea for a CBI probe, against which the accused and the BJP approached the High Court division bench. In its November 15 order, the division bench declined to transfer the probe to the CBI and asked the SIT to report to it. The three accused then approached the Supreme Court, challenging the High Court order.

In its order uploaded Wednesday, the Supreme Court noted that the "senior counsel appearing for the petitioner(s) as

well as learned counsel for the respondent-State agree that the matter needs to be reconsidered by the learned single judge on its own merits without being influenced by the observations made by the division bench".

"Even otherwise, we find that some of the directions which are issued by the learned judges of the division bench are not sustainable in law," it said.

The Supreme Court also expressed its displeasure at the comments made by the High Court single judge bench in its order asking the three accused to surrender to the police.

The accused were arrested by the Cyberabad police on October 26 on the charge that they attempted to bribe and lure four TRS MLAs to switch over to the BJP.

India has raised Zakir Naik issue with Qatar: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

INDIA ON Thursday said it has raised the issue of Islamic preacher Zakir Naik being a fugitive of law with authorities in Qatar, amid reports of his presence in the emirate during the ongoing FIFA World Cup.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India will make every effort to make Naik face the law and continue with its efforts for his extradition. Bagchi said the issue was not raised by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar during his visit to Qatar to attend the inaugural ceremony of the FIFA World Cup.

Bagchi also made it clear that authorities in Qatar had conveyed to their Indian counterparts that no invitation was extended to Naik, who is wanted in India since 2016 for allegedly laundering money and inciting extremism through hate speeches.

Naik has taken refuge in Malaysia.

He said Naik is an accused in India and has been declared as an absconder. "We will continue with our efforts to get him back separately," he said.



Zakir Naik

Up Rs 5.5 in a yr, atta price closes in on rice, sugar

All-India daily average retail price of atta Rs 36.98/kg; wheat 12% dearer

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

WHEAT FLOUR (atta) prices continue to rise, with the all-India daily average retail price recorded at Rs 36.98 per kg on Tuesday, up 17.51 per cent from Rs 31.47 per kg recorded a year ago, according to official data.

The figures show the price of atta has become almost equal to that of rice (Rs 37.96 per kg) and has inched closer to sugar (Rs 42.69 per kg).

Retail price of wheat, too, has increased 12.01% - from Rs 28.34 per kg a year ago to Rs 31.77 per kg on November 22 this year.

The data, supplied by the State Civil Supplies Departments and collated by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA), is available on DoCA's website.

Wheat and atta prices have been increasing since the beginning of this year mainly due to lower production (106 million tonnes) in the country and higher demand outside in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While the government banned wheat export on May 13 this year, actual shipments have doubled in the first six months (April-September) of the current financial year as compared to last year.

During April-September, India exported 45.53 lakh metric tonnes of wheat, up from 23.72 lakh metric tonnes exported during the same period last year. Similarly, atta export has also been higher. During April-September 2022, India exported 4.50 lakh metric tonnes of wheat flour, higher than 2.04 lakh metric tonnes during the same period last year.

The ban on wheat exports in May came amid a lower output of

106 million tonnes, lower procurement (18.7 million tonnes compared to 43.3 million tonnes last year), and rising domestic prices.

In August, the government banned atta export, too. However, the domestic prices of wheat and atta have seen a steady rise.

While prices have gone up, wheat stock in the central pool has come down to a historic low: as on November 1, 2022, wheat stock in the central pool was 210.46 lakh metric tonnes, nearly half that of 419.81 lakh metric tonnes recorded a year ago.

In view of the depleting wheat stocks and a lower procurement this year, the government had revised wheat and rice allocation under the National Food Security Act, 2013, and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for several states. For several states, the Centre had provided rice in place of wheat.

In September, this year, the Centre had extended the PMGKAY till December 2022.

On Wednesday, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra told the media that the government had already put in place export regulations for wheat, flour (wheat) and broken rice, and as a result prices have "cooled down." He said there has been a 10% to 15% increase in wheat prices compared to a year ago, but the increase is lower when compared from the date on which wheat export was banned.

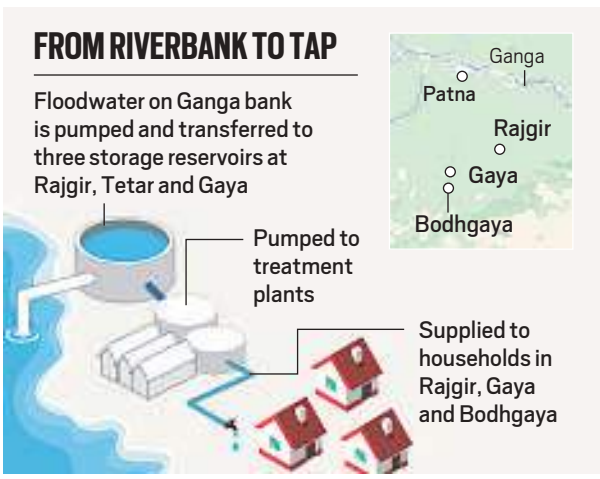
"Export regulations were put in place in May; since then, the increase has been about 7%. If you factor in the MSP [minimum support price] increase, it is just about 3% to 4%, which I would say is not very high. This, of course, is a rise but not a rise which warrants some kind of action other than what we have already done," he said.



Wheat and atta prices have been increasing since the start of this year owing to lower production and the Ukraine war. File



One of the waterlift and treatment plants. Courtesy: MEIL



Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL), has been engaged to implement the project. It will "lift, store, treat and supply" the water.

An MEIL executive said an intake pump house has been built at Hathidah near Patna to draw

out the Ganga flood water via pumps and transfer it to three storage reservoirs through a network of pipelines

These three storage reservoirs are located at Rajgir (with a live capacity of 9.915 million cubic

metres), Tetar (18.633 M.Cu.M), and Gaya (0.938 M.Cu.M).

Water will be pumped from these reservoirs to three water treatment plants: Rajgir (capacity of 24 million litres/day), Manpur, and Gaya (186.5 MLD).

The MEIL executive said: "A pipeline network with a length of 151 km was laid with different diameters. One railway over-bridge and four bridges are also part of the project."

About seven lakh households from the three tourist sites - which have a much lower water table compared to neighbouring areas - will get drinking water through taps.

The Water Resources Minister said that these places would often struggle for potable water during summers, having to depend on tankers. "We can now fully take care of drinking water supply round the year with the Har Ghar Gangajal project, which is part of our ambitious Jal, Jeevan Hariyali scheme," he said.

The Bihar Chief Minister has in the past, flagged how the Farakka Barrage had led to silting and the resultant flooding of the Ganga. He had convened a special cabinet meeting in December 2019 to approve the Har Ghar Gangajal project.

"We are doing our bit to address the twin problems of floods and drinking water shortage in areas with a lower water table by using water lift technology," said the minister.

Nirav Modi seeks permission to appeal extradition in UK court

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, NOVEMBER 24



Nirav Modi

NIRAV MODI, wanted in India to stand trial on fraud and money laundering charges, has filed an application in the High Court in London seeking permission to appeal against his extradition order in the UK Supreme Court.

The 51-year-old diamond merchant had lost an appeal on mental health grounds earlier this month, when a two-judge High Court bench ruled that his risk of suicide is not such that it would be either unjust or oppressive to extradite him to India to face charges in the estimated USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan scam case.

Nirav, who remains behind bars at Wandsworth Prison in London, had two weeks to file an application seeking an appeal on the grounds of a point of law of general public importance, which according to experts is a high threshold that is not met very often.

It is unknown if and when the extradition may take place as Nirav still has legal challenges open to him, UK Home Office

sources said.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), acting on behalf of the Indian authorities, have until December 5 to respond to the latest application following which the High Court will make a decision on whether to grant permission "on the papers" - or without a full hearing. "If they refuse to certify a question and leave to appeal then that is the end of the road. If they certify a question but refuse leave, then he applies to the Supreme Court directly for permission," the CPS said.

The entire process is expected to take several weeks and is unlikely to have an outcome by the end of this year.

On November 9, Lord Justice Jeremy Stuart-Smith and Justice Robert Jay who had presided over the appeal at the Royal

that Mr Modi's mental condition and the risk of suicide are such that it would be either unjust or oppressive to extradite him".

Their verdict also found every reason to accept that the government of India will treat its assurances on Nirav's medical care at Barrack 12 of Arthur Road Jail in Mumbai with "appropriate seriousness".

"On the basis of the assurances that the GoI has given, we accept that there will be... an appropriate plan in place for the management and medical care of Mr Modi, which will be provided in the knowledge that he is a suicide risk (i.e. a person who, in the absence of preventative measures, may or will attempt suicide and will or may succeed)," the judgment reads.

If his attempt to have his appeal heard in the Supreme Court fails, in principle, Nirav can apply to the European Court of Human Rights to try and block his extradition on the basis he will be detained in conditions breaching Article 3 of European Convention on Human Rights. PTI

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NOTICE

RFP for School Management System (SMS) issued vide RFP No AWES-2022/RFP/SMS/01 dated 08 Jul 2022 stands annulled.

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उपरो पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि० अति अल्पकालीन ई- निविदा शुद्धिपत्र इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1471/वि०पा०मॉडि०मु०ई-निविदा/2022, दि० 18.11.2022 के द्वारा इण्डियन एक्सप्रेस, अंग्रेजी दैनिक, नई दिल्ली/अमर उजाला, हिन्दी दैनिक, मुरादाबाद में प्रकाशित इस कार्यालय की अति अल्पकालीन ई- निविदा सं० 63/वि०पा०मॉडि०एम०/2022 खुलने का दि० 26.11.2022 में निविदा फीस रु. 295/- के स्थान पर रु. 590/- पढ़ा जाये। अन्य शर्तें/नियम अपरिवर्तनीय रहेंगे। "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये" हस्ता/-(संदीप बंसल) असीक्षण अभियन्ता पत्रांक: 1481-वि०पा०मॉडि०मु०/निविदा/2022, दिनांक: 23-11-2022

Cops search houses of 3 more Valley journalists, others in 'threat' case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 24

FIVE DAYS after it conducted search operations at the houses of seven journalists in the Valley, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday searched the houses of three journalists and a newspaper owner in different parts of Kashmir. Police also searched a newspaper office in Srinagar.

According to police, the searches were carried out in connection with the recent threat issued to some journalists by a militant group, and were based on "leads received from searches done a few days ago".

"Searches are going on at

multiple locations in Srinagar, Budgam and Pulwama districts in connection with 'online journalists threat' case...", the Jammu and Kashmir Police said in a post on Twitter. Police also said they recovered and seized "incriminating articles".

The searches were conducted simultaneously Thursday morning in central and south Kashmir.

At Pampore in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police searched the house of Haji Hayat, editor and owner of Kashmir Reader, an English daily published from Srinagar. The newspaper's office in Srinagar was also searched.

The house of journalist Ishfaq Reshi in central Kashmir's

Budgam was also among those searched. Reshi, who has previously worked with the Kashmir Reader, has been writing for many national news outlets.

In Srinagar, police also searched the houses of journalist Saqib Mugloo, who worked for news portal Kashmiri Wallah, and former journalist Showkat Ahmad Motta. Motta was formerly the editor of prominent news magazine *Kashmir Narrator*.

The police also searched the house of a doctor - Dr Asif Maqbool Dar - in Srinagar. Dar had moved out of the country several years ago.

Lawyer Khaksar Nadeeb Adnan's house was also searched.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India

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APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical/symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of India, Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "whatever thereto" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to bank of India from the below mentioned borrower(s) and guarantor(s). The reserve price and the Earnest money deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Details of Borrower/Plant & Machinery/Mortgaged Property/Inspection Date/ Date E-auction/Reserve Price & EMD, Date, Time of E-auction: 26.12.2022 at 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Followed by three extensions of 10 minutes

Inspection Date & Time of the Property: Till 22.12.2022 from 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM

in consultation with the Authorized Officer of Gaya Zone (Bihar) Last Date of acceptance of bids: 23.12.2022

Name of Branch/Borrower/ Guarantors/Outstanding Amount & Branch Contact No.	Description of the Asset/Property	1. Reserve Price & 2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
M/S Bandhu Tyre House (Guarantor Mrs. Sangeeta Singh) Branch: Sasaram, Total Due: ₹ 35,45,318.99/- (Rupees Thirty Five lakhs Forty Five Thousand Three Hundred Hundred Eighteen Rupees and Ninety Ninepaise) plus interest as mentioned in notice issued dated 31.01.2019 under rule 13(2) & interest accrued there on along with 'cost & Charges'. Branch Contact No. 9199834700	Owner of property: All the part and parcel of property in the name of (Guarantor) Mrs. Sangeeta Singh W/o late Ajay Kumar Singh situated at Vill/Mauza: Kadipur, Post: Khandwa, PS: Rohaniya, Dist.: Varanasi (UP), Sale Deed No. 4847 dt. 21.06.2010, Mauza: Kadipur, Paragana: Dehat Amanat, Arzi No. 806 total area 2720 Sq feet, Bounded by:- North- Rasta, South-Arzi/Plot No. 811 and East- Land of Prabha Upadhyay, West- Property of Jitendra Tiwari.	₹ 18.96 Lakhs (EMD) ₹ 1.90 Lakhs

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of India, Secured Creditor's website i.e. <https://ibapi.in>

Place : Gaya
Date : 24.11.2022

Authorised Officer
BANK OF INDIA



WORDLY WISE

THERE IS NO GREATER DISABILITY IN SOCIETY, THAN THE INABILITY TO SEE A PERSON AS MORE.

— ROBERT M. HENSEL

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

GENERAL NEXT DOOR

Asim Munir, Pakistan’s new army chief, will work to re-establish army’s pre-eminence in public affairs

AFTER MONTHS OF speculation and political contention, Pakistan’s new army chief has been named. Though each handover of the baton generates some noise, this is the first time that the appointment gave rise to so much controversy, analysis and suspense. This became all the more pronounced because of the political flux in the country. Besides being the most senior in the present cohort of two-star generals, Lt. General Asim Munir is backed in his appointment by his reportedly unblemished service record. With President Arif Alvi approving the government’s proposal, Munir is set to take over from COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa on November 29.

In recent weeks, the possibility that Munir would be elevated as the chief had added much yeast to the political ferment in Pakistan. As Director-General of the powerful Inter Services Intelligence, Munir had made himself unpopular with then Prime Minister Imran Khan — apparently for informing him privately of alleged corrupt practices by the First Lady and her family. For this, Munir had to go after the shortest stint of any ISI DG in the history of the agency. Khan was then on good enough terms with Bajwa for the latter to have agreed to this course of action. But Munir’s emergence as a dark horse in the COAS sweepstakes appears to have panicked Khan, who even tried pushing for a “consensus” candidate. What all this means is the appointment may not calm the rough political waters in which Pakistan finds itself right now. The next few months will likely see Munir trying to reunite an army which now has pro- and anti-Imran factions, and re-establishing its predominance as the final arbiter of the country’s destiny. General Bajwa’s parting words that the army no longer wanted to be involved in politics but cautioning against speaking ill of the “institution” contains mixed messages and raises more questions about the military-civilian imbalance next door.

For India, Bajwa’s tenure was a mixed bag. He disapproved of Nawaz Sharif’s attempts to make peace with India, and it was under his watch that the former PM was unseated through a “judicial coup”. But four years later, the General extended a hand of peace and indicated that Pakistan should resume trade with India. It was under him that the Pakistan army came to an agreement with the Indian Army to maintain strictly the fraying 2003 ceasefire on the LoC. The pressures of the Financial Action Task Force led to a downscaling of cross-border militancy, but drones now drop weapons and drugs over the Line of Control and International Border in J&K. His successor may continue with this ambiguity. Munir headed the ISI when the Pulwama bombing took place, and subsequently, was the man behind the scenes in the release of fighter pilot Abhinandan Varthaman. India has no option but to continue to keep its guard up.

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Measles outbreak in Mumbai indicates that country lowered guard against other pathogens while fighting Covid

A MEASLES OUTBREAK IN Mumbai has raised concerns amongst the country’s public health authorities. The city has reported more than 200 cases in the past two months and at least 13 children have lost their lives. This is a big jump from the last few years — 10 cases and one death in 2021; 29 cases and no death in 2020; and 37 cases and three deaths in 2019. Other areas in Maharashtra, including Nashik and Yavatmal, have also been affected. By all accounts, the outbreak seems to have been precipitated by a backslide in the universal immunisation programme during the pandemic. According to the state government data, only 41 per cent of the eligible children have been inoculated against measles in Mumbai. Overworked public health professionals, including ASHA workers, have also had to combat vaccine hesitancy. Parents, reportedly, are showing a disinclination to continue the inoculation regime for their children after they developed fever on being administered the first jab. Such after-effects are par for the course. In the past, health departments in most parts of the country would anticipate the worries of parents and find ways to reassure them. The Mumbai outbreak indicates that the pandemic may have disrupted such efforts.

In recent years, the Centre’s Mission Indradhanush project has improved vaccine coverage and reduced delays between shots. But WHO and UNICEF studies have shown that immunisation programmes — especially those focusing on DPT (diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus) and measles — have taken a hit in low and mid-income countries, including India, in the past two years. Early in the pandemic, the National Health Mission’s information system reported that at least 100,000 children missed their shots because of the restrictions on movement. Anecdotal reports do indicate that India’s universal inoculation programme picked up during the later part of the pandemic. But measles is a highly contagious disease. Experts had cautioned that even a 5 per cent fall in the vaccination rate can disrupt herd immunity and precipitate an outbreak. The surge of the disease in Mumbai indicates that their fears are coming true.

In the past week, a rise in measles cases has also been reported from Ranchi, Ahmedabad and Malappuram. The Centre has reportedly sent teams to help state health authorities frame control and containment measures. It has also rightly asked states to consider administering an extra dose of vaccines to children, aged five to nine, in vulnerable areas. But the time has also come to look beyond emergency measures and provide the country’s public health services its long-overdue boost. The gains of the Universal Immunisation Programme should not be overturned by health emergencies.

THE RIGHT STUFF

ESA has admitted a disabled person into its space programme. Given astronauts are role models, it’s about time

THE RIGHT STUFF, a 1984 film based on a non-fiction work by Tom Wolfe, went a long way in cementing the reputation of astronauts as people who have to “push the envelope”. “It takes a special kind of man to volunteer for a suicide mission,” says one of the characters, “especially when it’s on national TV”. The early days of space flight were much more dangerous, and more exclusive, than today. In 2022, the European Space Agency (ESA) has taken its own landmark step. The definition of the “right stuff” — the mental and physical fortitude required to be an astronaut or cosmonaut — has expanded.

At 41, John McFall — a Paralympics medalist — will be the first disabled person in the ESA’s astronaut programme. He lost a leg at 19, and since then has achieved peak physical and medical condition. However, this does not guarantee that he will go to space. Like other potential candidates, he will have to undergo a feasibility programme. But it is an expansion that must be lauded — of opportunity, representation, and what it means to be in peak physical and mental condition.

What is the “right stuff”? At the dawn of the space age, the undercurrents of what it meant to be a candidate to undertake the most demanding of jobs were determined by limitations, of imagination, opportunity and resources. Now, fortunately, astronauts can be women, people of colour, and those with disabilities. This may require adjustments and interventions. But that is more than offset by the mental fortitude, the hurdles people have had to cross, just to be considered. And, given that those who push the final frontier are often role models, it’s about time more people like McFall stood on that pedestal.



SHARAT SABHARWAL

AFTER A PERIOD of suspense and intense speculation, the Pakistan government has picked Lt General Asim Munir, currently the Quartermaster General, to succeed General Qamar Javed Bajwa as the Chief of Army Staff on his retirement on November 29. He had earlier served as Director General of Military Intelligence and ISI, as well as the Commander of Pakistan army’s XXX Corps at Gujranwala.

Munir is the senior-most officer in the army after Bajwa. However, his appointment has not been without controversy.

To begin with, he was due to retire on November 27 — two days before the post of army chief falls vacant. As per Pakistani media reports, the government decided to retain his services on security considerations under the Army Act until he takes over as chief. Further, he had been shunted from the post of DG ISI within eight months in June 2019 by then PM Imran Khan, reportedly because of some disagreements and replaced by the latter’s favourite, Lt General Faiz Hameed. Imran Khan looked at Munir with suspicion, which was compounded by the reports of Munir’s choice as chief having been made by exiled PML(N) supremo, Nawaz Sharif.

Expecting Munir’s elevation, Imran Khan had stated recently that President Arif Alvi, who belonged to his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), would consult the former PM before approving the appointment. The president’s approval is a constitutional requirement. The president can delay it by about 30 days and send it back for reconsideration. He is, however, bound to approve it after the government recommends it again. Government representatives had said that they were prepared to deal with any delay by the president without spelling out how they would do so. According to some reports, in such a contingency, Munir could have been appointed the Vice Chief of Army Staff to hold the fort till presidential approval. However, better sense appears to prevail in the presidential and PTI camps. The president gave his approval after a meeting with Imran Khan in Lahore. Imran had also

Rawalpindi challenge

New Pakistan army chief takes over at a time when the country is politically divided, army prestige is at a low

announced he would join the long march of his supporters in Rawalpindi on November 26 and reveal his further course of action. It is possible that the presidential approval was facilitated by some assurances of an even-handed attitude by the incoming army chief to Imran Khan.

The new army chief will face many complex challenges. His foremost task will be to deal with the damage done to the army’s image by Bajwa’s political engineering throughout his six-year tenure. This has been compounded by reports of his immediate family having amassed considerable wealth after he became army chief. In a recent farewell speech, he admitted that the army has faced criticism from time to time because of its involvement in politics, which he described as “unconstitutional”.

Bajwa claimed that in February last year, the army leadership had decided after a lot of deliberation not to interfere in any political issue. He added that the army had initiated its catharsis and hoped that political parties would also review their conduct. Given his record in office, few are impressed by this mea culpa and his assurance of political neutrality or that his successors would be bound by it. The army cannot stay neutral if it has to protect its prime position in the polity and its enormous perks and privileges. However, the new army chief will have to contend with the public anger against the institution now embodied by the increasingly popular Imran Khan. There is also reported sympathy for Imran within the army. A wise course for Munir would be not to seek revenge against Imran Khan, keep the army away from politics and at best play the role of a facilitator for dialogue between opposing political camps. He should let the politicians slug it out and look for an opportune moment to recover the lost ground for the army.

Another major challenge for Munir would be the continued terrorist activities within Pakistan by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other terror groups, notably in

Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. There were reports recently of TTP activists resurfacing and consolidating their position in the Swat area, which had seen an army operation in 2009. These were initially denied by the authorities, but finally acknowledged in the face of public protests. There is no easy solution to this problem. The Taliban victory in Afghanistan has not brought the dividends that the Pakistanis might have expected. They have refused to act against TTP elements in Afghanistan, recommending instead a solution through dialogue. The Taliban does not acknowledge the Durand Line and oppose Pakistan’s fencing activity along it.

Munir will also face the difficult task of sustaining and nurturing Pakistan’s renewed transactional activity with the US. Bajwa was able to begin this towards the end of his tenure, resulting in the F-16 sustenance package from the US. At the same time, the new chief will also have to continue to broaden and deepen Pakistan’s all-important relationship with China.

In the course of his career, Asim Munir has served as commander of the Pakistan forces in “Northern Areas” and Corps Commander, Gujranwala — both posts focussed on India. Because of the multiple challenges outlined above and Pakistan’s precarious economic situation, he may in the immediate term espouse Bajwa’s policy, seen over the last two years or so, of tactical restraint towards India. This may mean a continuing respect for the LoC ceasefire and not ramping up terror activity. However, we will have to watch out once his other compulsions ease a bit.

While the appointment of a new army chief to succeed the by now highly-controversial Bajwa has been expected to bring a degree of calm to Pakistan’s deeply divided polity, much will depend upon how Munir conducts himself, particularly in dealing with the highly polarised political situation.

The writer is a former High Commissioner to Pakistan



ARUP KUMAR DUTTA

THE ASSAM government is celebrating at a national level the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Barphukan, the iconic hero of Assam, on November 23, 24 and 25 in New Delhi. Son of the great warrior-statesman Momai Tamuli Barbarua, Lachit was born on November 24, 1622, and grew up during a turbulent period of Assam’s history. Mir Jumla, the Governor of Bengal, ordered by the Mughal ruler Aurangzeb, had invaded Assam, overwhelmed the Assamese forces, and captured Garhgaon, the capital of the ruling Ahom Dynasty, on March 17, 1662.

The Ahom king Jaydhwaj Singha was forced to sign on January 23, 1663, the treaty of Chilajharighat, whereby he was required not only to cede Ahom territory in central and lower Assam, pay war indemnities as well as annual tribute, but also send his only daughter to the imperial harem at Delhi.

This treaty dealt a huge blow to Assamese nationalist pride. Chafing under the ignominy of having to pay annual tribute, meant to underline the assumption that the Ahom king was a vassal of Delhi, Chakradhwaj Singha, who succeeded Jaydhwaj Singha, was determined to oust the invaders from the Ahom kingdom and retrieve the lost territory.

Under the guidance of another great warrior statesman Atan Burhagohain, the king began training soldiers so that they would be ready for battle. The armament industry too was in full swing, as was boat-making. By 1667, the king was satisfied that war preparations were complete and he could make his move against the occupying Mughal forces. He chose the relatively young Lachit to command his army, investing him with the Barphukan (commander) rank. From August that year, the Ahom army

THE FORGOTTEN ADMIRAL

Lachit Barphukan is remembered for preventing Mughal conquest of Assam

embarked on a fast and furious campaign, attacking and destroying a number of Mughal outposts, till it reached the principal target of Guwahati. After a two-month siege of the fort there, Lachit made a frontal attack on the night of November 4, 1667. Hundreds of Mughal soldiers were killed, and the few who managed to escape from the fort and fled on boats were chased beyond the river Manas.

Lachit was under no illusion that the Mughal emperor in Delhi would not react and send a sizable force on a punitive mission. In order to repulse the imminent Mughal attack, Lachit began strengthening the fortifications at Guwahati.

The defence preparations were ingenious, indeed! For instance, Guwahati was dotted with hillocks close to both banks of the Brahmaputra, providing the defenders with the advantage of height in launching a barrage of artillery at enemy war-boats coming up the Brahmaputra, or troops advancing by land. Lachit closed the gaps between the hills with earthen ramparts so as to erect a protective ring about twenty five miles in circumference around Guwahati.

Legend has it that, during the construction of the ramparts, Lachit beheaded his own uncle for negligence in carrying out his allotted duties, uttering the immortal phrase, “My uncle is not greater than my motherland!” News of the Mughal defeat reached Emperor Aurangzeb in Delhi in December 1667. Sure enough, he sent a huge army of 30,000 infantry, 18,000 Turkish cavalry and 15,000 Koch archers, as also numerous war-boats, under the overall command of the Rajput king Ram Singh of the famous Kutchwa clan and son of Raja Jai Singh of Amber.

In the initial stages of the Mughal cam-

paign, there was no single, direct confrontation. While Ram Singh was chary of launching a direct assault on the well-fortified Ahom encampment at Guwahati, Lachit’s strategy was to stall the enemy’s advance by land because he wanted to lure the Mughals into a naval battle. Thus numerous sporadic, limited engagements continued through 1669 and 1670, none of the adversaries getting the upper hand.

Finally, due to the growing impatience of Aurangzeb at the protracted nature of the campaign, Ram Singh was coerced into undertaking a direct assault. The Rajput general was also encouraged by the news that Lachit was seriously ill and bed-ridden and could not lead the Ahom army.

Thus commenced the famous battle of Saraighat in March, 1671, one in which the Ahoms dealt a mortal blow to Mughal expansionist ambitions. Initially, however, the Ahom soldiers, not finding Lachit at the head, were demoralised and the danger of defeat grew real. News of this reached the gravely ill Barphukan. He barked out instructions, and his attendants carried him onto a war-boat which rowed swiftly towards the enemy. A miracle occurred. At the sight of Lachit coming to lead them, the soldiers were energised with new courage and hope. The Mughal forces were chased beyond the Manas river. It was a decisive victory for the Assamese.

The battle of Saraighat proved that Lachit Barphukan was a master strategist who can be compared with the great generals in any part of India. Aptly, the Lachit Barphukan gold medal, instituted in 1999, is given to the best cadet from the National Defence Academy.

Dutta is a writer based in Guwahati

NOVEMBER 25, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

PM NAKASONE

YASUHIRO NAKASONE, A 64-year-old veteran politician, will succeed Zenko Suzuki as prime minister of Japan by virtue of his landslide victory in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party’s primary election.

GHANA COUP CRUSHED

A COUP ATTEMPT in Ghana has been crushed and the country has been put under an overnight curfew, according to an official announcement. Ghanaian leader Fli Lt Jerry Rawlings said that, “loyal troops have successfully defeated an attempt to over-

throw this regime”.

BREZHNEV SUCCESSOR

THE SOVIET PARLIAMENT ended its autumn session and surprisingly did not name a new President to succeed Brezhnev. The only major personnel change announced was the appointment of Geidar A Aliev, 59, as first Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

FRANCE-INDIA TALKS

THREE DAYS BEFORE President Francois Mitterrand is to arrive in New Delhi, the Indian government expressed its optimism

about reaching an accord with France on the question of French supplies of nuclear fuel for the Tarapur Atomic Power plant. They, however, added that no agreement on nuclear fuel would be acceptable to India unless it was within the framework of the 1963 Indo-US nuclear agreement.

INDIA AT ASIAD

INDIAN GOLFERS PICKED UP two gold medals and a silver at the Asian Games. India also won a silver in tennis men’s team event and a bronze in individual trap event of shooting to boost their tally to four gold, four silver and two bronze medals.



Cost of brevity

In the name of accessibility, proposed data protection law sacrifices legal rigour for an expansion of state power that tilts it against individual privacy



APAR GUPTA

IN SEEKING TO deliver on the promises when withdrawing the Data Protection Bill (2019), the Ministry of Electronics and IT released the Digital Data Protection Bill, 2022 last week. At the time of withdrawal, on August 3, 2022, as per a note circulated in Parliament by Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Union Minister at the Ministry of Electronics and IT, said it was done to ensure “a comprehensive legal framework”. This was substantiated by Rajeev Chandrashekhar, the Minister of State at the Ministry of Electronics and IT in his public statements that the new proposal must be as per “global standard laws”. Have the government’s objectives been achieved with the Digital Data Protection Bill, 2022? The Digital Data Protection Bill, 2022 has now shrunk previous proposals that covered over 90 clauses to 30, phrased in plain English. This is a drafting style that is also present in the Telecommunications Bill, 2022 and seems to be the current fashion of setting legal proposals that, as per the government, serve the values of brevity and comprehensibility. After all, the laws should just not be there for lawyers, but “a person with basic understanding”. While there is little to quarrel with this principle, brevity and comprehensibility have been achieved at a considerable cost to established legal standards.

First, when the Supreme Court in the Justice Puttaswamy judgment reaffirmed the fundamental right to privacy, it contained specific legal standards as a three-part test. This includes words such as, “necessary”, “reasonable” and, “proportional” which are terms of art and exist as legal doctrines. As per Justice D.Y. Chandrachud’s majority opinion, the data protection law should have “due regard to what has been set out in this judgment”. However, it seems the judgment and such legal standards have largely been ignored.

This can be noticed in Clause 18, which contains exemptions from the data protection rights contained within the Digital Data Protection Bill, 2022. Under it, the central government can exempt any government authority from its application by a mere notification stating it satisfies grounds matching the language of Article 19(2) of the Constitution. This is a lower standard than the one prescribed under the privacy judgment. Further, the government can now even exempt private sector entities that may include individual companies or a class of them, by assessing the volume and nature of personal data. Clause 18(4) further exempts any state authority from deletion of data after use which, in effect, will permit them to store personal data indefinitely in contravention of the principle of purpose limitation. This is a concerning expansion of state power that tilts the law against the interests of individual privacy. Second, the concentration of power in



CR Sasikumar

the executive branch becomes clearer as the Digital Data Protection Bill, 2022 omits legislative guidance that is a vital part of any law to ensure that executive power is exercised reasonably. Within the 30 clauses, the phrase, “as may be prescribed” is contained in 18 instances. For instance, the compliance and regulatory enforcement to be conducted by a Data Protection Board of India will lack autonomy in appointment or functioning. As per Clause 19(2), the strength and composition, the process of selection and removal of the Chairperson and other members are all, “as may be prescribed”. Further, under Clause 19(3), the Chief Executive who will manage this Data Protection Board will be appointed and the terms and conditions as well will be determined by the central government.

Hence, the Ministry of Electronics and IT will have direct oversight over the Data Protection Board of India. It is reasonable to ask at this juncture: Will any such board be able to exercise any oversight and issue fines on any government authority? Such lack of detail is only one among many. Vagueness animates several proposed clauses that create vast regulatory power for the central government. They will determine significant policy choices that are usually first prescribed, but presently absent in legislative guidance. It has been India’s constitutional experience that such unhappy drafting often manifests in the ar-

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bitrary exercise of executive power.

Finally, the section on user rights is not only underdeveloped but even now contains penalties for users, who are essentially the beneficiaries of a data protection law. For instance, Clause 6 which requires user consent before data collection, unlike the previous version now no longer requires a notice of which third parties the data will be shared with, the duration for storage and whether it will be transferred to other countries. One of the most curious provisions is Clause 16 which places a duty on users to, “furnish such information as is verifiably authentic”, or face a potential penalty for a fine. When you bundle this with the requirements for authentication that are proposed for users in the Telecommunications Bill, 2022, it can mean the death of online anonymity and pseudonymous identities with the creation of a vast surveillance apparatus. Essentially, each online service is KYC verified or a user faces penalties and denial of service. Hence, any commendation to the central government for the deletion of an earlier requirement in the verification for social media is only half made out. To conclude, the simplicity of the drafting choices of the Digital Data Protection Bill, 2022 comes at a precipitous cost to individual privacy.

The writer is co-founder and executive director, Internet Freedom Foundation

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Before US law enforcement contemplates how it might buy and use spyware, it must contemplate whether it — or any other country — should.” — THE WASHINGTON POST

The sustainable development boost

Globally, movement on SDGs has slowed. India should focus on accelerating progress during its G20 presidency



S MAHENDRA DEV

INDIA’S G20 PRESIDENCY, which starts from December, provides a historic opportunity to promote inclusive development. At the recent meet at Bali, it was recognised that war is not a solution and we should concentrate on economic and social issues. This is particularly important in the context of global challenges like low economic growth, increasing inflation, disruption of supply chains, rising concerns about food and energy security and debt problems.

Focusing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will benefit all sections of society. The SDGs are interconnected and cover all-inclusive issues like poverty, food and nutrition security, health, education, women empowerment, employment and climate change. India can showcase some of its achievements at G20 meetings and also learn from the best practices in other countries. Both “Sherpa” track and “finance” track would be useful for this purpose.

A new working paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the PM shows that on current trends the world will reach its 2030 promises almost half a century too late. It says that India stands out — of all G20 countries, it has the fastest trend in growth from 2015–19, and is moving faster than even lower-middle income countries. On current trends, India is likely to achieve SDGs by 2059. According to this report, we have to prioritise the indicators as developing countries have limited resources. India can suggest these priorities at G20 meetings. The report suggests 12 different policy interventions, which will give a high social, economic and environmental return on investment. The UN has recently released the SDG report of 2022. It says that the confluence of crises dominated by Covid-19, conflicts (indirectly referring to Ukraine-Russia war), and climate change are creating spin-offs, affecting all SDGs. The pandemic pushed 93 million people into extreme poverty in 2020.

Sustainable food systems are important for achieving zero hunger and nutrition security. India can share its experiences in moving from a food deficit country to a food surplus country. On agriculture, M S Swaminathan advocated the concept of evergreen revolution. This can be achieved by promoting agro ecologically sound practices like conservation farming, precision farming, integrated nutrient supply and pest management and natural conservation. For example, organic farming in Sikkim and community managed natural farming in Andhra Pradesh can be showcased. Regarding food-related social protection, distribution of foodgrains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana in the last three years have been quite useful to large sections of the population. However, India has a long way to go in achieving its SDG goal of removing malnutrition — 35 per cent of the country’s children still suffer from stunting (height for age).

Energy security and climate change are equally important issues for India’s G20 presidency. The stand of India and other de-

veloping countries on energy security has to be continued. There should not be any restrictions on the supply of energy, and stability in the energy market should be ensured. India’s dependence on coal for energy generation may continue for many more years and the CoP27 draft of “phasing down” rather than “phasing out” for coal would be useful for India.

India has committed to reduce net zero emissions by 2070 and 50 per cent of energy requirements through renewables by 2030. The country should continue to focus on climate finance, technology transfer and emission reductions due to historically high consumption patterns. CoP27 agreed to the creation of a loss and damage fund to compensate a section of developing countries. In a recent article, Arvind Subramanian says “efforts to promote multilateral coordination to mitigate climate risks are most likely doomed to fail in today’s fraught geopolitical environment”. According to him, the global race to subsidise renewable energy may lead to cheap sustainable technologies and reduction in carbon emissions.

Another focus area for G20 is digital inclusion which can raise both growth and equity. India has shown that it can promote universal digital services. Globally, there is a lot of interest in India’s success with the unified payments interface (UPI), and direct benefit transfers through the Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and mobile trinity. For example, PM SVANidhi is helping street vendors in different states. Street vendors want to use digital technologies for savings and credit. A study done at ICFAI Business School Hyderabad shows that street vendors have been forthcoming in requesting help with the creation of YouTube channels for marketing their products and training regarding various digital payments tools. Of course, the study also says that street vendors have basic problems such as lack of a fixed location to carry on business on a daily basis, the danger of eviction, unavailability of loans and toilet facilities near their vending locations and government support, which need to be addressed apart from the digital push.

There is some consensus among developing countries on the need for restructuring multilateral institutes like the World Bank, IMF and WTO. This is important for raising SDG finance and also takes care of debt problems of developing countries.

A report on SDGs prepared by Jeffrey Sachs and others indicates that there are six pathways for increased SDG financing. These are: (1) increased domestic tax revenues; (2) increased sovereign (government) borrowing from international development finance institutions; (3) increased sovereign borrowing from international private capital markets; (4) increased official development assistance; (5) increased funding by private foundations and philanthropies; and (6) debt restructuring for heavily indebted borrowers, mainly to lengthen maturities and reduce interest rates. India can give push to some of these pathways.

There was a setback in the progress of SDGs due to shocks like Covid-19, Ukraine-Russia war, slow economic growth and high inflation. India should focus on rescuing and accelerating progress on SDGs during its G20 Presidency for inclusive development

The writer is distinguished professor, IBS, Hyderabad and former vice-chancellor, IGIDR, Mumbai



ARUNABHA GHOSH AND SHIKHA BHASIN

Banking on New Delhi

India must speak, act for Global South to make sure new climate fund delivers

A DEVASTATING YEAR of heat waves, droughts, lost crops and extreme floods made it impossible to ignore climate-related damages to lives and livelihoods. The latest round of discussions (COP27 in Egypt) began with little hope and ended (two days beyond schedule) with a faint glimmer. All 197 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed to enable financing for loss and damage to those that need it the most. But the goal of keeping temperature rise to levels that could minimise loss and damage continued to slip away.

Loss and damage (L&D) refers to the adverse impacts that vulnerable communities and countries face as a result of a changing climate. Rich countries had resisted L&D payments for years. Under pressure, they could no longer duck their responsibility.

The COP27 decision includes the development of a Transition Committee dedicated to L&D, with equal representation from rich and poor countries. In order to operationalise the funding arrangements, the committee has been tasked with configuring institutional arrangements, identifying and expanding sources of funding, and coordinating with existing funding arrangements — by COP28 in the UAE next year. The sticking points of negotiations, thus, remain.

India can speak — and act — on behalf of the Global South to ensure that the new L&D financing facility delivers. First, develop a Global Vulnerability Index. Last year, CEEW developed a Climate Vulnerability Index for India. It found that over 80 per cent of Indians

are highly vulnerable to extreme climatic disasters. Such data in the public domain helps map critical vulnerabilities and plan strategies to build resilience by climate-proofing communities, economies and infrastructure. Currently, such indices do not exist in the public domain across countries.

Pressure must also be put on large emerging economies, with rising emissions, to contribute to L&D financing. Limiting L&D compensation depends on increasing adaptation spending. India must continue to press for higher volumes of international adaptation funds.

Second, encourage attribution science to assess whether and to what extent climate change altered the likelihood and intensity of extreme climatic events. Unfortunately, as with the majority of global research on climate change, contributions from the Global South are limited. A recent study found that only 3.8 per cent of global climate research spending is dedicated to Africa — of that 78 per cent is spent in Europe and North America. India would do well to convene experts and encourage the development of a South-led research consortium dedicated to scientific exploration of “event attribution” science. This would enrich climate science, draw attention to the more vulnerable regions, build research capacity in developing countries, and strengthen the L&D framework.

Third, champion the Early Warning Systems Initiative. The Executive Action Plan for the Early Warnings for All Initiative, un-

veiled at COP27 and welcomed by India’s Minister Bhupender Yadav, aims to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years. It has called for targeted investments of \$3.1 billion during 2023–27, which could avoid annual losses of \$3–16 billion against natural hazards in developing countries. Given India’s vulnerabilities to extreme climate events — CEEW research finds that 75 per cent of India’s districts are prone to extreme climatic disasters — we would do well to champion not just the deployment of early warning systems, but showcasing the investments and capacities required to maximise protection and benefits. The rollout of such systems with last mile connectivity in Odisha has already borne fruit: Reports suggest less than 100 lives were lost to cyclone Fani in 2019 in India, as compared to about 10,000 in 1999’s super cyclone.

Fourth, leverage the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). India founded the CDRI “to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development”. CDRI is currently undertaking a Fiscal Risk Assessment study to support the development of a comprehensive disaster-risk financing strategy in more than 35 countries and multilateral entities. Last year it kick-started an initiative called Infrastructure for Resilient Island States. As it assumes the G20 presidency, India can also push for a Global Resilience Reserve Fund, capitalised by IMF Special Drawing Rights, to create an insurance cushion against severe

physical and macroeconomic shocks that climate risks would impose.

L&D financing is only one side of the coin. Enhanced and accelerated emissions mitigation is still much needed. This is in India’s development interests. While it released its long-term low-carbon emissions development strategy last week, it must use scientific methods to quantify its long-term targets, to give direction to industry and investors.

At the COP, India’s push for phase down of all fossil fuels (not just coal) failed to get traction. Negotiators continued to quibble over definitions of climate finance when trillions of dollars of sustainable investment are needed. When it comes to technology, sectoral partnerships and technology co-development are likely to be the way forward, rather than waiting for technologies that never get transferred.

L&D financing (if at all delivered) is a band-aid. Global emissions must reduce by 50 per cent by 2030 but there is no opprobrium for failing to present credible plans to do so. India drew attention to sustainable lifestyles via its Lifestyle for Environment mission, but who is listening? Future COPs must focus almost exclusively on ensuring delivery and holding lagards accountable. Otherwise, the COP process will be lost and multilateralism will be permanently damaged.

Ghosh is CEO and Bhasin is Senior Programme Lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TIMELY REMINDER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Fragile peace’ (IE, November 24). The Gauhati HC has rightly reminded authorities that even the search of premises, let alone demolishing dwellings, requires procedural consistency and requisite permissions. Criminal law has no space for acts that defy the rulebook. This would endanger the fabric of the entire polity, ushering in anarchy. The court has made its opposition to this probability crystal clear. But the reproachment must be broader and its stakeholders must include the people of the republic.

SS Paul, Nadia

LEGAL OVERSIGHT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘It’s not so EC’ (IE, November 24). The Election Commission is responsible for the free and fair conduct of elections. It has been observed that there is implicit political interference in appointments at the EC. The Supreme Court’s flagging of these concerns is apt and timely. Civil servants who are chosen as members must be appointed through a non-partial, apolitical system. The CJI’s becoming a part of the selection committee will only add legal expertise and transparency to the process, and is thus a welcome idea.

Devendra Awasthi, Lucknow

A BETTER SYSTEM

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Fixing Election Commission’ (IE, November 23). There is no quick fix for the complex issues that plague the independence of an institution. However, accountability is more likely if there is transparency in the appointments and functioning of the Election Commission. The presence of the Chief Justice in the committee for appointment of Chief Election Commissioner has to be viewed in terms of its effectiveness in “neutrality” and “insulation” from the political executive.

LR Murmu, New Delhi

DESIGN OVERHAUL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Walk the talk’ (IE, November 22). The recruitment process of the subordinate judiciary gives very limited weightage to courtroom practice. Clearing the multiple stages of a standard state-level judicial service examination is enough to secure a judge’s post. Hence, many empowered to the position consider themselves a mere cog in the machine and exhibit limited novelty in their judgments. The recruitment process of judges in subordinate judiciary needs a design overhaul.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

Investment lessons in crash of IPOs as Sensex surges



GEORGE MATHEW & SANDEEP SINGH

MANY HIGH-PROFILE initial public offerings (IPOs) that made waves in 2021 are facing rough weather — even as the Sensex at the Bombay Stock Exchange closed at an all-time high of 62,272 on Thursday, a number of these listings, including Paytm and Zomato, continued to struggle, leading to an erosion of investors' capital.

With inflation numbers expected to gradually taper off, and with equity markets likely to benefit from the increase in FPI and domestic investor flows, experts advise investors to stick to good companies that are already listed

on the stock exchanges instead of chasing IPOs that aim to take advantage of a rise in the secondary markets.

How have investors lost?

Investors who put money in a number of high-profile IPOs that came during the bull run of 2021 have suffered significant capital erosion. While the Sensex, which recently regained the 62,000 level, has risen over 21 per cent over the last four months, the market capitalisation of Paytm has fallen by over Rs 70,000 crore from the listing day. On Wednesday, the Paytm stock closed 5.20 per cent lower at Rs 452.30 as against the IPO offer price of Rs 2,150 — a massive decline of 79 per cent.

It's not just Paytm either. Star Health and Allied Insurance is now quoting at Rs 599.95 as against the offer price of Rs 900, and PB Fintech is down to 400.65 from its IPO offer price of Rs 980. Cartrade crashed from the IPO price of Rs 1,618 to Rs 484.15 on November 23.

Nykaa (FSN E-commerce) is down at Rs 171.65 (after stock split) as against the 52-week high of Rs 429.86 registered on the BSE. Nykaa's market capitalisation has nearly halved from

around Rs 1 lakh crore to Rs 48,890 crore on Wednesday. The company had recently announced a 5:1 bonus issue amid the sell-off. As per the adjusted closing price, the stock is currently trading 23 per cent below its IPO offer price of Rs 1,125.

In fact, 23 of the 43 public issues between June 2021 and December 2021 are currently trading below their issue price.

What should investors do?

As these stocks continue to remain under pressure, there are several views among experts. While existing investors sitting on losses can wait or exit depending upon their entry point and the losses they are sitting on, experts advise caution when it comes to making a fresh entry into these stocks. Many feel that the pressure on these companies may continue for some time, and they may fall further.

"Investors must wait. It will take time to reach the bottom. We believe it can test 350 levels after some consolidation. It is possible to accumulate near these levels for the long term," said Ravi Singal, CEO, GCL, on the fall in Paytm shares.

Some feel that as large shareholders continue to dump the shares of these companies as they are trading weak, their share prices may remain under pressure in the near future.

Promoter holdings in some of these companies have come down as the lock-in period ended.

Last year, Sebi decided that if the objective of the issue involves offer for sale or financing other than for capital expenditure for a project, then the minimum promoters' contribution of 20 per cent should be locked in for 18 months from the date of IPO allotment as against the three years earlier.

Also, the promoter shareholding in excess of 20 per cent needed to be locked in only for six months as against one year earlier. The lock-in of shares held before the IPO by non-promoters was cut to six months from one year.

Why was there a rush in 2021?

The boom witnessed in the IPO market in 2021 was in line with the Sensex rally. "During April 2021 to October 2021, when the Sensex jumped from the 40,000 mark to the 60,000 mark, 49% of the IPO issuances were reckoned.



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This was also the period of gradual strengthening of the Indian economy after the Covid-induced slowdown. Robust macro fundamentals in terms of a stable currency, adequate external buffers and ample domestic liquidity provided comfort to investors," a Bank of Baroda report said.

The situation changed in 2022 with financial tightening globally and in India. During the 2021-22 fiscal, companies raised Rs 1.30 lakh crore from the primary market. During the first seven months of 2022-23, companies raised around Rs 38,000 crore through IPOs.

Geopolitical tensions, weakening of the rupee, inflation remaining above the RBI's upper band of 6% (now for seven months in a row) and a spillover of the global growth slowdown, all have hit sentiment.

Should you invest in IPOs?

Nearly 70 companies with Sebi approvals are waiting to hit the market. Experts say that investors need to be very careful investing, especially in the high-profile new age companies where profitability is an issue.

Experts feel that while the new-age tech-

nology companies demanded high premiums and benefitted from the liquidity in the market and investor enthusiasm around these firms during the pandemic, the sentiments have tapered now — and given the past experience, investors would be more cautious.

"It is important to understand that when the market corrects, investor confidence is shaken even if a company declares a decline in profits in one quarter. So, in most of these companies where profitability is not visible for the next five years, it is very tough for an investor to stay invested, and that is what has been happening," said the head of research with a leading financial services firm.

Experts feel that rather than IPOs, investors should go with companies that have been tested in the markets over some time. "Companies with less leverage, operating in sectors with high growth potential, and leaders in their segments should be preferred by investors," an analyst said. He added that before investing in IPOs, one must look at the quality of the promoter, corporate governance practices, financial and peer review analyses, and check the valuation the company is demanding.

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

LOCATION AND DEPTH: WHY A MODERATE INDONESIA QUAKE CAUSED MANY DEATHS



Search operations in progress at a village hit by an earthquake-triggered landslide in Cianjur, West Java, Indonesia. AP

ON THE fourth day of their search Thursday, Indonesian rescuers narrowed their focus on to a landslide in the mountainous Cianjur district, where many were believed trapped after an earthquake killed at least 272 people, more than a third of them children.

The earthquake that hit Indonesia's main island of Java on Monday measured 5.6 on the Richter scale, a magnitude that would typically be expected to cause light damage to buildings. Why did it then cause significantly greater devastation?

Not 'strong', but shallow

The US Geological Survey said the quake measured 5.6 in magnitude, and struck at a depth of 10 km. "Even though the earthquake was medium-sized, it (was) close to the surface...and located inland, close to where people live," said Gayatri Marliyani, an assistant geology professor at Universitas Gadjah Mada, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. "The energy was large enough to cause significant shaking that led to damage."

A range of other factors

While quakes of this size usually don't cause widespread damage, the USGS points

out, "There is not one magnitude above which damage will occur. It depends on other variables, such as the distance from the earthquake, what type of soil you are on, building construction", and other factors.

In the Java quake, the proximity to fault lines, the depth of the tremor, and buildings not being constructed using earthquake-proof methods were factors.

The worst-affected area is close to several known faults, Marliyani said. A fault is a place with a long break in the rock that forms the surface of the Earth. When an earthquake occurs on one of these faults, the rock on one side slips with respect to the other.

Earthquakes in Indonesia

The country of more than 270 million people is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis because of its location on the arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin known as the Ring of Fire. The area spans some 40,000 km, and is where the majority of the world's earthquakes occur. However, many of Indonesia's earthquakes are minor and cause little to no damage.

AP



NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

THE WAIT has finally ended. Lt Gen Syed Asim Munir Shah is the new chief of the Pakistan Army. He will take charge on November 29, when the incumbent, Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, steps down after six years in the post, which included a three-year extension in 2019.

The appointment of the new chief had become more contentious than at any other time in the last three decades of the country's troubled military-civilian relations. The announcement ends months of speculation on whether Bajwa would seek another extension. But it may not end Pakistan's political uncertainty.

Asim Munir, Hafiz-e-Koran

Lt Gen Munir, who graduated in 1986 from the Officers Training School, Mangla, belongs to the Frontier Force Regiment, one of the six infantry regiments of the Pakistan Army. At present, he is the QuarterMaster General at GHQ, Rawalpindi.

Munir is said to be close to Bajwa, with whom he worked both as Director-General Military Intelligence from December 2016 to October 2018, and later as D-G Inter Services Intelligence from October 2018 to June 2019.

Earlier in his career, he commanded a brigade of the Force Command Northern Areas, a component of X Corps, at a time when Bajwa was the corps commander.

He is reportedly an "outstanding officer" and was recently described by the writer Shuja Nawaz (*Crossed Swords: Pakistan, Its Army and the Wars Within*), as "a straight arrow".

Munir is the most senior general in the present crop of three-star officers.

He was earlier not considered to be in the race for the top job as his four-year tenure as Lt General was ending on November 27, and he was set to retire two days before Bajwa's tenure ends. But that minor hurdle has become irrelevant as his appointment as chief gives him a three-year tenure.

It is also rare for someone who has served

as ISI chief to become the Army chief. Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, who was Army chief from 2008 to 2013 is perhaps the only other. Munir is also one of only three other officers to have headed both MI and ISI, the other two being Lt Gen Asad Durrani and Lt Gen Hamid Gul.

Munir served in Saudi Arabia in the diplomatic post of defence attache. Unlike many others of senior rank in the Pakistan Army, he does not seem to have had any exposure to either American or British training at any point in his career. While he was a colonel, Munir was bestowed the title of 'Hafiz-e-Koran', that is, he has memorised and can recite the holy book almost entirely.

"Munir is the culmination of changes that Zia-ul-Haq set in motion as a promoter of overt religiosity in the Army," said Ramanathan Kumar, who headed the Pakistan desk at R&AW from 2015 until he retired in 2020.

Rana Baharjee, who also led the Pakistan desk at R&AW earlier, said Munir was unlikely to be a fundamentalist despite his religious mindedness.

Crossed swords with Imran Khan

Munir's eight-month tenure as D-G ISI was the shortest ever for any officer in that post. Although no reasons were officially given for his abrupt transfer, it was widely known that Bajwa had acceded to then Prime Minister Imran Khan's demand to remove him. At the time, the COAS and Khan were still on friendly terms.

Munir's fault: he had apparently alleged to Khan that his wife Bushra Bibi, also known as Pinky, and her family were on the take.

This is why when Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his brother, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif — who has lived in self-exile in London since early 2020, and whom the PM consults on all issues pertaining to the government — said the "seniority principle" as laid down in the Constitution would be the only factor in determining the next chief, alarm bells rang for Khan.

Even though Nawaz Sharif had appointed his "own man" as chief overlooking seniority three times, the Sharif brothers' sudden fondness for the seniority principle pointed in Munir's direction.

Khan's push for a "consensus" candidate as Army chief failed. And concerns that he would use President Arif Alvi, who belongs to his party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), to sit on the Cabinet summary of the appointment, on which the presidential signature is a formality but nevertheless, a constitutional requirement, did not come true.

A PTI press release sounded conciliatory even as it made the demand for an early election.

But the Khan-Munir tensions may not be buried yet, only postponed for another day.

Challenges before Lt Gen Munir

In his farewell address, Bajwa reiterated that the Pakistan Army, which had "interfered" in politics for 75 years, needed to make a clean break from the past.

"A major reason for (the criticism of the Army) is the Army's interference in politics for the last 70 years which is unconstitutional.

"This is why in February last year the Army, after great deliberation, decided that it would never interfere in any political matter. I assure you we are strictly adamant on this and will remain so."

Will Munir rise to the bar set for him by Bajwa and change Pakistan's chronic civil-military imbalance to favour civilians?

As head of the world's sixth-largest army, and of Pakistan's most "powerful" institution, Munir's first task will likely be to

unite the Army behind his leadership, and cement the cracks between the pro- and anti-Imran Khan factions within.

And as long as politicians look to the Army for help, it will remain the final arbiter.

If Khan is still bent on pressing his demand for a quick election, Munir may be compelled, as early as his first week in office, to mediate between the former PM and the Sharif gov-

ernment to resolve the political standoff.

Or he may decide to stay "neutral" — that is, stand behind the government which does not want elections until they are due next year, permitting it to put in place a measure of economic stability with the help of the IMF bailout package, and justify the tough and unpopular measures that it has had to take.

Also expected are demands for investigating Bajwa after recent disclosures about the sudden increase in the family riches. The Army has never allowed such investigations when similar allegations have been levelled against its own in the past, and Munir is not likely to break from that practice.

The new chief and India

The new chief was heading the ISI when the Pulwama bombing took place in February 2019. In the IAF action and the PAF retaliation that followed, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval is reported to have spoken to Munir to secure the release of fighter pilot Abhinandan Varthaman, who was captured when his MiG fighter jet was downed in PoK. Despite his closeness to Bajwa, it is not known if Munir shares his predecessor's views on "geo-economics" and normalising relations with India.

Banerjee told *The Indian Express* that given the internal environment, "Munir cannot afford to be seen as going soft on India, he will be a headline chief." At the same time, he said, the 2003 LoC ceasefire, which was renewed in February 2021, and has been strictly observed, is in no danger of falling apart as it suits Pakistan as much as it does India at this time.

Kumar, who headed the Pakistan desk during the Pulwama attack, said Munir would be the first "mullah general" to become chief, cautioning that it was during the tenure of a similarly "religiously oriented" Javed Nasir as ISI chief that the 1993 Mumbai attacks took place.

Three years earlier, Zahirul Islam Abbasi, then a brigadier and a Tablighi follower, had been removed from his command in the Kargil area for making an unauthorised foray into the Indian side, which ended in a "fiasco" with many men lost.

The Indian experience of having religiously minded men in top positions in the Pakistan Army had thus "not been good", said Kumar, adding though that "another aspect to this" was that such generals "are also best suited for de-radicalisation since extremists listen to them, and thus this could be a double-edged sword in the India-Pakistan context".

Tougher draft law against cruelty to animals: what's in it, why it's needed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE CENTRE has proposed to overhaul The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, introducing 61 amendments, which includes three years' jail for "gruesome cruelty", including "bestiality", with animals. A draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 2022, prepared by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, has been published for public comments until December 7. Once the draft is final, the Bill could be brought in the Winter Session or the Budget Session of Parliament.

Main changes proposed

Essentially, the law is proposed to have more stringent punishments. Several of-

fences have been made cognizable, which means offenders can be arrested without a warrant.

The draft law describes "gruesome cruelty" as any act that leads to "extreme pain and suffering" and is "likely to leave the animal in life-long disability". The draft proposes fines from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 "or the cost of the animal...whichever is more or with the imprisonment of one year which may extend up to three years or with both" for the offence of gruesome cruelty. For killing an animal, the draft Bill proposes a maximum punishment of five years in jail.

Argument to strengthen law

In September, a doctor in Rajasthan's Jodhpur allegedly tied a dog to his car and dragged it across the city. The dog fractured a leg and suffered bruises. An offence such as

this — common in India — currently attracts charges under Section 428 (mischievous killing or maiming animal) IPC and Section 11 (treating animals cruelly) of The PCA Act, 1960. First-time offenders under the PCA Act are punished with a meagre fine of Rs 10-50. If it is not the offender's first such crime in the past three years, the maximum punishment would be a fine between Rs 25 and Rs 100, a jail term of three months, or both.

Calls for amendments

In 2014, the Supreme Court, in *Animal Welfare Board of India vs A Nagaraja & Others*, had said that "Parliament is expected to make proper amendment of the PCA Act to provide an effective deterrent".

In September 2020, Kishanganj MP Mohammad Jawed brought a Bill in Parliament saying the maximum punish-

ment be hiked to a "fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to twenty five thousand rupees or with imprisonment for a term which may extend upto one year or with both..."

In 2021, Kendrapara MP Anubhav Mohanty also proposed a Bill, expanding the definition of cruelty to include events where "animals are subjected to cruelty either during sport or activity", and anyone who "skins, roasts or kills for superstition or extracts parts of any live animals through a procedure which causes pain and suffering, for the purpose of getting skins, oils or other animal products..."

In 2020, a group of MPs cutting across party lines wrote to then Animal Husbandry Minister Giriraj Singh, urging that the punishment in the 1960 Act be increased.

What has government said

In April 2021, the Centre proposed changes where the penalty can go up to "Rs 75,000 per animal or three times the cost of the animal as determined by the jurisdictional veterinarian, whichever is more, and imprisonment of three years which may extend to five years or both." In October 2021, the government said it would bring in a Bill to amend the PCA Act.

What else is proposed?

The draft Bill proposes the insertion of a section providing five freedoms to animals.

It shall be the duty of every person having charge of an animal to ensure that the animal in his care or under his charge has freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition; discomfort due to environment; pain, injury and diseases; fear and distress, and the free-

dom to express normal behaviour for the species, it says. It also says that "in case of a community animal, the local government such as municipality or panchayats shall be responsible for taking care of the community animals in a manner developed by the State Government or by the Board".

Concerns over stricter laws

While comments have been invited to the draft Bill, some experts have in the past pointed out that simply increasing the quantum of punishment may not be enough to stop cruelty against animals, and some already marginalised communities like *madaris* (who perform with animals) and *saperas* (snake charmers) may be disproportionately impacted.

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TOP OF THE WORLD



Jean Carroll accused Trump of battery too

USA

Rape charges: Writer sues Trump again

New York: Donald Trump was sued for defamation a second time on Thursday by a writer who accused the former US president of lying by denying that he raped her 27 years ago. In a complaint filed in Manhattan federal court, the former *Elle* magazine columnist E Jean Carroll also accused Trump of battery in an alleged encounter at the Bergdorf Goodman department store in Manhattan. Carroll, 78, brought the battery claim under New York's Adult Survivors Act, a new law giving sexual assault victims a one-year window to sue their alleged abusers, even if the abuse occurred long ago and statutes of limitations have expired. **REUTERS**

FRANCE

House adopts enshrining abortion rights

Paris: Lawmakers in France's lower House of Parliament on Thursday adopted a resolution to enshrine abortion rights in the country's constitution, the first step in a lengthy and uncertain legislative battle prompted by the rollback of abortion rights in the US. The measure was approved with 337 lawmakers voting for and 32 against in the 557-member National Assembly. Abortion in France was decriminalised under a key 1975 law, but there is nothing in the constitution that would guarantee abortion rights. **AP**

IRAN

UNHRC deplores protest crackdown, establishes probe

Berlin: The UN Human Rights Council voted Thursday to condemn the bloody crackdown on peaceful protests in Iran and create an independent fact-finding mission to investigate alleged abuses, particularly those committed against women and children. A resolution put forward by Germany and Iceland was backed by 25 nations, including the US and many European, Latin American, Asian and African nations. Six countries opposed the move — China, Pakistan, Cuba, Eritrea, Venezuela and Armenia — while 16 abstained. **AP**

31,444 NEW CASES REPORTED IN PAST 24 HOURS

China's Covid infections hit record high, lockdowns expand across the country

Streets of Beijing's most populous district increasingly empty this week

AGENCIES

BEIJING, NOVEMBER 24

PANDEMIC LOCKDOWNS are expanding across China, including in a city where factory workers clashed this week with police, as the number of Covid-19 cases hits a daily record.

Residents of eight districts of Zhengzhou, home to 6.6 million people, were told to stay home for five days beginning Thursday except to buy food or get medical treatment. Daily mass testing was ordered in what the city government called a "war of annihilation" against the virus.

In the previous 24 hours, the number of new Covid cases rose by 31,444, the National Health Commission said Thursday. That's the highest daily figure since the coronavirus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

The daily caseload has been steadily increasing. This week, authorities reported China's first Covid-19 deaths in six months, bringing the total to 5,232.

Businesses and residential communities from the manufacturing centre of Guangzhou in the south to Beijing in the north are in various forms of lockdowns, measures that particularly affects blue-collar migrant workers. In many cases, residents say the restrictions go beyond what the national government allows.



Empty streets in Beijing following lockdown on Thursday, AP

The streets of Chaoyang, the capital's most populous district, have been increasingly empty this week. Sanlitun, a high-end shopping area, was nearly silent on Thursday but for the whirring of the e-bikes of delivery riders ferrying meals for those working from home.

Guangzhou suspended access Monday to its Baiyun district of 3.7 million residents, while residents of some areas of Shijiazhuang, a city of 11 million people southwest of Beijing, were told to stay home while mass testing is conducted. China stocks fell on Thursday

Protesting workers beaten at Chinese iPhone factory, Foxconn apologises

Beijing: Police beat workers protesting over a pay dispute at the biggest factory for Apple's iPhone, whose new model is delayed by controls imposed as China tries to contain a surge in Covid-19 cases.

Foxconn, the biggest contract assembler of smartphones and other electronics, is struggling to fill orders for the iPhone 14 after thousands of employees walked away from the factory in the cen-

tral city of Zhengzhou last month following complaints about unsafe working conditions. The company apologised for a pay dispute that triggered employee protests at a factory where anti-virus controls have slowed production. "We apologise for an input error in the computer system and guarantee that the actual pay is the same as agreed and the official recruitment

posters," said a company statement. It promised to "try its best to actively solve the concerns and reasonable demands of employees."

On Tuesday, a protest erupted after employees who had traveled long distances to take jobs at the factory complained that the company changed terms of their pay, according to an employee, Li Sanshan. **AP**

Ukraine works to restore power after bruising Russian attack



Critical civil infrastructure was hit by Russian missile attacks in Kyiv, Ukraine. Reuters

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, NOVEMBER 24

ABOUT 70 PER CENT of the Ukrainian capital was left without power, Kyiv's mayor said on Thursday, a day after Moscow unleashed yet another devastating missile and drone barrage on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

Wednesday's renewed Russian attack on Ukrainian infrastructure caused power outages across large parts of the country, further hobbling Ukraine's already battered power network and adding to the misery for civilians as temperatures plunge. The strikes also caused power outages in neighbouring Moldova.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said in a Telegram statement that "power engineers are doing their best to get (electricity) back as soon as possible" and added that the water supply has been restored in about half of Kyiv on the

left bank of the Dnieper River.

Ukraine's General Staff reported on Thursday that Russian forces fired 67 cruise missiles and 10 drones during Wednesday's "massive attack on residential buildings and energy infrastructure" in Kyiv and several other regions in Ukraine.

Efforts to restore power, heating and water supplies disrupted by the Wednesday attacks were underway elsewhere in Ukraine as well.

Ukraine's energy minister Herman Haluschenko said three out of four nuclear power stations that are fully functioning and which had been forced offline by Wednesday's strikes were subsequently reconnected to the grid.

Governor of the Poltava region Dmytro Lunin said "an optimistic scenario" suggested that electricity will come back to residents of his central Ukrainian region on Thursday.

Russia passes law banning 'LGBT propaganda' among adults

REUTERS

MOSCOW, NOVEMBER 24

RUSSIA'S PARLIAMENT on Thursday passed the third and final reading of a law that expands an existing ban on promoting "LGBT propaganda" to children by banning it among people of all ages. Under the new law, any event or act regarded as an attempt to promote homosexuality — including online, in film, books, advertising or in public — could incur a heavy fine.

The fine will be up to 400,000 roubles (\$6,600) for individuals and up to 5 million roubles (\$82,100) for legal entities. Foreigners could face 15 days of arrest and subsequent expulsion from the country.

Critics see the move as an attempt to further intimidate and oppress sexual minorities in Russia, where authorities have already used existing laws to stop gay pride marches and detain gay rights activists.

Lawmakers say they are defending morality in the face of what they argue are "un-Russian" decadent values promoted by the West. But human rights groups say the moves are designed to outlaw representation of minorities in public life.

UK's net migration soars to new high of 5 lakh plus, Sunak aims to bring it down

REUTERS

LONDON, NOVEMBER 24

BRITISH PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak is committed to bringing net migration to the UK down from record levels, his spokesman said on Thursday, adding that the government would look at all options to ensure the system was working.

"The PM is fully committed to bringing overall numbers down," his spokesman said after official statistics showed net migration rose to an estimated record of 504,000 in the year to June. "We're considering all options to make sure the immigration system is delivering."

An estimated 1.1 million long-term immigrants arrived over the period, up 435,000 on the previous year. The biggest proportion of those leaving Britain were EU nationals.

Three new visa schemes — for Ukrainians, Afghans and Hong Kong British nationals — together added around 138,000 to the number of arrivals. "A series of world events have im-

EXPLAINED Why the increase

THE OFFICE for National Statistics (ONS) said a recovery of travel following Covid-19, and an increase in arrivals of international students who had been studying remotely during the pandemic had contributed to the rise.

pacted international migration patterns in the 12 months to June 2022. Taken together these were unprecedented," Jay Lindop, Director of the ONS Centre for International Migration, said.

"Migration from non-EU countries, specifically students, is driving this rise," Lindop added. "The many factors independent of each other contributing to migration at this time mean it is too early to say whether this picture will be sustained."



ANWAR IS MALAYSIA'S NEW PM

Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim (left) was sworn in as Prime Minister on Thursday. Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah appointed Anwar as the leader in the swearing-in ceremony at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **AP**

Nepal polls: Trends show hung Parliament

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

KATHMANDU, NOVEMBER 24

WITH COUNTING of votes underway and final results of Parliamentary elections trickling in, available trends suggest that the country is heading towards an "absolute hung" Parliament.

There are indications that none of the existing pre-poll alliances will cross over 50 per cent or 138-benchmark required to form the government in a House of 275. "It

will be difficult to form a government, and even tougher to hold it together and keep it functioning," said, KP Sharma Oli chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal- Unified Marxist Leninist and one of the aspirants for the top job.

Normally, any two of the three parties — UML, Nepali Congress and the Maoist Centre — together would have formed an alliance to form a government. But this time around, the projection does not seem to be heading in that direction as the

UML and Nepali Congress forming a coalition looks unlikely. The Maoist Centre, which has alternatively aligned with these two poles, may not have the decisive size to add to form the majority.

A final shape of the House and constituent parties may still take a week as the calculation of seats under the proportional representation system and their allotment to parties based on the votes they get may take longer.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Indian-origin teen stabbed to death in Canada, 17-year-old held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 24

AN 18-YEAR-OLD Indian-origin teen has been stabbed to death at a high-school parking lot by another teenager in Canada's British Columbia province, police said.

The victim, Mehakpreet Sethi, was stabbed at the Tamanawis Secondary School's parking lot in Surrey on Tuesday by a 17-year-old following a fight between the two, the *Vancouver Sun* newspaper reported.

The principal of the school confirmed on Tuesday that a fight took place in the parking lot, but the victim was not a school student, said the report.

"At this time, it is believed that the suspect and the victim were known to each other and that this was an isolated incident," Integrated Homicide Investigation Team's Sgt. Timothy Pierotti was quoted as saying in the report.

The 17-year-old suspect was identified by witnesses and arrested. Canada's national police force's Surrey spokesperson Cpl. Vanessa Munn said police were called about the attack shortly after noon. "Police arrived within minutes and immediately began life-saving measures," Munn said.

AFTER BEING ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION, MANX IS EXPERIENCING REVIVAL ON THE ISLE OF MAN

An ancient language declared dead is British Isle's talk of town

MEGAN SPECIA

ST. JOHN'S, ISLE OF MAN, NOV 24

THE SQUEALS of laughter echoing from the playground sound like any other elementary school in its first week back in session.

Listen closely, though, and there's something rare in the children's chatter: the Manx language, an ancient tongue once feared forgotten.

But thanks in part to these students at Bunscoill Gaelgagh, a school on the Isle of Man, the language that was deeply intertwined in hundreds of years of local history is now becoming a part of the island's future.

It was a little over a decade ago when UNESCO declared the language extinct, and students then studying at the school took strong exception. To make their case that the language was anything but dead, they wrote a letter to the United Nations body — in Manx.

"It sort of was on the brink, but we've brought it back to life again," said Julie Matthews, the head teacher of the school, who noted that her students' determined effort prompted a new UNESCO categorisation of Manx as a "revitalised" language.

On a recent visit to Bunscoill Gaelgagh (pronounced BUN-scuil GILL-gackh), the evidence that Manx was still very much in

use was everywhere.

Two girls drawing a clock in chalk on the schoolyard pavement counted off one, two, three in Manx: nane, jees, tree. A sign hanging over a tidy row of lunchboxes gave the days of the week in Manx. In a nearby classroom, a teacher delivered a geography lesson in Manx.

The school, with 53 students, is just one of a number of ways the language is being kept alive on the island, located in the Irish Sea between northern England and Ireland.

"We're trying to make it accessible to everybody, and inclusive," said Ruth Keggin Gell, the Manx language development of-



Members of the Manx Language Society writing slogans for posters in Manx. NYT

ficer at Culture Vannin, a foundation established by the government of the island, a self-gov-

erning British Crown Dependency that is not a part of the United Kingdom, but whose

residents are British citizens.

"It doesn't matter if you just moved over to the Isle of Man yesterday," Keggin Gell added. "If you want to learn Manx, then it's open to you; likewise, if you have been here all your life." While UNESCO was incorrect in 2009 when it said that Manx was dead, the mistake was understandable.

For centuries, Manx — part of the Celtic language family like Irish and Scottish Gaelic — was how people on the island communicated in their everyday lives. But by the 19th century, the English language had overtaken it, and many on the Isle of Man raised their children to speak

only English amid an increasingly derogatory, sometimes even hostile, attitude toward Manx. The survival of Manx into the 21st century is a testament to the island's sense of itself as a place apart, with its own identity — and political autonomy.

Even though the language is spoken by only a fraction of the population, its imprint is visible virtually everywhere, including tombstones bearing Manx inscriptions, place names and road signs. "It does have a snowball effect," Keggin Gell said of the way the language was being incorporated into island life. "It might be a bit of a slower-growing snowball, but it's still definitely a snowball."

Around 2,200 people are now able to speak, read or write in Manx, as per the latest census figures, and the government goal is to see that number over double in the next 10 years. Phil Gawne, 57, and Annie Kissack, 63, a married couple, are both fluent Manx speakers and helped establish the Bunscoill in an old Victorian-era schoolhouse in St. John's, a village in the island's central valley, near several prominent landmarks. Gawne grew up knowing a few older relatives who could speak a bit of Manx, but it wasn't until 1970s, he said, when there was an influx of new residents that he felt the desire to know more about the language. **NYT**

RUPEE APPRECIATES 30 PAISE

Markets hit all-time high as US Fed signals slower rate hike

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

STOCK MARKETS on Thursday rallied to hit an all-time peak as minutes of the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) minutes showed the majority of the policymakers were in favour of slower rate hikes, much to the relief of the investors. The fall in the US dollar and crude oil prices further boosted the market sentiment, bringing the bulls back into the ring.

The benchmark Sensex hit a record intra-day high of 62,412.23 before closing at a new peak of 62,272.68, a gain of 762 points, or 1.24 per cent. The NSE Nifty index also hit a new peak and closed at

18,484.10, a rise of 216.85 points, or 1.19 per cent.

With the dollar coming under pressure, the rupee appreciated 30 paise to close at 81.63 against the US dollar.

US FOMC minutes indicated that the aggressive rate hike stance to rein in inflation is impacting economic growth, ruling out a big hike in the next Fed meeting, analysts said. "Two triggers assisted the Sensex rally to record highs. One, in the mother market US, the market construct turned favourable with rising equities, declining bond yields and falling dollar. Two, macro developments in India show steady rise in credit growth and capex indicating strong economic recovery. Along with this, sharp correction in crude is a big positive,"

EXPLAINED
Fed points to growth pressure

MINUTES OF THE US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) showed that the majority of the policymakers were in favour of slower rate hikes, much to the relief of the investors. The fall in the US dollar and crude oil prices further boosted market sentiment.

said V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

After the gap-up start, the

benchmark indices gradually inched higher and gained noticeable momentum in the last half an hour. The rally was led by IT, oil & gas and financial stocks. "Consequently, Sensex made a new record high and Nifty also inched closer to that milestone and closed at 18,484 levels. All sectors contributed to the move with IT outshining others. The broader indices also posted modest gains but the participation was restricted," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Foreign investors have put Rs 27,396 crore in Indian equities in November so far. "Markets have reclaimed buoyancy and we expect the tone to continue. However, participants shouldn't go overboard and continue with selective buying.

The banking and IT pack look firm to us while others are seeing a mixed trend. We reiterate our preference for index majors and quality midcaps and suggest focusing more on overnight risk management," Mishra said.

The US dollar fell after the release of FOMC meeting minutes on Wednesday. US Dollar index closed near day low of 106.03 in the previous session, a fall by more than 1 per cent. "Although the minutes indicated the end of jumbo rate hikes, the policy makers were uncertain on when the end point of the rate hikes. Smaller rate hikes by the Fed are positive for risk assets as well as for safe haven assets like gold as dollar weakness supports," said Ravindra Rao, VP-head Commodity Research, Kotak Securities.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

TERMING THE Old Pension Scheme as one of the "biggest revdis", former Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia said though there are talks about controlling fiscal deficit, there is no suggestion of getting rid of certain expenditure.

"I find today nobody actually says that the fiscal deficit shouldn't be under control but all time what they are saying is that... Fici has come out (saying) we must reduce taxes, etc, there are hundreds of demands for additional expenditure. I am not aware of anyone saying that the way to fit this in is to get rid of certain expenditures" "...I think what the Prime Minister rightly called the revdis of the world and there are many more revdis than what we thought. I mean bringing back the old pension system is one of the biggest revdis that are now being invented. Now the question is what I don't see is people getting up and saying by the way, I think macro stability is important and that means X, Y and Z is a bad idea and A, B and C is a good idea. The thing is that only if, this is what research institutions are supposed to guide us on, only when they start giving concrete guidance on this, the politicians will also begin to say that look I can see that behind the slogans there is a problem," Ahluwalia said at an ICRIR event on Tuesday.

Many political parties have spoken about reverting to the Old Pension Scheme. Congress has already reverted to the Old Pension Scheme in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and AAP has said it would do the same in Punjab. Under OPS, pension to government employees at the Centre as



Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Planning Commission Deputy Chairman. File

well as states was fixed at 50 per cent of the last drawn basic pay. A new system of New Pension Scheme came into effect for those joining government service from January 1, 2004, wherein defined contribution comprised 10 per cent of the basic salary and dearness allowance by the employee under Tier 1 and a matching contribution by the government (later raised to 14 per cent).

In July, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke against political parties promoting a culture of freebies, calling them "revdi", to win votes. His remarks triggered a public debate with parties of the Opposition, especially the AAP and DMK, accusing the PM of targeting welfare schemes and state subsidies promised by non-BJP parties. The Election Commission said political parties should lay out the cost of the freebies they promise and how they plan to finance them if voted to power. A petition was made in the Supreme Court, which proposed formation of a committee to suggest ways to deal with the issue.

Speaking about growth prospects, Ahluwalia said that India needs to grow at 8 per cent but it is unlikely to clock average

8 per cent GDP growth rate for the next 20 or 30 years. India should get out of the notion that in the long term growth will take place only because of spillover effects, he said. "...we have to get out of the notion that we will only grow because of spillover effects. That was true when the West was three-fourths of the world's GDP. They are not three-fourths of world's GDP but they are half and nobody thinks they have a sustainable growth rate of more than 2 per cent. So when the IMF says the world will grow at 3 per cent, what it means is that other (countries) are going to grow at more, so from our point of view the spillover effects are not just going to be from the United States or Europe, the spillover effects are from all the other places that are going to grow, certainly Asia in my view," he said.

Sajid Z Chinoy, chief India economist at JPMorgan and Part-Time Member in the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM), said over the last 30 years our average growth rates have almost been 7 per cent and that no emerging market of India's size has grown at 7 or 8 per cent for a decade or more without strong export growth. In the next 9-12 months, India will have to focus on macroeconomic stability, he said. "We have to ensure that the twin deficits, current account deficit and fiscal deficit, are brought back to sustainable levels... the government is using a variety of instruments like reserves, exchange rate, monetary policy fiscal policy... I don't think there is a crisis coming in the next six months because India has built sufficient reserves. Despite what we have run down, our reserves are nine months of imports, one-and-half times the gross financing requirements, so there is no 2013 moment," he added.

SECTOR WATCH
PACKAGED WATER

If deal goes through, Bisleri to be 'beautiful fit' for Tata: Experts

KRITIKA ARORA
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

BISLERI INTERNATIONAL chairman Ramesh Chauhan is negotiating with a few companies, including Tata Consumer Products (TCPL), for selling the company that he had bought from an Italian firm, Felice Bisleri, for Rs 4 lakh in 1969. While Chauhan is not divulging the deal value or the buyer as yet (he termed "incorrect" reports that the Tatas have clinched the deal already), the buzz is getting stronger that the discussions between the two have reached the final stages.

In a communique to the stock exchanges on Thursday, TCPL said "it evaluates various strategic opportunities for growth and expansion of the business of the company, on an ongoing basis... The management remains in discussions with various parties, including Bisleri".

While Chauhan and TCPL are being guarded in their response, brand experts and analysts say Bisleri will be a "beautiful fit" for TCPL. "While Himalayan mineral water is bringing in the value,

In a communique to the exchanges, TCPL said it "... remains in discussions with various parties, including Bisleri"

Bisleri will bring in the volume for TCPL," one of them said. Besides, Bisleri is an iconic brand, which is synonymous with the category and one that commands a lot of trust. "The whole beverage segment can see a lot of innovation and, backed by the Bisleri distribution, is certainly a plus for the business," analysts said.

According to analysts with Nomura, if the deal goes through, assuming purchase of Chauhan's entire stake, Bisleri could contribute 12-14 per cent to Tata Consumer's FY23 sales and profits owing to margins of the two companies being similar. Akshay D'Souza, chief of growth and insight at Bizom, agrees. "... Tatas have also been generally associated with a lot of brand credibility. Therefore, Bisleri fits well into their structure," he said. **FE**

'Jul-Sept: Rooftop solar installations drop 29%

Rooftop solar capacity installations in India fell 29% to 320 megawatt (MW) in July-September 2022, according to a Mercom Research India report



Gujarat became the leading state with the highest rooftop solar installations, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan. The top 10 states accounted for approximately 73% of cumulative rooftop solar installations

Source: Mercom Research India/PTI

During January-September, the installations at 1,165 MW were also down 11% compared to 1,310 MW in the corresponding nine-month period of the last year

IN Q3 2022:

46% of rooftop solar capacity was installed in the industrial sector

32% in residential

21% in commercial and the remaining in the government sector

The tendering process increased 46% year-on-year to around 311 MW of rooftop solar projects in July-September 2022

Global slowdown may dampen India's exports: FinMin report

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

EASING GLOBAL commodity prices and new Kharif crop arrivals will dampen inflationary pressures in the coming months and the pass-through of higher input prices to retail inflation is near complete, the Finance Ministry said in its latest monthly economic review report on Thursday.

India is well-placed to grow at a moderately brisk rate in the coming years on the back of macroeconomic stability, despite the global monetary tightening, it said. So far in the current

year, India's food security concerns have been addressed and will continue to receive the utmost priority from the government, according to the report.

"A rapid deterioration in global growth prospects, coupled with high inflation and worsening financial conditions, has increased fears of an impending global recession. The global slowdown may dampen India's exports businesses outlook; however, resilient domestic demand, a re-invigorated investment cycle along with strengthened financial system and structural reforms will provide impetus to economic growth going forward," **FE**

Lagged data make policy task challenging: Patra

Mumbai: RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra has said one of the challenges faced while deciding monetary policy is revision in inflation and GDP data, which already come with a lag. "Today, I know of inflation in October and we are just about to start preparations for December policy... I will know July-September (GDP data) on November 30," Patra said. **ENS**

Private capex improving: CEA

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

INDIA'S PRIVATE sector capital expenditure is seeing improvement and it may touch Rs 6 lakh crore by the end of the current financial year, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran has said.

"The total private sector capex is improving. In the first half of this year it has gone to Rs 3 lakh crore. If the pace is maintained, we should be looking at Rs 6 lakh crore (for this year), which is a substantial improvement in any of the past 6-7 years," Nageswaran said while addressing virtually at the SBI Banking and Economics conclave. He said India's growth projections for FY2023 made by RBI and international and private sec-



V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor. File

tor participants is around 6.5-7 percent and this appears to be reasonable at this point in time.

The National Statistical Office will release the GDP data for the second quarter ended September on November 30. In the April-June

quarter, the country's economy grew by 13.5 per cent. On bank credit, he said the growth has been at 18 per cent and it is not concentrated in one particular area or industry. There is healthy demand for credit. He said there is a need to be cautious on export outlook in the coming years and concentrate on internal drivers.

"However, internal drivers of demand are looking constructive and positive, resilient, reinvigorated investment cycle, stable financial system and structural reforms are paving the way for medium term growth to continue," he said. **Full report on www.indianexpress.com**

BRIEFLY

GCC FTA talks

New Delhi: India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have agreed to pursue a free trade agreement between the two regions and resume the negotiations, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said. GCC is a union of six nations — Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. It is the largest trading bloc of India. "We have agreed to pursue the FTA between the GCC and India and resume the negotiations and conclude the same at the earliest," Goyal said at a press conference with GCC Secretary General Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf. **PTI**

Amazon

Bengaluru: Amazon.com Inc said on Thursday it would shut down its online learning platform for high-school students in India less than two years of its launch, without citing a reason. **REUTERS**

Pre-Budget meet

New Delhi: In a pre-Budget virtual meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, exporters asked for fiscal incentives, tweaking in duties on certain products and credit at affordable rates. **PTI**

FROM DECEMBER 1

CCI to deal with GST profiteering complaints

New Delhi: From December 1, all complaints related to GST profiteering will be dealt with by Competition Commission of India (CCI), in place of National Anti Profiteering Authority, a government notification said.

Currently, all consumer complaints of companies not passing on GST rate cut benefits are investigated by the Directorate General of Anti-profiteering (DGAP), which then submits its report to the NAA. The NAA then gives a final ruling. Since the tenure of NAA ends this month, its functions will be taken over by the CCI.

"The central government, on the recommendations of the

NAA TENURE TO END

■ Since the tenure of National Anti Profiteering Authority ends this month, CCI to take over the functions

Goods and Services Tax Council, hereby empowers the CCI, to examine whether input tax credits availed by any registered person or the reduction in the tax rate have actually resulted in a commensurate reduction in the price of the goods or services or both supplied by him," the CBI said in a notification. **PTI**

Unemployment rate dips to 7.2% in Jul-Sept: NSO

New Delhi: Unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas declined to 7.2 per cent during July-September 2022 from 9.8 per cent a year ago, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said. Joblessness or unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons among the labour force. Joblessness was high in July-September 2021 mainly due to impact of pandemic. The latest data based on 16th Periodic Labour Force Survey, underlining a decline in the unemployment rate amid an improved labour force participation rate, point towards a sustained economic recovery from the pandemic shadow. **PTI**

IRDAI unveils new draft on expenses

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

THE INSURANCE Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has announced a revised exposure draft on the expenses of management (EoM) for the non-life insurance companies and proposed the removal of caps on payment of commission to insurance agents and intermediaries.

It has also proposed a revised 30 per cent and 35 per cent caps on EoM for general insurers and standalone health insurers, respectively, after taking into consideration the insurance industry's views.

In the earlier exposure draft, released on August 23, it had proposed to put a lower cap of 20 per cent on commission paid to the agents and intermediaries of both non-life and life insurance companies. It had proposed a 30 per

cent cap on EoM for the general insurance companies in the exposure draft issued on August 1.

The regulator has streamlined the expenses of management (EoM) guidelines for insurance companies, now proposing a blanket cap on EoM to the extent of 30 per cent of gross written premium in India for general insurance companies and 35 per cent for standalone health insurance companies. **Full report on www.indianexpress.com**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the public that the name of the company has been changed from Dow AgroSciences India Private Limited to "Corteva Crop India Private Limited" (CIN: U01110TG1994PTC151731) effective 01st November, 2022. There is no other change except as aforesaid. The Company continues to value and commits its partners, stakeholders, customers and all concerned.

Ramesh Kailasam, Director (DIN No. 06740019)

CORTEVA CROP INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

(Formerly Dow AgroSciences India Private Limited)
12th Floor, Atria Block, V-Ascendas, Plot No 17,
Software Units Layout, Madhapur, Hyderabad,
Telangana, India, 500081

CIN No: U01110TG1994PTC151731

Tel. No.: 040 - 6166 7000 Website: www.corteva.com



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www.corteva.com



Shares & Bonds Department, 14th floor, Corporate Centre,
Madame Cama Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021
Phone No.: (022) 22740845, 22741474, 22742403, 22742842

Engagement of Consultant for Designing & Developing the Bank's Annual Report

State Bank of India invites bid for engagement of eligible Consultants for Designing and Developing the Bank's Annual Report for a period of three years. The bidders desirous of providing consultancy service to the Bank may submit their technical and commercial proposal in response to the RFP detailed on the website of the Bank: www.sbi.co.in under the link: "Procurement News". Last date of submission of the bid is: 14.12.2022 till 4.00 PM. The technical bid will be submitted to: General Manager (Shares & Bonds), Shares & Bonds Department, 14th Floor, Corporate Centre, Madame Cama Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021. The commercial bid will be submitted online on e-tendering website <https://etender.sbi>

For any clarification, you may write to: ar.snb@sbi.co.in

Place: Mumbai

Date: 25.11.2022

General Manager

(Shares & Bonds)

	भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, पुणे Indian Institute of Information Technology, Pune. (An Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament)		
<u>भर्ती/निविदा आमंत्रित करने की सूचना</u>			
अनु क्र.	विज्ञापन संख्या	विवरण	
1.	IIITP/Tender/UPS/2022-23/3946	आईआईआईटी पुणे में 30 केवीए के नए यू0 पी0एस0 की खरीद के लिए निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। Invitation of Tender for the purchase of a new UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) of 30 KVA at IIIT Pune.	
विस्तृत विज्ञापन संस्थान की वेबसाइट "www.iiitp.ac.in" पर उपलब्ध है। कोई भी अपडेट या संशोधन केवल संस्थान की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।			
		कुलसचिव आईआईआईटी पुणे	

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of India Undertaking)			
E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION			
Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd announces e-Auction of commercial contracts, published on IREPS e-tendering system as per following schedule:			
S N	Name of Contract	No of Contracts/Lots	Date of published Date and Time of E-Auction
1	Leasing of SLRs	15	25.11.2022 at 11.00 hrs
2	Advertisement at Railway stations through Advertisement Boards, Hoardings, LED Glow Sign	10	25.11.2022 at 13.00 hrs
3	Advertisement at Railway stations through Advertisement Boards, Hoardings, LED Thin Boards, KIOSK, NLIT, Glow Sign	10	25.11.2022 at 13.00 hrs
4	Commercial Publicity through Video Walls on Station Premises	09	25.11.2022 at 11.00 hrs
5	Advertisement through Hoardings on Road Over Bridge / Road Under Bridge	08	25.11.2022 at 13.00 hrs
6	Installation & Operation of ATM machines at Railway Stations	29	25.11.2022 at 11.00 hrs
7	Pay & Parking contract at Railway stations	07	25.11.2022 at 11.00 hrs
For queries please contact : Shri Pravin Daware, Mob No.9004470597, Shri Shailesh Sawant, Mob No.9004470596. Shri Vinay Gaonkar, Mob No.:9004476129. For more details, please visit www.ireps.gov.in			

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
Head Quarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001, Fax No.: 011-23384008, E-mail Address - cos@nr.nrail.gov.in Tender Notice No. 64/2022-2023			
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM			
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-			
S No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Closing Date
01	19220623	SET OF DRIVE ASSEMBLY COMPONENT AS PER CLW SPEC.	43 SET 15.12.22
02	16223352A	FILTER ELEMENT, FIBRE GLASS	1983 NOS 17.12.22
03	16223690	LOW MAINTENANCE LEAD ACID BATTERY	938 NOS 19.12.22
04	77225042	VARIOUS SIZES NUTS AND BOLTS	46 MT 19.12.22
05	77225005	GALVANIZED PLATE SCREW 150 MM AND 160 MM LONG	82000 NOS 19.12.22
06	77225020	VARIOUS TYPE OF MS CLIP, TAPERED WASHER AND TAPERED SPLIT PIN	94400 NOS 19.12.22
07	19222345	RESISTOR GRID ELEMENT ASSEMBLY	400 NOS 19.12.22
08	19220817	ALUMINIUM IMPELLER FOR OIL COOLING BLOWER FOR 3-PHASE	51 NOS 19.12.22
09	09222117A	YOKE DRG. NO.:- SK - 62724, ALT. 28	5415 NOS 19.12.22
10	07221167	SILENT BLOCK FOR ANCHOR LINK (TYPE-A)	19268 NOS 19.12.22
11	07221076	COLLAR, FINISH MACHINED FOR DIRECT MOUNTED ROLLER	11843 NOS 19.12.22
12	19220645	BRAKE LINING COMPLETE (BRAKE PAD) FOR WAP-5 LOCO, SIZE 24 MM	1195 SET 21.12.22
13	09222508	CRF SECTION ITEMS FOR BOXNHL WAGON	600 SET 26.12.22
14	77225039	FABRICATION AND SUPPLY OF 6400MM O/R DERAILING SWITCHES	157 SET 26.12.22
15	77225013	VARIOUS SIZES NUTS & BOLTS	433,079 MT 26.12.22
16	77225122A	MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF GROOVED RUBBER SOLE PLATES	134684 NOS 16363 SET 26.12.22
17	11223802	ALUMINIUM CHEQUE RED SHEET	46271 KGS 23.01.23
18	07221373	POH KIT (MUST CHANGE ITEMS) FOR SHOCK ABSORBER	5961 SET 30.01.23
19	19220964	END FRAME NON DRIVING END ASSLY MACHINED OF WAP-7	58 NOS 01.02.23
20	19220965	END FRAME DE ASSEMBLY (MACHINED) WITH AIR OUTLET NET FOR TRACTION MOTOR TYPE 6FRA	53 NOS 06.02.23
NOTE - 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

This "Expression of Interest" is invited to decide the Technical Specifications and Technical Parameters involved in "Manufacturing and providing of 11 KV, HT Automatic Voltage Regulator, 20 MVA capacity along with its erection, commissioning and testing on load under "Capacity enhancement project of Narainpur Pump Canal", situated at District Mirzapur, U.P. till dated **06.12.2022 at 04.00 PM**.

The Document of the proposed work can be obtained from the Office of undersigned in any working day. Also the Document is available on Departmental website www.idup.gov.in from where it can be downloaded.

Interested Firm may participate personally or via representative presented on dated **09.12.2022 at 11:00 AM** in the office of Executive Engineer Lift Irrigation Construction Division, Varanasi undersigned along with their proposal for "Expression of Interest" and required documents, Technical Specifications and Technical Parameters.

(Santosh Kumar Sonkar)
Executive Engineer
Lift Irrigation Construction Division,
Varanapuram, Irrigation Colony, Siga,
Varanasi-221010.

UPID-182139 Dt. 24.11.2022
www.up.gov.nic.in

email:
liftirrigation.varanasi@gmail.com

सहायता प्राप्त आरक्षण प्राप्त उम्मीदवारों को और से संयुक्त निदेशक, राजकीय मुद्रणालय, प्रयागराज द्वारा भारत सरकार के जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से माध्यमिक शिक्षा परिषद, उत्तर प्रदेश की परीक्षा वर्ष—2023 में प्रयुक्त होने वाली हाईस्कूल एवं इण्टरमीडिएट की सारी उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं की हैण्ड नम्बरिंग, बण्डलिंग, बेलिंग एवं फ्रैंकिंग आउट सोर्सिंग के माध्यम से कराया जाने हेतु जेम बिड लागू किया जाता है। हैण्ड नम्बरिंग, बण्डलिंग, बेलिंग एवं फ्रैंकिंग की जाने वाली उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं का विवरण निम्नवत है :-

क्र.सं	उत्तर पुस्तिकाएं का संस्करण	हैण्ड नम्बरिंग का संस्करण	प्रति बेल में सिली जाने वाली उउगु की संख्या	फ्रैंकिंग होने वाले बेलों की संख्या
1	हाईस्कूल—अ	6640000	1000	6640
2	हाईस्कूल—ब	2556000	2000	1278
3	इण्टरमीडिएट—अ	5561000	1000	5561
4	इण्टरमीडिएट—ब	1668300	2000	834
कुल योग		16525300	—	14313

जेम बिड से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण, अनुविदेशन फॉर बिड, बिड डाक्यूमेंट तथा मानक एवं शर्तें आदि भारत सरकार की वेबसाइट gem.gov.in पर दिनांक 23.11.2022 से उपलब्ध है, जिन्हें इच्छुक बिडर्स द्वारा बिड डाक्यूमेंट डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।

Important Time Line

The bid document is available at the website of Government of India at gem.gov.in in the category of Custom Bid for services vide Bid No. GeM/2022/B/2768910 dated 22.11.2022. Interested bidder may view and download the bid document and submit their bid on GeM portal till 02.12.2022 upto 18.00 hrs.

(a)	Date of publication of bid document	22/11/2022 at website: gem.gov.in
(b)	Bid submission start date and time	22/11/2022
(c)	Bid submission end date and time	02/12/2022 at 18.00 Hrs
(d)	Bid opening (technical bids only) date and time	02/12/2022 at 18.30 Hrs
(e)	Technical evaluation	Two days
(f)	Bid opening (financial bids of qualified bidders at technical evaluation stage) date and time	After Two days of the Technical evaluation.
(g)	Venue of bid opening (technical and financial)	Government Press, Prayagraj, 14/2, sarojini Naidu Marg, Civil Lines, Prayagraj-211001 (P) Ph. 26262636

*The mentioned date and time are subject to floating in the bid. Kindly read bid document carefully.

<p>Online e-bids on prescribable forms in two parts namely (i) Technical bid and (ii) Financial bid are invited simultaneously by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh only from ISO:9001 certified Original Manufacturer of H T SWITCH GEAR PANEL (VCB TYPE) and its fittings their Authorised Dealer/Channel Partner, registered with Director of Industries of the State/N.S.I.C./D.G.S.&D/Ministry of Industries, Government of India as original manufacturer of H T SWITCH GEAR PANEL (VCB TYPE) and its fittings on firm & fixed price up to 16.00 Hours on 05.12.2022 and shall be opened at 15.00 Hours on 07.12.2022 as stated below. Firms/Contractors registered as Class A (Mechanical/Electrical) in Irrigation Department had earlier done ACSR Moose Conductor and its fittings can also participate in this bid. The details for submission of bids are available in the bid document uploaded on the e-procurement website http://tender.up.nic.in. Bidders who are not registered with Director of Industries of the State / N.S.I.C. for bidding item are required to submit Bid Security (EMD). Bid security will be deposited in the account of UP e-tender online Account through e-tender Portal by Internet Banking only. All concerned please note that bidding process will not form to move onward if the Bid Security (EMD) is not paid through e-tender portal by Internet Banking. No other form of bid security will be accepted. But bidders who are intending to seek exemption from submitting bid security (EMD) should submit relevant Industries Registration Certificate issued by competent authority with request letter for exemption. Bid Document Fee also is to be deposited in the account of UP e-tender online Account through e-tender portal by internet banking only. All concerned please note that bidding process will not move onward if the Bid Document's Cost (Tender Fee) is not paid through e-tender portal by Internet Banking.</p>	
<p>(a) Providing, installation, connection phasing and testing of H T Switch gear panel (VCB Type) 11 KV 3 phase, 50Hz, 1250Amp conforming to IS: 13118:1991 or latest amendment if any and IEC-62271. Indoor, Drawout type, incoming panel, connected with Bus-bar and compatible with latest technology of automation for monitoring through SCADA, with other essential accessories deemed fit for smooth functioning of VCB for proper power supply of HT Motors at Narelnpur Pump Canal, Mirzapur.</p>	02 Job
<p>(b) Date & time for Availability of the bid document on website.</p>	28.11.2022 from 10.00 Hours onwards
<p>(c) Period for Bid submission along with Bid Document Fee, Bid Security Industries Registration Certificate for exemption from EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format.</p>	From 29.11.2022, 10.00 Hours Up To 05.12.2022 up to 16.00 Hours
<p>(d) Hard copy of original Bid Document fee, Bid Security & Industries Registration Certificate for exemption from EMD and other supporting documents to be deposited in the office concerned.</p>	06.12.2022 upto 14.00 Hours noon
<p>(e) Online opening date & time of Technical Bid.</p>	07.12.2022 at 15.00 Hours
<p>(f) Online opening date & time of Financial Bid.</p>	09.12.2022 at 15.00 Hours
<p>(g) Venue of opening of bid.</p>	Office of The Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Construction Division, Vanapuram, Irrigation Colony, Sigra, VARANASI-221010, UP. Ph.No. 0542-2985196
<p>(h) Bid document fee.</p>	Rs. 7,316.00 (Rs Seven Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen) Only including GST.
<p>(i) Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit).</p>	Rs. 56,580.00 (Rupees Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Only)
<p>(j) Completion Schedule</p>	30 Days
<p>Note:- (i) In case of any variation in English and Hindi version of this Tender Notice, English version shall be applicable. (ii) Above items are for Government irrigation purpose only.</p>	
<p>UPID-182122 Dt. 24.11.2022 www.up.gov.nic.in</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Executive Engineer Lift Irrigation Construction Division, Irrigation Department, Varanasi.</p>	

कार्यालय : प्रधानाचार्य,

एस०वी०एम० मेडिकल कालेज, कानपुर।

सं०/ई-टेण्डर-मेडिकल गैसेस/2022-23 दिनांक : 19 नवंबर, 2022

:: ई-निविदा सूचना ::

23 में इस चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय से सम्बद्ध समस्त चिकित्सालयों में आने वाले रूप से उपचार सुविधा उपलब्ध कराये जाने हेतु आवश्यक मेडिकल गैसेस की दर अनुबन्ध किये जाने हेतु निविदायें (टेक्नीकल / फाइनेंशियल बिड्स अलग-अलग आमन्त्रित करने हेतु निविदा प्रकाशित किये जाने का प्रस्ताव निम्नवत प्रस्तुत है :-

मद	धरोहर राशि	निविदा मूल्य	जी.एस.टी. 18%	कुल निविदा मूल्य
गैसेस की आपूर्ति	1,00,000.00	1000.00	180.00	1180.00

उपरोक्त सरकार के ई-टेण्डर पोर्टल etender.up.nic.in से दिनांक 21-12-2022 को प्रातः 10 बजे से 21.12.2022 की सायं 05:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड किये जा सकेंगे।

(Two Bids) टू बिड्स सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निविदायें दिनांक 21-12-2022 को प्रातः 10:00 बजे तक निविदा प्रपत्र उपरोक्त सरकार के ई-टेण्डर पोर्टल e.nic.in में अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। दिनांक 22-12-2022 को प्रातः 10:00 बजे तक निविदा प्रपत्रों की निविदा प्रपत्रों के अनुसार नमूने मांगे जायेंगे।

दा की देय तिथि तक अलग से सूचीबद्ध कर उपलब्ध कराना अनिवार्य होगा।

अंकित विवरण निविदा सूचना का अंश माना जायेगा और बिना किसी कारण बिना निरस्त/ संशोधन करने का पूर्ण अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी में निहित होगा।

हस्ता./-

प्रधानाचार्य

मेडिकल कालेज, कानपुर

कार्यलय: प्रधानाचार्य, राजकीय मेडिकल कालेज, आजमगढ़

फोन नं. 05463-235020, फैक्स नं.-05463.235194, वेबसाइट-www.gmczamgarh.com

संख्या- 1603 / रा0म0का0आ0 /EC-4 / विज्ञापित/ 2022 दिनांक-22/11/2022,

सेवायोजन विज्ञापित

सविदा के आधार पर आचार्य, सह-आचार्य तथा सहायक आचार्य के पदों पर साक्षात्कार (Walk-in-interview) के माध्यम से सेवायोजन हेतु विज्ञापित

राजकीय मेडिकल कालेज, आजमगढ़ के विभिन्न विभागों में फैंकेल्टी के रिक्त पदों को सविदा के आधार पर मन हेतु साक्षात्कार (Walk-in-interview) दिनांक-03/01/2023 (मंगलवार), दिनांक-11/01/2023 (बुधवार), दिनांक-18/01/2023 (बुधवार) एवं दिनांक-24/01/2023 (मंगलवार) को राजकीय मेडिकल कालेज, आजमगढ़ के प्रशासनिक भवन में कालेज काउन्सिल हाल में प्रातः 10:00 बजे से अपराह्न 03:00 बजे के मध्य निर्धारित किया गया है। विज्ञापित में रिक्त पदों की संख्या एवं लागू आखण रोस्टर निम्नवत् होगा-

क्र. सं.	विश्लेषणा का नाम	आचार्य	श्रेणी	सह-आचार्य	श्रेणी	सहायक आचार्य	श्रेणी
1.	आध्यात्मनलेजी विभाग	01	SC	-	-	-	-
2.	एनेलेसीया विभाग	-	-	-	-	01	SC
3.	टयूरककुओरिस एण्ड रेफिरेटेरी मेडिसिन/पल्मोनरी मेडिसिन	01	UR	-	-	01	-
4.	कर्मेटालीजी, केनेरालीजी एण्ड लेपोसी	01	EWS	-	-	-	-
5.	इन्टेन्डी	01	SC	-	-	-	-
6.	फिथोलोजी	-	-	01	SC	-	-
7.	थार्मकोलेजी	-	-	01	OBC	-	-
8.	क्रियोलोजी	01	EWS	01	SC	-	-
9.	कोरन्सिक मेडिसिन	-	-	-	-	01	EWS
10.	माइक्रोबायोलोजी	01	UR	01	UR	-	-
11.	रेडियोलोजी-आयनमोरिस	01	OBC	01	SC	-	-
12.	साइकिट्री	01	SC	-	-	-	-


नोट- किसी भी विभाग में आरक्षित श्रेणी का अग्रस्थी उपलब्ध न होने पर एनएएम0री0 के मानकों की पूर्ति एवं निकट मरिथ्या में संपन्न एनएएम0री0 के जीयक निरीक्षण के दृष्टिगत साक्षात्कार के समय अन्य श्रेणी के उपलब्ध अर्ह अग्रस्थी से उक्त पद को न्यूनतम 01 वर्ष की अवधि अथवा पद पर नियमित/अगली नियुक्ति होने तक, जो भी पहले घटित हो, भर लिया जायेगा।

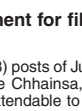
- थिकिसा शिक्षा विभाग एवं शासन के नियमों का पालन किया जायेगा। नियमानुसार सहायक आचार्य की अधिकतम आयु-60 वर्ष, सह-आचार्य की अधिकतम आयु-64 वर्ष तथा आचार्य की अधिकतम आयु-68 वर्ष होनी चाहिए।
- पदों की संख्या घट या बढ़ सकती है।
- शासन से अवगत निर्गत 100 बिन्दु के रोस्टर के अनुसार आखण लागू होगी।
- धयन की कार्यवाही एनएएम0री0 मानकों के अनुसार होगी।
- नियुक्ति पर शर्तों समरत शर्तों कालेज की वेबसाइट www.gmczamgarh.com एवं महानिदेशालय, थिकिसा शिक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण, जवाहर भवन, लखनऊ की वेबसाइट www.updgm.com पर प्रदर्शित है।
- साक्षात्कार हेतु यात्रा भत्ता देनी नहीं होगी।

भवदीय,
प्रधानाचार्य,
राजकीय मेडिकल कालेज,
आजमगढ़।

UPID-182142 Date 21/11/2022
www.upgov.nic.in

<h2 style="text-align: center;">NORTHERN RAILWAY</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Corrigendum to Tender Notice</h3>						
Sr.DEE/Chg/DLI office tender notice for the following work due for opening on 24.11.2022 at 15:01 hrs. is withdrawn as per administrative ground.						
S. No.	Tender No.	Description of work	Tender Document Cost by online	Contact Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	30-Elect-3T-Chg-2022-23	Schedule Maintenance and Repair Contract of RMPUs of Shatabdi Coaches including their heavy repair, IOH and on Board Electrical Escorting duties in primary based Shatabdi Trains of Delhi Division for three years.	Rs. 00	Rs. 17,68,38,018.56/-	Rs. 10,34,200.00/-	36 Months
No. 30-Elect-3T-Chg-2022-23		Dated:- 24.11.2022		3139/2022		
Serving Customers with a Smile						

<div> <div>  <h2>कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय</h2> <h3>पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, मधुपुर</h3> <h3>शुद्धि-पत्र (3rd Call)</h3> </div> <div> <p>इस कार्यालय का आमत्रित निविदा सं०-07/2022-23/DWSD/MDP, दिनांक:-14.10.2022 जिसका पी0 आर0 संख्या – 280105 (22-23) है, में निम्नालिखित संशोधन किया जाता है। शेष नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।</p> </div> </div>			
क्र० सं०	विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित	संशोधित
1	प्रकाशित राशि	रु० 1286.11 लाख।	रु० 1286.31 लाख।
2	अग्रधन की राशि	रु० 12.87 लाख।	रु० 12.87 लाख।
3	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 10.11.2022, 4.30 बजे अपराह्न तक।	दिनांक 29.11.2022, 4.30 बजे अपराह्न तक।
4	प्रौ बीड मॉडिंग की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 15.11.2022 को 3.30 बजे अपराह्न तक।	दिनांक 06.12.2022 को 3.30 बजे अपराह्न तक।
5	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 22.11.2022 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।	दिनांक 10.12.2022 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
6	बैंक गारंटी एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 23.11.2022, 5.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।	दिनांक 12.12.2022, 5.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
7	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 24.11.2022, 5.00 बजे अपराह्न।	दिनांक 13.12.2022, 5.00 बजे अपराह्न।



OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

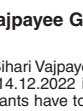
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE

CHHAINSA, FARIDABAD, HARYANA, 121004

Tel. No. 0129 2846000

Emails: cin.sabvgmc-fbd.dms@hry.gov.in, director.sabvgmcfaridabad@gmail.com

www.sabvgmc-fbd.edu.in



Advt. No. : SABVGM/Rectt/2022/4 **Date: 24.11.2022**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
Advertisements for filling up the posts of Junior Residents for Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Medical College, Chhainsa, Faridabad, Haryana

Thirty Three (33) posts of Junior Residents are proposed to be filled up on contract basis for Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Medical College Chhainsa, Faridabad through walk-in-interview. The proposed date of interview is 14.12.2022 i.e. Wednesday (that may be extendable to 15.12.2022, if the number of applicants come out to be more). The applicants have to appear before the scrutiny committee on a day prior i.e. 13.12.2022, with strictly prescribed application form with supportive documents and non-refundable application fee of Rs. 1000/- for General Category and Rs. 250/- for Reserved Categories (for Haryana Domicile only) in form of Demand Draft, in favour of Director Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Medical College, Chhainsa, Faridabad payable at Ballabhgarh. 50% concession in the above fee is granted to the women candidates (both general and reserved category) as per Govt. Instructions. PH & ESM candidates are exempted from the application fee. The application forms received after 12:00 noon on 13.12.2022 i.e. Tuesday (for the interview scheduled on 14.12.2022 and 15.12.2022 (if required)) will not be considered.

The other details like essential qualification, pay scales, fees, application form & other terms and conditions may be downloaded from institute website <http://www.sabvgmcfbd.edu.in> It is also informed that interested candidates may visit our website <http://www.sabvgmcfbd.edu.in> on regular basis for all updates.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

- The applicant must complete MBBS from any Institution / University recognized by the NMC and must be having valid registration certificate either issued by NMC/ erstwhile MCI/Haryana Medical Council (HMC) or proof of application of HMC registration at the time of interview.
- The degree of MBBS not recognized by the NMC/MCI will render the candidate ineligible.
- Score of Exit examination conducted by MCI/National Board Examination, New Delhi for Foreign Medical Graduate (FMG) candidates will be considered as equivalent to MBBS score for the purpose of calculation the pre-mert of all Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs). The candidates possessing only pass/fail certificate and no score card for FMG Examination, the score will be considered as 50% only and pre-mert will be calculated accordingly.
- Applicants must reach O/o the Director, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Medical College, Chhainsa, Faridabad on scheduled date with duly filled prescribed application form and all supportive documents (As enlisted in the end) in original as well as photocopy. Submission of incomplete application form i.e. without self-attested copies of testimonials of academic career, permanent registration certificate, attempt certificate etc. may render the candidate ineligible.
- Application Form may be downloaded from institute website. Application form will not be provided by institute to anyone at the time of interview.
- The tenure for Junior Resident posts will be for one year only on contract basis.
- Age Limit: Upper age limit for Junior Resident will be 45 years.
- Number of posts may be increased or decreased or totally withdrawn without any further notice.
- The status of vacancy will be updated on the website on the regular basis.
- The recruitment would be as per the Haryana Reservation Policy.
- The selection committee reserves the right to reject or accept any candidate/candidate without assigning any reason there-of.
- Canvassing of any kind will be a disqualification.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE & PAY SCALE FOR POST OF JUNIOR RESIDENT:

Cat. No.	Post.	Essential Qualifications and Experience	Pay Scales
1	Junior Resident	01. MBBS/ equivalent Foreign degree from any Institution / University recognized by the NMC/MCI.	Rs.56,100+NPA
		02. Must be registered under the State/NMC/MCI as per Registration Act.	
		03. Foreign Medical Graduate should have passed the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) conducted by National Board of Examination (NBE).	

Date/Time for receiving the application forms: 13.12.2022 till 12:00 noon
Date/Time of Scrutiny of documents: 13.12.2022 from 12:00 noon onwards
Date/Time of Interview: a) 14.12.2022 i.e. Wednesday at 09:00 AM onwards
 b) May be extendable to 15.12.2022 i.e. Thursday, if the number of applicants come out to be more

Venue of Interview: Office of Director,
 Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Medical College,
 Chhainsa, Faridabad, Haryana

CROSSWORD 4908

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ACROSS

1 Break a record in flavour (9)

8 Unable to sleep because of an all-night feast (5)

9 The majority need time for treatment (7)

10 Disapproval expressed about a doctor is growing (6)

11 No big shot in the gunnery world (6)

12 Put into liquidation? (8)

15 A product of good stock (8)

18 Wagnerian heroine that is about to be disposed of (6)

20 Something you won't come across very often (6)

21 Watch. No hands (7)

22 Bird with half of each leg broken (5)

23 Their guns are out of order - you can bet on it (4,5)

DOWN

2 Zero speed so to speak (5)

3 The very thing is left out (6)

4 Not a positive denial (8)

5 Plunder a grave perhaps (6)

6 Beat a medical man in the finish (7)

7 Little known but giving one credit (9)

11 Potential danger by the barrelful (6,3)

13 It may be taken to promote good feeling (8)

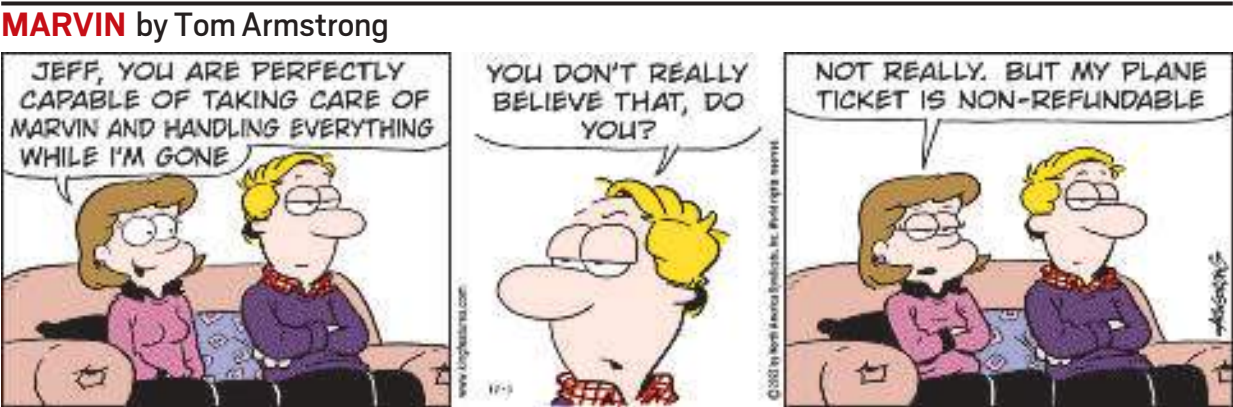
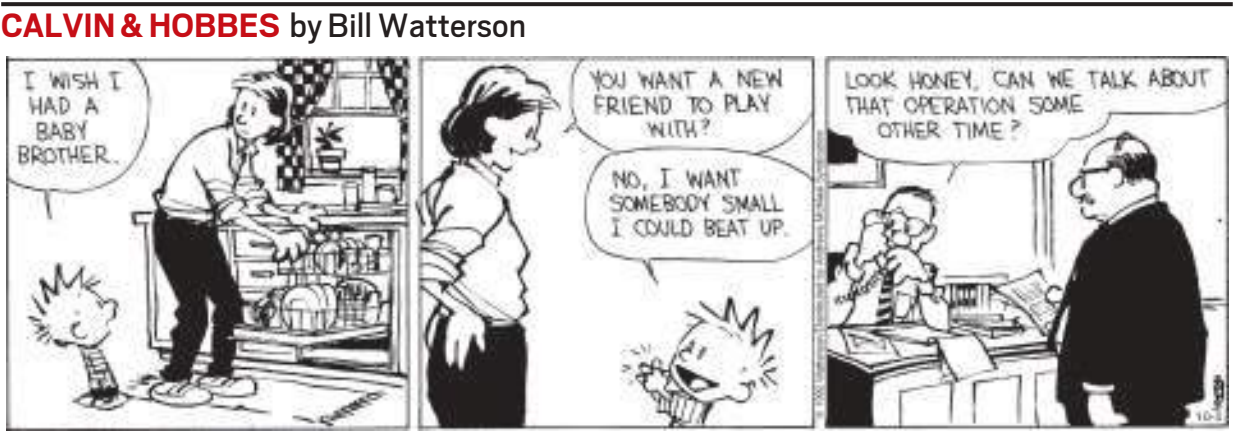
14 Mean to insist being on time across very often (7)

16 Ill-suited for work (6)

17 The language of the finishing school? (6)

19 Attracted to being taken out (5)

Solutions Crossword 4907: Across: 1 Accedes, 4 Tunic, 7 Omir, 8 Plymouth, 10 Local taxes, 12 Radish, 13 Sloops, 15 Leading man, 18 Receipts, 19 Knot, 20 Demon, 21 Delayed Down: 1 Atoll, 2 Coincide, 3 Salami, 4 Timberline, 5 Noun, 6 Cohorts, 9 Glaswegian, 11 Commonly, 12 Retired, 14 Edited, 16 Noted, 17 Scum.



JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Living is a constant process of deciding what we are _____

~José Ortega y Gasset (5,2,2)

BYZOO

AILSDN

BGIOT

BIIWGG

op oI gniB are a ew are what we're deciding

Answer: Living is a constant process of deciding what we are _____

SOLUTION: BOOZY, ISLAND, BIGWIG

SUDOKU 5029

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5028

6		1	7					
		6	8			2	1	
5							9	8
	4			2	8			
	9	3				8	5	
			3	9			6	
6	7							3
3	1			4	7			
		5	3			4		

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

1 Name of work with its location: Upgradation of level crossing in DLI-BTI section of Sr. DEN-IV/DLI (NIT 62-W-IV-22-23)

2 App. Cost of the work : (1) Rs. 45,18,957.39

3 Earnest Money : (1) Rs. 90,400.00

4 Date & Time of submission of tender and opening of tender : Bidding Start date for work no. Up to 15:00 Hrs. on 02.12.2022 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs. on 16.12.2022

5 Website particulars published e-tender, notice location etc., complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded : Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 128-W/260/Tender Notice/62-W-IV/22-23 Date:- 23.11.2022 3117/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

कार्यालय
जिला सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क अधिकारी,
पलवल
निविदा सूचना

जिला स्तरीय गीता महोत्सव 02 से 04 दिसंबर 2022 तक पंचायत भवन, पलवल में मनाया जाना प्रस्तावित है। आयोजन हेतु निम्नलिखित वस्तुओं व सेवाओं के लिए निविदाएं/कुटेशनमें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

1. टेंट सर्विस वाटर प्रूफ व सामान्य दोनों के रेंट्स।
कुरसिया- 600, सोफा सेट- 30, सैंटर टेबल- 10, स्टॉल टेबल- 60, स्टॉल- 30 (15x15 फुट), कार्पेट, पर्दे, कालीन, स्पीच स्टैंड, प्रवेश द्वार व दो ग्रीन रूम, जनरेटर (10 केवी व 62 केवी- ग्रैप मानकों के अनुसार निर्धारित ईनन से चालित) हैलोजन लाइट, स्टेशन सजावट, सेल्फी प्वाइंट के लिए रथ।

2. फूल मालाएं, बुक्के व स्टेशन सजावट सामग्री आदि।

3. लाइट एवं साउंड सिस्टम।

4. वीडियोग्राफी/फोटोग्राफी।
- एचडी वीडियोग्राफी, एडिटिंग सहित।
- प्रतिदिन की 250 फोटो/वीडियो ऐन ड्राइव में उपलब्ध कराना।

5. शॉल, लोई (अच्छी क्वालिटी) व स्मृति चिन्ह।

6. जूट बैग, गीता, पैन, नोट बुक व गिफ्ट आइटम।

7. बाहर से आने वाले कलाकारों के लिए नास्ता, रंच, डिनर।

8. जलपान, चाय, काफी, नमकीन, काजू-बादाम, बिस्कुट आदि।

9. शोभा यात्रा हेतु फूटी, फल केला व सेब।

10. शोभा यात्रा के लिए घोड़ा बग्गी, बैड।

11. निमंत्रण पत्र तथा प्रशस्ति पत्र (डिजाइन सहित)।

12. रंगोली व पंडाल सजावट का सामान जिसमें झालर, मालाएं, छतरी, गुब्बारे, डिजाइनर घंटी, चुनरी व अन्य सामग्री आदि शामिल है।

13. प्रिंटिंग फलेक्स लकड़ी व लोहे के फ्रेम सहित (जोकि वर्ग फुट के हिसाब से होंगे)।

नोट: क्रमांक 1 व 13 तक के लिए इच्छुक फर्म अपनी निविदाएं/कुटेशन बंद लिफाफे में दिनांक 26.11.2022 से 28.11.2022 को सुबह 9.00 बजे से सायं 5.00 बजे तक ओल्ड कोर्ट कैम्पस, एनएच- 19, पीडब्ल्यूडी रैस्ट हाउस, नियर जिला जेल, पलवल स्थित जिला सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क अधिकारी, पलवल में भिजवाना सुनिश्चित करें। निविदाएं/ कुटेशन गदित कमेटी सदस्यों के समक्ष व फर्म सदस्यों की उपस्थिति में दिनांक 29.11.2022 को सुबह 11.00 बजे खोली जाएंगी। क्रमांक 1 के 13 कार्य हेतु इच्छुक फर्म द्वारा 25 हजार रुपए की अग्रिम राशि का ड्राफ्ट जिला सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क अधिकारी, पलवल के नाम जमा करवाया जाना अनिवार्य है। आवश्यकता अनुसार वस्तुओं की मात्रा में कमी या वृद्धि की जा सकती है। अपरिहार्य कारणों से कार्यक्रम में फेरबदल या स्थगन होने की सूरत में गदित कमेटी का निर्णय अंतिम समझा जाएगा। निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी जिला एवं जनसंपर्क अधिकारी के कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

हस्ता/-
जिला सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क अधिकारी,
पलवल।

13964/Hry

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age** : 50-55 years, **Height** : 5'2", **Complexion** : Shallow, wearing checkdar shirt and black colour pant, was found dead on 23.11.2022 at Labour Chowk, Company Bagh, Chandni Chowk, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 26-A dated 23.11.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Kotwali, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23977100, 23953442,
08750870121

DP/3156/N/22

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age**: 25 Years, **Complexion**: Wheatish, **Face**: Long, **Height**: 5'6", **Built**: Thin, Wearing Yellow T-shirt, Blue Shirt & Black Sweater, Black Jeans, has been found unconscious at Ghazipur Paper Market, Delhi-96 on 17.11.2022 at 22.37 Hrs, in the area of P.S. Ghazipur, Delhi, who was admitted in LBS Hospital where he died during the treatment on 19.11.2022. In this regard a **DD No. 84A, dated 19.11.2022, has been lodged at P.S. Gazipur, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Gazipur, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-22610068, 22610094

DP/3175/ED/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE
APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that one accused **Gorav @ Amar S/o Raghunath Singh, R/o H.No. C-336, TC Camp 12.5 Gaj, Raghubir Nagar, New Delhi** have Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 422/20 u/s 411 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Janakpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Gorav @ Amar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Gorav @ Amar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Gorav @ Amar of FIR No. 422/20 u/s 411 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Janakpuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **11.01.2023**.

By Order
Bharti Benwal
Metropolitan Magistrate-11,
Room No.05, Ground Floor
Dwarka District Courts, New Delhi

DP/3097/WD/2022 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE
APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sahibjeet @ Sabi, S/o Surjeet Singh, R/o: WZ-15A, Navyug Block, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 496/20, U/s 25/54/59 A Act, P. S. Janakpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sahibjeet @ Sabi** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sahibjeet @ Sabi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sahibjeet @ Sabi** accused of **FIR No. 496/20, U/s 25/54/59 A Act, P. S. Janakpuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **12.01.2023**.

By Order
Bharti Benwal
Metropolitan Magistrate-11
Room No. 05, Ground Floor
Dwarka Courts, New Delhi

DP/3110/WD/2022

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a female dead body **Name**: Unknown, **W/o** Unknown, **R/o**: Unknown, **Age**: about 60 Yrs.Approx., **Height**: 5'1", **Complexion**: Shallow, **Wearing**: Multi Colour Suit and Green Colour Salwar was found in unconscious condition from Nigam Boudh Ghat Kashmir gate, Delhi and admitted in LNJP hospital by Cat ambulance on MLC No.114987637/22 and later on during treatment doctors have declared her dead on 23.11.2022, 02:32 PM.

In this regard **DD No. 35A, Dt. 23.11.2022** has been lodged in PS Kashmir Gate, Delhi.

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

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

SHO
P.S., Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23962210, 23946123

DP/3163/N/2022

HARYANA SEEDS DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION LIMITED
(A STATE GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)

PANCHKULA
CIN : U01122HR1974SGC007442
REGD & ADMN OFFICE
BAYS NO. 3-6, SECTOR-2
PANCHKULA

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that 48th Annual General Meeting of the Members of Haryana Seeds Development Corporation Limited will be held on 20.12.2022 at 12:30 PM at the Registered & Administrative Office of the Corporation, Bays No. 3 to 6, Sector-2, Beej Bhawan, Panchkula to transact the business as per notice of Annual General Meeting posted separately to all the members of the Corporation. The Share Transfer Books and Register of the Members of the Company shall remain closed from 06.12.2022 to 20.12.2022 (both days inclusive).

By Order of the Board
sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

13962/HRY

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tender under One Packet System for the under noted work:-

1. Name of work and location:	(1) POH (Periodic Overhaul) of FRM-1866 machine at NR Track Machine Workshop including mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical, cabin repair and other ancillary works. (2) POH (Periodic Overhaul) of WST-8083 & 8088 machine at NR Track Machine Workshop including mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical, cabin repair and other ancillary works.
2. Completion period of the work	(1) 120 Days. (2) 120 Days.
3. Approx. cost of work	(1) Rs. 93,17,143.00 (2) Rs. 52,44,357.00
4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	(1) Rs. 1,86,343.00 (2) Rs. 1,04,887.00
5. Cost of Tender Document (to be deposited Online)	Rs. Nil
6. Similar Nature of Work	(1) IOH/POH/Major repair of track machines including electrical works, final testing and commissioning of ON Track Machines after IOH/POH. (2) IOH/POH/Major repair of track machines including electrical works, final testing and commissioning of ON Track Machines after IOH/POH.
7. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender document remain available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 02.12.2022 upto 15:00 Hrs. on 23.12.2022 Tender Bids may be uploaded from 10.12.2022 & upto 15:00 hrs on 23.12.2022 on IREPS web site. The tender will be opened soon after 15:30 hrs on 23.12.2022.
8. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . Above tender document will be available for online submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 10.12.2022 to 23.12.2022. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No. 1-W-DyCETMC-10-FRM-1866-22-23 & 11-WST-8083-8088 Dated: 23.11.2022 3133/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Quotation Inviting Notice

Sealed Quotations are invited block wise for the fixation of building materials rates such as Bricks, Paver Blocks, Sand, Bajri, Stone Metal, Press Steel Chowkhats with door and window frames, RCC spun pipes, Sanitary Items, Paint Items etc. to be used in development works in rural areas of district Nuh. Sealed Quotations should reach in the office of Executive Engineer Panchayati Raj, Nuh latest by 02.12.2022 up-to 12.00 PM and sealed quotation will be opened on the same day at 3.00 PM in the office of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Nuh in the presence of Quoting agencies or their representative, who ever want to be present. List of materials/Quotation forms can be obtained from the office of Executive Engineer Panchayati Raj, Nuh, on any working day from 24.11.2022 to 01.12.2022 between the working hours. Other detailed terms and conditions are mentioned in the form.

Conditions:

1. The above rates are excluding all taxes (GST etc.) as applicable and should be F.O.R.

2. The above material should be confirming to P.W.D. specification and of superior quality. The quality of building material will be certified by Sub Divisional Officer, Panchayati Raj as per P.W.D. specification.

3. Deduction for voids shall be made from the gross quantity as per P.W.D. specification, norms and payment will be paid for net quantity on above approved rates.

4. Supplier should have his TIN/GST Number.

5. The executing agency can purchase the above building material from open market on the lower rates, if available.

6. The Lowest item's rates shall be fixed irrespective of any firm.

7. Suppliers are bound to supply duly marked ISI paver blocks of brand name, of specified shape and grade.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayati Raj, Nuh cum-Member
District Level Rate Fixation Committee.

13965/HRY

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

SPORT QATAR 2022



PREVIEW

SHOWCASE GAME IN A NUTSHELL

GROUP A

Netherlands v Ecuador

9.30 pm, Khalifa International Stadium

(LIVE ON SPORTS18 AND JIOCINEMA)

The script

Both the Netherlands and Ecuador recorded wins in their first games of the World Cup. While the Dutch dispatched Senegal with two late goals, the Ecuadorians handed World Cup hosts Qatar a defeat as well. It is crucial for both teams to win on Friday though, if they want to move past the Round of 16. Primarily because whoever comes second in Group A will likely take on England and on the evidence of their first games, it seems highly unlikely that any team from this group has the pedigree to beat England.

How they line up

The Netherlands: 5-3-2

Louis van Gaal, much to the detriment of his players, employed a 5-3-2 formation in their first match against Senegal. For the quality of players they have, this was a regressive strategy employed by the third-oldest coach to ever appear at a World Cup.

Likely XI: Noppert; Blind, Ake, Van Dijk, De Ligt, Dumfries; De Jong, Berghuis, Gakpo; Bergwijn, Janssen

Ecuador: 4-4-2

In their first game at this World Cup, Ecuador proved that they had the means to score goals through Enner Valencia. If the unsettled Dutch backline from their first game was any indication of what's to come, Valencia can definitely add more goals to his World Cup tally.

Likely XI: Galindez; Estupinan, Hincapie, Torres, Preciado; Ibarra, Caicedo, Mendez, Plata; Estrada, Valencia

The schemer

Since the Dutch backline stays quite close to their own goal, in comparison to other top teams, taking the ball to the opposition half is what's on Frenkie De Jong's plate – and it's a tough task. Usually, the Dutch midfielder is adept at this very undertaking for his club Barcelona. But against Senegal in their opener, he struggled to move the ball forward. Against Ecuador, he will once again be tasked to somehow chug the engine along even though everyone in the Dutch squad has been hamstrung by a style of play that most are not accustomed to.

Language of football

■ **Chocoladebeen**
■ **Origin:** Dutch
■ **Translation:** The non-dominant leg of a football player
It literally means chocolate leg. The Dutch specifically use it to describe the weaker foot of a player.

Other Matches

Wales vs Iran: 3:30 PM
Qatar vs Senegal: 6:30 PM
England vs USA: 12:30 AM (Sat)

Ronaldo thrives in 'spot' light

Portugal captain converts penalty to score opener as his team survives late Ghana assault in a 5-goal thriller



EXPRESS AT WORLD CUP

SANDIP G

DOHA, NOVEMBER 24

HIS EYES shut, the mind designing the shot his right foot would unleash, Cristiano Ronaldo took a deep meditative breath. The world around him stopped to take a deep breath too. He opened his firm, sharp eyes. The world did too. He took his first stride. In their mind, in their imagination, the world around him too. He took his next stride. The third was a fluid swing of his right foot. When he hits the ball exactly the way he wants to hit it, it sounds like music. Like the sweetest beat of a drum. The ball simply flew, and for a while it felt as though it would burst the net.

This was the moment for Rolando, in the 65th minute of the game, the inevitable moment, but one that seemed to never come at all. In the end, Portugal showed they were more than Ronaldo, holding their nerve and beating Ghana 3-2 in a frantic thriller that sprung to life after the Ronaldo moment; they have been more than him for a while. Yet, often, it is all about him.

For all the magnitude and magic of the match, for all the drama, skills and thrills that could unfold, the silk of Joao Felix and the steel of Ghana to stir a rousing comeback, the narrative would always be woven around Ronaldo. Perhaps, as he always likes it to be. What he would, and what he would not, every stride of his dissected, every emotion he sheds inspected, every mood captured. Not solely because he is one of football's immortals, but because of the build-up, because of the background.

How the prolonged soap opera would affect Ronaldo's World Cup has been subject to much conjecture, hypothesis and speculation. It could be the fuel that could power his dream of winning the World Cup; it could be the perfect reprieve to the Manchester United managers who had snubbed, spooked and snapped him; that they were all grossly wrong about him; it could be the glowing vindication of superstardom, the supreme triumph of individualism, that the un-bottling of accumulated frustration could cleanse his mind.

It could also be his undoing, entering the World Cup with pressure of proving his doubters and critics wrong, that his club managers were not wrong after all, that his self-absorption could hamper his team's tie



The first 65 minutes, until he scored the opening goal of the match, were torturous for Cristiano Ronaldo, replete with several nearly moments. *AP*

SCORELINE			
PORTUGAL	3	GHANA	2
Ronaldo (P) 65'		Ayew 73'	
Felix 78'		Bukari 89'	
Leao 80'			

tie charge, that he could be drowned out in the immensity of the stormy build-up, that it is an unnecessary distraction.

Whichever way it unfolds, there would always be theatre. There always is theatre with Ronaldo. Unlike his great peer, the reclusive and self-effacing Lionel Messi, Ronaldo has an irresistible affliction for the arc-lights, an unabashed, single-minded

quest for ultimate sporting glory, a self-instilled, smouldering self-belief that he is above everything. It's a bubble he has wrapped himself in. He wants the team to be built around him, he needs the team to converge into him. So it is with Messi; all teams, even PSG in his autumnal bloom, have been built around him, but he conveys, with his persona, a sense of all-for-one, one-for-all camaraderie. But with Ronaldo, perhaps for no fault of his, it seems he wants the world to gravitate towards him.

Centre of attention

With all the undercurrent steaming and

rolling, the match was to be all about Ronaldo, from the second he rolled the ball to start the match to the 87th minute when he was taken off. Yet, his first 65 minutes were torturous, replete with several nearly Ronaldo moments.

This was a classic would-have-been Ronaldo moment. Ronaldo airborne, four feet from the ground, waiting to meet the floated ball with his head, pausing in his leap, arching his head so that he could guide the ball down into the gaping net. At that precise moment, Ronaldo seemed to freeze time and age. He would score a goal that would be more than a goal. A goal that could be a statement, a benediction, a vindication.

But, cruelly, the ball bobbed off his crown into the cradle of the goalkeeper's arms. He slumped down, banged the turf in anger, jumped back to his feet, and gazed skywards, perhaps to see the stars of his destiny.

Minutes later, he was kicking the turf, a tuft of grass scattered. He had crunched the ball to the corner after delightfully spinning away from Alexander Djiku, but had grazed the defender's ankle in the build-up. A soft offence, but an offence nonetheless. He seethed, at the referee and the world at large, like a man betrayed. He was a pantomime of exasperation, arms thrown up in the air, his face a portrait of disdain. He would fling and flap his hands, shake and shrug his head, kick and shove the turf.

Everything and everyone seemed to desert him, god, fortune, and even the magnificent first touch. Just two minutes into the game, a ball was pinged onto his feet. But a heavy first touch stumbled onto the path of Baba Rahman, and in his endeavour to regain the ball, Ronaldo clattered into Rahman. The next touch was heavier. Bruno Fernandes had laid a sumptuous ball onto his channel, but the ball dribbled off his instep into sliding goalkeeper Lawrence Ati-Zigi. Ronaldo peered dejectedly into the distance.

He was even more isolated in the opening exchanges of the second half, when Ghana, docile in the first half, began to shift gears. He cut a frustrated figure, frequently admonishing his teammates for a better supply, for a sharper pass, for a better understanding of his movements. With every passing moment, the moment seemed to escape him.

But finally, in the 65th minute of the game, the inevitable Ronaldo moment arrived. As sweet as the beat of a drum.

Williams bros make WC debuts: One for Spain, other for Ghana

RAHUL PANDEY

NOVEMBER 24

DESPITE BEING his World Cup debut and a 7-0 win, the Costa Rica match wasn't the one Nico Williams was most looking forward to.

"Above all, I'd like to face Ghana," the Spain winger told AFP pre-tournament.

There wouldn't be another Spanish player who'd be as keen about that matchup at this World Cup. For, one of the players Nico will be up against will be none other than his brother Inaki: Nico wearing Spanish red, Inaki – eight years elder to him – in Ghana's colours.

The Williams brothers were born to Ghanaian parents, who, looking for better life, fled from Accra to Melilla, an autonomous city in north Africa. "Seeing the suffering of my parents, what they have gone through... they have given everything for us, my brother and I, suffered a lot for us, above all for me, (Inaki) had it a bit worse than me. My brother is protective of me, he wants to help me, and be-

cause of that I am the person that I am today."

The suffering Nico spoke of features some 4,900 kms of Sahara desert landscape, in temperatures that touched up to 50 degree Celsius. That was the distance and those were the conditions Felix Williams and his partner Maria Arthuer travelled to flee from Ghana's capital, Accra, to get to the autonomous Spanish city on the north-west coast of Africa, Melilla. Quite a bit of it on foot. Barefoot. Details which Inaki wasn't aware of until he turned 20. Maria, who was pregnant with her elder son during the journey but did not know, decided to share it all with him only two years after he made his debut for La Liga club Athletic Bilbao.

"They did part (of the journey) in a truck, one of those with the open back, 40 people packed in, then walked days," Inaki told the Guardian last year. "People fell, left along the way, people they buried. It's dangerous, there are thieves waiting, rapes, suffering. Some are tricked into it. Traffickers get paid and then halfway say, 'The journey ends here.' 'Chuck you out, leave you with nothing, no water, no



NICO (L) AND INAKI WILLIAMS.

food. Kids, old people, women. People go not knowing what's ahead, if they'll make it."

When Felix and Maria finally did make it across the border to Melilla, the civil guard detained them when they told they were migrants and had no papers. Only after the couple told the authorities they were from a country at war, as advised in jail by a Catholic aid organisation lawyer, that they were offered political asylum in Bilbao.

Inaki would later learn that all of it wouldn't have happened had his mother known she was carrying him at the time. "If I knew,

I would have stayed," she'd tell him.

Inaki is now a club legend at Athletic Bilbao, making 286 appearances for the club since making his debut in 2014, scoring 80 goals across all competitions apart from 48 assists. However, despite his performances in top tier Spanish football, Inaki was given a cold shoulder by the national team for the longest time. His only start for Spain came in a 2016 friendly under World Cup against Bosnia and Herzegovina under Vicente Del Bosque.

For young Nico on the other hand, the transition from Spanish U18s to U20s and then finally the senior side happened across a smooth three year timeline from 2020. In September, he received a call-up from Luis Enrique for the UEFA Nations League and then made it to the team for the World Cup.

As for Inaki, who initially refused to play for Ghana, a trip to Accra where he met his grandfather changed his mind and he decided to play for his country of origin. And so, here they are in Qatar: one brother playing for Spain, another for Ghana.

CLOCKWORK RED

With 1003 passes, 7 goals and 82% possession, Spain turn from tiresome to thrilling

■ In 2010, when they won the World Cup, Spain scored just eight goals. Twelve years later, as they got their campaign underway in Qatar, they scored seven in just one match vs Costa Rica. And it was tiki-taka through and through.

MATCH STORY IN NUMBERS

1003

Spain attempted 1061 passes, out of which 1003 were successful. Crucially, more than 50 per cent of those passes were played forward, giving an impression that the young players weren't content merely by holding possession but were constantly trying to make things happen.

81.8 %

Spain controlled 81.8 per cent possession and so thorough were they that Costa Rica were not allowed to take even one shot at their goal. The former champions have often been accused of not being adventurous enough with the ball. But under Enrique, they've shown plenty of creativity and courage in the two tournaments he's been in charge, with the Euros last year being the first.

SECOND GOAL: A SPANISH CLASSIC

■ Nothing epitomized a revitalized Spain more than the second goal, which was a combination of slick passing, intricate movements and a sharp finish. It started with Dani Olmo, playing on the left of a front-three, dragging Costa Rica right-back Carlos Martinez with him. It helped Spain's left-wingback Jordi Alba enough space and freedom to march forward and receive a cross-field pass from his Barcelona teammate Sergio Busquets, who played in the centre of a three-man midfield. Alba found Marco Asensio, who played as a false nine, 12 yards from the goal. Asensio unleashed a first-time shot past a diving Navas to double Spain's lead.

PEDRI-GAVI, THE NEXT XAVI-INIESTA?



■ The comparisons are too early, but also inevitable. Gavi (R) and Pedri – 18 and 19, respectively – played on the right and left side of the Spanish midfield, and showed creativity and courage beyond their teenage years. Pedri was central to everything Spain did. He wasn't dispossessed even once in the 57 minutes he spent on the field, and completed 86 out of the 89 passes he attempted with 15 of those into the final third, underlining his attack-mindedness. Gavi was equally ruthless and even became the World Cup's youngest scorer since Pele in 1958.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

How Qatar scores: Crowd control to efficient public transport system

SANDIP G

DOHA, NOVEMBER 24

OUTSIDE THE pick-up bus bay of the Al Janoub Stadium, in the dead of a balmy November night, a few thousands are waiting for the metro shuttle that would ferry them to the Al Wakra metro station.

The line seems endless, but there is no muffle of impatience, no yells directed at the security personnel controlling the traffic, or push and shove to break the line. Instead, they chorus the lady rattling out the direction. "This way metro," she says in a distinct, sing-song Iranian accent. The crowd takes it from there. "This way metro," they say, in many accents and dialects. Soon, one of the guards flicks his smartphone and plays Bob Marley's Redemption Song, and the crowd sings and heaves along. The queue now seems to move faster.

If the Qatar World Cup was presumed to be a caged and colourless affair, heavily restricted and constantly surveyed, the first week has debunked such notions and killed the per-

ceptions. Apart from producing two of the most thrillings upsets in World Cup history, the tournament has busted preconceptions about the country. For John Williams, a 70-year-old from Belfast, the trip has been a perception breaker. "I thought twice or thrice about cancelling the ticket to Doha, with all that has been going on in the background. I was not worried about getting beer, but more concerned about transportation and lack of atmosphere. But everything has been tip-top and smooth. The atmosphere has been terrific," he says.

An estimated one million people from around the world have landed in Qatar, a traffic many wondered how the country would handle, and many assumed it would crack under the mass of humanity. But you don't feel the crowd, except when you are waiting for the shuttle after a game featuring the contenders of the game or heading for a match in the peak hours. Then, it is universal: match-days world over tend to be crowded affairs. "I have to wait for a while. But I am fine with it. There is at least the assurance of transport. You would reach home safely, unlike in so many other World



A tourist from Spain gets a fist bump from a local near the Souq Waqif Market in Doha. *AP*

Cups. In Rio, I had to wait for several hours to find a commute. And you know it can get scary at night. The taxi drivers know it, and then will overcharge you," says Williams, who has been to every World Cup since Mexico 1986.

The efficiency of the Word Cup transportation system is clockwork. Feeder buses run from every stadium to the nearest metro and FIFA's designated hotels and clusters. They are so frequent that it takes no more than an hour for the spectators to catch the bus to the metro or home, despite no standing-passengers being allowed in the bus. Rajan Jackson, a volunteer whose duty is to mark the arrival and departure time of the buses, says that in his eight-hour shift alone, at least 3,000 trips are completed. "A bus gets full in two minutes and then the other comes, then the other," he says.

Similarly, the metro completes 10,000-odd trips a day and it has turned out to be a lifeline for the spectators, connecting them to most stadiums. It is a melting pot of sorts where fans of different countries socialise and become friends. There is banter but not serious scuffles so far. Says Jacqueline from Brazil, who is on the train to Lusail Stadium for the Brazil-Serbia game: "I thought there would be policemen watching you all the time, telling you that you shouldn't do this, you shouldn't do that. But it has been the opposite. You find more smiling

than gruff faces. You are free to do whatever you want, and nobody would bother."

The dress you wear was another concern. Jacqueline had carefully packed her trolley with full pants, plain jeans and dungarees, from what she had read on travel websites and advisories. She even carried a scarf, should she be needed to cover her head. But she was surprised to see fans wearing shots and snug-fit t-shirts. "And there was no one arresting them or telling them not to wear it. Anyway, I am fine with what I have brought. Of course it's important to be respectful of the local culture," she says.

Heat was the other concern, though sophisticated air-conditioning units are designed to keep temperatures in the stand around 20 degrees Celsius, regardless of what the weather is like. The grounds have misting devices and pitch-side machines to keep the players cool. The World Cup in Brazil was played under an extremely humid and tropical climate. It's hot in the afternoons, but it's not oppressive.

The only grouse is the ready unavailability of alcohol. At fan parks, they end up buying overpriced beer. The bar-licensed hotels are

high-end ones, charging 200-300 riyals for entry alone. But on the bright side, there have been few alcohol-induced brawls, in the stadium or outside it. Williams puts this in perspective: "There are so many young and old people, girls and women, from this region watching the game in the stadium. It could have been uncomfortable for them if there were drunk fans sitting next to them, dancing and spilling alcohol all around them. We need to respect the culture. The real intoxicant is good football."

Back at the bus bay in Al Janoub stadium, the long line is steadily unclogged. A Pakistani guard, watching all this is bemused and asks: "Yeh hota hain bhai hamare mulk mein? Poora kharabi ho jayega (Does this happen in our country? It will all be disrupted)." When a friend told him that Qatar was looking for retired Army or policemen from Pakistan for managing the World Cup, he thought it would be hectic. "Mehnat toh karna hi padega, lekin utna nahin (I still have to put in effort, but not so much)," he says, as the crowd continues to sing along with the announcer: "This way, metro."

Time to focus on Vision 2023

NZ ODI series gives India chance to start identifying personnel for next year's World Cup

VENKATA KRISHNA B
NOVEMBER 24

ON THE 1face of it, India's three-match One-Day International series against New Zealand beginning on Friday in Auckland will go down as another pointless contest with no context to it.

Speaking on the eve of the match, New Zealand captain Kane Williamson didn't mince words and reiterated how ODIs need context. On Monday, Australia and England faced off at the MCG in front of a sparse crowd, and a similar scene at Eden Park when India and New Zealand take the field is a possibility. The Men in Blue have chosen to rest their stars and even Hardik Pandya, who led the team in the T20Is is back home, handing over the team to Shikhar Dhawan.

But for all the talk of this series lacking context, for India there is more to it. The 50-over World Cup is less than a year away and they need to hit the ground running. They have resources in place, but are still some distance away from identifying which ones to use.

Teams usually undergo four-year cycles to build a team for World Cups. It has been the norm for ages, but India have lagged behind. They have gone into two successive 50-over World Cups without knowing who their No.4 batsman was. They have experimented way too much and have settled for less. And for a World Cup at home, they are now racing against time to put together a winning unit like in 2011.

Back then, the process began at home against Pakistan in 2007. After a series loss at home to Australia, out went Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid as MS Dhoni began a long process that culminated on April 2, 2011.

From a settled team to a strong support staff, they also had a selection panel that had the vision to look ahead. In fact, the committee led by Kris



With focus now on ODIs, young guns like Shubman Gill will play a bigger role going ahead. BCCI

With less than a year to the World Cup, India doesn't even have a selection panel – the new selectors have not been appointed after it was announced that the current panel won't get an extension.

Srikanth even got an unprecedented extension keeping the World Cup in mind.

Questions galore

But now, with less than a year to the World Cup, India doesn't even have a selection panel – the new selectors have not been appointed after it was announced that the current panel won't get an extension.

They are set to have their third chairman of selectors in three years – which is again

unprecedented – meaning there is no continuity whatsoever. Which is why some of the selection calls raise eyebrows, especially the decision to not include Sanju Samson in the T20Is against New Zealand.

However, as the focus now firmly shifts to the ODIs, expect the likes of Samson, Shreyas Iyer, Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav to play a bigger role going ahead. While Samson's omission invited plenty of criticism, going by

DEMOTION DID NOT BOTHER DHAWAN

Auckland: Shikhar Dhawan has a lot of faith in God's plans and purely for that reason it "didn't hurt him" when he was asked to hand back the India captaincy to KL Rahul during the tour of Zimbabwe. Dhawan, who usually leads the India ODI team in the absence of Rohit Sharma, was named captain for the three-match ODI tour of Zimbabwe in August this year but later was demoted by the former national selection committee once KL Rahul was declared fit and available. "I wasn't hurt as I believe certain things are pre-destined and whatever happens is for our own good," said Dhawan, who is back in the captain's saddle for the ODI leg of New Zealand tour. PTI

how India handled him in the recent A series against New Zealand in Chennai, it is evident he will have a bigger role to play in the 50-over format at No.5.

But before that, there are a few calls the new selection panel and the Indian team management have to take. And it is the same question they failed to address before the T20 World Cup.

Who will make top 3?

With this being the 50-over format, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are certainties in the lineup. But the prominent question is who gets to open alongside the Indian captain. Dhawan enjoys a good rapport with Rohit and not many teams have such a prolific left-right duo at the top.

And despite all the talk of Dhawan's performance being on the wane, he has the big match temperament and delivers consistently at ICC events. The other option for that slot is KL Rahul.

It would be foolish to omit him from ODI plans on the back of his T20 performances as all said and done, he remains a batter who has grown up in an era where the 50-over format remained relevant. And one who knows to give respect to the new ball before shifting gears.

In case Dhawan is phased out, in Gill India have a third opener to groom as the continued omission of Prithvi Shaw, even from A tours, suggests he is still down in the pecking order.

And in Indian conditions, more than the top order, it is the middle order that will decide the outcome, especially if one factors in the amount of overs spinners will send down. It is imperative for India to have two of Iyer, Samson and Yadav in the middle order going forward. All three are exceptional batters against spin, and the sort of players who can be enforcers in the middle overs who will ultimately decide how big a total India can set.

In simple terms, India need not go back to their formula of preserving wickets and going full throttle in the last 10 overs. Of course, it has worked for them, but even in ODIs, it is a strategy from a bygone era.

And among the three, given India's handicap with batters' inability to bowl, only two could ideally fit in. The need to have six bowling options could see India take a few tough decisions and this is where they messed it up at the last few ICC events – leaving it too late to find a working combination. Beginning on Friday and up until the World Cup, India have 21 ODIs to put the jigsaw puzzle together. The pieces are ready. It is time to bring in the right minds to pick the right ones and make it work.

First ODI Live on Amazon Prime, DD from 7AM onwards

Shakib returns for ODI series against India

DHAKA: Star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan on Thursday returned to Bangladesh's ODI squad for the three-match home series against India, which begins here on December 4. Shakib had opted out of the white-ball tour

of Zimbabwe in July-August, the last ODI outing of the team. He came in place of left-arm spinner Taijul Islam. Tamim Iqbal will lead the 16-member squad. Yasir Ali was also named in the squad, coming in place of

middle-order batter Mosaddek Hossain. Ebadot Hossain, who made his debut in Zimbabwe, was preferred over Shoriful Islam. The India team will arrive in Dhaka on December 1.

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IIM AMRITSAR HOSTS NOBEL LAUREATE PROF JEAN TIROLE



PROF NAGARAJAN ALONG WITH PROF TIROLE

Starting from defining 'morality', Prof Tirole went on to touch upon various angles of the topic, culminating in Corporate Social Responsibility. He was interested and showed enthusiasm to interact with academicians, researchers, and students from IIM Amritsar and other prestigious institutions. The Q&A session thus was sparked by some thought provoking and captivating questions related to informal markets, impacts of neoliberalism, and data privacy, to name a few.

"Research today is not restricted to one country. This is a great opportunity for us to collaborate with French educational institutions." Said Prof Nagarajan Ramamoorthy, Director, IIM Amritsar. IIM Amritsar, with its existing collaboration of an international exchange program with Kedge Business School France, is looking forward to future collaborations with other international institutes.

Prof Nitin Seth, Director CEFIPRA, thanking the Department of Science and Technology Government of India,

"I am very much critical of democracy and capitalism, but those are the best we've got!" was just one of the few bold and intriguing statements spoken by Prof Jean Tirole, Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences, during his address. Delivering a lecture on the topic 'Are Markets Moral?', Prof Tirole spoke extensively, yet in a lucid and simple manner, on the various facets of the topic, and engaged the audience with his unique style of delivery.

Indian Institute of Management Amritsar organized and hosted Prof Tirole as a part of 'CEFIPRA Lecture Series' on 23rd November. CEFIPRA, the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research, focusses on academia-to-academia collaborations, industry-academia linkage, and quality information exchange between Indian and French academic collaborators.

The program was flagged off with the lighting of the lamp by Prof Tirole, Prof Nagarajan Ramamoorthy, Director, IIM Amritsar, Prof Nitin Seth, Director, CEFIPRA, Prof Didier Raboisson, Senior Official, French Embassy in India, and Prof Mahima Gupta, Dean, Academics and Programs, IIM Amritsar. The event was attended by academicians from many prestigious institutions from different parts of India; IIT Kanpur, IIM Simlaur, and GNDU being just a few of them. To encourage interaction and discussion, the dignitaries from the industry and academia were also invited for a high tea and lunch with Prof Tirole.

and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs Government of France, said that these organisations provide monetary, intellectual, and moral support towards CEFIPRA's mission. He wished that this lecture would act as a step forward in building a relationship between IIM Amritsar and CEFIPRA to pave the way for collaborations between IIM Amritsar and other French institutions.

"Success comes from many things," said Prof Tirole, speaking to the media post-event. "You have to work hard, of course, be surrounded by the right people, and believe in yourself. The last thing is passion. If you love what you are doing, you wake up every morning, and you are happy!"

The attendees were all alike in their feedback of the event and said that it was a one of a kind opportunity to listen to one of the brightest minds of our era. The lecture was also streamed live on both IIM Amritsar's and CEFIPRA's YouTube channels.

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