



# Govt never got back on objection to HC list, Collegium gives nod to 8 as judges

## Approves elevation of 2 advocates, 6 judicial officers to Rajasthan HC

**APURVA VISHWANATH**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

DISMISSING CONCERNS of the government, the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, has recommended two advocates and six district judges for appointment as judges of the Rajasthan High Court.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the Collegium had sought to know if there were specific objections against any name, based on intelligence inputs, but it did not receive a response.

It is learnt that Collegium has now cleared the names as it “presumed that there were no adverse intelligence inputs” from the government.

The three-member Collegium for recommending High Court judges, apart from CJI

Chandrachud, comprises Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and S Abdul Nazeer.

The Collegium “approved the proposal for elevation” at its meeting on November 23.

From the Bar, the Collegium recommended advocates Anil Kumar Upman and Nupur Bhati for appointment.

From the district judiciary, the Collegium recommended Rajendra Prakash Soni, Ashok Kumar Jain, Yogendra Kumar Purohit, Bhuwan Goyal, Praveer Bhatnagar and Ashutosh Kumar.

On September 11, *The Indian Express* had reported that the government had asked the Collegium to return the entire list to the Rajasthan High Court for fresh consideration.

The government's objections to the names proposed by the High Court were on the grounds

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**

## ON THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN TRAIL

# Rioters given lesson in 2002, led to peace in Gujarat: Shah

## Invokes 2002 in series of rallies, targets Congress, says BJP took strict action

**AVINASH NAIR**

AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 25

RAISING THE pitch in the count-down to the Assembly elections next month, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Friday that “such a lesson was taught in 2002” to “those engaging in communal riots” in Gujarat that it led to “*akhand shanti*” (eternal peace) in the state under the BJP.

In 2002, Gujarat witnessed large-scale violence in the communal riots that followed the burning of a Sabarmati Express coach, packed with Ayodhya kar sevaks, in Godhra.

Addressing a rally in Mahudha in Kheda district — the Mahudha seat is currently held by the Congress — Shah said, “*Aa*



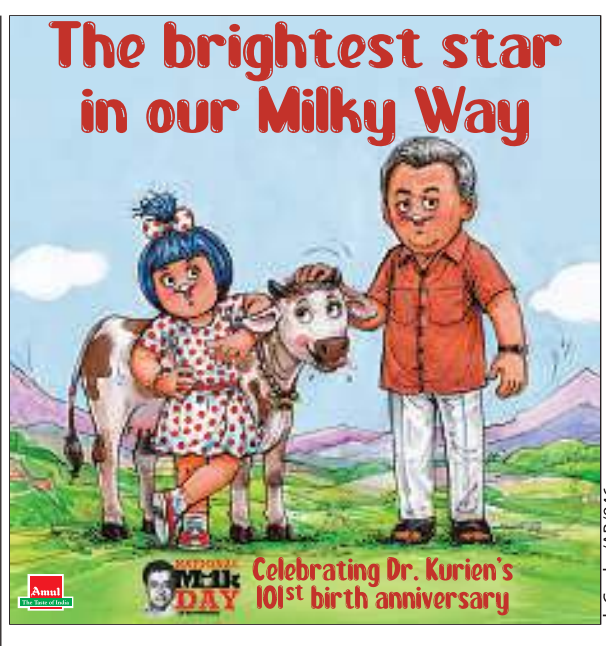
Shah with BJP's Naroda candidate Payal Kukrani, the daughter of a Naroda Patiya massacre convict, on Friday. *Nirmal Harindran*

Addressing a rally in Mahudha in Kheda district — the Mahudha seat is currently held by the Congress — Shah said, “*Aa*

2002 ma, Congressiyao e aadat paadi hati, etle ramkhan thay hata. Pan 2002 ma evo paath

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2****EXPLAINED****Twenty years later**

SHAH'S REMARK comes days after Prime Minister Modi hit back at the Congress for calling him names including Sonia Gandhi's “*maut-ka-saudagar*” remark over the 2002 riots. In June this year, the Supreme Court agreed with the SIT that there was “no larger conspiracy” behind the riots and dismissed an appeal against the clean chit to Modi and others in riot-related cases.



## ELGAAR PARISHAD CASE

# SC rejects NIA's plea against bail for Anand Teltumbde

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G & SADAF MODAK**  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 25

Anand Teltumbde is likely to be released today

THE SUPREME Court Friday dismissed the appeal filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) challenging the Bombay High Court order granting bail to Elgaar Parishad case accused Anand Teltumbde.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, and including Justice Hima Kohli, heard the matter for over an hour and said: “We will not interfere.” It dismissed the appeal with a two-line order: “The SLP is dismissed. However, the observations in the impugned judgment of the High Court shall not be treated as conclusive final findings in all proceedings.”

Teltumbde, who is lodged in Talaja jail, is likely to be released Saturday after his lawyers completed the bail formalities and a special court in Mumbai issued the release memo. He was informed about the Supreme Court's decision by a lawyer after he was brought before the special court for a hearing along

with the other arrested accused.

Earlier, in the Supreme Court, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the NIA, said the agency had in its possession documents allegedly recovered from Teltumbde's computer as well as that of co-accused. Bhati contended that these documents established that Teltumbde is allegedly “actively involved in planning, funds transfer, conspiracy propagating, recruiting, etc.,” on behalf of CPI (Maoist), which is a proscribed outfit under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

In this context, Bhati cited a letter allegedly from an absconding accused in the case, “Comrade Prakash”, to Teltumbde. Asserting that this was seized from the computer of co-accused Rona Wilson, Bhati read out from the purported letter, saying “the CC (Central Committee of CPI

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**

## THE WORLD

**CHINA COVID SURGE DAY 2: RESTRICTIONS TRIGGER PUSHBACK**  
**EUROPE RUSHES TO HELP UKRAINE KEEP LIGHTS ON** [PAGE 14](#)

# In pre-Budget meet, states ask for higher borrowing limit, more Central funds

## Limit Central schemes: TN; Chhattisgarh seeks money for Old Pension Scheme

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SHUBHANGI KHAPRE**  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 25

A HIGHER borrowing limit to increase fiscal space available to states; enhancement of funds under the scheme for special assistance for capital investment; limiting the scope of centrally sponsored schemes. These were some of the key demands made by finance ministers of states and union territories in their pre-Budget meeting Friday with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Tamil Nadu and Bihar called

**for limiting centrally sponsored schemes, saying that states end up shelling out more funds for sustaining them. The Centre should increase its share of transfers to reduce states' burden, they said. Chhattisgarh sought funds from the Centre for implementing the Old Pension Scheme.**

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said all states, irrespective of the political party in power, expressed a common theme at the meeting — that states' fiscal autonomy is constrained by the extent of centrally sponsored schemes, by the extent of changing ratios of funding of such schemes.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the pre-Budget meeting in New Delhi on Friday. *PTI*

## THEIR BEAUTIFUL GAME

Brazil's Richarlison scores his second goal, an acrobatic volley, to help his team to a 2-0 victory over Serbia at the Lusail Stadium on Thursday. *AP*

**REPORT, PAGE 20**

# Rahul's Bharat Jodo yatra pushes Pappu behind, strikes a chord — but hard work awaits off-camera

**THE NEERJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN**

Weekly insight into what's changing in national politics — and why

AFTER 19 years of being an unsuccessful politician, Rahul Gandhi, dubbed as the “Pappu” of Indian politics, is beginning to be viewed differently as he walks the dusty bylanes from Kanyakumari to Kashmir on his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

I went to see the yatra in Maharashtra and most of the people I talked to, driving 250 km from Aurangabad to Akola, and later following the yatra in Buldhana district, had, to my surprise, a positive word to say about the yatra. These were the *aam aadmi* and the *aam aurat*: a retired teacher, a fruit seller, a housewife, a cobbler, most of



Rahul Gandhi with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district on Friday. *PTI*

them in small towns and wayside villages. They all expressed a similar sentiment: “*Paidal chalkar abhi tak humare paas koi nahin aaya hai. Humare paasand aa raha hai.*” (Nobody has come to us on

foot like this and we like it.)

A polio-hit retired government servant, 74, came from Nagpur with his son and daughter-in-law — old Congressis — to

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**

# Indian man wanted for beach killing in Australia held in Delhi



Rajwinder Singh after his arrest in Delhi on Friday. *PTI*

**JIGNASA SINHA**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

AN INDIAN man who allegedly killed an Australian woman in 2018 before fleeing that country was arrested Friday in Delhi, police said.

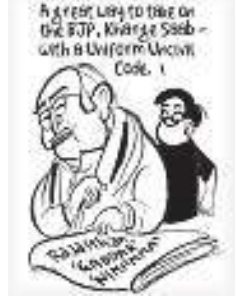
Rajwinder Singh, 38, was carrying a reward of Aus \$1 million. Investigators said he killed Toyah Cordingley, 24, because her dog barked at him.

He was arrested from North Delhi's GT Karnal Road and produced before a court for the extradition process. Investigators said Singh had been changing hideouts as well as his look to evade arrest.

Cordingley was killed on October 21, 2018, when she was walking alone with her dog at Wangetti beach, north of Cairns, in Queensland state. Her body was found 12-16 hours later by

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

**By UNNY**

## PAGE 1 ANCHOR

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 25

AS THE FIFA World Cup fever courses through Kerala's streets and fields, an influential Muslim body in the state has whipped out the yellow card, calling the hero worship of players “un-Islamic” and saying the “madness” among the faithful needs to be tackled.

Samastha Kerala Jam-Iyyathil Khatib Committee, an organisation of clerics who deliver Friday sermons across mosques in the state, on Friday

asked its members, the *khatibs*, to talk the faithful out of their craze for the sport and persuade them against squandering money in the name of football.

The committee is part of the Samastha Kerala Jam-Iyyathil Ulema or the All Kerala Ulema Organisation, a socially and politically influential group that's closely associated with the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), an ally of the Congress-led United Democratic Front in Kerala.

Committee general secretary Nasar Faizy Koodathai, who issued the direction to over 6,000 *khatibs* under the outfit, said:

“Football madness has engulfed Kerala like never before. We are not against football and love for the game... But youngsters squander huge amounts of money on raising cut-outs of players and teams when they could instead have been used for charitable work. Our caution is only meant for the faithful who turn up at mosques; it has nothing to do with the general public. This kind of hero worship is un-Islamic and against the tenets of monotheism (worship of one God). It is not a healthy trend that love for football becomes madness.”

There are few words that



A cut-out of Lionel Messi in Malappuram. *Aiswarya Raj*

come close to describing Kerala's obsession with football as *jwaram* (fever) and *lahari* (intoxication or craze). These are the words Koodathai used while talking about how the sport, and the World Cup, had turned the heads of the “faithful”.

Kerala, particularly its northern districts of Kozhikode and Malappuram that have a substantial Muslim population, is united in its love for the sport, divided only over whom to root for — Lionel Messi (Argentina), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) or Neymar (Brazil), among others. The loyalty is meant to be worn and displayed through team jerseys

— Argentina's iconic striped blue and the yellow of Brazil are the undisputed favourites. Even houses in some of these districts have been painted in the colours of Brazil and Argentina. At Pazhayannur in Thrissur, a tea stall owner has offered free omelettes to those who turn up in Brazil jerseys.

On Tuesday, around the time Messi's team sunk to a less-fancied Saudi Arabia in the Doha World Cup, in Kerala's Chalakudy, in Thrissur district, rose another Messi — Idhin Messi, all of 28 days old, who had been named thus by his football-crazy parents Shaneer and Fathima.

Earlier this month, FIFA, the international body governing football, had shared a photograph from Pullavoor village in Kerala's Kozhikode district — of giant cut-outs of Messi, Ronaldo and Neymar in the Kurungattu Kadavu river — and tweeted: “#FIFAWorldCup fever has hit Kerala.”

On Thursday, Koodathai also invoked national pride while cracking the whip. “People are seen wearing the flags of Portugal, one of the colonial invaders of India. The love for one's nation and its flag is now taken over by the love for alien countries and their flags,” he said.

The warning from the clerics' body saw mixed reactions from political parties.

Senior IUML leader and former legislator K N A Khader said in a Facebook post: “Sports should be seen as well as entertainment. It's only meant for entertainment. I don't have a team. All teams are mine and hence all players are my players.”

Speaking in Kozhikode, CPI(M) leader and Education Minister V Sivankutty said the Samastha group has every right to dissuade people from hero worship. “At the same time, people also have the right to worship their favourite stars,” he said.



New Delhi



FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON  
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● Pre-Budget meet: states seek higher borrowing limit

“...and by the fact that states have to top up 2x, 3x and 5x of what the Union gives and still it is centrally sponsored or PM scheme...in old age pension, Tamil Nadu pays Rs 1,000 a month, the Union Government of India only gives Rs 200 a month. Every state, every minister of BJP-government states made the same exact request and many have asked for an extension of GST compensation and also 3.5 per cent fiscal deficit limit,” he told reporters.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are implemented by state governments but funded jointly by the Central and state governments with a defined sharing pattern. Bihar Finance Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary said these schemes should be limited as the burden on states for them is increasing and Centre should implement only Central schemes if they want to help states. He also said that the borrowing limit should be fixed at 4 per cent of GSDP for states.

The Old Pension Scheme found mention in the meeting, with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel asking for Rs 17,240 crore to be returned from the new National Pension System, which will be deposited in a separate pension fund to be used for future pensionary obligations. “Funds should be given

for OPS which has been implemented in Chhattisgarh,” he said after the meeting. Finance Ministers of Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Nagaland, Odisha and West Bengal did not attend the meeting.

The Union Finance Ministry said in a statement after the meeting that “most of the participants thanked the Union Finance Minister for financially supporting their States/ Union Territories by enhancing borrowing limits, providing two advanced devolution installments and through Special Assistance for capital expenditure. The participants also gave numerous suggestions to the Union Finance Minister for inclusion in the Budget Speech.”

More funds for capital expenditure were also demanded by many states, including Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Bihar. Maharashtra put up a proposal of projects worth Rs 3,000 crore under schemes of special assistance to states for capital investment. Although the state has received a grant of Rs 6,800 crore, it urged Centre to consider additional allocation of Rs 3,000 crore for various projects. “The Centre has come up with a very good scheme for special assistance to states for capital investment. Its size has been increased from Rs 15,000 crore during the year 2021-22 to Rs 1 lakh crore

for the year 2022-23. This will help states,” Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said he has demanded an increase in capital assistance given to the states. “Have asked for a system where it should be linked to the population. Village-based schemes should be stressed on,” Sangma said.

Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy said he has sought special assistance towards capital expenditure. “We have demanded that state-promoted renewable projects be included in the green bond funding scheme,” Reddy said.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur sought better road, rail, air connectivity in the state to promote tourism, and wanted GST on apple packaging to be reduced to 12 per cent from 18 per cent.

Pending dues of compensation cess were also sought by states. Chhattisgarh’s Baghel further urged for continuation of the system of GST compensation for the next five years after June 2022 and demanded Rs 1,875 crores as GST compensation for April-June along with coal royalty amount of Rs 4,140 crore. Royalty for minerals extracted in the state should be increased, he said, adding that it was to be fixed every three years but has not changed over ten years.

● Rioters given a lesson in 2002, led to peace in Gujarat: Shah

sikhvadiyo, ke kho bhuli gaya. 2002 thi 2022 sudi naam na le (In 2002, communal riots took place because the Congress people let it become a habit. But such a lesson was taught in 2002 that it was not repeated from 2002 to 2022)."

“Gujarat ni andar qaumi hulaado karva vaada ne, kadak haathe pagla bhari, Gujarat ni Bharatiya Janata Party ni sarkar ae, Gujarat ma akhand shanti ni stapna kari chhe, mitron (Strict action has been taken by the BJP government against those engaging in communal riots in Gujarat and this has established eternal peace),” he said.

Shah had made a passing reference to the 2002 riots in an election speech in Deesa in Banaskantha district on November 22. “In 2001, Narendra Modi came to power and after 2002, there was no need to put curfew anywhere. Everyone fell in place. Is there a mafia now? Is there a *dada* (gangster)?” he had told the gathering.

On Friday, Shah referred to 2002 again while addressing public meetings at Jhalod in Dahod and Vagra in Bharuch.

“During Congress rule (in Gujarat), didn’t communal riots happen? In 2002, during the reign of Narendra Modi (then

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chief minister of Gujarat) they tried to do the same. They were taught such a lesson that it is now 2022 and nobody raises a head. Those who used to organise communal riots have gone outside Gujarat. The BJP established peace in Gujarat and made it a region without curfew,” he told the gathering consisting largely of tribals in Jhalod. In Vagra, which has a significantly high Muslim population, Shah said, “This land has seen a lot of communal riots — curfew and stabbings. How will development happen in such circumstances? In 2002, these people

last showed courage. Isn’t that so? Such a lesson was taught during that time. One by one, they were sorted and put in jail. It has been 22 years and not once was there a need to impose curfew.” “The lotus of BJP saved Gujarat from the fire of communal riots and took it on the path of development,” he said. Shah also addressed a public meeting in the Naroda constituency of Ahmedabad city late in the evening when he said that the opposition Congress has no right to talk about establishing peace in Gujarat. “Congress has ruled for years.

And if there is anyone who has ravaged Gujarat through communal riots, it is Congress people...Nobody has the courage to do communal riots (now),” Shah said. He was campaigning for BJP candidate Payal Kukrani, who is the daughter of 2002 Naroda Patiya massacre convict, Manoj Kukrani, who was sentenced to life imprisonment and is currently out on bail. “In 2002, a mischief was done...the BJP government tightened the noose of law so sternly that it taught a lesson to those doing the riots,” he said. Targeting the Congress fur-

ther, Shah claimed that the party neither abrogated Article 370 in J&K nor strengthened places of “our faith” out of “fear of its vote-bank”. “Congress people can be scared of its votebank, but not BJP people. Do you know what their vote bank is?” Shah repeated the question more than once, and as the audience replied in the affirmative, said, “Then, I am not spelling it out.” In Mahudha earlier, Shah took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi, too. “He (Rahul Gandhi) is not going to come to Mahudha. He knows the results, and so he is not showing his face in Gujarat,” he said.

वोटर बनें अभियान

“संकल्प हमारा न टूटे, कोई मतदाता न छूटे”

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

विशेष संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण/मतदाता (वोटर) पंजीकरण कार्यक्रम

(21-मैनपुरी लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र से सम्बन्धित विधानसभाएं यथा- 107-मैनपुरी, 108-भोगांव, 109-किसनी (अ.जा.), 110-करहल, 199-जसवंतनगर (जनपद-इटावा) तथा 37-रामपुर एवं 15-खतौली विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों को छोड़कर)

दिनांक : 09 नवम्बर, 2022 से 08 दिसम्बर, 2022 तक

लोकसभा/विधानसभा क्षेत्रों की मतदाता सूची में पंजीकरण कराने हेतु सूचना

मतदान केन्द्रों पर पंजीकरण हेतु विशेष अभियान दिवस

26 नवम्बर, 2022

दिन : शनिवार

04 दिसम्बर, 2022

दिन : रविवार

भारतीय नागरिक हों एवं उत्तर प्रदेश के सम्बन्धित निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में सामान्यतः निवास कर रहे हों

अब मतदाता सूची में नाम जुड़वाने हेतु 04 अर्हक तिथियां हर वर्ष 01 जनवरी, 01 अप्रैल, 01 जुलाई तथा 01 अक्टूबर निर्धारित की गई हैं। इन अर्हक तिथियों को या इससे पूर्व कोई नागरिक जो 18 वर्ष की आयु पूर्ण कर चुके हों अथवा 01 जनवरी 2023 को 18 वर्ष की आयु पूर्ण कर रहे हों

उम्र 18 साल

अर्हता

1 जनवरी 2023

फॉर्म 6

प्रथम बार आवेदन कर रहे नए मतदाताओं के पंजीकरण हेतु

फॉर्म 6ए

किसी प्रवासी निर्वाचक द्वारा निर्वाचक नामावली में नाम सम्मिलित कराने के लिए

फॉर्म 6बी

निर्वाचक नामावली अधिप्रमाणन के प्रयोजन के लिए आधार संख्या की सूचना का पत्र

फॉर्म 7

निर्वाचक नामावली में नाम सम्मिलित करने के प्रस्ताव पर आपत्ति एवं पूर्व में शामिल नाम को अपमार्जित करवाने के लिए

फॉर्म 8

निवास परिवर्तन/निर्वाचक नामावली में संशोधन/ मतदाता पहचान पत्र का प्रतिस्थापन दिव्यांग मतदाताओं के चिन्हांकन हेतु

आवेदन की व्यवस्था

मतदाता सूची में नाम जुड़वाने एवं संशोधन इत्यादि कराने हेतु भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा विकसित ऑनलाइन वेब पोर्टल [www.voterportal.eci.gov.in](http://www.voterportal.eci.gov.in) या <https://nvsp.in> पर अपने Mobile Number/E-mail ID/Voter ID Number अथवा अपने Facebook/G-mail/Twitter/Linkdin द्वारा Login करके प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

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- आवेदन की सामान्य व्यवस्था**
- संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण की अवधि में सभी फॉर्म अपने बूथ लेवल अधिकारी, पदाभिहित अधिकारी, तहसील स्थित मतदाता पंजीकरण केन्द्र, जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी के कार्यालय से अथवा वेबसाइट [www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in](http://www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in) से डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं।
  - सम्बन्धित फॉर्म पर अपना आवेदन (फोटो, पता, जन्मतिथि के प्रमाण सहित) निम्नलिखित स्थानों पर जमा कर सकते हैं:
    - सम्बन्धित पोलिंग बूथ के बूथ लेवल अधिकारी के पास
    - तहसील स्थित मतदाता पंजीकरण केन्द्र पर
    - तहसील के उप जिलाधिकारी/निर्वाचक रजिस्ट्रीकरण अधिकारी के कार्यालय में
    - तहसील के तहसीलदार/सहायक निर्वाचक रजिस्ट्रीकरण अधिकारी के कार्यालय में
    - जिलाधिकारी/जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी के कार्यालय में
  - उपरोक्त सभी सम्बन्धित फॉर्म ऑनलाइन माध्यम से भी घर बैठे भरे जा सकते हैं।



**मतदाता सूची में नाम देखने की व्यवस्था**

- मतदाता सूचियों का आलेख्य 09 नवम्बर 2022 से 08 दिसम्बर, 2022 के मध्य सभी मतदान केन्द्रों पर देखने के लिए उपलब्ध होगा
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● Australia murder

her father and police. It was reported that the body was “half buried” in the sand and had “visible and violent” injuries. She was allegedly strangled as well. According to reports, Cordingley was a pharmacy worker and also worked with an animal refugee centre. Delhi Police, which questioned Singh, said he had gone to that beach after an argument with his wife. He was carrying a kitchen knife and some fruits. According to investigators, Cordingley’s dog barked at Singh, which angered him. He allegedly stabbed her multiple times and tied the dog to a tree before returning home, in Innisfail town. There, he collected his passport and, on October 23, 2018, left for India, leaving behind his wife and three children. Sources said Singh, who worked as a nurse in Australia, emerged as a suspect after CCTV footage was scanned in the Cairns area. In March 2021, Australian authorities approached their Indian counterparts to extradite the key suspect. Interpol also issued a red corner notice against Singh. Indian authorities approved the request in November. In India, Punjab Police looked for him but he kept changing hideouts. At one point, he stayed in a gurdwara as a *sewadar*, investigators said. On November 4, the Australian High Commission announced a \$1-million reward for information leading to his arrest. A Delhi Police spokesperson said: “The Interpol had issued a red corner notice against Singh. The CBI and Interpol were involved. They got a non-bailable warrant issued against Singh under the Extradition Act on November 21 from the Patiala House Court.” Delhi Police launched a search operation after receiving inputs from CBI and other agencies. “At around 6 am on Friday, based on the inputs shared by CBI, Interpol and Australian counterparts, an intelligence-based operation led to the accused,” said a Delhi Police spokesperson. The team that caught him included inspectors Vikram Dahiya and Nishant Dahiya. Police sources said Singh will be extradited to Australia. He hails from Buttar Kalan in Punjab’s Moga and moved to Australia more than two decades ago. “He was not in touch with his wife or kids. His parents live in Punjab but he was not in touch with them either. He was in transit in North Delhi when our team arrested him,” said a police source. Queensland Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll told the media: “The man (Singh) was believed to be avoiding apprehension in the Punjab region... Even though it’s been four years, we can now make progress in bringing closure to her family. It was never a question of if, only when this day would come.”



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The fire broke out at Chandni Chowk's Bhagirath Palace on Thursday night. Praveen Khanna

## Shops gutted, 4 buildings gone

ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

ALMOST 150 shops were gutted in Chandni Chowk's Bhagirath Palace market after a fire broke out on Thursday night, leaving traders staring at losses running into crores.

According to the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), the fire broke out in a store around 9.20 pm and 31 fire tenders were dispatched. Well into Friday, 22 fire tenders were still deployed for cooling operations. DFS Chief Atul Garg said: "Over 200 personnel were deployed. Major concerns included weak structures, shortage of water, narrow lanes. A building also started collapsing... Since there was a lot of material kept inside the stores, cooling operations went on till Friday and will continue on Saturday." Garg added that 3-4 buildings have collapsed in the lanes that have been blocked off.

A senior police officer added: "By evening, the fire became massive again. It has been nearly 24 hours since it broke out and firefighters are trying to douse the blaze."

DCP (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said, "About 150 shops were damaged. No casualties have been reported so far. Legal action shall be taken once the fire is extinguished."

Pradeep Kochar, senior vice-president of Delhi Electrical Traders Association, said: "Over 100 shops must have been gutted and goods worth crores destroyed." Traders also pointed to old wires hanging throughout the market and called it a fire hazard.

# At Chandni Chowk, a perpetual worry: Fires and firefighting

ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

THURSDAY NIGHT'S massive fire in Chandni Chowk once again brought into limelight the challenges of firefighting in the narrow lanes that dot the area.

Bhagwan Bansal, general secretary of the Delhi Hindustan Mercantile Association, said: "The main problem is there are a plethora of wires hanging loose all over, which can easily cause fires. When the BSES comes to change the meters, the

wires are left untouched. We constantly raise the issue at the local office and have sent letters to the Deputy Chief Minister and L-G but to no avail. Due to the frequency of such accidents, a Delhi Fire Service (DFS) vehicle should be permanently stationed here for contingency."

At Moti bazaar, traders recall the 2017 fire that burned down several shops. Rajesh Goyal, proprietor of Priya Creations, said: "The entire shop was charred and stock was lost... the fire was started by a short circuit. Fortunately, our loss was covered through insurance."

DFS Chief Atul Garg, however, said: "A permanent vehicle would not solve issues we face in cases of a fire such as the narrowness of streets... There are complications even after we reach the spot. We do not take more than 10-15 minutes to reach..."

In October, L-G VK Saxena during a visit to the market had said fire tenders and ambulances will be deployed in and around Chandni Chowk to deal with emergencies. He also said an exercise to identify fire-prone locations and for deployment of fire tenders and ambulances in

the city is being undertaken by the fire department and the initiative will be started from Chandni Chowk before Diwali.



On the issues of hanging wires, a BSES official said, "The old electricity network has been completely replaced. Incidents of short circuits and fires in this heavily congested area have not been on account of BSES... In many places, unused internet and TV cables have not been removed by the service providers, and they continue to be illegally strung across electricity poles and lead to mishaps..."


## 321 deaths in Gurgaon accidents till Oct

Gurgaon: As many as 321 people died and 660 people suffered injuries in 812 road accidents between January and October in Gurgaon district, said Gurgaon deputy commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav at a monthly meeting of the district road safety advisory committee Friday.

Yadav, who chaired the meeting, said several road safety issues and measures to make roads safer for commuters were discussed.



"Several black spots have been identified and issues related to improving road engineering at major points including Narsinghpur cut, Pachgaon Chowk, Shankar Chowk, Sohna bus stand, Dhankot bypass, Pataudi road, Valley View cut, Vatika Chowk, Hero Honda Chowk, Subhash Chowk, Golf Course Road among others were discussed," he said. **ENS**






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## At Jantar Mantar, protest by gig workers

ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

SEVERAL AMAZON workers held a protest meeting at Jantar Mantar Friday, as part of the 'Make Amazon Pay' gatherings happening worldwide, raising a series of demands including a wage of at least Rs 25,000 a month as well as adequate lunchtime and restroom facilities.

At least 15-20 workers donned black masks with gags made of Amazon delivery stickers while another lampooned Amazon executive chairman Jeff Bezos with a horned mask. They also raised slogans of 'mazdoori ekta zindabad' and 'Amazon murdabad'. Also present were members of the Gig Workers Association and the Hawkers Joint Action Committee.

The workers' list of demands included a minimum wage of Rs 25,000 a month; reduction of working hours from 10 to 8; removal of employee surveillance; proper lunch time; restrooms and seating arrangement; and creche arrangements for women.

Warehouse worker Manju Goel alleged, "There are no places to sit... we have to work standing continuously for 10 hours... for Rs 10,000... In 30 minutes' time for eating, 20 minutes are wasted punching in and out."

Other protesters too raised the issue of inadequate salaries and of being "overworked".

In a statement, an Amazon spokesperson said: "These groups represent a variety of interests, and while we are not perfect in any area, if you objectively look at what Amazon is doing in each one of these areas, you'll see that we do take our role and our impact very seriously. We are inventing and investing significantly in all these areas, playing a significant role in addressing climate change with the Climate Pledge commitment to be net zero carbon by 2040, continuing to offer competitive wages and great benefits, and inventing new ways to keep our employees safe and healthy in our operations network, to name just a few. Anyone can see for themselves by taking a tour at one of our sites."

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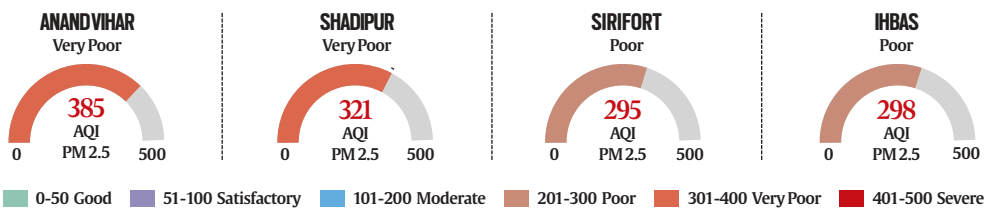
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S K Y W A T C H

**FORECAST: November 26**  
Partly cloudy sky.  
Haze

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0.5°C below normal

**MIN: 9**  
2.3°C below normal

BRIEFLY

AAP lodges complaint with EC against BJP's Tiwari

*New Delhi:* A day after alleging that BJP is hatching a conspiracy to kill CM Arvind Kejriwal, the AAP said it filed a complaint with the Election Commission against BJP MP Manoj Tiwari Friday. “We demand a fair probe in the matter,” said Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, adding that the party will file an FIR against Tiwari. Showing old tweets of Sisodia that claimed threats to Kejriwal’s life, Tiwari hit back and said: “He does this every year, claiming a threat to Kejriwal’s life...”

Case against ex-Cong MLA

*New Delhi:* Police registered a case against ex-Congress MLA Asif Mohammad Khan for allegedly hurling abuses and manhandling a police officer in Jamia Nagar. Police said Khan was using a loud hailer to address a gathering when a police officer confronted him about the same. **ENS**

TWO FORMER GOVT OFFICIALS AMONG THOSE NAMED

CBI names 7 in excise chargesheet

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

THE CBI has named seven persons, including two former government officials, in its chargesheet filed in connection with its investigation into the alleged irregularities in framing and implementation of the Delhi government’s now-scrapped excise policy.

The chargesheet filed on Friday does not name Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia who is among those booked in the case.

“Seven persons have been named — Vijay Nair, former CEO of events company Only Much Louder who had been associated with the Aam Aadmi Party; Hyderabad-based businessman Abhishek Boinpally; managing director of India Ahead News and Andhra Prabha newspaper Mootha Gautam; Sameer Mahendru, managing director of Indospirit Group; Arun Ramchandra Pillai, who owns a Hyderabad-based infrastructure company; and two former excise officers, Kuldeep and Narendra Singh,” said an official, adding that Nair and Boinpally had been arrested by the CBI.

Sisodia, three excise department officials and several vendors and distributors are among

the 15 accused booked by the CBI.

A CBI spokesperson said: “A case was registered on August 17 against the Deputy Chief Minister and others including the then Commissioner (Excise), then Deputy Commissioner (Excise), then Assistant Commissioner (Excise); 10 liquor licencees, their associates and unknown others on a reference from MHA related to alleged irregularities in framing and implementation of the excise policy... It was further alleged that irregularities were committed including in modifications in excise policy, extending undue favours to licencees, waiver/reduction in licence fee, extension of L-1 licence without approval etc. It was also alleged that illegal gains on count of these acts were diverted to public servants concerned by private parties by making false entries in their books of accounts.”

“Searches were earlier conducted at the premises of the accused in various locations which led to recovery of incriminating documents/articles, digital records etc. Further investigation is continuing to investigate the role of accused named in FIR and other persons on various allegations including conspiracies with other licenseees, money trails, cartelisation and larger conspiracies in the formulation and implementation of the excise policy,” he added.

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

WITH HIS name not finding a mention in the CBI chargesheet in the Delhi excise policy case, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia tore into the BJP and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi “should stop hatching such conspiracies against the elected government”.

While Sisodia is named in the FIR filed earlier by the CBI, the chargesheet does not mention him.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, too, took the opportunity to back his deputy once more. “Manish’s name is not in the CBI chargesheet. The whole case is fake. Nothing was found in the raid. 800 officers found nothing in their investigation for 4 months. Manish gave hope of a good future to crores of poor children of the country through an education revolution. I am sad that a conspiracy was hatched to defame such a person by implicating him in a false case,” he tweeted.

Sisodia, meanwhile, said: “After months of investigation,



While Sisodia is named in the FIR filed earlier by the CBI, the chargesheet does not mention him. *Amit Mehra*

CBI has given a clean chit to me in the case. They raided my house, bank locker and even visited my village but could not find anything. They put 800 officers but couldn’t achieve anything. The CBI’s chargesheet now clearly shows that BJP, through its L-G and chief secretary, filed a false FIR against the liquor policy to malign my name and show the AAP government chosen by the people of Delhi in a bad light. Now, L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena should resign and strict action against the CS should be taken for defaming Delhi government.”

He also demanded an apology from the Prime Minister: “*Desh ke raja pradhan mantri jo CBI, ED ka durpayog kar ke vipaksh ki sarkar ko giraane ki koshish karte hain, unhe bhi maafi mangni chahiye.*”

“BJP should feel ashamed for putting such allegations against every other scheme of the Delhi government. Classrooms are being constructed and they are raising questions. These are classrooms for poor children. Actions should be taken against L-G and CS for their involvement in BJP’s conspiracy,” he said.

“Soon, Satyendar Jain will also be cleared like me.”

Nadda: AAP will bite the dust in Delhi, Himachal and Gujarat

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

BJP CHIEF JP Nadda Friday claimed that the AAP will lose in all 67 Assembly seats in Himachal Pradesh elections and will meet a similar fate in the Gujarat polls.

In a public meeting for the MCD poll campaign in Patel Nagar, Nadda cited works by the municipal corporations ruled by the BJP and challenged Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to cite even two works done by his government in Delhi.

In a scathing attack at AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the BJP president said he contested Lok Sabha polls against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varanasi and licked the dust. Following this, the AAP contested Assembly elections in all constituencies in UP, Uttarakhand and Goa where its candidates lost deposits on most of the seats, Nadda said.

In Uttarakhand, AAP’s CM candidate joined the BJP as did the party’s Himachal Pradesh state president, he added.

“In Himachal, they are contesting all the 67 Assembly seats. I can give in writing that they will lose in all these constituencies. They will meet a similar fate in Gujarat,” he said.

Nadda said the MCD regularised temporary employees, set up 17 multilevel parkings, installed LED street lights, established smart classes in 907 schools, opened 52 new schools including one in Lajpat Nagar that is “one of the best in the world” besides other works.

BJP’s manifesto puts women front and centre

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

PROPERTY TAX exemption for women, FD scheme for girl children, 50 all-women Annapurna kitchens, self-defence classes for women and girls in every ward — these are some of the women-centric promises that feature in the BJP’s MCD poll ‘sankalp patra’ (manifesto) released Friday.

Releasing the manifesto, Union Minister Piyush Goyal took a dig at the AAP-led Delhi government and said over the last eight years, it has done nothing but indulge in corruption and disappointed the people of Delhi. “It should have given Rs 42,000 crore to the civic body based on the Finance Commission’s recommendations, but the Kejriwal government halted the works of the corporation by not releasing funds,” he claimed.

He further alleged that the Kejriwal government has not done anything for the city’s infra-



*Amit Mehra*

structural development: “Not even a single hospital is constructed and its mohalla clinics are a failure. Besides big boardings and hollow promises, the government has given nothing to the people and slum dwellers.”

Other promises include starting an FD scheme for girl children under the PM Kanya Yojana under which a fixed deposit of Rs 5,000 will be made for every girl, and they will be given Rs 50,000 when they turn 18. It has

also promised free bicycles for meritorious students of Class V in MCD schools.

A 5% additional rebate on registration of properties for women and expansion of pink toilets and baby feeding rooms in popular markets of the city also figure in the manifesto.

It also pledges to address issues pertaining to other sectors including jobs for youth and issues faced by traders, senior citizens and slum dwellers. It has prom-



Union minister Piyush Goyal, Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta at the manifesto launch. *Prem Nath Pandey*

ised jobs for the youth by setting up startup hubs, food trucks, night restaurants and cloud kitchen policy, and fellowship and internship opportunities.

Along the lines of AAP’s happiness curriculum, the party has promised to develop happiness hubs for youngsters where they can learn arts and music. It also spoke of plans to develop and convert 1,616 MCD schools to smart schools by 2024.

For traders and street vendors,

it has announced to regularise weekly markets. The party also said if voted to power, it will do away with health and factory licences from April 2023 and grant 15% exemption on trade licences.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said, “With help from the Centre, we will provide houses to 7 lakh poor people in Delhi in the next five years and simplify housing rules with more exemption in property tax.”

He added, “If we come to power, basic facilities in slums, JJ and unauthorised colonies will increase. Further, we will modernise health facilities of the corporation and connect them with jan aushadhi kendras.”

To resolve the parking issue, the party pledged to convert all its services online with an app to access parking availability in the pipeline by the next financial year. As many as 1,000 chhath ghats, 1,000 e-vehicle charging stations, 4,000 auto-rickshaw stands and facilities for stray animals are also on paper.

BJP can’t remember what they said 10 days ago: Rai

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

WITH A week left for the MCD polls, Delhi environment minister and AAP state convener Gopal Rai speaks to *The Indian Express* about the party’s promises, BJP’s allegations among other things.

What is your strategy heading into the MCD polls?

All our focus is on the ‘Kejriwal ki sarkar, Kejriwal ka parshad’ campaign. Under this, we are focusing on five aspects. Nulkad sabhas are being held by star campaigners at prominent crossroads. Manish ji is going around, I am going on the ground

and interacting with the public. We have witnessed a turnout of around 500-1,000 people in every ward. A second round of door-to-door campaigning, booth samvaad, and dance for democracy are being held across all wards to engage with voters.

The AAP campaign is centred around Kejriwal but he is in another state (Gujarat)...

Kejriwal is everywhere. He will be here in person in the last week of campaigning, holding roadshows.

Your party workers, including MLAs, are telling people they will lose electricity connections if they vote for BJP?



Delhi environment minister and AAP state convener Gopal Rai. *Amit Mehra*

But the power department comes under the Delhi government.

No, a discussion is going on that if BJP comes to power, it will stop MCD elections. The BJP has

sent out this message that they will not conduct civic polls in Delhi and will implement the system that was in existence earlier. The MCD ran the city earlier, so this has created fear among people, and gossip is doing the rounds that if their party comes to power, it will stop the benefits people are availing under the AAP government.

Have the recent videos of AAP minister Satyendra Jain from inside Tihar impacted your campaign?



The BJP was also in the same mode during the Assembly elections too. Back then, AAP’s key agenda was to talk about the positive work of the government, and we are going on with the same positive campaign.

As for these allegations, ask any BJP spokesperson what they said 10 days ago, they won’t be able to answer. The party has nothing to show for their performance over 15 years, so they come up with allegations every day.

Have people died of dengue this year? Hospitals say yes, MCD data says no

**ANKITA UPADHYAY**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

EVEN AS several hospitals across the city report fatalities due to dengue, official data released by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi maintains that not a single dengue death has taken place in the national capital so far this year.

*The Indian Express* spoke to senior officials at prominent public and private hospitals, who confirmed that they had seen deaths as a result of haemorrhagic fever, complications due to dengue, and co-morbid conditions.

Every week, the MCD releases a report on dengue, malaria and chikungunya cases and deaths. According to the latest data, 3,044 dengue cases and zero deaths have been reported this year. Civic body officials claimed the data was not being shared by hospitals, which is why it wasn’t part of the official bulletin.

Safdarjung hospital, one of the biggest central government-run medical institutions, said five patients each died due to dengue in September as well as in October, and one each in July and January. So far, the hospital has reported 813 cases.

At Lok Nayak, Delhi government’s biggest hospital, 313 cases were reported from August to October 29. Dr Suresh Kumar, medical director of the hospital, acknowledged there were fatalities but added: “The number of dengue-related deaths were not very high this year as compared to the years before the pandemic.”

At Ram Manohar Lohia hospital, four deaths were reported in September and six in October. Official sources said this included patients from Delhi as well as outside. “Most of the patients who passed away had haemorrhagic

fever,” said an official.

The situation was similar at GTB hospital where five patients died of dengue from September to November. “In September, 2-3 dengue cases were being recorded every day in our hospital, which increased to 4-5 cases in October and 6-7 in the first half of November. However, things have become better now and cases have slowed down,” said the official.

According to sources at AIIMS, 15-20 patients each day were being seen till mid-November due to the warm temperature, but the number has reduced now.

MCD officials who release the dengue report every week say they get data from hospitals from a Delhi government portal, which did not mention any fatality. “It is the hospitals which are responsible for misreporting as they did not disclose any fatality due to dengue, hence, we did not add it in our weekly report so far,” said an MCD official.

Hospitals, however, said they shared the data with officials concerned. State health secretary Amit Singla remained unavailable for a comment.

Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, said that “the number of patients was high, but fatalities were not that high”.

Dr Charu Goyal Sachdeva, head of the department, Internal Medicine, HCMCT Manipal Hospitals, said patients also came in with dual infections like typhoid fever or hepatitis A along with dengue fever.

“We saw a high number of dengue cases in the months of September and October — 20-22 patients every day. We have also seen a few fatalities in the ICU, mostly due to dengue shock syndrome,” she said.

In fresh polygraph with Aaftab, experts check, recheck facts

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

SESSION TWO of the polygraph test on Aaftab Poonawala (28), who was arrested for allegedly murdering his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar, saw officials questioning him about his relationship with the 27-year-old woman, if and why he attacked her and their fights.

“We asked him the same questions to check for discrepancies in his statement and confirm facts. We asked about his relationship with the deceased and what triggered him to attack her. We also asked about their fights and the motive... if it was pre-mediated or done in a fit of rage. He was cooperative but was not feeling well because of the weather,” said an FSI official.

With Friday’s session, which went on for nearly three hours at FSI Rohini, the test has been completed, said officials. Police and forensic officials said the session was short as Poonawala

complained of fever and cold.

“It will take almost two-three days to analyse the results and prepare the report. If the report isn’t satisfactory, we will call him for more sessions. Only after the polygraph test is conducted will police move for a narco-analysis test,” said the official.

During Thursday’s session, Poonawala was asked if and how he committed the crime, where he hid the evidence and questions about his childhood and family among other things.

Police also questioned a friend and his landlord in connection with the incident. Police sources said the friend met the couple while they were backpacking in Himachal Pradesh and helped them get a flat in Chhattarpur Pahadi. He was one of the last few people in touch in Poonawala, sources said.

The friend’s landlord said, “Police came with Poonawala and asked me about him. I said I’ve never met him. His friend lived in my flat for 8-9 months, but left a few months ago...”

OPENED IN 1978

Owner of Midland Book Shop, one of Delhi’s most popular, dies at 94

**PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

ITS AISLES packed with books catering to every interest, and helpful suggestions tailored to each reader coming in from a family member helming the cash register, the Baigs and Midland Book Shop have been an integral part of South Delhi’s literary life. But the story of this family-run enterprise, one of the city’s beloved indie bookstores, began with the enterprising Mirza Yaseen Baig, the family’s grand patriarch, who set up the bookshop in the city nearly five decades ago. Baig passed away on Thursday, at the age of 94.

In the 1970s, when the Telangana Movement in Andhra Pradesh began affecting commerce in the city, the Baigs, who ran a bookselling business in Hyderabad’s Sultan Bazar, decided to shift to Delhi. Over time, the New Book Land, a kiosk at Connaught Place set amid the hubbub of the Janpath flea market and at a stone’s throw away from Depaul’s, became the first stop for Mirza Yaseen Baig in 1978, who would cycle across the city, building up a clientele for his books. By the time he launched Midland in Aurobindo Market in 1985, he already had a loyal client base. Since then, the Baigs have added two other stores to their

family-run enterprise, one in South Extension Part I and the other in Gurgaon, each with a cult following of its own.

From ministers to authors and publishers to cash-strapped college students, teachers and parents keen to introduce their toddlers to reading, Midland became a pit-stop for book lovers across ages, in part owing to Mirza Baig’s entrepreneurial foresight. Long before the onslaught of online book behemoths offering heavy discounts, Baig began selling books at a discounted rate of 20 per cent to his customers, creating a conducive environment for his readership. He backed young authors, giving



Mirza Yaseen Baig set up the bookshop in the city nearly five decades ago. *Twitter*

them prominent display in his stores and went out of his way to suggest books to each reader

who walked into his store, a trait continued by his sons and grandsons, who now run the

family enterprise. “The first time I first met Mirza Yaseen Baig *saab* was sometime in mid-2010 at Midland Book Store,” recalled writer Amish, “He supported me when few others did... Whenever I went to Delhi for my book tours, I always met him and sought his blessings. He was a kind and gentle soul. I will miss you greatly, Baig *saab*. Farewell until we meet again.”

As news of the patriarch’s death broke, writers and long-time patrons took to social media to pay him tribute. Food historian Pushpesh Pant tweeted, “Deeply saddened by (the) passing (of) Dada Sahib Beg (sic)... He lavished affection on me and kindly al-

lowed me to buy expensive books on credit in the early 1970s. Teens to 70s bond continued. For me, this is an end of an era...”

Despite his advanced age, till before the pandemic, Mirza Baig was a regular at the Aurobindo Place outlet. When interacting with customers became limited because of hearing difficulties, he would sit outside in a chair, flanked by rows of books, watching people savour his labour of love.

“As I recall Mirza Yaseen Baig’s gentle smile as he sat in the courtyard outside his bookstore, watching the world pass by, I am overcome by nostalgia and remembrance. I knew Midland

from the early days in Janpath. Then, in the 80s, more than a quarter century ago, I began frequenting Midland in Aurobindo Place. Mirza Yaseen Baig had an intuitive and instinctual understanding of both books and readers. He could guide his customers to the exact book they were searching for. It wasn’t a sterile environment — readers were encouraged to browse, and the smell of paper and books and the warmth and unassuming scholarship he passed on to his children and grandchildren make Midland the great institution that it is,” recounts writer Namita Gokhale, a long-time patron of the book shop.



# 72nd Constitution Day

## VIVEKANANDA INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

### TECHNICAL CAMPUS



Prof TV Subba Rao, Chairperson, VSLLS

**Three scores and 12 years ago, when the entire world looking with keen interest at a newly born nascent India, we started our tryst with constitutional Governance, to realize our dreams, aspirations and goal values as succinctly crystalized in the Preamble of the Constitution in sonorous terms, namely Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.**

ON 26TH November 1949, the constitution was enacted and adopted and it came into force on 26th January 1950. Earlier the 26th November of every year was celebrated as National Law Day celebrated by lawyers, judges and law students with rhythmic rhetoric about the greatness of the Constitution. The Government of India in the year 2015 on the occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar decided very fittingly to celebrate it as a Constitution Day.

Awareness of Constitutional Law is irreducible minimum for an Indian, not merely for law persons. If education makes a person as human being, Constitution makes him a responsible citizen.

The architect of the constitution, Dr. Ambedkar expressed sincere hope when the constitution was adopted, *I feel that the constitution is workable, it is flexible and strong enough to hold the country together both in peacetime and in wartime.* He added, *indeed if I may say so, if things go wrong under the new constitution, the reason will not be that we had a bad constitution. What we will have to say is that man was vile.*

The legacy which we got cannot be squandered for political expediencies or economic advantages. India is built on sacrifices and we should not now sacrifice India for selfish motives, political ambitions.

In spite of the limitations the Indian Constitution stood by the test of times. In its more than 72 years of existence it has faced many challenges and onslaughts; amended 105 times. It was a witness and was instrumental to many phases of Indian post constitutional developments which were facilitated also by expansive interpretations by the courts to bring in new rights to, to place limitations by way of the basic structure, constitutional morality, transformative constitutionalism and the like. It is as a live wire – if it is dead, or growth of the nation is stunted we are undone. Constitution is a lodestar of our aspirations.

### VIVEKANANDA SCHOOL OF LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES

VIVEKANANDA School of Law and Legal Studies (VSLLS) is a school under Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies- TC (VIPS-TC). Dr S C Vats, Chairman, VIPS-TC has established VIPS in 2000. VIPS-TC has made its unique place amongst all law institutions.

VIPS-TC is affiliated to Guru Gobind Indraprastha University, recognised by Bar Council of India and UGC under section 2(f), with NAAC 'A' accreditation. It is well known for its robust efforts in legal education. It has produced many gold medallists, judicial officers, and lawyers placed with highly reputed industries, law firms, senior advocates, as also in government and non-government establishments. VSLLS is currently running the B.A.LL.B. (H), B.B.A.LL.B. (H), and LL.M. in Corporate Law and ADR programmes in its own hi-tech, Wi-Fi enabled campus in Delhi. Students with higher rank in CET (conducted by the GGSIP University) prefer taking admission in VIPS-TC.

Contemporary legal education is essentially a multi-disciplined and multi-purpose education system. Therefore, VSLLS has not remained confined within the framework of the prescribed curriculum. The value-added courses, and various professional skills development activities are focussed to enhance critical thinking, drafting, debating, counselling, and mooted amongst the students. The academic and non-academic infrastructure of VIPS supports multi-dimensional teaching methods.

VIPS-TC supplies a conducive atmosphere for research and publications. VSLLS has around 40 publications and two blogs. Various research projects are going on, including funded project by National Human Rights Commission. The law students take part in research and publications. They are the part of the editorial team of annual journal "VIPS Student Law Review" journal. One of the biggest strengths of VIPS is its faculty members having distinguished academic achievements to their credit.

VIPS-TC has signed around six MOUs. It invites expert professionals from India and abroad and organises extension visits aiding the VIPS students to get opportunities to interact with the professional world. Students are engaged in community services through legal aid services, Pro-bono club and the NSS. The student centric and outcome-based policy of the law school is inculcating the sense of responsibility amongst students. VIPS Centres of Excellence like Constitutional Law, Cyber Law, ADR, Criminal Justice Administration, International Law, and others are making students confident to move ahead.



Prof Rashmi Salpekar, Dean, VSLLS  
dean.vsls@vips.edu







**Heartiest Greetings**  
to all  
on the occasion of  
**Constitution Day**

Saturday, November 26, 2022

“ हर नागरिक का आत्मसम्मान और आत्मविश्वास बढ़े, ये संविधान की भी अपेक्षा है और हमारा भी ये निरंतर प्रयास है। चाहे सामान्य नागरिक हों, कर्मचारी हों, जनप्रतिनिधि हों, न्यायिक व्यवस्था से जुड़े लोग हों, हर व्यक्ति, हर संस्थान के लिए कर्तव्यों का पालन बहुत जरूरी है।”  
- नरेन्द्र मोदी





INTERVIEW: ISUDAN GADHVI, AAP CM CANDIDATE, GUJARAT

‘We are not the Congress. We have set the narrative in the state, forced Narendra Modi to enter schools’

AAP’s chief ministerial face denies party has lost initial momentum, claims to be ahead of BJP in poll race

SOURAV ROY BARMAN  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 25

Having nearly reached the last leg of campaigning, how are you placed?  
I’m campaigning across the state. We’re receiving terrific responses from people across Gujarat. It’s almost as if people themselves are fighting the polls on our behalf.  
  
How many seats do you expect to win?  
I want to reiterate that the results will be great for us.  
  
The latest perception is that AAP has lost its initial momentum.  
That is far from the truth. In fact, our internal surveys show that we have crossed the BJP in terms of vote share in the last three days. We are in a position to form the government. We have distributed at least 10,000 guarantee cards in every con-

stituency in the last one week. In Khambhaliya, we have distributed 46,000 cards. Every card will cover at least two people, if not more.  
  
Do you expect a rise in vote share to translate into seats?  
See, after touching a vote share of around 24 per cent, one starts getting seats. A 26 per cent vote share may result in 15 to 20 seats. A party with 30 per cent vote share gets up to 50 seats. Currently, we have a vote share of 38 per cent, while the BJP is trailing with 36. The Congress has a share of around 23 per cent.  
  
In Gujarat, the Congress vote share has never been below 30 per cent, even though it lost to the BJP over the years. Will it change this time?  
The Congress is an old party. So far, there were only two political players in Gujarat. The Congress has a base of supporters and their families. The share of such voters will not be



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

over 9 per cent. But beyond that, they don’t have voters as such. So far, people had to choose between the devil and the deep blue sea. The AAP has gained momentum because the BJP is not popular at all. Had the Congress wanted, it could have formed the government in 2017. But it was not

They also had the Patidar movement as a catalyst.  
The Congress always bagged 60-62 seats. It went up to 77 due to the Patidar Andolan and the Dalit Movement (after the Una flogging incident), among others.  
  
There is no such people’s movement in Gujarat this time.  
This time there is no movement as such, but the anti-incumbency is stronger.  
  
Your seat Khambhaliya is dominated by people of the Ahir caste, while you are a Gadhvi, who are far fewer in numbers. Would that be a hurdle?  
When AAP enters the field, such factors do not matter. Secondly, I am a leader of farmers. This seat belongs to farmers. We will win it by a big margin. Ahirs will also support me. I am going across the villages and receiving love.  
  
Your family was against you joining politics.  
They did not know I was joining politics. They felt bad when I resigned (as an editor). They

pointed out how our family never even had a sarpanch. They felt politics is a dirty business. It took me two days to convince them. I told them I have another 20-25 years ahead of me, during which I want to serve the people. They kept resisting, because I was quitting at the peak of my career.  
  
What was your primary motivation behind entering politics?  
No longer could I sit by helplessly, as the poor and the marginalised suffer. I felt I could not live for myself anymore. By the grace of God, I have every material comfort. But people expected me to deliver things I could not, while being in journalism. I felt it was time.  
  
Usually, the BJP campaigns pick up in the last leg as PM Modi and other senior leaders start campaigning aggressively.  
They will not be able to do anything. We are not the Congress. This is Isudan Gadhvi, Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party. We have forced Narendra Modi to enter schools. We set the narrative in Gujarat now.

FOR MORE LOG ON TO  
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KEY PLAYERS  
  
GUJARAT BJP CHIEF  
PAATIL ASKS PARTY  
WORKERS TO ENSURE  
AAP LOSES ITS DEPOSIT

SEIZURES WORTH RS 282 CRORE MADE IN GUJARAT SO FAR: EC

A firebrand Congress MLA’s worry: Division of Thakor votes

RITU SHARMA  
BHABHAR (BANASKANTHA),  
NOVEMBER 25

FROM WAVING at villagers from the sunroof of her SUV to riding pillion at a motorbike rally, Congress MLA Geniben Thakor (46) has her own star value in the Bhabhar taluka of Vav Assembly constituency in Gujarat’s Banaskantha district.

“I am in my *pihar* (maternal village) today,” Thakor says in the village of Mera on Thursday morning as a crowd of women, not interested in what the other leaders at the event had to say, suddenly stand up and rush to listen to what their “daughter and sister” had to say. The fire-brand Congress MLA plays to the gallery and goes on to say, “Vote for your daughter. I do not need to give a bhashan (lecture) about the BJP or the Congress in Mera village. Either I win or lose but I am always with you in your happiness or sorrow. There is not a single family in the village I have not personally reached out to during the Covid pandemic.”  
The MLA is lauded for being one of the few vocal Congress legislators during Assembly sessions and for not shying away from raising her voice on women-related issues. She lost the 2012 election to Shankar Chaudhary of the BJP from Vav by more than 72,000 votes but defeated him five years later by a margin of over 6,600 votes. This time, Chaudhary has been shifted to the neighbouring Tharad Assembly constituency and the ruling party has fielded Swarupji Thakor.

Geniben, who is contesting her fourth Assembly election, appeals to the villagers about ensuring that Thakor votes do not get divided. “When two candidates from the same community are contesting the election, be careful that the community (Thakor) votes do not get split. You might, under society or community pressure, agree to give five votes to one candidate and three to the other from the family. I am requesting you to not fall under this trap,” says the legislator.  
Village after village the Congress leader makes a similar appeal. “In 2012 too, the



Geniben Thakor campaigns in Bhabhar taluka of Vav on Thursday. Ritu Sharma

VAV 2017



Winner:	Geniben Nagaji Thakor (INC)
Votes:	1,02,328
Runner-up:	Shankarbhaj Lagdhirbhai Chaudhary (BJP)
Votes:	95,673

same thing happened. Chandulal (Thakkar) contested on an NCP (Nationalist Congress Party) ticket and was in the third position with over 30,000 votes. He did not win but wasted 20,000 votes from the community and 10,000 votes went to the BJP. If these votes had gone to me, I would not have lost,” says Geniben.  
Accusing the BJP of attempting to split Thakor votes, she adds, “The BJP had many leaders from our community but giving the mandate (to Swarupji Thakor) overnight is only for the sake of contesting the election. He has nothing to do with the BJP or elections but only to split votes.”

BATTLEGROUND GUJARAT

For minority voters, more of same on offer; ‘no enthusiasm’ about parties

ADITI RAJA AND  
SOHINI GHOSH  
VADODARA, AHMEDABAD,  
NOVEMBER 25

THE GUJARAT Assembly polls is set to see many key contests, but the one for minority votes is rather tepid, with major political parties circumspect about fielding Muslim candidates.  
The Muslim community, which forms approximately nine per cent of the population of Gujarat, says in one voice that it is “unexcited” about the polls, as “none of the parties” has ever lived up to their pre-poll promises or reached out to the community.  
This time, across the 182 constituencies, the Congress has fielded only six Muslim candidates—a figure it has not crossed since 2002. The BJP, which has a Christian candidate in the fray after two decades, from the Vyara constituency, last fielded a Muslim candidate in 1998 from the Vagra Assembly seat, unsuccessfully. The new entrant, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), has fielded three Muslims, while the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has fielded 11 Muslim candidates out of a total 13 nominations. There are, of course, several independent candidates from the community, who are expected to dent the vote share primarily of the Congress.  
The Muslim votebank, tradi-



Congress has fielded six Muslim candidates. Nirmal Harindran/Flip

tionally associated with the Congress, has seen diminishing importance in the state and thereby, also a disproportionate lack of representation in the Assembly. In 2017, three of the six candidates fielded by the Congress made it to the Assembly, while only two of five were elected in 2012.  
The Congress, which had fielded 10 Muslim candidates in 1995, has slowly distanced itself from issues pertaining to minorities, barring their elected representatives from the community, who continue to be vocal in registering their opposition to issues that matter to the community.  
A senior Congress leader says, “One cannot deny that in the current political scenario, the Congress has to counter the BJP’s Hindutva politics, which includes

MUSLIM CANDIDATES		
YEAR	INC	BJP
1995	10	0
1998	9	1
2002	5	0
2007	6	0
2012	5	0
2017	6	0
2022*	6	0
*AAP - 3; AIMIM - 11		

the Muslim community largely stood by sitting five-term MLA C K Raulji but “lost faith” in him after the remission to the Bilks convicts. Raulji was part of the Jail Advisory Committee (JAC) that recommended the release.  
For BJP leaders, not fielding Muslim candidates is a “non-issue”. A senior BJP leader said, “According to the party ideology, we work for all communities. Anyone can approach government leaders at any time. The party does not feel the need to field Muslim candidates as appeasement is not part of PM Narendra Modi’s agenda. Where we have support from the Muslim community, voters vote for development and not for a candidate belonging to their religion.”  
According to Gopalani, while the AAP promises of schools and

healthcare is attractive, their party is “too new”.  
The absence of strong Muslim political leaders in the state is hurting the community. Gopalani, a close aide of Ahmed Patel, says, “The community is especially angered by the Congress because it has actively pitted strong community leaders against each other and divided the voices that would otherwise come out in unison ... One would think that the presence of more parties and candidates offers a choice, but it’s actually detrimental, as it would completely dilute the minority votes and make them ineffective. There is a dearth of powerful Muslim leaders, who could assure someone seeking justice, and also deliver on the assurance using their legislative clout... There is no face, no name, and no person to turn to in a crisis, and this is true for all parties.”  
The AIMIM, which has been pitching itself as defenders of Muslims and Dalits in this Assembly election has 11 Muslims and two Dalits in the fray. In AIMIM’s campaigns, chief Asaduddin Owaisi and his Gujarat head Sabir Kabliwala have been invoking the Bilks Bano Remission, political neglect of Zakia Jafri, Uniform Civil Code, and the Disturbed Areas Act. But, the party has steadily lost elected representatives since its much-hyped victories in the local civic body elections in February 2021.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

The other Amit Shah: Ex-mayor leads BJP charge in Ahmedabad

SOHINI GHOSH  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 25

MOST BJP workers accompanying Amit Popatlal Shah, 63, chief of the Ahmedabad BJP unit and former mayor, struggle to match his energy and fast pace of walking. As he hits the campaign trail across the Ellisbridge Assembly constituency, from where he is contesting, Shah is adamant the AAP won’t make a dent at any of Ahmedabad city’s 16 Assembly seats. He is also confident of personally winning by over 80,000 votes. Once elected, he has vowed to resolve all disputes related to the Disturbed Areas Act in the Paldi area of his constituency.  
At a Navrangpura rally on November 23, the second of the day for Shah in which he and his entourage covered nearly four



Amit Popatlal Shah campaigning in Ellisbridge. Sohini Ghosh

kilometres on foot across residential societies as part of his pre-poll outreach, the public reception was mixed, often lukewarm. At times, Shah could be seen waving at empty balconies, with intrigued shopkeepers and bystanders reluctantly waving back, that too, intermittently.  
“We’re distributing pamphlets, because voters should know about my candidature. As a corporator, I would make it a point to share booklets of the work I have got done through the year, every year. The public should know what their elected representative is doing for them,” Shah told *The Indian Express*.  
A lawyer by qualification, he was accompanied by his family—daughter and wife—at the rally. A party loyalist, he has been a councillor at AMC for five consecutive terms, holding various posts—octroi chairman, water

sake as the Union Home Minister sitting in New Delhi. He says the confusion over two people with the same name was short-lived. “Initially, there used to be some confusion. In 1995, when Amit Shah (the Union Home Minister) became the Gujarat State

ELLISBRIDGE 2017



Winner:	Rakeshbhai Jasvantlal Shah (Rakesh Shah) (BJP)
Votes:	1,16,811
Runner up:	Dave Vijaykumar Ratilal (INC)
Votes:	31,606

Financial Services (GSFC) chairman, company officials landed up at my place with flower bouquets. I was a councillor at the

time, and I told them I’m not the person they were seeking. Thereafter, I never really encountered such confusion,” says Shah.  
Notably, Amit Shah the mayor was a deputy accountant with Ahmedabad District Cooperative Bank, where Amit Shah the current Union Home Minister was chairman in 2005.  
On the campaign trail, the warmest welcomes are extended by residents who claim to be affiliated to the RSS, or to have known Shah from his mayoral days.  
With declared moveable and immovable assets totalling Rs 3.15 crores, Shah also faces a criminal case for attacking activist Medha Patkar in 2002 during the Narmada Bachao Andolan—the trial is still on before an Ahmedabad magistrate’s court.  
Ellisbridge has been a prestige seat for the BJP, with PM Modi having aspired for the seat once.

The party has maintained control over the seat since 1998. As the city BJP chief, Shah is also tasked with managing wins in all 16 Assembly constituencies within the city’s jurisdiction. He candidly says he is banking on the Hindu vote, and that the party is not canvassing in Muslim areas. In fact, Shah’s Navrangpura rally started from the Jain temple of Dada Saheb Na Pagla, and went via the Shri Siddheshwar Hanumanji Temple.  
“At Ellisbridge, the Congress has never won (the last non-BJP candidate to be elected was in 1995, an Independent), and our victory margin has only gone up over the years. I believe this year’s margin will be above 80,000. We have not gone to Muslim areas... We will give a *badajhatka* (huge jolt) to the Congress this time. AAP is not even in the picture,” said Shah.

HIRABHAI SOLANKI, 58  
BJP candidate from Rajula

A four-time MLA, he lost in 2017 from Rajula. Business, cable network-transport and construction listed as sources of income.

MOVABLE ASSETS (with wife, two children and under HUF account)  
₹22.16 crores including 1.7 kg gold, high-end cars, ambulance and mini bus.  
  
IMMOVABLE ASSETS (with wife and son):  
₹30.89 crores including commercial shops in Mumbai; a hospital in Jafrabad; and three residential flats in Mumbai.  
  
LIABILITIES  
₹5.35 crores

# 7 GOVT & POLITICS



## LADAKH TALK

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh R.K. Mathur, who was in Delhi on Friday, called on Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and DoPT Jitendra Singh at his North Block office. It is learnt that both the leaders discussed the upcoming 'night sky sanctuary' in Ladakh. Once completed, it will be India's first such sanctuary for stargazing. The sanctuary is being set up by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which comes under the Ministry of Science and Technology, also headed by Singh.

## HISTORY IN WAITING

If the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation to appoint advocate Nupur Bhati as a judge of the Rajasthan High Court is accepted by the government, it will be a rare instance of a 'judge couple' together. Advocate Bhati is married to sitting High Court judge Justice Pushpendra Bhati. Incidentally, Justice Bhati is the brother of Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati.

## A VISIT TO REMEMBER

AMITABH KANT, India's G-20 Sherpa, along with Ambassadors of G-20 nations visited Andaman and Nicobar Island Friday, where they visited the Cellular Jail. The Indian side hosted lunch for the foreign diplomats at Andaman Island and served local cuisines. After the visit, Kant tweeted, "A moment of immense pride for the entire nation as the journey of #G20India presidency begins at Cellular Jail, Port Blair." "This is an iconic monument in the history of India's freedom struggle where several nationalist heroes like Veer Savarkar, Shiv Verma, Yogendra Shukla and many others were imprisoned," he said.

### HANDLING LOKPAL COMPLAINTS

## Protect identity of complainant, stick to probe deadline, CBI chief tells officers

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

PROTECTING THE identity of the complainant and avoiding direct contact with him or her; not considering requests for withdrawal of the complainant; and focusing on the allegations rather than peripheral issues to complete the preliminary inquiry in a time-bound manner were some of the directions from CBI Director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal to the agency's investigation officers (IOs) with regard to handling matters received from the Lokpal, it has been learnt.

The Lokpal is an independent statutory body established under Section 3 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and it has been functioning since the appointment of its chairperson and eight members in March 2019.

The government had in March 2020 issued a format for filing corruption complaints against public servants with the Lokpal.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the CBI Director recently issued these directions, asking officials to protect the identity of the complainant dur-

ing the preliminary inquiry. "It was conveyed that the Lokpal underlined that the identity of the complainant should be protected and that's why, the complainant may not be directly contacted or examined in ordinary course. If there is a compelling requirement for collecting some important document or some information, and the IO wants to contact the complainant, in such a situation, the IO should send a proposal justifying the reasons to the policy division for further taking up the matter with the office of the Lokpal," sources said.

Sources said it was also conveyed that the agency should not entertain any request from the complainant for withdrawing the complaint, during the preliminary inquiry. "The IOs should inquire all the allegations levelled by the complainant in the complaint during the preliminary inquiry and should focus on the allegations and not on the peripheral issues," sources said, citing the directions.

It has been also conveyed to the CBI officials that the preliminary inquiry should be conducted with promptness and concluded within the deadline as prescribed by the Lokpal.

## Mainpuri bypoll: Dimple reached out to me for support, says Shivpal

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 25

ELABORATING ON how the "reconciliation" between him and nephew Akhilesh Yadav came about, Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party president (Lohia) Shivpal Yadav on Friday said Akhilesh's wife Dimple Yadav was the one who reached out to him for support, adding that he told her that she should be his "witness if Akhilesh does anything wrong".

On Sunday, the SP chief shared the stage with Shivpal and also touched his feet in an apparent bid to highlight unity



**SP chief Akhilesh Yadav told party workers he and Shivpal have buried the hatchet. File**

in the Yadav family. In a show of bonhomie, Akhilesh assured party workers that the two have indeed buried the hatchet.

On Friday, Shivpal also said he and Akhilesh would stay together in the long run and that it

### LACHIT BARPHUDAN'S 400TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

## India correcting past mistakes by recognising unsung heroes: Modi

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Friday said that India was correcting its past mistakes by celebrating its heritage and remembering its unsung heroes.

"For centuries, we have been told that the history of India is of slavery, and stories of resistance were deliberately suppressed but that mistake is now being corrected," Modi said while speaking at the closing ceremony of the Assam government's three-day-long celebrations of legendary Ahom general Lachit Barphukan's 400th birth anniversary in Delhi. He also released a book 'Lachit Barphukan – Assam's Hero who Halted the Mughals' at the event.

Lachit had led the Ahom soldiers to defeat Mughals at the Battle of Saraighat on the outskirts of Guwahati in 1671. Through this mega event that was attended by senior Union ministers, the BJP governments, in Assam and at the Centre, have been pushing for Lachit's recognition as a national hero.

"For centuries, we were told that we were looted, beaten and defeated. But India's history is not just a history of slavery. India's history is a history of showing extraordinary valour



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, and Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal at the closing ceremony of the 400th birth anniversary celebrations of Lachit Barphukan in New Delhi, Friday. Anil Sharma**

and heroism against tyrants. India's history is of victory, of sacrifice, of bravery... of great traditions. But it's unfortunate that even after Independence, we continued to be taught the history that was written as a conspiracy during the age of slavery," said Modi at the event.

"After Independence, it was necessary to change the agenda of the foreigners who enslaved us, but that was not done. The stories of fierce resistance by Ma Bharti's sons and daughters in all corners of the country have been deliber-

ately suppressed. Does Lachit Barphukan's valour not have any value? There are countless stories of victory over tyranny during the long period of repression. The mistake of not giving those events a place in the mainstream is being corrected now. This event being held in Delhi is a reflection of that change," he said.

Modi referred to the defeat of the Mughals at the Battle of Saraighat as an example of resistance and protection of traditions. "Assam's history is itself a valuable heritage of India's jour-

ney and culture. We bring together different thoughts, ideologies, societies, cultures, traditions and faiths... But if someone tries to suppress under the force of the sword, tries to change our eternal identity, we also know how to respond to that. After gathering all their strength, the Mughals had laid siege to Guwahati. But warriors like Lachit Barphukan freed Guwahati from the oppressive Mughals. Aurangzeb tried to reverse the defeat by all means but he failed," he said.

### 'BRIBERY BID'

## Telangana HC stays SIT notice to Santhosh till Dec 5

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana High Court on Friday stayed till December 5 the notice issued for appearance to senior BJP leader B.L. Santhosh by the Telangana Police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged offer to bribe four TRS legislators.

Santhosh and the BJP on Friday filed a petition in the Telangana High Court seeking to quash the notice issued under Section 41A of CrPc by the SIT. The HC did not quash the notice but granted a stay till December 5, said advocate N. Ramchander Rao. "The grounds on which we asked for quashing the notice was that on one hand the SIT issues notice under 41A of the CrPc and on the other, it allegedly files a memo seeking to name him as an accused. We contended that on what grounds was this done," said Telangana BJP general secretary Parminder Reddy. **ENS**



**BJP's B.L. Santhosh**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 25

DAYS AFTER BJP leader and leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari threatened to boycott the Constitution Day programme over the "exclusion of his name" from the invitation letter, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee — in a first since last year's state elections — held a "courtesy meeting" with Adhikari at her Assembly chamber on Friday, raising eyebrows in political circles, with the Congress terming it a "Didi-Modi patch-up" and the CPI(M) calling it part of an "understanding between the TMC and the BJP".

Party MLAs Ashok Lahiri and Agnimitra Pal and Chief Whip of the BJP legislative party Manoj Tigga accompanied Adhikari to the meeting that was held shortly after the Assembly session broke for recess in the afternoon and lasted for about five minutes.

Later, participating in a discussion over Constitution Day in the House, Banerjee said of Adhikari, "I had at one point



**West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee at the statue of Dr B.R. Ambedkar at the West Bengal Assembly on Friday. Partha Paul**

adored him like a brother."

When Banerjee won the 2011 Assembly polls, Adhikari was among her close lieutenants along with Mukul Roy, Subrata Bakshi and Partha Chatterjee, but their relationship deteriorated after Adhikari resigned from the TMC and the state cabinet and joined BJP in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in December 2020. After that, both leaders never met again.

Adhikari told reporters that it was "just a courtesy call. Nothing else should be read into

it. I did not have tea".

Reacting to the "courtesy meeting", Congress leader Kamurzzan Chowdhury said the process of "Didi-Modi patch-up" was underway, with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"The Centre released funds for Pradhan Mantri Gram Awas Yojana yesterday, and Mamata is scheduled to meet PM Modi on December 5. Today, the CM met Suvendu. All these points to the fact that the process for Didi-Modi patch-up is underway," he said.

## Cong to EC: BJP using children in campaign

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

THE CONGRESS on Friday approached the Election Commission demanding action against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP for allegedly using children for their political campaign in the run-up to the Gujarat Assembly polls.

The party had earlier filed a complaint with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights after the BJP put out

on its social media handles a video of a young girl sitting with Prime Minister Modi and speaking in Gujarati about the BJP's governance record.

The Congress move was interesting as the Election Commission had some weeks ago issued a notice to the party after the NCPRC approached it seeking action and an inquiry into a complaint against the party and its leader Rahul Gandhi for allegedly "mis-using children as political tools" in the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"We are very deeply concerned about children being exploited and being used for election campaigns in Gujarat. We have produced videos that lots of people have seen; it has been widely made viral. We have produced those videos before the Election Commission and we have given a written complaint that the Election Commission itself has very clearly observed several times, that children must not be used in campaigns, they must not be exploited in campaigns and yet, this is happening," said senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid.

## Executive, judiciary like siblings, fighting not right: Rijiju

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

AMID THE strained executive-judiciary relations over the working of the Collegium, Friday saw some bonhomie between the two with Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju saying "the judiciary and executive are offspring of the same parents and it's not right to keep fighting".

"It's said many times, we are offspring of same parents... *hum sab kae ki hisavidhan se janam huya hai... hum sab ek hai, bhai bhai hai, aapas mein ladna jhagadna theek nahi hai. Hum log milke kaam karenge...* (We are all born from the same Constitution... we are all one... we are brothers, fighting is not right)," Rijiju said addressing



**CJJ Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Law Minister Kiren Rijiju at an event to mark Constitution Day, in New Delhi on Friday. PTI**

an event in the Supreme Court on the eve of Constitution Day.

Sitting on the stage also was Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, among others.

Congratulating the new CJJ for his vision, the Law Minister said under his stewardship, the

great tradition of the top court and Indian judiciary will achieve new heights.

Reminding the different organs in a country, Rijiju said "we respect all the organs; we respect all the people who are managing those organs".

## No statutory bar on bodies with religious names to register as parties, EC tells SC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

THE ELECTION Commission has told the Supreme Court that "there is no express provision which bars associations with religious connotations to register as political parties under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act-1951".

The Commission said this in an affidavit filed in response to a PIL by former chairman of the Shia Waqf Board of Uttar Pradesh, Syed Waseem Rizvi, seeking cancellation of political parties having religious symbols and names.

The affidavit pointed out that a Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha to amend the Act so that no association bearing religious name would be registered as a political party. However, it was not passed and consequently, lapsed with the dissolution of the then Lok Sabha in 1996.

The affidavit said political parties are required to abide by the principle of secularism as mandated by Section 29A of the Act. It added that a political party applying for registration with the EC "must bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India and the principles of socialism,

secularism and democracy and to also uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India" and that if the memorandum or rules and registration of the party do not conform to these, it shall not be registered by should not be registered by the Commission.

The EC pointed out that in 2005, it had taken a policy decision to not register political parties that had religious connotations, under Section 29A. It was submitted that since then no such party was registered and that "certain" political parties mentioned in the writ petition were registered prior to that.

The affidavit said the EC issued an order on May 19, 2014, directing that political parties seeking registration should not have religious connotation.

The EC said that "the registered names of the existing political parties having religious connotation have become legacy names, as they have been in existence for decades" and left it to the court to decide whether the names should be disturbed or not. It submitted that the petitioner's prayer to cancel the party symbols with religious connotations is legally untenable as symbol reserved for a national or state party is strictly based on its electoral performance.

### BENGALURU VOTER DATA COLLECTION ROW

## EC orders scrutiny of changes in electoral rolls since January 1; suspension of 2 officials

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

THE ELECTION Commission on Friday ordered complete scrutiny of all deletions and additions in the electoral roll of Shivajinagar, Chickpet and Mahadevapura constituencies in Karnataka since January 1 this year. The EC also issued orders for suspension of two Additional District Election Officers, nearly a week after reports emerged that a private entity was collecting voter data.

The EC reacted to media reports that an NGO, Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust, was collecting voter data in Bengaluru city in the garb of awareness activities through a house-to-house survey in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) areas.

The EC has asked Karnataka chief secretary and the state's

Chief Electoral Officer to suspend and initiate departmental inquiry against Additional District Election Officer (ADEO) in-charge of Shivajinagar and Chickpet S.Rangappa, and ADEO of Mahadevapura K.Srinivas.

For the three constituencies, the ECI also extended the period of claims and objections under the ongoing special summary revision of the electoral rolls from December 9 to December 24. It also ordered that the list of all deletions and additions after January 1 in these three constituencies will be made available to the recognised political parties so that they can file claims and objections.

The commission also appointed officers from outside the BBMP to ensure the purity of the electoral rolls, and another set of officials to oversee the special summary revision in the three constituencies.

## JDU slams Centre over GST compensation

**SANTOSH SINGH**

PATNA, NOVEMBER 25

THE JD(U) on Friday targeted the Centre over the issue of GST compensation to states.

"The VAT system was much better as it was the state government that used to collect it. Not only did it (the Centre) stop compensating for replacing VAT with GST, but it also levied five per cent GST on hospital beds and some life-saving drugs," JD(U) spokesperson Sunil Singh said.

"Ever since GST was brought in 2017, the Centre has so far given Rs 5,55,121 crore to all states and UTs. Of this, Bihar got only Rs 15,441 crore, which is 2.78 per cent of the total amount, whereas Bihar accounts for 8.6 per cent of total population of the country," he added.

JD(U) leader Rahul Kumar said: "We lodge a protest with the Centre on three counts — a state like Bihar feeling financial pang after average Rs 4,000 annual compensatory fund getting withdrawn from this year, levying tax on essential items affecting the poor, and compensat-

ing Covid relief fund against GST compensation".

In response, BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand told *The Indian Express*: "JD(U) has been crying foul for more GST share. Every state is being compensated as per recommendations of the 15th finance commission... Presently, revenue collected from GST is shared equally between the Centre and states. The collection from cess levied on luxury, demerit and sin goods is used entirely to compensate states for revenue loss due to GST implementation".

Indian judiciary and also to ensure that the independence of the Indian judiciary is untouched," Rijiju said.

In his address, the CJI said while no institution in a democracy, or a constitutional democracy, was perfect, the solution is to work within the existing system. "All the judges of the Collegium, including me, are faithful soldiers who implement the Constitution. When we talk of imperfections, our solution is to work our way within the existing system."

He said that becoming a judge is a call of conscience more than anything else.

"Getting good people to enter the judiciary, getting good lawyers to enter the judiciary, is not just about reforming the Collegium," the CJI said.

# 8 EXPRESS NETWORK

## BRIEFLY

### JAMMU & KASHMIR IED found in minibus on national highway

**Jammu:** J&K police found an IED inside a minibus at Nashri along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district on Friday. The IED was recovered from the backseat of the vehicle, wrapped in a black polythene bag after the bus was intercepted at a police naka near the mouth of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee tunnel (Chenani-Nashri tunnel). The bomb disposal squad recovered and disposed of the IED. Ramban SP Mohita Sharma said that police had prior information about something suspicious in the minibus, but it was sure what exactly it was. **ENS**

### UTTAR PRADESH Complaint against youth for killing rat

**Budaun:** A complaint was filed against a youth in UP's Budaun by an animal activist for throwing a rat into a drain, after tying a stone to its tail and it later died. Police identified the youth as Manoj Kumar. DSP Alok Mishra said the dead rodent was sent for a post-mortem to Indian Veterinary Research Institute in Bareilly. Mishra said since a rat does not come under category of animals, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act is not applicable. Legal opinion is being sought and action will be taken accordingly, he added. **PTI**

### ODISHA BJD, Opp target each other over farmers' issues

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha Assembly on Friday failed to transact business as fight over farmers' issues echoed in the House with members of both ruling and opposition targeting each other. As the opposition BJP and Congress started sloganeering against the state, accusing it of being "anti-farmer" over issues such as delay in payment of insurance, input subsidy assistance etc, ruling BJD took on BJP-led Centre for not hiking paddy MSP. The chaos led to repeated adjournments by Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha. **ENS**

## DEMONETISATION HEARING IN SC

# Govt, RBI in 'symbiotic' relation, one shutting ears to other not right way: AG

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

THE CENTRAL government and RBI enjoy a "symbiotic" relation, and one shutting its ears to the other may not be the right way to do things when larger economic policy measures like demonetisation have to be taken, Attorney General R Venkataramani told the Supreme Court Friday.

The AG told a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice S Abdul Nazeer, "I'm not saying RBI's role has to be minimised, or its application of mind is of no consequence...It's a very symbiotic, organic connection between the Government and RBI...They have to work in sync with each other. That's very important. You don't say I will sit in one

chamber unconnected with you, or I will not listen to you, or I will not lend my ears to you. I don't think that's the right way in contemporary times".

The bench, also comprising Justices BR Gavai, AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian and B V Nagarathna, is hearing petitions challenging the 2016 decision to demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes.

The AG was responding to a query from the bench, which referred to the argument of the petitioners that under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the RBI alone had the right to regulate the issue of banknotes — and therefore, the recommendation to withdraw the legal tender must have emanated from the RBI.

(PTI adds: Defending the policy, Venkataramani also said that

the court should refrain from exercising judicial review of the executive decision. "It is well settled that if the relevance of scrutiny disappears, the court will not render opinion on questions of academic value. The court will not grant a declaration when no tangible relief can be granted by way of putting the clock back, which is unscrambling a scrambled egg," he said.)

On Thursday, Senior Advocate P Chidambaram had argued that in 2016, what was witnessed was a reversal of process. The Central Government issued a "virtual command" and this was "merely and meekly" accepted by the RBI, he contended.

Referring to this Friday, Justice Nagarathna said, "...the argument is that the Act recognises the expertise of the per-

sons in the RBI Board and it is that expertise that must recommend to the Central government. We are not saying the Centre is bound by the recommendation, but the question is where it should emanate. No doubt, symbiotic relation, but the legislation is not like that."

The AG responded that "having regard to the composition of the RBI, the connection between the working of the government and the RBI must be seen from a very flexible point of view".

"It is not a case where RBI in its functions is impeded by an outside agency like the Government of India and saying don't do this. Then it's a different matter altogether. So you are looking at the necessary symbiotic connection between the Government and the RBI, look-

ing at a very complex issue of moving towards a modern economy and very stable monetary policy. Your Lordships know budgets come and go....There are failed budgets, successful budgets. We don't say a failed budget means somebody had not applied his mind," he said.

He said, "...if you want to sever the symbiotic connection, and put them in compartment, isolation and say RBI must apply its mind, never in consultation with Government of India and then come and tell the Government, I have a recommendation, will you consider that, I think I have a small difficulty in such a construction...That's why I say give it a flexible, wide construction."

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



Construction underway at the Ram Temple site in Ayodhya. Devotees can offer prayers at the temple by January 2024, according to the Construction Committee. *Express*

## Amitabh roped in to narrate series on Ayodhya Temple, history of Ram Janmabhoomi

**DIVYAA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

A SERIES focusing on the history of Ram Janmabhoomi and construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya will be narrated by actor Amitabh Bachchan, according to the Ram Temple Construction Committee.

The committee also said in a statement that a panel has been formed to oversee the series from script to final product. The panel comprises Central Board of Film Certification chairperson Prasoon Joshi,

actor-filmmaker Chandraprakash Dwivedi (of popular Hindi series *Chanakya* fame), author Yatindra Mishra, and member-secretary of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Sachchidanand Joshi.

The Construction Committee's chairperson, Nripendra Misra, told *The Indian Express* that the series has been conceptualised to be "a multi-part non-feature series", comprising six to eight episodes, each 40 minutes long. The series will initially be released on Doordarshan and later, a call will be taken on releasing it on other platforms, he said.

The Ram Temple is likely to be



**Amitabh Bachchan**

thrown open to the public by December 2023, and the series is likely to release around the same time. The makers are pitching it as a modern equivalent of the Ramayan and the Mahabharat series that originally aired on Doordarshan in the late 1980s.

"It will document not only the temple construction, but all aspects leading up to November 2019 (when the final judgment in the Ayodhya dispute was delivered by the Supreme Court)," a source said. The series may also feature actors who play characters during Ramlila presentations across India and abroad, including in countries like Indonesia and Mauritius.

The series has tentatively been titled "Ram Arpan", but the makers will zero in on a final title as the filming progresses. It is presently in the scripting stage, and cameras have been set up at the temple construction site to capture various stages of "the making of the Ram Temple". It has also been

learnt interviews with prominent personalities and members of the public are being recorded regarding their association with the Ram Temple movement and Ayodhya.

The construction work is progressing as per schedule, the Construction Committee said. The temple's ground floor will be ready by December 2023 and devotees will be able to offer prayers by January 2024 after 'pran pratishtha' (installation of the deity), the committee announced in September.

Mishra said the temple is being constructed in a manner that "on Ram Navami the sun's rays will fall on the forehead of Lord Ram at 12 noon." For this, a team comprising experts from CSIR-CBRI Roorkee, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, and IUCAA-Pune have been roped in. In the lower plinth of the temple, around 100 iconographic panels based on scenes from Valmiki Ramayana will be installed. Initially, pencil sketches will be made of the scenes, and then clay models will be prepared before the sculpturing process begins.

The Ram Temple complex is being developed with the goal of having zero discharge, the statement said.

## HC judge recuses from hearing ED plea seeking Raut's bail cancellation

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 25



**Raut was granted bail by an PMLA court**

JUSTICE MAKARAND S Kamik of the Bombay High Court on Friday recused himself from hearing a plea filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against the bail granted to Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and his alleged associate Pravin Raut, in a money laundering case.

The bail plea was listed before Justice Karnik for hearing on Friday. Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh mentioned the plea before Justice Karnik and sought urgent hearing as the same was listed at serial number 101 on the daily board and was unlikely to be taken up on Friday.

However, Justice Karnik recused himself from hearing ED's application. The central agency is now likely to move an alternate bench of HC seeking relief. A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court

granted bail to Raut on November 9 in a case linked to redevelopment of Patra chawl in northern suburbs of Mumbai. The same day, ED moved HC seeking cancellation of the bail. The central agency had sought the court to grant an urgent interim stay on the bail order.

However, the HC on November 9 refused to suspend the bail order and cleared the way for Raut's release from jail. On November 10, seeking response from Raut and granting ED the liberty to amend its plea, a bench of Justice Bharati Dangre had posted next hearing on November 25.

As per notice of assignments of HC judges, Justice Kamik was assigned to hear the pleas pertaining to the cancellation of Raut's bail from November 21.

## CRACKDOWN ON GUN CULTURE IN PUNJAB

# Cops book 11-yr-old for 'glorifying gun', drop name after it turns out to be toy

**KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR**  
AMRITSAR, NOVEMBER 25

IN AN overdrive to book people glorifying gun culture, the Punjab Police Thursday found itself in a spot when it booked four people, including a 11-year-old boy and his father, after they were seen holding firearms in a picture posted on Facebook.

The minor's name, however, was later removed from the FIR registered at the Kathunangal Police Station in Amritsar Rural after it came to fore that photo was uploaded in 2015 when he was four years old and that he was holding a "toy gun."

Caught on the wrong foot, the Amritsar Police claimed that the boy's name was never mentioned in the FIR. DSP Majitha Manmohan Singh said a police team spotted the pictures on social media and registered a case. "But boy was never named in FIR. He was mentioned as son of one of the accused. There will be no case against the child. We have removed it," said the DSP.

The boy's father had posted a photo of his son on the latter's

Facebook page in which the child was seen standing with a gun with a bandolier on his shoulder.

According to the FIR, police booked four people — a man, his minor son, and two others, all of whom were seen in the picture.

News Agency/PTI reported the boy's father said that he had received a phone call from Kathunangal SHO. "He referred to the photo on my Facebook. I told him that the said photo was of 2015. I said the child was four years old then, now he is 11 years old. He told me to delete the photos. But yesterday, I came to know that a case had been registered," said the boy's father, a businessman.

Meanwhile, senior SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia slammed AAP government for registering the FIR, saying the child was only holding a big "toy gun".

Police is finding it difficult to explain how they booked a child. "We registered the case after spotting video online...there was no bad intention" said DSP Singh.

The state has banned public display of firearms and songs promoting gun culture, including on social media.

## Sangeet Natak Akademi names 128 winners of Akademi Puraskar

**ADITYA VADDEPALLI**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

THE SANGEET Natak Akademi on Friday announced 128 winners of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (Akademi Puraskar) for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 for their significant contribution to the fields of music, dance, theatre, traditional/folk/tribal music/dance/theatre, puppetry and contribution/scholarship in the performing arts.

The General Council of the Akademi also announced 10 eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as Akademi Fellows. While the winners of the Akademi Puraskar will receive a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, Akademi Fellows will get Rs 3 lakh each.

Among the Akademi Fellows are Bharatnatyam exponent Saroja Vaidyanathan, Kathakali dancer Sadanam Krishnan Kutty, Manipuri dancer Darshana Jhaveri, Hindustani classical vocalist Chhannulal Mishra, Carnatic music clarinet player A K C Natarajan, Hindustani classical singer Malini Rajurkar, two-time Grammy nominee and tabla maestro Swapan Chaudhuri and Hindustani and Carnatic music vocalist T V Gopalakrishnan, among others.

The Akademi also announced the names of 86 artistes from the field of performing arts who have won the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Award under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which commemorates 75 years of Independence. These artists will receive a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.

## SHRADDHA WALKAR MURDER CASE

# UP man held for 'objectionable remarks' in video

**MANISH SAHU**  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 25

DAYS after a 26-year-old man allegedly made "objectionable" remarks to a mediaperson in connection with murder case of Shraddha Walkar in New Delhi, the Bulandshahr police on Friday arrested him on charges of making deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings. The police identified the ac-

cused as Vikas Kumar and said he falsely identified himself as "Rashid Khan".

SSP Bulandshahr, Shlok Kumar said two days ago, a video showing a man identifying himself as "Rashid Khan" and purportedly making "objectionable" remarks surfaced on social media. He added that on Friday, police took him into custody and during questioning, he identified himself as Vikas Kumar. Police found that five cases, two in Bulandshahr and

three in Gautam Buddh Nagar, were registered against him. The cases were in connection with theft and Arms Act. The video was apparently shot in Delhi, he added.

SHO, Sikandrabad police station (Bulandshahr) Akhilesh Tripathi said on a complaint filed by Ravindra Sharma, who claims to be a member of the Hindu Jagran Manch, registered an FIR. He added that Vikas Kumar hails from Bulandshahr, works as labourer and is unmarried.

## Railway Minister takes stock of braking issues in goods trains, seeks swift resolution

**AVISHEK G DASTIDAR**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

TAKING STOCK of the problem of erratic brakes in goods trains, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has directed officials to resolve the issue with utmost priority.

Vaishnaw reviewed the problem with officials on Thursday and Friday, and took detailed presentations on the history and usage of the Bogie Mounted Brake System (BMBS), as well as the problem itself and what is being done to fix it.

The *Indian Express* had published a report on Wednesday (November 23) regarding the issue with the braking system on goods trains that has seen the system fail on a number of occasions.



**Vaishnaw reviewed the problem with officials**

Vaishnaw is learnt to have asked officials to validate in-house trials of functioning of the braking system. There have reportedly been more than 50 trials done by various Railway units responsible for the resolution of this system. He is also learnt to have asked officials to fix the issue as soon as possible with priority, sources said. So far, trials have not revealed exact parameters or model condi-

tions under which the said faults with the braking system are occurring, sources said. Faults include inadequate brake power, especially in downward slopes, and non-uniform braking distances.

According to officials, once conditions and parameters are identified, there can be a solution.

The New York design centre of German equipment manufacturers Knorr-Bremse, which supplies the BMBS system, has also been pressed into service. There have been video conferencing with their engineers and designers, officials said. Their representatives have also travelled to India to aid the Railways in the investigation.

The company has been asked to come up with a solution that does not involve dismantling braking system from existing wagons,

and also does not involve holding up wagons for days. "Around 1.1 lakh wagons have this brake system. So, taking them out of circulation for days is not an option. In the meantime, we advised reduced speeds" an official said.

On Tuesday, an association of chief loco inspectors, who are responsible for the running of goods trains, submitted result of their deliberation to the Ministry. They highlighted 10 issues with BMBS, and have sought the Railway Board's immediate cognizance. The issues include "variable braking distance", apparently even after applying the full brake, trains have been known to move for up to three kilometres. They also described the issue of "loss of braking effect" as a "very dangerous situation".

## GIRLS RIDING BOAT ACROSS SUTLEJ TO REACH SCHOOL IN PUNJAB

# Govt committee recommends setting up of pontoon bridge, shifting students to hostel

**DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL**  
LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 25

A PUNJAB government committee has recommended setting up a pontoon bridge to help facilitate two girls from a village in Ferozepur near India-Pakistan border, who have to take a boat ride and then walk 4-kms to reach a senior secondary school. The panel also suggested the girls from Kaluwarra village, surrounded on three sides by waters of the Sutlej river and by intentional border fence on the fourth, be shifted to a hostel in city if their parents agree.

The four-member committee was constituted after National Human Rights Commission, tak-



**Kareena Kaur and Kirna Rani on their way to school in Punjab's Ferozepur district. File**

ing suo motu cognizance of *The Indian Express* report. The *Indian Express* report highlighted how Kareena Kaur (12) and Kirna Rani (13) from Kaluwarra cross the river on bedi, a boat that

is manoeuvred using an overhead cable or rope tethered to poles on either ends of the bank, and then walk to Gatti Rajoke village every to attend classes at the Government Senior Secondary

School there. While the village has a primary school, children have to move to other villages to access high school, and boat is the only medium to cross the river.

The four member committee, constituted by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Ferozepur Sagar Setia, visited Kaluwarra to probe the matter. In its report, submitted to Setia, the committee said the "setting up of a pontoon bridge can facilitate students who move to other village via boat to access senior secondary school".

"The committee, however, feels that CPWD is the right authority whose services can be procured to setup a pontoon bridge from Kaluwarra to Gatti Rajoke," read the report.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

● Bharat Jodo yatra pushes Pappu behind — but hard work awaits

be part of the yatra for a few hours "to encourage Rahul". An assistant professor from Amravati joined the yatra in Shegaon and said the time had now come "to work at the ground level because the opposition is blanked out."

Rahul talked about "berozgari, mehnagai and nafrat;" (unemployment, inflation, hate) as he has done in the past, but it is resonating with many more today. With growing economic distress, some say they identify more with what Rahul "had been saying all along".

It is not so much Rahul Gandhi who has changed — as his comments on Savarkar illustrated; he had criticised in Maharashtra someone who is seen as an icon in the state.

Nor do Rahul's speeches set the house on fire. In a way, they are reminiscent of Rajiv Gandhi in the early years. In his campaign speeches in the 1983 state elections in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka — which the Congress lost — Rajiv used to painstakingly explain the value of hard work and abstract concepts of political freedom to puzzled audiences. In his speech at Shegaon, Rahul, too, dwelt philosophically, and at length, on the need to shed fear, and the linkages it had with hatred and violence.

Significantly, it is the people's perception of Rahul that is undergoing a change. There is only one reason for it, and person after person mentioned it. Rahul Gandhi had come to them on foot, walking 25 km a day. He need not have undertaken the yatra; after all, he is from a "shahi gharana", they said. And having embarked on a mammoth journey of 3,500 km, he had not run away — but stayed the course. It is this which has caught the

imagination of a section of the people.

Senior Congress leaders say he is like a "man possessed", determined to complete the yatra. Given his interest in martial arts over the years, and the daily fitness regimen he reportedly follows, Rahul walks so fast that if you blink, he is gone.

As he walks, he is cordoned off by a rope held by a string of policemen to prevent people from entering the walking enclosure. He has two planned "sitting interactions" with individuals or groups and three daily walking "interactions", all cleared by the party (and they do not allow media persons near him). It is not as if those waiting by the wayside get a chance to exchange a word with him — or he with them.

The day I saw him, he walked with Tushar Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi's grandson, signifying the coming together, once again, of the Gandhi and Nehru-Gandhi families for uniting India.

And yet the yatra is rebranding Rahul Gandhi. It is also bestowing on him a legitimacy that was earlier missing. Two years ago, the dissenting group of G-23 in the Congress had questioned his leadership — and his behind-the-scenes decision-making without accountability. Today, without being the president of the party, he is emerging as the unquestioned leader of the Congress.

Yet, without a revival of the Congress organisation, Rahul's yatra will only be a flash in the pan. The elephant in the room, then, is the Congress organisation, admit senior Congress leaders.

The curiosity about the yatra, and the visible response to it,

has perked up the Congress cadre. It was after 10 years that the Congress organised a meeting in Maharashtra as large as the one in Shegaon, with 150 Congress leaders on the dais, and people pouring in from neighbouring districts and local police putting the estimates at 2-3 lakh jampacked in the 22-acre ground.

These meetings will be no more than an exercise in event management unless followed up with an action plan — and painstaking, hard work behind the lights, which the Congress has shown little appetite for. The BJP's winning streak combines Narendra Modi's appeal with Amit Shah's organisational prowess.

It goes without saying that the acid test of Rahul's yatra will lie in winning elections. But, curiously, he has tried to delink the yatra from electoral gains, not to appear power hungry — but this makes little sense. A political party is nothing if it cannot win elections and deliver on its promises.

And this is not only about winning 2024 two years away. Nor about the elections due in Maharashtra the same year. All eyes will now be on the imminent 26 municipal corporation polls, including the BMC, that are due in Maharashtra. How will the Congress fare, for instance, in the local polls in Nanded, where Rahul walked for many days and is supposed to have made an impact? Or, in the four other districts of Maharashtra the yatra touched? How does the Congress encash the interest the yatra has rekindled in the party?

If the Congress loses the

Gujarat elections, which it seems to have given up on, and does not manage to get Himachal Pradesh in its bag, Rahul's yatra can also lose steam. If the party wins Himachal — which even if it has little to do with Rahul or Bharat Jodo — it will give a further impetus to the yatra.

Now that the yatra has strengthened his position, Rahul Gandhi will be watched for how he handles the latest crisis in Rajasthan, with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot going ballistic against his younger colleague Sachin Pilot, calling him a "gad-dar" (traitor). It is a pre-emptive strike by Gehlot to prevent Pilot from becoming the CM. By vehemently declaring that Pilot will not become CM, the normally measured CM has virtually threatened a split if the party high command replaces him with Pilot.

Rahul Gandhi has to figure out how he redeems his word to Pilot, signals to younger leaders they will be rewarded if they work hard and deliver, weakens the anti-incumbency of four years by projecting a new face in the state like Pilot — and ensure that the Congress government does not fall in Rajasthan.

Whatever be the outcome of the Bharat Jodo yatra, Rahul Gandhi has certainly set a new benchmark for political action — that leaders must go back to the people and listen to them. And even in a 24x7 image-rich politics, powered by the videoclip, the challenge is the effort they put in when the camera is off.

Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, The Indian Express, has covered the last 10 Lok Sabha elections

● Collegium nod to 8 as judges

that they were sent just a month before the then Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice Akil Kureshi retired.

Justice Kureshi was Chief Justice of the High Court for a little over five months from October 12, 2021 to March 6, 2022.

Justice Kureshi, when he was Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court, was at the centre of a two-year deadlock in the Collegium over his appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.

In August 2021, four months after Justice N V Ramana took over as Chief Justice of India, the Collegium recommended nine names, leaving out Kureshi — he was then No. 2 in the All-India list of seniority for judges of High Courts. He was transferred from Tripura to Rajasthan.

In February this year, the Rajasthan High Court had initiated the process of appointment of 8 advocates, four each from the Jaipur Bar and the Jodhpur Bar, as judges of the High Court.

Sources said that consultee judges in the Supreme Court unanimously agreed only on two names and differed on six which were returned to the High Court.

● SC rejects NIA's plea against bail for Teltumbde

(Maoist)... has agreed to allocate additional funds Rs 10 lakh yearly to organise international seminar...We have also sent funds for your upcoming...human rights convention at Paris."

The NIA counsel also cited the statement of a protected witness that the accused's younger brother Milind Teltumbde had allegedly said he took to Maoism inspired by Anand Teltumbde. Milind was killed in an encounter with security forces in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli in November 2021.

The agency cited another document that was allegedly recovered from the computer of a co-accused Surendra Gadling in which he purportedly says he met a comrade as instructed and that the latter had appreciated his "efforts to provide information on enemy movements in Bastar and other areas of interest".

The NIA also pointed to a purported letter from Wilson to "Comrade Prakash" about Teltumbde allegedly agreeing to coordinate the activities of a fact-finding commission which the Maoists intended to set up to look into "fake encounters" by security forces.

The bench asked: "What is the specific role attributable to him if you bring the provisions of UAPA into operation?" ASG Bharti re-

sponded by citing "unlawful activities which are in the nature of preparatory work, of association in any manner, coordinating with these proscribed organisations".

She contended that Teltumbde's "academics was his front face", and that "it is not his lectures that are the problem but what is going on in the garb of his front face is the problem".

Appearing for Anand Teltumbde, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal said the "documents shown by NIA are...recovered allegedly from Rona Wilson's computer, not mine".

The court pointed out that there were some emails recovered from him as per the chargesheet.

Sibal, however, said they were "about fact finding, these are academics". He said: "...none of the emails have any relation to any provisions of the Act. The threshold under the Act is very high."

Stating that Teltumbde was an academic, Sibal said: "Basically, his subject is Dalits. Wherever there is an issue of Dalits, he is out there as an academican to deal with it... If in the process, there is some organisation which according to them is closely associated with some other organisation, then I am speaking there as an academican, that doesn't make me

a terrorist."

He also denied that Teltumbde had received funds from Maoists to attend international seminars. "There is no evidence of any money coming in from them... They alleged I went to Paris and the fund was paid by CPI (Maoists) but the American Institute in Paris wrote to us that all expenses are paid by the Institute. And it was an academic conference," Sibal argued.

Sibal said that Teltumbde was estranged from his brother Milind and had not met him for the last 30 years. He also contended there is "nothing palpably wrong with the High Court's findings that there is no prima facie evidence to connect him with Maoist activity...The High Court applied its mind and prima facie says there doesn't seem to be any violation of the Act itself. And granted bail".

In its order, the Bombay High Court had allowed Teltumbde to deposit cash bail of Rs 1 lakh and furnish local sureties within a period of eight weeks. Among the other conditions were that he has to furnish his contact numbers and address, and submit his passport to the NIA.

Teltumbde's lawyer Neeraj Yadav informed the court that the passport was submitted to the NIA at the time of his arrest.

● SC notice to Centre on plea to recognise same-sex marriage

Justice Chandrachud, however, pointed out that the Act also says "the male has completed the age of twenty-one years and the female the age of eighteen years".

Rohatagi said, "But it does not say it should be a union of A and B... that's a matter of interpretation. It's too important a matter affecting the whole nation...It's too important a matter, which

should not be further delayed by the examination by the High Courts."

Kaul said the issue also affects the petitioners' surrogacy and adoption rights. "...today, we are looking at a case where apart from Constitutional right, every facet of our existence is affected," he said.

To a query from the bench on the pleas before the Kerala High

Court, Kaul pointed out that it was to declare provisions of the Act, which excludes marriages between same sex couples, unconstitutional and void — and to declare that homosexual couples are entitled to solemnise and register their marriages under the Act.

Chakraborty and Dang said in their plea that they have been a couple for almost 10 years and

had held a commitment ceremony in December 2021, when their parents, families and friends blessed them.

Mehrotra and Anand said they have been in a relationship for the last 17 years and are raising two children. They pointed out that they cannot have a legal relationship of parent and child with the children as they cannot legally solemnise their marriage.

Rajnath: We don't believe in world order where few are considered superior

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh Friday said India does not believe in a world order where a few are considered superior and asserted that the country's actions are guided by the essence of human equality and dignity.

In his address at the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2022 held here, he also said India has always seen security and prosperity as a "collective pursuit" of the entire humankind, in which there is no possibility of "island security or prosperity".

"It is my firm belief that if security becomes a truly collective enterprise, then we can think of creating a global order that is beneficial for all of us," Singh said. The Defence Minister said now "we require to elevate the paradigm of collective security" to a level of shared interests and shared security.

"India believes in a multi-aligned policy which is realised through diverse engagements through multiple stakeholders so that views and concerns of all can be discussed," Singh said.

Final J&K voters' list is out: 7.7L additions, highest ever

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 25

The final electoral roll of Jammu and Kashmir was published on Friday with the highest-ever net addition of more than 7.72 lakh voters, taking the total voters from 75,86,899 to 83,59,771 — 42,91,687 males, 40,67,900 females and 184 third gender.

An official spokesperson said that a record 11,40,768 claims were received through Form-6 for inclusion of names in the electoral roll, of which 11,28,672 were accepted. The claims so accepted included 3,01,961 those of first-time voters, he added.

A total of 4,12,517 requests for deletion from electoral roll were received, 3,58,222 of which were accepted. The claims and objections were accepted from September 15 to October 25, followed by a 15-day period till November 10 for their disposal.

Pointing out that the net increase of registered electors over the draft roll has been 10.19 per cent, the spokesperson said that more than 11-lakh names were included in a single special summary revision period for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. The spokesperson said 10.19 per cent net increase of the registered electors over the draft roll was a milestone.

The final electoral roll has also registered a remarkable 27-point

EXPLAINED Ripples and resolution

IN AUGUST, then J&K Chief Electoral Officer Hirdesh Kumar raked up a controversy when he announced that around 25 lakh new voters were expected to be enrolled in the Union Territory. Political parties in Kashmir reacted sharply to the statement, accusing the BJP of tilting the balance in its favour. Leaders at an all-party meeting in Srinagar on August 22 had resolved that they will not allow any move to extend voting rights to "non-locals" in the Union Territory.

increase in the gender ratio that now stands at 948, he said. The photo coverage in the electoral roll was maintained at 99.99 per cent showing that no new entry without a proper photograph has been allowed in the electoral roll, the official said. There are 57,253 marked "PwD" (persons with disabilities) electors, marking an increase of 46 per cent over the draft roll, he said.

Though the special summary revision-2022 culminated with

the publication of final electoral roll in the UT on Friday, the process of continuous updation shall, however, continue and any eligible citizen who has been left out can apply through any of the modes of registration, including online through NVSP portal, voter helpline app, voter portal or physically applying with the ERO concerned.

With the implementation of four qualifying dates as part of the commission's electoral reforms, the qualifying date would get updated to 1st January 2023, after 31st December, 2022, paving way for all those young citizens who have attained the qualifying age of 18 years between 1st October 2022 and 1st January 2023 to get registered, he said.

After the completion of delimitation exercise, the EC had ordered pre-revision activities in the UT on June 10, primarily including the task of mapping the existing electoral rolls of 83 pre-delimitation constituencies to the post-90 assembly constituencies in accordance with the Delimitation Commission's order, rationalisation of polling stations and integration of the electoral rolls.

On completion of the post-delimitation follow-up and pre-revision activities, the commission had ordered special summary revision of photo electoral rolls in the UT, setting October 1, 2022 as the qualifying date for registration as voter.

SCHOOL JOBS SCAM

Apex court stays Calcutta HC order for CBI probe into filing of WBSSC plea

New Delhi: In a relief to the West Bengal government, the Supreme Court on Friday stayed the Calcutta High Court order for a CBI investigation into the filing of an application by the West Bengal Central School Service Commission (WBSSC) in a case related to the alleged teachers' recruitment scam.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli also stayed the direction of the single-judge HC bench summoning Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Manish Jain before it on Friday in relation to the filing of the fresh application by the West Bengal Central SSC.

"Issue notice, returnable in three weeks. Dasti, in addition, is permitted. Pending further orders, the orders of the Single Judge dated 23 November... and the order of the Division Bench dated 24 November 2022 shall remain stayed. "No further consequential steps shall be taken in pursuance of the impugned orders of the Single Judge which have been affirmed by the Division Bench. The direction to the CBI to investigate at whose behest the interim application was filed before the Single Judge shall accordingly remain stayed," the SC said in its order. PTI

NOTICE BOARD

Govt of India, Ministry of Defence  
Recruitment of Civilian Group 'C' Posts in  
Delhi Area Provost Unit, New Delhi

Applications are invited for the following Group C posts on plain paper as per the format given as under with full particulars alongwith self attested copies of certificate/testimonials in support of age, qualification, caste and experience etc and a passport size photograph duly pasted on the application form from Indian Nationals only:-

Sr No	Name of the Post	Category						Total Posts	pay Matrix Level	Education Qualification and Experience Required
		Gen	SC	ST	OBC	EWS				
1	Cook	-	-	-	01	-	01	L-2 Rs. 19900 + DA and other allowance as admissible	(i) Matriculation pass or equivalent from a recognized Board (ii) Must have knowledge of Indian cooking and proficiency in trade. (iii) Desirable to have one year experience in trade.	
2	EBR	-	-	01	-	-	01	L-2 Rs. 18000 + DA and other allowance as admissible	(i) Matriculation pass or equivalent from a recognized Board (ii) Should be able to carry out all canvas, textile and leather repair and replacement o equipment and boots.	
3	MTS (Safai Wala)	-	-	-	-	01	01	L-2 Rs. 18000 + DA and other allowance as admissible	(i) Matriculation pass or equivalent from a recognized Board (ii) Conversant with the duties of the trade with one year's experience in the trade.	

General Instructions :-  
1. Candidate should read the advertisement carefully before filling up the application form. Candidate to satisfy that, he/she is eligible to apply for the post as per the advertisement.  
2. Application given complete bio data of the candidate to be submitted to The Commanding Officer, Delhi Area Provost Unit, Delhi Cantt 110010 within 21 days from the date of publication in Employment News. 28 days for the Candidates residing in North East Region (Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Haveri Islands).  
3. Screening process to be followed such as written and skill/practical/physical test. The test will be conducted in English/Hindi language. The selection to all Group 'C' posts will be made solely based on marks obtained by the applicants in the written test and subject to qualifying in the skill/practical/physical test.  
4. Syllabus for written test: English, Math, GK and Current Affairs.  
5. Age limit -18 Years to 25 years. Age relaxation for OBC (Non creamy layer) candidates will be given up to 03 years and ST candidates will be given up to 05 years.  
6. The candidate should be in possession of acknowledgement card at the time of test. No candidate will be entertained without acknowledgement card.  
7. Name of the post should be written BLOCK letters on top of the application.

APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF \_\_\_\_\_

I do hereby apply for recruitment in your office and furnish the following particulars :-

1. Name of the applicant (in block letters)  
2. Father's/Husband's Name (in block letters)  
3. Sex: Male/Female  
4. Date of birth  
5. Age as on the closing date of application \_\_\_\_\_yrs \_\_\_\_\_Months \_\_\_\_\_days  
6. Permanent residential address  
7. Present mailing Address  
8. Nationality/Religion  
9. Education qualification.  
10. Experience if any (attach copy of the same).  
11. Any other relevant information.  
12. Whether registered with any employment exchange (yes/No)\_\_\_\_\_. If yes, registration No and name of the employment exchange \_\_\_\_\_.  
13. Willing to work in New Delhi: Yes/No

Affix latest photograph

Declaration :. I hereby declare and certify:-  
(a) That I am not involved in any criminal case and no criminal proceeding is pending or contemplated against me in any court of law.  
(b) That above particulars mentioned in the application are correct and true the best of my knowledge and belief. If any of particulars mentioned by me are false at any stage then I shall be liable to be terminated without any notice.

Place Date  
(Signature of the applicant)

FOR OFFICIAL RECORD ONLY  
1. Received on \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Accepted/Rejected \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Reason for rejection Underage/Overage/incomplete documents/Any other reason to be specified \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Index No : \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of written exam/skill/practical/physical test).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CARD  
1. Name of candidate  
2. Father's/Husband's Name  
3. Date of Birth  
4. Correspondence address (same as per column 7 above)  
House No/Street/Village \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office \_\_\_\_\_  
Tehsil \_\_\_\_\_  
District \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_  
PIN \_\_\_\_\_  
5. Index No \_\_\_\_\_  
6. Venue, Date and time of written exam/skill/practical/physical test \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Controlling officer)

Note:  
(i) The following documents/certificates to be attached alongwith application duly self attested :-  
(a) Two recent passport size photographs.  
(b) Certificate in support of educational qualification.  
(c) self addressed envelope duly affixed with a postal stamp of Rs 22/- only  
(d) Caste/EWS certificates issued by the designated competent authority as per prescribed proforma of Govt of India.  
(e) Experience Certificate.  
(ii) Acknowledgement card will be sent to the candidates in whose respect application found correct after screening of the same for written/practical test.  
(iii) Written exam and skill/practical/physical test, scheduled to be conducted in Delhi Area Provost Unit, New Delhi only. No correspondences regarding the change of examination centre will be entertained.  
(iv) Delhi Area Provost Unit will not be responsible for any postal delay. No correspondence in this regard shall be entertained.  
(v) Place of work: New Delhi. Individual is liable for all India service liability.  
(vi) The number of vacancies notified is subject to change without any further notice. No extra weightage will be given to additional/extra or higher qualification for recruitment.  
(vii) Delhi Area Provost Unit has the right to reduce the number of candidates for written/practical test on the basis of percentage of marks obtained in minimum essential qualification.  
(viii) Please note the incomplete application without affixing photograph or without enclosing attested copies of education qualification certificates/showing date of birth, caste certificate or if applicant is found overage on last date of receipt of application as indicated above will be rejected and candidates will not be entertained for written/practical/interview.  
(ix) Candidates must ensure that no column is left blank or wrong filled. Applications not filled correctly are liable to be rejected and the onus of such rejection would be on the candidate himself. The Establishments/Units Administrations will not entertain any claim.  
(x) No application will be accepted in person or through any representative. The application must be posted to the addressee under registered cover.  
(xi) No TA/DA for test/interview will be paid. Candidates should make their own arrangements for boarding/lodging.  
(xii) Establishments/Unit Administrations will not be responsible to pay any damages in case of injury to candidate during test where applicable.  
(xiii) New entrants to Govt. Service entering on or after 01 Jan 2004 are governed by the New Defined Contribution Pension System (known as New Pension Scheme).

davp-10622/11/0061/2223

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)  
(RAILWAY BOARD)  
RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110001  
CORRIGENDUM NO. 15 to Tender No. WTA-527  
No. 2022R5(WTA)-149 TENDER/527 New Delhi, dated 25.11.2022  
Sub- Tender No. WTA-527 due on 30.11.2022 for "Manufacturing cum Maintenance of 200 nos. of Vande Bharat Trainsets including upgradation of the Government Manufacturing Units & Trainset Depots"  
Corrigendum No. 15 to subject tender has been uploaded. The prospective Bidders are requested to visit website- <https://ireps.gov.in> for more details.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (RS)  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(RAILWAY BOARD)  
RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 001  
E-mail:- [drsm@rb.railnet.gov.in](mailto:drsm@rb.railnet.gov.in)

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Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

3161/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**कुटेशन नोटिस**

हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, नूह में वाहनों की मुरम्मत के लिए हाईवेयर/पेट्री आईटम्स/मिसलेनियस आईटम इत्यादि की अगले एक वर्ष के लिए खरीद की जानी है। इच्छुक सप्लायर दिनांक 05.12.2022 तक अपनी सीलबंद कुटेशन महाप्रबंधक, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, नूह के नाम भेज सकते हैं। जिसके उपर स्टोर आईटम कुटेशन लिखा होना अनिवार्य है। स्टोर आईटम की लिस्ट व अन्य शर्तों के लिए महाप्रबंधक कार्यालय में सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं। कुटेशन से संबंधित सभी दस्तावेज किसी कार्य दिवस में आकर 200/- रुपये जमा करवाने उपरांत महाप्रबंधक, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, नूह से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

**महाप्रबंधक,  
हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन,  
नूह।**

**कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय  
पथ निर्माण विभाग,  
पथ प्रमण्डल, साहेबगंज  
शुद्धि-पत्र**

PR No. 282997 (Road) 22-23\*D के माध्यम से प्रकाशित e-Tender reference no. RCD/SAHIBGANJ/ 855/ 2022-23, Dated : 21.11.2022 के क्रमांक 1 में अंकित Name of Work - Reconstruction of Simra-Boarjijore-Borio Road (MDR-208) (from Chainage 17.150 km to 26.820 km) (Total length 9.670 km) under Road Division, Sahibganj for the year 2022-23 के स्थान पर "Reconstruction of Simra-Boarjijore-Borio Road (MDR-208) (from Km 4.00 to km 26.820 km) (Total length 22.82 km) (including construction of bridge) (Part of Road Division, Sahibganj) under Road Division, Sahibganj for the year 2022-23" पढ़ा जाय। शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगे।

**कार्यपालक अभियन्ता  
पथ प्रमण्डल, साहेबगंज**  
PR.NO.283355 Road(22-23):D

**छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल  
पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19,  
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002**

**// सर्वसंबंधितों को सुचना //**

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधितों को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स जिवदल पैथर सीमेंट प्राईवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा ग्राम- कोसमपाली, बरमुड़ा, धनागर, सराईपाली, तहसील व जिला - रायगढ़ (छ.ग.) में प्रस्तावित एकीकृत सीमेंट परियोजना क्लिंकर क्षमता- 2.5 एम.टी.पी.ए., सीमेंट क्षमता- 2.5 एम.टी.पी.ए., डब्ल्यू.एच.आर.एस. 12-मेगावाट एवं डीजी सेट 500 के.सी.पी. की स्थापना के लिए पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छ.ग. पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति/सुझाव/विचार/टीका-टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, रायगढ़ के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 29.12.2022, दिन- गुरुवार को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से स्थल- कोसमपाली बस्ती, पुराना रेल्वे क्रॉसिंग के समीप का मैदान, ग्राम- कोसमपाली, तहसील व जिला - रायगढ़ (छ.ग.) नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के ऑफिस मेमोरेण्डम F.No.22-25/2020-IA.11 दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कोरोना वाईरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अंशशः पालन कराया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14 सितंबर 2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अनुसार, संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट अंग्रेजी भाषा में एवं इसकी संक्षिप्त सार रिपोर्ट हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी तथा सी.डी. (सॉफ्ट कॉपी) कार्यालय कलेक्टर रायगढ़, कार्यालय मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत रायगढ़, आयुक्त कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़, कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र रायगढ़, कार्यालय अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (राजस्व), रायगढ़, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल टी. व्ही. टॉवर रोड रायगढ़ सरपंच/सचिव कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत- कोसमपाली, धनागर, जोरापाली, परसवा, पतरापाली, बघानपुर, गेजमुड़ा, खैरपुर, चिराईपाली, कलमी, तहसील - रायगढ़, जिला - रायगढ़, डायरेक्टर पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मण्डल, पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी हुई है।

**सदस्य सचिव  
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,  
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)**

**Office of the Executive Engineer  
Road Construction Department,  
Road Division, Chaibasa**

**Very Short (Emergent) E-Procurement Notice  
E-tender Reference No. : RCD/CHAIBASA/1119  
Date : 24.11.2022**

1.	Name of Work	Surface Renewal work of Chaibasa- Bypass road for the year 2022-23 under Road Division, Chaibasa.
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	₹ 1,59,93,175.97 (One Crore Fifty Nine Lac Ninety Three Thousand One Hundred Seventy Five and Paise Ninety Sixty) Only.
3.	Time of Completion	60 (Sixty) Days
4.	Date of Publication of Tender On Website	01.12.2022 at 11.30 AM
5.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids.	07.12.2022 Up to 3.00 P.M.
6.	Last date/Time of receipt of cost of bidding document and Bid Security	08.12.2022 Up to 12.00 P.M. in Chief Engineer (Com)-cum-Nodel Officer, e- Procurement Cell, RCD, Jharkhand, 1st Floor, Engineer's Hostel No.-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	08.12.2022 at 3:30 P.M.
8.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of the Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Chaibasa
9.	Contact no. of Procurement Officer	9934323979
10.	Authority to Open the Bid	E- Procurement Officer, office of the Chief Engineer (Com), RCD, Jharkhand.
11.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-3510880

\* Quoted rate above Schedule rate will be Outright Rejected.  
\* Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtender.gov.in>  
**Executive Engineer  
PR 283407 West Singhbhum(22-23),D RCD, Road Division, Chaibasa.**

**NIA files supplementary chargesheet against suspected Hizbul Mujahideen militant**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25**

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a supplementary chargesheet against an overground worker (OGW) of the Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit in a case related to a criminal conspiracy to carry out attacks in different parts of the country, including in Uttar Pradesh.

The supplementary chargesheet against Danish Naseer, a resident of Sounder village in Kishtwar district, was filed in a special court under IPC section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and sections 17, 18 and 38 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act," a spokesperson of the NIA said.

According to NIA, the case

was initially registered on September 12, 2018, at the Anti-Terrorist Squad Police Station in Lucknow and re-registered by the NIA 12 days later for a thorough investigation.

**Indians overtake Chinese to make up largest cohort of foreign students in UK**

**DEEKSHA TERI  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25**

STUDENTS FROM India have overtaken those from China to become the largest group of foreign students in the United Kingdom, according to the UK's latest Immigration Statistics Report.

The report also shows that nearly 24 per cent more study visas were issued in the year ending September 2022, compared to the year ending September 2021.

In total, there were 1,27,731 visa grants to main applicant Indian nationals in the year ending September 2022, an increase of 93,470 (+73 per cent) compared to 2019 (34,261). Students from China were granted 1,16,476 visas this year, two per cent fewer than the 2019 number (1,19,231).

After India, it was students from Nigeria who saw the biggest increase in the number of study visas issued by the UK. As many as 50,960 study visas were issued to Nigerian students, an increase of 44,162 (+650 per cent) from their 2019 number.

Pakistan and Bangladesh are also in the top 5 of countries that send the most number of students to the UK.

The report shows that while Chinese nationals made up the largest group of foreign students in the UK from 2010 to June 2022, their numbers had gone down by 56 per cent in the year ending September 2020 as a result of the pandemic travel restrictions.

According to the data released by the UK Immigration, Chinese and Indian nationals together comprise over half (51 per cent) of all sponsored study grants.

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

**E-TENDER**  
**TENDER NO.: GSU AII - ADLNLOOP-02-22-23. DATE : 24.11.2022**  
CPM/GSU/NWR Ajmer on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work up to 15.00 Hrs on the mentioned date.  
**Tender No.: GSU AII-Adlnloop-02-22-23. Name of work :** Construction of station building platforms, PF shelters, Water booths & other miscellaneous work in connection with provision of one additional loop line at each, 04 two line station at Pandoli, Kapashan, Bhupal Sagar & Bhimal in COR-UDZ section of Ajmer division. **Approximate cost of work :** Rs. 5,99,20,726.63/- **Bid Security :** Rs. 4,49,600.00. **Date & Time of closing E-Tender : 15.12.2022 at 15.00 Hrs. Date & Time of opening E-Tender : 15.12.2022 at 15.30 Hrs.** The details of above E - tender are available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **988-AK/22**  
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

## DYLAN'S SIGNATURE ON \$600 BOOK: WHY THE PUBLISHER HAS SAID SORRY

### What has happened?

Global publishing house Simon and Schuster has released an apology to customers of its \$600-a-piece limited-edition signed copies of Bob Dylan's latest book, *The Philosophy of Modern Song*. In a statement released on Instagram, Simon and Schuster said the copies contained Dylan's original signature, "but in a penned replica form". It said it would provide each purchaser an "immediate refund".

The apology followed outrage regarding the veracity of Dylan's signature in the limited edition copies. Fans pointed out that the copies were not signed by Dylan himself, but rather contained a facsimile.

### What is this book about?

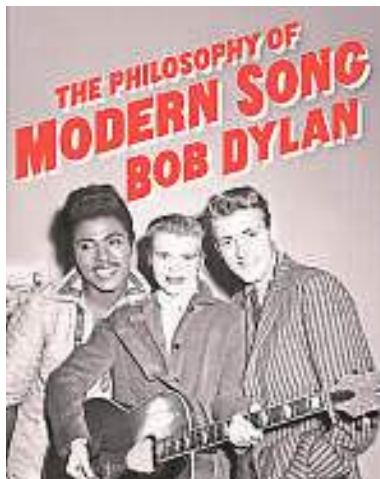
*The Philosophy of Modern Song* is Dylan's first book after receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2016. Published on November 1, 2022, this book contains Dylan's commentary on 66 songs by a wide range of artists, including Frank Sinatra, Elvis, Hank Williams, Cher, and Santana.

Simon and Schuster decided to release 900 copies of what it said was a limited edition, hand-signed version of the book.

### What is a "penned replica" of a signature?

Justin Steffman, a professional authenticator who runs a Facebook group for collectors, told *The New York Times* that the autograph was most likely created by an "autopen". Latest autopens are programmed with a signature which is then accurately recreated by a motorised mechanical arm holding a pen.

According to Steffman, "a pen machine



The new book contains Dylan's commentary on 66 songs.

...goes from point to point" with each stroke beginning and ending with more pressure applied to the page. Hence, autopen signatures lack the flow of actual penmanship.

### Was Bob Dylan involved in any of this?

In all probability, 81-year-old Bob Dylan was not directly involved in this whole fiasco. Media reports noted he has a long history of being decent to fans, keeping ticket prices reasonable and cordially interacting with them when the opportunity arose. Trying to dupe fans would be uncharacteristic and, at this stage of his life, unnecessary. His spokesperson declined comment.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

## EXPLAINED GLOBAL

## WHY ORBAN'S 'GREATER HUNGARY' SCARF HAS ANGERED UKRAINE AND ROMANIA



Orban posted a video of himself wearing the scarf at a football match between Hungary and Greece on Sunday. Viktor Orban/Facebook

HUNGARY'S Prime Minister Viktor Orban this week posted a video of himself online wearing a scarf that featured a map of historical Hungary, including parts of Ukraine, Romania and other neighbouring nations.

### Angry responses

In response, the Romanian foreign ministry accused Orban of "revisionism", Ukraine demanded a "formal apology", and the foreign minister of Slovakia said Orban's signalling with the scarf was "disgusting".

Ukraine's foreign ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko said Hungary's ambassador would be summoned to inform him of the "unacceptability of Viktor Orban's act", the BBC reported. "The promotion of revisionist ideas in Hungary does not contribute to the development of Ukrainian-Hungarian relations and does not comply with the principles of European policy," Nikolenko wrote on Facebook.

### Problem with the scarf

The map on Orban's scarf depicted the old greater Hungarian territory that existed before the defeat of Austria-Hungary in World War I. The Austro-Hungarian empire included countries like modern-day Austria, Croatia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Romania. The Treaty of Trianon (1920) defined the borders of Hungary along the ceasefire lines of 1918, and left the country with a fraction of the territory of the pre-war kingdom.

Around 1.2 million ethnic Hungarians live in Romania and over 150,000 in Ukraine. Orban has been criticised in the past for attempting to promote Hungarian nationalism in these two countries.

Following the outrage, Orban posted on Facebook: "Soccer is not politics. Do not read things into it that are not there. The Hungarian national team belongs to all Hungarians, wherever they live!"

AGENCIES

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# Record Omicron spike shows limitations of China's zero-Covid policy

AMITABH SINHA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

CORONAVIRUS CASES in China have touched a new daily record, having crossed 30,000 new infections in a 24-hour period for the first time. Chinese authorities reported 31,444 confirmed new infections on Thursday morning, higher than the previous record achieved in mid-April, according to a report by the *South China Morning Post*.

The US and France are reporting higher daily numbers right now; until a few days ago, Germany too was reporting more than 30,000 cases a day. But China is different — mainly because of the extremely restrictive containment strategy it has adopted, with a fair degree of success. When China last re-

ported such high numbers in March-April this year, it was the first time the country had even seen 1,000 cases in a day.

The current wave of infections has come within days of China allowing some relaxations in its zero-Covid policy. The quarantine time was reduced to five days, and only close contacts — not all — of an infected person were put in quarantine.

Following the surge, Zhengzhou, capital of Henan province, went into a five-day lockdown on Friday. The city has seen large-scale protests from workers at the Apple factory in the last few days, with Covid regulations being cited as one of the triggers.

### Chinks in zero-Covid strategy

While most countries concentrated on not allowing infections to go out of control

while allowing normal activities to continue, China pursued zero-Covid from the beginning. Every known case, even asymptomatic, was mandatorily hospitalized, small outbreaks triggered hard lockdowns, and suspected cases, and all contacts, were kept under long isolation. Shanghai, home to more than 25 million people, was entirely locked down in March.

Though painful, the strategy was largely successful. According to Our World in Data, only 1.38 million people in China have been found to be infected till date. During its worst phases, the US reported similar numbers in a single day.

But this very success is now turning out to be a weakness. The vast majority of China's population has not been infected, and hence has no immunity. Vaccines are not known to

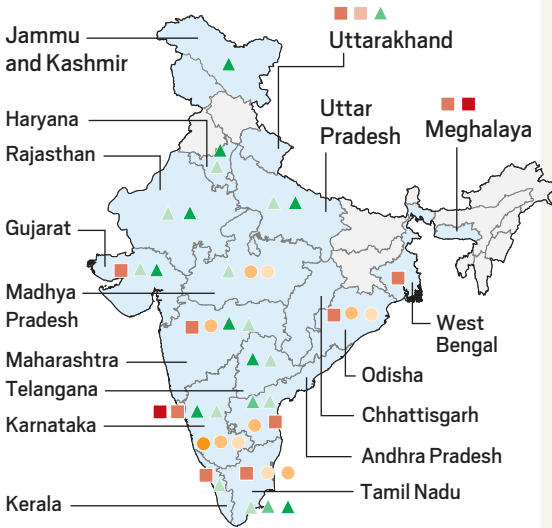
## SIMPLY PUT

## The Story of Millets

India has signalled the beginning of preparations for the International Year of Millets 2023, designated last year by the UNGA following an initiative by New Delhi. The government has been hard-selling millets as nutri-cereals; however, its push is yet to gain widespread traction

### INDIA'S MILLETS MAP

Jowar is grown mainly in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu; bajra mainly in Rajasthan, UP, Haryana, Gujarat



#### JOWAR

4.24 mn ha area  
4.78 mn tonnes production

#### BAJRA

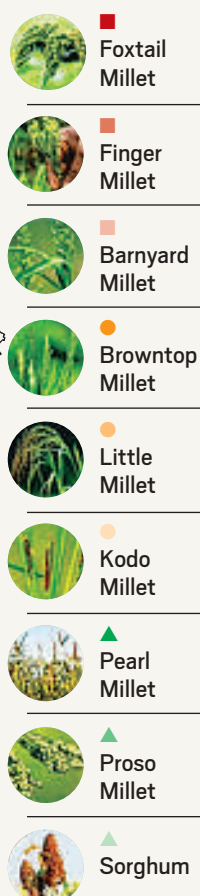
7.75 mn ha area  
10.86 mn tonnes production (In 2020-21)

#### MILLETS GROWN IN

130 countries, traditional food for more than 500 million people

#### 'NUTRI-CEREALS'

Govt has declared millets 'powerhouses of nutrition'.



Source: Agriculture Ministry

### Year of Millets

On March 3, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution to declare 2023 as the International Year of Millets. The proposal was moved by India, and was supported by 72 countries. Several events and activities, including conferences and field activities, and the issuing of stamps and coins, are expected as part of the celebrations aimed at spreading awareness about millets, inspiring stakeholders to improve production and quality, and attracting investments.

### Millets under PDS

Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, eligible households are entitled to get rice, wheat, and coarse grain at Rs 3, Rs 2, and Re 1 per kg respectively. While the Act does not mention millets, coarse grains are included in the definition of "foodgrains" under Section 2(5) of the NFSA.

However, the quantity of coarse grains procured for the Central Pool and distributed under the NFSA has been negligible. The latest data on stocks with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) show only 2.64 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of coarse grain was available in the Central Pool on November 1, 2022. In compar-

ison, the stocks of rice, wheat, and unmilled paddy were 265.97 LMT, 210.46 LMT, and 263.70 LMT respectively.

The push to distribute coarse grains under the PDS has not gained momentum. The Centre has accepted the recommendation of a committee set up by it, that millets be included in the PDS in order to improve nutritional support. On Thursday, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said "the time has come for the Public Distribution System to shift the focus of distribution programs from basic calories to provide a more diverse food basket that includes millets to improve the nutritional status of pre-school children and women of reproductive age".

The government has set a target to procure 13.72 LMT coarse grains during the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2022-23, more than double the 6.30 LMT procured during KMS 2021-22. The target includes 4.12 LMT of *bajra*, of which 0.95 LMT had been procured until November 21.

### MSP for millets

The government declares a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for *jowar*, *bajra*, and *ragi* only. For KMS 2022-23, the MSP for *jowar* hy-

brid was declared at Rs 2,970 per quintal, and that for *jowar maldandi* at Rs 2,990 per quintal. The MSP for *bajra* and *ragi* were Rs 2,350 per quintal and Rs 3,578 per quintal respectively.

### Main millets states

*Jowar* is mainly grown in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and Madhya Pradesh. In 2020-21, the area under *jowar* stood at 4.24 million hectares, while production was 4.78 million tonnes. Maharashtra accounted for the largest area (1.94 mn ha) and production (1.76 million tonnes) of *jowar* during 2020-21.

*Bajra* is mainly grown in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Of the total 7.75 mn ha under *bajra* in 2020-21, the highest (4.32 mn ha) was in Rajasthan. The state also produced the most *bajra* in the country (4.53 million tonnes of the total 10.86 million tonnes) in 2020-21.

### Consumption patterns

In the latest available NSSO household consumption expenditure survey (which is more than a decade old), less than 10 per cent of rural and urban households reported consumption of millets.

In rural areas, of the 11,231 kg of cereals consumed by a person in a month in 2011-12, 6,125 kg was rice, and 4,439 kg was wheat. Very little millets were consumed: 201 grams *jowar*, 246 g *bajra*, 75 g *ragi*, and 4 g of small millets. More than 95% of rural households reported consumption of rice and more than 59% wheat; only 8.5%, 6.6%, and 5.3% reported consumption of *jowar*, *bajra*, and *ragi* respectively.

In urban areas, monthly per capita consumption of cereals (9,322 kg) was lower than in rural areas. The monthly per capita consumption of *jowar*, *bajra*, *ragi*, and small millets were recorded at just 139 g, 91 g, 60 g, and 1 g.

The consumption of millets was reported mainly from Gujarat (*jowar* and *bajra*), Karnataka (*jowar* and *ragi*), Maharashtra (*jowar* and *bajra*), Rajasthan (*bajra*), and Uttarakhand (*ragi*).

### Political significance

Millet is grown mainly in low-income and developing countries in Asia and Africa, and are part of the food basket of about 60 crore people across the globe. By proposing the resolution to celebrate 2023 as the International Year of Millets, India pitched itself as a leader of this group. This is similar to the Indian initiative on the 121-nation International Solar Alliance.

Millet growing states like Karnataka and Rajasthan will witness state Assembly elections next year. Activities around the celebrations can potentially be leveraged by the government to reach out to farming communities.

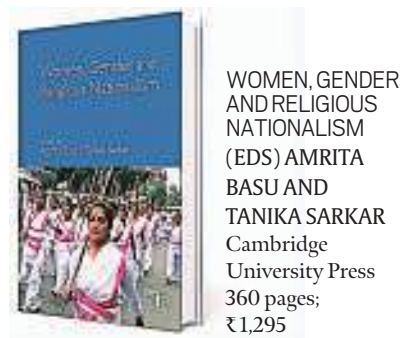
## EXPLAINED BOOKS SATURDAY SUMMARY

## Women and the conservative Right: an analysis

POOJA PILLAI  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

IT'S A question that has been asked repeatedly in the United States over the past few years: why do so many white women continue to support the Republican party at a time when its conservative politics has in many ways clearly turned against the interests of women? Some scholars ask similar questions with regard to the mass support that the BJP gets from women in India.

The power of the women's vote is clearly recognised by most parties in India, including the BJP. The Narendra Modi government has repeatedly positioned itself in support of "mari shakti" or women's empowerment, citing decisions such as the criminalising of triple *talaq* in 2019; the changes in the



WOMEN, GENDER AND RELIGIOUS NATIONALISM (EDS) AMRITA BASU AND TANIKA SARKAR  
Cambridge University Press  
360 pages; ₹1,295

Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act in 2021 that made abortion access easier; the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign for the education of girls; LPG connections to poor women under the PM Ujjwala Yojana; the extension of paid maternity leave to 26

weeks; and permanent commission for women officers in the Army.

Scholars have, however flagged a dissonance between the government's seeming attitude towards women's issues, including economic and educational issues, and the ideological position traditionally espoused by the Sangh Parivar. The answer to the question posed by the book *Women, Gender and Religious Nationalism* — why women advance the agenda of the Hindu right despite its conservative views on gender — is complex.

Edited by Amrita Basu and Tanika Sarkar, the first two sections of the volume trace the long process through which women (and, to an extent, girls) were given space in the predominantly masculine worldview of the Sangh, particularly through storytelling, and how leadership roles — albeit in a small measure — were opened up for women in the BJP.

The section on women's participation in Hindu militant organisations examines how community and neighbourhood mobilisation — "social work" — is used to transform the "ideal" Hindu homemaker into a street fighter.

Significantly, the book tests preconceived ideas about where and from whom resistance to the politics of Hindutva might come and the unexpected places in which the ideology might find resonance. The chapter by Jennifer Ung Loh traces the ways in which Hindutva has struck roots among several trans communities; and the chapter on the #ReadyToWait campaign in Kerala by J Devika questions the assumption that women's resistance is always feminist.

(Explained Books summarises the main argument of an important work of non-fiction.)

### DAILY NEW CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES IN CHINA

#### 7-DAY ROLLING AVERAGE



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data/Our World in Data

prevent infection in very significant ways.

When a fast-spreading variant like Omicron does manage to break through the strong defences of zero-Covid, as it sometimes will, it encounters a vast pool of susceptible people. It is able to spread very rapidly after that. This is what happened in March-April — and seems to be happening now.

### Vaccination troubles

A similar scenario played out in Hong Kong and South Korea in February. Those countries too had kept their populations protected from the virus until then, with Hong Kong adopting zero-Covid, and South Korea testing very aggressively to identify cases early. But when Omicron finally broke through, both countries saw thousands of cases and hundreds of deaths every day.

China faces a similar danger for the second time this year. Omicron causes milder disease compared to Delta or Beta, but it can still lead to deaths among the elderly population. China has administered almost 3.5 billion vaccine doses, but the penetration among the 80-plus population has been low. In addition, there have been question marks over the effectiveness of the two Chinese vaccines in use, Sinovac and Sinopharm.

China had managed to bring the situation under control in about a month and a half earlier this year. There is nothing to suggest that the current surge would be very different. The latest wave has exposed the weaknesses of the zero-Covid strategy again, and yet, it might result in a return to the tougher regime that the country had just begun to relax.

The Indian

EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# INFLATION VS GROWTH

RBI faces a tricky challenge in balancing between high inflation and sluggish growth

INDIA'S MACROECONOMIC SITUATION continues to present a tricky challenge to policymakers, especially those managing the monetary policy in the RBI. Earlier this month, data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) showed that retail inflation had moderated further to a three-month low of 6.77 per cent in October. It raised hopes that inflation had peaked — it hit an eight-year high of 7.8 per cent in April — and was likely to continue moderating from here on. Yet a closer look at the drivers of inflation reveals some serious concerns. In particular, it is noteworthy that while the headline inflation rate has moderated, core inflation (that is, inflation rate after stripping off the effects of the more volatile prices such as fuel and food) has touched 6.1 per cent. According to an analysis by Nomura Research, core inflation has hit a six-month high if one considers the monthly sequential momentum. Core goods inflation has gone up to 7.3 per cent. This suggests that inflation is not only high but also broad based and sticky. As a result, while inflation may still moderate, it would do so far more slowly than desired.

The flip-side of the picture is the growth rate of the economy. Here, too, the situation is iffy at best. Next week, MoSPI will release the data for gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter (July, August and September). Most street estimates suggest a growth of 6.5 per cent over the same quarter last year. On its own, a 6.5 per cent growth looks healthy, but when compared to the pre-Covid levels, it translates to a growth of a mere 2.5 per cent each year since 2019-20. What's more, between the pincer effect of a global slowdown, which is resulting in a collapse of India's exports, and the monetary tightening since May — RBI has raised the repo rate by 190 basis points — the full-year growth forecasts are being revised downwards rapidly. While the RBI is still sticking with an estimate of 7 per cent GDP growth in the current financial year, even government officials (as a report in this newspaper showed) are pencilling in a 6.5 per cent increase. Most forecasters suggest an even slower growth rate in the next financial year (2023-24).

So here's the essential challenge facing the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI as it sits down to deliberate its next stance in the first week of December: Inflation continues to be high and sticky while growth is still iffy and trending downward. The RBI's main responsibility is to maintain price stability in the economy. Since retail inflation has stayed above RBI's tolerance limit of 6 per cent since the start of 2022, the RBI is duty bound to first bring it down on priority by raising interest rates. The trouble is, doing so will surely risk further undermining India's growth momentum.

## BEIJING COMA

China's tryst with the virus shows the pandemic isn't yet over. It raises questions over the country's containment measures

A T A TIME when most of the world is working to put behind the trauma of the Covid pandemic, the disease seems to be back with a vengeance in China. On Thursday, the country recorded 31,454 new cases, the highest daily rise since the virus was first reported almost three years ago. In the past 10 weeks, tens of millions of people have been confined to their homes across more than 50 cities and towns, leading to restlessness and aggravating the country's economic slowdown. Protests have erupted at the world's largest iPhone factory in Zhengzhou over non-payment of salaries and there are reports of police using force to quell the unrest. In Guangzhou province, migrant workers, a large part of the workforce, have been forced into quarantine centres and not allowed to return home.

According to the WHO, the current surge has been driven by particularly contagious avatars of the coronavirus's Omicron variant, BF.7 and BA.5.1.7. It's also a fact that large parts of the country have been under the virus' sway for the better part of this year, even though the cases have not been severe. Quite inexplicably, the responses of the Chinese authorities are scarcely different from those they undertook in the early months of the pandemic when the coronavirus was a scarcely understood pathogen. People have been asked not to venture out of their homes for the rest of this month. The government will conduct daily PCR tests as a part of what it calls the "war of annihilation" against the virus. But curiously, vaccination is not an important part of the anti-Covid arsenal. For a country that has provided vaccines to other parts of the world, China has an especially low rate of primary vaccination, particularly among the elderly — health authorities claim about 85 per cent people above 60 have received both shots of the vaccines. But there are question marks over these figures — the economic slowdown has pushed the IMF to ask China to ramp up vaccination. Even more critical questions have been asked about the country's homegrown vaccines. Private pharma firm Sinovac and state-run Sinopharm, which manufacture most of the vaccines in use in China, have not put out data in the public domain on final-stage clinical trials. In April, Gao Fu, China's top disease control official reportedly acknowledged that the vaccines used in the country have a low efficacy rate.

The surge in China is a warning that the pandemic is not over yet. The world should not give up its quest for a variant proof Covid vaccine. It should also keep pushing the most populous nation to be more transparent.

## HOME AND AWAY

Breel Embolo scored the winner against the country of his birth. His regret frames why football is about more than just football

THE THING ABOUT football, the important thing about football," wrote the inimitable Terry Pratchett, "is that it is not just about football". On Thursday, the final scorecard in one of the many matches of the day at the World Cup in Qatar simply read: Switzerland — 1 (Breel Embolo, 48'), Cameroon — 0. But perhaps the more important thing about that number was not who won or lost, but the reaction of the man who gave Switzerland the victory. Embolo, born in Cameroon but representing Switzerland, did not celebrate the match-winning goal. His hands raised, he seemed to be apologising to his compatriots on the other team for what was bound to be, at the very least, a bitter-sweet moment.

Embolo's seeming regret or the fact that brothers Inaki and Nico Williams play for different nations — Ghana and Spain — shows how the beautiful game is both a symbol for and symptom of the movement of people, and even the inequalities and injustices imposed by history and market forces on nations and peoples. For some decades now, national teams at the World Cup — particularly those from the global North — are more ethnically, linguistically and racially diverse. Given how often sport is suffused with national pride, the fact that players like Embolo, the Williams and Boateng brothers (who played for different teams in two Fifa World Cups) have hyphenated identities is something to be welcomed. But there is, as always, more to the story.

Embolo's regret in what should have been a moment of glory resonates so widely because, in one sense, accidents of birth determine the movements of people and talent. In football — as in so many other pursuits — historical injustice has led to contemporary inequality. People move for a better life and opportunities, to the "centre" from the "margins". In that sense, the diversity of European teams, the larger pool of talent they attract, is another peek into the heat that creates a melting pot. And Embolo's gesture acknowledges that.



S Y QURAISHI

A VITAL ISSUE of national importance dominating the headlines for the last three days is the PIL in the Supreme Court regarding the autonomy and neutrality of the Election Commission of India (ECI). This PIL was filed by a BJP leader and advocate Ashwini Upadhyay in November 2018 but unfortunately, the Court did not give it the priority it deserved. When the five-judge Constitution Bench finally started hearing it, the importance of the subject became clear.

The Constitution intended the Election Commission to be fiercely independent and vested it with enormous powers of superintendence, direction and control over all elections. The apex court has repeatedly adjudged these powers to be absolute and unquestionable. It has declared Article 324 to be the reservoir of all powers of the ECI and has repeatedly declared free and fair elections to be part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

Equipped with so much power and authority, it is only expected that the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India would be fiercely independent and nonpartisan. But is that the situation on the ground? For much of Indian democracy's history, the ECI has performed very well, earning accolades not only from the citizens of India but the world. The track record of most CECs was exemplary in displaying independence and neutrality, with the courage to stand up to the government of the day and it was hoped that this trend would continue. But hope can never be a strategy. There has to be an institutional mechanism to ensure the independence and neutrality of the ECI. Hence this PIL.

The root of the problem lies in the flawed system of appointment of the election commissioners. They are appointed unilaterally by the government of the day. It's important to recall B R Ambedkar's statement to the Constituent Assembly that "the tenure can't be made a fixed and secure tenure if there is no provision in the Constitution to prevent a fool or a naive or a person who is likely to be under the thumb of the executive" (emphasis added).

There has been a demand for appointments through a broad-based consultation, as is done in most countries, including parliamen-

Appoint election commissioners after broadbased consultation to ensure neutrality, independence

tary scrutiny. The mechanism proposed is simple: A collegium consisting of the Prime Minister, leader of the Opposition (LOP) and the Chief Justice of India (CJI). This system is already in operation for the appointment of the Central Vigilance Commissioner, Chief Information Commissioner and Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation. This will obviate the possibility of allegations against the incumbent of being partisan to the government. Opposition parties would not be able to raise a finger against the incumbent since the LOP would be a party to the selection.

Another systemic problem is uncertainty over the elevation of an election commissioner to the post of CEC, which makes them vulnerable to government pressure. They consider themselves on probation, always conscious of how their conduct is viewed by the government, which can exploit this fear. Since all three members have equal voting rights and all decisions in the commission are taken by the majority, the government can even control an independent-minded CEC through the majority voting power of the two Election Commissioners.

In its 255th Report, the Law Commission of India also recommended a collegium system for appointing Election Commissioners. Political stalwarts such as L K Advani and many former CECs including B B Tandon, N Gopalaswami, T S Krishnamurthy and this writer supported the idea, even while in office. But successive ruling dispensations have ducked the issue, not wanting to let go of their power.

Apart from the manner of appointment, the provision for the removal of election commissioners also needs correction. At present, only the CEC is protected from being removed (except through impeachment). One has to remember that the Constitution enabled protection for the CEC as it was initially a one-man Commission. Logically, this should have been extended to the other two commissioners, who were added in 1993, as they collectively represent the ECI. That oversight will hopefully be corrected by the current Bench.

In the rich history of democratic India, all institutions of the state have come under pres-

sure at one point or another. But the strength of character of an institution is tested when political influence is brought to bear on it. We must have systemic safeguards against this eventuality.

In a recent debate on electoral reforms in the Rajya Sabha, the issue of appointments of Election Commissioners was debated and many political parties demanded the introduction of a collegium system.

Ironically, what is perhaps the most powerful commission in the world has the most flawed system of appointment. Nowhere in the world does the government of the day unilaterally appoint the election commissioner. It is always by a collegium or even a full parliamentary scrutiny or interview. In some countries, the candidates are interviewed on television for the nation to see.

When I was appointed election commissioner in 2006, a top aide of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told me that my appointment by the government of the day may be its last, as the PM felt that it would be in the interest of the country to have a collegium, as demanded by Anna Hazare, among others. Why it did not happen, I do not know. Maybe sheer complacency, procrastination or the desire to not weaken its power. The present government cannot be blamed if it has a similar inclination. But then, when it is so critical of the omissions and commissions of its predecessors, why not undo another long-standing wrong?

The recent questions raised about the ECI's credibility are certainly worrying. An ECI in office with the express consent of both the government in power and the Opposition stands a far better chance of convincing the nation and all parties contesting elections of its neutrality and impartiality.

One hopes that the Supreme Court will settle the issue for good as it has many other critical electoral reforms. It has been a guardian angel of democracy and has another chance to prove this.

*The writer is former Chief Election Commissioner of India and the author of An Undocumented Wonder: The Making of the Great Indian Election*



BADRI NARAYAN

THE ASSEMBLY ELECTION in Gujarat is likely to shape the future course of Indian politics: It is going to test the Congress's resolve towards electoral revival, show whether the Aam Aadmi Party's attempt to expand its footprint is yielding results and whether Brand Modi and Hindutva remain valuable electoral capital for the BJP. Of course, caste-based social engineering is all too prevalent in Gujarat. However, there are a set of factors related to emotional connections that play an important role in influencing election outcomes.

The first such factor is "Brand Modi". The image of PM Modi is synonymous with Gujarati pride. His presence as the prime minister has created a sub-nationalist assertion within the broader framework of Indian nationalism in Gujarat. This emotional thread is going to shape the election outcome more than any organisational or party-centred efforts. The image of Modi is omnipresent — in the media, in rallies, and imprinted on development initiatives promoted by the Centre. It is talked about in the tribal areas of the Dangs as well as in cosmopolitan cities including Ahmedabad and Vadodara. The narrative around Brand Modi has been contested by the Opposition, of course, but it hardly figures in the conversation or does not seem powerful enough to dent the electoral capital it has generated.

A second factor is the "Hindutva aspiration" that provides an emotional basis for political connection. The BJP's efforts to enhance Hindu pride by constructing the Ram temple

# WINNING GUJARAT

Building emotional connect with voters is key to succeeding in the state

in Ayodhya, renovation of the Kashi-Vishwanath temple corridor, and other mega symbols of Hindutva pride have a resonance on the ground. The BJP's ability to do cultural politics is unmatched; its impact in reshaping hearts and minds is often ignored by political analysts. AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal seems to have recognised the import of this aspect, which is evident in his attempts to carve out a niche within this space by demanding that currency notes carry images of Hindu deities, Lakshmi and Ganesha. However, for cultural politics around Hindutva symbols to work, mere hyperbolic assertions are not enough; continuous and deep groundwork is needed for the claims and slogans to sound authentic.

A third invisible factor is the political kinship within the cooperative movement. Politics and the cooperative movement were always connected. However, the BJP has now replaced the Congress as the dominant player in the cooperative movement, which provides cadres and influencers to political parties. The BJP rose in Gujarat by weakening the Congress's influence among the cooperatives. As the Union minister for cooperatives, Amit Shah has been engaging with producers, the market and mandi.

A fourth factor that is enabling electoral mobilisations is linked to aspirations — one related to development and the other to dhandha (business). All political parties compete to tap these aspirations but the BJP, by projecting itself as the party of government

through its rhetoric on "double-engine", has been way ahead of its rivals. The AAP is an opening for newcomers interested in a political career — most civil society activists see their political future in it. In fact, civil society actors are helping the AAP build the party organisation. The BJP and Hindutva groups too have made deep inroads among NGOs and se-wabbhavi groups. Interestingly, the AAP seems to be winning over Congress sympathisers. Earlier, the impression was that the rise of AAP would hurt the BJP.

A strong party organisation is necessary to mobilise people around these factors. The BJP political machine is more powerful and efficient than any other. It is good at pooling resources and using all the inputs at its disposal to maximise outcomes. A good mix of seasoned organisers and mass leaders run the party election machine and the campaign. In contrast, the AAP campaign is focused on Arvind Kejriwal while the Congress campaign revolves around state leaders. The absence of Rahul Gandhi in the campaign is mentioned by Congress cadres and sympathisers. The BJP has sought to diminish the anti-incumbency sentiment by replacing a large number of sitting MLAs, including senior leaders.

However, elections have a logic of their own and are prone to throw up small and big surprises. In Gujarat, what factors influence the outcome are worth watching.

*The writer is professor, Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad*

## NOVEMBER 26, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

### ASSAM LEADERS ANGRY

THE ASSAM MOVEMENT leaders disclosed a fresh and angry confrontation programme of action, including a statewide 24-hour bandh on December 2, to counteract what they called, a "conspiratorial election" without solving the foreigners issue. The movement leaders also expressed their reservation on attending the projected New Delhi talks scheduled for December 6. They said the anti-infiltration steps taken up by the Centre were a "sham and an eyewash."

### AKALIS AGITATED

THE AKALI DAL president, Harchand Singh

Longowal, warned that in case the government failed to concede their "legitimate" demands, the peaceful conditions in Punjab could turn "violent". He said the delay was causing provocation of the Akalis and "if the situation exploded, it would be the responsibility of the government".

### SEAMEN STRIKE

TWENTY INDIGENOUS AND foreign vessels at Calcutta and Haldia ports in West Bengal were reported to have been affected by the token strike by Indian seamen that began all over the world. The strike was called by the Forward Seamen's Union of India and has the support of national trade unions.

### KABUL BLASTS

THE SOVIET UNION has reiterated its readiness to withdraw its troops in Afghanistan once arrangements were reached guaranteeing an end of intervention in the affairs of Kabul. Meanwhile, two massive bomb explosions in central Kabul killed five and wounded over 20 people.

INDIA FOURTH AT ASIAD INDIA IMPROVED on their performance further, bringing home four gold and two bronze medals and crept up to the fourth position in the medals tally on the seventh day of the Asian Games in New Delhi.

13 THE IDEAS PAGE

A rare, enduring document

Consensus, craft and vision are invaluable while making a lasting instrument. That's the lesson from Constituent Assembly to contemporary law-makers, leaders



OPENING ARGUMENT  
BY MENAKA GURUSWAMY

WHAT IS CONSTITUTION Day? On November 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted our Constitution. Hence, every year we celebrate this day as Constitution or Law Day. India's Constitution has now endured for almost 73 years. An enduring constitution is a rare phenomenon, and acts as the soul of a nation or the defining identity of a country. While we celebrate Constitution Day, let us also remember how our drafters arrived at this enduring founding instrument.

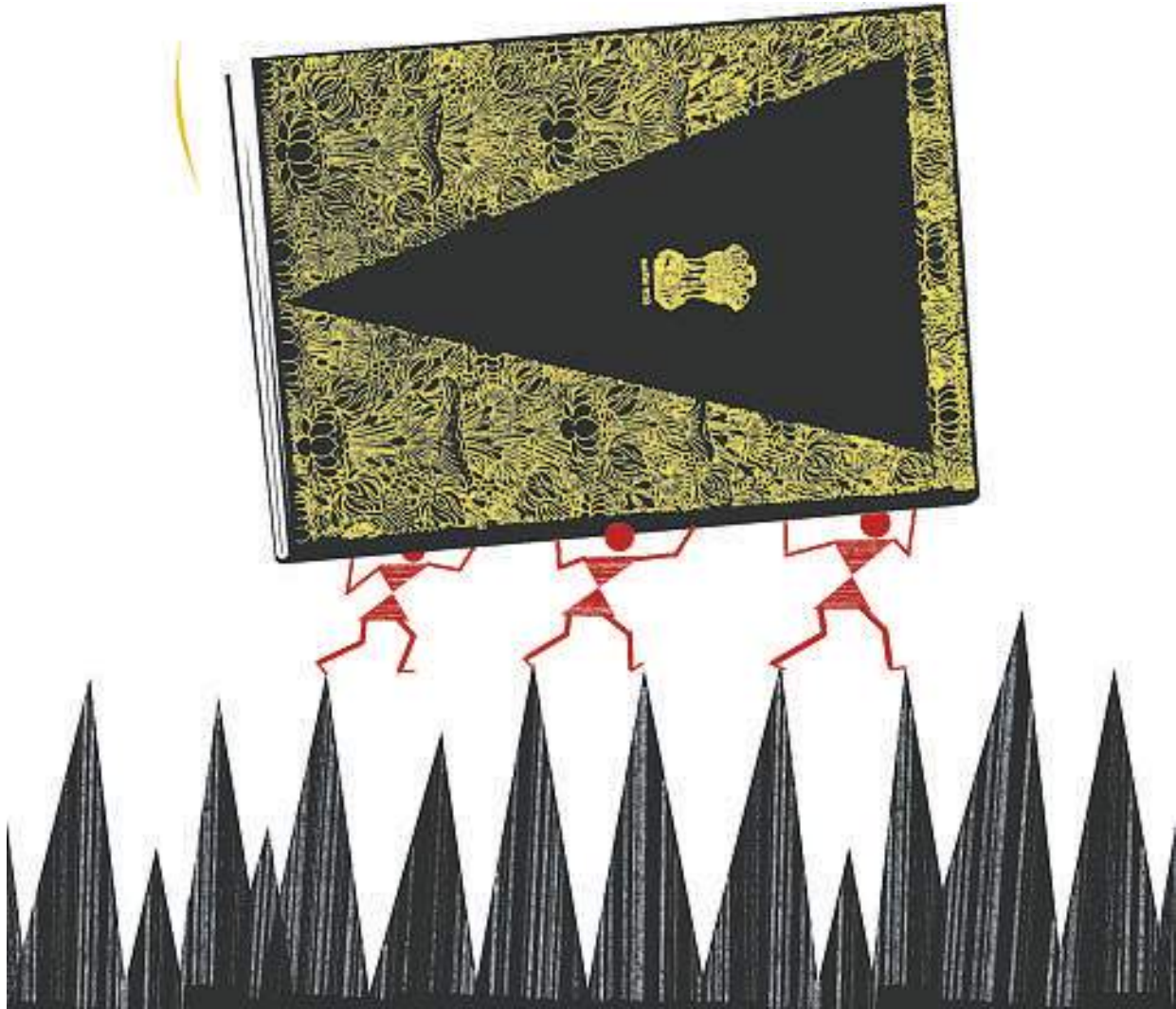
Constitution-making itself is a relatively unexceptional endeavour. Ginsburg, Elkins and Blount note that in the period from 1789–2005, 806 national constitutions were promulgated. Of the 148 cases, which were randomly chosen from 806, on average, the constitution-making process took 16 months. India's constitution-making project took about three years from 1946 to 1949.

It was written under extraordinarily difficult conditions: The partition of India which resulted in the displacement of millions of people on both sides of the border. Partition was accompanied by mass deaths, devastation, violence, and brutality. Amid all this, as refugees flowed into Delhi, our dual-purpose assembly — a parliament by morning and a constituent body in the afternoon drafted our enduring founding instrument. One that would remain relevant not just for the turbulence of that present, but also would be meaningful for future generations to come.

Why must a people submit to a constitution? Richard Kay writes that a people would submit to a constitution, when the constituent assembly crafts a narrative about the creation of the body that is both politically acceptable and historically plausible. It's not only the text, but also the story crafted of the birth of a constitution that is critical in the internalisation of a constitutional order by a people. The drafters deployed the considerable political goodwill enjoyed by key national leaders who were members of the assembly to give legitimacy to the Constitution. These told a story of how the Constitution reflected the will of the people, and how its egalitarian foundation would create a better, more decent nation.

Perhaps the freedom movement and resistance to colonial power was also good training for constitution-crafting. Dietmar Rothmund highlights the unique evolution of Indian constitutionalism — each set of reforms introduced by the British coloniser, while being designed to fulfil certain demands, leads to inspiring new agitations. Hence, the production of Indian constitutionalism through the process of resistance to the colonial legislation and colonial constitutional enactments.

As the legal historian Rohit De writes, the Constitution, had its inspiration in sources like Tilak's Swaraj Bill of 1895



CR Sasikumar

(which included rights to free speech, free press, equality before law) and the Declaration of Rights of 1918 (where the Indian National Congress demanded that civil and political rights to include the right to life and liberty, freedom of press and association and for all this to be included in the Government of India Act 1919).

De also writes of another instance of this sort of constitutional development that drew from the Resolution of Fundamental Rights and Economic Changes at the Karachi Session of the Congress in 1931. This resolution argues that "in order to end exploitation of the masses, political freedom must include economic freedom". Along with fundamental rights, it provided for ending of bonded and child labour, free primary education, expansion of labour welfare, regime protection labour unions, women workers, providing for redistribution of resources through state control over key industries and national resources, recognising the communal problem and laying out protection of minority rights. All these demands would find their way into Part III (Fundamental Rights) and Part IV (Directive Principles of State Policy) of the Constitution. Importantly, Rothmund and De demonstrate through their works that our Constitution is not just a reproduction of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Perhaps it was also the consensus-oriented method that found favour with the Constituent Assembly that has helped our Constitution endure. Hanna Lerner writes

Why must a people submit to a constitution? Richard Kay writes that a people would submit to a constitution, when the constituent assembly crafts a narrative about the creation of the body that is both politically acceptable and historically plausible. It's not only the text, but also the story which is crafted of the birth of a constitution that is critical in the internalisation of a constitutional order by a people.

that the framers appreciated the link between consensus in adoption and the legitimacy of the Constitution. For instance, when debating the adoption of Hindi as a national language, Rajendra Prasad, president of the Constituent Assembly, said that the choice of national language would have to be "carried out by the whole country". And that even if a majority of the Assembly made a choice that was not approved by a section of the people, then, implementation of the Constitution would be rendered perilous. Hence, Hindi was made "the official language of the Union", while English was retained to be used for all "official purposes".

Yet, while the drafters opted for compromise and consensus in some areas, they made bold choices on others. For instance, breaking down traditional privileges like the abolition of princely states and royal titles, and crafting the country as a democracy based on universal adult franchise, and ending discrimination on grounds of caste, or sex or religion.

India's drafters and the methodologies they adopted to craft their glorious product, hold lessons for contemporary politicians and law makers. Consensus, craft and vision are invaluable while making an instrument to endure. Happy Constitution Day to all of us dear readers. Cherish our founding document, for it is truly rare, and do not take its endurance for granted.

The writer is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Those who have interacted in the past with General Munir speak of restraint and maturity in his approach. We expect him to make good on his predecessor's promise without regard to any pressure from any of the political players currently in the fray."  
—DAWN, PAKISTAN

Living by its ideals

The common citizen has established an unbreakable bond with the Constitution and renewed her commitment to its lofty vision



OM BIRLA

AFTER MORE THAN 200 years of colonial rule, India became free at the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947. The hard-earned independence was an outcome of a long-drawn freedom struggle. At the time of independence, we inherited an impoverished country that had been for millennia preceding the pre-colonial era a global economic and cultural powerhouse. The turbulent period at the time of independence posed serious challenges before the framers of our Constitution. Doubts were expressed about the longevity of the experiment, on the desirability of adopting democratic ideals of governance, particularly on granting universal adult franchise to a nation steeped in illiteracy, poverty and the lack of exposure to modern democratic systems and institutions.

However, our Constitution framers remained undeterred by sceptics because of their deep understanding of our democratic ethos that has evolved over two millennia. The strength of our democratic structures is firmly hardwired into our socio-political tapestry. The members of the Constituent Assembly were deeply cognisant of the traditional but robust participatory forms of governance in our village republics that had survived the ravages of invasions, the exploitation of a feudal order and the rise and fall of empires. But, most importantly, what guided the framers of our Constitution over everything else was their complete trust in the democratic sensibilities of the common Indian citizen. India can justifiably claim to be the "mother of democracy".

The experience of living in a democratic polity for the last seven decades is testimony to the fact that the faith the Constituent Assembly had placed in the nation in such trying circumstances to stay the course of a democratic governance model has not been belied. The ideals and principles that form the bedrock of our Constitution continue to illuminate our path as a confident nation marches on into Amrit Kaal.

It was through the untiring efforts of the Constituent Assembly presided by Rajendra Prasad and the drafting committee chaired by Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar that the Constitution was bequeathed to us. It was wholeheartedly adopted and continues to be held as a sacred document seven decades later. This is no mean achievement in a world, particularly among the newly liberated nations of the time, where life spans of constitutions have often been short.

The Constitution of India in letter and spirit has always stood for the dignity and welfare of all citizens. All organs of the state have contributed over the decades in strengthening the foundations of constitutional democracy in India. The way the Constitution has been understood and interpreted by governments and all organs of state, the free press, political parties and the common citizens have ensured India's re-

lentless march towards the eradication of hunger, illiteracy, poverty and underdevelopment; towards strengthening inclusivity, accountability and transparency; and in the celebration of unity in diversity and political stability. In a nutshell, the Constitution has facilitated our journey to become a modern welfare state which actively promotes a sustainable, equitable and just quality of life for all its citizens.

Perhaps one of the most significant features of the Constitution is that it is a living document with an inviolable core that shelters the foundational values of our nation and civilisation and which, at the same time, provides for and supports a flexible superstructure that lends itself to adaptation in response to the demands of public interest in a rapidly changing world. The inherent flexibility in the Constitution has enabled Parliament to enact relevant people-centric constitutional amendments from time to time, but also provided opportunities to the higher judiciary to interpret the provisions of the Constitution constructively. While the core "basic structure" of the Constitution has served as an anchor, the manoeuvrability and dynamism implicit in the framework has helped propel the nation to power ahead as a leader among the comity of nations.

With the completion of 75 years of our independence, we can justifiably take pride in our journey as a nation and our achievements in diverse fields. It is also a time to reaffirm our faith in our people and our Constitution as we enter Amrit Kaal and renew and rededicate our commitment to remain steadfast in achieving our dream of a new self-reliant, strong, united and humane nation in the next 25 years.

The 'Panch Pran' of Amrit Kaal will undoubtedly help us in realising the ideals that the Constitution has espoused. The political leaders at the time of the freedom struggle had framed a Constitution which sought to place the common man as the central protagonist of our national life, the political sovereign. The welfare and dignity of the common man is at the heart of our Constitution which we shall be able to secure for her by taking the Panch Pran and working wholeheartedly for its realisation. It will only be then that our democratic ethos will find its full efflorescence, and the dreams and fruits of the sacrifices of countless freedom fighters will be realised. Only then we shall be able to re-establish India as a foremost global nation.

The Constitution empowers the people as much as the people empower the Constitution. The framers had realised that no matter how well written and how detailed, it would have little meaning if it failed to establish a symbiotic bond with the institutions and the people. It was the foresight, intellect and ingenuity of the great men in the Constituent Assembly that helped succeed in framing a Constitution whose acceptability has only grown with each passing generation. It is also a time to salute the common citizen of the country who has established an unbreakable bond with the letter and spirit of the Constitution and has at every difficult juncture of our journey renewed her faith and commitment to the lofty ideals of our Constitution.

The writer is Speaker of the Lok Sabha



D RAJA

SOME DATES ARE intractably linked with our life as a nation. Along with Independence Day and Republic Day, the day our Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly is one of those solemn occasions which have impacted our lives deeply. On November 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India, under the stewardship of B R Ambedkar, passed and adopted the Constitution of India. Our life as a democratic republic may have begun on January 26, 1950, but the role of Constitution Day in clearing our path to become the polity we resolved to give ourselves remains indelible. In this light, Constitution Day is both a conclusion and a beginning. On November 26, 1949, the great freedom struggle's legacy and the aspirations of our people were united in a single document and thus began our national life towards the fulfilment of the ideals enshrined in the Constitution.

It is an irony of our times that a government moved by the ideology of the RSS, which is antithetical to the spirit of the Constitution, has started observing Constitution Day from the year 2015. In January of the same year, the Planning Commission, a noble vehicle to further the values enshrined in the Constitution, was dissolved. Subversion of the Constitution and trampling of the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity enshrined in it have been consistent features of the Narendra Modi years. The situation reminds me of an

The sword and the shield

Constitution is the bulwark against capture of the Republic by illiberal forces

observation made by Ambedkar when he moved the resolution to pass the draft Constitution. He said: "If things go wrong under the new Constitution, the reason will not be that we had a bad Constitution. What we will have to say is that, Man was vile." It is this "vileness" in the garb of the majority that we are to fight.

The Constitution is not just a legal document nor a collection of passive, sage maxims. It is the outcome of the freedom struggle and imbibes the values that brought millions together, first to fight the British and later, to build an egalitarian India. Protecting the Constitution becomes really important to us in these testing times because it effectively weaponises our struggles against majoritarianism.

The executive's responsibility to the legislature and the judiciary's oversight under the constitutional framework forms the core of our parliamentary system. Makers of the Constitution voted in favour of the parliamentary form of democracy for they valued responsibility. In this so-called "post-truth" world, a slurry of misinformation, myths, and lies is making the objective truth blurry. Laws are being passed without debate, opposition even inside Parliament is being dubbed antinational, and the judiciary's independence is being encroached upon. This systematic slaughter of the institutions of parliamentary democracy is going on under the cult of personality, where one individual's interests are

taken as national interests. Let's remember Ambedkar's words of caution: "Bhakti in religion may be a road to the salvation of the soul. But in politics, Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship."

The RSS and its political arm, the BJP, are aggressively trying to dismantle the vision of the Constitution in their march towards communal authoritarianism. Secularism is one of the foundational tenets of our Constitution and its makers were acutely aware of the imperative of heralding the nation into a secular republic. Temptations around religion were high but rejected emphatically by Ambedkar as he warned the assembly of the dangers of a theocratic state. He made enabling provisions for people coming from historically discriminated backgrounds like SCs, STs, women, and children. Considering the sheer regional and linguistic diversity of the country, the Constituent Assembly opted for a federal state and Ambedkar clarified that "the States under our Constitution are in no way dependent upon the Centre for their legislative or executive authority. The Centre and the States are co-equal in this matter." All of these values run counter to the illiberal, monolithic, and divisive agenda of the RSS and make protecting the Constitution an integral part of our struggle for a better future.

Along with equality and secularism, Constitution makers placed equal emphasis

on the emerging state being a welfare state, committed to the needs of its citizens and dedicated to their uplift. All three are inseparably linked and provide us with a blueprint for development of the society. Our times are crucial for defending the very nature of Indian polity and all secular, democratic and progressive forces will have to join hands for this. Many critics argue that the opposition is without any agenda to take on the RSS-BJP. Let us boldly declare that the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in our Constitution are our agenda and come together for their fulfilment. The vision that was expressed in the Constitution was diametrically opposite of the RSS-BJP's nefarious designs for society, and we must embrace the vision of the founders of the Constitution. When some members questioned Ambedkar about the need for having directive principles, he elaborated on their centrality in deciding the destiny of the nation. He was at his prophetic best when he said, "what great value these directive principles possess will be realised better when the forces of right contrive to capture power." Now when the forces of right have captured power and are abusing it, we must make the vision of the Constitution our sword and shield and come together to save our nation from the calamity of Hindu Rashtra.

The writer is general secretary, CPI

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE ARMY'S POWER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'General next door' (IE, November 25). Asim Munir, who was removed from leadership of Pakistan's spy agency by former PM Imran Khan, will take over as the country's next army chief. Political analysts are sceptical of the army's promises that it will no longer interfere. Pakistan's history shows that even after the army faces political setbacks, it is able to bounce back as a result of bitter divisions among political parties, especially as there are always politicians looking for military support to achieve their political objectives.  
Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

this period and take countermeasures.  
Khokan Das, Kolkata

HONOURING HEROES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The forgotten admiral' (IE, November 25). Remembering and celebrating Lachit Barphukan on his 400th birth anniversary shows the government's commitment to keep the memories of unsung heroes of our country alive. These initiatives must not only be limited to full page advertisements in newspapers or commemoration events. Their names and contributions should also be incorporated in our academic curriculums.  
Abhishek Mishra, Allahabad

DAMAGE CONTROL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Collateral damage' (IE, November 25). The measles outbreak is a signal to governments to buff up India's medical infrastructure and recentre priorities. The first dose of the vaccine is given between nine to 12 months of age and the second dose when the child is 16 to 24 months old. Now, government experts have suggested providing the first dose at six months and an extra dose before children are five years old, irrespective of whether they got one or two doses. Studies by Unicef and other agencies have shown that children's vaccination has suffered during the pandemic as the attention shifted towards the new virus and immunisation against it. Now that the pandemic has waned, governments must carefully evaluate how many children fell out of the vaccine net during

FINDING SOLUTIONS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Fixing Election Commission' (IE, November 24). The Supreme Court maintained that a person "with character" who "does not allow himself to be bulldozed" like former CEC T N Seshan, "happens once in a while". The independent institution, created under Constitutional provisions, is still a matter of debate due to situational uncertainty which questions its autonomy. The institutional issues about financing elections, appointments and its procedure have yet to be addressed. The CJI's role in appointments does not make institutions neutral as seen in the CBI director's appointment matter noted in the editorial. It is high time that Parliament passes a law fixing these contingencies.

H Upadhyay, via email

## TOP OF THE WORLD



**Itamar Ben-Gvir** has a record of anti-Arab rhetoric. *File*

## ISRAEL

## Far-right leader to be security minister

ITAMAR BEN-GVIR, who has a long record of anti-Arab rhetoric and stunts, will become Israel's next minister of national security, according to the first of what are expected to be several coalition deals struck by ex-PM Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party. Likud announced the agreement with Ben-Gvir's Jewish Power party on Friday. Negotiations with three other potential far-right and ultra-Orthodox coalition partners are continuing. If successful, Netanyahu would return as prime minister over the most right-wing government in Israel's history. The role to Ben-Gvir raises concerns of escalation in Israeli-Palestinian tensions. **AP**

## ALGERIA

## 49 get death sentence for mob killing

AN ALGERIAN court sentenced 49 people to death on Thursday for the brutal mob killing of a painter who had been suspected of starting devastating wildfires — but had actually come to help fight them, according to defense lawyers and the state news agency. The killing of Djamel Ben Ismail last year in the Kabylie region of northeast Algeria shocked the country, especially after graphic images of it were shared on social media. It came as the mountainous Berber region was reeling from wildfires that killed some 90 people, including soldiers trying to tame the flames. **AP**

## SRI LANKA

## Tamil parties to meet for federalism push

TAMIL POLITICAL parties based in the East and the North are set to meet on Friday to push for federalism ahead of President Ranil Wickremesinghe's proposed all-party meeting next month to address the long-held demand for political autonomy for the minority community. The meeting will be held at the Colombo residence of R Sampanthan, the 89-year-old leader of the Tamil National Alliance, sources said. **PTI**



Workers in protective suits ride on scooters as they leave a residential compound that is under lockdown, in Beijing. *Reuters*

## China: Second day of upsurge in Covid, widening restrictions trigger pushback

## AGENCIES

BEIJING, NOVEMBER 25

RESIDENTS OF China's capital were emptying supermarket shelves and overwhelming delivery apps Friday as the government ordered accelerated construction of Covid quarantine centers and field hospitals amid unconfirmed reports of a lockdown on at least some districts, fuelling demand for food and other supplies, something not seen in the city for months.

Frustration simmered among residents and business groups navigating stricter Covid control curbs as the country reported another record high of daily infections just weeks after

## EXPLAINED Uncertain plans

THE STRICTER curbs come just two weeks after Beijing announced 20 'Covid optimism' measures, which included shorter quarantines and other steps. This has left many confused, particularly in Beijing, where many residents are locked down at home.

hopes had been raised of easing measures.

Daily cases of Covid across

the country are hitting records, with 32,695 reported Friday. Of those, 1,860 were in Beijing, the majority of them asymptomatic.

The resurgence of Covid cases, with 32,695 new local infections recorded for Thursday as numerous cities report outbreaks, has prompted widespread lockdowns and other curbs on movement and business, as well as pushback.

Improvised quarantine centers and field hospitals hastily thrown up in gymnasiums, exhibition centers and other large, open indoor spaces have become notorious for overcrowding, poor sanitation, scarce food supplies and lights that stay on 24 hours.

In Beijing, some grocery delivery services have reached

capacity.

At a Friday afternoon news conference, city government spokesperson Xu Hejian said it was necessary "to strengthen the management and service guarantee" of quarantine centers and field hospitals.

Officials have in recent days repeatedly insisted that China must stick with its hard-line "zero-Covid" policy that mandates lockdowns, mass testing and quarantines for anyone suspected of having come into contact with the virus.

The policy is seen as upending lives in many Chinese cities, leading the WHO and others to call for a change in tack — calls the ruling Communist Party has angrily rejected.

## Nepal elections: Ruling alliance set for majority

**Kathmandu:** PM Sher Bahadur Deuba's Nepali Congress-led ruling coalition was on Friday heading towards winning a clear majority in Nepal's parliamentary elections with the alliance bagging 67 seats out of the 124 declared so far.

In the 275-member House of Representatives, 165 will be elected through direct voting, while the remaining 110 will be elected through a proportional electoral system. A party or a coalition needs 138 seats to win a clear majority.

The Nepali Congress (NC) was set to emerge as the single-largest party after winning 42 seats under the direct voting system. Its allies, CPN-Maoist Centre and CPN-Unified Socialist, have won 12, 10 seats. Lokatantrik Samajwadi and Rastriya Janamorchha bagged two and one seats respectively. **PTI**

## AFTER BOTCHED FIRST ATTEMPT

## TWITTER TO ROLL OUT COLOURED CHECKS

The service will be rolled out next week. There will be different coloured checks for individuals, companies and governments. Chief Executive Elon Musk on Friday allotted colors for the categories - gold for companies, grey for governments and a blue check for individuals including celebrities. "Painful, but necessary," he said, "Longer explanation next week."



## AS RUSSIA TARGETS ENERGY GRID

## Europe rushes to help Ukraine keep lights on

Day after officials launched a scheme calling on more than 200 cities across Europe to donate power generators

## JOHN LEICESTER

KYIV, NOVEMBER 25

EUROPEAN OFFICIALS are scrambling to help Ukraine stay warm and keep functioning through the bitter winter months, pledging Friday to send more support that will mitigate the Russian military's efforts to turn off the heat and lights.

France is sending 100 high-powered generators to Ukraine to help people get through the coming months, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said Friday. She said Russia is "weaponising" winter and plunging Ukraine's civilian population into hardship.

British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, who was scheduled to arrive Friday in Kyiv for an unannounced visit, said a promised air-defense package, which Britain valued at \$60 million, would help Ukraine defend itself against Russia's bombardments.

"Words are not enough. Words won't keep the lights on this winter. Words won't defend against Russian missiles," Cleverly said in a tweet about the military aid.

Cleverly's visit came a day after European officials launched a scheme called "Generators of Hope," which calls on more than 200 cities across the continent to donate power generators and electricity transformers. **AP**



People wait to collect water, in Kyiv. *AP*

## Putin decries media 'lies' at meet with soldiers' mothers

**Moscow:** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday hit out at what he said were skewed media portrayals of Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine as he met with mothers of Russian soldiers fighting there. "Life is more difficult and diverse than what is shown on TV screens or even on the Internet. There are many fakes, cheating, lies there," Putin said.

The meeting in the Kremlin with more than a dozen women came as uncertainty persists over whether enlistment efforts may resume in the face of recent battlefield setbacks. Putin said that he sometimes speaks with troops directly by telephone, according to a Kremlin transcript

and photos of the meeting. "I've spoken to (troops) who surprised me with their mood, their attitude to the matter. They didn't expect these calls from me... (the calls) give me every reason to say that they are heroes," Putin said.

Some soldiers' relatives have complained of not being invited to the meeting and criticised Putin's recent "partial mobilisation" that officials said resulted in 300,000 reservists being called up.

Unconfirmed reports by some Russian media outlets suggested that some of the women meeting with Putin were members of pro-Kremlin social movements, the ruling United Russia party, or officials backing Putin. **AP**

## Pakistan: 2 officials suspended for leaking General Bajwa's tax data

## SAJJAD HUSSAIN

RAWALPINDI, NOVEMBER 25

TAX AUTHORITIES have suspended two officers from service for their involvement in tax leaks of outgoing Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and his family, according to a media report on Friday.

The decision was taken after a probe was initiated by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. The tax documents of Bajwa and his family were posted online in a report by a website, *FactFocus*. The website report alleged the wealth of Bajwa and his family increased exponentially in his tenure as army chief.

Sources said Deputy Commissioners Atif Nawaz and Zahoor Ahmad have been suspended from service after preliminary investigations. **PTI**

## Imran set for rally today despite govt's threat alert

**Rawalpindi:** Preparations were in full swing on Friday for a massive rally planned by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party on Saturday, despite the government's warning that its chairman and former premier Imran Khan should not address the protest march due to a threat to his life.

"I reviewed a meeting and all intelligence agencies have alerted me

that any terrorist outfit can take advantage of this march. There is a threat to Imran himself," Interior Minister Rana Sanullah said at a press conference.

Khan, who is recovering from bullet wounds suffered during an assassination bid on November 3, has said his rally in Rawalpindi, to seek general elections, will be "completely peaceful". **PTI**



Ex-PM Imran Khan

## Nobody should go through what I did: Moshe

## HARINDER MISHRA

JERUSALEM, NOVEMBER 25

MOSHE HOLTZBERG, the Israeli child who was two years old when he lost his parents in 2008 Mumbai attack, has called upon the international community to look for ways to counter terror so that "nobody has to go through what he has gone through".

'Baby Moshe', the youngest survivor of the Mumbai 26/11 at-



Moshe lost his parents during the 2008 attack in Mumbai

tacks whose pictures with his Indian nanny Sandra holding him close to her chest in the besieged Nariman House — also known as Chabad House — caught worldwide attention, lost

both his parents Rabbi Gabriel Holtzberg and Rivka Holtzberg in the terror strike carried out by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists. His parents were the emissaries of the Chabad Movement in Mumbai.

On Thursday, the family held prayers in memory of their dear ones at a cemetery in Jerusalem as per the Hebrew calendar.

In a recorded message shared by his family to PTI recently, Moshe, now 16, is heard narrat-

ing the story of his lucky escape in a daring act by his nanny, Sandra, "who risked her own life to save his". He also talked about growing up in Israel with his grandparents Rabbi Shimon and Yehudit Rosenberg, who have been raising him as their own son.

At the end, Moshe makes a solemn appeal that the international community should take steps so that "nobody should go through what I have gone through". **PTI**



Volker Turk, the new UN high commissioner for human rights, at his office in Geneva in October. *NTV*

Sudan are the driving force behind this political process."

Past UN high commissioners for human rights typically took some months in the Geneva lakeside headquarters of the UN human rights office to familiarise themselves with the complexities of the job before leaving for country visits. But Turk started arranging his Sudan visit before officially starting the job and is working on making one or two trips more before the end of the year. A mission to Ukraine is reportedly on his agenda.

On Thursday, the unrest in Iran was top of the list. In an emergency session, the UN Human Rights Council decided

to investigate Tehran's response to protests against clerical rule, a crackdown that has resulted in hundreds of deaths.

Türk's speed embracing his new job points to the practical advantages he brings to the post as a UN insider familiar with the organisation's byzantine bureaucracy. Türk, 57, brings 30 years experience of working for the United Nations, first in its refugee agency and then for the past three years working for the secretary general, António Guterres, in New York as a policy adviser, including on human rights.

Türk's past as an insider, however, has contributed to the

frosty response his appointment drew from international rights organizations. United Nations chiefs have in the past chosen former heads of government, eminent jurists or diplomatic heavyweights for the famously difficult human rights post, since the job requires courting world leaders and, at times, admonishing them for their human rights failings.

Türk, critics said, was unsuited by experience and temperament for such a delicate role. But Türk's steady stream of statements in his first month on the job have given some critics hope. On his second day in office, he condemned

Ethiopian airstrikes on civilian targets in Tigray as "completely unacceptable."

A major test of Türk's effectiveness will be what he does to follow up on the report his predecessor, Michelle Bachelet, released minutes before stepping down that found China might have committed crimes against humanity in repressing Uyghur and other Muslims in its far western region of Xinjiang.

China dismissed the report as a politicised concoction of Western lies.

Türk sees his new job as the natural progression after a lifelong focus on human rights. His activism comes as no surprise to

former colleagues familiar with his career in the UN refugee agency. After field assignments in Congo, Kosovo and Southeast Asia, he rose to be head of protection, a role some describe as human rights in action.

"He's a roll-up-your-sleeves, get-your-hands-dirty kind of guy, not an office dweller," said Kirsten Young, a UN colleague and close friend who worked alongside Türk in Kosovo and other areas.

For those who know him well, Young said, Türk's appointment as UN human rights chief was a natural culmination of his life's work. "Destiny fulfilled," she called it. **NTV**

## FROM IRAN TO UKRAINE TO CHINA, TURK WILL HAVE NO SHORTAGE OF CHALLENGES

## Meet Volker Turk, the world's new human rights crisis manager who has a lot to do

## NICK CUMMING-BRUCE

GENEVA, NOVEMBER 25

BARELY A month after taking office as the United Nations' new human rights chief, Volker Turk was in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region last week meeting victims of a conflict that has displaced millions.

A day later, in the capital, Khartoum, he met the generals who were clinging to power with the help of troops using lethal force against protesters. He told the generals that Sudan needed to transition to civilian rule and "make sure that the human rights for all people of

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REVIEWS

CINEMA & MUSIC

BHEDIYA ★★★

Director: Amar Kaushik Cast: Varun Dhawan, Abhishek Banerjee, Paalin Kabak, Deepak Dobriyal, Kriti Sanon

# Howling with Laughter

SHUBHRA GUPTA

HUMANS TURNING into werewolves is such a familiar trope that the thought of seeing yet another version wasn't making me jump: I'm happy to report that much of *Bhediya*, in which a principal character turns into an 'ic'chha-dhaari' wolf, is really enjoyable.

And very scenic at that: the film has been shot in Arunachal Pradesh, the gorgeous Northeast state which hasn't yet been trampled upon by tourists. On a mission to build a road that cuts right through a lush forest, Bhaskar Sharma (Dhawan) finds himself turning into a werewolf, you know, the creature that bays at the full moon, howls reverberating through the valley. Bhaskar's companions, Guddu (Banerjee) and Jomin (Kabak) do the stunned-horrified-now-what-to-do number, even as a local veterinarian (Sanon) shoves suspicious injections into Bhaskar's rear, a body part that yields itself to a never-ending string of juvenile jokes.

In fact, juvenilia reigns supreme pretty much throughout the film. Much of the humour takes the scatological route, finding its jollies in, literally, people sitting on the pot, excrement, and the sights and smells thereof. Guddu, performing the hero's BFF/sidekick, clowns well, and so determined is he that we will laugh at his antics, that we succumb.

Dhawan does a good job of aligning with the tone of the film — the horror is pretty much *naam-ke-vaaste*, comedy is what it is interested in — and gets several occasions for a detailed turnover, from human to werewolf, even if the creature swings between looking scarily real to one which is constructed-by-graphics. Back flexing, hair spouting, tail sprouting, teeth sharpening — the CGI guys are clearly having a good time. So is Dhawan, who puts his ability to not take himself seriously to use, and that works to the advantage of the film.

Of course, the whole point of *Bhediya* is to show Bhaskar and his pals the error of their callous ways, and we get several underlined speeches about 'prakriti' and 'progress', and the importance of conserving forests and nature. But the characters mouthing these lines manage to not sound preachy, and part of that's got to do with a local fellow (Dobriyal, nearly unrecognis-



able in a shaggy wig) who acts as a bridge between these misguided cified guys, and people of the region who care for their environment. The film also slips in a few lectures about racism: ignoramuses from North India will call a local chowmein, at least once, and make fun of 'outsiders' before learning their lesson.

The film does falter in never quite figuring out what it wants to do with its sole

female character, even in her relatively meagre arc: when Sanon is introduced, as a fumbling *jaanwar ka doctor*, we are encouraged to laugh at her, and the script takes its own sweet time to rectify that initial reaction. It also goes overboard in terming the locals superstitious, saying *yahaan toh aise hi hota hai* — an 'ojha' shows up to unpack the myth of the werewolf, and the shermansque picturisation comes this close to caricature.

But again, the film pulls back, right in time, with a well-judged potty-mouthed line or two, and its characters bumbling about like silly idiots. This is where the film is surest, and this is where director Amar Kaushik is most confident, given that he's given us similar characters in his earlier *Stree* and *Bala*. And given that these guys are on screen most of the time, peak silly idiocy performed with sureness is pretty much what we get. A cou-

ple of moving moments, shared between Sanon and Dhawan, break the ha-ha-hee-hee, and provide a bit of depth. But so determined is the film to not get 'serious', that those moments come and go, making you wish there were more of them.

Clocking 2.36 hours, *Bhediya* starts wearing out its welcome around its stretched-out climax. But when the going is good, this rumble in the jungle is quite a romp.

## Not Much On Paper

KORA KAGAZZ

★★

Director: Nawneet Ranjan Cast: Rajat Kapoor, Swastika Mukherjee, Aishani Yadav, Disha Singh

MULTIPLE STRANDS appear as *Kora Kagazz* opens: farmers' suicide, childhood trauma, broken families. Sandhya (Yadav) fetches up in a children's home after a violent incident with her uncle. Divya (Mukherjee) presides over the institution with a mix of empathy and strictness: she understands the challenges her wards face, but also understands the importance of discipline.

The home is strapped for cash, and a play to be presented to donors has to be readied in a hurry. Enter Vikas (Kapoor) a middle-aged-but-still-living-in-hope actor who specialises in drama therapy: will he be able to pull it off, given that the girls he is working with are totally raw, and struggling to come to terms with their new reality?

But the promise it holds out to begin with is quite soon belied. Sandhya's clashes with the hot-tempered Anu (Singh) play out like a clich  : we know that these two girls at loggerheads will end up having each other's

back. There's an overall lack of cohesiveness as the plot progresses through its beats. The misunderstanding Divya harbours towards Sandhya, while being completely committed to making things better — we know where that is going. Vikas's playful flashbacks with his father, a popular theatre actor who died too young, and his own troubles to find a productive path which affect him as a husband and father, become repetitive. His interactions with his students, who display a

will to learn, especially Sandhya, who has a way with words, start off shakily and end in a staged production about the bounties of nature, and how to preserve it. It isn't bad. It's just not interesting enough. You can say the same thing for the film, which clearly is trying hard to be well-meaning, and socially relevant.

SG

## Rather Too Strange

STRANGE WORLD

★★

Director: Don Hall, Qui Nguyen Voiced by: Jake Gyllenhaal, Dennis Quaid, Jaboukie Young-White, Gabrielle Union, Lucy Liu

SHUBHRA GUPTA

IT'S NOT just one strange world that we are introduced to in this new Walt Disney adventure. The legendary explorer Clade family traverses one world after another, each stranger than the other: starting from one where icy mountains grow green plants, to another called Avalon where everything is powered by said green plants, to the next where weird blob-like creatures float in the air alongside shocking pink birds that feel predatory, to one where the blue ocean is encircled by a giant Cyclopean eye.

I'm sure there are more, but for now I will stop because this film is not just an around-many-worlds-in-two-hours. It top lines family values, the burden of expectations, father-and-son relations, strong women, and gay young men, out and proud. There have been other Disney films that have experimented with gay characters, but *Strange World* is the first in which it is the main character who drives the narrative.



Ethan Clade (Young-White) is a teenager, totally smitten with a classmate, and has no clue how to tell him, like any other young person of his age. This is the good stuff in the film.

But not much else is. Strange thing to say for a film which gives us worlds exploding with flora and fauna we've never seen before, and spectacular scenery. But how many orange bird-like creatures and squeaky green blobs can you be awestruck by? Very soon, too soon, actually, all these things, which Disney must have spent millions and months on, recedes into the background.

It's only when the humans and their conflicts, big and small, come to the forefront, that the film comes to life. Old man Jaeger Clade (Quaid) is an intrepid explorer, and refuses to halt his quest, for a place beyond the mountains, even when his son

Searcher (Gyllehaal) turns back, miracle plant in hand. It's only when Avalon is in danger that Searcher, along with son Ethan, wife Meridian (Union), an adorable three-legged mutt, and the sharp-eyed Callisto (Liu), sets out in search of the magic elixir which will save their fertile land.

Promptly, old Jaeger, whom no one has seen for 25 years, and who is still as irascible as ever, shows up. And off they all go. Spaceships zigging and zagging, smart rescue operations, and finally, daddy issues being resolved. It's all very Disney. What stays with you is the young Ethan, and his sparkly, bashful romance. As one character says to another: 'What, there are no bad guys? That's poor storytelling'.

The storytelling in *Strange World* is not exactly poor. It's just a by-the-numbers tread, which pops only once in a while.

## MUSIC THIS WEEK

Album : Between Us...

★★★★

Artists: Anoushka Shankar; featuring Manu Delago, Metropole Orkest and Jules Buckley Streaming on: Spotify

## Exchanging Notes

SUANSHU KHURANA

WHEN *CHASING Shadows* — a composition in the late evening beauty, raag Jog — appeared on Anoushka Shankar's 2013 album titled *Traces of You*, a tribute to her father and sitar maestro Pt Ravi Shankar after he passed away in 2012, there was a compelling sense of *deja vu* to its note structures. Not because Anoushka played it in the previous years, interlacing it with the title piece in *Traveller* (2011), but also because its roots distinctly reminded us of phrases from Shankar's 1956 album — *Three*

*Ragas*, where the first piece was a 28-minute presentation of Jog. But the congruity between the two is not only a result of raga similarity or because the two have lived the same style of music, but also because of close kinship in the melodic phrasings and that youthful vigour in approaching the raga.

In the album *Traces of You*, when the piece was paired with a shehnai and a striking hook, it showcased an artiste combining her traditional learning with diverse influences. It was rhythmically agile and a very intelligent way to portray Jog. A live favourite soon, it was a significant piece that had even the most critical



of the critics sit up and notice. Especially the 2012 concert at Festival Les Nuits de Fourviere, France. She was about 31, travelling the world, and playing like a star. She wasn't that nervous teenager anymore, burdened by a lineage and scrutiny of the world.

On her new album, *Between Us*, she interprets the piece alongside Metropole Orkest, a Netherlands-based jazz orchestra, and longtime collaborator Manu Delago, the master of

the hang drums. The song is now bigger and bolder.

But the real deal is this: the song, including the other six, was recorded live, in the Netherlands in 2018 during a short run of shows. It's interesting how she opens up to the scope of pauses and potholes. The core sound comes with the energy of musicians responding to each other, which is often missing in studio albums. The result: *Between Us* is in the running at the Grammys this year.

The album pulls mainly from the music that Anoushka created in the last decade — difficult personally, but one that has been enriching musically. Losing her father, divorce, being a single parent and health issues have all gone on in the background, probably allowing her to find more of herself and her music.

*Voice of the Moon*, from her 2005 album *Rise*, opens *Between Us*, and is approached with more introspection this time. Based in raag Kirwani, it begins gently and soars. One of the finest compositions, it's followed by *Maya* and

*Flight*, both from *Traces of You*. These aren't pieces that instantly draw you in terms of composition. They feel experimental and not as cohesive as the others. A previously unreleased track, *Jannah*, which is based on raag Jansammohini, comes with immediate and inviting progressions. Delago adds much depth as his hand pans combine rhythm and melody and merge beautifully with the timbre of the sitar. The final piece, *Land of Gold*, an ode to the world's refugee crisis, is like a swirling undercurrent that ends with massive applause, a reminder of the energy of the live audience.

*Between Us*..., like Laura Lewis Anoushka's last few albums, is a testament to her composition skills and her concerts being an experience. She may not have started out as the most gifted performer of the sitar, but she's definitely one of its most hardworking keepers. She put her head down and honed her skill. *Between Us*... is a fine example of that. Now we wait for the *thehraav* (restfulness). It seems within reach.

STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI



THE CUP

MUBI

Directed by Khyentse Norbu, *The Cup* is about two young football-crazy monks, Orgyen and Nyima. The story is set in 1998 and they are living in a remote Himalayan monastery, desperately trying to find a television so that they can watch the World Cup Final. The elders are bemused by their obsession and also concerned about the excessive intrusion into their sacred space.



CHHELLO SHOW

NETFLIX

*Chhello Show (Last Film Show)*, which is India's official entry for the Academy Awards in the Best International Feature Film category, is an ode to childhood and celluloid dreams. This Gujarati-language movie, filmed at idyllic locations around Sasan Gir, is about nine-year-old Samay's abiding love for cinema, his heartwarming friendships and aspirations.



KANTARA

PRIME VIDEO

A heady blend of folklore, myth and history, this Kannada movie has recorded an impressive box-office collection. Written and directed by Rishab Shetty, who also plays its lead character, *Kantara* is the story of a tribal community living on the edges of a forest in Karnataka. The film explores multiple themes such as the rights of tribals dependent on forests, local beliefs and traditions.



GOOD NIGHT OPPI

PRIME VIDEO

This documentary tells the inspirational true story of Opportunity, a rover that was sent to Mars by NASA for a 90-day mission but survived for 15 years. It follows Opportunity's groundbreaking journey on Mars and the bond forged between a robot and humans millions of miles away. The documentary is narrated by Angela Bassett and directed by Ryan White.



INTO THE DARKNESS

BOOKMYSHOW STREAM

In the Danish title an industrialist cooperates and profits from the German occupation of Denmark during World War II, while his family is on opposite sides of the conflict. Through his strained ties with his family, especially his son who joins the resistance movement, the film explores the dilemmas of Danish people during WWII. The film, set in 1940, is directed by Anders Refn.

## elhi



GOLD

₹52,837



RUPEE

₹81.68



OIL

\$82.65



SILVER

₹61,875

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg. Crude oil (Indian basket) as of November 23

SENSEX: 62,293.64 ▲ 20.96 (0.03%) NIFTY: 18,512.75 ▲ 28.65 (0.15%) NIKKEI: 28,283.03 ▼ 100.06 HANG SENG: 17,573.58 ▼ 87.32 FTSE: 7,485.38 ▲ 18.78 DAX: 14,538.31 ▲ 1.25

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH  
INSURANCEIRDAI relaxes  
PE investment,  
solvency normsENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 25

THE BOARD of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) on Friday approved a host of proposals, involving private equity investment, solvency norms, dilution of equity and fund raising, aimed at promoting ease of doing business and simplifying the process of setting up an insurance company. The regulator has allowed the promoters to dilute their stake up to 26 per cent, subject to condition that the insurer has satisfactory solvency record for the preceding five years and is a listed entity.

After the board meeting in Hyderabad, IRDAI said investment through special purpose vehicles (SPVs) has been made optional for private equity (PE) funds enabling them to directly invest in insurance companies, providing more flexibility. The IRDAI move is expected to bring more PE funds into the insurance sector. Further, subsidiary companies will be allowed to be promoters of insurance companies, subject to certain conditions. Investment up to 25 per cent of the paid-up capital by a single investor (50 per cent for all investors collectively) will now be treated as 'investor' and investments over and above that will only be treated as promoter. Earlier, the threshold was 10 per cent for individual investors and

Nod for Go  
Digit IPO,  
Max Life  
merger

IRDAI has given final approval to Go Digit General Insurance Company for listing on the stock exchanges. It also gave in-principle approval to India First Life Insurance Company for listing and approved the merger of Exide Life Insurance Company with HDFC Life Insurance. ENS

25 per cent for all investors collectively. The changes in solvency norms will release around Rs 3,460 crore for insurers. It has also set indicative criteria for determination of 'fit and proper' status of investors and promoters.

In order to facilitate ease of raising other forms of capital through subordinated debt or preference shares, it has dispensed with the requirement of prior approval from IRDAI.

The amendments have also enhanced the limits for raising such capital. This will enable companies to raise the required capital in a timely manner.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## TRUSTEES, OTHER CONNECTED ENTITIES TOO COVERED BY THE NORMS

Sebi brings mutual fund managers,  
directors under insider trading rulesENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 25

WITH SEVERAL cases of insider trading in mutual funds coming to light recently, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has finally brought fund managers, directors of fund houses, trustees and other connected entities under the ambit of insider trading rules.

Listing detailed guidelines in the gazette, the regulator said connected entities will include board of directors and key management personnel of sponsor of the mutual fund, directors or employees of registrar and share transfer agents and custodians or valuation agencies of the mutual fund who have access or are reasonably expected to have access to unpublished price sensitive information relating to a mutual fund scheme or its units in the course of business operations.

The Sebi board had earlier

cleared the proposal. Fund managers of some fund houses had indulged in front running, making a huge money in the manipulation. Front-running, which is illegal in India, involves purchasing a stock based on advance exclusive information regarding an expected large transaction that will affect its price. Sebi has categorised front-running as a form of market manipulation and insider trading, and penalised several fund houses and fund managers in the past over this activity.

It has also brought an official or an employee of fund account providing services to a mutual fund, an official or an employee of a self-regulatory organization, an official of a stock exchange for dissemination of information, directors or employees of auditor, legal advisor or consultants of the mutual fund or asset management company, a banker of the mutual fund or AMC and a concern, firm, trust, HUF, company or association of persons wherein a director

EXPLAINED  
Off-market  
trades

OFF-MARKET trades should be reported by the insiders to the asset management company within two working days. Every asset management company should notify the particulars of such trades to the stock exchange

of an AMC and Trustees or his immediate relative or banker of the company, has more than ten per cent of the holding or interest under the rules.

Sebi said no insider should trade in the units of a scheme of a mutual fund, when in possession of unpublished price sensitive information, which may have a material impact on the net asset value

'India's forex reserves rises  
\$2.54 bn to \$547.25 bn'

India's forex reserves have grown by \$2.537 billion to \$547.252 billion for the week ended November 18, the RBI said on Friday



**\$544.715 bn:** In the previous reporting week, the overall kitty had swelled in the highest weekly rise since August 2021

**\$645 bn:** It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high. The reserves have been declining as RBI deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused by

global developments

**\$484.2 bn:** Foreign currency assets, a major component of the overall reserves, increased by \$1.76 billion during the week to Nov 18

**\$40 billion:** The gold reserves increased by \$315 million

**\$17.9 billion:** The Special Drawing Rights were up by \$351 million

**\$5.04 billion:** The country's reserve position with the IMF was also up by \$111 million

Source: Reserve Bank of India/PTI

Centre releases  
₹17K cr GST  
compensation  
to states, UTsENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

THE CENTRE has released Rs 17,000 crore to the States and Union Territories as the balance compensation for the goods and services tax (GST) for the period, April-June 2022.

The funds were released a day ahead of the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's pre-Budget meeting with State Finance Ministers on Friday.

"The total amount of compensation released to the States/UTs so far, including the aforesaid amount, during the year 2022-23 is Rs 1,15,662 crore," the finance ministry said in a statement on Friday.

With this release, the Centre has paid in advance, the entire amount of cess estimated to be collected this fiscal and which would have been available for payment as compensation to States.

While the total cess collection till October this year was only Rs 72,147 crore, the ministry said the balance Rs 43,515 crore is being released by the Centre from its own resources. **FE**

Adani Enterprises  
set to raise up to  
₹20K cr via FPOENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 25

ADANI ENTERPRISES Friday said it has received the board approval to raise up to Rs 20,000 crore of funds through issuance of fresh equity shares via follow-on-public offering (FPO) of equity shares. The decision was taken by the board in a meeting held on Friday.

In a filing to exchanges, the company said the board has approved 'raising of funds by way of a further public offering through a fresh issue of equity shares by the company aggregating up to Rs 20,000 crore'.

A follow-on-public offer, also known as secondary offering, is a process in which an existing company listed on stock exchanges issues new shares to the existing shareholders as well as new investors. As of September 30, 2022, the promoter's shareholding in Adani Enterprises stood at 72.63 per cent and the balance 27.37 per cent was held by public investors. FIs owned 15.59 per cent in the company as of end-September, the BSE data showed.

Last week, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani said the company will invest over \$70 billion in the renewable energy space and will build the world's most integrated renewable energy value chain over the next decade. In the quarter ended September 2022, the company's consolidated net profit jumped to Rs 460.94 crore



Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group. File

'NDTV takeover  
a responsibility'

**Mumbai:** Gautam Adani sees the takeover of NDTV as a "responsibility" rather than a business opportunity, he said in an interview with the *Financial Times* on Friday. Adani added that he has invited NDTV's owner-founder Prannoy Roy to remain as chair when the acquisition is completed. **REUTERS**

## After edtech, Amazon to shut food unit

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

A LITTLE over two years after starting it, Amazon is shutting down its food delivery service from December 29, according to a communication sent by the e-commerce firm to its restaurant partners in the country.

"This decision means that you will no longer get orders from customers via Amazon Food after this date. You will continue to receive orders till then and we expect you to continue fulfilling those orders,"

a mail sent by Amazon to its restaurant partners, said Amazon had launched the food delivery business in India in May 2020 in parts of Bengaluru and later expanded the service across the city, but it never heavily marketed or promoted the platform.

The development comes a day after Amazon said that it is shutting down its edtech platform in the country. Globally, the company plans to lay off thousands of employees. Other digital platforms like Twitter and Meta have also recently fired thousands.

Amazon has told its restaura-

SERVICE TO CLOSE  
FROM DEC 29

■ Amazon had launched the food delivery business in India in May 2020

rants partners that it is committed to meet all its payments and other contractual obligations. Restaurants will have access to all Amazon tools and reports till January 31, 2023, and it will also

provide support till March 31 for any compliance-related issues.

"As part of our annual operating planning review process, we have made the decision to discontinue Amazon Food, our pilot food delivery business in Bengaluru," Amazon said. "We don't take these decisions lightly. We are discontinuing these programmes in a phased manner to take care of current customers and partners, and we are supporting our affected employees during this transition," it added.

The company said that it remains committed to the Indian

market and will continue to invest across grocery, smartphones and consumer electronics, fashion and beauty, as well as B2B offerings such as Amazon Business.

Even after making investments of \$6.5 billion in India in the last eight years, Amazon has not been able to become profitable in the country with negative Ebitda margins of 5-10 per cent.

On Thursday, Amazon had said that it will be shutting its online learning platform, Amazon Academy, where it prepared students for competitive exams, in India. **FE**

## ON INVESTMENT IN HDFC LTD SUBSIDIARIES

## 'HDFC Bank awaiting RBI response'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 25

HDFC LTD chairman Deepak Parekh Friday said HDFC Bank is awaiting the Reserve Bank of India's reply on its request for relaxation in investments in subsidiaries of the mortgage financier.

In April this year, HDFC Ltd had announced a merger with its banking subsidiary—HDFC Bank. "HDFC Bank has requested RBI for forbearance in respect of investments in all subsidiaries

(of HDFC Ltd), including HDFC Ergo. Discussions are currently on with the RBI and we are awaiting the final response," Parekh informed the equity shareholders in a meeting convened by National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

He said all the investments of HDFC Ltd will be transferred to the private lender in compliance with existing regulations as determined by the RBI.

The lender has also sought necessary forbearance from RBI in respect of complying with the

timelines for statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) and cash reserve ratio (CRR) requirements.

"In case, the forbearance is not forthcoming, the merged entity is expected to have sufficient liquidity and alternatives available to meet the necessary funding requirements," Parekh said. On date of completion of the merger, he said it was difficult to indicate an exact time as certain approvals are still pending. He, however, expects the merger to be effective by June 2023. Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## BRIEFLY

## GST meeting

**New Delhi:** The 48th Meeting of the GST Council will be held on 17th December, 2022 by Video Conference. **ENS**

## Sanyal, growth

**New Delhi:** India is capable of generating a 9 per cent growth rate but in view of the geopolitical situation, we should be satisfied with a 6.5-7 per cent economic expansion, said Sanjiv Sanyal, member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister said at the Times Now Summit 2022.

## India, UAE

**New Delhi:** The central banks of India and UAE are discussing a concept paper on promoting bilateral trade in rupee and dirham with a view to reduce transaction cost, a top official said on Friday, India's Ambassador to the UAE Sunjay Sudhir said that the concept paper for trade in local currencies was shared by India. **PTI**

## RBI, vostro

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank has given approval to banks to open 12 special 'vostro accounts' for trade in rupees with trading partners, its Executive Director Deepak Kumar said. **REUTERS**

'Data regulation provision  
to be included in new Act'PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 25

THE GOVERNMENT plans to include data regulation provisions in a new Digital India Act, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said.

While speaking at an event at Foreign Correspondent Club on 5G, Chandrasekhar said the recently issued draft of Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) focuses on the protection of data

of Indian citizens. "It (DPDP) does not intend to appoint a regulator and create regulation for the data ecosystem. That is down the road when we create a new bill for Digital India Act. This is a Bill which narrowly focuses on data protection of consumers," Chandrasekhar said. The government has issued a draft of a new data protection bill after it withdrew the previous version of the bill from the Lok Sabha in August citing several overlapping rules in the modified version of the Bill.



**THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD., SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812, 66**

Notice Inviting e Tender <span style="float: right;">www.verka.coop</span>							
Name of the Work/Item	Contract Period/Tentative Qty.	Consignee/ Place of Tender Opening	Tender Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D (Rs.)	Date & Time for uploading of e-tender	Last Date & Time for Submission of e-tender	Date & Time for opening of e-tender
Bulk Milk Cooler	Annual Rate Contract	Verka Head Office, SCO No. 153-155, Sector 34A, Chandigarh Ph.No. 0172-5041837-38	200/-	10,00,000/-	25.11.2022 from 11:00 AM	12.12.2022 up to 10.00 AM	<b>Technical bid</b> 12.12.2022 at 02:00 PM
-500 Ltr	1 No						
-1000 Ltr	65 No's						
-2000 Ltr	41 No's						
-3000 Ltr	03 No's						
-5000 Ltr	03 No's						

Bidders shall have to pay required Tender Processing fee through online mode only i.e. through debit/credit card for getting registered for e-tendering system. EMD should be made only through online mode i.e. Credit/Debit card, NEFT/RTGS, Internet Banking. For participating in the above e-tender, the parties shall have to get themselves registered with our e-Tendering portal i.e. [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in) and get USER ID and Password well in time. For downloading tender through e-tendering, process flow, please contact e-Procurement help desk on given No. 0172-2970263, 2970264 immediately so that process of timely registration and downloading the tender is completed in time by the date of tender opening. For additional details regarding e-tendering please visit website [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in). Tender processing Fee is Non-Refundable.

Incharge (Purchase)

**Office of the Suprintending Engineer**  
**Water Resources Circle, Udaipur**

No. SE/ACC./2022/4255 Date: - 18/11/22

**E-NIT No. 04/2022-23**

Bids for the works mentioned below are invited from interested bidders upto dated 15.12.2022 till 5.00 PM.

NIB Code	- WPD 2223A0511
UBN:-	- WPD 2223WSOB02143
UBN:-	- WPD 2223WSOB02144

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal <http://eproc.rajabhawan.gov.in>, <http://eppc.raj.nic.in>, [www.dipr.rajabhawan.gov.in](http://www.dipr.rajabhawan.gov.in) & [www.water.rajabhawan.gov.in/wr](http://www.water.rajabhawan.gov.in/wr)

Sd/-  
Suprintending Engineer  
Water Resources Circle Udaipur

DIPRC/14956/2022


**CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

P.B. No.8066, Sadashivnagar PO, Bengaluru - 560 080  
Telephone No: 080-2207 2271, e-mail : [purchase@cpri.in](mailto:purchase@cpri.in)  
web site : <http://www.cpri.res.in>

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER - CPRI/BLR22NIT02**  
**Date: 10/11/2022**

Online e-tenders are invited from eligible manufacturers/ suppliers for the following in conformation to National / International standards wherever applicable:-

- 1) 1200 kV, 12 A Series Resonant Test System with Partial Discharge Measurement Equipment.
- 2) Supply, Installation, Erection, Commissioning and Training of personnel for operation & maintenance of 10/350 micro second and 8/20 micro second Impulse Current Generator Test Facility.
- 3) Supply of Three Phase Coupling DeCoupling Surge test system and accessories compatible to the existing network test system telecom tester (Model MIG 0603In2 S-T, Make EMC Partner).
- 4) +/- 1500 kV, 50 mA HVDC Test System

**Tender documents with detailed specifications, terms & conditions, instructions, and other details be kindly availed/downloaded from CPRI website: <http://www.cpri.res.in> and CPRI e-procurement portal: [www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI) from 10/11/2022 onwards.**

**CPRI/ADVT/14/2022 Purchase Authority-CPRI**

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER



SI/Exe A.S.  
MADHU KUMAR  
ONGC NAZIRA 26-11-1998



HC/GD S.BASHEER  
ONGC NAZIRA  
26-11-1998



CT/GD SURJEET  
SINGH ONGC  
ONGC NAZIRA 26-11-1998



CT/GD RAJESH SINGH ONGC NAZIRA  
26-11-1998

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with the militants. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.

**MAHARAJA RAMJIT SINGH PUNJAB TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY**  
Dobwali Road, Bathinda - 151001  
[Established by Govt. of Punjab vide Punjab Act No. 5 of 1915]

No. E-TENDER/MRSP/TPURCHASE/2022/464

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-tender is invited for the Supply, Fabrication & Fixing of Classroom Benches for MRSP/TP, Bathinda.  
For details visit: [www.mrsp.ptu.ac.in](http://www.mrsp.ptu.ac.in).  
Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on University website only.

Time & Schedule: Start Date : 29-11-2022 (11:00 AM) Last Date of Submission: 19-12-2022 (03:00 PM)

REGISTRAR

**Office of The Chief General Manager, Construction Wing, UTTARAKHAND Peyjal Sansadhan Vikas Evam Nirman Nigam**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)  
403/1 Indira Nagar, Dehradun-248001  
e-mail: [cgmnirmanwing@yahoo.com](mailto:cgmnirmanwing@yahoo.com), [gmnirmanwing@gmail.com](mailto:gmnirmanwing@gmail.com)

Government of Uttarakhand e-tender Notice			
Bid Identification No: 4860/Nivida (Garhwal)Dehradun/164		Dated: 24-11-2022	
S. No	Name of Works	Estimated Cost	Period of Completion
1	Furniture & Furnishing work for 'Uttarakhand Niwas', 03, Gopinath Bardolai Marg, Chankyapuri, New Delhi.	Rs. 77.22 Lakh (Including G.S.T)	05 Months
2	Name and Address of Officer Inviting the Bid :-	General Manager, (Garh.), Construction Wing, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, 403/1 Indira Nagar, Dehradun	
3	Date and Time of Availability of bid documents in the portal :-	25-11-2022 - 17.00 Hrs.	
4	Pre Bid Meeting	02-12-2022 - 12.00 Hrs.	
5	Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :-	12-12-2022 - 17.00 Hrs.	
Details of e-bid and subsequent addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website <a href="http://www.uktenders.gov.in">www.uktenders.gov.in</a>		General Manager (Garhwal)	

**भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्**  
**INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION**  
(प्राथमिक, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, वन्य जीव संरक्षण का एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)  
(An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)  
प्लॉट 40/0 - न्यू फॉरेस्ट, देहरादून 248 006 (उत्तराखण्ड)  
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248 006 (Uttarakhand)

**शुद्धिपत्र**  
विज्ञापित संख्या 03/आयरेकएफ/2022-भा.वा.अ.शि.प.  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
Advt. No. 03/Directors/2022-ICFRE

भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद् देहरादून के अन्तर्गत 7वें वेंतन आयोग के वेंतन स्तर 14 के वेंतनमान में निदेशक, वन उत्पादकता संस्थान, रॉकी के पद को प्रतिनियुक्ति के आधार पर भरने हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित किए गए थे।

इस विज्ञापन के अनुसार आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि जो कि दिनांक 30.11.2022 थी को दिनांक 31.12.2022 तक विस्तारित किया जाता है। अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्व में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन के अनुसार रहेंगी।

उपरोक्त पद हेतु इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी भा0वा0अ0शि0प0 की वेबसाइट <http://www.icfre.org> में दिये गये विस्तृत विज्ञापन के अनुसार आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

Applications were invited for filling up of the post of Director, Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi in Pay Level 14 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix on deputation basis in Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun.

The last date of submission of application of the above advertisement which was upto 30.11.2022 is extended upto 31.12.2022. Other terms and conditions will remain same as in the earlier advertisement.

The interested candidates may apply for the above said post as per detailed advertisement available at ICFRE website <http://www.icfre.org>.

सचिव, भा.वा.अ.शि.प./Secretary, ICFRE

**उ0प्र0 शासन का हार्ट सर्जरी में सेन्टर आफ एक्सीलेन्स चिकित्सा शिक्षा उ0प्र0 शासन कार्यालय निदेशक, हृदय रोग संस्थान, कानपुर।**  
पत्रांक: हरोस/2022-23/5302 दिनांक: 15.11.2022

**सहायक आचार्य (संविदा) हेतु वाक-इन-इण्टरव्यू**  
हृदय रोग संस्थान, कानपुर में स्थापित 128 स्टाइस सीटी स्कैन मशीन, मोबाइल एवं फिक्स्ड एक्सरे के संचालनार्थ एवं पैरामेडिकल कोर्स के शिक्षण-प्रशिक्षण कार्य हेतु सहायक आचार्य के तीन रिक्त पदों के सापेक्ष संविदा के आधार पर नियुक्ति हेतु दिनांक 16.01.2023 (सोमवार) को मथान्द 12.00 बजे से अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक वाक-इन-इण्टरव्यू का आयोजन किया गया है। संविदा पर यह नियुक्ति रोगियों के हित में कार्य संचालनार्थ, एक वर्ष तक के लिये अथवा नियमित सहायक आचार्य उपलब्ध होने तक, जो पहले घटित हो, तक की अवधि के लिए ही मान्य होगी। नियुक्ति हेतु उपलब्ध पदों का विवरण निम्नलिखित है:-

क्रम सं०	विशिष्टता का नाम	पदनाम	पदों की संख्या व श्रेणी		
			अनारक्षित	अनु०जाति	अ०पि०वर्ग
					इ०डब्ल्यू०एस०
1	रेडियोलॉजी	सहायक आचार्य	1	1	0

नोट-विज्ञापित पदों का संख्या घट या बढ़ सकती है।

इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी अपने समस्त शैक्षिक अभिलेखों की मूलप्रतियों के साथ सत्यापित छायाप्रति के दो सेट एवं पासपोर्ट साइज दो फोटो सहित हृदय रोग संस्थान, कानपुर के तृतीय तल स्थित निदेशक कार्यालय में निर्धारित तिथि व समय पर साक्षात्कार हेतु उपस्थित हों। साक्षात्कार हेतु किसी भी प्रकार का टीए/वीए देय नहीं है। शासन के नवीनतम शासनादेश के अनुसार आरक्षण लागू होगा। विज्ञापन को चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग की Website: [www.updgm.in](http://www.updgm.in) एवं संस्थान की Website: [www.lpscadiology.org](http://www.lpscadiology.org) पर भी देखा जा सकता है। सीट न भरे जाने की स्थिति में यथाआवश्यक पुनर्विज्ञापन को उक्त दोनों वेबसाइटों पर अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा समय-समय पर देखा जा सकता है।

UPID-182112 Date 24/11/2022  
[www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in)

**निदेशक-हृदय रोग संस्थान, कानपुर।**

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DURG CIRCLE, DURG (C.G.)**  
Durg, Dated: 14.11.2022

**e-Procurement Tender Notice (1<sup>ST</sup> CALL)**

Online tenders in form "A" percentage rate basis are invited on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh dated 06-12-2022 :-

NIT No./System No.	Name of work	P.A.C. (Rs. In lacs.)
201/114685	Annual Repair works of Res. & Non Res. Building at Govt. C.C.M.C & Hospital Kachandur under Sub Dn No 2 Durg	77.24
202/114686	White Washing, Colour Washing, Distemping & Painting of Resi. Building at Govt. C.C.M.C & Hospital Kachandur under Sub Dn No 2 Durg	80.00
203/114687	White Washing, Colour Washing, Distemping & Painting of Non Resi. Building at Govt. C.C.M.C & Hospital Kachandur under Sub Dn No 2 Durg	80.00
204/114688	Deposit/ MOW works of Res. & Non Res. Building at Govt. C.C.M.C & Hospital Kachandur under Sub Dn No 2 Durg	80.58
205/114689	Structural Strengthening Rehabilitation & Water proofing treatment At Non Residential Building Govt. C.C.M.C. & Hospital Kachandur Durg Under sub-Dn.No.-2, Durg	80.00
207/114692	WHITE WASHING & COLOUR WASHING, DISTEMPERING, PAINTING IN RESI. & NON RES.BUILDING UNDER P.W.D. SUB DIVISION NO. - 2, BALOD	60.00
209/114696	Construction of Raweli Kanharipuri Approach Road Length 2.00 KM.	153.04
210/114697	Construction of Khuteri to Torankatta Pahunch Marg, Length 1.80 Km. (i/c Culverts) Distt.- Rajnandgaon	198.50

**Note :-**

- NIT No 201,202,203,204 & 205 are under Public Works Department Durg Division Durg & NIT No 207 are under Public Works Department Balod Division Balod & NIT No 209 & 210 are under Public Works Department Rajnandgaon Division Rajnandgaon.
- General Conditions, detailed NIT, Tender documents & other information of the above construction work available from the Eprocurement web portal or departmental website <http://eprocurement.gov.in>.
- NIT No. & Name of the Work should be essentially mentioned on the envelope through the Registered Post/Speed Post in this office.

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer  
P.W.D., Durg Circle Durg (C.G.)  
Tel. 0788-2210876

96084

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता**  
सतारवाँ वृत्त, लोक निर्माण विभाग, गोपेश्वर

Ph. No/Fax No :- 01372-252173 E Mail :- [sepwdgope@rediffmail.com](mailto:sepwdgope@rediffmail.com)

No. 6009/30 Yatayat-7/2022 Dated 25 /11 /2022

**E-tender Notice**

Superintending Engineer, 7th Circle, P.W.D, Gopeshwar invites bid on behalf Hon'ble Governor, Uttarakhand under two bid system for the following work. Information regarding bid will be available from 02.12.2022 on <https://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No	District	Name of Work	Amount of Earnest Money (Rs. Lakhs)	Cost of e-Tender Document (in Rs.)	Validity of Tender In Days	Completion Period (in days)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Chamoli	Improvement-Damrikaran and road safety work on Rudraprayag - Pokhari - Gopeshwar motor road (S.H.-35) From Km 88 to 99, Km 100 (750m). Under SAS.	15.90	5000 + G.S.T	120	75	Registered in Category "A" for Road work in any State/Govt. of India/any Govt. undertaking

**कार्यालय, उपनिदेशक**  
राजकीय मुद्रणालय, रामनगर, वाराणसी

GST No-09AAGRO836E1ZF ई-मेल : [stategovtpress@gmail.com](mailto:stategovtpress@gmail.com)

पत्रांक-वा0/130/परिषे/2022 दिनांक- 24/11/22

**जेम बिड की सूचना**

महामहिम राज्यपाल महोदया, उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर से उप निदेशक, राजकीय मुद्रणालय, रामनगर, वाराणसी द्वारा माध्यमिक शिक्षा परिषद की परीक्षा वर्ष 2023 के प्रयोगार्थ हाईस्कूल / इण्टरमीडिएट "अ" एवं "ब" की सादी उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं की हैण्ड नम्बरिंग, उनकी अरंजिंग, सुतली द्वारा बन्मलिंग, टाट में बेलिंग एवं फेकिंग के उपरान्त बेलों को मुद्रणालय के अन्दर सुरक्षित स्थान तक रखने का कार्य किये जाने हेतु निम्न विवरण के अनुसार जेम बिड संख्या- GEM / 2022/8/2776705 dated 24-11-22 आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र०स०	कार्य का विवरण	मात्रा
1.	माध्यमिक शिक्षा परिषद की परीक्षा वर्ष 2023 के प्रयोगार्थ हाईस्कूल / इण्टरमीडिएट "अ" एवं "ब" की सादी उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं की हैण्ड नम्बरिंग, उनकी अरंजिंग, सुतली द्वारा बण्डलिंग, टाट में बेलिंग एवं फेकिंग के उपरान्त बेलों को मुद्रणालय के अन्दर सुरक्षित स्थान तक रखे जाने हेतु।	65,95,303

बिड से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण तथा मानक नियम एवं शर्तें आदि भारत सरकार की जेम पोर्टल वेबसाइट [gem.gov.in](http://gem.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है, जिसे जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से इच्छुक बिडर्स द्वारा डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। बिडर्स द्वारा अपनी बिड जैम वेबसाइट [gem.gov.in](http://gem.gov.in) पर ऑनलाइन ही निर्धारित समनान्तर्गत (IMPORTANT TIME LINES) अपलोड किया जायेगा।

(नीरज कुमार श्रीवास्तव)  
उपनिर्देशक  
राजकीय मुद्रणालय रामनगर, वाराणसी।

UPID-182260 Date 25/11/2022  
[www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in)

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सहारनपुर वृत्त, लो०नि०वि०, सहारनपुर ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना (तृतीय आमन्त्रण)**

पत्रांक : 7585/ 28एफएसएफ एस०वृत्त / 22 दिनांक : 18.11.2022

महामहिम राज्यपाल 3090 की ओर से निम्न कार्य हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदायें <http://etender.up.nic.in> के माध्यम से लॉन्चिंग में आयरग्राइड रजिस्टर्ड फर्म से दिनांक 29.11.2022 की प्रातः 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 05.12.2022 को अपराह्न 12.00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती है। निविदा की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन / टेक्निकल बिड दिनांक 05.12.2022 को अपराह्न 12-30 बजे ओपेनहाउसरी के कार्यालय कक्ष में उपस्थित रजिस्टर्ड फर्म के अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष गठित समिति के सदस्यों द्वारा ऑन लाईन खोली जायेगी। टेक्निकल बिड में क्वालीफाई पाये गये ठेकेदारों को फाइनेन्शियल बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर अपलोड कर दी जायेगी। शासनदेश सं० 317 / तैईस-7-2018-176सं० / 2006टीसी०-1 दिनांक 10.04.2019 के अन्तर्गत निविदा सूचना में अंकित तालिका के कॉलम 5 में अंकित धरोहर धनराशि एवं कॉलम 7 में प्रदर्शित निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य जी०एफ०डी० सहित ऑनलाइन (E-Banking द्वारा) जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा। कार्यालय बन्द होने अथवा छुट्टी होने की दशा में प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन/टेक्नीकल बिड एवं फाइनेन्शियल बिड उसी क्रम एवं समानानुसार अपने कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी। कार्य का विवरण निम्नवत है:-

क्र. सं.	जनपद	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख रू० में)	धरोहर धनराशि (लाख रू० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य जी०एफ०डी० सहित	ठेकेदार के पंजीय न की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	मुजफ्फरनगर	डीएन रोड रामपुर चौराहे से लिंक एनएच-58 खामपुर खोजा नगला गोपाली मार्ग पर बी०सी० से नवीनीकरण का कार्य किमी० 1(500), 2,9,11,12,13,14,15,16 17,18 (200)	238.00	13.90	02 माह	2000+300 + 414= 2714.00	मार्ग श्रेणी ए

निविदा से सम्बन्धित नियम / शर्तें तथा विवरण <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। फर्म / ठेकेदारों को शासनदेश सं० 879 (1/23)-7-2020 दिनांक 25.08.2020 में निहित प्रावधानानुसार प्रहरी एप्लीकेशन पर वांछित प्रपत्र अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा।

अधिशारी अभियन्ता निर्माण खण्ड-1, लो०नि०वि० मुजफ्फरनगर

UPID-182103 Date 24/11/2022  
[www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in)

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सहारनपुर वृत्त, लो०नि०वि० सहारनपुर

**Office of Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, P.W.D. Rampur**

**Very Short Notice E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders**

Ref.No. 4773 /E-Nivida-Rampur/22-23 Dated :23-11-2022

1. The Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle, U.P.P.W.D. Rampur on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

2.

Sl. No.	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac) (Ex. GST)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lac)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Cost of tender documents including GST (Rs.)	Category of road contractor eligible
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Rampur	Construction of two lane Gate for Shahbad Rampur Bazpur (SH-144) at UltraHand state Border & Interstate border (Civil work) (5th Call)	60.00	5.00	03 month	2354.00	Building Work Category A B & C
2	Rampur	Construction of two lane Gate for Swar Daryal Kashipur road at Interstate border in distt. Rampur (Civil Work) (5th Call)	60.00	5.00	03 month	2354.00	Building Work Category A B & C
3	Rampur	Construction of two lane Gate for Swar Chakrhadra road at Interstate border in distt. Rampur (Civil Work) (5th Call)	60.00	5.00	03 month	2354.00	Building Work Category A B & C
4	Rampur	Construction of two lane Gate for Bijarkhata Sultapur Patti road at Interstate border in distt. Rampur (Civil Work) (5th Call)	60.00	5.00	03 month	2354.00	Building Work Category A B & C
5	Rampur	Construction of two lane Gate for Chadhdha Paper Mill to Kartapur Suanagla road at Interstate border in distt. Rampur (Civil Work) (5th Call)	60.00	5.00	03 month	2354.00	Building Work Category A B & C
6	Rampur	Construction of two lane Gate for NH-87 Km. 41 to Rudrapur Bilepur to Dohbe road at Interstate border in distt. Rampur (Civil Work) (5th Call)	60.00	5.00	03 month	2354.00	Building Work Category A B & C
7	Rampur	Repair work of approach road and protective work of Kosi river bridge situated at km 4 of Prangur Manikpur Banjariya road in district Rampur. (1st call)	230.00	13.50	03 month	2354.00	Building Work Category A

➤ Bids must be download online form 10:00 AM on date 28.11.2022 to 5:00 PM on dated 04.12.2022 and the technical bids will be opened online date 05.12.2022 at 12:30 PM in Office of Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle PWD Rampur and Financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on date & time as notified. According to the provisions of Government Order no. 1/2018/3070/78-2-2018/42 17/2017 (22) Date 03-01-2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the qualified bidder has to submit original documents personally in department office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with provisions of G.O.

➤ All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. The bidders have to login on Prahari U.R.L. <http://wms.upwd.gov.in/Prahari/> to upload required documents as per Government Order No. 879(1)/23-7-2020 dt. 25-08-2020 & E.N.C./HOD's upwd Order No. 4859/4M-C/2020 dt. 27.08.2020.

**Rules/conditions & details of the tender are available at website <http://etender.up.nic.in>.**

(R.A. Dohare)  
Superintending Engineer  
Rampur Cir.PWD, Rampur  
Ph. 0595 - 2351163  
Email- [pwdrampur@gmail.com](mailto:pwdrampur@gmail.com)

(Lalit Kumar Agarwal)  
Executive Engineer  
Pro.Div.PWD, Rampur

UPID-182234 DATE-25.11.2022  
[WWW.UP.GOV.NIC.IN](http://WWW.UP.GOV.NIC.IN)

**M. P. PASCHIM KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN Co. Ltd., GPH COMPOUND, POLOGROUND, INDORE**  
(Ph. No: 0731-2426144, 2426111, 2426186)  
(Email: - [sepurchase06@gmail.com](mailto:sepurchase06@gmail.com), CIN-U40109MP2002SC01521)  
No. MD/WZ/06/PUR/NIT-280/16241 Indore, dated: 25.11.2022

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Online tenders are invited for following Turnkey Contracts as per Tender Specification under RDSS scheme:-

TS No.	Name of Works	Estimated Cost (inclusive of GST in Rs.Crore)	Online tender opening date
1653	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 33/11 KV New substation with associated 33 KV & 11 KV lines and 33 KV line for bifurcation/ interconnection in Khargone O&M, Badwani O&M, Dhar O&M and Jhabua O&M Circles (Lot-03)	102.66	16.12.22
1654	Consultancy services for assisting and supporting in project management and supervision of quality of works (PMA) to Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidhyut Vitran Co. Ltd., Indore	61.52	

For further detailed information visit web-site <http://www.mpwz.mp.gov.in> or <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> Chief Engineer (Purchase)

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

E-Tender Notice No. 09/2022 Date:- 24.11.2022

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. DSTE / North Central Railway, Agra acting for and on behalf of the President on India invites "Open Tender" through Online only (E-Tendering) for the following work:

Sr. No.	E-Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost of work	Tender Closing date
1.	AGRA-ST 2022-68	S&T works in connection with Construction of subways in lieu of Level crossing no. 471, 474, 476, 483, 485 & 486 in between Agra - Dholpur section	₹ 40,81,020.14	16.12.2022

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway Website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids through web portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) up to 15.00 hrs on above mentioned date. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. 1584/22 (D)

North central railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @northcentralrailway [@CPRONCR](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL, Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Telephone: 2763808, Fax: 0135- 2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

Ref. No.: 862 Tender Notice Dated : 25.11.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), UJVN Ltd., Kalagarh, Pauri Garhwal, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

**Tender No. 12/EE(Civil)/Kalagarh/Pauri Garhwal/2022-23 & 13/EE(Civil)/Kalagarh/Pauri Garhwal/2022-23**

**Name of Work** : 1. : "Construction of Oil Barrel platform and other misc. Civil works at central store Kalagarh,"

2. : "Treatment of Leakage in Switch Yard Area at Ramganga Power House Kalagarh"

**Estimated Cost** : Rs. 8.41,856.16 and Rs. 8.41,981.59 Respectively (GST extra)

**Date of availability of bid Document on website** : From 17:00 hrs of 26.11.2022

**Last Date for submission of Tender** : Up to 15:00 hrs of 21.12.2022.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website, the tender document can be downloaded from the Nigam's website [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

**Executive Engineer (Civil)**

**"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Ajay Kumar @ Lukka S/o Marturi Lal R/o H. No. E-57, Gali No. 3, Khajuri Khas, Delhi** has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 121/2020 Dated 28.02.2020 U/s 109/114/147/148/149/188/435/436/34 IPC & 3/4 PDP Act, PS Khajuri Khas, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Ajay Kumar @ Lukka** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Ajay Kumar @ Lukka** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation are hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Ajay Kumar @ Lukka** of FIR No. 121/2020 Dated 28.02.2020 U/s 109/114/147/148/149/188/435/436/34 IPC & 3/4 PDP Act, PS Khajuri Khas, Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 04.01.2023

By Order  
Sh. Pulastya Pramachala  
ASJ-03/NE, Court No. 4, 2nd Floor  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/3078/NE/2022 (Court Matter)

**Office Of The Executive Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Latehar**

**शुद्धि- पत्र**

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल लातेहार का ई- प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना सं०- DWSD/LTR/SVS/CLTR-17/21-22 (10th Call) दि०- 22.11.2022 जो दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में PR 283066 Drinking Water and Sanitation (22-23)(D) द्वारा प्रकाशित है।

जिसे निम्न प्रकार संशोधित किया जाता है।

Sl No	Particular Name of Work	Detail of Work
	Group No	No of Panchayat No Of FHTC Estimated Cost (In Lakh) Earnest Money (In Lakh) Cost Of BOQ (In Rs) Time of Completion
1	BRD/SVS/CLTR/07	

# Iran arrive just in time against Wales to keep hopes alive

SCORELINE		
IRAN	2	WALES
Cheshmi 90+8*		0
Rezaeain 90+11*		

SANDIP G  
DOHA, NOVEMBER 25

TWO STOPPAGE-TIME goals and a red card, tears of joy and pain, wild celebrations and gut-wrenching mourning, the Iran-Wales encounter was a slow-burning game that went bonkers in the dying minutes, with Iran belting two goals in the last three minutes of the game.

For much of the match, Wales were clutching at the straws. After goalkeeper Wayne Hennessy's hideous red-card (first of the tournament) inviting tackle (karate chop, kung-fu kick, call it what you want) on Mehdi Taremi in the 84th minute of the game, they melted in the heat of Iran's dynamism. So blatant was the red-card offence that the intervention of VAR seemed redundant. The Iranian was searing down the right flank, unattended, when Hennessy charged down the ground and flung his boots at Taremi, crashing onto his chest. Taremi, immediately, plunged to the ground like a tree felled. Why the referee, initially, brandished just a yellow card was baffling. The offence was two-fold. A) He denied a clear goal-scoring opportunity; B) He brutally felled Taremi. So obvious the misdemeanour was the Wales players fairly raised a protest.

The moment injected life into the match, that was meandering to a draw. Harnessing the one-man advantage, Iran launched wave after wave of attacks. Mehdi Torabi could have scored soon upon resumption, but his thrustful drive just flew wide of the right-hand post. Wales were in frantic mode, teetering and tottering, trapped in a collective brain-fade that they could not escape. Their sole intention seemed to be to waste time and somehow scrape. The idea of a goal ceased to exist. But so relentless Iran were that they could not be denied forever. The moment arrived eight minutes deep into extra time, from a Wales mistake. Joe Allen's sloppy clearance fell onto the path of the industrious Rouzbeh Cheshmi, 25 yards from the goal. Unchallenged, he tagged the ball a few yards further and smacked a crisp curler away from Danny Ward's stretched fingertips.

The Iran dugout and the crowd went berserk. In the backdrop of the unrest back home, after the thrashing meted out by England, the goal was a cathartic release of joy. So long the celebrations were that the referee had to order them back to resuming. By then, Wales looked bereft, dispirited and disillusioned. They had just one alternative,



Iran's Rouzbeh Cheshmi (C) celebrates scoring the opening goal with teammates during the World Cup Group B game against Wales. AP

throw the numbers upfront, hound the Iranian defence in the hope that they would crack. They didn't and in the inevitable counter, Ramin Rezaeian, the diligent right-back doubled the lead, 11 minutes into the elongated stoppage time that has become a feature of the tournament. The goal was delightful for the cheekiness, as Rezaeian, latching onto a square pass from Karim Ansarifard, lured Ward into him and just lifted the ball over, a goal of pure impudence. And cue the whistle blew.

As the Wales team stuttered to the ground, their first World Cup in 64 years in tatters, Iranians rekindled the dream of reaching knockouts for the first time in six appearances, should they beat USA, a game of diplomatic undercurrents. This was a balm for the troubled nation, a statement that the team is not riven with rifts, an assertion that they are undistracted by the politics back home, a vindication that they have recuperated from the monstrous defeat at the hands of England.

### Keeping politics aside

At the start of the game, they kept politics aside and sang the national anthem, though some Iranians in the stands booed it. An Iranian fan, who flashed a t-shirt with the name "Mahsa Amini-22", the 22-year-old who died in police custody after she was arrested for not wearing hijab, was thrown out

of the stadium. Some of them booed at coach Carlos Quieroz too, who had told the Iranian fans to stay off the stadium if they don't want to support the team. "To make it seem that they (players) are the only people who should be responsible for all the human problems of the world, I think you will agree that it is not fair," he had said.

The stern words were followed by a stern performance where Iran pulled all the strings in the midfield. Even if you discount the mad last 15 minutes, Iran were the more dominant side. They were unfortunate to have not scored earlier. In space of 15 seconds, they rattled the post twice, a goal was ruled off-side and they continuously threatened to rip Wales's defence open. But for cutting edge upfront, they would have wrapped up the game long ago.

Quieroz was a satisfied man: "It was a wonderful day to us – we [stuck] to football, and I don't have words to say thank you to the players. They were brilliant, they deserve all the respect. People will understand that these boys love to play football," he would say.

He was asked about his message to people back home: "The players, they deserve to be supported. We did it for them, we did it for them. That's the only reason we're here, to play for the fans." And they did play dynamic football, an entirely different side that took the field against England.

# Walk in the Eden Park for Kiwis

Latham (145 n.o.) and Williamson (94 n.o.) add 221 runs for the fourth wicket as hosts New Zealand chase down 307 against India in the first one day int'l

ABHISHEK PUROHIT  
NOVEMBER 25

SHARDUL THAKUR began the 40th over of the New Zealand chase with four successive short balls. As they sat up on the slowish Eden Park surface at Thakur's medium-fast pace, Tom Latham pulled all of them for boundaries between deep midwicket and long leg. Latham then squirted the change-up fuller one past short third man for four and off the last ball of the over, also reached his century, having taken just 25 balls to move to 100 from a run-a-ball 50. Latham's stunning acceleration was the decisive blow that blew away India's slender hopes to overcome what would eventually grow into a match-winning, unbroken 221-run partnership with his skipper Kane Williamson.

India had grappled with a pitch that had played stickier at the start to post 306 for 7 in the first of three ODIs, with half-centuries from Shreyas Iyer, stand-in captain Shikhar Dhawan and Shubman Gill, followed by Washington Sundar's calm, calculated hitting. And the fiery Umran Malik's twin strikes on ODI debut had seemingly put them ahead with New Zealand reduced to 88 for 3 at the 20-over mark.

But Williamson and Latham dug in for the long haul, batting reasonably safely enough in the first half of the stand to survive and then prosper on a track that was also turning sharply at times.

The Auckland venue is a notoriously difficult ground to defend at with its tiny straight boundaries – just 58 metres – and short square boundaries. Wary of the full length's vulnerability to the easy straight hit, India decided to pull back their lengths considerably in the latter half. However, it was the marginally short of a good length delivery that had proved difficult to get away when New Zealand had bowled. The hosts also had the express pace of Lockie Ferguson, Adam Milne and Matt Henry. Neither India's second ODI debutant Arshdeep Singh nor Thakur had that kind of pace and zip.

Latham, in particular, and Williamson feasted on the shorter lengths. Latham is excellent on the square-of-the-wicket shots, and his range of pulls and cuts, as well as the odd sweep, buried India in a deluge of boundaries. He used the extra speed of Umran Malik adeptly to his advantage, depositing him over fine leg for six.

Even before that Thakur over, India had barely generated a chance, apart from some deliveries holding up and landing in empty spaces off leading edges. Washington Sundar came the closest in the 36th over, but Dhawan couldn't latch on to a difficult chance off Williamson at midwicket, the dying ball landing yorker-style at his fingertips on the



Tom Latham's (right) 145 n.o. is the highest for a Kiwi batter against India. AP

## BCCI not to renew Upton's contract

MUMBAI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided not to extend the tenure of India men's team mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton. A full-fledged India squad led by Rohit Sharma is set to leave for Bangladesh next week for three ODIs and two Test matches that are part of the World Test Championships and Upton won't be accompanying the team. The 53-year-old Upton was roped in by the BCCI this July after head coach Rahul Dravid requested for a mental conditioning coach keeping the T20 World Cup in mind. The South African began his services from India's tour of West Indies and was scheduled to be part of the team till the completion of the T20 World Cup. And with the team making an exit in the semifinals, the BCCI has now decided not to renew Upton's contract.

—Devendra Pandey

mind, Yuzvendra Chahal was reluctant to give the ball too much air and dropped it short often, and was cut and pulled for boundaries easily.

### Umran thrills on debut

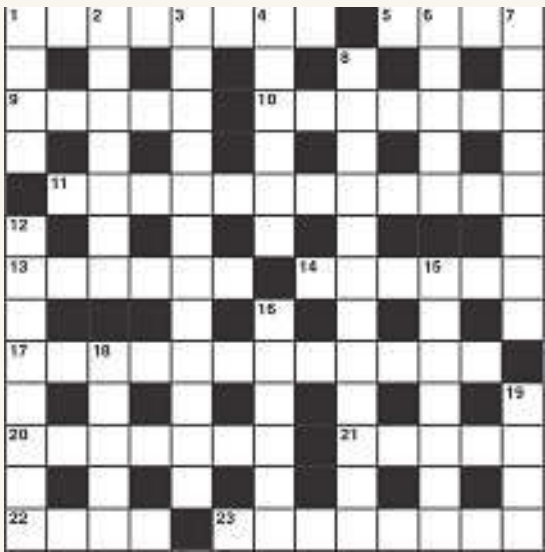
It was only his fourth game overall for India, and first since July, but Umran Malik seems to have added a healthy dose of control to his searing pace. He has a long way to go in terms of adding variations, of course, but both his wickets were a result of not just speed, but awareness of conditions too. He bowled wider lines to Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell, having both reaching out and mis-hitting, with the buffer of the relatively bigger square boundary.

### Washington's nerveless hitting

Washington Sundar showcased his hitting skills on Friday with an unbeaten 37 off 16 at No 7. Displaying an ability to toy around with the field, Washington pulled in the air for four when midwicket was up, he punched in the air for four when extra cover was up, and also brought out the ramp over the keeper and the scoop over short fine leg. Washington's cameo helped push India past 300 after they had slipped to 160 for 4, failing to kick on from an opening stand of 124 between Dhawan and Gill.

**Brief Scores:** India 306/7 in 50 overs (Shikhar Dhawan 72, Shubman Gill 50, Shreyas Iyer 80, Sanju Samson 36, Washington Sundar 37 not out; Tim Southee 3 for 73) lost to NZ 309/3 in 47.1 overs (K Williamson 94 not out, Tom Latham 145 not out; Umran Malik 2 for 66) by seven wickets.

## CROSSWORD 4909



### ACROSS

- Diana's bloomer is a catastrophe (8)
- Odile leaves a large creature for a shorter version (4)
- A better supplier of eggs (5)
- Walk between the plants (7)
- Providing care and keeping an eye on later (7,5)
- The source of a writer's material (6)
- It's plain to Russians (6)
- From whom royal lines emanate (4,8)
- Formic solution to indigestion? (7)
- Seven different levels (5)
- A misshapen nose ages (4)
- Acts as chairman but shows partiality in advance? (8)

### DOWN

- Herb that makes many unwell (4)
- An exacting role in Shakespeare (7)
- The good fortune to get a hole in one? (6,2,4)
- Express at even greater length? (6)
- Pole on the run (5)
- Yet they enjoy some standing at a meeting (8)
- Be the first to reveal intelligence (5,3,4)
- Lose track of account in simple form (8)
- Where to find the colliery boss? (7)
- Killing the upsurge of revolutionary spirit (6)
- Taken in by a consumer (5)
- Goddess is after Spanish agreement being lifted (4)

Solutions Crossword 4908: Across: 1 Coriander, 8 Awake, 9 Message, 10 Bamboo, 11 Pellet, 12 Immersed, 15 Dividend, 18 Isolate, 20 Rarity, 21 Digital, 22 Eagle, 23 Sure thing. Down: 2 Orate, 3 Itself, 4 Negative, 5 Ravage, 6 Lambast, 7 Recondite, 11 Powder keg, 13 Medicine, 14 Average, 16 Duties, 17 Polish, 19 Drawn.

## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

My heart is like a \_\_\_\_\_  
—Christina Rossetti (7,4)

DGIIR	EITDGN
FFINS	ADELBG

SOLUTION: RIGID, SNIFF, TUNGED, CABLED  
Answer: My heart is like a snuffing bird.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



### Difficulty Level 3s

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 5029



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

A word about your physical well-being: you seem to be in danger of pushing yourself hard and wearing yourself out. You are particularly susceptible to excess and indulgence, which includes fanatical dieting. Remember the golden rule, all things in moderation.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Your romantic stars are strong, and you are inclined to group a number of feelings under the general heading of 'being in love', but you may not be right. You have other desires which must now be met, such as the need for material security and emotional certainty.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Circumstances beyond your control now require improvements at home. The pressure to move to somewhere more spacious or luxurious will be intense, much of it coming from your personal irritation with close partners. However, if you take the necessary decisions then other people's opinions and actions will cease bothering you.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The legacy of the past, perhaps only of recent days, may be keeping you busy. The warning not to overdo it stands, but nobody can question the amount you have on your plate. Perhaps assistance will be more readily forthcoming when you mix with new people rather than the same old faces.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

As the hours pass, your planetary picture begins to look increasingly mature and responsible, and less concerned with 'having fun'. That's why your entertainment requirements may therefore veer towards the highbrow or cultural, and an expensive evening out could be a fine idea.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

If you are to seize the moment, you must be in the right place at the right time. Your biggest asset now is enthusiasm, the greatest failing is complacency. Deal with children and younger people in a firm but fair manner, offering them right encouragement whenever you can.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Not a single emotional compromise or concession should be made until family members have been consulted, and that might not be possible until another few days have passed. You can begin to consider the potential of a possible new financial venture, consulting the experts whenever necessary.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Venus, planet of love and of victory in war, is now forming a fresh alignment with your sign, giving you the edge in all personal considerations. Save some time for serious discussions over long-term family matters, as people you live with need to hear your opinions.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The whole situation is looking considerably more certain than even a short while ago. At least now you should have the confidence to move ahead, perhaps because the financial situation will soon be more secure, but also because someone who was critical will soon soften their tone.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Hidden truths are about to be revealed. A mystery will soon be solved, a lost item found, and a rumour proved false. You may also soon realise just how a dream may be put into practice, although precise plans may have to be left until later.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Venus, planet of love, now shifts the emotional goal posts. It looks as if you will be making more demands on people, perhaps because you are ambitious on their behalf, perhaps because you wish them to live your life for you. Don't be surprised if they don't see eye-to-eye.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

There is much to be said for giving other people a wide berth, particularly authority figures, or worse, people who imagine they are in authority. Your social stars pick up when the Moon adjusts its position, and you may even be on course for an unexpected invitation.

Hosts first to leave party: After Dutch-Ecuador split points, Qatar out

SCORELINES

QATAR	1	SENEGAL	3
Muntari	78'	Dia	41'
		Diedhiou	48'
		Dieng	84'
NETHERLANDS	1	ECUADOR	1
Gapko	6'	Valencia	49'

SANDIP G  
DOHA, NOVEMBER 25

TWO TEAMS locked against each other with a five-man backline is bound to produce a turgid affair, even if both have adequate attacking prowess. So it was only fathomable that the Netherlands and Ecuador produced a colourless, stifled game, in utter contrast to the vibrant colour around the stadium. Several Dutch fans had arrived in their sparkling orange thobes and keffiyeh, Ecuadorians in their flashy yellow t-shirts. Both eked out a point that saw them level

with three points, but the result ended all hopes of hosts Qatar progressing to the last 16, after their defeats to Ecuador and Senegal. Ecuador exceeded their expectations. They were to defend stoutly and counterattack. Instead, they pinned the Dutch on the mat, and but for an unfortunate off-side could have grabbed all three points. But the Dutch, who nurse title ambitions, showed neither adventure nor ambition in the 1-1 draw. The statistics portray a painful picture — the Dutch mustered just a lone shot on goal, and just one off the target. To think that they considered themselves as title-suitors baffles. In contrast, Ecuador had four shots on goal.

Even the one goal the Netherlands scored did not seem like coming. There was no foreboding of a goal, as both teams strove elusively for fluency, both teams jarred in pursuit of dominance. Passes went haywire, possession was scattered, there was no remote suggestion of a goal-bound effort, until the sixth minute when Davy Klassen latched onto a heavy touch from Ecuador's centre-back Jackson Porozo and cutely laid

STANDINGS							
GROUP A							
	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts	
N'lands	2	1	1	0	2	4	
Ecuador	2	1	1	0	2	4	
Senegal	2	1	0	1	0	3	
Qatar*	2	0	0	2	-4	0	
*Qatar have been knocked out							

off the ball for Cody Gapko, who is in sumptuous goal-scoring form. For a fleeting second, he surveyed his options, from the edge of the box and wrapped his left foot over the ball that nestled in the top corner. A classical poacher's goal, reminiscent of his PSV Eindhoven mentor Ruud van Nistelrooy's peak. But as much as the attributes of the strike, it was his spatial awareness that resulted in the goal. The moment Klassen reached the ball, Gapko began his run, anticipating the lay off. Klassen, who was im-



Qatar's Hassan Al-Haydos (L) consoles teammate Akram Afif after their defeat to Senegal on Friday. AP

mense, didn't even have to track Gapko's movement from the corner of his eyes. But the goal enlivened the match. Ecuador, hitherto blunt, opened up. A more expansive 4-1-4-1 replaced a narrow 5-4-1 and midfielders thrust upfield. Subsequently, they carved open

the Dutch defence a few times before they somehow scrambled to deprive them, hacking and shoving the ball to safety. Alarming for the Dutch was the clumsiness of Julien Timber and Nathan Ake, and often it required the expertise and heart of Virgil van Dijk to fish them out of danger. The Netherlands regained the midfield control but could not alarm the Ecuadorians, or build on their lead. Around the half-hour mark, though, Ecuador began to grow in confidence with Enner Valencia regaining his gusto. A gorgeous no-look cross found Angelo Preciado, but could impart enough power onto his shot. Valencia then crunched a net-bound drive, forcing Andries Noppert to tip the ball from danger.

The slippery Valencia was wreaking havoc on the Dutch defence, jittery and unsynchronised. He would constantly trick, tease and subdue his marker Denzel Dumfries. His night ended in agony as he was stretched off the ground in the 89th minute. Nippy and tricky, he would throw the Dutch defence off-kilter, running past them with the swagger of a highway truck.

Van Gaal's three-man defence has worked in the past, and he has fostered a fetish for the system, but against Ecuador, it strummed only discordant chords.

An Ecuador goal seemed inevitable, and it did arrive through a corner when Pervis Espupian evaded the markers and ruffled the net. But colleague Porozo was in an off-side position, obstructing Noppert's vision. Ecuador were devastated, but headed to the change-room having discovered multiple avenues to bother the Dutch.

But just three minutes into half-time, Valencia (who else!) equalised, after the rebound off Estupian's low drive tricked gleefully onto the path of the Ecuadorian captain. Van Gaal summoned Memphis Depay, his most trusted forward, but still not yet hit his peak fitness, to conjure a heroic act. But nothing came to pass as both teams fought on scraggly, lacking the daring and imagination to break each other's defensive labyrinth. The game, if any, was a tense and cagey affair, an injustice to the tremendous atmosphere the fans of both nations had produced.

The beautiful goal

Richarlison's bicycle kick was a stunner bound to enter the list of great goals scored by those who have donned the famed canarinho



EXPRESS AT WORLD CUP

SANDIP G  
DOHA, NOVEMBER 25

THE GREAT Pele has a regret. That, for all the three World Cups he had won, for all the 1,283 goals he has stroked, for all the consensus that he is the greatest ever footballer to have walked on the planet, he has never scored a bicycle kick goal in a World Cup.

He regrets in his autobiography Pele: "I have just three-four of my 1,283 goals with a bicycle kick. It's difficult, and my greatest regret is that I have never scored a bicycle kick goal in a World Cup."

He has scored famous goals, artful ones, and spectacular ones in three World Cups, but the bicycle trick was not one of them. He mourns it like the great painter Rafael regretted that he could never produce the Mona Lisa of his contemporary Leonardo da Vinci. A bicycle kick goal is rare art, in that few manoeuvres in the game combine spontaneity and science, art and acrobatics, bicycle kick and elasticity as much as the bicycle kick.

It's like a bullet fired from the paint-brush of an artist, designed in the needle of a geometrician's compass, requiring a dancer's feet, a bullfighter's physicality, a poet's imagination and a gambler's enterprise for the perfect execution.

The great forwards of the game feel a sense of imperfection and incompleteness, betrayal and shame of their own talent if they could not conjure the most outlandish of shots at some point in their career. When a sports gallery was opened in Rio in his honour, Pele gave the original photograph of his favourite goal, a bicycle kick goal he essayed against Belgium at the Maracana in 1965, famously known as the Bicicleta do Pelé, and in his words, "the most satisfying goal of my career." Fifty years later, it was sold for one million USD.

One of his fitting inheritors, Zico describes a bicycle kick he scored in Japan as "the finest piece of play in my entire life." In Brazil, it became an ultimate crown of inheritance, passed on from Pele to Socrates, Careca to Romario, Ronaldo to Ronaldinho (his last goal for Barcelona was an audacious scissor kick against Villarreal), Neymar, and now, to Richarlison. His second goal against Serbia was not just a thing of beauty, it was, in a nutshell, the soul and essence of Brazil that cannot be captured fully through a photograph, but rather through a series of split-second clicks.

Where do we start? From the stretched eyes of Richarlison judging the flight of Vinicius Junior's looping pass from outside his boot (a magic trick in itself), getting into line with it, or the gentle snap of his left boot with which controls the ball, or the half airborne right-leg uncoiling to unleash the shot, or the next frame when his legs are scissor-locked (the default frame), his body vertical to the ground, body swivelling in the air like a gymnast or the precise moment when the ball thuds off his right boot?

Every frame enriches; every frame enthral; every frame embellishes the supernaturalness of it. A calculated art of a wild hit-or-miss gamble? It did not matter either way.

Just a week on, the World Cup has beheld a raft of sumptuous goals. From Takumi Asano's thunderbolt to Salem-el-Dawsari's jink-and-blast, but this one surpasses all for the sheer unthinkableability of all and the rarity of a perfectly-executed scissor kick.

According to footballstatistics.com, just one in 540 bicycle kick attempts results in a goal. It was also a goal that emerged during the skittishly beautiful football that Brazil



Brazil's Richarlison (C) is congratulated by his teammates after scoring the team's second goal against Serbia. Reuters

SCORELINE			
BRAZIL	2	SERBIA	0
Richarlison 62', 73'			

revved up in the last 30 minutes of the game to marvel the 60,000-odd crowd at the majestic Lusail Stadium.

But the greatest bicycle-kick artist from Brazil was neither Pele or Ronaldinho but a man named Leonidas da Silva, nicknamed *Magia Negra* (the black magician).

Not a Brazilian invention

The shot is not a Brazilian invention either but attributed to Chile as it's called *Chillena* in Latin America. Ramon Unzaga, a Spanish-born Chilean footballer, is credited with creating it.

Da Silva wowed the French with the manoeuvre against Czechoslovakia in the 1938 football World Cup. The Paris Match described him thus: "The man is like a rubber band. On the ground or in the air, he has the devilish gift of being able to control the ball no matter where he happens to find himself on the pitch, and to fire a cracking shot just when you least expect it. When Leonidas scores, it's like you're dreaming."

On his 100th birth anniversary — a decade after his death due to Alzheimer's — google forked out a doodle in his remembrance. In times to come, so could Richarlison's goal. Already, it is woven into Brazil's football lore. It's not a readily-accessible space, a lot of Brazilians have scored a lot of outrageous goals in the World Cup. Pele's wonder strike against Sweden in 1958; Carlos Alberto screamer Italy in 1970; Ronaldinho's floating beauty against England in 2002; Nelinho's swerving beast against Italy in 1978. Richarlison's goal would find a deserved place among them. A Golazo.

Those that saw Richarlison's goal, or any bicycle kick, would say that it was like dreaming. And often such a shot not just lifts the teams, but uncorks the creativity among the colleagues. After the wonder strike, Brazil unpacked the sort of style and swagger that you associate with their vintage. The freedom, adventure, fun, the joy, in the last 20 minutes transported the crowd to a floating, magical fairyland, finally intruded by the referee's cruel whistle. How they wish the game never ended!

NEYMAR OUT OF GROUP STAGE

Tackled nine times by Serbian players, Brazil forward's ankle injured; team management says he and Danilo face a fight to be fit for knockout stage



It's about believing that everything will be OK despite the chaos. It's the certainty that the best is yet to come. It's understanding that everything has its own timing

NEYMAR, ON INSTAGRAM AFTER GETTING INJURED

TARGET MAN

Number of times Neymar was fouled during the match against Serbia, the most of all players after the first-round matches of the World Cup. Throughout his time on the field, he was seen grimacing a lot and limping a few other occasions until he was finally taken off the field.

BRAZIL STAR NEYMAR and teammate Danilo will miss their country's remaining two World Cup group games and face a fight to be fit for the knockout stage after sustaining injuries in Thursday's 2-0 win over Serbia, Reuters reported quoting a 'source close to the team'.

LEFT STADIUM IN TEARS

NEYMAR WAS substituted in the 79th minute, about 10 minutes being tackled by Serbia defender Nikola Milenkovic.

TEAM DOCTOR Rodrigo Lasmar said in a statement shared by the Brazilian football federation: "Neymar and Danilo went through an MRI on Friday afternoon and we found ligament damage in the ankle of both of them. They will miss the next game for sure and we will be cautious as they will undergo treatment in order to try to get them in shape so they can play again in the World Cup."

HE WAS IN TEARS while sitting on the bench and after the match limped off the field on his way to the locker room.

NEYMAR'S REPLACEMENT should be Real Madrid prodigy Rodrygo, who played in Neymar's position in Brazil's three practice games. However, the biggest question mark is regarding Danilo's replacement, as 39-year-old veteran Dani Alves is the only right back available. Brazil next face Switzerland on Monday.

REUTERS

Leaving behind a drug-strewn neighbourhood, to become hero



When he was 14, Richarlison had a gun pointed at his head.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NOVEMBER 25

RICHARLISON, THE tall and well-built Brazilian striker and the toast of the World Cup after scoring two goals in Brazil's 2-0 win over Serbia has feet which can create magic and a heart which is in the right place.

Richarlison scored two second-half goals, one a spectacular and acrobatic bicycle kick to get Brazil's campaign off to a flying start. The 25-year old has scored nine goals in seven games for Brazil this season to emerge as a star in a team which has nine forwards, including Neymar.

After the game Richarlison came up with a charming quote. "As our professor Tite (coach) says, 'you are smelling goals', and that is what is happening." He broke the jinx of the No.9 jersey. Gabriel Jesus had worn it four years ago but didn't find the back of the net.

The striker who has also been compared to Cristiano Ronaldo for his speed and physical prowess has come up the hard way. He was not born with a silver spoon. His father was a mason and his mother sold ice candy. The Nova Venecia area where he grew up wasn't the safest of places with drugs and dirty money being the norm. Richarlison was the eldest of five children so there were days when some of them went to bed on an empty stomach.

Richarlison did his bit to put food on the table. "A majority of my friends went to sell drugs on the street. Because they saw easy money, a lot of money. But I knew it was wrong, so I sold chocolate, ice cream and washed cars because I knew that was the right thing and I could help my mother," Richarlison told *The Times*.

Though he stayed away from trouble because of the good advice from coaches and his mother, Richarlison has had close shaves. He recalled that he was playing in a street and a drug trafficker thought he was one of the children who had stolen from him. He could have lost his life that day. "At that moment I was very afraid. Because if they pulled the trigger then it was over. He told us if he found us again he would shoot us without any problem. Me and my friends..." Richarlison was just 14 years old.

What saved him, apart from his soon to be discovered football talent, was the footballs his father gifted him. "When I was seven my dad bought ten balls for me, not because he could afford to do it but because he wanted me to be a good footballer. Most of the time my friends and I played on the street, making goals with our sandals. It was like a favela, a poor area," Richarlison told *The Sun* in an interview.

The footballing Gods were kind to him though and he got his first break when a local businessman, impressed by his skills, not only got him a new pair of boots but also took him to America Mineiro, a second division club, for the scouts to take a look at him. A year later not only was he playing for Mineiro but he got a call from Fluminense. His career has soared as he moved to Watford then to Everton before Tottenham shelled out 60 million pounds for him this year. He was Everton's most expensive signing.