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JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

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BUSINESS AS USUAL



CRISIS IN RAJASTHAN RULING PARTY

Gehlot defiance leaves Congress brass fuming, presidency plans under cloud

Sonia meets Kamal Nath after Kharge & Maken brief her on events in Jaipur

MANOJ CGG & HAMZA KHAN
NEW DELHI, JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 26

RAJASTHAN CHIEF Minister Ashok Gehlot's overnight transformation from a staunch Gandhi family loyalist to a near rebel who cocked a snook at the leadership has put a cloud on his bid for the Congress presidency. The leadership, sources said, is now thinking of exploring alternative options. The open defiance of the

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

ROYAL MESS
Jaipur has a message for the Congress high command — its ear to the ground is hearing nothing **PAGE 12**

MLAs close to Gehlot Sunday has left the leadership fuming, but there is no immediate decision to enforce the planned change of guard in Rajasthan, sources said. There could be status quo at **CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**



Cong leader Ajay Maken (left) after meeting party chief Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday. *Anil Sharma*

THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW

'Gehlot MLAs wanted in resolution that Pilot won't be made CM'
AJAY MAKEN, AICC GEN SECY **PAGE 8**

Gehlot camp confident, Pilot supporters hopeful

HAMZA KHAN & DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 26

A DAY after around 90 MLAs loyal to Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot skipped the Congress Legislature Party meeting, submitted their resignation to Speaker CP Joshi, and pushed the state once again into a political crisis, the supporters of the three-time CM remained confident and showed little sign of unease. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

EXPLAINED **The timing, the message**

THE NEAR rebellion by the Gehlot camp comes at a time when the party, reeling from electoral losses and desertions, is looking at ways to revive its fortunes. That the leadership is no longer what it used to be appears to have encouraged the show of defiance.

Dalit boy beaten by teacher dies in UP; protests held, police vehicles set on fire

Police look for teacher, say boy was being treated for kidney ailment

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 26

A 15-YEAR-OLD Dalit boy, a student in Auraiya district of Uttar Pradesh, died on Monday morning, just over a fortnight after he was allegedly beaten up by a teacher. The teacher, who has been booked under IPC Sections 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), as well as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, is absconding. The boy's death triggered violent protests in Auraiya in the evening. Two police vehicles were set on fire and at least two private vehicles were damaged. According to the police, when the boy's body was released to the family after the post-

mortem, protesters laid it on the road outside his school and raised slogans. They also allegedly pelted stones at a police team that was in the area. Additional police forces were later sent to the spot. Additional Director General, Kanpur Zone, Bhanu Bhaskar, said senior police and district officials had rushed to the spot to take stock of the situation. He said the situation was under control. The boy's family has taken his body to their village for the last rites, said police. Auraiya Circle Officer Mahendra Pratap Singh said a preliminary inquiry had found the boy was suffering from a kidney ailment before the incident, and was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Lucknow. He said they needed to verify details of the illness and treatment with the hospital and the boy's family. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

RAJIV CASE CONVICT Citing release of Perarivalan, Nalini says let me out too; SC notice to TN



Nalini and Ravichandran have moved top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE SUPREME Court on Monday issued notice to the Tamil Nadu government on separate pleas filed by Nalini Sriharan and R P Ravichandran — both serving life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case — seeking premature release. A bench of Justices B R Gavi and B V Nagarathna asked the state government to respond to the duo's pleas challenging the June 17 order of the Madras High Court dismissing their prayer for early release. In the HC, the duo had cited the SC's May 18 order by which the top court exercised its special **CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

CHARGESHEET FILED IN BENGAL SCHOOL JOB SCAM

Ex-minister set up dummy firms, errand boy was director of one: ED

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 26

FORMER TRINAMOOL minister Partha Chatterjee, who is under arrest in connection with the probe into the teacher recruitment scam, allegedly used "proceeds of the crime" to set up "bogus companies" with "dummy directors" including a person who ran errands for his aide and co-accused Arpita Mukherjee, the Enforcement Directorate has told a special court in Kolkata. In a chargesheet filed on



Partha Chatterjee was state Education Minister when the alleged scam took place

September 20, the ED said Arpita allegedly implicated Chatterjee and made an application for le-

niency in view of her disclosure against the former Industries and Education Minister in the Mamata Banerjee government. Chatterjee and Arpita, arrested in July, are in judicial custody. Besides Chatterjee and Arpita, the ED named six companies "through their directors" as accused and estimated the total value of immovable and movable properties at Rs 48.22 crore. This, the agency said, was apart from the Rs 49.80 crore in cash and jewellery of more than Rs 5 crore seized from two flats **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

THE WORLD

GUNMAN KILLS 15 AT RUSSIA SCHOOL
CANADA TO REMOVE COVID TRAVEL CURBS
PAGE 14



You are not fooling anybody: Jaishankar on US clearance of package for Pak F-16s

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 26

AMERICA'S RELATIONSHIP with Pakistan has "not served" either of the two countries, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Sunday, raising questions on the



US-Pak relationship hasn't served either country: EAM

Biden administration's approval of a US\$ 450-million sustenance package for F-16 fleet. "Very honestly, it's a relationship that has neither ended up serving Pakistan well, nor serving the American interests. So, it is really for the United States today to **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

GOVT & POLITICS



AZAD LAUNCHES DEMOCRATIC AZAD PARTY IN J&K
PAGE 8

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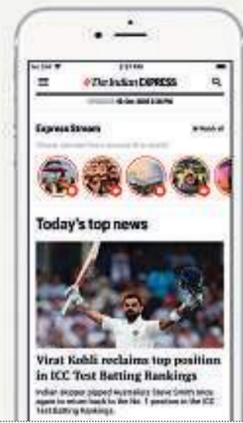
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DECODING WHAT MAKES SSRAJAMOULI'S RRR A STRONG OSCAR CONTENDER

SS Rajamouli's RRR, starring Telugu actors Ram Charan and Jr NTR, will be submitted to the Oscars in all popular categories including Best Pictures and Best Original Score. It was considered not "Oscar-worthy" by the Film Federation of India.

TECHNOLOGY



APPLE WATCH SE2 REVIEW

More for an "essential" smartwatch to keep you in the Apple ecosystem

ENTERTAINMENT



I FEEL 'CHEATED' AS AN ACTOR: ARCHANA

Archana Puran Singh talks about being stereotyped in comedy roles

EXPRESS AUDIO

Uttarakhand murder case, Ambedkar tourism, Bru migrants' resettlement

Ankita Bhandari's murder case, new circuit tourism tracing the footsteps of Ambedkar, and the resettlement process for the Bru migrants.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• Dalit boy beaten by teacher dies in UP, protests held, police vehicles set on fire

According to police, the boy was beaten up on September 7, allegedly for writing a wrong answer in his social studies test. An FIR was registered after his father filed a complaint on September 24. "He got one question wrong... The teacher thrashed him with a stick," the father said in his police complaint, adding that the boy lost consciousness after the beating.

He claimed that the teacher had promised to pay for the boy's medical treatment, but only gave him Rs 40,000. He alleged that when he met the teacher to ask for more money, he was abused with casteist remarks.

"He claims to have received a total of Rs 40,000 in two installments from the teacher. He took the boy to a hospital in Lucknow for treatment. He claims several medical tests were done in Etawah also,

but his son did not get any relief," said Singh.

According to police, the boy's family said he was in and out of hospitals for the last two weeks. The family told police that he was rushed to a hospital in Saifai on Sunday night after his condition deteriorated, and he died during treatment early Monday morning.

The medical superintendent of the hospital in Saifai, however, said

the boy was brought dead. "At present, I don't know his medical history," he said.

A senior police officer said they are yet to collect his medical records from the hospital and his family. Superintendent of Police, Auraiya, Charu Nigam said a post-mortem examination was done by a panel of doctors in Etawah, and they were awaiting the report.

Following the boy's death, po-

lice went to the school to arrest the teacher, but he was absconding. Police teams have been formed to arrest him, said the SP.

Etawah Chief Medical Officer Geeta Ram said the post-mortem report would be prepared soon.

When contacted, the school principal said he was on leave for the last 20 days and only joined on Monday. "I have come to know that on September 7, the teacher beat

up two students, including the boy, for writing wrong answers... Four days later, his father came to school and had an argument with the teacher. He said his son was suffering from a kidney problem and requested the teacher to help him financially," he said. He added that a police team came to school on Monday and took the statements of students who were present in class when the incident occurred.

• Ex-minister set up dummy firms, errand boy was director of one: ED

owned by Arpita in Kolkata. On Chatterjee's role, the ED said he floated at least six dummy companies and installed dummy directors "with the sole aim of laundering the tainted funds".

"Underprivileged people having meagre means of living were exploited and made directors by Shri Partha Chatterjee and thereafter made to sign on the papers of the company without their consent or knowledge and even without showing them any contents of the documents," the ED said, adding that he "used his influence and power to subdue people by directing them to arrange for dummy directors and proxies for companies/firms controlled by him".

According to the probe agency, Arpita's errand boy was one of the alleged dummy directors of M/s Sentry Engineering Pvt Ltd, a "dummy company... controlled by Shri Partha Chatterjee through Ms Arpita Mukherjee".

"...the second director of this company Shri Kalyan Dhar is a person of meagre means and was employed by Ms Arpita Mukherjee at a salary of Rs 18,000 per month for doing errand jobs for her. Shri Kalyan Dhar in his statement deposed that he does not have any idea about any of the companies in which he was made a director and he merely used to sign on the documents as per the directions of Ms. Arpita Mukherjee," the ED said.

Underlining that Chatterjee's "de-facto control" of the companies is evident from the statement of Arpita and the other co-accused, the ED said he allegedly deposited the proceeds from the scam in the accounts of the dummy companies and subsequently purchased immovable properties in the name of these companies.

Calling Chatterjee's co-accused Arpita his "close associate in laundering the funds generated through the criminal activities", the ED said, "Investigation ... has revealed that the cash seized from the premises of Ms Arpita Mukherjee belongs to Shri Partha Chatterjee, as has been categorically accepted by Ms Arpita Mukherjee in her statement dated 04.08.2022. She even made an application before the Investigating Officer for a true disclosure in this regard."

Alleging that Chatterjee and Arpita jointly purchased properties and set up M/s APA Utilities Services, a "partnership firm" incorporated in 2011, the ED said, "Investigation... (has) revealed that he acquired huge cash through criminal activities and concealed it in the premises in the name of Ms Arpita Mukherjee out of which Rs 49.8 crore was subsequently... seized from the two premises situated at Club Town Heights, Kolkata, and Diamond City South, Kolkata."

Accusing Chatterjee and the other co-accused of laundering money, the agency said that they are "liable to be punished under Section 4 of the PMLA".

On the "close association" of Chatterjee and Arpita, the ED pointed to 31 LC insurance policies in her name -- "opened in March 2012" -- in which Chatterjee is the nominee.

"Properties were also purchased in the joint name of Shri Partha Chatterjee and Ms Arpita Mukherjee and in the name of M/s APA Utilities Services, which was a partnership firm of Shri Partha Chatterjee and Ms Arpita Mukherjee incorporated on 01.11.2011," the ED said.

Saying Arpita, in her statement to the ED on August 4, had "accepted that the huge cash hidden at her home belongs to Shri Partha Chatterjee... and so he could only explain", the agency said she was allegedly involved "in the acquisition, use, possession, and concealment of proceeds of crime with the assistance of other accused persons and entities."

The ED said Arpita wanted to make a formal application on Chatterjee's role in the alleged scam. "In this regard she has made an application for treating this disclosure as an application for taking a lenient view under the provisions of law," it said.

The agency also detailed the process of how money changed hands as prospective candidates, in the hope of jobs, paid Rs 7-7.5 lakh each to middlemen.

• Jaishankar

reflect on what are the merits of this relationship and what do they get by it." Jaishankar said in response to a question during an interaction with Indian-Americans.

Referring to the argument made by the US that the F-16 sustenance package is to fight terrorism, he said everybody knows where and against whom F-16 are used. "You're not fooling anybody by saying these things," he said in response to a question.

Early this month, the Biden administration approved a US\$ 450 million F-16 fighter jet fleet sustainment programme to Pakistan, reversing the decision of the previous Trump administration to suspend military aid to Islamabad for providing safe havens for the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network.

In a notification to the US Congress, the State Department made a determination approving a possible foreign military sale for sustainment and related equipment for an estimated cost of US\$ 450 million, arguing that this will sustain Islamabad's capability to meet current and future counter-terrorism threats by maintaining its F-16 fleet.

In a call with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had expressed India's concerns about the F-16 package to Pakistan. **PTI**



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-Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh



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Foundation laid of investment projects worth Rs. 80,224 crores during the 3rd Ground Breaking Ceremony. Employment Opportunities for 6 lakh

Industrial loans worth Rs. 37,000 crore disbursed under Credit Flow Campaign

Uttar Pradesh tops in country in construction of Amrit Sarovars, over 8,097 Amrit Sarovars developed in UP under Mission Amrit Sarovar

Development of e-learning parks at 119 state government colleges

More than 1.47 crore houses given power connection under the 'Power for All' scheme. In rural areas, 62.18 lakh household given power connections under the Saubhagya Yojana. Also, private investors brought in to set up 137 MW solar power projects in the state

Ancient forts located in Bundelkhand region of the state being repaired, and developed as new centres of tourism. The government has identified 31 forts to be redeveloped

296-km long Bundelkhand Expressway dedicated to the nation to ensure socio-economic development of the area. Construction of the country's longest, the 594 Km-long Meerut-Prayagraj Expressway is in progress. Gorakhpur Purvanchal Link Expressway and Ballia Link Expressway are also under construction

ODOP Common Facility Centres projects completed at Sitapur, Siddharthnagar, Azamgarh, Agra and Ambedkar Nagar

Construction of 1.08 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) in the last six month of the State Government. Overall, More than 44 lakh PMAY (Rural+Urban) houses built by the state government since 2017

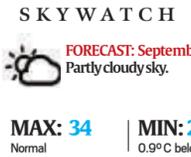
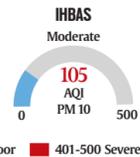
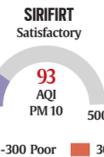
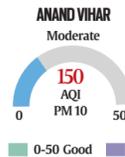
Both doses of Covid-19 vaccine administered to more than 16.84 crore people. Total number of vaccinations in the state crossed 38.56 crore mark

100-bed Joint Hospitals at three places, 05 Community Health Centres and 05 Primary health Centres under construction. State also has 250 Advance Life Support ambulances beside 2,270 vehicles in National Ambulance Services and 812 new vehicles in the 108-Ambulance service fleet

As many as 1,838 MBBS seats increased in Government medical colleges and 1750 in private medical colleges in UP. A total of 1,443 seats increased at PG level in government and private medical colleges. Also 7,000 seats increased in Nursing course while 2000 seats increased in paramedical courses.

As many as 75,190 loudspeakers removed from religious places and volume of more than 50,000 got tuned down as per norms





From Ahmedabad to Delhi, sanitation worker and family are hosted by Kejriwal

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

HARSH SOLANKI, a sanitation worker from Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, got a "surprise" lunch invitation from Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal to his Delhi chief ministerial residence on Sunday. By Monday, the 20-year-old had had a taste of the full course: flight tickets, airport reception, a tour of AAP's mohalla clinics and government schools, and wrapping it up, a photo-op with Kejriwal against a life-size B.R. Ambedkar portrait.

While the Congress dismissed it as political showmanship, and the BJP said Monday's meeting was a gimmick and AAP had failed the sanitation workers in the city, AAP clearly enjoyed its day, from Delhi to Gandhinagar, as did the overwhelmed Solankis.

Harsh, a contractual worker with the Gandhinagar civic body, was accompanied on the Delhi



Harsh Solanki and family at Kejriwal's home

trip by his mother Lata Ben and sister Solanki. For the family, it was their first time on a flight; for Lata Ben, who also works as a safai karamchari, her first time ever in Delhi.

It was at a town hall meeting with sanitation workers in Ahmedabad that Harsh had got up to ask Kejriwal whether he would visit their home, like he had gone to an autorickshaw driver's home a few days ago. The

CM replied that before elections, politicians had made a habit of visiting Dalit homes and eating. But no one called them home, he said. And he would.

The Solankis landed in Delhi at around 10.20 am Monday. They were welcomed at the airport by AAP Rajya Sabha MP and Gujarat election co-in-charge Raghav Chadha, who gave them a shawl as a token of respect.

In the around three hours be-

tween then and when the Solankis reached the CM house, the family was taken first to a government school and then a mohalla clinic in West Vinod Nagar. They were given a tour of the school by Principal Maryjotsna.

Harsh, who studied up to Class 10 before taking up the safai karamchari job to supplement the family income, said he had come away "mesmerised" by the school. "I have never seen a government school in Gujarat with such facilities like a swimming pool... Such facilities should be created in Gujarat too so that children from poor families can get good education." His sister Suhani said she had studied in a private school up to Class 12, and the Delhi government schools were even better than her school.

The family of five survives on the money earned by Harsh and his mother.

At the CM house, Harsh hugged Kejriwal, and presented him a portrait of Ambedkar. He

called it "a very proud moment for us". "I cannot believe I am standing here... It still feels like I'm daydreaming."

Harsh repeated what Kejriwal said at Sunday's Gandhinagar Town Hall. "In the last 75 years (of India's Independence), no leader has invited a Dalit boy to his home for lunch... He is the only and first leader in the country to do so and to eat together with us."

Kejriwal said: "My family members and I were very happy to receive the Solankis and our families had lunch together. I am very thankful to them for coming so far from Gujarat." The CM added that the next time he went to Ahmedabad, he would visit Harsh's house and meet the people of his community.

Lata Ben said she never thought she would see the day. "Harsh keeps attending these political meetings and comes home and (talks politics)... Last night, when he said we should pack our things and be ready by 6 am to

meet Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi, I did not believe him. I thought he is joking like always and said, *Tu pagal ho gaya hai, jaa soja* (You have lost it, go and sleep). Later, at midnight, he told me the tickets were booked. In the morning, as a car arrived to take us, along with the media, at our house, my blood pressure went low in shock and excitement."

The lunch with Kejriwal has huge significance, she stressed. "Who calls a Dalit family to their house in today's time? That too for lunch," Lata Ben, who is posted in the Gujarat Sports Authority office and earns Rs 8,000 per month, said.

Asked if they vote and would tell their neighbours about Delhi, Harsh said: "Yes, people in Delhi enjoy great facilities... AAP is growing and people like it for its honesty." For his sake, the 20-year-old hoped that his safai karamchari job is regularised.

With inputs from Rashi Mishra, Ahmedabad

IIT-Delhi to host 2-day R&D fair in October

New Delhi: All 23 IITs will come together for a two-day research and development fair at IIT Delhi in October "to promote innovations in line with the Make in India and Digital India initiatives".

The event, named InvenTiv, will exhibit 75 projects brought out by the 23 IITs. There will be six showcase projects, one each from six prominent IITs. IIT Kanpur will lead a presentation on "the ongoing R&D in drone technology and how diverse its utilities have become"; IIT Bombay will lead a presentation on the Bahubhaashak project, "which enables speech-to-speech translation, NPTEL, SWAYAM, MOOCs

videos in vernacular languages"; IIT Madras will lead a presentation on 5G Core and allied technologies; IIT Delhi will lead a presentation on "the R&D in the broader areas of climate change, agriculture, rural technologies, sanitation etc"; IIT Kharagpur will lead a presentation on affordable healthcare devices and technologies; and IIT Hyderabad will lead a presentation on technological innovations in the EV sector.

"IITs have been consistently contributing towards nation-building..." said BVR Mohan Reddy, Chairman, Board of Governors at IIT Hyderabad and IIT Roorkee. **ENS**

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Khan sent to 14-day judicial custody

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

A DELHI court has sent AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan to 14-day judicial custody in connection with a case of alleged irregularities at the Delhi Waqf Board, being investigated by the anti-corruption branch (ACB).

Special Judge Vikash Dhull sent Khan to judicial custody following which his lawyers apprised the court of the bail application they had filed, and prayed that the matter be heard at the earliest.

The court is expected to take up his bail hearing Tuesday.

In the previous hearings, the prosecution had asked for Khan's custody to investigate alleged money transactions in various states and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The ACB also stated that under their scanner was a private company which made property purchases in Uttarakhand.

The agency is also relying on a diary recovered during its raid that allegedly contains cash entries made to Khan.

The agency has also claimed that a political party was under its scanner while it looked into the money transactions.

Khan's lawyer, senior advo-



MLA Amanatullah Khan

cate Rahul Mehra, who spearheads Khan's arguments in court, said that the agency does not have any evidence to tie the money transactions to his client.

Mehra had also told the court that the ACB has not been able to point out the provisions which were violated in connection with the allegations of irregularities in hiring of contractual workers, and submitted that it was on the prosecution to prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt.

A case against Khan was filed in 2016, following a complaint from the sub-divisional magistrate (headquarters), revenue department, alleging that appointments to various "existing and non-existing posts" in the Waqf Board were "arbitrary and illegal".

The ACB registered an FIR in January 2020 under section 7 (public servant taking gratification) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, and IPC section 120-B (criminal conspiracy).

In riots case, court asks police to ensure integrity of evidence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

A DELHI court has asked senior officers of the Northeast district to ensure integrity of evidence produced in court in Northeast Delhi riots cases, after it came to the court's notice that videos relied on by the police were not placed on record and, in some cases, not even sent to the forensic science laboratory (FSL).

Additional Sessions Judge Pulastya Pranchala Monday directed the DCP (Northeast) and DCP (Crime) to take all necessary steps, in an expeditious manner, "to ensure that such evidence is produced before the court, without any compromise to their integrity, and after due examination from FSL".

The matter came to light during the cross examination in a case, when it was realised that a CD purportedly containing video clips of riots, which were relied on by investigating officers particularly for identification of the accused, was not found placed on the record.

The court also called for the records in two other cases in

The IO of the case had produced a CD which was not in a sealed condition

which investigators had relied on the same set of videos.

The IO of the case had produced a CD which was not in a sealed condition.

The court laid out the procedure to be followed in such instances by stressing that in case of any video or audio clip, the prosecution is duty bound to get such evidence examined by a forensic expert in order to test its veracity and rule out tampering. After examination of the CD by the FSL expert, it has to be sent back in a sealed condition and produced before the court in the same condition, the court said.

The court noted that in the first case that a CD was submitted in an unsealed condition, and that two other videos were not even sent to the FSL. "Integrity of evidence in each case has to be checked and ensured by the prosecution, and, therefore, aforesaid plea cannot be sustained," the court said.

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Ravinder Singh Dhillon
Chairman & Managing Director

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH at the 36th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 21st September, 2022

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Welcome to the 36th Annual General Meeting of your company. The pandemic had a significant impact on a wide range of businesses and industries in the last two years. Our economy is gradually emerging from its debilitating impact, with the revival of consumption demand and easing of supply chain constraints. Power demand has also surpassed the pre-pandemic highs, with peak demand hitting new lifetime highs in 2022. However, the war in Ukraine and comeback of inflation after almost a decade have posed a new set of hurdles to the global economic recovery. With prices of fuel and other commodities, especially of food items remaining volatile, inflation is likely to remain elevated in the near term. Under these unusual circumstances, your company was able to measure up to the challenges and deliver excellent results.

PFC IS NOW A MAHARATNA COMPANY

During the year, your company was conferred 'Maharatna' status by Government of India, the highest recognition for a public sector company. This is an endorsement of PFC's enhanced stature and an acknowledgement of its sterling role in turning a power deficit country into a power surplus state with universal access to electricity. Maharatna status will give PFC greater operational and financial autonomy and enable diversification of its operations to further accelerate its business growth.

OPERATIONAL & FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

I am pleased to announce that, during FY 2021-22, we have delivered the highest ever net profit of ₹10,022 crore, up 19% from the previous fiscal. On a consolidated basis, the company earned net profit of ₹18,768 crore, a 19% increase from FY 2020-21. At the end of the fiscal year, PFC's loan assets stood at ₹ 3,73 lakh crore on standalone basis and ₹ 7,59 lakh crore on consolidated basis. The Net Worth of your company was ₹ 59,350 crore as on 31.03.2022 and the Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio was at a healthy level of 23.48%, with Tier I capital ratio of 20.00%. To reward our shareholders, PFC has declared a total dividend of 120% i.e. ₹ 12 per share during FY 2021-22, which is the highest pay out in the history of PFC.

PFC is the 1st Maharatna in Financial space. Maharatna status will give PFC greater operational and financial autonomy and enable diversification of its operations to further accelerate its business growth.

On asset quality front, your company continued the steady improvement, with net NPAs at 1.76%, the lowest level in the past 6 years. Stressed assets worth ₹ 2,787 crore were resolved, including Essar Power MP, RS India WinEnergy & GVK Ratte. Two other projects, namely South

East UP Transmission and Jhabua Power are in advanced stages of resolution in NCLT. Your company took various measures to reduce the cost

₹ 59,350 CR
Net worth

of borrowing and as a result, the cost of funds reduced by 18 bps in FY 2021-22 to 7.30%. In September 2021, PFC issued its first ever Euro Green Bonds amounting to EUR 300 million at a coupon of 1.841%. This was the first ever

investors' confidence in the sector. Your company has been publishing performance report on state power utilities on an annual basis and is also the co-ordinating agency for Integrated Rating exercise carried out as per framework approved by Ministry of Power. The 10th Integrated Rating & Ranking of Power Distribution Utilities marked a new milestone with the inclusion of Private Distribution Utilities and Power Departments covering a total of 71 utilities across India. These reports are widely used by stakeholders including utilities, policy makers, developers, lenders, equity analysts and regulators, for decision making.

LEADING THE FIGHT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Shift in energy consumption to cleaner and green options will play a significant role in economic growth globally. During the COP 26 summit held in Glasgow in October

capacity addition of 18 GW, which is 16% of the country's installed renewable capacity. During the last fiscal, 44% of the disbursement made by PFC to the generation sector was to non-fossil fuel projects. PFC's renewable energy assets grew at a CAGR of 32% in the last 5 years, compared to 9% growth in total loan assets.

The upward revision in green energy targets would fuel expansion of the green energy financing market, and would demand innovative financing models. According to various estimates, the fund requirement to meet India's net zero target is about US\$ 10 trillion, a large part of which is to be deployed in the energy sector. Your company being a major financier of the sector would play a key role in channelizing this investment.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Good corporate governance is essential to ensure transparency and to boost stakeholder trust and confidence. Being a listed company, PFC complies with all applicable provisions within its ambit, relating to corporate governance as stipulated under the Companies Act, 2013, SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, DPE Guidelines etc. Your company maintains the highest standards of transparency, accountability and adequate disclosures.

Being a socially responsible entity, PFC has put its CSR and sustainability policy into practise with utmost sincerity. I am proud to state that PFC's cumulative CSR spending has surpassed ₹1000 crore to date.

1.76%
Lowest Net NPA

DIVERSIFICATION & WAY FORWARD

In order to sustain the growth momentum, your company has diversified into funding infrastructure projects in irrigation, waste and energy and water treatment sectors and also into new and emerging sectors like e-mobility, utility scale energy storage etc. Taking the initiative forward, PFC has recently sanctioned financial assistance to projects in infrastructure sectors including metro rail, petroleum refining, bio ethanol manufacturing and nuclear energy. With your company's growing balance sheet size, diversification into new infrastructure areas is expected to gather steam in the coming years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I convey my sincere gratitude to our shareholders who have reposed faith in us. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Hon'ble Minister of State for Power and the Officials of Ministry of Power for their support and guidance. I also thank the Board of Directors, our client utilities, employees, various ministries, government departments and other stakeholders of PFC for their continued support.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 21.09.2022
(This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st September, 2022). For full text please visit www.pfcindia.com

(R. S. Dhillon)
Chairman & Managing Director

POWER FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Regd. office: "Urjanidhi", 1, Barakhamba Lane, Connaught Place
New Delhi 110 001. Ph.: 011-23456000, Fax: 011-23412545
Website: www.pfcindia.com | CIN: L65910DL1986G0124862
Follow us on: @pfcindia



COME, LET'S REMEMBER **SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH** ON HIS BIRTH ANNIVERSARY AND DONATE BLOOD

Participate in the blood donation drive being organized by Delhi Government to commemorate the birth anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

28th September,
10 am onwards

LOCATIONS OF BLOOD DONATION CAMP

1	Hindu Rao Hospital, G Block, 4th Floor, Malka Ganj	26	B.L. Kapur Memorial Hospital, Karol Bagh
2	Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Dilshad Garden	27	Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Old Rajinder Nagar
3	Pitampura Blood Bank, Outreach Van, WS-122, Sudamapuri, West Babarpur	28	Northern Railway Central Hospital, Basant Lane, Aram Bagh, Connaught Place
4	Rajiv Gandhi Cancer And Research Institute, Sector-5, Rohini	29	Pushpawati Singhania Research Institute, Sheikh Sarai
5	Blood Bank, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, Sector-6, Rohini	30	AIIMS Main Blood Bank, East Ansari Nagar
6	Jaipur Golden Hospital, Sector-3, Rohini	31	Indian Red Cross Society, Connaught Place
7	Saroj Super Speciality Hospital, Blood Bank, Sector-14, Rohini	32	Sucheta Kriplani Hospital, Connaught Place
8	Shree Aggarsain International Hospital, Sector-22, Rohini	33	Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital, Pitampura
9	Blood Bank, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Mangol Puri	34	Blood Bank, Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh
10	Outreach Van, RSKV School, West Vinod Nagar (Manglam)	35	Balaji Action Medical Institute, Paschim Vihar
11	Dharamshila Hospital And Research Centre, Vasundhara Enclave	36	Pitampura Blood Bank, Shalimar bagh
12	Blood Bank, Holy Family Hospital, Okhla	37	Lions Blood Bank, Sadar Bazar
13	Max Super Speciality Hospital, Patparganj	38	Outreach Van, Lions Blood Bank, Gulabi Bagh
14	Outreach Van, DJB Office, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, Near Red Fox Hotel	39	Blood Bank, Sant Parmanand Hospital, Civil Lines
15	Blood Bank, Dr. Hedgewar Arogaya Sansthan, F-18, Karkardooma	40	Lok Nayak Hospital, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg
16	Vivekananda College, Vivek Vihar	41	Delhi Vidhansabha
17	DIET Institute, Dilshad Garden	42	Maulana Azad Medical College, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
18	Swami Dayanand Hospital, Dilshad Garden	43	Lions Blood Bank, Outreach Van, Rouse Avenue, ITO
19	Blood Bank Kasturba Hospital, Darya Ganj	44	Sadar Police Station, Outreach Van
20	Park Hospital, Meera Enclave, Outer Ring Road, Near Kashipur	45	Delhi Fire Services, ITO
21	Blood Bank, Maharaja Agrasen Hospital, West Punjabi Bagh	46	Blood Bank, Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences, Vasant Kunj
22	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Hari Nagar	47	Blood Bank, Hakeem Abdul Hameed Centenary Hospital, Hamdard Nagar
23	Blood Bank, Bhagat Chandra Hospital, D-2/48-49, Janakpuri	48	Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, Mehrauli Badarpur Road
24	Blood Bank, Mata Chanan Devi Hospital, C-1, Janakpuri	49	Rotary Blood Bank, 56-57, Institutional Area, Tughlakabad, MB Road
25	Blood Bank Kalra Hospital, Tulsi Dass Kalra Marg, Kirti Nagar		

“The love, sacrifice, and dedication of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh for our motherland has inspired people across the globe. His life is a symbol of true patriotism. Come, let us pay tribute to the great martyr on his birth anniversary by taking part in the blood donation drive.”

-Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi







national health authority



Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION

Swasthya Sewaon Ko Mili Digital Udaan

"Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is ensuring that every patient gets timely and quality healthcare with minimum hassle."

— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister





Health Records Anytime Anywhere
Store your health records digitally so that you can access and share as required



Easy Access
Get easy access to services from registered healthcare providers



Paperless Process
Get your medical information like lab reports, doctor prescriptions etc. digitally



Teleconsultation Facility
Avail teleconsultation from verified healthcare professionals



Freedom From Queues
Book online appointments and get queue-less OPD visit facility

ABDM so far

24 crore +
ABHA number holders

7.5 lakh
ABHA app users

1.5 lakh
Health Facilities

65 thousand
Healthcare Professionals

How to join ABDM?
Get your ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) today



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EXPRESS Careers

Gujarat University Ahmedabad-380009.
Notification No. Teaching-01/2022

Online applications are invited for the various teaching positions (Fresh, Second Attempt & Backlog) in the University.

For the detail information regarding subject-wise number of posts, prescribed Application form, application fees, qualifications, experience & Pay Scale, etc. please visit our Website: www.gujaratuniversity.ac.in

Online link will be opened on 24-09-2022 at 11.00 am.

The Last date for filling online application is 15/10/2022. Hard copy of duly filled application form along with all attachments should reach to the Gujarat University, Ahmedabad on or before 18/10/2022 before 04-00 pm. Note: Those who have applied with respect to earlier advertisement of Teaching Post Notification No. 1/2019 dated 21/11/2019 need to apply afresh.

Place : Ahmedabad (Dr. P.M. Patel)
Date : 21/09/2022 Registrar

Zakir Husain Delhi College (Evening)
(University of Delhi)
Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, New Delhi – 110002
Advt. No.ZHDCE/NTS/02/2022

APPLICATIONS FOR NON-TEACHING STAFF

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for appointment to the posts of non-teaching staff, in the Pay Level as per 7th Pay Commission, in the College. The last date for receipt of applications is within three weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. For details, please visit the College Website <http://zhdce.ac.in>

Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the College website.

PRINCIPAL

Kadi Sarva Vishwavidyalaya, Gandhinagar
(STATE PRIVATE UNIVERSITY PROMOTED BY SARVA VIDYALAYA KELVANI MANDAL, KADI VIDE GUJARAT STATE ACT 21 OF 2007 AND RECOGNISED BY UGC) • Website: www.ksv.ac.in

SEARCH COMMITTEE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for the post of Director. Interested individuals may submit a detailed resume in the format available on website of the University along with justification for his/her candidature including his/her vision for the University.

Applications may be sent in the prescribed format on or before 15-10-2022.

The applications should be sent to
The President, Kadi Sarva Vishwavidyalaya,
LDRPITR Campus, Near Kn 5 Circle, Sector-15, Gandhinagar-382016

REGISTRAR





CEO for ReBIT

1. ReBIT - The Company (www.rebit.org.in):
Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited (ReBIT) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India set up to serve its IT and Cyber Security needs and to improve the cyber resilience of the Indian Banking Industry.

2. Job Profile:

- Provide strategic, financial, and operational leadership for ReBIT.
- Align the objective and growth path of ReBIT in a manner that will support the Reserve Bank's objective of adoption and absorption of IT in the Bank. For detailed job requirements, please refer to advertisement published on RBI website under Recruitment/Vacancies section.

3. Eligibility

a) **Age:** Preferred age would be less than 55 years as on the date of advertisement. In deserving cases, RBI shall have the discretion to go up to the age of 60 years at the time of application.

b) **Educational Qualification:**

- Engineering degree (B.E./B.Tech.) in Information Technology or related subjects like Computer Science/ Electronics and Communication or equivalent.
- OR
- Post Graduate degree in IT related subjects such as Computer Science/ Applications or equivalent.
- OR
- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science /Applications or equivalent followed by a Post Graduate degree in Management.
- All degrees should be from a recognized educational institute.
- In deserving cases, experience as head of IT in a medium/large organization for 3 to 5 years may be factored into as an alternative.

c) **Experience:**

- 18+ years of experience in IT/BFSI, which should include at least 5 years in a CXO level leadership role.
- The experience should delineate the knowledge of development, implementation and management of Information Technology related projects.
- Knowledge in IT networks shall be an added advantage.

4. Term

- The appointment of CEO will be on contract basis for a duration of three (3) years extendable on mutual agreement.
- The contract may be terminated by giving three months' notice by either side.

5. Compensation and Posting
Compensation will match the best level in the industry and will not be a constraint for the right candidate. The place of posting will be Mumbai.

Interested candidates may apply in the application format and process as specified on RBI/ReBIT website, so as to reach RBI by 18:00 hrs on **October 11, 2022.**

"Don't get cheated by E-mails/SMSs/Calls promising you money"




भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI)

encourages cardholders to tokenise their cards

To protect the interests of cardholders, RBI has mandated that with effect from October 1, 2022, entities other than card networks and card issuers cannot store card data, such as card number, expiry date, etc. (Card-on-File or CoF). At the same time, to ensure that cardholders are not inconvenienced, RBI introduced CoF Tokenisation. Tokenisation is done so that the cardholder continues to enjoy the convenience of not entering card details for every transaction; at the same time the merchant does not store or use the card details which prevents potential loss of card details and associated misuse. Use of tokens augments safety and convenience of card transactions and is in the interest of cardholders.

What is Tokenisation or Card-on-File (CoF) Tokenisation?

1. Tokenisation (or CoF Tokenisation) can be done at any time of convenience.
2. Tokenisation is the process of replacing the debit or credit card details with a unique alternate code called a "token".
3. Tokenisation is prescribed only for online / e-commerce transactions, and not for face-to-face or Point of Sale (PoS) transactions.
4. Tokenisation needs to be done only once for each card and at each online / e-commerce merchant. Each token is unique to a particular card and a particular online / e-commerce merchant. Cardholder can tokenise a card at any number of online / e-commerce merchants.
5. A token cannot be used for payment to any merchant other than the merchant for whom it is created.
6. Once the token is created, cardholder need not enter or remember token details for undertaking transactions in future. For identifying the tokenised card, the last four digits of the card will be displayed during the checkout process.
7. Cardholders shall also have an option to de-register their tokens, at their own choice.

How to Tokenise a Card?

1. To opt for tokenisation, cardholder has to do a one-time registration at the merchant website / application.
2. To register, cardholder has to enter card details and provide consent. The card issuer will validate the consent through an Additional Factor of Authentication like an OTP.

Cardholders are encouraged to tokenise their cards to have a safe, secure, seamless and convenient experience.



This advisory is issued by the RBI for information and general guidance purpose only. For clarification or interpretation, if any, one may be guided by the relevant circulars and notifications issued by RBI.





WORLD TOURISM DAY 2022 | RETHINKING TOURISM

विश्व पर्यटन दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

हिमाचल प्रदेश में पर्यटन के विविध अनुभवों का आनंद लें



Heavenly Himachal

Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation, Block No. 28, SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla (H.P.)
Website: <https://himachaltourism.gov.in>
For accommodation and packages, visit: www.hptdc.in
Follow us: [@hp_tourism](https://twitter.com/hp_tourism), [/himachaltourismofficial](https://facebook.com/himachaltourismofficial)



VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS	15,629
PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:	43
OXYGEN SUPPORT	10
VENTILATOR SUPPORT	3

DELHI TOTAL CASES	Total		Vacant	
	HOSPITAL BEDS	8,869	8,828	
	ICU BEDS	2,086	2,070	
Sep 25	Cases	75	Recoveries	73
Sep 26		33		66
Total		372*		19,76,173
			Deaths	0
			Tests	6,822
				2,690
				4,02,05,094

*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA	Sep 25	Sep 26	
	Cases	N/A	N/A
GURGAON	Cases	26	15
	Deaths	0	0

Cause for alarm: Dengue cases highest in 4 yrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

DELHI CLOCKED a spike in dengue cases Monday, taking the total number of cases detected over the past seven days to 129. According to the data shared by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, 525 cases have been reported so far this season, the highest in the last four years.

With the surge in numbers, the MCD said it has also started fogging across the city.

According to a civic official, despite the rising numbers, the national capital has not recorded any fatalities from the disease so far this year.

"Around 90 per cent of the cases have been of mild nature," the official said.

Of the 129 cases reported over the last seven days, 36 remained untraced after investigation. As per the data shared by the corporation, apart from the 129 cases, 98 people acquired the infection from other states, and 284 people could not be traced as their addresses were

not provided by the hospitals.

According to Dr B L Sherwal, Medical Superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital, dengue cases are expected to increase in the coming days.

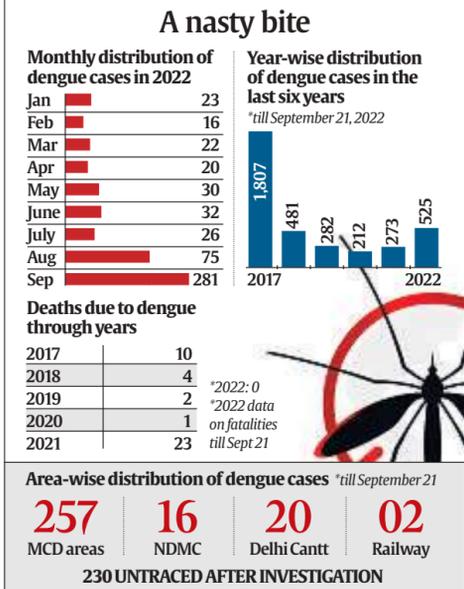
"Due to the late rainfall and the weather being ideal, pockets of water will act as a breeding ground for mosquitos," he said.

This year, 525 cases have been reported so far, of which 230 remained untraced after investigation.

The numbers have increased significantly as compared to the last three years when not more than 300 cases were reported till September 21. However, the numbers were on the higher side in 2017 and 2018 when 1,807 and 481 cases were recorded respectively till September 21.

Meanwhile, apart from the 525 cases reported, 325 were acquired from other states and in 579 cases addresses were not provided by the hospital.

The highest number of dengue cases were reported in Keshav Puram. MCD officials said the civic body has been



sending domestic breeding checkers (DBC) to every household and more than 3,000 DBCs have been deployed under the

programme. According to the data, 106 cases of malaria and 20 cases of chikungunya have also been reported this year in the national capital.

The data further said that 4,567 legal notices were issued this week for mosquito genetic conditions, and 91,462 notices have been issued since the beginning of this year.

The corporation visited 2,52,89,789 houses for checking domestic breeding this year, out of which 12,1762 were found positive.

In the last week, 9,05,078 houses were visited, of which 8,004 were found positive for domestic breeding of mosquitoes.

On Saturday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal chaired a meeting with health officials, wherein he chalked out an action plan for checking the spread of dengue - including setting up 35 dedicated hospitals, case-based monitoring, larval source management, fogging, and spreading awareness by providing special homework to schoolchildren.

JAIL OFFICIALS UNDER SCANNER

Two actresses taken to Tihar to 'recreate meetings with Suresh'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26



Suresh was shifted out of Tihar and sent to Mandoli jail after it emerged he was allegedly paying off jail officials

THE DELHI Police's Economic Offences Wing took two actresses to Tihar jail to "recreate" their alleged meetings with common Suresh Chandra. The two actresses, Nikki Tamboli and Sofiya Singh, were summoned for questioning and later taken to the jail, police said, adding that the common man promised them roles in his projects.

Police sources said the actresses said during questioning that jail officials would never stop them for ID or security check, and that they would freely go to the jail cell and meet Suresh. "The role of 5-6 jail officers has come up in connection with extending undue benefits to Suresh inside the jail, and we are investigating the matter," added the officer.

The EOW has already questioned Bollywood actresses Jacqueline Fernandez and Nora Fatehi, along with former TV anchor Pinky Irani and stylist Leepakshi Ellawadi, in connection with the case. Police said Jacqueline and Pinky have been named in the chargesheet, while others, including the two taken to Tihar on Saturday, are witnesses.

Special Commissioner of

Police (Crime) Ravindra Yadav said, "We found that Suresh was primarily operating from inside the jail. He cheated many actresses from inside the prison. The two actresses said they met him there after being promised roles, but were cheated."

The two actresses were taken to the cell where Suresh was earlier lodged before being moved to Mandoli jail. Police said the actresses shared details with the investigation team of how they would enter the jail and where they would meet Suresh. The "recreation" was also video-graphed, said police.

While Tamboli has participated in reality shows such as Bigg Boss and Khatron Ke Khiladi, the other has acted in Hindi and Telugu movies. "Suresh posed as a highly influential producer of South Indian movies. He would

say he was in touch with famous directors and was making films. His motive was to meet the actresses. Pinky allegedly put them in touch," said an officer, adding that he also used expensive gifts as a means to show his clout.

"We are doing a thorough investigation of the case and that is why we have recreated the scene of the visit with the actresses inside jail. This gave us a clear understanding of how this fraud was carried out. This will help us in the prosecution," Special CP Yadav said.

Police sources said Suresh's aides as well as actresses would come in luxury cars to meet him. "Jail security had been compromised for a long time. Nobody stopped these people. Police have already arrested six jail officials so far in connection with the lapses," said an officer.

Hospital admissions reduce for Covid cases



Officials said fewer hospitalisations are expected this week. Archive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

HOSPITALISATION OF Covid patients has reduced significantly in the last week at Lok Nayak Hospital, Delhi's nodal hospital for Covid cases.

According to Dr Suresh Kumar, Medical Director at Lok Nayak Hospital, on three days last week, no hospitalisation was reported.

"Currently, we have two patients admitted in the Covid ward who came two days ago," he said.

He said that fewer hospitalisations are expected this week. Delhi on Monday recorded 33 cases of Covid with a positivity rate of 1.23 per cent, as per data shared by the state health department. The number of deaths due to Covid has also reduced, and no fatalities were reported in the last three days. As per the health bulletin released Monday, 2,690 tests were conducted the previous day.

Delhi's Covid tally has climbed to 20,03,046. The death toll remained unchanged at 26,501, according to the health bulletin. The number of active cases in Delhi stands at 372, and 311 patients are under home isolation, the bulletin said.

Of the 8,874 beds earmarked for Covid patients in various city hospitals, 43 are occupied, it said.

There are 56 containment zones in Delhi.

The number of daily Covid cases in the national capital touched a record high of 28,867 on January 13, during the third wave of the pandemic. The city recorded a positivity rate of 30.6 per cent on January 14, the highest during the third wave.



THE GROUND BENEATH THEIR FEET

At Loha Pul, also known as Old Railway Bridge. As of 10 pm on Monday, the water level in the Yamuna at the Old Railway Bridge gauge was 205.55 metres, which is above the 'warning' level of 204.5 metres. Praveen Khanna

Gurgaon civic body fined Rs 2.8 cr over green norms

ABHINAV HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE HARYANA State Pollution Control Board has imposed an environmental compensation amount of Rs 2.8 crore on the Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) for non-compliance with norms at the Bandhwari landfill site in Gurgaon.

A senior official of the Haryana PCB said that the penalty has been imposed mainly for violation of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management & Handling) Rules 2016. According to documents submitted before the National Green Tribunal, the environmental compensation amount has been imposed at a rate of Rs 10 lakh per month for the period from April 2020 to July 2022.

The first order imposing an environmental compensation of Rs 2.1 crore for the period from April 2020 to December 2021, was dated June 10, 2022. A second order from August this year imposed a compensation amount of Rs 70 lakh on the MCG for the period from January to July 2022.

Earlier this month, the Haryana PCB had sent a notice to the MCG, asking it to show cause as to why environmental com-

pliance of Rs 10 lakh for August should not be imposed on it.

Compensation has been imposed based on an NGT order from February 2020, which laid down the amount to be levied for "continued failure" to comply with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, after March 2020. Local bodies with a population of more than 10 lakh are required to pay compensation at the rate of Rs 10 lakh per month for failure to comply with the rules.

A petition in the NGT filed earlier this year had said that solid waste is being dumped from the Bandhwari landfill site into the nearby Aravalli forest and the waste and leachate have been affecting the ecosystem, where a site inspection was undertaken by a joint committee constituted by the NGT and the matter was examined.

The records imposing the penalty were submitted to the NGT as part of the joint committee's report. The report stated that leachate was observed on a patch of forest land near the landfill and samples were collected by the PCB. Analysis of the samples found that they exceed permissible limits. While the matter was last posted for hearing on September 23, an order is awaited. The show cause notice that

was sent to the MCG before imposing environmental compensation in August stated that "repeated" show cause notices have been issued for violation of environmental rules and laws. It also states that leachate samples were collected from the forest land adjacent to the Bandhwari landfill site and the pond behind it in September 2021, and the results were found to exceed the prescribed limits.

The notice has been issued based on "such large scale non-compliance with environmental laws" and since "most of the stationary timelines have expired and directions of the Supreme Court and NGT to comply with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 remains unexecuted and there remains a wide gap in compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 which (is) causing water and air pollution". According to the orders, environmental clearance was granted in 2008 for setting up the solid waste treatment facility at Bandhwari for around 600 tons of waste by 2010. But according to the MCG, around 800 tons of waste was being dumped at the site in 2011, and a CPCR report in 2018 said 1,500 tons per day "is added on 4 lakh tons of legacy waste accumulated at the site".

Airhostess alleges rape by Cong block prez

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

A 34-YEAR-OLD air hostess was allegedly raped and assaulted by a Congress member at her residence in South Delhi on Sunday, police said. Police identified the accused as Harjeet Yadav (39) and said he has been sent to judicial custody. Police said the woman managed to lock the accused inside a room and called police for help. A team rushed to the house and brought both of them to the police station.

Chandan Choudhary, DCP (South), said, "We received a PCR call from a woman. At the police station, she said that she has known the accused for one and a half months. On Sunday, he went to her apartment under the influence of alcohol and allegedly raped her. The woman managed to lock him in a room."

A case under sections of rape, unnatural offences, insulting the modesty of a woman and causing hurt has been registered against Yadav, who is the block president of Khanpur area, police said.

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 26

THREE MEN were arrested for allegedly beating up the staffers and owner of a cafe in Gurgaon's DLF phase 2 area on Saturday night. Police said the accused were inebriated at the time.

According to the police, the incident took place at a cafe - known for hosting stand-up comedy and poetry - around midnight when some patrons were present inside.

The cafe owner, requesting anonymity, said for the past few days, several customers, especially women, have complained to them about some men misbehaving with them near the parking area outside. "On Saturday, we hosted a comedy show. I heard that some goons outside were honking cars and misbehaving with women and asking them to sit in their cars. I went outside to confront them and to ask them to leave. The accused started arguing and hurling abuses and told me they would return. Meanwhile, I informed the police. At 11.57 pm, when some customers, including women and children, were at the cafe, four men barged into the cafe and attacked us," said the owner.

He said one of the accused had a belt in his hand. "Three of them started beating me and my staff. The accused were drunk and they pelted a stone and slapped me. They punched and kicked the workers. Since we had informed the police, we closed the gate and managed to get hold of one of the accused, while others threatened

The owner of the cafe said he lodged a complaint with the police, adding that the incident raises concerns about safety of patrons in Gurgaon

us before running away. The fourth person accompanying them did not attack anyone. The police arrived in ten minutes and we handed over one accused. The workers suffered minor bruises," he added.

The owner said he lodged a complaint with the police, adding that the incident raises concerns about safety of patrons in Gurgaon. "This is a family-friendly place. One of my staffers has quit since the incident and I have kept the cafe shut for two days. Earlier this week, I had complained to the police about groups of men misbehaving with women in the area outside but no action was taken. The accused boasted of connections... It is scary. If we are not safe, how can we ensure the safety of customers," the cafe owner told *The Indian Express*.

Police said an FIR was registered against the accused under IPC sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention) at DLF phase 2 police station. An officer said, "The three accused have been arrested. As per initial probe, they were drunk. We are conducting regular patrolling and strict action shall be taken against miscreants."

Unable to repay loan for daughter's wedding, man set on fire

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

A 48-YEAR-OLD man suffered severe burn injuries after two men poured petrol on him and set him ablaze while he was sleeping at the New Delhi Railway Station. Police said the victim had borrowed Rs 1 lakh from one of the accused for his daughter's wedding and was unable to pay him back. He has sustained 80% burn injuries and is critical.

The incident took place on Friday and the victim, Jograj Lal, is undergoing treatment at Lok Nayak hospital. An FIR was lodged using the man's toes as a 'signature', said the police.

It reads: "In May this year, I took a loan from a lender, Rajeev, for my daughter's wedding. He has a shop in Kamla Market area. I asked him for some time for repayment but he started pressurising me. On Thursday night, he came and threatened to kill me. Later, I was sleeping near the police barricade. All of a sudden... a man came around 2 am and poured petrol on me. Rajeev set it on fire using a matchstick. I screamed for help and Rajeev fled on his scooter with another boy."

It states that Lal is a cobbler and always sleeps near the police post or barricades at the New Delhi Railway Station. He alleged that the accused managed to escape and his friends took him to the hospital.

"Half of my body is burnt, including both my hands... I can't sign or use my thumb for fingerprint. I signed the FIR using toe print. Rajeev and his aide tried to kill me over Rs 1 lakh. I was going to return the money. Who will earn for my family now? I have a wife and daughter and I am the sole breadwinner," said Lal.

Doctors at Lok Nayak said Lal was admitted after a flammable substance was poured on him and he was burnt. Lal's wife and daughter witnessed the incident and gave their statements to the police.

Based on the statements and evidence, Rajeev has been arrested and produced before a magistrate. "We have taken legal action against him. He and the victim knew each other and he took revenge after the victim could not repay the loan," said an officer.

DAY AFTER EXPRESS REPORT

Infra crumbling, repair work to begin soon at three JNU hostels

SUKRITABARUAH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

STRUCTURAL REPAIR work for three hostels is likely to begin in a week and approval of the estimates for the repair in other hostels and waterproofing are pending from the standing committee of the University Grants Commission, Jawaharlal Nehru University officials stated Monday.

On Monday, *The Indian Express*

reported that Delhi's recent rainy spell has exposed the crumbling infrastructure in JNU's hostels with rain dripping through ceilings and chunks of plaster and cement falling off. Across hostels, students have had to place buckets in their rooms to collect dripping water. Before this, a student was injured in April when a section of a bathroom ceiling at Sabarmati hostel fell on him.

According to a report on the status of repair work by the university's executive engineer, JNU



submitted a proposal to the UGC in September 2021 for a special grant amounting to Rs 56 crore for structural repair and renovation. It stated that the UGC gave its approval in June 2022, and Rs 28 crore of the proposed Rs 56 crore was allocated for the work in 2022-2023, and that the UGC

(Left) *The Indian Express* dated September 25; the heavy spell of rain has led to parts of the ceiling falling off

has released Rs 14 crore as the installment.

So far, structural and waterproofing work has only begun in Brahmputra hostel. According to the report, structural and repair work at Ganga, Kaveri and Periyar hostels "is likely to start within a week". As part of Phase I, it states that work is likely to begin for kitchen, dining room and toilet repair works at Sabarmati hostel by the first week of November.

It states that the estimates submitted by the Central Public

Works Department for works under phase II are pending approval. "The final approval of the standing committee of the UGC is required as per guidelines issued by the UGC while conveying their sanction for the works costing more than Rs 75 lakh... The works shall be awarded as soon as the approval is received..." states the report. The work under phase II includes structural repairs of four other hostels and waterproofing treatment in 11 hostels. JNU has a total of 18 hostels.

Decision on PoK should have been taken during 1971 war, says Rajnath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 26

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh Monday said that a "decision" on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir should have been taken at the time of the 1971 war between India and Pakistan.

He was speaking at an event honouring martyrs' families at Badoli in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district. "We have recently marked the golden jubilee of victory in the 1971 war. The war will be remembered in history as one fought for humanity, instead of property, possession or power," Singh said.

The minister also said that



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaks at an event honouring martyrs' families at Badoli, Himachal, Monday. PTI

India has a strong international image now. "Whenever someone has tried to harm the country, there has been a befitting reply. Earlier, when the country would express something on a world platform, no one would listen. Now, everyone listens to the country with their ears wide open. This is our capability," said Singh.

The Defence Minister said that because of military leaders like Sam Manekshaw, India was able to create history with the 1971 victory.

No controversial speeches, Stalin tells DMK leaders

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Monday urged leaders of the ruling DMK not to provide an opening for "poisonous political forces" to attack them, after speeches by several of his party colleagues including A Raja drew flak. In a

statement, Stalin said: "Let us return to our work. We have to be cautious to not give weapons to all venomous political forces. There is a deliberate effort to twist and tweak with the statements made by our ministers and leaders," Stalin added. ENS

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR NON-AERONAUTICAL CONCESSIONS AT CSMIA AIRPORT. Mumbai International Airport Limited ("MIAL") invites parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for non-aeronautical concession at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport ("CSMIA"), Mumbai.

Bank of India ZONAL OFFICE, PATNA ZONE. APPENDIX-IV-A (See proviso to rule 8 (6)). SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(B) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

NIAB National Institute of Animal Biotechnology. Advertisement No.36/2022. NIAB, Hyderabad, an autonomous institute under the aegis of Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, is aimed to harness novel and emerging biotechnologies and create knowledge in the cutting edge areas for improving animal health and productivity.

Indian Council of Philosophical Research Darshan Bhawan, 36, Tughlakabad Institutional Area M.B. Road, New Delhi- 110062. Applications are invited for ICPR Fellowship 2022-2023. Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR) invites applications from research oriented eligible scholars from the field of Philosophy and its allied disciplines for fellowships batch 2022-23.

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST For Baggage Handling System (BHS) Works for Navi Mumbai International Airport

Navi Mumbai International Airport Private Limited ("NMIAL") has been granted the right to develop, operate and maintain the Navi Mumbai International Airport ("NMIA") on DBFOT basis. As a part of project development at NMIA, NMIAL proposes to undertake the award of Baggage Handling System (BHS) work.

The scope of works includes, but will not be limited to, the supply, installation, integration, interfacing, testing, commissioning, operation trial, warranty support and associated works of BHS.

NMIAL invites responses to the Expression of Interest ("EOI") from qualified, experienced and reputed contractors of BHS Works for NMIA.

Interested applicants may download and submit their response to the EOI by registering on the NMIAL e-portal. For further details and instructions, please visit the E-tenders section: www.nmiarpvt.co.in

The deadline for submission of the response to EOI is 07th October, 2022, 15:00 hrs IST

Note: NMIAL reserves the right to reject any response to EOI or change / cancel the tender process at any time without prior notice or without assigning any reason whatsoever.

NAVI MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PVT. LTD. Email: nmial.tenders@adani.com Website: www.nmiarpvt.co.in

Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran Offers Mega e-Auction of Residential and Commercial Properties in All Zones On 3rd October 2022. Residential Properties in Panchkula Zone, Commercial Properties in Gurugram Zone, Residential Properties in Gurugram Zone, Commercial Properties in Faridabad Zone, Commercial Properties in Rohtak Zone, Commercial Properties in Hissar Zone.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank. Asset Recovery Management Branch (D.P.-17415) Sangeeta Palace, Hanuman Nagar, Patna-800020. POSSESSION NOTICE. Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower / Guarantor mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

INDIAN BANK, Beur Branch, 1st Floor, Sitaram Complex, Mahavir Colony Chawk Beur, Patna-800002. POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY). Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) and 13(12) read with Rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorized Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against each Account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

ICICI Bank Limited PUBLIC NOTICE. Registered office: Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra 390 007. Corporate office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai 400 051. GOLD E-AUCTION COM INVITATION NOTICE. The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notice to pay off their outstanding amount towards the facility against gold ornaments ("Facility") availed by them from ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank"). We are constrained to conduct an E-Auction of pledged gold ornaments on Oct 07, 2022 as they have failed to repay the dues. ICICI Bank has the authority to remove account/change the E-Auction date without any prior notice.

INFIGHTING IN RAJASTHAN AS ELECTION FOR CONG PRESIDENT NEARS

'Ashok Gehlot camp wanted some conditions in resolution, I said no'

IN THE middle of grappling with the raging Congress crisis that has erupted in Jaipur following the move by around 90 party MLAs loyal to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to submit their resignation to Assembly Speaker C P Joshi on Sunday night in protest against the party high command's perceived inclination to hand over the chief ministership to Sachin Pilot, the AICC general secretary in charge of Rajasthan, **AJAY MAKEN**, speaks to **MANOJ CG** on the latest turmoil following the grand old party. Excerpts:



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH
AJAY MAKEN
AICC GENERAL SECRETARY
IN CHARGE OF RAJASTHAN

What transpired in Jaipur Sunday?

First of all I want to make it very clear that the CLP (Congress Legislature Party) meeting was convened after discussions with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. The date and time was discussed with him. It is not that we - Mallikarjun Kharge and I - just landed in Jaipur. I had spoken to the Chief Minister and asked for a convenient time for the meeting. He suggested Sunday. So everything was discussed and finalised and the Chief Whip (Mahesh Joshi) told everyone.

What happened then?

When we reached there, three representatives of the MLAs who

which I said it would be a complete conflict of interest as Gehlot as a CM is moving a resolution and he has openly declared he will contest the election. And if he becomes Congress president... he is moving the resolution to empower himself after October 19 on who should replace him. I asked them how is it justified. They wanted this to be a part of the resolution and openly announced. Giving this reason, I said no.

What were the other conditions?

The second thing they wanted... instead of meeting one to one they wanted us to meet MLAs in groups. I said it is not proper as the norm is to meet each and every MLA so that the MLAs can freely and frankly give their views. When they come in groups some people might be under pressure... We want them to say whatever they want to say freely. Kharge is quite a senior person. I am also extremely neutral as far as Rajasthan is concerned. Nobody can say I am Gehlot or Sachin Pilot's person. So I told them you just tell your views. We will convey that as it is to the Congress president. Thirdly, they wanted to be part of the resolution or publicly announced that neither Sachin Pilot nor anyone from his group should

be CM... (and) the CM should be chosen from the 102 MLAs. I said whatever you are saying we will send it to the Congress president as it is but we can't make it part of the resolution. Such a thing has never happened because once you are passing a resolution leaving it to the Congress president... you cannot attach strings to that. They kept on insisting these conditions should be part of the resolution. We told them there cannot be conditional resolutions.

The MLAs have submitted resignations. They also had a separate meeting.

We don't know how many MLAs have submitted resignation and who all.

When an official meeting had been convened... to call a parallel meeting unofficially is discipline. Let's see what action is taken on this.

What happens now?

We are returning to Delhi today and we will submit the report to the Congress president.

Have you called Gehlot and Pilot to Delhi for talks?

Not yet. We will go and submit our report to the Congress president. Let us see what decision is taken and how.



Shashi Tharoor. File

Have support of most state units: Tharoor

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEPTEMBER 26

CONGRESS MP Shashi Tharoor on Monday made it clear that he will contest the upcoming election for the party's national president, adding that he has the support from most of the state units.

Addressing the media in Palakkad, where Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra reached on Monday on its 19th Day, Tharoor said he had met the Gandhi family and they have nothing against him contesting.

"All the three from Gandhi family have told me that they have no issues. They have only good words. I was told that as the media reported, there is no official candidate as such. When a person contests, he should have the confidence... does not matter whoever is the rival. Let everyone make a decision on it. I am of the opinion that there should be as many as contestants. I will be in the fray when I get support from the majority of the states in the country. Many people have called me and urged me (to contest)," he said.

Referring to the stand of the Congress unit in Kerala, Tharoor said, "In Kerala also, certainly I will get the support. But, there may be a few (who do not support)... but that doesn't matter. In a democratic set up, there will be differences of opinion," he said. He did not comment on the crisis in Rajasthan saying he was not aware of the development.

Tharoor is contesting the election for the party's chief at a time when many senior Congress leaders in Kerala wanted Rahul to become the party president.

Senior leader Ramesh Chennithala and K Muraliedharan, both former state presidents, have openly aired their opinion that the party in Kerala is in favour of Rahul.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



STRAIGHT TO WORK

BACK FROM THE US where he attended the Global Energy Action Forum-2022, Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday chaired the first-ever CSIR leadership meet. The meeting was attended by directors and heads of departments of council's all 37 labs in the country. Singh announced 'one week, one lab' campaign to showcase technological innovations and breakthroughs in each of the CSIR labs - such as drones, heli-borne technology, state-of-the-art sewage cleaning machines, etc. Council's DG Dr N Kalaiselvi thanked the minister for making the effort in attending the meet, since he would have jet lag at the time, to which the minister quipped: "The Modi government knows no jet lag".

STICKING POINT

More and more officials appear to be sending their grievances directly to the top offices, including to the ministers concerned and even the PM, bypassing the bureaucratic chain of reporting. Some of the complaints are also forwarded through MPs. Even service unions have apparently developed this tendency to bypass immediate authorities and write directly to the top offices. Now, the government has decided to crack down. It has sent out instructions, reminding officials that there is an established channel of submitting representations and any digression will attract penal provisions under the service rules. Even if a family member of an official does this, the same view will be taken, officials have been told.

FLAG DAY DONATIONS

The Armed Forces Flag Day falls on December 7. On this day, donations are sought from the public which go towards helping war widows, disabled ex-servicemen and dependents of battle casualties and the like. The Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare had requested the government to appeal to all public servants to contribute to this cause. Accordingly, all central government officials have been requested to donate at least Rs 200 from their November salary so that the corpus is ready well before December 7.

EC team in Gujarat; BJP state chief says election may finish by Nov-end

ADITIRAJA & AVINASH NAIR
VADODARA, AHMEDABAD,
SEPTEMBER 26

AN ELECTION Commission of India team led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey arrived in Gujarat on a two-day visit on Monday, even as BJP state chief CR Paatil indicated at a page committee meeting of the party in Anand that the election process may be "completed by November end".

Assembly elections are due in Gujarat in December when the term of the 14th Legislative Assembly ends.

In its last visit to review poll preparedness, before election dates are announced, the EC team held a meeting with district election officials from 33 districts and senior police officers with regard to law and order situation in the state. The team also met representatives of national parties in Gujarat. On Tuesday, the team will meet chief secretary Pankaj Kumar and DGP Ashish Bhatia.

Speaking at the page committee meeting, Paatil said, "I



BJP state chief CR Paatil

feel that the (Gujarat) elections will be completed by the end of November. In 2012 and 2017, the elections were held from December 5. But this time, they may be advanced by about 10-12 days in my feel. No one has told me this and I haven't spoken to anyone..."

Even as there has been talk about advancing the elections by "two weeks" as a top government official told *The Indian Express*, the BJP Monday submitted a 23-point memorandum to the EC, urging it to "consider that the months of November and December are meant to be the most auspicious for weddings in the state of Gujarat", while deciding on the polling dates.

The BJP handed out a list of suggestions to the EC that included request to exempt party candidates from "accounting for costs" pertaining to security arrangements of PM Narendra Modi, who will be part of the poll campaign in the state.

How Gehlot's trusted man Shanti Dhariwal came through for him

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 26

THERE IS a reason Ashok Gehlot trusted Shanti Kumar Dhariwal with his 90-plus loyalist MLAs amid the game of thrones in Rajasthan. On Sunday, the MLAs camped in Dhariwal's backyard, thus taking the air out of the official CLP meeting called to determine Gehlot's successor as Chief Minister.

With this, the 78-year-old MLA from Kota North again demonstrated why he is regarded as one of Gehlot's fiercest supporters, even ready to take on the high command on his behalf.

Congress observer Mallikarjun Kharge and Rajasthan



Shanti Kumar Dhariwal

in-charge Ajay Maken kept waiting to hold the CLP meeting - they returned on Monday without any success - as the party MLAs stayed put at Dhariwal's house, and later submitted their resignation to Speaker C P Joshi. The first indication that the CLP meeting - supposed to start at 7 pm on Sunday - would not go on as planned came early evening when tents, chairs and fans reached Dhariwal's residence.

Videos from inside Dhariwal's house made it clear

where his allegiances lay. "If anyone can reap the advantage of the great schemes (introduced by the Rajasthan government), it is only Ashok Gehlot. If this (CM) chair is changed, then the next person will not be able to make use of this advantage," he said.

Dhariwal questioned the high command for calling a CLP meeting to seek a successor for Gehlot, and for putting out the message that they wanted him to quit in line with the one man, one post principle.

Not known to be a mass leader and hence owing much to the Rajasthan CM, Dhariwal, who will be 80 by the time the next Assembly elections are held, has served in different capacities in previous Gehlot governments.

Azad launches party, seeks to undo 'artificial wall' created between Jammu, Kashmir Valley

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 26

LAUNCHING HIS regional party - called the Democratic Azad Party (DAP) - former J&K chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday appealed the people in both Jammu division and the Kashmir Valley to dismantle "artificial walls" being created between them, as they have depended on each other for centuries.

In a Union Territory divided on regional and also sub-regional lines between different communities, Azad, through his party's name and its flag, has tried to address many constituencies in one go across both divisions.

By choosing the first day of the Navratras to launch the party, he has tried to establish a con-



Former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad unveils the flag of his new Democratic Azad Party, in Jammu, Monday. PTI

nect with the people of Jammu division, comprising 43 Assembly constituencies, of which at least 30 are predominantly inhabited by people from Hindu communities who are considered pro-BJP. With the words "democratic" and "azad" in the party, he appears to be try-

ing to reassure people in both regions that DAP will have its own independent ideology and line of thinking.

Addressing supporters, Azad said the party will not criticise political opponents, as they are not "our enemies". "We will draw a line between enemies

and political opponents... we will propagate our own policies and programmes (without spreading negativity about opponents). In a democracy, people are the ultimate masters, and it is up to them to support any party's policies and programmes," he said.

Explaining the party flag, he said the three colours in DAP's flag - mustard, white and dark blue - carry a message each.

According to Azad, the mustard-coloured strip symbolises creativity, power to think independently and unity in diversity and the white means peace and harmony, "the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi".

The blue strip in the flag, he explained, represents the party's ideology to give people an open space and freedom to think, besides building tolerance and imagination as deep as the sea and as high as the blue sky.

Kerala a terror hotspot, life not safe, says Nadda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEPTEMBER 26

BJP NATIONAL president J P Nadda Monday claimed that CPM-ruled Kerala has become a hotbed of terror and fringe elements.

Speaking to BJP's booth-level office-bearers in Thiruvananthapuram, Nadda said: "Kerala has now become a hotspot of terrorism. It has become a hotspot of fringe elements. Ordinary people do not find life safe here. Communal tension is mounting. There is tacit support of the Left government to the people who create violence, who believe in violence and who support violence. State-sponsored lawlessness is one thing which we have to fight".

He said the ideology of the CPI(M) and the Left Government



BJP chief J P Nadda

has become diluted. "There is dynasty rule in the government. A daughter, a son-in-law. The Chief Minister's family members are getting involved. The ideological dilution of the CPI(M) has reduced the party to corruption and dynasty rule," he claimed.

Nadda also referred to the controversial Bill passed by the Kerala Assembly on the Lokayukta and alleged that the state government was trying to dilute the official's powers.

Nadda also said Kerala is entering a debt trap. "The people of Kerala will be in danger because of the policies of the Left," he claimed.

Kurmi club: On national path, Nitish looks at UP's Sonelal legacy

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 26

IN WHAT is being seen as a consolidation of his core Kurmi community beyond Bihar, Chief Minister and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar met Apna Dal (Kamerawadi) leader Krishna Patel in Delhi on Monday.

The Patels are considered part of the larger OBC Koeri-Kurmi class, to which Nitish also belongs. The meeting, which took place a day after the JD(U) chief attended a joint Opposition rally to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Devi Lal, holds significance, given his efforts to expand the party's base and make some inroads in UP.

Krishna Patel is wife of Sonelal

Patel, who had founded Apna Dal in 1995. After Sonelal's death in 2009, Krishna was made the party's national president and daughter Anupriya its national general secretary. The party later split into Apna Dal (Sonelal) and Apna Dal (Kamerawadi) amid differences between Krishna and Anupriya, who is now an NDA ally and a Minister of State in the Narendra Modi government. Krishna founded Apna Dal (Kamerawadi) in 2020.

If the Opposition front shapes up with Samajwadi Party in it, the JD(U) is looking at eating into Apna Dal (Sonelal) and NDA's votes in Lok Sabha constituencies with sizeable presence of Kurmi voters.

Following her meeting with Nitish, Krishna told the media in



Nitish with Apna Dal (K) leader Krishna Patel. @adkamerawadi

Delhi that Sonelal Patel had a long association with the JD(U) chief.

JD(U) national spokesperson K C Tyagi also told *The Indian Express*: "Sonelal Patel shared a

very warm relationship with us and we had contested the 2007 UP Assembly elections together. Krishna Patel met Nitish Kumar as part of our attempt to widen

our coalition."

While stating that it is early days for Opposition unity, Tyagi said it could crystallise in the coming months.

As for Apna Dal (K), it could only be a win-win situation if Krishna Patel aligns with a broader umbrella of opposition parties for 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Tripura MLA at INLD event: party says he had no consent

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, SEPTEMBER 26

FORMER TRIPURA minister and ruling alliance MLA Mevar Kumar Jamatia took part in an event marking INLD founder and former Deputy PM Chaudhary Devi Lal's birth anniversary in Haryana on Sunday.

The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) said Jamatia had acted without his party's consent. The INLD event, attended by leaders of many other parties, was seen as an attempt by the INLD to revive itself and the so-called third front at the national level as well.

Jamatia was dropped from the Biplab Deb Cabinet earlier this

year due to his rivalry with IPFT supremo and Tripura Revenue Minister NC Debbarma. The tribal party later wrote to the Assembly recommending Jamatia's disqualification as MLA, but the House has yet to take a call.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* later, Jamatia said: "Time has come for all small groups to unite together. All non-Congress, non-BJP forces should come together to work for people. I spoke for unity there and said if we don't unite, the bigger parties would take advantage."

However, an IPFT leader, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told *The Indian Express*, Mevar's participation had not been ratified by the party.

9 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

JAMMU & KASHMIR Jaish militant killed in Kulgam encounter

Srinagar: A Jaish-e-Mohammad militant was killed in an encounter with security forces in Kulgam on Monday, police said. Two civilians and a soldier were also injured in the encounter in Batpora village, they said. Security forces launched a cordon operation in Batpora following information about the presence of militants there, a police official said, adding the search operation turned into an encounter when the militants opened fire at security forces, who retaliated. **PTI**

WEST BENGAL NBU professor, mother among 3 killed in mishap

Siliguri: Three people, including a professor at North Bengal University (NBU) and his mother, were killed while his wife and daughter were critically injured in a collision between a car and a truck in Alipurduar, police said. Surya Pada Paul, who taught geography at NBU, was returning home to Alipurduar's Kamakhya with his family members in a car while following an ambulance carrying the body of his father from Siliguri. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA IMD: Monsoon withdraws further

Pune: After a break of six days, the Southwest Monsoon Monday further withdrew from more parts of Rajasthan. The IMD said the withdrawal line has now passed through Khatiwala, Bikaner, Jodhpur, and Naliya. "Conditions are becoming favourable for the withdrawal of Southwest Monsoon from more parts of northwest and neighbouring central India regions in next three-four days," said IMD's weather bulletin on Monday. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH Man arrested for 'spiking' drink of French tourist

Lucknow: A 35-year-old man was arrested in Varanasi Monday after a French tourist alleged that "a local guide" laced her drink with "country liquor" and she fell ill after drinking it on September 21. "We have lodged a case and identified the person through CCTV footage. He has been taken into custody," Varanasi Police Commissioner A Satish Ganesh said. The man has been booked under IPC Section 328 (causing hurt by means of poison with intent to commit an offence). The woman said they went to a restaurant where he allegedly spiked her drink. **ENS**

Remove 45 videos from 10 channels, govt tells YouTube

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE MINISTRY of Information & Broadcasting has directed YouTube to remove 45 videos from its 10 channels. "The orders to block the videos were issued on September 23, 2022, under the provisions of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021," officials said, adding that the blocked videos had a cumulative views of over 1.30 crore.

The videos that have been taken down include 13 from a YouTube channel called The Live TV, nine from Hind Voice, six each from Inqilab Live and Desh India Live, four from Mr Reaction Wala, two each from GetsetlyFACT and 4PM, and one each from the channels of National Adda, Dhruv Rathee and Vinay Pratap Singh Bhopar. Officials said the content included "fake news and morphed



Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur

videos aimed at spreading hatred among religious communities". Examples include false claims such as the government of India having taken away the religious rights of certain communities, violent threats against religious communities, and declaration of civil war in India, officials said.

Union I&B Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said on Monday, "These channels were found to have been involved in the conspiracy to spread hatred in the country, and the content is detrimental to India's friendly relation with foreign states. This is a continuous process and action will be taken against all such sites and channels in the future as well."

Twitter: Govt can't block accounts without notice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 26

THE UNION government cannot block Twitter accounts without first issuing notices to the users and Twitter itself, the social media platform told the Karnataka High Court Monday, citing norms laid down by the Supreme Court and Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

The court was hearing a petition moved by Twitter against government finds a tweet to be objectionable or offensive then there is a particular procedure to be followed and as per the Supreme Court decision in Shreya Singhal they have to give notice to me and to the person sending the message that this is objectionable and why it should not be taken down — reasons have to be recorded in writing."

The counsel said when orders are issued to block tweets it must be stated as to how they have offended. "If law mandates a notice and if notice is not given it is prejudice caused to me," the counsel said, arguing that notices must be sent to account holders and Twitter regarding the intention to block an account and the reasons behind the move.

and that blocking should be restricted to tweets and not the whole account unless there are repeated offences.

Datar said: "If the central government finds a tweet to be objectionable or offensive then there is a particular procedure to be followed and as per the Supreme Court decision in Shreya Singhal they have to give notice to me and to the person sending the message that this is objectionable and why it should not be taken down — reasons have to be recorded in writing."

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"At the heart of article 19 (1) (a) (right to freedom of speech and expression) is the right to criticise. Freedom of speech al-

lows for criticism of the government within the norms," the counsel for Twitter said.

The Centre has argued in its written counter that Twitter being a foreign platform cannot seek the freedom of speech and other rights available to Indian citizens for the users of its platform.

The Centre has argued that the majority of the 69A blocking orders issued by it are related to national security and public order issues. "Examples of such content include anti-India, or seditious or any religious contents that have potential to incite violence and contents that affect communal harmony in the country eg. SFJ or Khalistan related content," it has argued while asking the court to dismiss the plea filed by Twitter Inc.

Twitter approached the high court earlier this year with a plea to quash 10 orders issued in 2021 by the Centre to block 39 accounts or to restrict the orders to specific tweets which allegedly violate Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.



PM Narendra Modi leaves for Tokyo, Japan, on Monday. ANI

Modi to attend Abe's funeral today; hold meet with Japan PM

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will attend the state funeral of former Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, on Tuesday, and will also have a brief bilateral meeting with Japanese PM Fumio Kishida during the visit, an official said on Monday.

"The bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Kishida during the upcoming visit will be an opportunity for the two leaders to reaffirm their commitment to further strengthening of India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership," Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said.

"The discussions will take a very quick overview and assessment of the overall relationship, its current status, its trajectory, its progress, and the measures that they both need to take, to progress it further as also use this occasion of their meeting between the two Prime Ministers to reaffirm their continuing commitment and the strong efforts that stakeholders on both sides continue to make, to promote and progress this relationship further," Kwatra said.

Modi, who is headed to Tokyo on Monday night, tweeted, "I will be conveying heartfelt condolences to Prime Minister Kishida and Mrs. [Akie] Abe on behalf of all Indians. We will continue working to further strengthen India-Japan relations as envisioned by Abe San."

India had announced one-day national mourning on July 9 as a mark of respect for Shinzo

Abe, who was shot dead while making a campaign speech three months ago.

Kwatra said, "This visit by Prime Minister Modi will be an opportunity for him to honour the memory of former Prime Minister Abe, who he considered a dear friend and a great champion of India-Japan relationship." He said Modi and Abe had developed a "personal bond of trust and friendship" through their numerous meetings and interactions spanning over a decade beginning from the Prime Minister's visit to Japan in 2007 as the then chief minister of Gujarat.

Kwatra also said Abe had made "significant contribution" to deepening India-Japan relations, turning the economic relationship into a broad Comprehensive and Strategic Partnership, "making it pivotal for security of both our countries, and also for regional security". He said: "Prime Minister Abe's famous 'Confluence of two Seas' speech in the Indian Parliament in 2007, laid the ground for the emergence of Indo-Pacific region as a contemporary political, strategic and economic reality. [his] contribution to India-Japan relations was recognized by the conferment upon him of the prestigious Padma Vibhushan in 2021."

The Prime Minister's current visit comes after Kishida's visit to India for the India-Japan Summit meeting earlier in March this year and Modi's visit to Japan for the Quad Leaders' Summit in May. Modi and Kishida had also held bilateral a meeting on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders' Summit in May.



Mangled remains of the bus at Banjar in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, on Monday. PTI

7 die as bus falls into gorge in Kullu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 26

SEVEN TOURISTS were killed and 10 others injured after the bus they were travelling in fell into a valley in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu late Sunday, the police said.

The bodies of five people had been retrieved Monday morning and two others died during treatment. Some of the injured were sent to the Banjar Hospital and others were admitted to the zonal hospital in Kullu.

The deceased have been identified as Saurabh, Priyanka Gupta, Kiran, Rishab Raj, Anshika Jain, Aditya and Ananmaya.

The tempo traveller was ferrying 17 tourists from Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and other states at the time of the accident, which took place near Jalori Pass. Officials suspect the vehicle lost balance and skidded off the road into a 400-metre gorge.

Banjar BJP MLA Surender Shourie streamed an online video post midnight, informing people about the accident.

"The incident of a tourist vehicle falling into a ditch in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, is very sad. I express my deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their loved ones. Along with this, all possible help is being provided to the injured. Wish them a speedy recovery," said PM Narendra Modi.

CM Jai Ram Thakur also expressed grief, stating that the local administration rushed to the site for rescue operations. He announced Rs 4 lakh each to the kin of the deceased and relief of Rs 50,000 was given to the injured.

TN: Ordinance soon to regulate online gaming

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE TAMIL Nadu Cabinet approved on Monday the government's decision to bring an ordinance to regulate online gaming in the state. The ordinance will soon be promulgated with the Governor's approval, an official statement issued after the Cabinet meeting said.

The government move came more than a year after the Madras High Court struck down the Tamil Nadu Gaming and Police Laws (Amendment) Act 2021, which had imposed a ban on wagering

or betting in cyberspace. In its order dated August 3, 2021, the HC had declared the then-AIADMK government's legislation outlawing games like rummy and poker excessive and disproportionate to the object sought to be achieved.

In December last year, the DMK government challenged the HC decision in the Supreme Court. It also constituted a committee to advise the state on enacting a new legislation to prohibit or control online gaming. The panel recommended a ban on online card games despite the fact that the government was looking into the possibility of combining a ban with some regulatory measures.

FEE HIKE PROTESTS AT ALLAHABAD UNIVERSITY

Students lock university gates, police called in

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 26

AMID THE ongoing protests against fee hike, a group of students on Monday locked all the gates of the Allahabad University campus, forcing many students to return without attending classes.

Different student groups have been protesting against the fee hike — which many allege is a steep 400 per cent jump — at Allahabad University for the past three weeks. According to sources, a group of students affiliated to ABVP locked all five gates of the university Monday morning as students and teachers



Cops break open an Allahabad University gate, Monday. PTI

started arriving around 8 am. Another group of women students, under the banner of Chatra

Sanyukta Sangharsh Morcha, also joined the protest near the gates. After the university officials failed

to convince the students, police were called in. As students refused to budge, police broke open the locks. Sources said all gates, barring the one near the students' union office, were opened by 11 am, and classes resumed.

ADM (Prayagraj City) Madan Kumar said: "Students belonging to ABVP locked the campus. We tried to convince them that it might affect students who were trying to enter the campus for studies but they did not budge. So, we had to break gates open."

ABVP leader Kartikey Tripathi said they decided to lock the gates as the university administration has not been listening to their demands.

SC refuses to stay demolition of parts of Rane's Juhu bungalow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE SUPREME COURT Monday dismissed a plea challenging the Bombay High Court verdict that directed the Mumbai civic body to demolish the unauthorised construction at Union minister Narayan Rane's bungalow in Juhu.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka refused to entertain the appeal by Kaalkaa Real Estates Private Limited challenging the September 20 order of the HC Division Bench, which directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to demolish unauthorised portions within two weeks.

While ordering the demolition, the HC took exception to the BMC decision to consider a second application by the owners for regularisation and said it will lead to "encouragement of wholesale unauthorised construction".

"The BMC cannot be allowed to take steps inconsistent with the SC and HC judgments and provisions of the statutes. The corporation is bent upon considering the application (for regularisation) irrespective of the provisions of law. If an application for retention is allowed irrespective, then that would lead to encouragement of wholesale construction over reaching the idea for allowing retention. The petitioners have constructed three times above the permissible limit without permissions from BMC fire department and Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority," HC said.

Bumper crop, low rate, curbs on trucks compound apple growers' woes

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 26

KASHMIR'S APPLE industry, the mainstay of its economy, is facing a crisis in a year of a bumper crop. While the price of the fruit in the country's top markets has seen a sharp slide this year, thousands of apple-laden trucks remain stranded on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway "for days" together, leading to a glut in the mandis and a further dip in the price of the fruit.

Fruit growers, however, mainly blame the "mismanagement of traffic" on the National Highway-44 for their sufferings. As a mark of protest, all the fruit mandis of Kashmir remained shut on Sunday and Monday.

The Valley's Rs 10,000-crore apply industry gives direct and indirect livelihood to around 3.5-million people. Kashmir on an average harvests 1.5-1.8 million metric tonnes of apple yearly, which is more than 75 per cent of India's total production. This year, the crop has been good and the production is being pegged at 2.1 million metric tonnes, leading to glut in the market and less than normal price.

"Our fruit is rotting inside trucks stranded on the highway," said Fayaz Ahmad Malik, president of Sopore Fruit Mandi, the largest fruit mandi of Jammu and Kashmir. "About 8,000-10,000 fruit-laden trucks are unnecessarily stopped on the highway for days. Trucks are released simultaneously, leading to glut in



Kashmiri fruit growers stage a protest at the Parimpora wholesale fruit market in Srinagar, Monday. PTI

the market, bringing down the rate further," he said. However, a press release

from the traffic police stated that apple trucks are given priority at the Quazigund barrier. "No truck

carrying apple is stopped there for more than two days contrary to the false propaganda being spread," it said, while warning of strict action against those who are spreading misinformation.

Fruit growers say they have been meeting officials with requests to streamline road traffic, but to no avail. "The Financial Commissioner Agriculture and Additional Chief Secretary recently issued directions for smooth movement of fruit trucks. He told the Traffic Department that the fruit is the outcome of an entire year's hard work of the growers and it shouldn't be stopped but nobody is listening," Malik said, adding, "we wanted to meet the LG (Manoj Sinha) now but he is not around". On September 19, after

protests from the growers, IGP (Traffic) Vikramjit Singh directed the SSPs to ensure hassle-free movement of fruit-laden trucks but growers say nothing happened. "Nobody is trying to understand the dynamics of this road [NH 24]. The capacity of this road is 2,000-2,500 trucks a day. We can at most stretch it to 3,000-3,500," said SSP (Traffic) Ramban Shabir Malik. "They (fruit growers) are putting pressure on us through the media and the government. On Sunday, we let 4,600 trucks move out of the Valley and 1,500 of them are still on the road. This is a two-lane road and it has affected the entire traffic on the highway. If it continues like this, the entire system will collapse in a week," he said. SSP Malik said they have to

maintain the balance between inflow and outflow of traffic. "We can't stop the down traffic (from Jammu to Srinagar) as there are trucks carrying milk, sheep, oil, etc. If I do that, it will lead to shortage of essentials in the Valley and also of trucks that carry fruit on their way back," he reasoned.

The "illegal import" of Iranian apple is another reason that growers cite for the low price. Fruit growers allege that the Iranian apple enters India without import duty as it is disguised as fruit from Afghanistan under the South Asian Free Trade Agreement. "Until a year ago, we sold a box of apple for Rs 1,200-1,300. This year, it fetches us only Rs 600-700. Each box costs [labour, packing, transportation, etc.] a grower around Rs 600," said Malik.

4 assaulted over 'witchcraft' in Jharkhand: cops

ABHISHEK ANGAD RANCHI, SEPTEMBER 26

FOUR PEOPLE including three women were allegedly tied to a pole, assaulted with hot iron rods and made to consume human excreta after being accused of 'witchcraft' in Jharkhand's Dumka district, police said. The incident occurred Sunday night in a village in Saraiyahat area.

Dumka SP A Lakra said police have arrested six people who reside in the same village as the victims. "There are undercurrents of property dispute or illnesses in the incident. However, the motive is yet to be ascertained," the SP said.

Police registered a case under IPC Sections 448 (house trespass), 341 (wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 325 (causing grievous hurt), 307 (attempt to murder), 504 (provocation to break public peace), 506 (criminal intimidation), 34 (common intention) as well as Sections of the Prevention of Witchcraft Act.

The police complaint by one of the women who was assaulted reads: "On September 24, at 8pm, my husband and I were abused and thrashed. We were pushed out of our homes and called dayans (witches). The attackers all ran away. However, they came to my home again on September 25 at 11 pm. This time, they beat up two of my relatives along with my husband and me. We were made to eat human excreta and our bodies were burnt with hot iron rods. An hour later the police were informed, after which we were taken to the hospital."

The police registered an FIR based on this complaint.



A farmer, Prabhu Ram, wades through water on his cotton and paddy field in Fatehabad district on Monday. Jasbir Malhi

Rain plays havoc with Haryana farmers' crops

SUKHBIRSIWACH DULT VILLAGE, SEPT 26

AT A link road leading to neighbouring town Bhuna (Fatehabad), a dalit farmer Prabhu Ram from Dult village in Haryana is staring at crops damaged due to water-logging following continuous rain.

"We had incurred an expenditure of nearly Rs 4 lakh for paddy crop in 11 acres and Nama cotton in one acre. But now I am not expecting any production in our land-holding," said Prabhu Ram.

In Dult, Dalit families form nearly 40% of the village's population of around 3,000. The crop loss is not the only loss the rain has caused to his family. Prabhu Ram said, "The heavy rain damaged our house too which is situated in the agricultural field. With great efforts, we managed to rescue our 12 cows and buffaloes from the falling house but not without injuries."

A farmer leader Suresh Koth says, "The prices of 1509 variety of paddy have fallen from previous Rs 3,500 per quintal to Rs 2,000 per quintal because of the strike by the arhtiyas. At the

time of agitation against three central farm laws, a brotherhood had developed between the farmers and the arhtiyas. But this strike has created a rift between both segments of the society as farmers have faced huge losses because of the strike by the arhtiyas."

With farmers and opposition parties seeking compensation for the affected farmers, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday admitted that the crops have suffered a lot due to incessant and unseasonal rain. He said, "Directions have been issued to conduct special girdwari to assess the crop damage."

The state revenue department has introduced a system on the government's portal "meri fasal-mera byora" where the farmers can report damage to their crops. However, the government has made it clear that no compensation will be provided to the farmers who are covered under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Mukhya Mantri Bagwani Yojana (MMBBY) and Seed Development Programme.

The government has announced paddy procurement from October 1, but the farmer leaders say preponing of paddy procurement would have provided a relief to them.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

CUET-PG results out; unlike UG entrance, scores not 'normalised'

SOURAV ROY BARMAN NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE NATIONAL Testing Agency (NTA) Monday announced the results of the post-graduate Common University Entrance Test (CUET) in which the raw scores of the candidates were not put through the 'normalisation' filter.

University Grants Commission (UGC) chairperson Prof M Jagadesh Kumar said the normalisation formula is used only in cases where an exam is held over multiple days and sessions, like the CUET-UG. "CUET-PG, for most subjects, was a single session test. There was no requirement to normalise the actual scores of the candidates," Prof Kumar said.

"Only in the case of a few subjects such as MBA, BEd education and social work, which saw candidates appear over multiple days and sessions, percentile scores were given like in the case of JEE

Main. Normalised percentile scores help where the difficulty level of question papers may differ from one session to another," Kumar said.

The normalisation process ensures equity as it takes into consideration various factors that could lead to one set of students performing better for reasons other than academic competence. For instance, the difficulty level of a question paper on the same subject may vary from one session to another. But the normalisation process offers a level-playing field.

As many as 66 universities, including 27 run by the Centre, had participated in the entrance for which 6,07,648 registrations were made. However, only a little over half the registered candidates (55.13 per cent) actually appeared in the exam held in two phases between September 1 and 12.

According to the subject-wise list of toppers released by the NTA, political science registered the highest score of 355, while rigveda

saw the topper candidate score 66. The maximum score in each subject is 400, with each paper containing 100 questions of four marks each.

Banaras Hindu University received the maximum number of applications (3.53 lakh) for the postgraduate edition of CUET, followed by Lucknow's Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (3.13 lakh) and Uttarakhand-based Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University (3.02 lakh). A breakdown of social categories of the applicants shows that 32.4% belong to the unreserved category, 38.7% are OBCs, 11.38% SCs, 8.42% STs, while 8.99% candidates registered under the EWS category.

On Sunday, UGC wrote to the universities that participated in CUET-PG to launch the admission process. "You are requested to make necessary preparations for admissions, so that PG admission process may be timely started, based on the CUET score," it said.

SACKED BEFORE RETIREMENT HC declines to stay dismissal of Ishrat case probe officer

Seeks Centre's reply, says Verma to get retirement benefits if plea successful

MALAVIKA PRASAD NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26



Satish Chandra Verma was dismissed from service on August 30

THE DELHI High Court Monday declined to stay the order dismissing Satish Chandra Verma, a Gujarat cadre IPS officer who had assisted the SIT in its probe into the 2004 Ishrat Jahan alleged fake encounter case, a month before his scheduled retirement.

The bench of Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva and Tushar Rao Gedela, however, asked the Centre to file a reply within eight weeks to Verma's plea challenging his dismissal.

He was dismissed from service on August 30, a month ahead of his scheduled retirement on September 30.

The dismissal order followed a departmental inquiry over charges that included interacting "with public media" when he was Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO).

On September 19, the Supreme Court had stayed the dismissal order by a week, making it clear that after a week, it would be up to the Delhi High Court to decide whether or not to continue with the stay. The Supreme Court allowed Verma to make suitable changes to his petition in the High Court.

On Monday, the High Court observed that one of the allegations against the petitioner was that he had given an interview to a news channel in 2016 without any "authorisation or permission from the competent authority and

spoke unauthorisedly on matters which were not within the sphere of his duty".

The counsel for the petitioner, the bench said, did not dispute that the petitioner had given the interview to the news channel but stated that it was "given under compelling circumstances" and that "contents of the interview have not been proved in accordance with law".

Stating that it had perused the interview transcript, the bench said, "We are of the view that at this stage the order of termination dated 30-08-2022 does not warrant any interference as petitioner is to superannuate, in any event, on 30.09.2022. Consequently we are not inclined to stay or interdict the order of dismissal dated 30-08-2022 at this stage."

"Let reply be filed within eight weeks. Rejoinder within four weeks thereafter. It is clarified that in case petitioner is successful in the writ petition, petitioner shall be entitled to all consequential benefits of his superannuation in accordance with rules," the bench said, directing that the matter be listed on January 24, 2023.

It also directed that the "original record of the enquiry shall be produced in the Court on the next date of hearing".

Prema Srinivasan of TVS Group dies

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 26



Srinivasan was an avid writer

PREMA SRINIVASAN, mother of TVS Group industrialists Venu Srinivasan and Gopal Srinivasan passed away in Chennai on Sunday. She was 90.

She is survived by two sons, two daughters and their families. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin was among those who offered their condolences.

Born in 1932, Prema was the daughter of former customs official KRangaswamy. Her husband, T S Srinivasan, was the youngest child of the TVS Group founder, T V Sundaram Iyengar.

Known for her interest in music, art, history, and design, Prema studied Art and History at Columbia University in the 1960s, and also Japanese Landscape Design in Kyoto.

A student of Tibetan Buddhist monk Sam Dhong Rimpoche and

renowned educationist and philosopher J Krishnamurthi, she was actively engaged in addressing social and environmental issues. She also founded the Madras Environmental Society to create awareness among elementary school students about climate change. She was also part of the elite group of female golfers in the old Madras.

An avid writer, Prema had a PhD in children's fiction in India. For her research, she received the Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children Honour award in 2012. Among the books she authored are 'Pure Vegetarian Cookbook', 'And Finally, A Blessing!', and 'The Treasure Hunters', which she wrote for children.

Delhi-Shimla flight service resumes after 2 year gap

Shimla: Flights between Shimla and Delhi resumed from Monday after a gap of nearly two years.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, in a virtual ceremony, launched regular flights by flagging off the new ATR-42-600 Alliance Air aircraft from Shimla Airport at Jubbarhatti on Monday morning.

As per officials, the ATR-42-600 aircraft of Alliance Air would now be able to carry 48 passengers from Delhi to Shimla, whereas the maximum strength of passengers from Shimla to Delhi flight would be 24.

The CM further said that 50 per cent of the flights seats would have a subsidized fare of Rs. 2480 only, under the 'UDAN' scheme launched by PM Narendra Modi. The fare for other seats would be determined by the company. Flight 91 821 will be departing seven days a week from Delhi at 7.10 am and arrive in Shimla by 8.20 pm. The returning flight 91 822 will depart Shimla at 8.50 am and reach Delhi by 10 am. ENS

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Colony, N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur & behalf of President of India invites "OPEN" E-Tender through online (e-tendering) for the following work: Tender Notice No. & Description of Work:- 14-2022-Colony, Name of work:- Electrical work in connection with "Gorakhpur-Proposed Renovation & Improvement of Auditorium in RPF Training Centre.", Approx. Value ₹ :- 52,500.00, E.M.D. Money ₹ :- 26,23,637.00, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter:- 08 Months. • E-tender online will be submitted upto 15:00 Hrs on dated 14.10.2022. • Manual offer are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway IREPS official website www.ireps.gov.in. Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Colony CPROEL-83 Gorakhpur About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955 Do Not Smoke Bid/Cigarette in train

WESTERN RAILWAY-BHAVNAGAR DIVISION DEEP SCREENING & DE-STRESSING OF TRACK

No. W/118/NIT/E-Tender/2022-23/WA/16 Date 23/09/2022 Divisional Railway, Manager (Works), Western Railway, Bhavnagar para invites e-tenders for the following works: Tender Details are as under:- Sr. No. (1); E-Tender No: 43/2022-23; Name of Work: Deep Screening & De-stressing of track along with assisting BCM machine against the sanctioned work of Jetalpur Jn. Wansajliya Jn. (SU) - TBR - 4.000 Km & Kanalus - Porbandar (SU) - TBR - 54.000 Km; Tender Value: ₹ 5,28,76,249.82; EMD: ₹ 4,14,400.00; Date of Bidding Start Date: 04/10/2022; Date of Bidding Closing: 18/10/2022; The NIT has been uploaded on Railway web site www.ireps.gov.in on 23/09/2022. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.dopcivil.uniwizard.com Like us on: www.facebook.com/WesternRly

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE SE (DR) PROJECT-IV THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PSR-II) ROOM NO. 307: VARUNALAYA PHASE-I JHANDEWALAN, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005 E-mail-eesr2.djb@gmail.com NIT No.03/EE (P) SR-II/2022-23 S. No. Name of Work Estimated Cost Tender fee Date release of tender in procurement solution and tender ID Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution 1. Construction of 4 Nos. of Decentralized Sewage Treatment Plant and Sewage Pumping Station along with other associated / allied appurtenant work under Najafgarh drainage Zone, Delhi, along with Ten years Operation & Maintenance and two years Defect Liability Period on Hybrid Annuity Mode-DBO basis. PPP / HAM BASIS Rs. 1500/- 2022_DJB_229966_1 28.10.2022 up to 3:00PM

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (SDW) C/O EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)-III STP YAMUNAVIHAR, WAZIRABAD ROAD DELHI-110053 Tel:-22814128, Email: eesdw3.djb@nic.in Subject: Press Tender Notice- NIT No. 12 (2022-23) S. No. Description of work Date of Uploading on E-Procurement solution/ Tender ID/ Pre-bid meeting Estimated cost/Earnest Money & Tender Fee Last date of submission of tender 1. Augmentation/ Up-gradation of various existing STPs at Yamuna Vihar Ph-I (10MGD) & III (25MGD), Delhi (Package-4) (Re-invited) 23.09.2022 / 2022_DJB_229906_1 / 04.10.2022 20 Lakh deposit + 1.96 Cr in the form of BG/ 1500/- 20.10.2022 at 03:00 PM

UTTARAKHAND JALSANSTHAN OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE DIVISION, NEW TEHRI Letter No-1858/ E-tender -J/M / 2022-23/81 Date: 26-09-2022 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING e-Tender Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division, Uttarakhand Jalsanstan, New Tehri on behalf of "Chief General Manager Uttarakhand Jalsanstan" online tenders are invited on the website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from experienced and eligible bidders having adequate technical and financial capability and experience for water supply scheme as specified in bid document for following water supply project in District Tehri Garhwal in Two bid system as per description & schedule given below for the construction of following works:-

Bid ID	District	Name of Work	Amount of Earnest money in (lac)	Cost of e-tender document	Comp. Period
JJM	Tehri Garhwal	Construction of all civil and E&M works consisting of dry intake well, rapid gravity filter type water treatment plant, supplying, laying & Jointing of APIMSER/WGI heavy/medium pipes in rising main, gravity main and distribution system, pump house and staff quarter, clear water sumps/ reservoirs with complete installation, testing, commissioning of pumping plants along with all other appurtenant works, including survey, design /checking of design of different structures/ pipe line etc complete including, 6 months maintenance under Jalpur pumping W/S scheme at Pratapnagar (Tehri Garhwal)	33.60 lac	5000+18% GST	18 Month

Date of Calling	26/09/2022
Date of Online Publication	26/09/2022 at 17.00 Hr.
Pre Bid Meeting	28/09/2022 at 11.00 Hr.
Bid Submission Start Date	29/09/2022 at 17.00 Hr.
Bid Submission End Date	03/10/2022 at 17:00 Hr.
Physical submission of Bidding Document	03/10/2022 at 17.00 Hr.
Date of Technical Bid Opening	04/10/2022 at 15:00 Hr

Executive Engineer

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE (Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education) P.O. New Forest, Dehradun

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER The Head, Engineering Cell, FRI, Dehradun invites on behalf of Director, FRI Dehradun online item rate bids from approved and eligible contractors of CPWD, MES, Railways, P&T, State PWD & other Govt. Department etc. : 1. NIT No. : 38-60/2022-23/Head/Engineering Cell/Civil 2. Tender ID No. : 2022_JCFRE_714622_1 3. Name of Work : Repair of seepage in roof and walls including finishing work of outside walls in Academic Block Building of FRI Deemed University 4. Estimated Cost : Rs.9,50,400/-, Earnest money : Rs. 19,000/-, Tender fee Rs. 590/- and Period of completion : 60 days, Last date and time of submission of bid: 06.10.2022 at 3.00 P.M. 5. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>, and www.fri.res.in Head, Engineering Cell, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun

DIRECTORATE OF SPORTS & YOUTH WELFARE T.T. Nagar Stadium, Bhopal-462003 Tel.: 0755-2773012, 2761448, 2778151, Fax: 0755-2775256 Website: www.dsywmp.gov.in

E-TENDERING NOTICE The Director, Directorate of Sports & Youth Welfare, M.P. Bhopal invites bids on electronic mode for Supply and Installation of Trap, Double Trap & Skeet and Electronic Score Board and Trap Voice (under buy back for existing Laporte make equipment) at Shooting Academy at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh). 2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained on www.mptenders.gov.in If any queries regarding participation through e-tender process interested bidder may contact on toll free No.18002588684. 3. The corrigendum and addendum issued (if any) related to this bid will be published on E-tendering portal only. M.P. Madhyam/106568/2022 DIRECTOR

MADHYA PRADESH RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (AN AGENCY OF PANCHAYAT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF M.P.) 5th Floor, Block-II, Paryawas Bhawan, Bhopal M.P.-462011

IFB No. WB -40/1015 No./13565/FA/WB/CMGSY/2022 Bhopal, Dated : 26.09.2022 Online item rate bids are invited on e-procurement portal <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> for construction of Safe Corridor Demonstration Project (SCDP) including road safety works under Community Participatory Road Safety Program from Manawar to Talwai Bujurg (SH-38) under Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation (MPRDC) in Dhar as under :- S. Name of District Number of Packages No. of Roads Total Estimated Cost (In Rs.) 1 Dhar 1 1 107962233.00 1. Tender document can be purchased only online from the above website from 27.09.2022 from 17:30 hrs. 2. Other Critical dates and details can be viewed in the detailed IFB and tender document on the above-mentioned portal and concerned PIU. CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (TENDER) M.P. Madhyam/106556/2022

TRIPURA 30 hurt after police lathi-charge teachers protesting termination

DEBRAJ DEB AGARTALA, SEPTEMBER 26



THIRTY PEOPLE were injured in Agartala on Monday after police resorted to lathi charge and used water cannons and tear gas shells to stop hundreds of sacked school teachers from marching to the state Assembly in protest.

Speaking to The Indian Express, a Tripura Police official said the protesters broke through two layers of the barricade put in place to stop them and when they reached the third barricade, police used water cannon to stop them. Some protesters continued to push the barricades and police burst tear gas shells and lathi charged.

"We don't have any figures yet but some of the protesters who sustained injuries, especially due to tear gas, we sent them to GBP Hospital", the official said.

Police use tear gas to disperse protesting teachers. PTI

The protests caused an uproar in the Assembly with opposition CPIM and Congress MLAs demanding that Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha met the agitators and hear their grievances.

Speaking in the House, opposition leader Manik Sarkar said, "Around 30-32 of them were injured and 3 are hospitalized. This is a misuse of power".

The CM initially told the House that government has talked to them many times and they

have nothing "new" to tell them. However, faced with criticism from opposition leaders the CM later said, "Why wouldn't I meet them? I promise here that I shall certainly meet and talk to them."

The Tripura High Court terminated a total of 10,323 school teachers due to a faulty recruitment process in 2014. The sacked teachers and the erstwhile Left Front government filed Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court challenging the order and SC upheld the HC order in 2017.

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना इस कार्यालय की निविदा संख्या टी. - 54, 55 एवं 56/22-23 के खुलने की तिथि अपरिहार्य कारणों से दिनांक 07.10.2022 तक बढ़ायी जाती है। शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी के सम्बन्ध में कृपया www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग आन करें। अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पररेण मण्डल, 130-डी विकटोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। "राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें" पत्रांक/No. 2493/वि.पा.स./ETC/मेरठ/MT/Tender दिनांक/Dated 26/09/2022

BSES ADDENDUM AGAINST TARIFF BASED COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR PURCHASE OF POWER THROUGH DEEP PORTAL REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ) NOTIFICATION Invitation for Entities for supply of power on long-term basis No. HOD (PMG)/2022-23/1463 Date, 26.09.2022 BPSL had invited proposals from Entities for supply of 500 MW power for 7 years from coal based commissioned projects on long term basis on behalf of BPSL & BYPL. RFQ document and their details are available on www.bsesdelhi.com & www.mstoscommerce.com. Due to unavoidable circumstances the revised date are as under Last date of submission of RFQ document : 10.11.2022 Last date of sale of power : 13.12.2022 Head PMG (BRPL) Regd. Off. BSES Rajghani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 Corporate Identification No. U40190DL2012PLC11527 Telephone No. +91 11 4820 7230 Fax No. +91 11 39999890 Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

GOVT. OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER DRAINAGE CIRCLE, UNIT-8, BHUBANESWAR-751012 E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE No. ACEDC-BSSR-05/2022-23 email Id :- sedrainagebbsr12@gmail.com

1 Name of Works	: 3 nos. of works under Drainage Division, Puri & Drainage Division, Berhampur.
2 Total number of Packages	: 3 nos. individual packages.
3 Estimated Cost	: Cost varies from Rs. 155 Lakh to Rs. 477 lakh
4 Bid Identification No.	: 1) ACEDC-BSSR/DD-PURI-10/2022-23 2) ACEDC-BSSR/DD-BAM-11/2022-23 3) ACEDC-BSSR/DD-BAM-12/2022-23
5 Period of completion	: As per DTGN
6 Availability of Tender On-Line	: 28.09.2022, 11.00 Hours to 12.10.2022, 17.00 Hours
7 Date of Opening of Technical Bid.	: 13.10.2022 at 11.00 hours in the O/o the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar.
8 Date of Opening of Financial Bid.	: 18.10.2022 at 11.00 hours in the O/o the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar.
9 Date of Lottery (if Required)	: 21.10.2022 at 12.00 hours in the O/o the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar.
10 Bid Security	: Bid Security Declaration.
11 Cost of Tender paper	: Rs. 10,000/-
12 Procurement Officer	: Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar-751012.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation if any required will be published only in Govt. web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer Drainage Circle, Bhubaneswar OIPR- 32174/11/0014/2223

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

● Gehlot defiance leaves Cong brass fuming

least until the nomination filing process for presidential elections is over.

The high command, sources said, will plan its next move carefully, factoring in the pushback and the support of the MLAs that the Gehlot camp has.

The leadership, however, has taken a very serious view of the parallel meeting held by MLAs loyal to Gehlot.

Sources said show cause notices, the first step for initiating disciplinary action, will be issued to some of the organisers of the parallel meeting.

A day after the powerplay in Jaipur – a large number of MLAs loyal to Gehlot stayed away from a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party, held a parallel meeting and submitted their resignations to the Speaker – the party, in a rare move, made public what transpired between closed doors and called the move flexing by the MLAs as indiscipline.

Several party leaders said the developments have cast a shadow on Gehlot's move to file his nomination for the post of Congress president.

Sonia Gandhi met veteran leader and Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath in New Delhi, generating much interest and spawning different theories. While Kamal Nath could be an acceptable face, he is said to be not keen to leave Madhya Pradesh. But given the changed situation, Kamal Nath along with Mukul Wasnik, Digvijaya Singh and Mallikarjun Kharge are now seen as probable candidates to enter the fray to face off with Shashi Tharoor.

The leadership was so cut-up with Gehlot that Ajay Maken, AICC general secretary in charge of Rajasthan, did not meet the Chief Minister when he reached the hotel in Jaipur where Maken and AICC observer Mallikarjun Kharge were staying.

Kharge, however, met him. Sources said Gehlot expressed regret to Kharge that as the Congress Legislature Party leader, he could not organise the meeting of the CLP, keeping the observers waiting. He is learnt to have told Kharge that he too was upset over the manner in which events unfolded. He said it is the first time that such a thing has happened in his political career.

He also told Kharge that the mini-rebellion by the MLAs was not done at his behest and things went out of his hands.

The party's Central leaders said the MLAs could have attended the meeting, aired their views frankly and left the decision to the Congress president by passing a one-line resolution. They could also have later met the leadership with their demands.

But their decision to stay away from an official meeting called by the party for which the Congress president had sent observers was seen as open defiance.

The Gehlot camp, meanwhile, fielded its leaders including Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas to claim that the huddle by the MLAs at Minister Shanti Dhariwal's residence and the move to submit resignations were not done at the behest of Gehlot.

The Sachin Pilot camp was detected initially but signals emerging from the high command that the Gandhis are annoyed with Gehlot has enthused them.

Sources close to Pilot said he is still very hopeful of becoming the Chief Minister despite the show of strength by the Gehlot camp. Pilot is now said to be banking on a decisive intervention by the Gandhis. Senior AICC leaders also maintained that he is still the frontrunner for the post of CM. Maken and Kharge returned to New Delhi Monday and went straight to 10, Janpath where KC Venugopal, AICC general secretary in charge of organisation, also joined them. The three were with Sonia for over an hour. Maken told reporters that Sonia has asked them to submit a written report.

Maken said they have told the Congress president that the parallel meeting by the MLAs should be viewed as indiscipline.

In a rare case move, Maken, earlier in the day, made it public that three representatives of the Chief Minister met him and Kharge Sunday and set three conditions for passing a one-line resolution authorising the Congress president to take a decision on Gehlot's successor.

Among the conditions was that the resolution authorising the Congress president to take a decision on Gehlot's successor should be acted upon only after

October 19, the day votes for the Congress presidential elections will be counted.

"I told them that it will be a complete conflict of interest since Gehlot as a CM is moving a resolution and he has openly declared that he will contest the election. And if he becomes the Congress president, the resolution which he is moving now... he is moving the resolution to empower himself after October 19 on who should replace him. I asked them how it is justified. They wanted this to be a part of the resolution and announced. Giving this reason, I said no," Maken told The Indian Express in an interview.

He said the three Gehlot loyalists wanted the observers to meet the MLAs in groups and not one-to-one.

"I said it is not proper as the norm is to meet each and every MLA so that MLAs can freely and frankly give their views. When they come in groups, some people might be under pressure... We want them to say whatever they want to say freely. Kharge is quite a senior person. I am also extremely neutral as far as Rajasthan is concerned. Nobody can say I am Gehlot or Sachin Pilot's person. So I told them, you just tell us your views. We will convey it as it is to the Congress president," he said.

Thirdly, they wanted to be part of the resolution or publicly announced that neither Sachin Pilot nor anyone from his group should be Chief Minister. The CM should be chosen from the 102 MLAs (loyal to Gehlot). I said whatever you are saying we will send it to the Congress president as it is, but we can't make it part of the resolution. Such a thing has never happened because once you are passing a resolution leaving it to the Congress president... you cannot attach strings to that," he said.

He said there is no clarity on how many MLAs have submitted their resignations to Speaker CP Joshi, an act which is seen as nothing but a pressure tactic. On the MLAs holding a separate meeting, he said, "Prima facie, it is indiscipline. When an official meeting had been convened... to call a parallel meeting unofficially is indiscipline. Let's see what karyavahi (action) is taken on this."

● Citing release of Perarivalan, Nalini says let me out too; SC issues notice to TN govt

powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to direct premature release of their co-convict A G Perarivalan.

The HC, however, said it did not have the special powers which the SC has under Article 142, and it cannot allow the relief sought without the Governor's assent.

On September 9, 2018, the Tamil Nadu government had recommended premature release of all the seven convicts in the case. The recommendation remained pending before the Governor, who finally said that the "President is the appropriate competent authority to deal with the...request".

Nalini and Ravichandran had urged the HC to order their release without waiting for the Governor's approval.

"Even the apex court in the case of A G Perarivalan... has not ordered for release of the accused holding that without the signature of the Governor to accept the resolution, a direction can be given by the High Court... The aforesaid goes to the root of the case to hold that without the signature of the Governor to authorise the resolution, this court cannot pass an order directing the state government to release the accused," the HC had said.

Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber, identified as Dhanu. Nalini and 25 others were sentenced to death by a designated TADA court in 1998. In 1999, the SC acquitted 19, upheld the death sentences of four – Perarivalan, Murugan, Santham and Nalini – and sentenced three others, including Ravichandran, to life imprisonment.

A year later, Nalini's death sentence was commuted to life term after Congress president Sonia Gandhi appealed to the state government. In 2014, the SC commuted the death sentences of Perarivalan, Santham and Murugan on grounds of delay in deciding their mercy petitions.

In first, SC to livestream 3 hearings today

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE SUPREME Court is all set to create history, with proceedings before three of its Constitution benches set to be livestreamed starting Tuesday. The livestream will be available on the official platform webcast.gov.in/scindia.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the new system was tested on Sunday and Monday and the results were found to be satisfactory. The National Informatics

Centre is handling the project. This will be the first time actual hearings in the court are livestreamed for public viewing.

On August 26, proceedings before the ceremonial bench on the date of retirement of former CJI N V Ramana were livestreamed.

Incidentally, Chief Justice of India U U Lalit, heading a three-judge bench, had on Monday morning told a lawyer that the SC will have its own platform for livestreaming soon. The lawyer had urged the court that it should secure copyright of the

proceedings if it plans to livestream on YouTube.

A full court meeting had discussed the plans for going live and decided to start with the Constitution bench proceedings from September 27.

The three Constitution benches sitting on Tuesday headed by the CJI, and Justices D Y Chandrachud and SK Kaul will, respectively, hear petitions challenging the reservation for Economically Weaker Sections, petitions filed following the political crisis in Maharashtra precipi-

tated by the rift in Shiv Sena, and a case pertaining to validity of All India Bar Examination. Sources said the court will see how the plan goes and then take a call on gradually expanding the footprint.

In its September 2018 ruling in *Swaminil Tripathi vs Supreme Court of India*, the top court had said that livestreaming of proceedings is in public interest and had called for working out the modalities for this. However, with consultations and rule-making taking longer, the project remained pending.

Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank Regional Office-Patna			POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) [Rule 8(1)]				
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of the said notice(s). The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.							
S. N.	Name of the Branch	Name of the Account	Name of the Borrower (Owner of the property)	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice affixed	Amount outstanding as per demand notice.
1.	Noon Ka Chauraha	M/S Quality Bag Works , Prop. Jamal Ashraf	Md. Shoaib, S/O Md. Alimuddin	Part and parcel of residential land and building belongs to Md. Shoaib, S/O-Md. Alimuddin, Deed No-3657, Dtd.-13.05.2015, Area-08 Dhur 03 Dhurki (554.5 Sq Ft.), Mauza-Kanghaya Tola, Revenue Circle No.-150, Plot No-254&256, Old Holdong No.-82/82, Present Holding No.-82/82/115, Old Ward No.-24, Present Ward No.-64, Sheet No.-222, Thana No.-32., P.S. Khajekala, District- Patna. Boundary: North-J.J. Plot No.-254&256, South-J.J. Plot No.-254 & 256, East-3'6 Ft.-Wide Private Gali, West-Plot No.-253 Masjid	26.07.2022	26.09.2022	Rs. 539141.00 (As on 30.09.2021) Plus int & Charges
2.	Byapur	Mr. Sunil Kumar and Smt. Nikki Kumari	Mr. Sunil Kumar, S/O- Sri Hirawan Choudhary	Part and parcel of residential land and building belongs Mr. Sunil Kumar, S/O-Sri Hirawan Choudhary, Deed No.-8652, Dtd-05.10.2012, Area-1.24 Decimal(540.5 Sq.Ft.) Mauza-Danapur Shajadpur, Pargana-Phulwari, Thana No.-21, Survey Khesra Plot No.-724, Khata No.-514, Mohalla -Gola Road, P.S-Danapur, District- Patna Boundary: North-Niz, South- Part Plot No.-724, and purchaser- Sri Rajesh Kumar, East-10 Ft. wide Rasta, West-Parmeshwar Singh, Plot No.-717	26.07.2022	26.09.2022	Rs. 1442915.25 (As on 06.04.2022) Plus Int. & Charges.
3.	Anandpur	M/S Priya Traders	Mr. Rajesh Kumar Prasad, S/O- Sri Sakaldeo Prasad	Part and parcel of residential land belongs to Mr. Rajesh Kumar Prasad, S/O- Sri Sakaldeo Prasad, Deed No.2703, Dtd-07.05.2007, Area- 06 Decimal , Mauza-Deokuli, Thana No.-55, Khata No.-60, Plot No.-511, Khesra No.-515, P.O- Musepur, P.S. Bihta, District- Patna. Boundary: North-Kamta Devi, South-Ramadhur Saw, East- Canal, West- Lalji Mahto	26.07.2022	26.09.2022	Rs. 366629.00 (As on 30.09.2021) Plus Int. & Charges
4.	Masaurhi	Rahul Patel Electronics	Kamal Kishor Ram, S/O-Late Ramashish Ram	Part and parcel of residential land and building belongs to Kamal Kishor Ram, S/O- Late Ramashish Ram bearing Mortgage Deed No.-2683 DTD-15.04.2019, Mauza-Abdullah Nagar Taregna, Thana No.-152, Circle- Patna Sadar, Khata No-193, Tauzi No-5882, Area-10 Dhur (1.5625 Decimal), Survey Plot No.-1356, P.S. Masaurhi, District-Patna. Boundary: North-Ashok Ram, South-Road, East-Niz, West-Raj Kishore.	10.06.2022	22.09.2022	Rs. 917566.34 (As on 06.06.2022) Plus int & Charges)
5.	Ram Jai Pal Nagar	Sri .Subh Narayan Mishra	Sri Subh Narayan Mishra S/O-Late Pankhi Mishra	Part and parcel of residential land & building belongs to Sri Subh Narayan Mishra , S/O- Late Pankhi Mishra, Deed No.-11537, Dtd-15.12.2014, Area-01 Katha (3.125 Decimal) Mauza -Sikandarpur (South of Chitra Gupta Nagar), Tauzi No.-5852 , Thana No.-17, Khata No.-62, Survey Plot No.-54 within the limit of Nagar Parishad Danapur Nizamat, Ward No.-35, Plot No.-1775/4/17-18, P.S. and Sub-Registry Office and Circle Office-Danapur, District-Patna. Boundary: North- Smt. Asha Singh, W/O- Sri Prabhakar Kumar & Dharmabir Kumar Part Plot No.-54 Hal Khariddar, South-11 Feet Wide Rasta in which 6 Ft. belonging to Lekhyadhari, East-Niz-Part of Plot No.-54, West-Survey Aahar	19.07.2022	22.09.2022	Rs. 5691869.05 (As on 06.04.2022) Plus int. & Charges.
Place : Patna Date : 26.09.2022						Authorized Officer Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank	

● Gehlot camp confident, Pilot supporters hopeful

"If we are asked for a clarification by the Congress high command in writing or orally, or we are sent any notice, then we will clarify our position. We believe that we haven't done anything that amounts to indiscipline and there can be no doubt over our dedication towards the party and high command," Congress chief whip and cabinet minister Mahesh Joshi told reporters on Monday.

He said the Congress MLAs indeed communicated to Ajay Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge that nobody among those who rebelled in 2020 should become the CM.

Maintaining a studied silence, the Sachin Pilot camp continues to hope he would be made the CM. MLAs close to him have been avoiding airing their views in public since it might jeopardise his chances.

Pilot camp sources, however, questioned the claim that over 90 MLAs submitted their resignation. "How many MLAs can fit in a bus? There was just one bus that went to submit resignation to C P Joshi and some others came in their own vehicles. The figure ranges from 72-92, but has anyone shared a list so far? The figure of 92 MLAs (in Gehlot camp) is kite-flying. Around 30-35 MLAs were at CM residence, and many MLAs (at Dhariwal residence) didn't sign the resignation letters," sources said.

Meanwhile, state Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal, who had hosted the Gehlot faction Congress MLAs at his residence on Sunday spoke for the first time, saying the resignation of MLAs was result of "resentment and anger".

"The MLAs asked why should just a one-line resolution be passed (in the CLP). We said our voices should be heard. The 102 MLAs who had saved the Congress (during the 2020 political crisis) feared the CM's chair would go to someone who had stabbed the Congress in its back; 92 people have resigned," said Dhariwal, while speaking to reporters.

Joshi and Dhariwal are among the MLAs closest to Gehlot, and were instrumental in gathering the MLAs at Dhariwal's house ahead of the CLP meeting.

Later Sunday night, the duo was among a delegation of the MLAs who met Maken and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, to lay out pre-conditions including not making Sachin Pilot or any of his supporters the chief minister.

Cabinet Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas went a step ahead and said the BJP is once again trying to topple the Congress government in Rajasthan. "BJP is trying to conspire to topple the government and if MLAs are meeting to save (us) from the conspiracy, their voices should be heard," Khachariyawas said Monday.

Although quiet, Pilot camp cited the examples of Bagru MLA Ganga Devi and Indra Meena from Bamanwas to say that some MLAs were kept in the dark and resignations were taken from them even though they had not agreed for the same.

Talking to journalists, Indra Meena said on Monday, "in the afternoon, we got a call that we have to visit Dhariwal ji's home. I said that I will be late and will reach CM residence (directly) by around 7.30 pm. I didn't go to Dhariwalji's residence... I could not understand who was calling where. After that we were told to reach CP Joshi's residence. We reached there, while some MLAs reached the CM residence."

Asked whether she submitted her resignation, she said that, "We were being asked to sign a paper. I did not read the paper... I have no objection to Sachin Pilot. We are Congress MLAs. We are in support of the high command. Whatever the high command decides, it is fine by us. If the high command asks us to withdraw our resignation, we will withdraw."

Ganga Devi said that "I went late. I am with the party, Sonia ji, Rahul ji, and whatever the party high command decides, I am with them." She said she doesn't know if her resignation letter was signed but said that she did not hand over her resignation letter.

"We were called directly (to Dhariwal's residence), and then we didn't go there (to CM residence) so obviously they (the observers) had to become angry. When the high command had sent them... we are not bigger than them. We should have been with them. We were supposed to meet them but things took

such a turn that we could not meet them," she said.

"Now the MLAs are coming out and speaking up. Earlier they were scared of repercussions but now that it seems that Gehlot won't become the party president after all, they are speaking openly," a source in the Pilot camp said.

Sources also accused Gehlot of stalling the CLP meet - when Gehlot went to meet Kharge and Maken - so that the numbers at Dhariwal's residence could swell. They also claimed that around a dozen MLAs who showed up at CM residence were turned away and asked to go to Dhariwal's residence instead.

Minister of State Rajendra Gudha termed the developments at Dhariwal residence a "drama." He said when it became clear that Gehlot is going to Delhi. "There is no better candidate than Pilot for Rajasthan's development. If he is made the CM today, then we will once again form the government next year."

"There is a craze for Sachin Pilot among the youth. The previous government was formed due to his efforts," said Gudha. He also said had the observers met the MLAs individually "90 per cent MLAs will prefer Sachin Pilot".

Gudha also questioned the Gehlot camp's pre-condition that none from the Pilot camp be made the CM. "But Ramesh Meena, Murari Lal Meena, Hemaram Choudhary, Brijendra Ola, and Vishvendra Singh were also not among the 102 MLAs (who were with Gehlot during the 2020 crisis). So, when these five can be made ministers, why can't Pilot be made the CM?"

SC Commission Chairman and MLA Khiladi Lal Bairwa, who was among those who met Pilot at his residence on Monday, said that, "We are with the high command. We have kept him (Gehlot) for 35 years."

Some other MLAs, such as Prashant Bairwa, want the party to take both Gehlot and Pilot along. He said that while "Gehlot is an encyclopaedia of politics, Sachin Pilot is the future." On Gehlot camp objecting to Pilot's name citing the 2020 rebellion, he said that, "If someone makes a mistake or comes home late, you don't stop them from entering..."

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ROYAL MESS

Jaipur has a message for the Congress high command — its ear to the ground is hearing nothing

THE POLITICAL CRISIS in Rajasthan is as much the creation of Chief Minister and Congress Presidential candidate Ashok Gehlot as it is of the Congress high command, which assumed it could ignore the voice of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) and force its will on legislators. On Sunday evening, 90 of the party MLAs quit in a show of solidarity with Gehlot and against any move to make Sachin Pilot the chief minister. A CLP meeting was called in Jaipur Sunday ostensibly to confirm Pilot's elevation to the CM's office, disregarding the reservations that Gehlot had expressed to the party leadership. Instead, the CLP, unofficially, met at the residence of a Cabinet minister and openly declared its disagreement with the central leadership. The episode, far from over, leaves the Congress central leadership looking diminished, clueless and ineffectual. The Pilot camp claims 90 is a padded figure — how the party leadership responds to this will decide how serious it is about reforms within.

What is clear, however, is that the party's Rajasthan crisis points to a flawed communication strategy within. The party leadership seems to have made different promises to different people in a bid to reconcile their differences only to realise that it may no longer command the authority to enforce its word. This was visible in Punjab, where clashes between the then CM Amarinder Singh and Navjot Singh Sidhu turned into a full-blown crisis, leading to the rout of the party in the recent assembly elections. Similar factional tensions are visible in the Congress units in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka. The absence of decisive leadership and effective crisis managers have already led to many senior leaders leaving the Congress. These exits and implosions have also dented the authority and credibility of the high command.

Any bungle by the Congress leadership now could lead to the unravelling of the party in Rajasthan and cast a shadow over the impending election to the party president's office. Gehlot, seen as close to the Gandhi family and its choice for party chief's post, has conveyed that he is no pushover. The image of the three-time CM with considerable experience in managing the party organisation has changed overnight from that of a family loyalist to a powerful state chieftain willing to plot against Delhi. This has complicated power equations within the party and introduced an element of unpredictability to the presidential contest. However, if Gehlot gets to shift to Delhi and install an MLA of his choice as CM or continue in Jaipur despite the high command's preference for a transfer of leadership, it would further erode the authority of the Gandhi family. That, however, may not necessarily be a bad thing for the Congress, as it seeks to rebuild under a non-Gandhi. Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi, currently on a padyatra, will have to think extra hard before he takes the next step.

MONSOON MISERY

Delayed withdrawal and skewed distribution of the rains has affected kharif harvest. Food inflation likely to take a hit

A NIÑA — an unusual cooling of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean waters — played havoc with India's kharif crop last year, bringing torrential rain just before or during harvesting time. The country registered five consecutive months of excess rainfall from September to January, which hit the soyabean, cotton, pulses, tomatoes, onions and a host of other vegetables that were ready to be picked. La Niña casting its long shadow hasn't been ruled out this time too, with most global weather agencies predicting the continuation of the current event at least till December. That would make this particular episode, which began in September 2020, one of the longest ever spanning three winters. The southwest monsoon's slow withdrawal and the heavy showers over Northwest India during the last week are ominous signs; one can only hope that the "triple drip" La Niña is on its last legs and there's no repeat of last year.

On the whole, this hasn't been the best of the monsoons, despite overall rainfall during the four-month season from June being 7 per cent above its long-period average so far. The reason is its not-so-good distribution. Rains have been deficient across the Gangetic plains, from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal. It has affected the area planted under rice — in a belt that is a large producer as well as consumer of the cereal. On the other side, excess rainfall in much of western, central and even southern India has led to crop inundation, though the damage is not on the scale of last year's. Most parts of the country also got very little rain in June, resulting in delayed sowing. And the recent downpour in Haryana, Punjab and western UP isn't going to help the standing paddy whose grains have already matured. A clear picture of the kharif harvest will emerge over the next month or so.

For the government and the RBI, the situation presents a challenge, particularly from a food inflation standpoint. But it shouldn't stop at that. 2021-22 was an extraordinary year where both the kharif and rabi (specifically wheat) crops suffered setbacks — the first from too much rain during September-January and the second from the heatwave in March-April. Policymakers need to plan for extreme weather events becoming par for the course. It calls for investing more in climate-smart plant breeding, agro-meteorological forecasting and digital-enabled farm extension.

A SPIDER'S TALE

A museum in Amsterdam is treating spiders like artists. It's about time

INSIGHT, MORE OFTEN than not, can be gained with just a slight shift in perspective. That's what artist Tomas Saraceno seems to be advocating, and he has managed to get — at least for some months — the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam to go along. For the last three months, the museum — which houses works from such greats as Rembrandt and Vermeer — will place on the same pedestal as human artists the creative endeavours of creepy crawlies. At Saraceno's request, no spider webs have been cleaned up by the custodial staff and the curators are looking at natural spun threads as works of art. Saraceno's own work uses the threads spun by four different species of spiders.

The principle behind Saraceno's work is a simple one: Human beings are the invasive species. Most of the invertebrates people treat as pests have occupied the spaces now filled with homes, offices and museums long before they were built. Both logically and morally, then, the least people can do is share space with the "creepy crawlies". Copernicus — and later Galileo — made sure that the way human beings saw their place in the universe was forever altered. Perhaps, by not stepping on insects and trying instead to see them as creative beings, another new perspective is possible.

The new "way of seeing" championed by the likes of Saraceno also has a more immediate virtue, beyond the abstract imperatives of logic and morality. Before the microscope, insects and invertebrates — so different in form from mammals — were objects of fear and disgust, associated with evil and the occult. But over the centuries, as science has made it possible to view the intricacies of their bodies, creations and interactions, it has become much easier to appreciate the spider's artistry. And, as a bonus, every home can host an exhibition with just a little laziness about cleanliness.



C RAJA MOHAN

IN A MAJOR move last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin threatened the use of nuclear weapons against Ukraine and its Western backers. "When the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, to protect Russia and our people, we will certainly use all the means at our disposal," he said, in an implicit reference to nuclear weapons. To underline the seriousness of his threat, Putin added it "is not a bluff."

This is certainly not the first time the Russian leader has rattled the nuclear sabre. Soon after he launched the Ukraine invasion in February, Putin issued a similar warning and ordered his armed forces to put Russian nuclear weapons on alert. What is different this time is Russia's weakening position in Ukraine. The recent setbacks on the battlefield have persuaded Putin to order the mobilisation of a larger number of troops and call for an annexation of the occupied territories in eastern Ukraine. The nuclear threat appears to be part of an effort to salvage a modicum of political gains from a "war of choice" that has gone terribly wrong. Putin's nuclear threat did not make a difference last time around; this time he is signalling a greater commitment to using nuclear weapons by claiming that the occupied territories are now a part of Russia, and organising referendums to lend a veneer of political legitimacy to their annexation. That brings us to the link between Russia's "territorial integrity" and the threat to use nuclear weapons.

Moscow's nuclear doctrine states that it will use nuclear weapons in a conventional war in the event of an attack on Russia and if the very existence of the state is threatened. By turning the "occupied territories" into "Russian territory", Putin is arguing that attempts by Ukraine and its Western supporters to liberate occupied territory would be met with a nuclear response. For those who can't see the nature of the threat this time, Dmitry Medvedev, Russia's former president and a close associate of Putin, has made the threat explicit. He has declared that Russia will use nuclear weapons, not just tactical nuclear weapons but also strategic ones, to defend the "new Russian territories".

Putin will hope that the danger of a nuclear war would encourage those in the West who seek a compromise with Russia (at the expense of Ukraine, of course) and bring the war to a

The Eurobomb

As Russia makes more credible nuclear threats, there is debate about Europe developing its own nuclear arsenal

The last few years have seen NATO come under stress. Donald Trump challenged the very premises of the American commitment to protect Europe and questioned the European reluctance to spend more on its own defence. Trump also accused the Europeans of free-riding on US commitments while conducting ever larger commercial business with Russia. Trump's threat to walk out of NATO has compelled the European states to rethink their security policies, emphasise the need to build their defence capabilities and develop more 'strategic autonomy' vis-a-vis the US. One element of this debate has been the question of Europe developing its own nuclear weapons.

quick close. But Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy has dismissed the nuclear threat and vowed to fight on until the occupied territories are brought back under Kyiv's control. The US has warned Russia against the use of nuclear weapons, and is likely to continue its armed support to Ukraine.

That puts the nuclear ball back in Putin's court. Will Putin court the dangers of a full-scale nuclear war with the West for a few additional districts in Ukraine? Using nuclear weapons for offensive or coercive purposes has not been easy. The prospect of a national suicide has often acted as a self-deterrent. Even if it turns out to be a bluff, Putin's threat will have a major effect on the global nuclear security debate. That Russia, one of the architects of the post-War global nuclear order, can threaten a non-nuclear weapon state like Ukraine with the use of atomic weapons, has compelled many major powers in Europe and Asia to take a fresh look at their nuclear policies. Making matters worse is another troubling dimension of Putin's policy — the Russian President is using the nuclear threat to annex the territory of a neighbour it has seized through armed aggression. Several questions arise.

First, would Putin have ordered the invasion of Ukraine if Kyiv had nuclear weapons? Ukraine, which inherited a large nuclear complex when the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, voluntarily gave up nuclear weapons in 1994 in return for guarantees of its security. Those assurances turned out to be worthless when Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. The utility of nuclear weapons in preventing aggression by big powers appears to be an enduring one. While many in Ukraine might regret the decision to give up nuclear weapons, there is little that Kyiv can do to immediately reverse that decision.

What about Europe? Europe has much to lose if Putin continues his territorial expansionism backed by the nuclear threat. Might Europe consider the development of its own nuclear weapons? On the face of it, the idea of a European nuclear bomb would seem odd. Barring France, all the members of the EU have voluntarily given up their nuclear weapon options by signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. While giving up their own atomic weapons, the EU members have relied on the US nuclear umbrella. Under the arrangement,

the US had nuclear weapon-sharing arrangements with five NATO countries — Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

The last few years have seen NATO come under stress. Donald Trump challenged the very premises of the American commitment to protect Europe and questioned the European reluctance to spend more on its own defence. Trump also accused the Europeans of free-riding on US commitments while conducting ever larger commercial business with Russia. Trump's threat to walk out of NATO has compelled the European states to rethink their security policies, emphasise the need to build their defence capabilities, and develop more "strategic autonomy" vis-a-vis the US. One element of this debate has been the question of Europe developing its own nuclear weapons.

The easiest way would be to turn the French nuclear arsenal into a European deterrent. France, however, has traditionally insisted that its arsenal is for its own national security. But in early 2020, French President Emmanuel Macron articulated a change. He declared that the French nuclear strategy has a "European dimension". France's nuclear forces "strengthen the security of Europe through their very existence," Macron said. There has been some talk of Germany financing the expansion of the French arsenal. The problem, however, may be less about building nuclear assets than developing a nuclear doctrine and command structure.

While the discourse on a Eurobomb gains traction, the immediate focus might well be on strengthening NATO's nuclear forces and boosting the US nuclear umbrella over Europe. This might involve new deployments of US nuclear weapons in Europe, wider nuclear sharing arrangements, and stronger conventional deterrent capabilities.

One of the main objectives of Putin's invasion of Ukraine was to rearrange European geopolitics in favour of Russia. Putin might well succeed, but not in the manner that he might have hoped. His profound miscalculations in Ukraine are leading to an inevitable change in the European security order to the detriment of Russia.

The writer is senior fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, Delhi and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express



SRIRAM VEERA

WHY DO people still feel upset when a bowler runs out a non-striker for stepping out before the ball is released? Perhaps their angst stems from the fact that this act preempts everything else: A ball hasn't been bowled, the batsman hasn't gotten into the act, and they feel "cheated" by the non-consummation of the cricketing act. The Lord's crowd boomed and many players like James Anderson exhibited similar emotion on Twitter when the Indian bowler Deepti Sharma shoved the bails off the stumps at the non-striker's end when England's batter Charlotte Dean stepped out before the ball was released.

To state the obvious first, Sharma did nothing wrong; if anything, she showed presence of mind and the courage to bear the "cheater" stigma. To state the non-obvious, neither was Dean attempting to cheat.

In the nationalistic and virtue-signalling din, nuance is unsurprisingly lost.

Dean had her bat inside the crease, when Sharma not only landed her back foot but almost pressed down her front foot as well. Only then did Dean lift her bat out of the crease. That moment when the bowler's front foot lands as the right arm goes up to release the ball, seen through peripheral vision, is when non-strikers begin to depart from the crease. This is a habit that they will now have to shrug off.

Sharma spotted Dean, who only had her bat in the crease, and stopped and let her stroll out.

Here is the grey area of intent: The non-

SPIRIT OF THE GAME

There is nothing black or white in the matter of running out a non-striker

striker was not charging out to steal but just assumed that the ball was released.

This is why the late Shane Warne had a problem with Ashwin's run-out of Jos Buttler in the IPL: "(He) had no intention of delivering the ball — so it should have been called a dead ball". A similar sentiment was expressed this time by England's James Anderson about Sharma.

Sunil Gavaskar doesn't buy that theory of penalising the bowler's intent under the umbrella of the "spirit of the game". "The simple thing is you have to look at the bowler and move out when he releases. You can't look at the batsman and walk out of the crease. The law is clear," he had once told this newspaper.

The laws don't admit sympathy or foolishness or lack of intent as a cause to overlook a dismissal. Should the punishment be less to allow such lack of intent to steal a run as in Dean's case?

As the cliché goes, cricket is a funny game where intent doesn't really matter. Krishnamachari Srikkanth was run out in his debut Test by England's John Embury as he had absent-mindedly wandered out of his crease. A harsher incident was when New Zealand's Brendon McCullum ran out Muttiah Muralitharan, who had left the crease to congratulate his partner Kumar Sangakkara on his hundred while the ball was still in play.

There were some eyebrows raised when South Africa's wicket-keeper Quinton de Kock ran out Fakhar Zaman. The Pakistani had al-

most reached the striker's end when de Kock signalled to the other end, as if he were telling the bowler to collect the throw there, which made Zaman turn around to look. To his horror, the ball was already well on its way to de Kock who whipped off the bails with a chuckle.

Perhaps, the former England spinner Graeme Swann's witticism best captures the feelings of those against this move. In 2014, when the Sri Lankan Sachithra Senanayake ran out Jos Buttler (a repeat offender as evidenced by his run out by Ashwin much later in IPL), Swann piped up: "I think the Mankading is just wrong even though it's not illegal. Like cuddling your sister while watching a film!"

However, it also says something about the act of running out the non-striker when people who claim bounced balls as catches, run out a player walking to congratulate their partner for hitting a hundred, don't walk after edging, tamper with the ball, use drugs and hurl abuses, unite in the moral war against it — and yet, the rules clearly say the onus is on the batsman not to leave the crease until the ball is delivered.

The non-consummation of the cricket act leaves, for many, a foul taste, a shallow feeling; and for many it's a tribute to cricketing smartness. Where we stand reveals our own personality and urges; nothing black or white about this grey matter.

sriram.veera@expressindia.com



SEPTEMBER 27, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

MANCH PRESIDENT

LALIT MOHAN SINGH, president of the Bihar unit of the Sanjay Vichar Manch, was arrested on the charges of cheating and forgery. He was later produced before the chief judicial magistrate of Patna. A P Sinha, who remanded him to judicial custody for 15 days.

ISRAEL PULLS OUT

A SOLUTION TO a dispute over the presence of Israeli troops in west Beirut appeared to be moving closer. The Israelis pulled out of some of their remaining positions and said most of the rest of their men would leave

by September 28.

HYDERABAD REVOLT

THE CENTRAL CONGRESS (I) leadership is worried about reports from Hyderabad that a revolt against the New Andhra chief minister is brewing in the legislature party. Former CM Bhavanam Venkataram is understood to have addressed a detailed letter to Indira Gandhi putting down the feelings of fellow legislators. According to them, CM Vijayabhaskara Reddy, in forming his new team, had dropped several of those who supported Mrs Gandhi during 1977-80 and provided positions to those who had

remained with the then Brahmananda Reddy Congress.

JOINT STATEMENT

A JOINT DECLARATION released simultaneously in New Delhi and Moscow reaffirmed their strong opposition to outside interference in the internal affairs of the countries of South-West Asia or South-East Asia. Without mentioning Afghanistan, they expressed their conviction that the problems of the region demanded peaceful, political solutions paying full respect to "the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-aligned status of the countries of the region."

Deciding the rarest of rare

The Supreme Court has done well to acknowledge that capital punishment needs closer scrutiny



ANUP SURENDRANATH AND MAITREYI MISRA

FORTY-TWO YEARS AGO, the Supreme Court took the view that the death penalty did not violate the Constitution and prescribed a framework it hoped would ensure fairness in sentencing. The Court has now come full circle in confronting the reality that death penalty sentencing has been anything but fair. In a momentous ruling last week, the Supreme Court has said that fundamental aspects of death penalty sentencing need re-examination and resolution by a Constitution Bench of five judges. Four decades and over 400 judgments after *Bachan Singh v State of Punjab* (May 1980), a three-judge bench has had the judicial courage to acknowledge that there are serious problems in India's death penalty regime, indicating that the current state of death penalty sentencing is untenable.

While approving the constitutional status of the death penalty in May 1980, the Supreme Court was acutely aware that it had to ensure that the imposition of death sentences did not become an arbitrary and subjective exercise in individual cases. In determining which individuals the law could subject to death in a fair manner, it was integral that the sentencing judges were deciding according to the law and not on their individual whim. Concerned with fairness, *Bachan Singh* proposed a sentencing framework towards ensuring that the sentencing judge's discretion to choose between life imprisonment and the death sentence was guided by considerations that were relevant to the law. Before imposing the death sentence, *Bachan Singh* required the court to weigh the aggravating and mitigating circumstances (popularly known as the "rarest of rare" case) and determine whether the option of life imprisonment is "unquestionably foreclosed".

Over the years, multiple concerns have emerged with this framework. The courts have taken differing approaches in which factors are relevant to sentencing, how best to bring in factors relevant to punishment, the ability of poor defendants to bring in such information, the weightage sentencing factors must receive, and the contentious role of public opinion. The problem that the Supreme Court's reference to a Constitution Bench seeks to remedy is the need to achieve consistency on the requirements of a fair, meaningful and effective sentencing hearing.

This is not the first time that the Supreme Court has noticed that all is not well with the *Bachan Singh* framework. In 2009, in *Santosh Kumar Bariyar v State of Maharashtra*, Justice SB Sinha expressed concern about the lack of uniformity in death penalty sentencing. In 2018, Justice Kurian Joseph in his minority opinion in *Channu Lal Verma v State of Chhattisgarh* called for a relook at the constitutional possibility of the death penalty because of the arbitrariness that had crept in. Periodically, others too have brought out this flaw. Lethal Lottery in 2008, and the 262nd Law Commission of India Report in 2015, underscored the inconsistencies in the Supreme Court's approach to death penalty sentencing. The Law Commission recommended abolition due to the irresolvable arbitrariness inherent in death penalty law. In 2020, Project 39A's doctrinal study of trial court judgments from 2000-2015 evidenced the inconsistencies in the application of the framework, which often arose from the confusion embedded in the framework. It also highlighted that trial courts were far too often imposing death sentences without considering any mitigating circumstances. We have known long since



CR Sasikumar

that *Bachan Singh's* hope of fairness was nowhere near being realised. Yet we continued unmoved.

In a series of recent judgments over the last year, two benches of the Supreme Court have repeatedly noticed that courts below it have been sentencing accused persons to death without having sufficient material regarding them. There are structural and systemic reasons for this. The reality is that in death penalty cases, the accused are more often than not poor, can ill-afford quality legal representation, and scarcely have the resources to put before the Court meaningful mitigation information. In addition to the lack of time, there is the additional disadvantage that the accused face where they are simply not in a position to produce relevant mitigating factors. In this background, *Bachan Singh's* hope rings hollow.

To address the problem of lack of mitigation information, one bench of the Supreme Court repeatedly called for a probation officer's report, jail conduct report and a psychological evaluation of the accused, while another bench was deeply resistant to this idea. This speaks to the absolute lack of clarity on how death penalty sentencing should be done. We currently have a situation where one judgment of the Court (*Manoj & Ors v. State of MP*) set in place practical guidelines to ensure that courts have sufficient material on the accused before delivering a sentence of death at every stage of the judicial process. At the same time, there is another judgment (*Manoj Pratap Singh v. State of Rajasthan*), which is suspicious of this process, deems it unnecessary and, on the whole, entirely misunderstands essential aspects of death penalty sentencing. This is only the most recent instance in a long line of cases where there are contradictions in the Supreme Court's death penalty jurisprudence and the approach to sentencing has been divergent.

Over the years, multiple concerns have emerged with this framework. The Courts have taken differing approaches in which factors are relevant to sentencing, how best to bring in factors relevant to punishment, the ability of poor defendants to bring in such information, the weightage sentencing factors must receive, and the contentious role of public opinion. The problem that the Supreme Court's reference to a Constitution Bench seeks to remedy is the need to achieve consistency on the requirements of a fair, meaningful and effective sentencing hearing.

The jurisprudence is now too disparate for it to continue in the same vein. The Court has now set for itself the task to mend this divide, and begin afresh the project of ensuring fairness in death penalty sentencing.

Achieving fairness in sentencing necessarily requires that the accused be given time and resources to gather and present such information in every single case and at every judicial stage. Concerns about the lack of resources and capacity must not be allowed to trump in a process which seeks to take life through the law. It also necessarily requires guarding against the deep suspicion and implicit bias that accused persons often face when asking for their right to place their story on record. This intangible but all too real disadvantage must also be addressed by any process striving for fairness.

This year, 122 people have already been sentenced to death by trial courts. The challenge before the Supreme Court is enormous in a criminal justice system like ours. This reference order is in many ways the Supreme Court acknowledging that we can't declare the death penalty to be constitutional and then administer it an unconstitutional manner. The reference to the Constitution Bench is then another attempt at infusing the death sentence process with the values of fairness and non-arbitrariness. The Court is (perhaps quixotically) hopeful that the serious problems with the death penalty regime can be fixed. However, the sheer lack of capacity and resources that plague our barely held-together criminal justice system betray its ability to be fair.

The writers are with Project 39A, National Law University Delhi. Project 39A's application for mitigation access was converted into the suo motu writ which has resulted in the reference order

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"China-India relations need to achieve healthy and stable development while overcoming... internal and external disturbances. China's attitude is clear and firm, but New Delhi has paid a heavy cost in the past from pandering to and exploiting domestic nationalist sentiments."
— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Taking forward Abe's legacy

He could see the changing geopolitical situation, and tried his best to collaborate with India to counter a dominating neighbour



PRAVAKAR SAHOO

SHINZO ABE, India's closest friend in Japan, was assassinated a few months back. His importance for India and for India-Japan relations is reflected in the nation's mourning. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's blog post on his passing, and his visit to Japan to attend Abe's funeral.

Abe was instrumental in energising like-minded powerful democratic countries for a free and open Indo-Pacific. He could clearly see the changing geopolitical and economic situation and tried his best to collaborate with India on multiple dimensions to counter China, a hostile neighbour to both India and Japan. India-Japan relations reached new heights on economic, security and strategic issues during Abe's official tenure. After Abe demitted office, the relations have continued to be on the upswing with Japan being led by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida who leads Abe's party, the Liberal Democratic Party. In fact, PM Kishida has assured to follow Abe's policy on economic, strategic and security issues. The India-Japan ministerial meeting (2+2) on defense and security cooperation and joint maritime exercises reflect continuity in India-Japan cooperation.

During his political career, Abe pushed for stability, security and a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific. Japan under his leadership took initiatives for multilateral institutional collaboration like the QUAD for international public goods like the rule of law, freedom of navigation and free trade. To complement this, Japan undertook bilateral initiatives with India including the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation in 2008 and the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement in 2020.

India and Japan share democratic values and understand the emerging geopolitical and economic developments. Therefore, it is hoped that Modi and Kishida would take these initiatives to further bilateral and regional infrastructure development and ensure resilient security and strategic alliance to stop a highly powerful and aggressive neighbour.

India-Japan economic relations have also been going from strength to strength. The economic relations took off from the Special Economic Partnership Initiative (SEPI) in 2006 which mainly focused on Japanese collaboration in developing the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), special economic zones, warehousing zones etc. SEPI accelerated after the ministerial-level economic dialogue in 2012.

India is the largest recipient of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). Japanese ODA, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) at a very nominal interest rate, is going to economic infrastructure projects such as transport, telecommunication, power, the Yamuna Action Plan and infrastructure development in the North East. The assistance accelerated following Japan's announcement in 2016 to help India build critical infrastruc-

ture and address social and environmental issues caused by rapid growth. The ODA has been directed towards brownfield toll road projects and integrated gas procurement, storage, transportation and supply business.

India is an infrastructure deficit country and programmes like Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, which lead to overall productivity-led growth, are extremely important. Japan has huge resources (pension and provident funds etc) which earns little return domestically. It has already invested approximately 3.5 trillion yen in India during the last five years. PM Kishida has recently announced investments of another 5 trillion yen over the next five years. Some of the important projects supported by Japan include the Delhi metro, the dedicated freight corridor Western project-II, the Chennai metro rail. The MoU between Japanese Suzuki Motor Corporation and Gujarat for investing around Rs 10,000 crore (Rs 3,100 crore for electric vehicle manufacturing and Rs 7,300 crore for the battery manufacturing plant) is a welcome step for India to move towards carbon neutrality. Some of the projects which have wider implications for the environment are the seawater desalination project in Gujarat, solar projects in Rajasthan and the gas-fired power project in Maharashtra.

Japan is the fifth-largest source of foreign direct investment (6.58 per cent of total FDI inflows) into India, accounting for \$40 billion between 2000 and 2021. Though FDI from Japan is substantial, it is much less compared to Japanese FDI to China and it mostly flows into the automobile sector. Japanese firms are yet to diversify their manufacturing base and supply chains away from China and South East Asia to include India. Japanese investment in India is primarily in automobile, telecommunications, electrical equipment, insurance, chemical and pharmaceutical sectors.

However, there are ample opportunities for Japanese investments. India has opened up the defence industry and is looking for co-operation and investment in space, cyber technologies and artificial intelligence (AI). India has a highly skilled manpower and Japan has the resources and the technology. Towards this end, the India-Japan Cooperation on Digital Partnership which focuses on collaboration in next-generation technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI) is a welcome step. There are also huge opportunities in areas such as autonomous military systems, cloud computing, quantum information etc. AI is crucial for countries to lead and dominate across sectors, more so in security and military space. China has been very aggressive in this area. Therefore, it is time for India-Japan to further collaborate on AI.

However, India-Japan economic relations, particularly in trade are below their potential. Though India signed the CEPA with Japan in 2011, Japan is the 13th largest trading partner with a total trade of around \$20 billion. However, the trade balance has always been in favour of Japan. India offers a large market and a stable workforce for Japanese firms. Considering the centrality of China in global value chains India offers the best alternative to diversify risk. Indian resources and low-cost labour make it advantageous for Japan to invest in India.

Abe laid the foundation for India-Japan relations. It's time to take his legacy forward.

The writer is professor, Institute of Economic Growth



OOPALEE OPERAJITA

A denial of Hindu victimhood

Why Pratap Bhanu Mehta is wrong about Leicester and New Jersey

FAIR IS Foul and Foul is Fair. This line, from the very first scene in *Macbeth*, with the three witches on the heath, revisited me as I read Pratap Bhanu Mehta's article ('Exporting division', IE, September 23).

Mehta's attempt to frame the Leicester attacks as an Indian Muslim versus Indian Hindu battle is insulting to Indian Muslims. The transnational Islamist jihadi mobs in Leicester appealed to their counterparts across the world to participate in the violent intimidation of the Hindu populace, "to clean out Leicester's Hindus" and the Leicester Police confirmed that many key instigators that day were imported from other British cities.

Mehta erroneously takes the Ministry of External Affairs to task for its well-worded and timely press release, wherein it asks, first, for the protection of Indians in the UK, and then, specifically, for the Hindus under attack in Leicester. It would do that for diaspora Sikhs, Muslims, Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis as well. Mehta asks of the MEA that it instruct Hindus not to chant "Jai Shri Ram" in "Muslim areas". No spaces in Leicester are des-

ignated as "Muslim areas" by the government. No community can simply arrogate spaces in any city to itself.

Mehta is wrong about the current, global Hindu-Muslim polarisation being an artefact of the Modi government's being in power. The fight between the Left and the Right in the United States, or the polarisation emanating from the Black Lives Matter movement, or the violence in Iran over enforcing the hijab and the concomitant oppression of women are pretty evident.

It is noxious as well as amusing that a Democrat body, from the tiny town of Teaneck, New Jersey, which Mehta cites, now carries out a witch-hunt against innocent and law-abiding Hindus. These organisations are tutored and brainwashed, in an obsessive, Goebbelsian fashion, by Islamic bodies in the US, and the mainstream media, to vilify and stymie Hindus. Why? The reason is not far to seek: The Indian diaspora in the US, of which the majority is Hindu, is very well-educated, hardworking, ethical, belongs to the very top financial echelons, and is a significant driver

of the North American economy. Ditto in Leicester, England, which has a prosperous, gentle Hindu community.

That unfettered success of the Indian diaspora is too much for a failed, rogue state to countenance. Therefore, it has become the key driver in the global jihadist movement to destroy India, the Modi government, and the Hindus. Of this, there is ample evidence. From its lobbyists in Washington DC to the Indian American Muslim Council and CAIR, in tandem with the oppressively self-immolating, woke crowd of Indian origin, and activists, the focus is clear: Destroy India, destroy Hindus, and malign the Modi government with all your might.

Mehta equivocates on Hindu victimhood in Leicester, which has been proven, by impartial observers, as well as British MP, Bob Blackman, while, in a rather bizarre, yet predictable, fashion, he presents Muslim victimhood as an incontrovertible fact. The "curated persona of (Muslims) as eternally victimised souls" is something the Lutyns media in India, activists, and its partners in the international media, and certain echelons of global

government, have assiduously propagated.

Therefore: Blame the Hindus, and, above all, blame Narendra Modi.

In the manic Leftist playbook, the victim inevitably morphs into the oppressor. For, all roads lead to Hinduism. The rest: they are all Honourable men. Only Hindus do wrong; only Hindus are evil, and only Hindus are violent. Terrorists of a certain faith — the puzzling, in-your-face bellicose and sanguine "religion of peace" — can never do any wrong.

A *saigon* of Opposites is upon us. The Opposites Cabal coolly flips the truth around. So, when a mob of 200 international Islamic fundamentalists threatens to desecrate a Durga Temple in Leicester, flip the story around: Blame it all, on the Hindus, and Hinduism. Then, with stifling ubiquity, and legerdemain, blame it on Prime Minister Modi and his government. This is getting tiresome. The anti-Modi claque needs new tricks in its bag.

The writer is Distinguished Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RSS'S TASK

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Why we met the RSS chief' (IE, September 26). The dialogue initiated by the author with RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat has the potential to pave the way for developing a bond between the two key communities (Hindus and Muslims). However, the responsibility rests on the RSS and its subsidiaries. Bhagwat has projected an image of tolerance and inclusivity by taking small but significant steps like visiting madrasas and meeting Muslim opinion leaders. But there is a need to do more.

YG Chouksey, Pune

NEED FOR OVERHAUL

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Thinking universities' (IE, September 26). The idea of an autonomous public university is a misnomer by design, as the statute backing these universities ties their hands. The leadership in these universities, its highest policy-making bodies — all have the stamp of the government of the day. There's a need for complete overhaul of the existing design of our public universities. Public funds should be tied up with the vision and performance of an institution.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

AN UNWISE DECISION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Russian roulette' (IE, September 26). Vladimir Putin's diktat of partial mobilisation of citizens for the Russian military deployed in Ukraine is being seen as a desperate attempt to accelerate the war effort in the face of defeat. This is a risky political move as a countrywide conscription could diminish domestic support for the war. With the latest call for escalation, it seems that the war has entered its most dangerous phase yet.

SS Paul, Nadia

LARGER REFORM

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A recipe for reform' (IE, September 26). Given the mistrust between the police and the public, robust police reforms are needed. At the same time, we need to widen the scope of these reforms. Our police forces act not merely on the diktats of their political and bureaucratic bosses but, in many cases, on the basis of their own prejudices — especially towards marginalised groups. The police needs to be sensitised and a professional decorum set in place, if we expect the institution to be able to help everyone regardless of their background.

Dev Athawale, Amravati



MEANWHILE

HURRICANE IAN NEARS CUBA

Hurricane Ian was growing stronger as it approached the western tip of Cuba on a track to hit the west coast of Florida as early as Wednesday. Ian was forecast to hit the western tip of Cuba as a major hurricane and then become an even stronger Category 4 with top winds of 225 km over warm Gulf of Mexico waters before striking Florida.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Kamala Harris with Fumio Kishida. Reuters

JAPAN

Harris, Kishida slam China's actions in Taiwan

Tokyo: US vice-president Kamala Harris reaffirmed US's commitment to Japan's defence during a meeting on Monday with PM Fumio Kishida in Tokyo in which they condemned China's actions in the Taiwan Strait. "They discussed the China's recent aggressive and irresponsible provocations in the Taiwan Strait, and reaffirmed the importance of preserving peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," the White House said. Harris, who is leading the US team to the funeral of former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, also discussed North Korea's ballistic missile test with Kishida and the importance of resolving the issue of Japan citizens abducted by N Korea, it added. REUTERS

MILITARY INSTALLATION AND DETONATED AMMUNITION STRUCK

Drone attack hits Odesa port; US warns of 'catastrophic consequences' over nukes

Don't think Putin is bluffing over nuclear arms, it could be a reality now, says Zelenskyy

AGENCIES

KYIV, SEPTEMBER 26

AN OVERNIGHT drone strike near the Ukrainian port of Odesa sparked a massive fire and explosion, the military said Monday, as Russia's leadership faced growing resistance to its efforts to call up hundreds of thousands of men to fight in Ukraine.

The airstrike on Odesa was the latest in a series of drone attacks on the key southern city in recent days, and hit a military installation and detonated ammunition when it struck. Firefighters were struggling to contain the blaze, and civilians nearby were evacuated, the Ukrainian military's southern command said.

It came hours after the United States vowed to take decisive action and promised "catastrophic consequences" if Russia uses nuclear weapons in



A building in the retaken village of Shchurove, Ukraine. AP

Ukraine. Concerns are growing that Russia may seek to escalate the conflict once it completes what Ukraine and the West see as illegal referendums in parts of Ukraine under its control. Meanwhile, Ukraine President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he doesn't think Putin is bluffing when he says Moscow would be ready to use nuclear weapons to defend Russia. "Look, maybe yesterday it was bluff. Now, it could be a reality," Zelenskyy, who had

WON'T RECOGNISE REFERENDUMS: KAZAKHSTAN

Almaty: Kazakhstan will not recognise the possible annexation of Ukraine's eastern regions by Russia through referendums, its foreign ministry said. "Kazakhstan proceeds from the principles of territorial integrity of states, their sovereign equivalence and peaceful coexistence," it added. REUTERS

previously played down such warnings as nuclear blackmail, told CBS News on Sunday.

The voting, which ends Tuesday, happened after thousands of residents had fled and has included images of armed Russian

troops going door-to-door to pressure Ukrainians into casting a ballot. Russia is widely expected to declare the results in its favour, a step that could see Moscow annex the territory and give it the pretext to defend it as its own territory under the Russian nuclear umbrella.

Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, said Russia would pay a high, if unspecified, price if it made good on veiled threats to use nuclear weapons in the conflict. "If Russia crosses this line there will be catastrophic consequences," he told NBC's Meet on Sunday.

Russian military recruiter shot

A young man shot a Russian military officer at close range at an enlistment office Monday, in an unusually bold attack reflecting resistance to the Russian leadership's efforts to mobilise hundreds of men to wage war on Ukraine.

Canada to remove all Covid border, travel measures from Oct 1

REUTERS

OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER 26

CANADA WILL remove all Covid-19 restrictions for inbound travellers from October 1, as well as testing, quarantine, and isolation requirements, the government said on Monday.

The decision to drop the restrictions was based on Canada's vaccination rate, availability of newer vaccines and treatments, as well as scientific modeling that shows the country had passed the peak of the latest wave of coronavirus infections, the government said.

"Thanks largely to Canadians who have rolled up their sleeves to get vaccinated, we have reached the point where we can safely lift the sanitary measures at the border," Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos said.

More than 90% of Canadians over 12 have taken the primary series of a Covid vaccine and earlier this month, Canada authorized Moderna Inc's bivalent Covid-19

EXPLAINED Benefits for the travellers

TRAVELLERS, REGARDLESS of citizenship, will not have to submit health information through the ArriveCAN app or provide proof of vaccination from Saturday. A requirement for travellers to wear masks on planes and trains would also be dropped.

shots for adults, in the country's first Omicron-adapted vaccine.

Duclos said the government was prepared to reinstate restrictions if the need arises. "Obviously we have no hope to reintroduce some of these measures but if we need to protect the safety of Canadians, we will have to," he told reporters in Ottawa.

Putin grants Russian citizenship to Snowden



Edward Snowden was given asylum in Russia in 2013

REUTERS

SEPTEMBER 26

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin on Monday granted Russian citizenship to former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden, nine years after he exposed the scale of secret surveillance operations by the National Security Agency (NSA).

Snowden, 39, fled the United States and was given asylum in Russia after leaking secret files in 2013 that revealed vast domestic and international surveillance operations carried out by the NSA, where he worked. US authorities have for years wanted him returned to the US to face a criminal trial on espionage charges.

There was no immediate reaction from Snowden, whose name appeared without Kremlin comment in a Putin decree conferring citizenship on a list of 72 foreign-born individuals. Snowden's lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena, told RIA news agency that his client could not be called up because he had not previously served in the Russian army. He said that Snowden's wife Lindsay Mills, who gave birth to a son in 2020, would also apply for citizenship.

CUBA

Gay marriage approved in referendum

Havana: Cubans approved gay marriage and adoption overwhelmingly in a Sunday referendum backed by the government that also boosted rights for women, the national election commission said on Monday. More than 3.9 million voters voted to ratify the code (66.9%), while 1.95 million opposed ratification (33%). Alina Balseiro Gutierrez, president of the commission, said on Monday. REUTERS

EGYPT

Cleric revered by Muslim Brotherhood dies

Doha: Youssef al-Qaradawi, an Egyptian cleric who was seen as the spiritual leader of the pan-Arab Muslim Brotherhood, died on Monday at 96, said his official website. He died in Qatar, where he had been living in exile following the military's overthrow of a Muslim Brotherhood-led government in 2013. AP

BANGLADESH

Toll from boat capsized up to 50

Dhaka: With the recovery of 25 more bodies on Monday from a capsized boat carrying Hindu devotees to a centuries-old temple in northern Bangladesh, the toll in the tragedy has risen to 50, mostly kids and women, authorities said. PTI

ELIAN PELTIER

ZIGUINCHOR, SEPTEMBER 26

UPON the deck, dozens of university students played cards. In the first-class cabins below, passengers watched the movie "Air Force One." In an overcrowded third-class compartment, a teenage soccer team on its way to a tournament belted out songs.

All were aboard a ferry named the Joola when it set out 20 years ago on a 17-hour journey from a city in southern Senegal, along the west coast of Africa, headed for the capital, Dakar.

Italy shifts to the right as voters reward Meloni's party

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME, SEPTEMBER 26

A PARTY with neo-fascist roots has won the most votes in Italy's national election, setting the stage Monday for talks to create of the country's first far-right-led government since World War II with Giorgia Meloni at the helm as Italy's first woman premier.

Italy's lurch to the far right immediately shifted Europe's geopolitics, placing the eurosceptic far-right Brothers of Italy in position to lead a founding member of the European Union and its third-largest economy. Right-wing leaders across Europe hailed the 45-year-old Meloni's victory as sending a historic, nationalist message to Brussels, while Italy's left warned of "dark days" ahead



Giorgia Meloni

and vowed to keep Italy in the heart of Europe.

Near-final results Monday showed the centre-right coalition

netting 44% of the parliamentary vote, with Meloni's Brothers of Italy snatching 26% in its biggest win in a decade-long meteoric rise. Her coalition partners divided up the remainder, with the anti-immigrant League party led by Matteo Salvini winning 9% and the moderate Forza Italia of ex-premier Silvio Berlusconi taking around 8% of the vote.



Illustration of NASA's DART spacecraft, which was launched to test a technique that could one day be used for planetary defence. Reuters

NASA is about to crash into asteroid

On Monday, NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test spacecraft, or DART, is set to collide with Dimorphos, a small asteroid that is the moon of a larger space rock, Didymos. These two near-Earth objects pose no immediate threat to our world



WHEN IS THE COLLISION?

■ DART is set to crash into Dimorphos at 14,000 miles per hour at 7:14 pm Eastern time on Monday

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE COLLISION?

■ The mission's target is Dimorphos, a small asteroid that is about 500 feet in diameter and orbits a larger object, a half-mile-wide asteroid named Didymos

■ DART will be a self-driving suicidal spacecraft, guiding itself to its demise

WHY IS NASA CRASHING INTO AN ASTEROID?

■ Blowing up an asteroid generally would not be a good thing to do. Rather, the mission is a proof-of-principle demonstration that hitting an oncoming asteroid with a projectile can nudge it into a different orbit

■ For a dangerous oncoming asteroid, that nudge could be enough to change the trajectory from a direct hit to a near miss

Source: NYT



WHAT HAPPENS IF THE MISSION SUCCEEDS?

■ If DART and Dimorphos connect as planned, the small asteroid's orbit will get closer to larger Didymos. The magnitude of the change will depend on the structure of Dimorphos

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH NASA'S BIG MOON ROCKET?

■ It had planned to launch Artemis 1 on Tuesday. But poor weather prompted it to call off the launch attempt

GUNMAN, AN EX-STUDENT, SUSPECTED TO HAVE NEO-NAZI LINKS

15 killed, including children, 24 injured in Russia school shooting

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 26

A GUNMAN opened fire in a school in central Russia on Monday, killing 15 people and wounding 24 others before shooting himself dead, authorities said. The shooting took place in School No. 88 in Izhevsk, a city 960 km east of Moscow in Udmurtia region.

Russia's Investigative Committee identified the gunman as 34-year-old Artyom Kazantsev, a graduate of the same school, and said he was wearing a black t-shirt bearing "Nazi symbols." No details about his motives have been released.

The Committee said 15 people, including 11 children, were killed in the shooting, and 24 other people, including 22 children, were wounded in the attack.

The governor of Udmurtia, Alexander Brechalov, said the gunman, who he said was registered



Police outside the school in Izhevsk, Russia, Monday. AP

asa patient at a psychiatric facility, killed himself after the attack.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov described the shooting as "a terrorist act" and said Russian President Vladimir Putin has given all the necessary orders to the relevant authorities.

"President Putin deeply mourns deaths of people and children in the school, where a terror-

ist act took place," Peskov told reporters Monday. The school educates children between grades one and 11. It has been evacuated and the area around it has been cordoned off, the governor said.

Russia's National Guard said Kazantsev used two non-lethal handguns adapted to fire real bullets. The guns were not registered with the authorities.

Miftah resigns as Pak finance minister, Ishaq Dar to return after 5-year exile

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD/LONDON, SEPTEMBER 26

ISHAQ DAR, who is set to take charge as Pakistan's finance minister after the resignation of Miftah Ismail, is scheduled to return to the country along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif from London on Monday, according to media reports.

The formal decision to put 72-year-old Dar in the driving seat was taken in during a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his elder brother Nawaz Sharif in London on Saturday. Both the finance minister Miftah Ismail and his successor Dar were present at the meeting, besides other leaders of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

The PM on Sunday announced the appointment of Dar, who has been on self-exile



Ishaq Dar went into exile after corruption accusation

since 2017 after being accused in a corruption case. Ismail handed over his resignation to the elder Sharif, who is out of politics due to a conviction in corruption cases but his decisions are considered binding on the party.

"I worked to the best of my ability for four months, and remained loyal to the party and the country," Ismail was quoted as saying by the PML-N in the statement.

The resignation came after it was formally decided in the party meeting that the country, also reeling under the impact of the massive floods, needed a new finance minister and Nawaz Sharif nominated Dar for the tough job.

Two Army Major among six killed in helicopter crash

Islamabad: Six Pakistan Army officials, including two Major, were killed in a helicopter crash in southwestern Balochistan province, the military said on Monday, the second such incident in the same province last month.

The crash occurred near Khost in the Hamai district of the province on Sunday night during a flying mission, it said. All the "six personnel on board, including two pilots" were killed in the crash, the Army said. No reason for the crash was given.

The Inter-Services Public Relations said that Major Khurram Shahzad (pilot) and Major Muhammad Muneeb Afzal (pilot) were among those killed in the crash. PTI

20 YEARS AGO ON SEPTEMBER 26, PASSENGERS FROM SENEGAL PERISHED IN A LITTLE-KNOWN DISASTER

Deadlier than Titanic: A ferry set out with 1,900 aboard, only 64 survived

As night fell, the festivities suddenly stopped. Rain began to drum on the Joola's deck, hundreds of passengers rushed inside, the ferry tilted left, and then it capsized — with most of the travelers trapped.

More people died on the Joola on September 26, 2002, than on the Titanic, making it the second deadliest maritime wreck ever recorded in peacetime. Only 64 people survived out of more than 1,900 — on a ferry designed to carry a maximum of 580. None of the 46 babies on board survived.

Yet after two decades, no one has been held accountable.

Outside of Senegal, little is known about the Joola, and even in Senegal, many blame the bad weather or some uncontrollable force. Ousseynou Djiba, a mango seller who had been transporting his goods to market and cheered on the singing soccer team that day, is buying none of that.

"Some claim that it was God's will," Djiba, now a schoolteacher, said. "How can it be God's will when there were so many human-made errors?"

Survivors and families of victims, as well as multiple investigations, say that those responsible are the Senegalese military,



Passengers entering the new ferry Aline Sitoe Diatta on their way to Dakar in the port of Ziguinchor, on Thursday. NYT

which operated the ferry; government officials, who ignored countless warning signs; and the

country's top leaders, whose slow reaction meant that the first rescuers did not reach the

Joola, stranded less than 90 nautical miles from Dakar, until 17 hours after it capsized. Many passengers were still alive, but rescuers lacked the equipment to save them. Neither Senegal's navy, military nor transportation ministry responded to multiple requests for comment.

The survivors and victims' families are still fighting to have the boat raised so they can bury their loved ones. Four cemeteries hold more than 550 victims, but most remain 59 feet deep in the Atlantic.

When it began sailing in 1990, the 260-foot-long Joola was an answer to a fluke in Senegal's ge-

ography. As it departed from Ziguinchor, Casamance's largest city, the Joola was already tilting.

To escape the hot, overcrowded rooms, many stayed on the upper deck, including dozens of students chatting or flirting far from the eyes of conservative parents. As night fell, in the restaurant below, a singer impersonating Senegal's most famous musician, Youssou N'dour, was giving a concert. But clouds and strong winds were approaching the Joola. As the Joola tilted sharply to the left, water poured in through some open portholes. The freight and vehicles in the garage slid from starboard

to port, and a large generator came untied, rocking the boat and plunging it into darkness. The ferry capsized within minutes off the coast of Gambia.

No alarm had gone off, and no distress call had been sent to Dakar or Ziguinchor, investigations later found. Only around 7 am did authorities learn about the disaster from passing boats. Twenty years later, the city of Ziguinchor, which lost nearly 1,000 inhabitants on the Joola, has partly moved to a university opened in 2007 to offer local students an alternative to one in Dakar. A new ferry replaced the Joola. NYT



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

Joe Biden says the Covid-19 pandemic is over. Is it really?

**EXPERT
EXPLAINS**
R R GANGAKHEDKAR

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

UNITED STATES President Joe Biden said in an interview aired on Sunday that "the pandemic is over". "We still have a problem with Covid...but the pandemic is over. If you notice, no one's wearing masks. Everybody seems to be in pretty good shape," he said.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had earlier said the world has never been in a better position to end the pandemic. "We are not there yet. But the end is in sight," he said on September 14.

In India, daily cases have remained at around 5,000 over the past week, and for a lot of ordinary Indians, the pandemic is a fast receding memory and that normalcy has returned. So is Covid-19 over — or at least close to being over?

What will the end of the coronavirus pandemic look like?

Covid-19 will become — it has already become — endemic, which means there will be focal outbreaks. The virus will try to find those who continue to be vulnerable, such as people who received a vaccine but never had the natural infection. It will continue to be in circulation for quite some time and it is unlikely that it will disappear from the world. It is just that there will be cases that will not be picked up because the symptoms are mild or people do not come forward for testing.

After circulating for several years, however, it might disappear. For any virus that spreads rapidly in the population — the R-number (reproductive number, or the number of people a patient can infect) for Covid-19 is very high, more so for the Omicron variants. So the virus will eventually infect the entire population. So even if the virus is in circulation, the probability of finding a susceptible person becomes smaller and smaller. Why it will take years is because there will be a continuing cycle of people whose immunity is waning. Think of a water tank where outflow is high and inflow is a trickle — it will eventually run out of water.

Could SARS-CoV-2 mutate again and cause large-scale infections?

The Omicron variant was detected in November last year. It has been over 10 months, but we haven't seen a new lineage emerge even though the mutations continue to occur. What this means is that the virus is coming close to stabilisation — it does not need to remain very aggressive because it has achieved the fitness it requires to survive.

We may perhaps not see a variant that is very dangerous at this point of time. With Omicron, we have seen that it causes milder infections, fewer hospitalisations, and deaths.

What is likely to happen to the virus in the future?

If you look at the phylogenetic tree of SARS-CoV-2 — a mapping of the virus's mutation that can tell us what the closest relative of a variant is — the genetic distance between Omicron and the earlier variants is pretty big. Omicron is becoming like a cousin, it is still in the family but quite distant. As Omicron has replaced the other variants, if a new variant does emerge, it will be far away from the original virus. So would it then belong to the SARS-CoV-2 family, or be a whole new family?



Masks are mostly off; airports saw heavy summer rush as large numbers of people travelled. AP

We do not know for sure, but the way it is drifting — even within the Omicron family, you will see that the drift is far stronger between say BA.1, BA.2, BA.4, and BA.5 than what we were witnessing earlier — the mutations are putting the virus on the brink.

The other reason why I feel that the virus may change into a new one is because there

is sufficient evidence to show that for SARS-CoV-2 there is sufficient evidence of reverse zoonosis (spreading back to animals from humans). The virus continues to have reservoirs in animals — even household rodents — so the possibility of transmitting back to humans can never be ruled out. That will, however, lead to different mutations that could be beyond SARS-CoV-2. It will remain in the coronavirus family, of course.

Do we still need to wear masks and take booster shots in the endemic phase of the outbreak?

All those who are at a risk of developing severe disease because of age or comorbidities should get a booster dose. However small the risk may be with Omicron, why not keep yourself protected? You should also continue to wear masks in crowded places.

Those who haven't had a natural infection, those who do not elicit enough response through vaccination, or those who have waning immunity, must continue to wear masks in closed spaces with a large number of people.

While deciding on their level of protection, people must keep in mind that even though Omicron might cause a mild infection, they might get a post-Covid syndrome. The risk of post-Covid complications is al-

most half in cases of mild infection but we still do not clearly know the long term impacts on organs.

What will be the role of the newer generation of vaccines?

A pan-sarbecovirus vaccine is perhaps the best thing that could happen. (Sarbecoviruses are the viral subgenus of SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2.) These efforts have been intensified; there is now increasing use of artificial intelligence that can predict which epitopes will be able to protect you against all. If you take this one, it is possible that the protection will also be longer.

It is difficult to say if the current vaccine would be needed every year. But clearly giving it four or five times hasn't yielded all that much success in reducing the frequency of the infection. However, severe disease and hospitalisation remain low.

Dr Gangakhedkar is the former head of epidemiology and communicable diseases at ICMR. He led the country's fight against Covid-19 in the early days of the pandemic.

He is also a member of the World Health Organisation's Scientific Advisory Group for the origin of novel pathogens. He spoke to Anoma Dutt

THIS WORD MEANS

SURJAPURI, BAJJIKA

Dialects of Bihar that the government is promoting

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 26

BIHAR CHIEF Minister Nitish Kumar and Education Minister Prof Chandra Shekhar have asked the state education department to set up academies for the promotion of the Surjapuri and Bajjika dialects on the lines of the Hindi and Urdu academies. The education department will also set up an umbrella body to monitor the progress of all languages and dialects of Bihar.

Surjapuri and Bajjika

Surjapuri is spoken mainly in Kishanganj and other parts of Seemanchal in northeastern Bihar, including the districts of Katihar, Purnia and Araria. (See map) The dialect, a mix of Bangla, Urdu, and Hindi, is also spoken in contiguous parts of West Bengal. The name Surjapuri comes from Surjapur pargana, which no longer exists.

Although Surjapuri has nothing specifically to do with religion, the largest share of speakers of the language is made up of Surjapuri Muslims, who live mainly in Kishanganj, the district that has about 70 per cent Muslim population.

Prominent leaders of the Surjapuri community include the two-term Congress MP from Kishanganj, the late Asrarul Haq Qasmi, the sitting Congress MP from Kishanganj Dr Mohammad Jawed, and the head of the Bihar unit of Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, Akharul Imam.

Bajjika, one of five dialects of Bihar, is a mix of Bhojpuri and Maithili, and is spoken mainly in Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, and parts of Sitamarhi, Sheohar and Samastipur. (See map) Bajjika is not as well known as other dialects such as Bhojpuri and Maithili.

Reason for promotion

Eight academies or functioning organisations — for Hindi, Urdu, Bhojpuri, Maithili, Angika, Magahi, Bangla, and South

WHERE SPEAKERS LIVE



Indian languages — already exist in Bihar, and the government's decision takes note of the two dialects that had been left out.

The idea of setting up an umbrella organisation for Bihar's languages and dialects envisages a platform for academics, litterateurs, and officials to work together to promote literary writing, the upgradation of dictionaries, and the updating of the grammar of these dialects. While Maithili and Bhojpuri have made progress in fields of art, culture, and literature, Magahi, Angika, Bajjika and Surjapuri remain less-developed. The idea is to promote literary writing and conduct more research in Surjapuri and Bajjika as well.

There could also be a political reason. Having recently joined hands with Lalu Prasad, Nitish Kumar may well be looking at a chunk of votes in the Seemanchal region. Even though Muslims traditionally vote for non-BJP parties, especially the RJD and Congress, the JD(U), which is now part of the Grand Alliance, would like to reach out to voters in Seemanchal. Also, Bajjika-speaking regions of Sitamarhi, Sheohar, parts of East Champaran, and Vaishali, have traditionally been a stronghold of the BJP. While the setting up of a Bajjika academy could be only a symbolic step, it can only help the Nitish-led Grand Alliance.

The Kurmis: a political history

The bonhomie between Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad, who met Sonia Gandhi on Sunday, suggests a potentially significant realignment among the OBCs, where for the first time, Kurmis appear to be taking the lead. Who are this agricultural caste, in which states do they live, and what is their political history?

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE INCREASE in the visibility and profile of Nitish Kumar in national politics ever since he dumped the BJP and joined hands with Lalu Prasad has spotlighted the OBC Kurmi community to which the Bihar Chief Minister belongs. Kurmis are a smaller community than Yadavs, and they have not always had a cordial relationship. But the political aspiration of Kurmis has spiked in recent weeks — Yadavs for the first time appear willing to accept them as "elder brothers" — and if the bonhomie between Nitish and Lalu continues, the BJP might need some new social engineering manoeuvres in Bihar and UP soon.

The community

Kurmis are a landowning farming community whose status varies from place to place. The *People of India* series edited by KS Singh refers to Kurmis as "progressive farmers" who "avail of maximum benefits of all the development schemes available in the area and region".

Unlike Yadavs, Kurmis use a wide variety of surnames like Patel, Verma, Sachan, Gangwar, Katiyar, Baiswar, Jaiswar, Mahto, Prasad, Sinha, Singh, Pradhan, Baghel, Chaudhary, Patidar, Kumbi, Kumar, Patil, Mohanti, Kanaujiya, Chakradhar, Niranjan, Patanwar, and Shinde, etc.

Some Kurmi surnames are used by other communities as well, making it difficult to identify a Kurmi by name alone. Sometimes they use no surname at all.

Kurmis are distributed across several states — Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Goa, and Karnataka. Besides Nitish in Bihar, the Congress chief minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel, is also Kurmi.

Their caste status

In most states, Kurmis belong to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) in both the central and state lists for reservations.

In Gujarat, Patels, who are linked to Kurmis, are in the general category, and have been demanding OBC status. In West Bengal, Odisha, and Jharkhand — where Kurmi is written as 'Kudmi' — Kurmis want to be in-



Lalu Prasad, Nitish Kumar in New Delhi on Sunday. Earlier in the day, Nitish had addressed a rally organised by the INLD, at which Tejashwi Yadav was present. PTI

cluded among Scheduled Tribes.

Representation in govt

No data are available on the representation of various sub-castes in government jobs. But in 2018, the Justice G Rohini Commission set up to sub-categorise OBCs analysed data on 1.3 lakh central jobs given under the OBC quota over the five preceding years, and OBC admissions to central higher education institutions including universities, IITs, NITs, IIMs and AIIMS over three years, and reportedly found that the main beneficiaries were Yadavs, Kurmis, Jats (Jats in Rajasthan, except those in Bharatpur and Dholpur districts, are in the central list of OBCs), Sainis, Thevars, Ezhavas and Vokkaligas.

The *Indian Express* has reported earlier that the analysis found that while Yadavs have significant representation in the security forces and police etc, Kurmis, particularly from UP and Bihar, have got better representation in the civil services, and in medical colleges and universities.

Kurmis in Bihar

In Bihar, UP, Odisha, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh, Kurmis constitute a significant

political force. In pre-independence Bihar, a political front called Triveni Sangh formed by a Yadav (Jagdev Prasad Yadav), a Kurmi (Shiv Pujan Singh), and a Kushwaha (Yadunandan Prasad Mehta) leader took part in the 1937 elections.

Shiv Pujan Singh had a wide following among his castepeers. Prominent Kurmi leaders from Bihar (including Jharkhand) in later years include former MP and Governor Siddheshwar Prasad; former MP and a former leader of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) Binod Behari Mahto who sought to link Shivaji with the Kurmis of North India through an organisation called Shivaji Samaj; and Satish Prasad Singh, who became the first Kurmi chief minister of Bihar in 1968, albeit for just four days.

The Yadav leadership of Bihar's OBCs was established by Chief Ministers B P Mandal and Daroga Prasad Rai before Lalu's decade-long dominance, which was ultimately ended by Nitish Kumar. After the rise of Lalu and Mulayam Singh Yadav in Bihar and UP respectively, the Kurmis in these states aligned with upper castes to give themselves a political leg-up. Nitish in particular utilised the dislike for Yadavs in North India to tie up

or break with the BJP as and when he wished.

Kurmis in UP

The BJP's predecessor, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), promoted OBC leaders before their leadership passed to Chaudhary Charan Singh who broke with the Congress to form the Jan Congress (which later became the Bharatiya Kranti Dal, Bhartiya Lok Dal, etc). The finance minister in Charan Singh's first government in UP (April 1967) was an Ambedkarite Kurmi from Kanpur called Ram Swarup Verma. Another prominent Kurmi leader of the decades of the 60s and 70s in UP was Jairam Verma.

No Kurmi has become chief minister of UP so far. Beni Prasad Verma was considered number 2 to Mulayam in the Samajwadi Party for several years. He joined the Congress for a few years and became a Union Minister in the UPA-II government. Subsequently, Sonelal Patel, a Kurmi leader, left the BSP and formed the Apna Dal, the two factions of which are now led by his two daughters, Union Minister Anupriya Patel and SP MLA Pallavi Patel. Pallavi and her mother Krishna Patel are trying to strengthen ties with Nitish Kumar in UP.

The number of Kurmis in the UP Assembly is currently 41, a record high, up from 34 in 2017. Kurmi leaders contesting on SP tickets defeated three ministers of the Yogi Adityanath government. From the BJP, 22 Kurmis won the elections. This is the second straight Assembly in UP in which Kurmis outnumber Yadavs, even though the number of Yadav MLAs increased from 17 in 2017 to 25 in 2022. The UP presidents of both the SP and BJP, Naresh Uttam Patel and Swatantra Dev Singh respectively during the Assembly elections, were Kurmis.

There is no current data, but a Social Justice Committee set up by then Chief Minister Rajnath Singh in June 2001 estimated that OBCs constituted 43.13 per cent of UP's population, of which Yadavs were 19.4 per cent and Kurmis 7.46 per cent.

Nitish has long been seen as having national political ambitions, and Lalu's family, struggling with allegations of corruption, appears to have happily accepted the leadership of Lalu's "chhota bhai", at least for now. What impact this has on electoral outcomes in UP, however, remains to be seen.

Dawoodi Bohras and excommunication: What is the practice, how it ended up in SC

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE SUPREME Court last Tuesday said it would examine whether the practice of excommunication can continue in the Dawoodi Bohra community. Arguments on the petition are likely to begin next month.

Who are Dawoodi Bohras?

The Dawoodi Bohras are members of the Muslim community of the Shia sect. They are guided by a leader who is known as Al-Dai-Al-Mutlaq. For over 400 years, the leader has been based in India, including the current and 53rd leader, His Holiness Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin.

The community's population, according to members, is around one million, spread around the world.

The community recognises the leader's right to excommunicate members. However, it was submitted before the

Supreme Court in a case dating back to 1962 that the power to excommunicate is not absolute or arbitrary.

"Save in exceptional circumstances, expulsion from the community can be effected only at a meeting of the Jamat, after the person concerned was given due warning of the fault complained of and an opportunity of mending, and after a public statement of the grounds of expulsion. The result of excommunication properly and legally effected involves exclusion from the exercise of religious rights in places under the trusteeship of the Dai-ul-Mutlaq," it was submitted before the court.

Being excommunicated means the member can't worship in the mosques belonging to the community or be buried in its cemeteries. Excommunicated members have included those who contested the headship of the leaders.

What was the Bombay Prevention of Excommunication Act, 1949?

The Act was enacted on November 1, 1949 to stop the practice of excommunication prevalent in certain communities. It said that such a practice resulted in the deprivation of legitimate rights and privileges of its members and in "keeping with the spirit of changing times and in public interest", it was expedient to stop the practice.

The Act defined "ex-communication" as expulsion of a person from any community of which he is a member, and depriving him of rights and privileges which are legally enforceable by a suit of civil nature. It made invalid excommunication of a member of any community "notwithstanding anything contained in law, custom, usage" in force for the time being, and stipulated a punishment of a maximum fine of Rs 1,000.

Following this, a member of the Dawoodi Bohra community filed a suit in 1949, claiming certain orders passed by the leader were illegal in view of the Act.

This and other cases came before various courts, leading to a petition before the

Supreme Court by the leader, challenging the constitutionality of the Act.

Supreme Court judgment of 1962

The 51st leader, Sardar Syedna Taher Saifuddin Saheb, had challenged the Excommunication Act, stating it violated the fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 25 (Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion) and Article 26 (Freedom to manage religious affairs) of the Constitution.

It was submitted that the power of excommunication given to the Dawoodi Bohra leader formed part of the management of its affairs in matters of religion. It was also argued that depriving the Dai of the right and making its exercise a penal offence, "struck at the very life of the denomination and rendered it impotent to protect itself against dissidents and schismatics".

It was claimed that the practice was essential, even as those opposing said that the Quran does not permit it and that it is

against the spirit of Islam.

The Supreme Court in 1962 held that the position of the Dai is an essential part of the creed of Dawoodi Bohras and the power to excommunicate is to enforce discipline and to preserve its denomination, and not to punish.

"The power of excommunication for the purpose of ensuring the preservation of the community has therefore a prime significance in the religious life of every member of the group," the court had said.

What is the plea before the Supreme Court now?

The court on Tuesday said it would consider whether the practice protected by the 1962 Constitution Bench order can continue. The court was hearing a long-pending petition challenging the practice of excommunication and seeking clarification on the judgment of 1962.

It was submitted to the court on Tuesday that the Excommunication Act has since

been repealed and the issue may have become infructuous.

It was also submitted that the Maharashtra Protection of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2016 is now in force. This Act includes punishment for social boycott, terming it a violation of fundamental rights.

The court asked the parties to submit submissions by September 30 and posted the hearing on October 11.

What is the Maharashtra prevention of boycott Act?

The Act was enacted to provide for prohibition of the "inhuman" practice of social boycott, calling it a violation of fundamental rights.

The Act defines 16 types of social boycott, including preventing members from accessing community halls, burial ground, and religious places. The punishment for offences under the Act extends to three-year jail and/or fine up to Rs 1 lakh.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,Harleen Kaur Interpal Singh D/O, Inder Pal Singh R/O F-401, J.m. Aroma, Plot No Gh-04, Sector 75, Noida, UP have changed my name to Harleen Kaur Sidana for all purposes.

0040633827-1

I,Deepak Mishra S/o Late Sh. Balbir Mishra R/O C-77, Amar Jyoti Colony, Sector-17, Rohini, Delhi-110089 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Dezee alias Dipti Mishra to Dipti Mishra for all purposes.

0040633818-6

I,DEEPIKA,W/O JOGINDER RANA, HOUSE.No.158 OPPOSITE- RATION OFFICE BIJWASAN SOUTH WEST DELHI - 110061.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DEEPIKA RANA, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040633890-3

I,Mukesh Verma,S/O Manohar Lal Verma,R/O-D-5/16,Model Town-II,New Delhi-110009, Have Changed My-Minor Son's-Name Manan Verma To Manan Verma, permanently.

0040633912-1

I,VINOD KUMAR S/O KESHAV CHAUHAN R/O HNO.1386/D,CHAPRA COLONY,DAYAL-NAGAR, AMAR-NAGAR, FARIDABAD-121003.HARYANA.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VINOD CHAUHAN. 0040633903-5

I,Niharika D/o Shashi Chandra Jha R/o Yamuna-9,Vaastu-Vihar,Parora, Purnia, Bihar-854304,have changed my name to Niharika Jha, Permanently.

0040633890-7

I,MEGHA W/O SHANTANU LAKHANPAL R/O HNO.1937, MULTANI MOHALLA, RANI BAGH,DELHI-110034.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MEGHA SHARMA. 0040633903-4

I,ARUN KUMAR SHARMA S/O VIDHYA CHARAN SHARMA R/O RZ-C-140/1, GALINCO.11,GURUDWARA-ROAD,MAHAVIR ENCLAVE,DELHI-110045.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ARUN SHARMA. 0040633903-3

I,Sanjay Singh,S/O Shambhu Sharan Singh, R/O Type-IV/100, North West Moti Bagh, New Delhi-110021, have changed my minor son name from Soumaya Singh to Someshwara Singh.

0040633891-3

I,Jhuma Datta W/O, Sanjit Datta R/O 1137, F-Block CR Park have changed my name to Nupur Datta for all purposes.

0040633891-4

I, Chirag Jain R/O House No-71 3rd Floor B Block Near Dda Market Prashant Vihar Rohini Delhi 110085 have changed my minor daughter's name from Kirti Jain to Kirti Jain for all purposes.

0040633879-1

It is informed that I (Manish Gupta S/o Lt B.K. Gupta R/O 91, Samar Vihar Colony, Alambagh, Lucknow) have changed name of my son from Arav Gupta to Arav Gupta. In future he will be known as Arav Gupta in all documents and records.

0060094884-1

In my Documents my mother's name is Anjana while her correct name is Anjana Kharwal. Sarthk Kharwal, Son Sanjay Kharwal, resident W-734, Jalvayu Vihar, Greater Noida,Gautam Budh Nagar.

0070805444-1

I,Yash S/o Heera Lal, R/O-51, and +52 3rd-Floor Block-A Subhadra,Colony,Sarai Rohilla Onkar-Nagar Delhi-110035, have changed my name to Yash Baiwra. 0040633935-3

I,VIDHYA ADWANI,W/O Ghanshyam Dass Advani,R/O B-7,Ordinance Apartment,VikasPuri,Delhi-110018,inform that in my passport my husband's name is incorrectly mentioned GHANSYAM ADWANI while his correct name is-GHANSYAM DASS ADVANI. 0040633891-6

I,MAMTA DEVI,W/O MANOJ KUMAR ADDRESS-B-942 JI COLONY MADIPUR PASHIM VIHAR NEW DELHI-110063, Changed my name to MEENU. 0040633891-8

I,VIDHYA ADWANI,W/O Ghanshyam Dass Advani,R/O B-7,Ordinance Apartment,VikasPuri,Delhi-110018,inform that in my passport my name is incorrectly mentioned VIDHYA ADWANI while my correct name is-VIDHYA ADVANI. 0040633891-5

I,TRIBHUWAN SAH,S/O RAM SAKAL SAH,R/O KHASARA,NO.600/601 NEAR MINI STADIUM, NEHRU ENCLAVE ALIPUR,DELHI-110036 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TRIBHUWAN KUMAR. 0040633889-10

I,Sushil Shamrav Patil,S/O Shamrav Dhanji Patil,R/O-Logix Blossom Country, Tower-M-1603, Sector-137, Noida, G.B.Nagar-201305, have changed my name to Sushil Shamrav Patil. 0040633889-4

I,Somya Semwal D/o, No.4073672N NK Anil Kumar Semwal R/O,RZI-70,Old Som Bazar, Mahavir Enclave,Delhi-45, have changed my name to Somya Semwal vide affidavit dt.26.9.22, before Delhi. 0040633912-2

I,Ishwer Dutt S/o,Puran Dass R/O-H.No.57, DDA SFS-Flat, Sector-5, Pocket-1,Dwarka, Delhi-110075, have changed my minor daughter's name Divyansha to Divyansha Dutt. Aged-16-years. 0040633912-9

I,Shrey Poddar S/o Shalabh Poddar R/O-81 T/F Sandesh, Vihar Pitampura Delhi-110034,changed my minor son name Amber Poddar to Ambar Poddar. 0040633889-8

I,Shashi Kumar,S/O Sardari Lal, Address 3998 g block phase-6 aya nagar New Delhi-110047,Changed my name to Shashi Kumar Mankotia, permanently 0040633935-1

I,Shabnam Sajad W/o Sajad Hussain Wani R/O Flat No.1, Property No.15, 3rd floor, Saman Bazar Bhogal, Jangpura, Delhi-110014 inform you that Shabnam Sajad and Shabnam Sajad both are same person and shall hereafter be known as Shabnam Sajad Wani. 0040633860-2

I,Saniya D/o,No.4073672N NK Anil Kumar Semwal R/O,RZI-70,Old Som Bazar, Mahavir Enclave,Delhi-45, have changed my name to Saniya Semwal vide affidavit dt. 26.9.22 before, Delhi. 0040633912-4

I,Sajad Hussain Wani S/o Sirajuddin Wani R/O Flat No.1, Property No.15, 3rd floor, Saman Bazar Bhogal, Jangpura, Delhi-110014 inform you that Sajjad Hussain Wani and Sajad Hussain Wani both are same person and shall hereafter be known as Sajad Hussain Wani. 0040633860-1

I,Sabana Baigum/Shabana, W/O-Sadakat Ali R/O,H.No-425, Near Badi Masjid, Village-Mandoli Delhi-110093,have changed my name Shabana Begum. 0040633891-2

I,SIDDHARTH KUKREJA,S/O GIRDHARI LAL KUKREJA R/O E-21/139,POCKET-E-21, SECTOR-3,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SIDHARTH KUKREJA. 0040633894-1

I,SHAFIULLAH AND MOHD SALEEM,S/OLt. Zikrullah and YASMINA,R/o.B-350/16 Shri Ram-colony Rajiv-nagar,Delhi-94,declare that Shafiuallah and mohd Saleem name are my same name it is not false.both are same person,for all the future purposes. 0040633890-10

I,Rama Devi/Rama Negi,D/o Sh.Gaje Singh,R/O B-7-53-G,Mayur-Vihar Phase-3 New-Delhi-110096,have changed my name to Rama Bisht after-my marriage with Mr.Maharaj Singh on.13/04/1996,for all, future communication. 0040633890-4

I,Rajiv Oberoi S/O Dalip Oberoi R/O,Flat No-346, GH-13,Paschim-Vihar,Delhi-110087, have changed my name Rajeev Oberoi, for all future purpose. 0040633891-1

I, Sanmeet Singh, R/O A-10, Preet Vihar, New Delhi 110092, have to changed my name to Sanmeet Singh Sahni. 0070805413-1

I,Rajesh Kumar S/O Shiv Dayal R/O,25/G, Ashok Nagar,Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Rajesh Juneja,for all purposes. 0040633889-2

I,Rachna Jain,D/o Jai Bhagwan Jain,R/O-G-73/4, Pana Udyan,Narela, Delhi-110040, that name of mine,entered in my passport no. L5297172 as Rachana Jain,instead of Rachna Jain 0040633912-5

I,Pawan Sharma,S/O Jai Prakash Sharma,R/O,C-42, Serve Sanjhi Apartment Sec-9 Plot.No.8,Dwarka South-West,New-Delhi 110075, have Changed My Name Pawan Sharma To Pawan Kumar Sharma,for all purposes. 0040633889-3

I,OM PRAKASH,S/O HARI SARAN BANSAL,R/O,FLAT,NO-701 MARVELLA TOWER SECTOR-78,NOIDA-GAUTAM BUDH-NAGAR UP-201301,have changed my name to OM PRAKASH BANSAL,for all, future purpose 0040633894-2

I,Munish S/o Shashi Kumar Mankotia, Address-3998 g-block phase-6 aya nagar New Delhi-110047,changed my name to Munish Mankotia,permanently. 0040633890-1

I,Meena,W/o Shashi Kumar Mankotia, Address-3998 g-block phase-6 aya-nagar New Delhi-110047,Changed my name to Meena Mankotia, permanently. 0040633935-2

I,Manorama Devi W/o, No.14508202P CFN Late Kashi Nath Sharma,R/O,B-45 Sita Puri Palam,Delhi-45,have changed my name to Manorma Devi vide affidavit date 26/9/2022, before, Delhi. 0040633890-8

I,MANOJ S/O-PREM LAL DAS ADDRESS B-942 JI COLONY MADIPUR PASHIM VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110063, changed my name to MANOJ KUMAR 0070805383-1

I,HITHEROI KNOWN AS DHRUV SINGH NEGI S/O SUNDER SINGH R/O A-353, SECTOR-11, VIJAY NAGAR GHAZIABAD,UP-201009 HAVE CHANGED THE NAME OF DHRUV SINGH IN MY DOCUMENTS HE SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS DHRUV SINGH NEGI 0040633834-1

I,MANOJ KUMAR JAIN,S/O PURSHOTTAM LAL JAIN, R/O E-9 Block-E, Gali No-4, Radhey Puri, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi 110051, has changed my name to MANOJ KUMAR JAIN, S/o PURSOTAM LAL JAIN for all future purposes. 0070805383-1

I,Chetram Daral,S/O-Dharam Singh Daral,R/O H.No.1190, Pana Ramayan,Near New Colony,Tikri Kalan, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Chet Ram,for all purposes. 0040633912-6

I,Bhanu Arora W/O Gagdon Dharnija R/O H.No.53, Goodwill Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Bhanu Dharnija. 0040633912-8

I, Rakesh Ranjan Kumar Srivastava S/O Gopal Prasad Srivastava R/O C-2/15 DLF Ankur Vijar, Ghaziabad-201102, have changed my name to Rakesh Ranjan Permanently. 40522539-8

I,Heena Bhanwani@ Lata Bhanwani W/O Sh. Amar Bhanwani R/O 6/223, 2nd Floor, Sunder Vihar, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Heena Bhanwani for all purposes. 0040633835-1

I,JOGINDER RANA,S/O RAM KISHORE RANA, H.No.158,OPPOSITE-RATION OFFICE, BIJWASAN,SOUTH WEST DELHI-110061,HAVE CHANGED MY DAUGHTER NAME, FROM PARI TO PARI RANA. 0040633890-2

I,ISHA W/O-Mr.Harvinder Singh,R/O-176-A,Lal Qtrs.Punjabi Bagh West, Madipur, New Delhi-110026,have changed my name,from ISHA to ISHA KAUR,for all purpose. 0040633903-7

I,HARVINDER PAUL SINGH/HARVINDER PAUL SINGH GROWER S/O SOHAN SINGH R/O J-10/17,2ND-FLOOR, RAJOURI-GARDEN,DELHI-110027.CHANGED MY NAME TO HARVINDER SINGH. 0040633903-1

I,Gulistan,D/o Naseem Ahmed,R/o House no 1,Street.no.9,Brij Puri, Parwana Road Krishna Nagar,East Delhi,have changed my name to Gulista,for all future purpose 0040633889-1

I,GOURAV S/O ASHOK KUMAR R/O B-599, RESETLEMENT COLONY,KHYALA,DELHI-110018.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GAURAV KUMAR. 0040633903-2

I,Daljit Singh S/o Jasram Kataria,R/O H.No.587, Sector-5,Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Daljit Kataria,for all purposes. 0040633890-6

I,DINESH PARATE, S/O CHUDAMAN HARIHARU PARATE,R/O-162-F GANGA MARKET POCKET-1,MAYUR VIHAR PH-1 DELHI-110091,have changed my name to DINESH CHUDAMAN PARATE, for all, future purpose. 0040633903-8

I,Bhawna D/o Brahmansh Sharma, R/O WZ-539, Sri Nagar, Shakur Basti, Delhi- Changed Name To Bhawana Sharma 0040633889-9

I,Ashok Makhija,S/O Sandeep Kumar Makhija,R/O A-139, Ground-Floor,Majlis Park, Adarsh Nagar,Delhi-110033, Changed my name to Ashok Kumar Makhija. 0040633903-9

I,Vijay Singh, S/O Rajender Singh, R/O 70, Indira Garden, Khora Colony, GZB, UP, have changed my name from Durgesh to Vijay Singh for all purposes in future. 0070805435-1

I,Sweta Shrivastva, D/o Harimohan Pd, W/O Deepak Kumar Sinha, R/O 500-B, Rail Gaon, Subdarganj, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-211011, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sweta Sinha. 0070805397-1

I,Surekha Rathi W/o Dr. Dinesh Mohan, R/O H.No.1309, Type V, Pooorchhal, JNU New Campus, New Delhi-110067, have changed my name to Surekha Mohan. 0040633831-1

I,Sham Lata,W/O Jitender Singh,R/O-RZ-44-B/2,Ward No. 9, Kishangarh, Delhi-110030, have changed my name to Shyam Lata,for all purposes. 0040633912-7

I,Sejal, D/o Pramod Kumar and W/O Pankaj Agarwal, R/O A-20, Rama Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Sejal Agarwal. 0070805400-1

I,Savita Sangwan, W/O R S Sangwan, R/O Sangwan Hospital, Sangwan Chowk, Sirsa, Haryana-125055, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Savitri Sangwan. 0070805384-1

I,Rinki Kumari, R/O N-304, Prateek Wisteria, Sector 77, Noida, UP-201301, have changed my name to Rinki Gupta. 0070805390-1

I,Ravi, S/o Puran Singh, R/O 161, Rajpura, Gurmandi Delhi, Malka Ganj, North Delhi-110007, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ravi Antil. 0070805394-1

I,Paramjeet Singh Sachdev S/O,Late Sh.Joginder Singh Sachdev, R/OA-24, Gujranwala-Town, Part-1, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Paramjeet Singh,for all future purposes. 0040633829-1

I,HITHEROI KNOWN AS DHRUV SINGH NEGI S/O SUNDER SINGH R/O A-353, SECTOR-11, VIJAY NAGAR GHAZIABAD,UP-201009 HAVE CHANGED THE NAME OF DHRUV SINGH IN MY DOCUMENTS HE SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS DHRUV SINGH NEGI 0040633834-1

I,MANOJ KUMAR JAIN,S/O PURSHOTTAM LAL JAIN, R/O E-9 Block-E, Gali No-4, Radhey Puri, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi 110051, has changed my name to MANOJ KUMAR JAIN, S/o PURSOTAM LAL JAIN for all future purposes. 0070805383-1

I,Chetram Daral,S/O-Dharam Singh Daral,R/O H.No.1190, Pana Ramayan,Near New Colony,Tikri Kalan, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Chet Ram,for all purposes. 0040633912-6

I,Bhanu Arora W/O Gagdon Dharnija R/O H.No.53, Goodwill Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Bhanu Dharnija. 0040633912-8

I, Rakesh Ranjan Kumar Srivastava S/O Gopal Prasad Srivastava R/O C-2/15 DLF Ankur Vijar, Ghaziabad-201102, have changed my name to Rakesh Ranjan Permanently. 40522539-8

I,Heena Bhanwani@ Lata Bhanwani W/O Sh. Amar Bhanwani R/O 6/223, 2nd Floor, Sunder Vihar, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Heena Bhanwani for all purposes. 0040633835-1

I,Neelam Kumari, D/o Achchhe Lal Ram and W/o Manoj Kumar, R/O 285, Block-A, Gali No-5, Rani Garden, Shastri Nagar, Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Achhale in my Bachelor of Arts (Part-I) Marksheet, Acharya (Master of Arts) Marksheet & Degree, as Achhe Lal in my Bachelor of Arts (Part-II) Marksheet, Bachelor of Arts (Part-III) Marksheet, Bachelor of Education Marksheet & Degree, Master of Arts in Hindi Final Year Marks Statement and Schedule Caste Certificate No 9051000013028, as Achchhe Lal in my CET Marks Statement & Certificate. The actual name of my father is Achchhe Lal Ram. 0070805429-1

I,Amit S/o Nand Lal Pahuja,R/O 280A, Ward.No.12, Sohna, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Amit Pahuja for all Purposes. 0040633890-5

I,Chetan Sehtya S/o Paramjeet Sehtya R/O DA -25 Sheeshmahal, Apartment Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Chetan P Sehtya. 0040633889-7

I,Chiranjeev Sehtya S/o Paramjeet Sehtya R/O DA-25 Sheeshmahal Apartment Shalimar, Bagh Delhi-110088 have changed my name to Chirranjeev Sehtya. 0040633889-6

I,Nancy D/o-Praveen Austin R/O H-No B-7/A, DDA Flats, Saraf Basti, Near Shahzada Bagh, Sarai Rohilla Delhi -110035 Have Changed My Name Nancy Austin, For All Purposes. 0050205221-1

I, Chauhan Pritam Jaswant, S/o Jaswant Chauhan, R/O Rajapur Bhonda, Aneal, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh-221201, have changed my name to Nitesh Chauhan. 0070805430-1

I,Anushree D/o Radha Bharti R/O-261, Lajpat Nagar Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005 have changed my name to Anushree Bharadwaj for all future purposes. 0040633886-1

I,Aarti Luthra, W/o Ashish Taneja, R/O H.No-C-41, 3rd Flr., Greenwood City, Unitech Crest, Sec-45, Gurugram, Haryana, have changed my name to Aarti Taneja for all purposes. 0070805434-1

I,Sonia Arora alias Soniya D/o Sh. Harbans Lal Arora W/o Sh.Sumeet Kumar R/O H.No.343, Sector-15, Sonipat, Haryana-131001 have changed my name to Sonia for all purposes. 0040633818-7

Rohit S/O, Ram Krishna Banerjee R/O 5/351, Maharam Mohalla, Opp. Bharat Medical Store Shahdara have changed my name to Rohit Banerjee for all purposes. 0040633826-1

I have changed my name from Nikhil Abraham Pais Prabhu to Nikhil Pais as per Maharashtra Gazette No. (M-22105137). 0070805385-1

LOST & FOUND
Lost-Original Papers-of Property No C-1008,Supertech orchid Rameshwar, Kaushambi,Ghaziabad UP,Founder My Inform, Deepak Makhija S/o Balwant Rai Makhija #9811310993 0040633891-11

I have lost my plot buyer agreement bearing plot number D 276 susant lok 2 gurgaon haryana. If anyone found contact call kanishk singh 276 civil lines jail road Gurgaon Haryana 0040633842-1

OTHERS
BANK-SPACE available at Khanpur, Mehrauli-Badarpur Road, Area Approx. 3400 Square Foot. Contact: 9811464440 0040633826-1

Public Notice
My Client Geeta Sharma W/O Girish Prasad Sharma R/O C-15/3A Block C, Vijay Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi, Has Re-established Relations And All Legal Right With Her Son And Wife Mamta In All Movable-immovable Properties. So All Previous Notices Are Cancelled. MUKESH PAL (Advocate) E.No. D-68/2001 MOB:9811475450

IN THE COURT OF MS. SEETANMALI ADDL. DISTRICT JUDGE (SOUTH EAST 93) SAHAY COURTS, ROOM NO. 605, NEW DELHI-110048.
PCR29/2022
1. MR. RAKESH KUMAR KOCHHAR, S/O LATE PREM KOCHHAR, R/O M-243, FIRST FLOOR, GREATER KAILASH PART-2, SOUTH DELHI-110048.
2. MR. RAJEEV KUMAR KOCHHAR, S/O LATE PREM KOCHHAR, R/O M-243, FIRST FLOOR, GREATER KAILASH PART-2, SOUTH DELHI-110048.
3. MRS. KIRAN KOCHHAR, W/O LATE SH. RAJESH KUMAR KOCHHAR, R/O M-243, FIRST FLOOR, GREATER KAILASH PART-2, SOUTH DELHI-110048.

IN THE STATE (NCT OF DELHI) THROUGH SDM, DM OFFICE ROAD, NATIONAL PARK, OLD GARJ COLLEGE BUILDING, LAJPAT NAGAR-4, NEW DELHI-110018.
Whereas a Petition under section 276 of The Indian Succession Act, 1925 for grant of probate/letter of administration in respect of Will of Prem Kochhar, W/O Late Rajinder Kumar Kochhar, R/O M-243, First Floor, Greater Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110048, filed on 14.08.2001 in favour of Rakesh Kumar Kochhar, S/O Late Rajinder Kumar Kochhar has been filed by the petitioner before this court.

Notice is hereby given to the general public having any interest in the administration of the estate of the said deceased may if he/she desires, appear in this court on 20.10.2022 and participate in the proceedings before the grant of Letter of Administration/Probate. Given under my hand and the seal of this court on this 15th day of Sep, 2022.

Sd/-
(Geeta)Mukesh Pal
Addl. District Judge
(South-East-05)
Saket, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Harshdeep Singh Sandhu S/o Sh. Surjeet Singh R/o H-15/1, 3rd Floor, Mahavya Nagar, Delhi-110017 declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter has been wrongly written as Harshdeep Singh, Jasvinder Kaur and Sahajpreet Kaur in my minor daughter Sahajpreet Kaur Sandhu aged 15 years 10th class marksheet and certificate. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter are Harshdeep Singh Sandhu, Jasvinder Kaur Sandhu and Sahajpreet Kaur Sandhu, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the public at large that my client Anand W/O Shri Deepak Anand resident of 44-F, Sector-8, Jasola Vihar, New Delhi-110025 is absolute owner and in possession of property No. 44-F, Sector-8, Jasola Vihar, New Delhi. Everyone is cautioned not to indulge in any transaction with respect to above said property and if done so then he/she will be solely responsible for the act and no right of any kind will be created over the said property of any kind. Sd/- Ramzan A Ansari Advocate Chamber No. 94, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to the General Public at large that my clients (1) Shri Chhote Lal son of Shri Dhotal and (2) Smt. Bela Devi wife of Shri Chhote Lal, both resident of 561, Block C, Mangal Puri, Delhi-110083 have severed all their relations socially, financially in all respects with their son, Shri Pawan Kumar because he is not obedient to my clients since long time and also debarred and disowned him from inhering any movable and immovable properties owned by my above said clients. Any person dealing with him will do so at his/her own risk. Sd/- Pardeep Kumar Advocate Enrol. No. D/4208/2016

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Nancy D/o-Praveen Austin R/O H-No B-7/A, DDA Flats, Saraf Basti, Near Shahzada Bagh, Sarai Rohilla Delhi -110035 Have Changed My Name Nancy Austin, For All Purposes. 0050205221-1

I, Chauhan Pritam Jaswant, S/o Jaswant Chauhan, R/O Rajapur Bhonda, Aneal, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh-221201, have changed my name to Nitesh Chauhan. 0070805430-1

I,Anushree D/o Radha Bharti R/O-261, Lajpat Nagar Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005 have changed my name to Anushree Bharadwaj for all future purposes. 0040633886-1

I,Aarti Luthra, W/o Ashish Taneja, R/O H.No-C-41, 3rd Flr., Greenwood City, Unitech Crest, Sec-45, Gurugram, Haryana, have changed my name to Aarti Taneja for all purposes. 0070805434-1

I,Sonia Arora alias Soniya D/o Sh. Harbans Lal Arora W/o Sh.Sumeet Kumar R/O H.No.343, Sector-15, Sonipat, Haryana-131001 have changed my name to Sonia for all purposes. 0040633818-7

Rohit S/O, Ram Krishna Banerjee R/O 5/351, Maharam Mohalla, Opp. Bharat Medical Store Shahdara have changed my name to Rohit Banerjee for all purposes. 0040633826-1

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OTHERS
BANK-SPACE available at Khanpur, Mehrauli-Badarpur Road, Area Approx. 3400 Square Foot. Contact: 9811464440 00406



GOLD

₹49,786



RUPEE

81.67/\$



OIL

\$87.98



SILVER

₹56,514

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g; silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of September 23

SENSEX: 57,145.22 ▼ 953.70 (-1.64%) NIFTY: 17,016.30 ▼ 311.05 (-1.80%) NIKKEI: 26,431.55 ▼ 722.28 HANG SENG: 17,855.14 ▼ 78.13 FTSE: 6,977.86 ▼ 40.74 DAX: 12,284.04 ▼ 0.15

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
E-COMMERCE

Why festive sales are likely to bring cheer for e-tailers

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, SEPT 26

SALES IN 2021

As per industry estimates, last year, of the total online retail gross merchandise value (GMV) of \$50.5 billion, festive season accounted for \$9.3 billion

IN THE first two days of the ongoing festive sales by e-commerce platforms, the number of orders have been 28 per cent higher compared to last year. Over two-thirds of the orders are coming from tier-2 and tier-3 towns and cities. Every year, e-commerce companies launch these festive sales to drive consumption, but after two years of Covid-caused lull, this year assumes greater significance as platforms, sellers, logistics partners and even banks come together to attract shoppers to these platforms.

Which e-commerce platforms have festive sales ongoing?

Two of the country's biggest e-commerce platforms, Flipkart and Amazon, have their flagship sales — Big Billion Days and Great Indian Festival, respectively — ongoing since September 23. Social commerce player Meesho too has launched the Meesho Mega Blockbuster Sale, while Reliance Retail's JioMart launched a month-long Tyohaar Ready Sale. Snapdeal has also launched its 'Toofani Sale — Festive Dhamaka'. These sales tend to drive users to high-volume goods like consumer electronics, mobiles, kitchen appliances, personal care goods, apparel, etc, by offering deep discounts on such products.

Aren't e-commerce platforms prohibited from offering discounts?

Yes, e-commerce platforms with foreign investment are prohibited by the

EXPLAINED

foreign direct investment (FDI) norms from offering discounts themselves. Many of the discount deals offered on these portals during the festive sales are offered either by sellers themselves, brand partners such as electronics brand manufacturers or banking partners like SBI Card, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, etc. However, some platforms are incentivising sellers to offer these discounts to drive volumes.

Why are these festive sales vital for e-commerce platforms and how have they fared this year?

According to industry estimates, in the last five years e-commerce platforms have derived almost a fifth of their annual gross merchandise value (GMV) from the week-long festive sale periods. For example, last year, of the total online retail GMV of \$50.5 billion, festive season accounted for \$9.3 billion; while in 2020, it was \$7.4 billion out of the annual GMV of \$38.2 billion.

As per Unicommerce, a SaaS platform servicing e-commerce companies, personal care segment is the fastest growing segment

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

AT 81.67 AGAINST GREENBACK; EQUITIES FALL OVER 1.5%

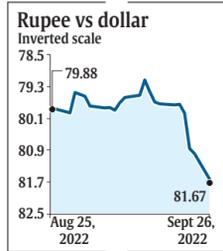
Hawkish Fed, pound sell-off: Re at fresh low, mkts tumble

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 26

CONTINUING ITS slide against the dollar, the rupee ended at a new low of 81.67 on Monday due to risk-off sentiment among investors following an aggressive rate hike announcement by the US Federal Reserve last week.

The rupee closed 69 paise down compared to Friday's close of 80.98 against the greenback. The weakness in the rupee also affected sentiment of equity market investors, as the benchmark SENSEX at the BSE tanked 953 points, or 1.6 per cent, to close at 57,145.22. The broader Nifty at NSE lost 311 points, or 1.8 per cent, to end at 17,016 on Monday. Foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth Rs 5,101.30 crore, as per provisional data from the BSE.

"Rupee falls to fresh all-time lows as the dollar strengthens



across the board. Hawkish Fed outlook, political instability in China and sell-off in pound after the tax cut announcement is also disturbing the overall market sentiment," Gaurang Somaiya, forex & bullion analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said.

Last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the rupee has "held back very well" against the US dollar when compared to other major currencies of the world.

FY23 GROWTH RETAINED AT 7.3%

Inflation to stay above 6% until 2022-end: S&P

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

GLOBAL RATING agency S&P on Monday maintained its economic growth forecast for India at 7.3 per cent for FY23 and 6.5 per cent for FY24, with "risks tilted to the downside". It also predicted retail inflation to stay above the central bank's medium-term target of 2-6 per cent until the end of 2022.

In its latest Economic Outlook for Asia Pacific, S&P said elevated global interest rates will continue to exert pressure on central banks across countries in the form of capital outflows and currency depreciation.

Louis Kuijs, chief economist (Asia Pacific) at S&P Global Ratings, said the impact of a pronounced slowdown in China

OECD maintains 6.9% GDP forecast

New Delhi: The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on Monday retained the GDP growth projections for India at 6.9 per cent for the current fiscal despite the global economy losing momentum. PTI

was blunted by a strong rebound in India as consumption, especially of services, continued to gather pace and investment grew rapidly. S&P economist Vishrut Rana said the rupee may continue to witness volatility, but the country has adequate buffer to absorb the shock of foreign fund outflows. FE

INTERVIEW: MD-CEO, CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA

'During PCA years, none of our services found wanting; now eye balanced growth'



M V Rao via Central Bank of India

OF THE 11 banks that had been placed under the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework of the RBI between 2017 and 2018, Central Bank of India was the last one to exit the restrictions after more than five years. Having recently emerged out of the regulatory curbs, the state-run lender is now aiming for balanced growth and lowering net non-performing assets (NPAs) to below 3.6 per cent by December, its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer M V Rao told HITESH VYAS. Edited excerpts:

Post exit from PCA, where do you see your profitability?

I cannot give any number on that but I can indicate that whatever numbers we have been showing from the past five quarters, we will maintain that. We have been very conservative in our numbers, in the sense that wherever provision was required, we have provided more than adequate. We have controlled our slippages and expect them to be below our target of Rs 4,000 crore for FY23, set at the beginning of the year. Our aim is to keep credit cost at 1-1.2 per cent (by March 2023). So, the resultant effect... will be positive on our profits. We don't foresee anything that will stop us from growing. It is only balanced growth that we are eyeing.

Where do you see net NPA and credit deposit ratios?

Our net NPA is already below 4 (as of June 30, 2022) and we are aiming to bring it down to 3.6 per cent by December 2022. Few quarters back, our credit deposit ratio was in the range 50-51 per cent and it went up to 57.04 per cent (in Q1 FY23), and we will be touching 60 per cent by December 2022.

What are your credit and deposit growth targets for the current fiscal?

The floor for credit growth is 12 per cent but it will be more than 12 per cent (for FY23). In the RAM (retail, agriculture and MSME) segment, we are eyeing 13-14 per cent. We have very consciously balanced our credit book with RAM and corporate in the ratio of 65:35. We will maintain this ratio with a margin of +/- 5 per cent. Our endeavour is to go for highly-rated accounts that have low risk weights. In a similar manner, our target for deposit growth is 7 per cent.

What took you so long to exit the PCA framework?

Actually, the PCA framework suggests certain benchmarks, which you have to meet. At the end of the day, the sustainability of these numbers in the long-run is something that matters as it helps one to gauge the strength of the bank. So, whatever im-

PCA FRAMEWORK

PCA is initiated once the threshold levels relating to capital, asset quality and profitability of a bank are breached. These parameters are tracked through the capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) / common equity tier (CET 1) ratio, the net NPA ratio and return on asset

provements we were making, it was reviewed and inspected by the RBI team, and they took the decision to remove us from the PCA framework. As far as customers are concerned, none of our services or products have been found wanting during all these years (under PCA).

Will the bank be looking to raise capital?

We are comfortable on the capital front, and for growth too, we have resources.

Is there a plan to sell non-core assets?

We do not want to sell any non-core assets. We are only focussing on enhancing the value of our subsidiaries. That is the reason we have moved the headquarters of Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd from Bhopal to Mumbai. They have changed their entire software and technology platform and will be working at par with any other housing NBFCs.

What are your branch expansion plans?

We are eyeing to increase our digital footprint. We will be acquiring more and more customers through digital channels. Right now, we have 4,600 brick-and-mortar branches. The number of banking correspondents has been increased from around 3,800 to 12,000 currently, and these touchpoints help us reach out to customers... so I don't see the need to open any more brick-and-mortar branches.

BRIEFLY

WhatsApp calls

New Delhi: Instant messaging and calling app WhatsApp will roll out call links for people to join on video and voice calls on the app, its parent firm Meta's CEO Mark Zuckerberg said on Monday.

Grand Vitara

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki launched its all-new model Grand Vitara, priced in the ₹10.45-19.65 lakh range (ex-showroom Delhi). PTI

Unilever CEO

London: Unilever said CEO Alan Jope would retire by 2023-end, after it failed to buy CSK's consumer health-care business, and 2 months after activist investor Nelson Peltz joined the company's board. REUTERS

Musk, Twitter

Wilmingon: Tesla CEO Elon Musk is set to spend the next few days with lawyers for Twitter, answering questions ahead of an October trial that will determine if he must go through with the \$44-billion deal to buy the platform after attempting to back out of the deal. AP

Growth in credit offtake at 9-yr high, with retail driving demand

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 26

BANK CREDIT grew at 16.2 per cent in the fortnight ended September 9, the highest in about nine years, aided by revival in the economic activity post-Covid, increased working capital demand, rising discretionary spending and low-base effect.

The outstanding bank credit stood at Rs 125.5 lakh crore during the reporting fortnight, Rs 17.5 lakh crore more than the Rs 108.02 lakh crore during the fortnight ended September 10, 2021, as per the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India. On a sequential basis, the growth in credit was 0.7 per cent compared to the fortnight ended August 26, the data showed.

"Credit offtake saw a 16.2 per cent year-on-year robust



As per Reserve Bank data, outstanding bank credit stood at ₹125.5 lakh crore during the fortnight ended September 9. PTI file

growth, expanding by a significant around 948 basis points (bps), for the fortnight ended September 9, 2022. The growth is nearly the highest in the last 9 years (16.3 per cent credit growth: October 18, 2013)," said

'Google's India policy head Gulati quits'

New Delhi: Google's head of public policy for India has resigned just five months after taking the job, two sources told Reuters, at a potentially critical time for the US tech giant as it awaits the outcome of at least two antitrust cases in the country.

The reasons for Archana

Gulati's resignation were not immediately clear.

Gulati, who previously worked at government think-tank NITI Aayog, declined to comment. A spokesperson for Alphabet Inc's Google also declined to comment.

At Google, she led a team of

Saurabh Bhalerao, associate director—BFSI research, Care Ratings. A basis point is one-hundredth of one percentage point.

This rise in demand for loans has been driven by sustained retail and improving wholesale credit, which is likely to continue the rest of the fiscal, experts said. "There is a pick-up in the economy and we are seeing normalcy coming back in all the sectors post-Covid. The discretionary spending in the retail segment, which were being postponed, are now being bunched up. The demand for working capital demand from corporates has started," said Suresh Khatannar, deputy MD, IDBI Bank.

Banks are also seeing an increased demand for funds from retail-focused non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

MeitY: No timeline set for embedding NavIC in India-made phones

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE GOVERNMENT is discussing with smartphone manufacturers about embedding the indigenously-developed navigation system NavIC in phones manufactured domestically.

However, the Ministry of Electronics and IT said in its official Twitter handle on Monday, no timeline has been fixed to finalise the proposition yet.

The Ministry's statement came following media reports about a meeting between the government and manufacturers

where embedding the NavIC system in their phones over the United States' GPS system in the coming months was discussed.

According to the reports, mobile players and chipset companies present at the meeting, held in the first week of September, said that embedding NavIC support will incur additional costs as the present chipsets are tuned to support frequency band which is suitable for GPS and Russian navigation system GLONASS.

At present, some chipsets like Snapdragon mobile platforms 720G, 662, and 460 support NavIC technology.

Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy, Heavy Water Plant (Kota) Corrigendum to e-Tender Notice

e-Tender invitation notice no. - HWPK/CIVIL/2022/419

The due date and time for various events of tender of Tender no. - HWPK/CIVIL/2022/419, Tender ID: 2022_HWB_712885_1 for the work "Day to Day repair and maintenance work in HWPK Housing Colony for one year during 2022-23" are hereby extended as mentioned here under:-

Tender document can be viewed/downloaded upto 07.10.2022 (14:30 hrs). The last date for online submission of tender is 07.10.2022 (14:30 hrs). Last date for submission of Original EMD is 07.10.2022 (14:30 hrs). The technical bids will be opened on 08.10.2022 at 15:00 hrs.

The detailed NIT and Tender Documents are available on the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for free to view/download. The detailed NIT can be seen at website www.hwb.gov.in For further information please contact Telephone no. 01475- 242201/242231/242225, fax-01475-242203 on all working days.

General Manager
For & on behalf of President of India

Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA)

Aunch Road, Opposite Spicer College, Near Commissionerate of Animal Husbandry, Aunch, Pune - 411 007 | Ph.: 020-35000450

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Additional Empanelment of Vendors For Survey, Design, Manufacture, Supply, Transport, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Off Grid Solar Photovoltaic Water Pumping Systems of 3, 5 & 7.5 HP DC submersible, including complete system warranty and its repair, maintenance and comprehensive insurance for 5 years under Mahakrishni Urja Abhiyan PM-KUSUM scheme Component-B in the state of Maharashtra. For more information visit <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. The Director General, MEDA, reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI documents without assigning any reason.

Director General, MEDA

DELHI JAL BOARD OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER SDW

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (WSTP), DWARKA SECTOR 16D, PAPPAN KALAN, NEW DELHI-110075 Email:- eesdw8@gmail.com

PRESS N.I.T. No. 18/EE(SDW)VIII/(2022-23)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimate cost in Rs.	E/My in Rs.	Tender fee in Rs.	Date of release of tender in e procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e procurement solution
1	Implementation of CCR for septage cleaning and disposal management system for existing 284 nos licensed Vehicles (Re-invite)	4021167/-	81000/-	500/-	Tender ID:- 2022_DJB_229962_1 Date: 26.09.2022	13.10.2022 at 3.10 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>) ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 351(2022-23) Stop Corona: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing and Maintain Hygiene

Sd/- (K.P. Sharma)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)VIII
Regional Director (Bihar)

Apple now manufacturing iPhone 14 domestically

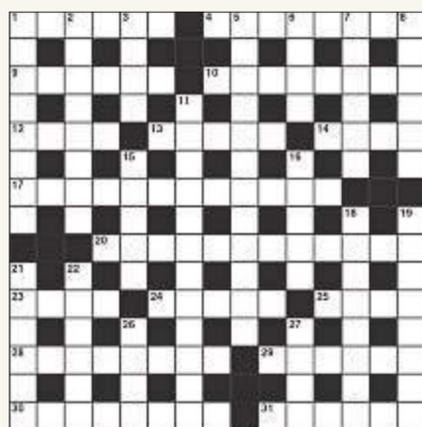
New Delhi: Apple Inc has begun manufacturing its marquee new iPhone 14 in India as the global tech giant taps into production prowess outside of China. The US firm has started manufacturing of iPhone 14 in the world's second-biggest smartphone market within weeks of the September 7 unveiling of the device.

"We are excited to be manufacturing iPhone 14 in India," Apple said in a state-

ment. "The new iPhone 14 lineup introduces groundbreaking new technologies and important safety capabilities," the company said.

Cupertino, California-headquartered Apple started manufacturing iPhones in India in 2017 with iPhone SE. Today, it manufactures some of its most advanced iPhones here including iPhone SE, iPhone 12, iPhone 13 and, now iPhone 14. PTI

CROSSWORD 4857



- ACROSS**
1 Cortes becomes a loyal companion (6)
4 Biscuits or nuts (8)
9 Bill returns to boxing, being concerned (6)
10 Show forbearance (8)
12 A call to New York Times? It will be expensive (4)
13 Poet takes orders (5)
14 Plastic container of wine (4)
17 Reason for a barrier to give affront (5,7)
20 Play rehearsal? (8,4)
23 Chestnuts in the granary (4)
24 Correct definition of noon (5)
25 Cattle without water (4)
28 Does some spelling? (8)
29 It has row upon row of rowers (6)
30 Time to start another day (8)
31 Revising his set subject (6)
- DOWN**
1 Intrude by chance or accident (8)
2 Do remove the sit-in demonstrator (5,3)
3 Offensive row (4)
5 Weather prophets and drivers must be able to (4,3,5)
6 Slice the approach shot (4)
7 Hemingway and Sterne novel (6)
8 Singular kind of money (6)
11 An ideal marriage immediately comes to light (7,5)
15 He has the skill and courage (5)
16 Cares for some land (5)
18 Thoughtless advice to those who are too anxious? (8)
19 Swapping presents - the impudence! (8)
21 Funny thing, it's way above what is the best (6)
22 Doubly strengthened (6)
26 Vehicle could be an imposition on one (4)
27 A record for being drunk (4)

Solutions Crossword 4856: Across: 1 Spare, 4 Undergo, 8 Sag, 9 Thrashout, 10 Enslave, 11 Rouse, 13 Squall, 15 Method, 18 Blaze, 19 Alberta, 21 Economist, 23 Tan, 24 Staunch, 25 Event. Down: 1 Sisters, 2 Angostura, 3 Extra, 4 Unreal, 5 Deserve, 6 Rio, 7 Outre, 12 Usherette, 14 Lie down, 16 Dragnet, 17 Parish, 18 Brews, 20 Bathe, 22 Ova.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



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.

A man cannot be _____ in the choice of his enemies - Oscar Wilde (3,7)

OTAER **ACIRLU**

TOONS **IMORCF**

Answer: A man cannot be **careful** in the choice of his enemies - Oscar Wilde

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 5s

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



NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	17(A,B)-22-23-W-2	Date	26.09.2022
1. Name of work with its location			
A)	Major repaired and renovation of institutional buildings as DPWT1, STTC, ETC, DTTs, C&W training school etc. at GZB in the section of SSE/W/E/GZB under ADEN/GZB for the year 2022-23		
B)	Raising of Platform to High Level in Guldhar (GUH) in the section of ADEN/GZB		
2. Approx Cost of work	17(A,B)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice	
3. Earnest Money	17(A,B)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice	
4. Completion period of work	17(A,B)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice	
5. Cost of tender on cash/by post	17(A,B)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice	
6. Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	07.10.2022 to 21.10.2022 upto 15:00 hrs. Opening of tender 21.10.2022 at 15:00 hrs.		
7. Similar nature of Work	17(A,B)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice	
8. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in		

NIT-17(A,B)-22-23-W-2 Dated : 26.09.2022 2514/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

हाथकरवा संचालनालय, मध्यप्रदेश

माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल परिसर द्वितीय तल
शिवाजी नगर भोपाल
सूचना का प्रकाशन

हाथकरवा एवं हस्तलिप्य संचालनालय, मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल के अन्तर्गत तीनों चक्रों यथा सत विद्यालय हस्तलिप्य एवं हाथकरवा विकास निगम, मध्यप्रदेश खादी तथा ग्रामोद्योग बोर्ड एवं मध्यप्रदेश मटीकला बोर्ड की बजटीय योजनाओं, निगमबोर्ड की विकासोपयुक्त योजनाओं/परियोजनाओं, आत्मनिर्भर मध्यप्रदेश योजना-नगर्त एक जिला एक उद्यम योजनाओं का विकासोपयुक्त सम्पन्न करने हेतु एक परामर्शी की नियुक्ति हेतु आवेदन पत्र दिनांक 20/10/2022 को समाप्त सार्व 6.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित किये गये थे। किन्तु नियत तिथि तक परामर्श आवेदन प्राप्त नहीं होने के कारण परामर्शी की नियुक्ति हेतु आवेदन प्राप्त करने हेतु अतिरिक्त समय प्रदान करते हुए अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 20/10/2022 को समाप्त सार्व 6.00 बजे तक निरत की जाती है। आवेदन पत्र का कागज एवं निबंधन सूत्र विभाग की वेबसाइट <http://mpgramodhyogglobal.gov.in/tenders/> पर देखी जासकती है।

G-17529-22

हाथकरवा एवं हस्तलिप्य संचालनालय, मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल

NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	21/22-23/WE
Name of work with its location	Renovation of 2nd floor B wing corridor including visitors lounge near R-245 & other misc. works at Rail Bhawan in the s/o SSE/W/RB under ADEN/E-I/INDLS.
Approx. Cost of work	2937202.00
EMD amount	58800.00
Completion period of work	03 Months
Date and time for Submission of tender and opening of tender	Closing date of tender on 10.10.2022 at 15:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

128-W/269/OET/22-23/WE/NIT/21 Dated : 24.09.2022 2508/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)
No.RS(POL)/58/0501/1/2021 New Delhi, dt.: 26.09.2022

CORRIGENDUM NO. 4

Attention is drawn to E-Tender Notice No. 2022 HSD TC for procurement of High Speed Diesel (HSD) of Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) is due for opening on 26.09.2022. Following Corrigendum to "Tender Closing date and time" is hereby authorized:

Existing clause	To be modified as
Last date and time for submission of tender 26.09.2022 at 14:00 hrs.	Last date and time for submission of tender 14.10.2022 at 14:00 hrs.

All other terms and conditions of Tender Notice shall remain unchanged.

(S.K. Verma)
Director, Railway Stores (M) Railway Board

2515/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

Office of the Chief Construction Engineer
Southern N.H. Circle, Berhampur
Email Id- sensouthbam@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS

BID IDENTIFICATION NO. 08/CCE NH, South of 2022-23 (e-Procurement Notice)

Bid Identification No. 08/CCE NH SOUTH of 2022-23 No. 2229/Dtd: 20.09.2022

- The Chief Construction Engineer, Southern NH Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **Percentage rate bid** in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible contractors for construction of **Building Works** as detailed in the table below.
- Name of work : Building works
- No of work : 01 No.
- Tender Cost : Rs. 10,000/-
- Class of Contractor : "A" Class & "A" Class"
- Availability of Bid document in the : 11 AM 28.09.2022 TO 5.00 PM 12.10.2022
- Date of opening of Bid : 13.10.2022 at 11.30 A.M.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation of will be displayed in the e-tender website only.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Southern NH Circle, Berhampur.
OIPR- 34148/11/0004/2223

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Tender Notice No.: 07-Elect/G/PRY/J22-23 Date:-16.09.2022

ELECTRICAL GENERAL SERVICES

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Gen/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following e-Tenders on prescribed form for the following works up to 15:00 hrs. on 19.10.2022 The details of the tenders are as under:- **Tender Opening Date: 19.10.2022**

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Cost of work (in ₹)	Bid Security (in ₹)
1.	ELG-91-2223	Repair and Maintenance work with Spare Parts for 33/11 KV Line DSA Ground Sub-Station Prayagraj for 02 Years.	1615706.30	32300.00
2.	ELG-92-2223	Energy Audit of Major load Centers over Prayagraj division.	625400.00	12500.00

Duration of completion: for Sr. No. 1: 24 Months, for Sr. No. 2: 06 Months.
Tender Opening Date: 19.10.2022, 15:00 Hrs.

Note:- The complete information along with tender document of above e-Tenders available on Website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 1321/22 (ADM)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR @northcentralrailway

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of President of India. Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Chg), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites Sealed e-tender on "SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM" for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

1 Name of Work	Supply and replacement of seats rexine Trims-3X2 seating layout in Train 18 AC Chair Car (Rake-1&2) (As per RDSO/CG07-PVC Vinyl Cloth)
2 Work Place	Delhi
3 Period of Work	Six (06) Months
4 Advertised Value	₹ 44,70,312/- (including the provision of GST)
5 Earnest Money to be deposited	₹ 89,400/- through net banking or gateway only.
6 Tender Document Cost	₹ Nil
7 Date and Time of availability of e-Tender Document.	From 19.09.2022 to 11.10.2022 till 13:00 hrs.
8 Date and Time of E-Tender box closing	11.10.2022 at 13:00 hrs.
9 Date and Time of E-Tender box opening	On 11.10.2022 after 13:00 hrs. If the date of opening happens to be holiday the E-Tender shall be opened on the next working day.
10 Place for opening E-Tender	Mechanical Department, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi-55.

Note: The complete particulars of the tender may be found in website www.ireps.gov.in No.-197-S/249/Seat-Rexine/Train-18/22-23/19/MC-IV Date: 26.09.2022 2505/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) (Corporate Identity No. UAN19012001000020722000)
Victoria Cross Vijayta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun
Tel. No: 0135-2763872-76, Fax: 0135-2760289, Website: www.uktdcenders.gov.in

NOTICE

It is hereby informed that in future (probably after 3 months) UPCL seeks to procure BIS mark EEL-2(New), 11/0.433kV, 25kVA, 63kVA, 100kVA, 250kVA, 400kVA Distribution Transformer. Therefore, all prospective manufacturers of distribution transformers who wish to supply the transformers to UPCL are requested to get their transformers type tested as per given technical specifications of BIS mark, Energy Efficiency Level-2(New). The technical specification are also available at UPCL website www.upcl.org.

Superintending Engineer
No.: 396/EE(cm)/UPCL/A-2 Dt.: 26.09.2022 Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATIONS Use LED Bulb Save Electricity. (Toll-Free- 1912)
"Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org" (For information on Electricity Theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/Fax No. 0135-2760911)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR

File No-C/JIM-IFB-06/2019 (PT) No. 35955 Dtd. 20.09.2022
1st Corrigendum Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-17/2022-23

The tender for the single work invited vide Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-17/2022-23 vide letter No.33450 dtd.03.09.2022 have been modified as per Works Department, Government of Odisha O.M. No. 12586 dtd.09.09.2022-Amendment to Rule-3 of Appendix-VIII of O.P.W.D. Code Volume-I are as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Class of bidder as per NIT	Modification Class of bidder as per Corrigendum
1.	Improvement such as widening and strengthening of Digachilia-Bansada road to DLPS standard from 0.000 km to 10.210 km in the district of Bhadrak under State Plan.	Super Class	Special Class Super Class

- The Bid documents will be available in the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in from 10.00 AM of 27.09.2022 to 5.30 PM of 17.10.2022 for online bidding.
- Bids shall be received only on "on line" on or before 5.30 PM of 17.10.2022.
- Bids received on line shall be opened at 11.30 Hours on 18.10.2022 in the office of the Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Nirmana Soudha, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, DPI & Roads, Odisha
OIPR-34111/11/0004/2223

BRUHAT BANGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture(East),BBMP, East Zone, 17th Floor, PU Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001.

No.HS(EAST)/TENDER/PR/14/2022-23 Date:26.09.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture(East), invites tenders under 15th Finance Scheme from eligible tenderers for the services detailed in the table below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Amount (Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Beautification and Landscape Development of Ulsoor Lake Park and Tiruvalluvar Statue Surrounding Area in Ward No. 90 of Shivaji nagara Constituency.	99,00,000/-	1,98,000/-
2.	Beautification and Landscape Development of Different Medians, Shoulders and Parks in C.V. Raman Nagara Constituency.	1,65,00,000/-	2,47,500/-

All the Works are Reserved for General Category. 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK e-procurement portal from 29.09.2022 onwards. 2) Last date for submission of tenders: 10.10.2022 upto 4.00 p.m. 3) Opening of Technical Bids: 12.10.2022, at 5.00 p.m. Further details can be accessed from GOK e-procurement website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture(East).
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

BRUHAT BANGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Zone, Lakes Division, Room No.309, 3rd Floor, New Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE-2/Lakes/TN-03/2022-23 Date: 26-09-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Zone, Lakes Division, BBMP for the works mentioned below from the registered Contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Providing Chain Link Fencing to the Boundary with Gates of Beretena Agrahara Lake.	130.00	1,95,000.00
2	Providing Chain Link Fencing to Boundary and Balance work at Kammanahalli (Meenakshi) Lake.	40.00	80,000.00

Calendar of Events: 1) Date of Pre Bid Meeting on 03-10-2022 at the Office of the Chief Engineer Office. 2) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: 15-10-2022 upto 16.00 Hrs. 3) Date of Opening of Technical Bid Tender Document: 17-10-2022 at 11.00 Hrs. Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Zone, Lakes Division, BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BANGALURU
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
NANGAL UNIT, NANGAL - 140126 (PUNJAB)

Ref.No. NFL/NGL/Mech/HR/2022 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Date: 26.09.2022
Sealed tenders are invited from Experienced and Financially Sound parties for the following:

Sl. No.	Item Description	Cost of Tender Documents	Estimated Cost for 2 years	Last date & time of submission/ Sale of tenders	Gate & time for receipt/ opening of tenders (Envelope No. 1,2 &3)
1.	Applications are invited for prequalification under various categories for Mechanical Dept. contracts.	---	---	27.10.2022 up to 05.00 pm	---
2.	Housekeeping of NFL Hazard. Public Health & FSSSI.	Rs. 1000	Rs.115.08 lakh plus applicable GST	26.10.2022 up to 01.00 pm	26.10.2022 up to 03.00 pm / 27.10.2022 up to 03.30 pm.

For further details please visit our website www.nationalfertilizers.com. Vendors are requested to visit our website regularly. Any further amendment / corrigendum to the above will be displayed only on official website.

Deputy General Manager (Mech), Chief Manager (HR)

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA

NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR

File No-B-I-GA-126/2021 Lr. No. 35143 / 15th Sept., 2022

Invitation for Bids

Bid Identification No. OSD C.E.(B) - 24 / 2022-23

- The OSD-Chief Engineer (Buildings) Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works, "Construction of Permanent building for the office of Lokayukta, Odisha at Bharatpur, Bhubaneswar" amounting to Rs. 33,00,00,000/- (Approximate) as detailed below.
- Nature of work : Building work
- No. of work : 01 no.
- Bid Cost. : ₹ 10,000/-
- Class of Contractor : Special / Super Class
- Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From dt. 26.09.2022 to 05.30 PM of dt. 12.10.2022
- Last date of online submission of bid : Dt. 12.10.2022
- Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 13.10.2022 at 11:30 AM.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-
OSD-Chief Engineer (Buildings),
Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR- 34111/11/0052/2223

World No.1 Magnus Carlsen beat Indian GM Arjun Erigaisi in the final of the Julius Baer Generation Cup online rapid chess tournament.

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
SEPTEMBER 26

HANS NIEMANN was never the stereotypical teenage chess Grandmaster. Modest, introverted - that's not him. At 19, the frighteningly-talented American was outrageously outspoken, unapologetically boastful and audaciously irreverent.

He seemed in a tearing hurry to climb the sport's rating chart - the Elo pyramid - that had the game's unquestionable GOAT, 31-year-old Norwegian Magnus Carlsen, at the top. Playing around Europe for most of this year, the journeyman had an unreal meteoric rise.

Keeping his distance from the other travelling US kids, the self-made maverick had the unsettling aura of a lone-wolf about him. His uncombed hair and dreamy eyes went well with his rebellious image. He was an outlier, the kind who makes the powerful doubt their invincibility.

In March this year, on the very popular show The Perpetual Chess Podcast (TPCP), Niemann was asked about his association with Carlsen. The two had spent time together, played football and talked shop. The young challenger was also signed up and supported by Carlsen's company PlayMagnus, a business enterprise, according to New York Times, that had 250 employees and a market capitalisation of close to \$115 million.

"Did you seek his advice?", the TPCP host Ben Johnson, asked.

"If I ask him for advice, he would think he is better than me. I want him to feel that I will be better than him one day. I don't want to give him that psychological edge of fear. Magnus' edge comes from his opponents being afraid of him," Niemann said in a cold tone.

Five months later, Niemann got his "one day". He got invited to a tournament where, at least on paper, he looked out of place and depth. In the company of the world's top 9 players, including Carlsen, he was an oddball.

In Round 3, Niemann got his moment. He sat across the board against the world's best player. The young sniper finally had his target in sight. Pundits who followed the game say that the American that day was ultra-aggressive, almost disrespectful in his play. Carlsen would lose, that too while playing with white.

Niemann's post-match comments were hardly measured or modest. "I think he seemed so demoralised losing to an idiot like me. Must be embarrassing for the World Champion. I feel bad for him," he would say.

As Niemann was twisting the knife, at Camp Carlsen weapons were being sharpened.

Carlsen struck back with his now famous cryptic Jose Mourinho meme tweet: 'If I speak, I'm in big trouble.' It was an obvious insinuation that Niemann had cheated. It was a "nudge-nudge, wink-wink" allegation. Reacting to the furore, chess.com, the world's most frequented online platform, would un-invite Niemann from a forthcoming global chess tournament and also strike him off the website.

Niemann, as expected, reacted. "I am not going to let chess.com, Carlsen ... simply slander my reputation," he said.

And then he said something that changed the hue of the debate. He said he had cheated in the past. "I had to get some rating to play stronger players, so I cheated in random games on chess.com. I was confronted and I confessed and that was the single biggest mistake of my life," he said.

So used to dealing with pieces of contrast-



THRILLER: BLACK OR WHITE

Endgame of the AVENGER

Hans Niemann was cocky and had admitted to cheating in the past. Magnus Carlsen was beaten by Niemann and then stood him up next time they were to play, allowing suspicions of cheating to waft. The sharply polarised chess world, weighed in too, with technology and psychology experts adding their two-bits. With a snap of a finger, the intrigue in this sport, was the talk of the town

ing colours, the chess world painted the lead actors - one in black, the other in white. The champion was white, the cheater black.

The popular narrative missed the shades of grey. Highly reliable analysis of International Master, statistical academic and world-renowned chess cheat cop, Professor Kenneth Regan showed that Niemann hadn't cheated. There was no pattern in his play that day that suggested that he was aided by computers.

But that didn't quite wipe the chess board clean.

American GM, Hikaru Nakamura, said no one doubted Niemann of cheating in his defeat to Carlsen but it was the past that was bothersome.

"I don't believe that anybody who's had suspicions or said things, it relates to the Sinquefield Cup (where Niemann beat Carlsen). If you look at the history of Hans over the last couple of years, he's had probably the most meteoric rise in the entire history of chess of any 17-year-old by far... I think a lot of GMs are definitely suspicious," he said.

The pandemic time boom in online chess has seen a spike in cheating rate and it has

made players paranoid. Chess.com would usually ban about 5,000 players each month in 2021 but in August this year the count had gone up to 17,000. Carlsen's snub to Niemann, many feel, was his way of amplifying the frustration of the fraternity that wanted action against those who were bending rules and now entering the top echelon of chess.

But there was another layer of intrigue. Chess.com was in merger talks with PlayMagnus, it's a tie-up that pushes Carlsen in a conflict-of-interest maze.

There were whispers about chess.com planning a rematch by reinventing Niemann for a mega face-off with Carlsen. For the first time in decades, chess, not the most riveting spectator sport, was getting unprecedented attention from even those who think that Sicilian Defence was about the Corleones going to the mattresses when attacked by Sollozzos.

Who benefits most from this unprecedented global interest in this boxing-like chess rivalry? Was this chess' foray into reality TV? It's a season of serious unverified allegations.

Who is this man responsible for this dramatic chess churn?

Niemann's backstory is very different from Carlsen's. Unlike the Norwegian chess rockstar, Niemann didn't enjoy early success growing up. He's a struggler with no fixed address. There are scratchy details about his parents in the public domain, apart from the fact that Niemann has a Hawaiian-Danish ancestry.

He was born in San Francisco but the family moved to the Netherlands when Niemann was very young. He would take up chess at the age of 8. It was a taunt from a teacher, writing him off as a chess player, that saw him take to the game with vengeance.

The Niemanns moved back to the US soon after and this time settled in the suburb of Berkeley. It was a stroke of luck that they opted for the Bay Area, America's chess bowl. The young boy would frequent a cafe that was famous for its "coffee chess games." In a twist

straight out of a movie script, this was a blessing in disguise.

In TPCP, he shares the endearing story about him meeting his surprise benefactor at the cafe. "There was this man who looked like a homeless man but was really wealthy. The guy, in a hideous way possible, tried to look the most run-down. But actually, he was a chess philanthropist. He paid for the majority of my lessons," said Niemann.

More nuggets about Niemann's inspiring journey shine from a Chess Life cover story, titled The Road Grandmaster, that he himself wrote.

For better chess prospects, the family moved to Connecticut. Once again, Niemann had to be the new boy in a new school. His parents insisted that he needed to have a college education.

A scholarship at a reputed New York school came through. His family of six couldn't afford NY rents so the chess prodigy-cum-class topper had to stay on his own. Even for Niemann's single-person accommodation, he had to work "20 to 30 hours a week teaching chess". He also was trying to get into a reputed college and that's when the Harvard snub happened. It's a blow that makes him sarcastic.

"They rejected a 16-year-old who was liv-

ing alone, had his own job, had a full scholarship from the best prep school in the country, and had great grades. I didn't care about going to school. I just wanted to be accepted. I wanted to reject them. Hey, no one cares about Harvard, your school is just a Wall Street factory," says the obsessively-driven boy known to be sensitive to snubs and rejections.

Finally, chess would get its unflinching focus. Streaming would give Niemann cash to survive on the circuit. He would become a monk in penance to experience chess' stratospheric heights. His typical day would start at 6 am with an hour and a half of swimming. "After the swim, I would put in 10 to 12 hours of chess a day," he says.

Being hard on himself is another trait, as Niemann says, "If I don't finish in Top 10, I will be a failure in chess and failure in life".

This is a battle where the stakes are high. Niemann has set the bar way too high for him and he wouldn't want to be remembered as a cheater.

In times when the credibility of the game is being questioned, Scottish GM Jacob Aagaard has written a provocative blog. It's been extensively forwarded among players and fans. Early in the piece, titled 'Paranoia and Insanity', he talks about his association with Niemann. The one-time camp mates have stayed in touch. Niemann at one point had also joined Aagaard's academy.

The piece gets into the mind of chess' sharpest brain. He puts to test Carlsen's "good boy" image and leans towards Neimann.

He wrote: "People say that Carlsen does not behave badly when he is losing in his Meltwater Tour to Praggnanandhaa. It is partly because it is like Federer losing a set. It is partly because Praggnanandhaa is deferential to Magnus. Hans is not. Hans wants to kill the king. Wants to take the throne. He has no remorse over this at all."

He put out a reminder that Carlsen hasn't been the most gracious loser. "Magnus behaved like an entitled brat" is at least an equally reasonable theory. This is not new behaviour."

This Carl-Niem affair puts chess in a tight spot. A sport is only as good as its credibility. Online chess, where Niemann admitted to cheating, faces a serious regulation deficit.

If Carlsen harbours doubts about whether an opponent is cheating, or that his past indiscretions have gone unpunished, it is the sport's failure. An open, transparent troubleshooting by FIDE as soon as it got whiff of the matter, could've prevented this saga.

Needing to riff a Mourinho quote for a cryptic tweet - open to a million interpretations - points to a shocking absence of a forum to raise his concerns. And simultaneously unfair on Niemann, who remains a sitting duck for speculation.

Matters got complicated further when Carlsen said, "I have to say I'm very impressed by Niemann's play and I think his mentor GM Maxim Dlugy must be doing a great job." Dlugy, by the way, was banned by Chess.com in 2017. The reason: Cheating.

Chess for now faces the classic endgame situation. Players known to think ahead, plan several steps in advance, aren't known to do things in the heat of the moment. The pieces that were once on the board seem

to have come alive and stepped off the board to be in the real world. The world waits for them to choose the squares they would move to - white or black.

“Unfortunately, I cannot particularly speak on that but people can draw their own conclusions and they certainly have. I have to say I'm very impressed by Niemann's play and I think his mentor Maxim Dlugy must be doing a great job.”

MAGNUS CARLSEN

“If I ask him for advice, he would think he is better than me. I want him to feel that I will be better than him one day. I don't want to give him psychological edge of fear. Magnus' edge comes from his opponents being afraid of him.”

HANS NIEMANN

Is it easy to cheat at chess? Apparently yes

SANDEEP DWIVEDI

WEEKS AFTER his loss to teenaged US Grandmaster Hans Niemann, Magnus Carlsen said it was easy to cheat in chess. This was another hint by the world champion that Niemann had adopted unfair methods to beat him at the Sinquefield Cup in St. Louis, Missouri. Was there any truth in Carlsen's claims? It's one of several questions that the sport is facing these days.

Is it that easy, as Carlsen says?

Digital chess engines, data clouds, personal server space, and high-tech miniature wireless devices have been handy tools to hood-wink judges and arbitrators. The new-age cheaters have come a long way since the days when Anatoly Karpov would allegedly be tutored about his next moves by the colour of the drink he would be delivered. While cheating in over-the-board chess remains difficult, more so since players are scanned by electromagnetic waves these days, the scrutiny in online tournaments is less intense. The easy availabil-

ity of a free-to-download chess app that gives the 'best moves' option for all situations has sickeningly levelled the playing field. Now even a novice, aided by an app, can beat a world champion 10 times in 10 games.

Is it possible to stop online cheating?

Most cheaters use a chess engine to analyse game positions. To stop this from happening, tournament organisers have a software that detects if a player was toggling between programmes. But in case a cheater is operating the chess engine on a different device, it becomes impossible to detect.

Is it possible to know if a move has been made by a human or a computer?

Yes and No. In his book The Art of Cheating in Chess, Grandmaster Bill Jordan touches on this issue. "A high correlation between the moves of a human player and an engine could indicate cheating. To prevent a correlation from being found, the cheat may only use an engine to help in a few critical positions. Even using an engine to help in just one critical position, could help a player win a game against an op-

ponent of roughly equal strength, especially if the players are strong."

How scientific is this process?

Globally-renowned chess cop Professor Kenneth Regan explains. Called to check if Niemann had cheated during his game against Carlsen, he gave the American GM a clean chit. In a 2015 Ted Talk, he explained the process. "Computer programmes don't just play better, they also play differently. So, I use data to analyse patterns. I vandalised half a million games over 30 million, all from real competition, not simulation. This includes the entire history of top-level human chess and computer chess. These reveal a pattern not just for chess but also cheating," he had said.

So should online chess be taken seriously?

Jordan doesn't think so. "I have heard tens of thousands of accounts on chess.com have been closed recently due to computer cheating. The bottom line is that it is easy to attempt cheating with online chess. Consequently, online chess is best taken not too seriously and online events should not have prize money,



Digital advancement has made cheating in chess easier.

Another issue is there is a perception that cheating has happened when it has not."

But haven't computers been around chess since the last century?

Yes, but back in the day they were too

clunky to be sneaked in as seconds. Back in the late 80s, when the pioneering chess computer Deep Blue challenged world champion Gary Kasparov, it was called the "alien opponent". Kasparov would later ridicule it by calling it as "intelligent as your alarm clock". Opinions changed with time. By the turn of the century, as computers shrank in size and clouds started saving data from millions of games, players were better prepared - those who played by the rules, and also those who cheated.

What about pre-computer days?

Cheating is as old as the game. The Karpov vs Victor Korchnoi match was the classic game around which several myths got weaved. There was talk about Karpov getting orange juice during the game at a particular time and the colour of the drink gave him clues to decide his moves. There were allegations that Karpov had in his team a hypnotist who would sit in the front row of the audience. Korchnoi started wearing dark glasses to avoid his stares.

Have there been any recent cases of over-the-board cheating?

Several. The latest involved Italian amateur Arcangelo Ricciardi. He hid a tiny camera in a pendant he was wearing, apparently a good luck charm, that transmitted moves and received messages in Morse code. There are some who are still sticking to the old-school trick of a "washroom break." Georgian GM Gairoz Nigalidze, during a game, repeatedly went to the loo to allegedly check the phone hidden in the toilet flush. In 2010, French GM Sébastien Feller had a team of two give him signals during a game. He was banned for three years but is now back on the circuit.

Finally, so did Niemann cheat?

Easily, the million-dollar question. First a bizarre theory, followed by the conspiracy. Niemann reacted to the allegation of hiding an electronic device inside his body by saying he was ready to play "naked". The other was about someone from Carlsen's team leaking tactics to the opponent. The world champion has kept it vague too. "I have to say I'm very impressed by Niemann's play and I think his mentor GM Maxim Dlugy must be doing a great job." Dlugy had been banned for cheating in 2017.

BRIEFLY

T20I Rankings: India go 7 points clear

Dubai: India went seven points clear of England at the top of the ICC T20 rankings following their narrow series win over Australia in Hyderabad. Down 0-1 against the touring Australia, the Rohit Sharma-led India bounced back in style to level the series in Nagpur before Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav's fifties in the deciding rubber on Sunday sealed a 2-1 win. The six-wicket final over win improved their ranking by one point to 268 points, a seven-point lead over their closest rival in England in the ICC T20 rankings released on Monday. The upcoming three-match series against South Africa will give India a chance to consolidate their lead at the top ahead of the World Cup in Australia. **PTI**

India U-17 women's team loses to Sweden

New Delhi: The India U-17 women's team suffered a 1-3 defeat against Sweden in its first match of the exposure tour in the run-up to the FIFA U-17 World Cup. The match was played at Girona in Spain. It was the first match of the exposure tour for the Indian girls ahead of the age-group showpiece, which India is hosting in October-November. Sudha Tirkey (62) scored the only goal for India after Sweden U-17 girls took a comfortable 3-0 lead through Ida Gramfors (44) Sara Figren (52) and Selma Astrom (54). **PTI**

Fury says Joshua fight is off

London: WBC world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury has called off his proposed 'Battle of Britain' bout with Anthony Joshua, saying his compatriot had not signed the contract before Monday's deadline. Fury had challenged Joshua earlier this month, saying he would come out of retirement to defend his title in December, a challenge Joshua accepted. Joshua's 258 Management and promoter Matchroom Boxing had said that they had "accepted all terms presented to us by Fury's team" but agreed to halt all communication due to the death of Queen Elizabeth. "It's official, D-Day has come and gone," Fury said on Instagram on Monday. "No contract has been signed. It's officially over for Joshua. He's now out in the cold... Forget about it. **REUTERS**

Surya's six off Sams brings back memories of Tendulkar

Keeping high elbow firm, Mumbai batter hits outrageous shot over long off

SRIRAM VEERA
SEPTEMBER 25

"SHOT OF the match, bhai!" Ravi Shastri cooed. Only he, as is his wont, pronounced bhai as bye when Suryakumar Yadav ran down the track to pacer Daniel Sams and hit a back-of-length ball on the up and over long-off. Quite a stunning hit that, and brought up memories of Sachin Tendulkar sashaying down the pitch and slamming Glenn McGrath for a six and a four off somewhat similar balls to the long-off boundary in that famous duel at Nairobi 22 years ago.

Even three days back, for that matter, Tendulkar was doing it at the Road Safety World Series: though he hit a short-of-length ball from Chris Tremlett over long-on. Now, long-off is another thing altogether. And though Sams is no McGrath, the ball was a touch more difficult to hit, as it was a tad more back of length and rose a touch more even after Yadav had rushed down the track.

Subtle differences

Also, Tendulkar had a slightly better technique for that six off McGrath (one flew for a six, and the other blurred across for a four). When he was down the pitch, he would get his bat a bit more horizontal that allowed him control to smash the rising ball that much better. Like a forehand down the line, if you will.

Yadav, at least on Sunday, didn't have the bat tilted the SRT way. His was more conventional, a kind of downward bat-swing as one would do to a fuller-pitch ball. The danger with such a shot to a shortish ball is that one might end up getting elevation rather than distance and hole out to deep mid-on. But somehow, he controlled it to get the distance as well and that's why perhaps Shastri was singing on air.

Another difference with the Tendulkar six in Nairobi was that the McGrath ball hadn't bounced as much as Sams'. The four ball was of quite similar height, rising even as Tendulkar made contact, but the six, in fact, made contact with the toe-end of the bat.

Yadav has this skill to hold his shape even when charging down the track. Tendulkar had it, of course, the balance tended to be abnormally good, but on his day, Yadav is able to match that.

Hitting technique

Most of his shots come from the calculated 'shape-holding' T20 book of batting.



Yadav has this skill to hold his shape even when charging down the track.

Hold shape, stretch the upper body, extend the arms to their fullest, strive to maintain balance even at that tipping-over point – and wham. Most of the time, it comes down to the way he positions himself in a shot.

Secondly, even when his hands go the full distance as he stays with the shot, completely finishing it, stretching the post-impact extension of arms to their fullest, he is able to hold his shape. It's one thing to do that when standing in his stance but another thing altogether when he does it after marching down the pitch to a pacer.

High-risk move

The risk in this six off Sams was as noted, skying it straight up, but somehow Yadav kept the high elbow firm and punched it with the regulation downward bat-swing.

Batting coach Vikram Rathour, a very fine domestic player who never quite cut it at international level, once caressed a six off Shaun Pollock that had even Tendulkar,

SHAHBAZ, IYER IN T20I SIDE VS SA, HARDIK RESTED

New Delhi: Yet to recover from COVID-19, Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of India's three-match T20I series against South Africa, while Bengal all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed came in place of the rested Hardik Pandya. The series is starting on Wednesday in Thiruvananthapuram. With all-rounder Deepak Hooda also out of the series due to back spasms, the national selection committee is set to recall middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer for the series. With India's top players busy with the marquee World Cup assignment, the Shikhar Dhawan-led ODI side will have a lot of faces who played against Zimbabwe in the away series, but some new players might get a look-in. While the likes of Shubman Gill, Sanju Samson are certain in the squad, young Madhya Pradesh batter Rajat Patidar is likely to get his maiden call-up after a stellar season in the IPL and domestic cricket. **PTI**

the non-striker, turn to gape at the trajectory of the six. Rathour had leaned forward a touch and wafted his bat on the up and through the line of a short-of-length delivery over long-on. It was probably the best shot of his career against a pacer. But Surya did it after moving down the pitch and over long-off.

Now, why do we say it's easier over long-on? Just watch Tendulkar's six the other day against Tremlett. When a batsman isn't to the pitch and the ball rises up from short of length, he can flex his wrist to ride the bounce and go across the line, like a tennis forehand crosscourt. But if he chooses to go with the line of the outside-off ball, over long-off, it's difficult to ride the bounce.

That's why Tendulkar smartly would tilt his bat a touch more horizontally to whack the ball on its head, rather than come down and up like Yadav did. But incredibly, Yadav managed to unfurl the shot and get Shastri stressing his bhai.

Deepti says Dean was warned, Knight alleges Indians 'lying'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 26

THE INSINUATIONS over the run-out that sealed India's clean sweep over England continued on Monday with Deepti Sharma, who took the bails off at the non-striker's end to dismiss last batter Charlie Dean who had backed up too far, claiming that a prior warning was given. But England skipper Heather Knight alleged the Indians were "lying".

On returning home, Deepti gave the team's take on the incident at Lord's on Saturday which has reignited the debate over the 'spirit of the game'.

"Woh plan tha hum logon ka, kyunki woh baar baar... Hum warn bhi kar chuke the usko. Jo rules mein hain, jo guidelines hain, uske according hi humne kiya (We had planned this as she was not paying heed to our repeated warnings. We acted according to the rules and the guidelines)," Deepti told reporters upon her arrival in Kolkata.

She added that the team had informed the umpires before running out Dean.

"Umpires ko bola tha hum logon ne, but still woh wahin par thi. Hum log kuchh nahin kar sakte the. (We did inform the umpires, but she continued to do it. There was nothing we could do)," the 25-year-old all-rounder said.

However, Knight, who is currently recuperating after hip surgery, said the Indians were being economical with the truth.

"The game is over. Charlie was dismissed legitimately, India were deserved winners of the match and the series. But no warnings were given," Knight wrote on Twitter.

"They don't need to be given, so it hasn't made the dismissal any less legitimate. But if they're comfortable with the decision to affect the run-out, India shouldn't feel the need to justify it by lying about warnings."

The run-out is currently listed in the 'Unfair Play' section of the laws of cricket but is set to be moved to the 'Run Out' section at the start of next month when an update in the ICC Playing Conditions comes into effect.

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodians of the game's laws, have said that the onus was on batters not to leave their crease at the non-striker's end too soon, and the correct procedure was followed by the match officials during the incident at Lord's.

"This was done to clarify this matter and to place an onus on batters to ensure that they do not leave the crease at the non-striker's end, prior to a bowler releasing the ball," MCC said in a statement.

"Whilst it was indeed an unusual end to an exciting match, it was properly officiated and should not be considered as anything more."



Deepti Sharma says Charlie Dean didn't pay heed to repeated warnings. **Twitter**

Debate rages

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur supported her player and lauded Deepti for showing match "awareness".

"I don't think we have done anything new. It is an ICC rule and you always take those chances," she had said after winning the series 3-0. "I will back my player because she has not done anything that is not part of the rule."

However, England seamer Kate Cross said there were grey areas in the interpretation of the law in this situation.

"What I think has come of it, which happens a lot in these scenarios when there's a big thing to talk about, is that the rules aren't quite written correctly to make it clear," Cross told BBC's No Balls podcast.

"I think what needs to happen is there needs to be more clear words on the rules because it's quite wishy-washy, and it's all like opinion of where the bowler might be bowling. Make it clear, if it is back foot contact or front foot contact, whatever it is."

"I think there needs to be the warning moving forward and they need to clear up the rules on where the front foot lands, or where the bowler is bowling from. Just make it really clear."

It was an unusual end to the career of veteran pace bowler Jhulan Goswami, who played her last match at Lord's on Saturday.

Star Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who once ran out Jos Buttler in a similar manner during an Indian Premier League game, argued that the bowler should be credited the wicket in these circumstances.

"How about awarding that wicket to the bowler for 'presence of mind' under immense pressure and of course knowing the social stigma that he/she would have to deal with post doing it. How about a bravery award to go with it too @ICC ?," Ashwin wrote on Twitter.

England cricketer Sam Billings was off the view that the dismissal may be within the laws of the game, but not within its spirit.

"Just my opinion... the law should be changed back to a warning system or penalty runs for excessive backing up for eg," the wicketkeeper-batsman posted on Twitter.

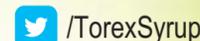
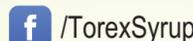


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