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(Please scan this QR code to view the RHP)

P N GADGIL JEWELLERS LIMITED

Our Company was originally incorporated as "P N Gadgil Jewellers Private Limited", a private limited company under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated October 28, 2013, issued by the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra at Pune (the "RoC"). The name of our Company was subsequently changed to "P N Gadgil Jewellers Limited", upon conversion of our Company from a private limited to a public limited company, pursuant to a board resolution dated February 16, 2023, and a shareholders' resolution dated March 10, 2023, and a fresh certificate of incorporation was issued on April 5, 2023, by the RoC. For details of the change in the name and the registered office of our Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 198 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated September 4, 2024 ("RHP" or "Red Herring Prospectus") filed with the RoC.
Registered Office: 694, Narayan Peth, Pune - 411030, Maharashtra, India; Telephone: +91 20 2443 5006; Corporate Office: PNG Vishwa, 359, Chitashala Chowk, Laxmi Road, Narayan Peth, Pune - 411030 Maharashtra, India. Telephone: +91 20 2447 8474
Contact Person: Hiranyamal Kulkarni, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; Telephone: +91 20 2447 8474; E-mail: secretarial@pngadgil.com; Website: www.pngjewellers.com; Corporate Identity Number: U36912PN2013PLC149288

OUR PROMOTERS: SAURABH VIDYADHAR GADGIL, RADHIKA SAURABH GADGIL AND SVG BUSINESS TRUST

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF P N GADGIL JEWELLERS LIMITED (OUR "COMPANY" OR THE "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹[●] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A PREMIUM OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE) (THE "OFFER PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹11,000 MILLION (THE "OFFER") COMPRISING A FRESH ISSUE OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES BY OUR COMPANY AGGREGATING UP TO ₹8,500 MILLION (THE "FRESH ISSUE") AND AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹2,500 MILLION (THE "OFFER FOR SALE") BY SVG BUSINESS TRUST (REFERRED TO AS THE "PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDER" AND SUCH EQUITY SHARES OFFERED BY THE PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDER, THE "OFFERED SHARES")

DETAILS OF THE PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDER, OFFER FOR SALE AND WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION PER EQUITY SHARE

NAME OF THE PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDER	TYPE	NO. OF EQUITY SHARES OFFERED	WACA* PER EQUITY SHARE (₹)
SVG Business Trust	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to [●] Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each aggregating up to ₹ 2,500 million.	13.44

WACA: Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition

* Calculated on a fully diluted basis. As certified by GDA & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditors of our Company, by way of their certificate dated September 4, 2024.

We offer precious metal / jewellery products including gold, silver, platinum and diamond jewellery.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations
QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Offer | Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Offer | Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Offer

PRICE BAND: ₹456 TO ₹480 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH.

THE FLOOR PRICE AND THE CAP PRICE ARE 45.60 TIMES AND 48.00 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES RESPECTIVELY.

BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 31 EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 31 EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee of Independent Directors of our Company, pursuant to their resolution dated September 4, 2024, the above provided price band is justified based on quantitative factors/ KPIs disclosed in the 'Basis for Offer Price' section on page no. 111 of the RHP vis-a-vis the weighted average cost of acquisition ("WACA") of primary and secondary transaction(s), as applicable, disclosed in 'Basis for Offer Price' section on page 111 of the RHP.

In making an investment decision and purchase in the Offer, In making an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of our Company and the terms of the Offer, including the merits and risks involved.

RISKS TO INVESTORS

For details refer to section titled "Risk Factors" on page 29 of the RHP

I. Risk Factors associated with our Company

- Reputational damage risk:** We consider the recognition and reputation of our flagship brand "PNG", as well as our sub-brands "Saptam", "Swarajya", "Rings of Love", "The Golden Katha of Craftsmanship", "Flip", "Eiina", "PNG Solitaire", "Men of platinum" and "Evergreen love", as being one of the key contributors to the growth and success of our business. Our main brand "PNG" contributed 98.29%, 99.46% and 99.94% to our revenue generated from sales for Fiscal 2024, 2023 and 2022 respectively. Any loss of trust in our products by consumers due to unsatisfactory quality control and assurance standards or negative reviews from our customers could adversely affect our brand reputation and subject us to additional risks and customer scrutiny.
- Marketing Risk** - Due to the competitive nature of the market, if we do not continue to develop our brands and differentiate our products from our competitors, we may fail to attract customers required to continue growing our business. To promote our brands and products, we have incurred, and expect to continue to incur, expenses related to advertising and other marketing efforts, including celebrity endorsements. However, there can be no assurance that our advertising or marketing efforts are or will be successful and result in increased sales. We have incurred ₹419.47 million, ₹299.60 million and ₹91.62 million in Fiscal 2024, 2023 and 2022, respectively towards advertising & marketing.
- Business/Operational Risk - Customer Demand and Inventory** - The success of our business depends upon our ability to anticipate and forecast customer demand and trends, specifically in Maharashtra, considering our concentrated presence in this region. Any error in our forecast could result in either surplus stock, which we may not be able to sell in a timely manner, or at all, or under stocking, which could affect our ability to meet customer demand and loss of customers. Any material mismatch between our forecast and actual sales could lead to potential excess inventory or out-of-stock situations, either of which could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operation.
- Geographical concentration risk:** Our business is primarily concentrated in Maharashtra, especially Pune and is significantly dependent on top five of our stores located in Maharashtra for revenue generation. Our owned stores in Pune contributed to 64.61%, 62.58% and 56.84% of our revenue from operations for Fiscals 2024, 2023 and 2022 respectively. Due to the geographic concentration of the sale of our products in Maharashtra, and especially Pune in Maharashtra, our operations are susceptible to local and regional factors and this could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.
- Working capital risk:** We have a substantial amount of working capital requirement, primarily to finance the purchase of raw materials. We intend to continue growing by setting up new stores operated by us for which we need incremental working capital. Our net working capital requirement was ₹8,476.77 million in Fiscal 2024, ₹5,046.36 million in Fiscal 2023 and ₹5,626.37 million in Fiscal 2022. If we do not have access to additional capital, we may be required to delay, scale back or abandon some or all of our plans or growth strategies or reduce capital expenditures and the size of our operations may get constrained.
- Competition risk:** We face significant competition from a number of competitors, some of which are large and have substantially greater resources than us including longer operating histories, better brand recognition, greater financial resources, more advanced technology, better research and development capabilities, greater market penetration, larger distribution networks, etc. We also face competition from smaller entities who may compete effectively against us in a particular region based on price, size and established regional trust with the local customers. If we do not compete in these areas effectively, this could lead to a decrease in our market share, experience downward pressure on prices and an increase in our marketing and other expenses.
- Business Expansion Risk:** We have grown our operations to 39 stores as of July 31, 2024 with over 89.74% of our stores being located in Maharashtra. Expansion into new

geographic regions, including different cities and states in India and U.S., subjects us to various challenges, including those relating to our lack of familiarity with the culture, legal regulations and economic conditions of these new regions, language barriers, difficulties in staffing and managing such operations, and the lack of brand recognition and reputation in such regions.

- Intellectual property rights risk:** We do not own the trademark for our flagship "PNG" brand and their respective logos. Such trademarks are registered in the name of P N Gadgil Jewellers (Firm), a member of our Promoter Group. We have further entered into a royalty agreement with the Firm which prohibits us from assigning or sub-licensing the trademarks to any person except our Subsidiaries, joint ventures or associates or franchise partners, without the prior written consent of the Firm.
 - Litigation risk:** Our Company, Directors, Promoters and Subsidiaries are or may be involved in certain legal and regulatory proceedings. Any adverse decision in such proceedings may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, cash flows and results of operations. Further, we cannot assure you that there will be no new legal and regulatory proceedings involving our Company, Promoters, Directors, Subsidiaries, and Group Companies in the future.
 - Market Capitalisation Risk:** The market capitalization to revenue multiple, which is 1.06 times the cap price and 1.02 times the floor price and the price to earnings ratio, which is 36.70 times the cap price and 22.23 times the floor price may not be indicative of the market price of the Equity Shares on listing and may be subject to significant fluctuations in response to, among other factors, variations in our operating results, market conditions specific to the industry we operate in, etc.
 - Seasonal Risk:** We have historically experienced higher sales volumes and profit margins during festival periods and other occasions such as Akshaya Tritiya, Navratri, Gudi Padwa, Gurupushyarnut and Dhanteras. Any slowdown in demand for our jewellery during peak seasons or failure by us to accurately anticipate and prepare for such seasonal fluctuations could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.
 - Business / Operations Risk - Raw Materials:** The raw materials which we use for the jewellery, include gold, silver, platinum, diamonds and precious / semi - precious stones. Further, the jewellery industry generally is affected by fluctuations in the price and supply of gold, and there is a strong positive correlation between international and domestic gold prices in India. Fluctuations in gold prices may affect consumer demand as well as operating costs of our Company.
- II. **Weighted average cost of acquisition of all Equity Shares transacted in past one year, eighteen months and three years preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus:**

Period preceding the date of RHP	Weighted average cost of acquisition (in ₹)	Cap Price (₹ 480) is 'X' times the weighted average cost of acquisition	Range of acquisition price: lowest price - highest price (in ₹)*
Last one year	13.44	35.71	Not Applicable ^A
Last 18 months	15.26	31.45	10.00 - 23.22
Last three years	15.26	31.45	10.00 - 23.22

*As certified by GDA & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditors of our Company by way of their certificate dated September 4, 2024.

^ANo consideration was paid at the time of allotment of Equity Shares pursuant to conversion of CCNPS; the terms of the preference shares issued by the Company were changed from NCRPS into CCNPS, which CCNPS were then converted into Equity Shares

III. **Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for the Financial Years 2024, 2023 and 2022 is 26.55%**

Continued on next page...

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IV. The Price to Earnings Ratio based on Basic and Diluted EPS for Fiscal 2024 at the upper end of the Price Band is 34.86 and 36.70 respectively as compared to the average industry peer group PE ratio of 63.31

V. Weighted average cost of acquisition ("WACA"), floor price and cap price:

Type of Transaction	Weighted average cost of acquisition per Equity Share (in ₹)	Floor Price of ₹ 456	Cap Price of ₹ 480
WACA of Primary Transactions	13.44	33.93 times	35.71 times
WACA of Secondary Transactions	23.22	19.64 times	20.67 times

Note: As certified by GDA & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditors of our Company, pursuant to their certificate dated September 4, 2024.

VI. Other Risk

Our Company will not receive any proceeds from the Offer for Sale portion of the offer.

The 3 BRLMs associated with the issue have handled 40 public issues in the past three financial years and the current fiscal year upto the date of this price band advertisement out of which 13 issues closed below the issue price on listing date.

Name of the BRLM	Total Public Issues	Issues closed below IPO price on listing date
Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited**	11	5
Nuvama Wealth Management Limited** (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited)	19	5
BOB Capital Markets Limited**	7	3
Common Issues of above BRLMs*	3	-
Total	40*	13

* 3 common issues where Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited and Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited) were joint bankers. None of these three issues closed below the IPO price on the date of listing.

** Issues handled where there were no common BRLMs.

BID/OFFER PERIOD

BID/OFFER OPEN

BID/OFFER CLOSES ON : THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024*

*The UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5:00 p.m. on Bid/Offer Closing Date.

An indicative timetable in respect of the Offer is set out below:

Submission of Bids (other than Bids from Anchor Investors):

Bid/Offer Period (except the Bid/Offer Closing Date)	
Submission and revision in Bids	Only between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. IST
Bid/Offer Closing Date*	
Submission of electronic applications (Online ASBA through 3-in-1 accounts) – For RIBs other than QIBs and NIBs	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 5.00 p.m. IST
Submission of Electronic Applications (Bank ASBA through online channels like Internet Banking Mobile Banking and Syndicate UPI ASBA applications where Bid Amount is up to ₹500,000)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 4.00 p.m. IST
Bid/Offer Period (except the Bid/Offer Closing Date)	
Submission of Electronic Applications (Syndicate Non-Retail, Non-Individual Applications)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 3.00 p.m. IST
Submission of Physical Applications (Bank ASBA)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 1.00 p.m. IST
Submission of Physical Applications (Syndicate Non-Retail, Non-Individual Applications where Bid Amount is more than ₹500,000)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 12.00 p.m. IST
Modification/ Revision/cancellation of Bids	
Modification of Bids by QIBs and NIB categories and modification/cancellation of Bids by Retail Individual Bidders*	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 5.00 p.m. IST
Upward or downward revision of Bids or Cancellation of Bids by RIBs	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 5.00 p.m. IST

QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders can neither revise their bids downwards nor cancel/withdraw their Bids.

* UPI mandate end time and date shall be 5:00 p.m. on the Bid/Offer Closing Date.

Bid/Offer Period

Event	Indicative Date
Bid/Offer Closing Date	Thursday, 12 September, 2024
Finalization of Basis of Allotment with the Designated Stock Exchange	On or about Friday, 13 September, 2024*
Initiation of refunds (if any, for Anchor Investors)/unblocking of funds from ASBA	On or about Tuesday, 17 September, 2024
Allotment of Equity Shares/ Credit of Equity Shares to dematerialised accounts of Allottees	On or about Tuesday, 17 September, 2024
Commencement of trading of the Equity Shares on the Stock Exchanges	On or about Wednesday, 18 September, 2024

(1) Our Company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may consider participation by Anchor Investors. The Anchor Investor Bid/Offer Period shall be one Working Day prior to the Bid/Offer Opening Date in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations

(2) UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5:00 pm IST on Bid/Offer Closing Date, i.e. Thursday, September 12, 2024. For further details, please refer section "Terms of the Offer" on page 349 of the RHP.

* All scheduled and non-scheduled banks will observe public holiday on September 14, 2024 (being the second Saturday of the month) and September 16, 2024 is a holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/HolidayMatrixDisplay.aspx).

ASBA # Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!

Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA.

Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.



UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors and Non - Institutional Investor applying for amount upto ₹ 5,00,000/-, applying through Registered Brokers, DPs and RTAs. UPI Bidder also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020, issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the subsequent press releases, including press releases dated June 25, 2021 and September 17, 2021 and CBDT circular no.7 of 2022, dated March 30, 2022 read with press release dated March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard.

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except anchor investors. UPI may be availed by (i) Retail Individual Investors in the Retail Portion; (ii) Non-Institutional Investors with an application size of up to ₹ 500,000 in the Non-Institutional Portion. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" on page 359 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("AIBI") and Stock Exchanges and in the General Information Document. ASBA bid-cum-application forms can be downloaded from the websites of the Stock Exchanges and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecogised?payes&nmId=35 and <https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecogised?payes&nmId=43>, respectively as updated from time to time. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. HDFC Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Limited have been appointed as Sponsor Banks for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of the SEBI Circular dated November 1, 2016 as amended. For Offer related queries, please contact the BRLMs on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and mail id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in.

NOTICE TO INVESTORS: CORRIGENDUM TO THE RHP ("THE CORRIGENDUM")

With reference to the red herring prospectus dated September 4, 2024 filed with the RoC ("RHP") and thereafter submitted with the SEBI and Stock Exchanges, price band advertisement dated September 5, 2024 and statutory advertisement dated September 5, 2024 published in Financial Express (all editions), Jansatta (all editions), LokSatta (Pune edition), potential Bidders may note the following:

Due to an inadvertent error, the information on EBITDA per store and PAT per store included in "Our Business - Our Strengths - Strong Historical Financial Results" on page 181 of the RHP, in the table highlighting key performance indicators was incorrect. Accordingly, the information on EBITDA per store and PAT per store on page 181 shall be replaced with the information set out below:

Particulars	Unit	For the financial year ended March 31, 2024	For the financial year ended March 31, 2023	For the financial year ended March 31, 2022
EBITDA per store	(₹ in million)	77.06	51.33	44.37
PAT per store	(₹ in million)	42.87	27.56	21.72

The above changes are to be read in conjunction with the RHP and accordingly their references in the RHP stand updated pursuant to this Corrigendum. Please note that the changes pursuant to this Corrigendum will also be included in the Prospectus as and when filed with the RoC, the SEBI and the Stock Exchanges.

The information in this Corrigendum supplements the RHP and updates the information in the RHP, as applicable. Investors should read the Corrigendum in conjunction with the RHP, before making an investment decision in the Offer.

All capitalised terms used in this Corrigendum shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning ascribed to them in the RHP.

Please note that the Corrigendum does not reflect all the changes that have occurred between the date of filing of the RHP with the RoC and the date hereof, and accordingly does not include all the changes and/or updates that will be included in the Prospectus.

THE EQUITY SHARES OF OUR COMPANY WILL GET LISTED ON MAIN BOARD PLATFORM OF BSE AND NSE

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision of the Price Band subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding a total of 10 Working Days. In case of force majeure, banking strike or similar unforeseen circumstances, our Company may, in consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of one Working Day, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, will be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the Book Running Lead Managers and at the terminals of the other members of the Syndicate and by intimation to the other Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Bank(s), as applicable SCSBs.

The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended (the "SCRR"), read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations. The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, wherein not more than 50% of the Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs") (the "QIB Portion"), provided that our Company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis by our Company, in consultation with the BRLMs, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations (the "Anchor Investor Portion"), of which one-third shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from the domestic Mutual Funds at or above the price at which allocation is made to Anchor Investors ("Anchor Investor Allocation Price"). In the event of under-subscription or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance Equity Shares shall be added to the QIB Portion (other than the Anchor Investor Portion) (the "Net QIB Portion"). Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price, and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 15% of the Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders ("Non-Institutional Portion"), in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, of which one-third of the Non-Institutional Portion shall be available for allocation to Bidders with an application size of more than ₹ 0.20 and up to ₹ 1.00 million and two-thirds of the Non-Institutional Portion shall be available for allocation to Bidders with an application size of more than ₹ 1.00 million and under-subscription in either of these two sub-categories of the Non-Institutional Portion may be allocated to Bidders in the other sub-category of the Non-Institutional Portion in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 35% of the Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Portion ("Retail Portion"), in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders (except Anchor Investors) shall mandatorily participate in the Offer only through the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process and shall provide details of their respective bank account including UPI ID in case of UPI Bidders in which the Bid Amount will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks ("SCSBs") or pursuant to the UPI Mechanism, as the case may be. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion through the ASBA process. For details, see "Offer Procedure" on page 359 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are

advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk. Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021, read with press release dated September 17, 2021 and CBDT circular no.7 of 2022, dated March 30, 2022 read with press release dated March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard.

Contents of the Memorandum of Association of our Company as regards its objects: For information on the main objects of our Company, please see the section "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 198 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, please see the section titled "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 396 of the RHP.

Liability of the members of our Company: Limited by shares
Amount of share capital of our Company and Capital structure: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of the Company is ₹ 2,000,000,000 divided into 200,000,000 Equity Shares of face value ₹ 10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of the Company is ₹ 1,180,000,000 divided into 118,000,000 Equity Shares of face value ₹ 10 each. For details, please see the section titled "Capital Structure" on page 85 of the RHP.

Names of signatories to the Memorandum of Association of our Company and the number of Equity Shares subscribed by them: The initial signatories to the Memorandum of Association of our Company are Anant Ganesh Gadgil, Vidyadhar Anant Gadgil, Saurabh Vidyadhar Gadgil and Parag Yashwant Gadgil. For details of the share capital history of our Company, please see the section titled "Capital Structure" on page 85 of the RHP.

Listing: The Equity Shares to be offered through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company received an in-principle approval from each of the BSE and the NSE for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to letters each dated July 3, 2024. For the purpose of the Offer, NSE is the Designated Stock Exchange. A signed copy of the RHP has been filed and the Prospectus will be filed with the RoC in accordance with Section 26(4) and 32 of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents that will be available for inspection from the date of the RHP up to the Bid/Offer Closing Date, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 396 of the RHP.

Disclaimer Clause of the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"): SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 339 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

Disclaimer Clause of NSE (Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 341 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of NSE.

Disclaimer Clause of BSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Red Herring Prospectus has been cleared or approved by BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 341 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of BSE.

General Risk: Investment in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares in the Offer have not been recommended or approved by the SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the RHP. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" on page 29 of the RHP.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS		REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER		COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER
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Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road Opposite Panel ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025 Maharashtra, India Telephone: +91 22 7193 4380 E-mail: png.ipo@motilaloswal.com Investor Grievance E-mail: moiaipredressal@motilaloswal.com Website: www.motilaloswalgroup.com Contact Person: Kunal Thakkar/ Sankita Ajinkya SEBI Registration No.: INM000011005	Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited) 801-804 Wing A Building No 3, Inspire BKC G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai - 400 051 Maharashtra, India Telephone: + 91 22 4009 4400 E-mail: png.ipo@nuvama.com Website: www.nuvama.com Investor Grievance e-mail: customerservice.mb@nuvama.com Contact Person: Manish Tejwani SEBI Registration No.: INM000013004	BOB Capital Markets Limited 1704, B Wing, 17 th Floor, Parinee Crescenzo, Plot No. C - 38/39 G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 Maharashtra, India Telephone: +91 22 6138 9353 E-mail: png.ipo@bobcaps.in Website: www.bobcaps.in Investor Grievance e-mail: investorgrievance@bobcaps.in Contact Person: Nivedika Chavan SEBI Registration No.: INM000009926	Bigshare Services Private Limited Office No S6-2, 6 th Floor, Pinnacle Business Park, Next to Ahura Centre, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400093 Telephone: +91 22 6263 8200 E-mail: ipo@bigshareonline.com Investor Grievance e-mail: investor@bigshareonline.com Website: www.bigshareonline.com Contact Person: Vinayak Morbale SEBI Registration No.: INR000001385	Investors may contact the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-offer or post-offer related grievances including non-receipt of letters of allotment, non-credit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode, etc. For all Offer related queries and for redressal of complaints, Investors may also write to the BRLMs.

AVAILABILITY OF THE RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the section titled "Risk Factors" on page 29 of the RHP, before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP shall be available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and on the website of the Company at www.pngjewellers.com and the websites of the Book Running Lead Managers, i.e. Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited, Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited) and BOB Capital Markets Limited at www.motilaloswalgroup.com, www.nuvama.com and www.bobcaps.in, respectively.

Availability of the Abridged Prospectus: A copy of the abridged prospectus shall be available on the website of the Company, the BRLMs and the Registrar to the Offer at www.pngjewellers.com, www.motilaloswalgroup.com, www.nuvama.com, www.bobcaps.in and www.bigshareonline.com, respectively.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORMS: Bid cum Application Forms can be obtained from the Registered Office of P N GADGIL JEWELLERS LIMITED, Telephone: +91 20 2443 5006; BRLMs: Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited, Telephone: +91 22 7193 4380; Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited), Telephone: +91 22 4009 4400 and BOB Capital Markets Limited, Telephone: +91 22 6138 9353; Syndicate Member: Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited), Tel: +91 22 4009 4400; Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited, Tel: +91 22 7193 4200 / +91 22 7193 4263 and at the select locations of the Sub-syndicate Members (as given below), SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. ASBA Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

Sub-Syndicate Members: Almondz Global Securities Limited, Anand Rath Share & Stock Brokers Ltd., ANS Pvt. Limited, Asit C Mehta, Axis Capital Limited, Axis Securities Limited, Centrum Broking Limited, Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Pvt.Ltd., Finward Technology Private Ltd., HDFC Securities Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, IFCI Financial Services Ltd., IIFL Capital Limited, Jhaveri Securities Ltd., JM Financial Services Limited, KJMC Capital Market Services Ltd., Kotak Securities Limited, LKP Securities Limited, Marwadi Shares & Finance, Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt. Ltd., Prabhudas Lilladher Private Limited, Pravin Ratilal Share & Stock Brokers Limited, Religare Securities Ltd., RR Equity Brokers Pvt. Limited, SBICAP Securities Ltd., Sharekhan Ltd., SMC Global Securities Ltd., and Yes Securities (India) Limited.

Escrow Collection Bank / Refund Bank: ICICI Bank Limited
Public Offer Account Bank: HDFC Bank Limited • Sponsor Banks: HDFC Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Limited

All capitalised terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

For P N GADGIL JEWELLERS LIMITED

On behalf of the Board of Directors

Sd/-

Hiranyamai Kulkarni
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place: Pune
Date: September 10, 2024

P N GADGIL JEWELLERS LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with RoC. The RHP shall be available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, on the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, on the website of our Company at www.pngjewellers.com and the websites of the Book Running Lead Managers, i.e. Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited, Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited) and BOB Capital Markets Limited at www.motilaloswalgroup.com, www.nuvama.com and www.bobcaps.in, respectively. Any potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section entitled "Risk Factors" on page 29 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision and instead rely on the RHP.

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FIRST PHASE OF VOTING NEXT WEEK

Ahead of polls, EC to J&K: Don't shift booths or cancel rallies, no preventive detentions

Bid to increase participation of candidates, voters

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10



DECISION 2024 J&K

IN AN attempt to increase participation in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, the Election Commission is learnt to have instructed the administration and security officials not to undertake unnecessary preventive detention of political leaders and workers, not to merge or shift polling



A PDP poll campaign underway at the Lal Chowk in Srinagar on Tuesday. PTI

booths citing security concerns, and not to cancel rallies at the last minute — all of which were seen in past elections.

According to EC sources, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar

EXPLAINED
Turnout in LS polls showed way

THE CONDUCT of the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir is in line with the undertaking given to the Supreme Court. The high turnout during the Lok Sabha elections in the UT has raised expectations of participation in the electoral process by both candidates and the electorate.

and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu told officials while visiting J&K last month that preventive action
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ED goes to court with fresh charges against Farooq in JKCA case

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

WITH DAYS to go for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a petition in a special court in Srinagar, urging it to take cognizance of fresh allegations against National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) case.

A positive order from the court could open the doors for



HC quashed chargesheet against Abdullah, others last month

the central agency to register a fresh case against Abdullah and prosecute him, despite the recent relief he got from the J&K High Court.

Last month, the J&K HC quashed the chargesheet filed by the ED under the Prevention of
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FRESH ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEBI CHIEF

Buch got crores via Agora, claims Cong; 3 firms say husband hired for expertise

In filings, M&M, Dr Reddy's & Pidilite reject preferential treatment charge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 10

STEPPING UP its attack on SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch, the Congress Tuesday alleged that she held 99 per cent shares in a company "actively providing advisory/consultancy services till date" and that her husband Dhalval Buch received Rs 4.78 crore as income from Mahindra & Mahindra while she "as a Whole Time Member of SEBI was adjudicating cases of the same group".

As the Congress levelled these new charges against Buch, three listed companies — Mahindra & Mahindra, Pidilite Industries, Dr Reddy's Laboratories — disclosed that they had hired Dhalval Buch as consultant or leadership coach during various periods and paid remunerations.

Market regulator SEBI did not respond to an email from *The Indian Express* for comments.

Addressing a press conference at the AIC headquarters in New Delhi, Pawan Khera of the Congress said the Hindenburg Research report had alleged that Buch held 99 per cent shares in a



SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch

GOVT & POLITICS

SEBI ON COMMITTEE AGENDA, BJP FLAGS POWER TO REVIEW ONLY IF FUNDS MISUSED PAGE 7

company called Agora Advisory Private Limited.

He said Agora Advisory is a private entity incorporated on May 7, 2013 and it claims to provide various types of advisory or consultancy services.

"Although, in her response, Madhabi Buch had claimed that the two consulting firms set up by her in Singapore and India — one of which is Agora Advisory Private Limited in India — became 'immediately dormant on her appointment with SEBI', the reality is that as of March 31, 2024, she still owns 99 per cent stake in the Indian entity which
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

AN EXPRESS SERIES PART-2

Israel jobs scheme needs reboot, with inputs on skills, better monitoring

Meanwhile, NSDC says Israel has again approached India to recruit another 10,000 construction workers



Workers at a manpower agency in Delhi's Dwarka, some ready to fly out. Ritu Sarin

RITU SARIN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

THE FIRST distress call Mritunjay Srivastava made was to the Indian Embassy in Tel Aviv. The 39-year-old had been selected for a construction job in Israel under a new bilateral scheme after passing a skill test.

Lured by average salaries of Rs 1.5-2 lakh, and undeterred by the Gaza war, Srivastava soon flew to Israel in May. Within a month, however, he was back in his village in Bihar's Siwan with the Embassy's help.

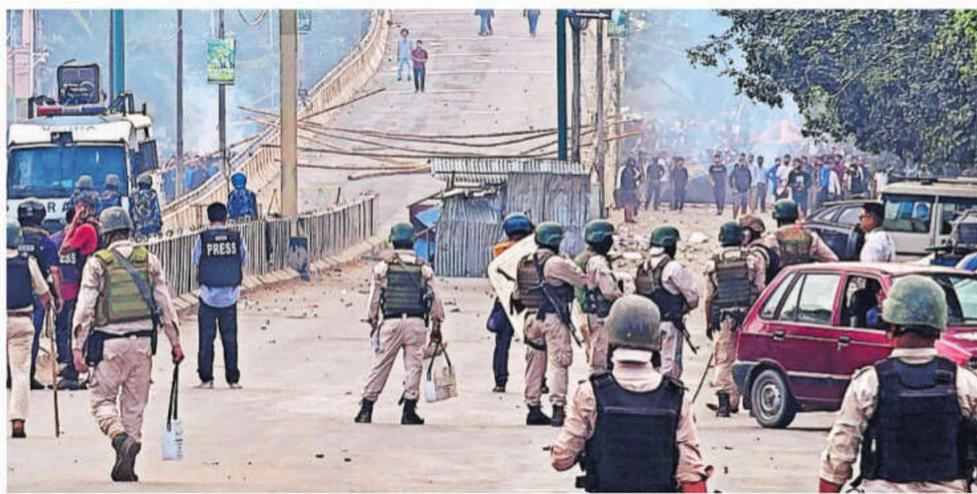
On Tuesday, *The Indian Express* reported how the jobs scheme — launched to plug the labour shortage in Israel's construction sector following the ban on Palestinian workers — has begun to unravel, mainly due to glaring gaps in the assessment and selection process that often led to skill mismatch: a case of over-promise and under-delivery at work sites. Srivastava is among the around 500 workers in the scheme who are said to

have already returned home. Given how both sides have thrown their weight behind the programme, the task ahead is cut out, say Israeli construction executives and Indian manpower agencies who spoke to *The Indian Express*.

Some of them point to the Sri Lankan model of providing additional training in skills for a couple of weeks before departure. And there are suggestions from Indian agencies to send foremen and supervisors along with workers for better communication and efficiency.

These suggestions assume significance given that Israel has approached India again to carry out another recruitment drive for 10,000 construction workers, according to a statement issued by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) on Tuesday.

As *The Indian Express* reported yesterday, NSDC said the second round of recruitment for construction workers is slated to take place in Maharashtra. A team of assessors from Israel's
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Police fire teargas shells to disperse students protesting after a fresh wave of violence in Imphal on Tuesday. AP

Manipur on the boil again: Protests after fresh violence, Internet snapped in valley districts

JIMMY LEIVON & SUKRITA BARUAH
IMPHAL, GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 10

INTERNET SERVICES have been snapped for five days in the valley districts of Manipur and indefinite curfew imposed in three of these districts amidst protests following a renewed escalation

Rape FIR in J&K against Wing Commander on junior officer's complaint

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 10

A WING Commander of the Indian Air Force (IAF), posted at Air Force Station, Srinagar, has been booked for rape by the Jammu and Kashmir Police following allegations of sexual assault levelled against him by a woman officer also posted at the same station.

The FIR was filed at the Budgam police station on September 8 under Section 376

of violence in the state since September 1.

Through an order, the Manipur Home Department has snapped not just mobile internet services but also lease lines, VSATs, broadbands and VPN services for five days in the valley districts of Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Kakching.

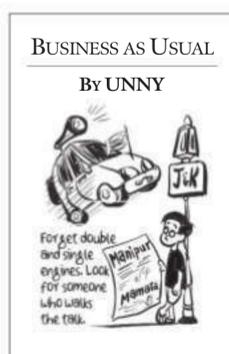
Significantly, the Home

Department had initially issued an order for suspending internet services in the entire state and then issued an amended order in the evening, restricting the move to these five districts.

It states, "There is apprehension that some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speech and hate video messages inciting the pas-

sions of the public, which might have serious repercussions for the law-and-order situation in the State of Manipur."

It goes on to cite an "imminent danger of loss of life and/or damage to public/private property, and widespread disturbances to public tranquillity and communal harmony, as a result of inflammatory material and
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



RESEARCH PUSH: GOVT INVITES TOP INSTITUTES TO TIE UP WITH VARSITIES P 8

20 km daily free travel each way on NH for vehicles with satnav system

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

THE MINISTRY of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Tuesday issued a notification that will enable free journey of up to 20 km a day in each direction on national highways and expressways for vehicles equipped with the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).

Through the notification, the ministry amended the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008 to include provisions re-



Move aims to reduce congestion at toll plazas

lated to GNSS-based electronic toll collection. The objective of the move is to reduce congestion

at highway toll plazas and charge the toll on the basis of actual distance travelled.

"A driver, owner or person in charge of a mechanical vehicle other than National Permit Vehicle who makes use of the same section of national highway, permanent bridge, bypass of tunnel, as the case may be, shall be levied a zero-user fee up to 20 km of journey in each direction in a day under Global Navigation Satellite System based user fee collection system and if the distances travelled is more than 20 km, the fee will be
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Month after rape and murder of doctor, Kolkata is a city at the barricades

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

PREMANKUR BISWAS
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 10

EVERYWHERE IN Kolkata, there are barricades — the mini barricades that can easily be jumped over in markets and street corners, the formidable 7-foot-tall barricades in front of government buildings, and the bamboo barricades that no one takes seriously. But during major rallies, even

the most formidable of these barricades come down — as has happened several times since August 9, when the city rose in protest against the rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar Hospital.

The city has seen more than 300 major rallies over the last month, many of these midnight events organised by women, for whom the incident of August 9 had rudely challenged their faith in their city. Kolkata now is a city that's standing vigil, pushing against the barricades.

On September 9, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee chas-

tised the protesters for not going home. "If you are out on the roads every night protesting, a lot of people get disturbed too... It has been more than a month, I would urge you to return to festive spirit," she said at a meeting. The irony of the Chief Minister's remarks wasn't lost on anyone, coming as they did from someone whose road to power was paved with protests and demonstrations, from Singur to Nandigram and Lalgarh.

Though Kolkata has reclaimed the protest tag it earned during the Left era of 1990s, this



Doctors protest near Swasthya Bhawan in Kolkata Tuesday, declining to resume work. Partha Paul

time the anger is more visceral, real. The leisurely 'Cholche na, Cholbe na' (We won't let this happen) that rang through the city every time the trade unions struck work has given way to a more urgent 'Bichar Chai!' (We want justice).

"It is the worst of times, it is the best of times for Kolkata," says Prachetash Samadhar, 40, a financial consultant, of the spontaneous protests that have broken out across the city.

On September 8, his mother Mousumi Samadhar, 73, a retired school teacher, walked

from South Kolkata's Kalighat to Rashbehari Avenue, despite her aching knees. "She was not sure if she would be able to make it, but she did. My heart swells with pride and love when I see my mother and hundreds of other senior citizens of my city out there, walking mile after mile, raising their voices against the systemic wrong," says Prachetash.

He claims these protests are unlike anything the city has seen before. "I have always known my mother to be a politically conscious woman. But for as long as

I can remember, I have never seen her go out and be part of *mitchil* (protest marches)," he adds.

Abdul Razzaq, who owns a cosmetics stall in the bustling New Market area of Kolkata, one of the main shopping destinations in the city, is hoping the city will move on but doesn't want people to forget.

"People are not in the mood to shop at all. Usually, during this festive season, I earn around Rs 10,000 a day. But this time, I have barely earned half that amount. This weekend, sales picked up a
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

20 km free travel on NH

charged for actual distance travelled," reads the notification. Effectively, this means if one is taking a National Highway to office, there will be no toll to pay if the distance is less than 20 km a day — one way — in a GNSS-enabled vehicle.

The GNSS will provide distance-based tolling where users will pay only for the stretch they have travelled on a National Highway. Also, vehicles equipped with the GNSS will be allowed to pass through toll plazas without stopping for toll payment or FASTag scanning. They will use exclusive earmarked lanes that will not have boom barriers at toll plazas.

The GNSS device — called the on-board unit — will be non-transferable and fitted in the vehicle for user-fee collection. However, if vehicles that are not equipped with GNSS enter the GNSS-exclusive lanes, they will have to pay double the toll as penalty. GNSS will have advance reading, identification, and enforcement equipment for vehicles so that valid vehicles get a free-flow pass.

On July 2, Indian Highways Management Company Limited, a company promoted by the NHAI, issued a global tender for construction of free-flow GNSS lanes at toll plazas to implement GNSS-based electronic toll collection. The tender has not been finalised yet.

FROM PAGE ONE EC to J&K: Don't shift booths or cancel rallies

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

should not be taken in a partisan manner and only those with criminal history should be taken into detention.

In the past, leaders and workers of parties have been taken into preventive detention on the eve of polling. Former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti raised the issue during the Lok Sabha elections in May, alleging that her party workers and polling agencies had been detained.

The EC is learnt to have told J&K officials to put a stop to undue arrests around polling day, except for those with anti-social or criminal backgrounds.

Another change this time is that the EC has instructed officials not to merge or move polling booths. In earlier elections, booths would be changed a day or two before polling, leading to confusion among voters, an EC source said.

To encourage participation of can-

didates, the EC has also instructed the administration not to cancel rallies and other events at the last minute and to grant permission for events in a timely manner.

When contacted, CEC Rajiv Kumar told The Indian Express: "This time, it is centred around enthusiasm and participation across every facet and layer of electioneering i.e. parties, voters, candidates, campaigning, etc. It is the real jashn-e-jamhooriyat and deepening of democracy."

According to EC data, J&K parties and candidates had lodged 3,034 requests seeking permissions for rallies/events, of which 2,223 were accepted and 327 rejected as of Tuesday.

In Haryana, which will vote on October 8, there have been 655 requests, of which 428 were approved.

J&K is set to vote in its first Assembly elections in 10 years, starting with the first phase on September

18, and the second and third phases on September 25 and October 1, respectively. These are the first Assembly elections in J&K since its special status was revoked and the state divided into two Union territories in 2019.

In the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year, J&K recorded a 35-year-high voter turnout at 58.58%, though it was lower than the 2014 Assembly polls' turnout of 65.52%.

Apart from the three recognised state parties (NC, PDP and J&K National Panthers Party), there are 32 registered unrecognised political parties in J&K.

Referring to the increase in independent candidates and smaller parties in the fray this time, former Chief Minister and NC vice-president Omar Abdullah earlier alleged that the BJP had struck a deal with some of them. Abdullah is facing seven Independents and a candidate from a smaller party in Ganderbal constituency.

Buch got crores via Agora, claims Congress

has been actively providing advisory/consultancy services till date," Khara said.

He alleged that in 2016-17, 2019-2020, to as late as 2023-24, as a Whole Time Member of SEBI and later as its chairperson, Buch received a total of Rs 2.95 crore through Agora Advisory Private Limited with 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 being the exception years.

He named the companies that availed consultancy service from Agora Advisory Private Limited between 2016 and 2024 — Mahindra & Mahindra, Dr. Reddy's, Pidilite, ICICI, Sembcorp and Visu Leasing and Finance.

"Strangely, of the total 2.95 crore received by Agora Advisory Private Limited, 2.59 crore has come from one entity alone, the Mahindra & Mahindra Group... If this was not shocking enough, the SEBI Chairperson's husband, Mr. Dhaval Buch, received 4.78 crore as income in a personal capacity from the Mahindra & Mahindra Group," Khara alleged.

This comes at a time when his wife, as a Whole Time Member of SEBI, was adjudicating cases of the same group, he alleged.

Responding to the Congress allegation that Dhaval Buch received Rs 4.78 crore from M&M, Mahindra & Mahindra said, "Mahindra Group hired Dhaval Buch in 2019 specifically for his expertise in supply chain and sourcing, soon after he retired as Unilever's Global Chief Procurement Officer."

In an exchange filing, M&M said he joined Mahindra Group almost 3 years before Madhabi Puri Buch was ap-

pointed as SEBI chairperson. "Compensation has been specifically and only for Buch's supply chain expertise and management acumen, based on his global experience at Unilever," it said.

He has spent most of his time at Bristlecone, a subsidiary which is a supply chain consulting company, M&M said. "Buch is currently on the Board of Bristlecone. Compensation has been specifically and only for Mr Buch's supply chain expertise and management acumen, based on his global experience at Unilever," it said. Referring to the SEBI orders relating to M&M Group, it said, "none of the five SEBI orders or approvals referenced in the allegations are relevant. Three out of the five approvals or orders of SEBI do not pertain to the company or any of its subsidiaries."

"One was a fast-track rights issue, which did not require any approval from SEBI. One was an order issued in March 2018, well before Dhaval started working with the Mahindra Group. We categorically state that we have not, at any point, requested SEBI for any preferential treatment. We consider these allegations false and misleading in nature," M&M said.

In an exchange filing, Dr Reddy's Laboratories said it "engaged the services of Dhaval Buch of Agora Advisory Private Ltd for leadership coaching for a total remuneration of Rs. 6,58,000."

"We routinely engage external coaches to enable significant role transitions of our leaders," it said.

"The assignment started and ended well before Madhabi Buch's term as

SEBI Chairperson. Any suggestion that the company was treated differently by SEBI as a result of this would be baseless and mala fide," Dr Reddy's said.

"Dhaval Buch's work in India and globally for Unilever was well-suited to coach the identified leader in our company, and the remuneration paid to Buch was in line with that of other coaches," it said.

In an exchange filing, Pidilite Industries said, "The company engages with multiple partners and consultants who are renowned professionals in their respective fields. As part of its routine requirements, the company in FY 2019-20 had engaged Agora Advisory's Dhaval Buch, a globally renowned supply chain and procurement professional, for his services in these areas."

"We further state that there have never been any enquiries or cases from SEBI vis-à-vis the company," Pidilite said.

On September 2, the Congress had accused Madhabi Puri Buch of "holding an Office of Profit at ICICI Bank", and receiving an income to the tune of Rs 16.80 crore between 2017 and 2024 after she took over as Whole Time Member of SEBI in 2017. However, ICICI Bank, in statement to the stock exchanges, said that the bank or its group companies have "not paid any salary or granted any ESOPs" to Buch after her retirement, other than her retiral benefits.

Visu Leasing and Sembcorp, also named by the Congress, are unlisted companies. The two firms did not reply to emails seeking comment.

Muizzu set to visit India

personnel from the Maldives earlier this year. The last one was in Male in March last year, when then President Ibrahim Solih was in office, months before Muizzu took over.

India and the Maldives witnessed a slide in bilateral ties after Muizzu won the elections on his 'India Out' poll plank last November. Seen as pro-China, Muizzu asked India to withdraw its military personnel soon after assuming office. Last December, the Muizzu government also decided not to renew a 2019 MoU with India for hydrographic surveying.

In February, India agreed to pull out 80-odd military personnel stationed in the Maldives between March 10 and May 10. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said two helicopters and a Dornier aircraft in the Maldives would be operated by "competent Indian technical personnel" who would replace the "present personnel".

After the replacement of personnel was completed, Maldives Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer visited India in May. A month later, Muizzu attended Modi's swearing-in ceremony. And in August, in the first high-level visit to the Maldives since Muizzu was elected, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar went to Male to discuss all areas of bilateral cooperation. Jaishankar framed the Maldives as "one of the cornerstones of our 'Neighborhood First' policy... of our Vision SAGAR, as well as of our commitment to the Global South."

"To put it succinctly in the words of my Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for India, neighbourhood is a priority and, in the neighbourhood, the Maldives is a priority..." he said.

Kolkata, month after rape-murder

bit and I am desperately hoping that the mood of the city shifts. But I also don't want people to forget what happened. So I am feeling guilty," says the 24-year-old.

Dipak Chatterjee, 57, a building contractor in North Kolkata's Bangur Avenue, says it's heartening that the protests have managed to stay largely apolitical. "As much as the ruling party would like to dismiss these protests as politically motivated, this is spontaneous and I haven't seen anything like this before," he says.

On September 4, a day before the scheduled hearing of the case in the Supreme Court (which was later postponed), Chatterjee visited RG Kar College at about 10 pm with his 20-year-old daughter to register his protest. There were thousands like him that night.

"We were overwhelmed. Every street corner had a shrine. There were women taking out marches late into the night. I was glad I did this with my daughter," he says.

South Kolkata's Jadavpur 8B bus stand has been the protest hub for the past few weeks. From students to activists, hundreds of people have been squatting here and made it their home for the

Reclaim the Night protests.

Sharanya Agarwal is at the bus stand to fight for her husband, a doctor at Kolkata's National Medical College. "We still have hope that despite the opposition of the ruling party, this people's movement will overcome everything. We are still hitting the roads in that hope. The Supreme Court is still hearing the case, let's see what happens, things may change at the last moment, but we will not stop protesting till we get justice. This protest will continue."

On September 8, Sunil Mahato, 58, was among a group of rickshaw pullers who were part of a rally in Central Kolkata. "I am here for my wife, daughter and sister who are back home in Bihar. We are all here alone. We will not stop till that poor girl gets justice," he says.

At a rally of domestic workers at Jadavpur in south Kolkata, Shyama Shikari, 42, made her first public speech in front of hundreds. She claims she was nervous but she "had to speak". "I am raising a daughter too. I wanted her to be a doctor. But now I don't. What if she were to meet the same fate?" she says.

Israel jobs scheme needs a reboot, with inputs on skills, better monitoring

Population, Immigration, and Border Authority (PIBA) is expected to visit India in the coming week to carry out the skill tests, NSDC said.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Srivastava, the worker from Siwan, said, "I was tested for my skill in shuttering, but once I arrived at the construction site of a commercial tower in Ashkelon, I was assigned jobs like welding, tiling and sweeping. There was no point in protesting since the Chinese supervisor could not understand my problems. In all, I worked for 12 days and had no work for 18 days. Towards the end, I had an altercation with the Chinese supervisor who told me to return to India."

Srivastava's case was shared by the Indian Embassy to Indian Gorkhaz Company, an NGO working for welfare of Indian citizens and run by Israel-based Naren Thapa. Before taking the flight home, Srivastava recorded a short video asking Indian workers without the required skills not to come to Israel. Several such videos and SOS messages are now doing the rounds on workers' WhatsApp chat groups and websites

of such NGOs in Israel.

"There is a serious problem brewing here," Thapa, who took Srivastava to the airport, told The Indian Express. "I get distress calls from builders who complain about the lack of skills and discipline of Indian workers, mostly those coming through the G2G route and from panic-stricken workers. I would advise all those who may have been selected to understand that once they join duty on construction sites, they have to match the working methodology of this country," he said.

G2G (Government-to-Government) through NSDC and B2B (Business-to-Business) under the Ministry of External Affairs are the two pathways identified for this bilateral scheme. But now, the mismatch in skills has led to the Israeli government allowing those brought for construction to work in other sectors — even as the Indian side attributed the rerouting to new openings emerging in related sectors.

Responding earlier to queries on the first phase of recruitment from The Indian Express, an NSDC official

said, "It has been proposed by the Israeli side that the candidates may be moved to other sectors related to construction only i.e. infrastructure and renovations as there are vacancies in these sectors also, subject to the consent of the candidates..."

The NSDC official also pointed out that Israeli "assessors" were present when professional "tests" were conducted for candidates in India and that those selected were put through "pre-departure orientation training."

In Israel, tracing the origins of the scheme, Igal Slovik, CEO of Israel Builders Association (IBA), recalled that once the spectre of a paralysed construction sector was upon them after the Hamas attack last October, the association estimated the need for 40,000 foreign workers.

"We did not want to put all our eggs in one basket so decided that we should urgently recruit, say, 20,000 workers from India and maybe, 5,000 each from Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan," said Slovik, who was among the office-bearers who visited India for talks with NSDC

ED goes to court with fresh charges against Farooq

Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Abdullah and some other former office-bearers of the JKCA on the ground that the central agency did not have jurisdiction in the case. The court said the ED's case was based on a CBI chargesheet which had prosecuted the accused for criminal breach of trust and criminal conspiracy. The predicate offence was criminal breach of trust, which is not a scheduled offence under the PMLA, the court observed.

The court, however, gave the ED the liberty to file a fresh FIR if it found that a predicate scheduled offence under PMLA had been committed. The PMLA has a schedule which lists the offences for which money laundering investigations can be carried out.

In a fresh plea filed last week, the ED has said the CBI did not invoke Section 411 of the Indian Penal Code (or the Ranbir Penal Code), which involves a scheduled offence under the PMLA. It has urged the court to take cognizance, based on evidence presented by the CBI and ED. If the court takes cognizance, the ED can either register a fresh case or file another chargesheet against Abdullah. IPC Section 411 deals with the offence of dishonestly receiving or retaining stolen property. It states that whoever dishonestly receives or retains stolen property, knowing or having reason to believe it to be

stolen, can be punished with imprisonment of up to three years, or a fine, or both.

Additionally, the ED has also filed a special leave petition in the Supreme Court against the HC's decision.

In its earlier chargesheet, the ED said that between 2006 and January 2012, when Abdullah was the JKCA president, he misused his position to make illegal appointments of office-bearers to whom he gave financial powers for the purpose of laundering funds.

"Investigation also reveals that Dr Farooq Abdullah was instrumental as well as beneficiary of the laundered funds of JKCA," said the chargesheet, adding that Rs 45 crore was diverted from the JKCA's coffers. Besides Abdullah, the ED also named former JKCA general secretary Md Saleem Khan and former treasurers Ahsan Ahmad Mirza and Mir Manzoor Gazanffer among others. Mirza and Gazanffer had challenged the ED chargesheet in the J&K HC.

"The accused Ahsan Ahmad Mirza transferred huge amount into his personal bank accounts and then these amounts were further transferred/ paid out, a part withdrawn in cash. Out of the laundered amounts, Rs 1.31 crore was received by Mir Manzoor Gazanffer, who was member of a finance committee of JKCA, between year 2006 to

2009, which was arbitrarily constituted by Dr Farooq Abdullah, the then president of JKCA," the chargesheet said.

In 2004, the then duly elected treasurer Mukhtar Kanth resigned and Abdullah immediately appointed Mirza as treasurer without holding elections as mandated under the JKCA Rules, 1957, the ED said.

"In the JKCA elections held in year 2006, Mir Manzoor Gazanffer was elected as treasurer... and there was a brief court stay upon his acting as treasurer of JKCA when Dr Farooq Abdullah continued Ahsan Ahmad Mirza as the treasurer of JKCA. Upon vacation of stay the same year, Mir Manzoor Gazanffer was not given charge of treasurer and instead a finance committee consisting of Ahsan Ahmad Mirza and Mir Manzoor Gazanffer was constituted by Dr Farooq Abdullah, and both these persons were empowered to jointly operate JKCA bank accounts," the chargesheet said.

According to the ED, Mirza and Gazanffer opened a joint personal account with the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, to which crores of rupees belonging to the JKCA were transferred. These funds were then either withdrawn in cash or transferred to other bank accounts, including an account held by Mirza's firm M/s Mirza Sons, the ED said.

Fresh violence sparks protests in Manipur

false rumours" circulated through social media and messaging services. It states that the decision has been taken "to thwart the design and activities of anti-national and anti-social elements".

Mobile internet services in Manipur had been restored on December 3 last year, after being suspended since May 3 — except for a few days in September. It had come with a caveat, instructing users to "refrain from activities which may cause situations which will warrant for suspension of Internet services in future". Broadband services had been conditionally restored following a government order in July last year. The current internet suspension comes 16 months after the violence had first started on May 3.

The district administrations of both Imphal East and Imphal West had also imposed indefinite curfew starting from 11:00 am on Tuesday, citing "the developing law and order situation".

The Imphal West administration has restricted "the movement of any person(s) outside their respective residences" until further orders, exempting essential services and the media. A similar order was also issued by the Thoubal district administration.

Further, the state education

department ordered that all schools and colleges remain closed on Wednesday and Thursday. Scheduled exams by the Manipur University have been postponed until further notice.

Manipur Governor Lakshman Acharya's office also issued a statement on Tuesday expressing "deep concern." A statement issued by the Raj Bhawan read, "The Governor has said that violence is not the solution to any problem... In his bid to solve the problem with the help of the public, the Hon'ble Governor is constantly speaking to public leaders, students and the people."

Eleven people have been killed in different incidents in Manipur since September 11, prompting students to hold massive protests in the valley areas, particularly in Thoubal and Imphal.

Speaking to reporters in Imphal Tuesday, IGP (Administration) K Jayanta Singh said, "The crisis is very serious now. It is time when security forces are required to meet any attack in the fringe areas. The current agitation of the students has forced the deployment of security forces and spending of resources on dealing with the agitators."

"During such difficult times, when security forces are needed

to commit to protecting lives and properties in fringe areas from attacks, miscreants and anti-socials are taking opportunities of such an agitation to target security forces," he said.

A large number of protesters had camped overnight in the Khwairamband women's market in Imphal after having given a 24-hour ultimatum for their demands, which include removal of central forces, the DGP, and the state's Security Advisor. They also want the unified command of the security forces of the state to be handed over to CM N Biren Singh and are pushing the demand for the abrogation of Suspension of Operation agreements with Kuki-Zo militant groups.

On Tuesday afternoon, in defiance of the curfew that had already been imposed, the protesters began to move towards the high security zone in Imphal, which includes the Raj Bhawan and the Chief Minister's official residence. This resulted in a confrontation between protesters and the police and security forces in Khwairamband that lasted several hours, in which security forces deployed tear gas shells. Over 60 protesters were injured and shifted to RIMS Imphal West for treatment, confirmed hospital authorities.

Wing Commander booked for rape in J&K

part of the FIR, the woman officer has alleged that she was forced to perform a sexual act on him after the New Year's Party held at the Officers' Mess, Air Force Station, Srinagar, on December 31, 2023.

She has alleged that the sexual assault took place in a room at around 2 am on January 1 after the Wing Commander asked her to come to a room to receive a New Year gift.

The officer has accused senior IAF officers of the station of not taking her complaint seriously.

"It took two months for Station to assemble an Internal Committee (IC)... on April 2, 2024, Internal Committee assembled. The bias of Station authorities to aid the sexual offender was very heartbreaking for me... Medical examination was not done till the time I insisted multiple times. It was done on the last day of the investigation by the Internal

Committee," her complaint stated.

According to the complainant, she urged the Internal Committee to summon a witness who had been made to "run away" from the camp area before giving his statement. But the Internal Committee, her complaint stated, did not do so despite being provided "all facts and bringing out lies and contradictions" of the "tutored witnesses".

According to the complainant, the committee later said it is "inconclusive that the incident happened or not" because of "lack of eyewitness". The investigation, she said, ended on May 15 and "till date no action has been taken on anyone and no intimation has been given to me".

The woman officer alleged that she was forced to approach the J&K Police to lodge an FIR after finding that no action was be-

ing taken by the IAF authorities.

The Public Relations Officer of the IAF in New Delhi did not respond to an email, seeking comments on the FIR and the allegations of the woman officer.

Colonel Amit Kumar (retd), counsel for the woman officer, said it has to be understood how much courage is required to report such incidents.

"She is a junior officer and not expected to know the existing laws and actions. The Commanding Officer has an important role while dealing with officers of such seniority. I was shocked when the victim reported to me about all such acts and harassments. There should be no compromise with the dignity of women. My advice to the IAF authorities would be that she should be detached from the present unit in order to keep impartiality alive," he said.

feel India too needs to do what the Sri Lankans did when their workers were faced with a similar adjustment problem: they need to have one or two weeks pre-training in their specific skills before they land in Israel. And what has happened should not be looked upon as a problem but a challenge," he said.

It's a line that companies recruiting through the B2B pathway are already tapping. In Delhi, candidates "cleared" by leading manpower recruitment company, Dynamic Staffing Services, are put through two-day training, including a crash course in Hebrew. The candidates have to also show that they have experience of 5 years of working on construction sites in other countries.

"The government should also decide to send Indian supervisors and foremen with every batch due to the hardships the Indian workers have been facing in Israel," said Vijay D'Souza, Senior Manager of Mangaluru-based 4 Corners Manpower Agency which has sent 30-40 workers with construction experience abroad to Israel.

Yet, companies handling B2B recruitment admit that their dispatch

of workers has reduced to a "trickle". And G2G workers, who spoke to The Indian Express from Israel, say hardly any flights carrying Indian workers were landing in Tel Aviv now.

Undeterred, ready to fly

But that has hardly affected the line of workers in search of the Israel dream, as The Indian Express found during a visit to the head office of Dynamic Staffing in Delhi's Dwarka.

Dynamic Staffing is one of the 11 companies selected by Israel for recruiting construction workers directly through a list of 168 HR firms under the B2B route. And this newspaper came across several workers, including a batch from Gujarat, who were getting ready to fly to Tel Aviv.

They included 28-year-old Ashutosh Kumar Gupta from Delhi who said the expenses — ticket, charges for paperwork and certificates — were high. "But this is because the salary being offered is much higher. I have worked as an office boy and storekeeper in Saudi Arabia where I was earning Rs 28,000 a month. In Tel Aviv, I can easily earn more than Rs 1,50,000," he said.

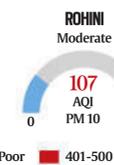
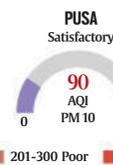
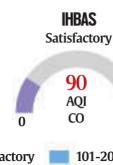
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MIN: 24
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HEAVY RAIN, WATERLOGGING

PWD received over 1,200 complaints regarding potholes since August



In the last 10 days, the department has received over 300 complaints. Archive

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

WITH HEAVY rainfall resulting in frequent waterlogging in the city, the public works department (PWD) of Delhi has received more than 1,200 complaints regarding roads with potholes since August. The situation has especially worsened in the last 10 days with over 300 such complaints received.

Officials said in August, the department received around 940 complaints regarding potholes, of which around 200 are pending. This month, the department has so far received 345 such complaints, of which 184 are pending.

Some of the major complaints have been received regarding Akshardham to Mayur Vihar Extension till Noida mor, Ring Road, Chandgiram Akhara red light to Kashmere Gate ISBT, Aurobindo Marg to Press Enclave road cut, South Extension flyover leading up to Moolchand as well as Lajpat Nagar flyover to Ashram Chowk.

The department has also received complaints regarding road stretches in Outer Delhi, Dwarka mor to Najafgarh, Rohini, Burari and others.

"I travel to Delhi and Noida via the Akshardham-Noida link stretch daily for work... The condition of stretch has gotten worse, especially for two-wheeler users... the stretch is extremely difficult and dangerous. Even travelling on a speed limit under 40 kmph is dangerous on this stretch, as it is filled with potholes," said Yogesh Singh, a resident of East Delhi.

"The Bhikaji Cama Place stretch, which connects to Safdarjung hospital and AIIMS and goes straight towards Noida, sees heavy traffic even during non-peak hours," said Shiv Kumar, who lives in Dwarka.

A senior official said, "Several roads are to be repaired... once the tender process work is completed, repair work will start... But wherever we receive complaints regarding potholes, we repair it with patch work, as pothole repair

is an ongoing process..."

"Last year, there was a fund issue due to which work could not take place. After that the Model Code of Conduct for the Lok Sabha polls came into force and now the monsoon is here," the official added.

Officials said the department inspects such stretches daily and wherever cracks, broken patches or potholes are visible, the same are filled immediately. "Besides, the number of potholes increase during monsoon due to waterlogging... this year, the city has seen unprecedented rainfall..." an official said, adding that aggressive repair work will start once monsoon is over.

Meanwhile, the department has received 1,500 complaints regarding broken surface of roads, damaged footpaths, dug-up roads, encroachment on drains and broken dividers. Among these, 600 complaints are pending. The PWD has also received 1,600 complaints related to streetlights since August, of which 600 are pending.

Lok Nayak Hospital to get new waiting rooms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

DELHI HEALTH Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj on Tuesday announced the construction of waiting rooms at Lok Nayak Hospital (LNJH) for attendants of patients to further improve the healthcare services.

On a surprise inspection to the hospital, Bhardwaj was informed of the need for a separate waiting room for the patients' attendants, which can be constructed with each ward. The minister went on to assure the hospital administration that the process of construction will be initiated soon.

Bhardwaj also took stock of

the hospital's preparedness to face patients diagnosed with dengue and other water-borne diseases. "We have come to Lok Nayak hospital on a surprise inspection to see the preparations for dealing with the patients suffering from dengue," he said.

Bhardwaj, who spoke to a patient diagnosed with monkeypox, said: "We have gathered information about a patient who has been confirmed to be suffering from monkeypox. This patient has a travel history. So, it is believed that he got this infection when he was outside the country. Right now, the patient has been kept in isolation in the disaster management ward here. His condition is said to be stable."

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PRAGATI MAIDAN TUNNEL ARBITRATION

Atishi objects to L-G appointing spl counsel without informing her

MALLICA JOSHI & JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

DELHI LAW and Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Atishi has raised an objection to the appointment of a special counsel without informing her, in the arbitration matter in relation to the Pragati Maidan Tunnel, constructed by Larsen & Toubro (L&T). Delhi government sources said that senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani was appointed as the special counsel by the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) last month. Earlier this year, the PWD had sent multiple notices to the construction major, raising questions over the construction and quality of the six-lane tunnel and asked it to deposit Rs 500 crore for "serious technical and design deficiencies".

Calling the appointment null and void while alleging that due process of appointment was not followed and a file for the engagement of a special council not put up before her, the minister wrote to the principal secretary (PWD) directing that Jethmalani not appear in the matter, The Indian Express has learnt. In her communication to the principal secretary, Atishi also raised issues of alleged conflict of interest as Jethmalani has earlier appeared for the Centre and the L-G in unrelated matters, it has been learnt.

Atishi also wrote, it has been learnt, that the Delhi government standing counsel had requested PWD to engage a senior counsel in the matter, since it involved a high-stakes project, but did not receive a response. When contacted for a comment, a source at Raj Niwas said, "The appointment had been made as per extant rules and the powers conferred upon the Delhi L-G." Jethmalani, meanwhile, said, "Atishi's contentions are totally

misconceived. There is no conflict of interest in this matter whatsoever." Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Atishi said the elected government cannot be bypassed in this matter. "This is a transferred subject and any decision regarding it cannot be taken by bypassing the elected government and therefore, the appointment of Jethmalani is void ab initio," she added.

"It is not a vigilance matter, or a services matter that would fall under the category of a reserved subject. Since it is a transferred subject, the decision lies with the elected government and the L-G should have acted as per the aid and advice of the Delhi government," she said.

In response to Atishi's note, the department wrote that it had written to the Law Department on the issue, which said it had not framed any guidelines for the appointment of a special counsel and advised the department to obtain the concurrence of the finance department and the opinion of the L-G. Atishi is also the Delhi Finance Minister.

The department also said that in case there was need for any change in the procedure for the appointment of special counsel, the Law Department would have to amend the guidelines.

The Pragati Maidan Tunnel was inaugurated in 2022, but has run into trouble routinely since because of seepage and water-logging issues. The 1.3-km long tunnel and the nearby underpasses were aimed at providing hassle-free and seamless connectivity between Central, Southeast and New Delhi. The project cost Rs 777 crore.

Delhi Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, meanwhile, has written to the chief secretary, stating that despite asking for the files related to the project and the action taken twice, he is yet to receive the documents.

BJP trying to dismiss govt through back door by imposing President's Rule: AAP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

AAM AADMI PARTY (AAP) leaders on Tuesday accused the BJP of conspiring to topple the Arvind Kejriwal government through the "back door" by imposing the President's Rule in Delhi.

A memorandum by Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta, was submitted to President Droupadi Murmu on August 30, seeking dismissal of the AAP government in Delhi keeping in mind the "paralysis of governance" in the national capital. The memorandum was also signed by seven BJP MLAs and one former MLA.

On September 6, the director of the President's Secretariat acknowledged the receipt of the letter and said that it has been forwarded to the Ministry of Home

Affairs (MHA) for "appropriate attention".

Speaking to mediapersons, Gupta said, "A delegation of BJP had met the President on August 30. We handed over a memorandum to her, informing her about the government paralysis in Delhi - over 50 people have died during the monsoon, the roads are in a bad condition, the sewage system has collapsed, no Cabinet session has been held in the last five months, the CM is in jail, so no files can be signed, while Union government's schemes are not being implemented in Delhi."

He also accused the government of violating the Constitution by not forming the Sixth Delhi Finance Commission and not presenting before the Assembly 11 Comptroller and Auditor General reports that Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena had earlier accused the AAP of sitting on. "The Delhi Jal



Vijender Gupta, Atishi

Board is drowning in a debt of Rs 73,000 crore and the Delhi Skill Entrepreneurship University has seen a scam involving Rs 1,000 crore. Political appointments have been made at exorbitant salaries of Rs 3.5 lakh per month," Gupta claimed.

Following this, Cabinet Minister Atishi said the BJP is making attempts to dismiss the elected government through the back door. "Its (BJP's) only job is to topple the elected governments of the Opposition," she said in a statement.

"If the BJP hatches a conspiracy to topple the government of Arvind Kejriwal, the people of Delhi will give a befitting reply to the BJP in the upcoming elections. Today, they have eight MLAs in the Delhi Assembly, if President's Rule is imposed, I can say with certainty that the BJP will get zero seats next time," she said, challenging the BJP to impose President's Rule in Delhi.

Atishi added, "Wherever BJP does not win elections, it tries to buy MLAs, tries to form a government through the back door. They did it in Delhi, too, but could not succeed. They could not buy AAP MLAs, could not topple the government by buying MLAs. So, now they have started their second conspiracy - to topple the elected government of Delhi."

Showing confidence in the party's voter-base, she said, "If elections are held today, in

February or in two months after that, the AAP will win. Arvind Kejriwal will win because the people of Delhi love him."

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said that by attempting to impose President's Rule, the BJP is accepting its defeat prior to the Assembly elections.

"The BJP should decide whether it wants to lose Delhi today or after four months... If BJP wants to lose Delhi Assembly elections now, then it should announce elections, we are not backing down," he added. Delhi Assembly polls are set to be held early next year.

Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj added, "I think the BJP has conducted its election survey. The claims it was making earlier of defeating the AAP have been destroyed. They are now fully determined to take hold of Delhi by employing such tactics."

Rayat, excise policy case accused, granted bail

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

THE DELHI High Court on Monday granted bail to Chanpreet Singh Rayat, an accused in the excise liquor case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), while noting his submission that he has worked as a "freelancer" for various other political parties in the past.

Rayat was accused of receiving Rs 45 crore in cash for further transfer and use in the 2022 Goa election campaign. He was also allegedly AAP's cash handler in the elections. The ED had contended that Rs 12 lakh was deposited in his account between September 2020 and February 2023.

Rayat had contended that he was working as a freelancer and "on behalf of political parties" such as BJP, Congress and Trinamool Congress, among others.

While granting Rayat bail, the court of Justice Neena Bansal Krishna said, "Looking at his nature of work of a freelancer for various political parties, which he has been doing in the past, merely because he spent certain amount the source of which is not certain, for the campaigning events in the election of Goa, it cannot be said that there is a strong case against the petitioner (Rayat)."

"Further, considering the nature of his business, it also cannot be said that there is likelihood of his committing the same offence if he is admitted to bail," the court added.

Arguing for bail, Rayat had submitted that he was named as an accused in the case only in the sixth supplementary prosecution complaint filed by the ED. Rayat was arrested on April 12 and has been in judicial custody since April 18.

The court went on to record, "In so far as the role of the petitioner (Rayat) in the present case is concerned, he stands on a better footing than the other co-accused, who have been recently granted bail."



No RESPITE

Rain lashes New Delhi on Tuesday. Gajendra Yadav

HC grants bail to DHFL promoter Wadhwan on medical grounds

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

FORMER DHFL director and promoter Dheeraj Wadhwan, who is facing charges of misappropriation and cheating to the tune of Rs 40,000 crore in a CBI case, has been granted bail after the Delhi High Court found him "entitled for the grant of medical bail".

The court of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain considered Wadhwan for medical bail even as a medical board had opined that he does not require hospitalisation and can be treated on an outpatient basis.

However, granting him bail Monday, the court noted that Wadhwan has been "incarcerated for over 15 months" and is suffering from various ailments. "It may be true that at present the applicant may not be requiring hospitalisation but certainly the applicant is suffering from various serious ailments related to vital organs, including kidney, lungs, heart, etc, and requires constant, regular and periodic follow-up and examination with heavy medication under direct supervision of expert and specialist doctors," the court noted, adding the medical facilities required may or may not be available at hospitals attached with Tihar Jail.

Stating that the accused "enjoys fundamental right to be treated for his ailments by suitable doctors and cannot be denied appropriate and required medical treatment and attention", the court said, "The trial was not justified in observing that the applicant can be treated and can be provided medical treatment in government hospital."

"There cannot be any compromise with the life of the applicant merely on the basis that the applicant does not require hospitalisation and can be treated as an outpatient patient. The applicant definitely requires regular and periodic medical attention," it added. It took into account that the trial is not expected to be concluded any time soon as there are more than 100 accused named in the chargesheet, in addition to over 600 witnesses cited by the prosecution. The court also relied on the recently pronounced bail plea verdicts by the Supreme Court in the case of Manish Sisodia v ED and Kalvakuntla Kavitha v ED.

Wadhwan, who is in judicial custody since July 19, 2022, has been accused of defaulting on repayment of dues to a consortium of 17 banks and causing a wrongful loss of Rs 34,926 crore to the lenders between 2010 and 2019.

E.coli bacteria found in Noida society water

New Delhi: The Gautam Buddha Nagar hospital administration has confirmed the presence of E.coli bacteria in the water samples taken from a housing society in Greater Noida West, where over 300 residents, including 170 children, fell sick last week.

"The bacteria causes diseases like diarrhoea, vomiting and fever. If not treated on time, it can be fatal," said Dr Sunil Kumar Sharma, Chief Medical Officer of Noida district hospital.

The incident occurred at Supertech Ecovillage 2 of Greater Noida West, where 339 residents complained of diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach pain and fever. The Greater Noida Authority supplies water to the society. Dr Sharma said that he has written to the Greater Noida Authority and the Uttar Pradesh government about the matter. **ENS**

BRIEFLY

Constable arrested for rape

New Delhi: A constable attached with the Uttar Pradesh Police was arrested last week for allegedly raping a 38-year-old woman at Shahdara between August 2021 to July 22. The accused, identified as Shanky Sharma, is posted in Ghaziabad, DCP (Northeast) Joy Tirkey said. A senior police officer said Sharma used to allegedly give sedatives to the woman and then rape her. He also shot videos of the woman being raped and threatened to leak the same on the Internet if she confided to anyone. **ENS**

2 arrested for theft from jewellery shop

New Delhi: Two former jewellery shop employees in the Dwarka area have been arrested for allegedly stealing ornaments worth Rs 40 lakh by generating fake invoices in the name of registered customers four years ago. The accused - Yogesh Singh and Deepak - were employed at Senco Gold Limited in 2020 when they allegedly generated forged invoices worth Rs 40 lakh and stole jewellery from the shop, said DCP (Dwarka) Ankit Singh. Later, the company detected the fraud and zeroed down on the duo who had gone missing by then. The duo were arrested last week near their places of residence in Uttam Nagar and West Delhi. **ENS**

1 held for theft of ₹1.24 lakh from woman

New Delhi: A man was arrested Tuesday for robbing a woman of Rs 1.24 lakh while she was attempting to deposit the cash at an ATM booth in East Delhi's Samaspur last October. The police are looking for the two other accused. The arrested Mukti Mehto (38), an autorickshaw driver by profession, was arrested from near the Sanjay Lake in East Delhi. The complainant Anuradha Pandey alleged that she was attempting to deposit Rs 1.28 lakh at a cash deposit machine at an ATM booth and approached three men nearby for help. The men allegedly pretended to deposit the cash and returned Rs 3,500 to her saying that the ATM rejected the notes. According to the FIR, Pandey did not receive a text message on her phone about the money being credited in her account. She then visited the bank where she was told the money was not deposited. **ENS**

MCD to hold standing committee poll on Sept 26

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

POLLING FOR the only vacant seat remaining in the 18-member standing committee of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi will be held on September 26 during the civic body's monthly house assembly.

Of the 18 members in the standing committee, 12 are elected from the corresponding MCD zones and six from the MCD House. Notably, 12 of the 18 members to the standing committee were elected in the ward committee elections held on September 4. Of the 12 elected, seven were from the BJP and five from the AAP.

The six current members from the house were elected during the 2023 Mayoral polls when the BJP and AAP won three seats each. The elected AAP

members included Aamil Malik, Mohini and Raminder Kaur, while those from the BJP were Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Gajendra Singh Daral and Pankaj Luthra. With this, the AAP and BJP had eight and 10 members each in the panel. However, one seat has been left vacant following Sehrawat's election to the Lok Sabha from West Delhi on a BJP ticket. The September 26 poll has been necessitated to fill this vacant seat and will be crucial in determining which party gets to control MCD's purse-strings.

Once the 18th member is elected, the committee will vote to pick the standing committee chairperson. An AAP victory on September 26 will lead to a 9-9 tie with the BJP, and the standing committee chairperson will have to be picked by drawing lots. On the other hand, if the BJP wins the election, the party will get a two-member majority.

Almost a decade later, Sadullapur remains a smart village on paper

NEETIKA JHA
NOIDA, SEPTEMBER 10

Village in Greater Noida West, with a population of 20,000 people, marked by unpaved roads, open sewers and garbage strewn around

SADULLAPUR in Greater Noida West is a smart village, on paper.

After it was notified to be developed as a smart village in 2015, a 5-km stretch of pothole-ridden road filled with dirt, open manholes and sewers, and garbage strewn around greet visitors at Sadullapur.

Something as basic as reaching a hospital on time, especially in case of emergencies, is a daunting task for the villagers.

The nearest - the private Numed Hospital in Greater Noida West - is only 3 km from the village. But the unpaved road makes it a 90-minute journey. Those who cannot afford the private hospital opt for the district hospital in Noida if they can make it on time.

When the second wave of Covid-19 swept the country, the village registered 40 deaths - the highest in Greater Noida West. "Most of them died because they could not reach (the hospital) in time," says Kamal

Nagar, 40, a resident.

Yet, the authorities did not learn their lesson. "Last year, 20 people died because of viral flu and could not be treated on time. Villagers also die due to stroke, brain hemorrhage and lung infections," he says.

According to Ramji Kaushal, a 32-year-old homemaker who has been living in the village for 18 years, the open sewers are a health-risk, especially for children. "Ab ye school jayenge ya hospital (Will they go to the school or the hospital)? The sewer is open, it breeds mosquitoes," she says.

The village has a population of 20,000 people with nearly 90 per cent Hindus, including Jatavs, Brahmins and Rajputs. Most of them are government employees or run small-time businesses. Women are mostly homemakers.

An official of the Greater Noida Authority said they were aware of the problems and Sadullapur continues to be recog-



nised as a smart village. "The work will begin after the monsoon," he said.

The residents rue the deterioration of basic facilities after the village panchayat system ended in Noida in 2015. "Our life was better, when we had Pradhan. We have only been fooled, disrespected and cheated for all these

years," says Deepak Garg. "We had roads before," says 32-year-old Suman. "But then they dug the roads and told us that they (the Greater Noida Authority) will make proper sewage. Now, there are only uncovered and exposed manholes," she says.

When the villagers asked the authority to reconstruct the road, they said it was not in the budget. "What kind of development is this?" she asks. Kaushal echoes similar concerns. "In 2015, when the Pradhani system got over, we thought that our village would change," she says.

The promised development also took away the only cremation ground in the village. "We had a nine bighas cremation ground," says Satish Kumar, 42. However, the size of the ground was reduced to half after they constructed a boundary wall. "There is not even a tin shade inside. The suffering continues even after we die," he says.

Something similar happened



Unpaved roads at Sadullapur on Tuesday. Abhinav Saha

to the only pond in the village. The villagers say that the authorities dug the 29-bigha pond deeper and sold the soil for Rs 1.49 crore.

Most of the work that happened in the village, residents say, was done after they requested the Public Welfare Department.

"No development initiated by the government reached us in a decade. We do not know where to go and whom to complain," says another resident, Pappu Pradhan.

L-G gives new investigation powers to police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

IN A significant move aimed at streamlining law enforcement procedures, the Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) V K Saxena on Monday issued a new directive, expanding the investigative powers of various police officers under the Indian Civil Defence Code, 2023.

The directive, issued in accordance with the powers conferred by Section 176 of the

Indian Civil Defence Code, 2023, outlines specific investigative roles for different ranks within the Delhi Police.

"Under the new directive, inspectors are now tasked with investigating cases under the Indian Code of Criminal Procedure, 2023, as well as all local and special laws, unless specified otherwise by those laws. Sub-inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors will handle cases under the Indian Judicial Code and local laws, with the exception of murder cases as defined



L-G V K Saxena

under section 103 (1) of the BNS," an official from the L-G office said.

Officials said that head constables will be responsible for investigating cases under the Indian Penal Code, 2023, and re-

lated local laws where the maximum prescribed punishment is up to seven years.

Additionally, constables who have a graduation degree, have completed a decade of service as well as investigation training will be authorised to investigate cases with a maximum punishment of three years, provided no other law assigns this power to a specific rank, the officials added.

The officers designated under this new framework will have comprehensive investiga-

tive responsibilities, including maintaining daily diaries, preparing case files, making arrests, and attending court proceedings.

This move is expected to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of investigations across Delhi, said officials.

Further, officials said that the decision underscores the Delhi administration's commitment to refining its legal processes and improving the operational capabilities of its police force.

New criminal laws: L-G asks chief secy to form panel to expedite recruitment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

WHILE REVIEWING the status of the three new criminal laws, Delhi L-G V K Saxena on Tuesday asked the chief secretary to set up a committee of all stakeholder depart-

ments to expedite the process of recruitment so that the laws can be implemented.

An additional Rs 115 crore was allotted for the procurement of additional equipment to the Directorate of Prosecution (Rs 13 crore), Forensic Science Labs (Rs 50 crore) and Prisons (Rs 52 crore)

by the finance department. A boost for forensic science laboratories (FSL), 165 junior scientific assistant posts were advertised, for which 5,000 applications were received. Also, 15 new mobile forensic vans are likely to be in place for the Delhi Police and FSL by the end of September.

HC limits St Stephen's admission relief to 7 students, restricts DU from more allocations

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday allowed seven students admitted to St Stephen's College by a court order to continue attending classes even as it directed Delhi University not to allocate more students to the college. The university also informed the court that it would reconsider the seat matrix and allocation system for the college for the next academic year.

The HC direction came after St Stephen's College moved a division bench Monday against a single-judge bench order dated September 6 in favour of the seven students whose admission had been in limbo.

While the university had allocated them to St Stephen's, the college had not confirmed their admission following a dispute over the seat matrix and allocation system being followed by the university.

Apprehending more similar demands, the college requested the bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela not to extend the relief to other students who were not granted admission despite

being allocated seats by the university in excess of the college's sanctioned intake.

"No further allocation should take place... Anyone who has not come to court shall not be given, limit (admission) to seven (who had moved court and were granted admission)," the college submitted before the bench.

Of the seven petitioner students, six have started attending classes while one is yet to pay the fees. They approached the high court last month.

Meanwhile, Delhi University, through senior advocate Moninder Rupal, informed the bench that it would not press to extend the relief to other students similarly positioned. However, this may not be recorded in the order, the counsel said.

"...152 seats in a course of 24 (sanctioned intake)...if you're following this in all colleges, there will be a breakdown," Justice Manmohan pin-pointed to the university counsel. In response, the university said it was ready to reconsider the seat matrix and the allocation system for the college for the next academic year. The court has posted the matter for consideration in January next year.

At Madrasi Camp, Atishi directs PWD officials against 'illegal' demolition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

ANY DEMOLITION action at Madrasi Camp near Old Barapullah Bridge is illegal and would attract disciplinary action, Public Works Department minister Atishi warned officials Tuesday.

The statement came after the Public Works Department served a demolition notice on the residents of the camp last week saying the land belonged to the body and was encroached upon.

In a note to the PWD officials Tuesday, Atishi said there were many anomalies in the notice and directed against any demolition to be done by PWD. "This is a DUSIB (Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board) notified JJ cluster, therefore, the residents have a right to rehabilitation before any demolition. As the list of DUSIB notified clusters clearly shows, the land on which the JJ Cluster is present belongs to the Railways, and not PWD... any removal or demolition of the said JJ Cluster by PWD is illegal," the note read.

"If any official of PWD demolishes JJ Cluster, they would be liable for disciplinary action," she wrote.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, the Delhi High Court asked authorities to ensure that no action is taken against residents for the time being.

Earlier in the day, senior Aam Aadmi Party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia met residents of the



AAP leader Manish Sisodia meets residents of Madrasi Camp on Tuesday. Express

Madrasi Camp and assured that no one will be "rendered homeless" as long as AAP was in power.

"Injustice against slum dwellers will not be tolerated in 'Bulldozer Raj'. Thousands of people living in the slums of Madrasi Camp in Delhi are an integral part of Delhi. If LG Sahab and the BJP try to remove or demolish their houses, we will not tolerate it at all. We will fight strongly against dictatorship to save people's houses. Whether we have to fight in court or on the ground for this," he said in a post on X in Hindi.

Hitting back, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the PWD, which comes under the Delhi government, has issued notices to vacate Madrasi Basti, and DUSIB has not done anything in court or outside it for their protection or rehabilitation. He said they have continuously opposed the eviction notice and accused Sisodia of trying to avoid responsibility for this notice by making hollow statements. WITHPTI

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Ref: IAD/2024-25/001 dated 11-09-2024

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(माननीय संस्कृति एवं पर्यटन मंत्री, भारत सरकार)

द्वारा
बुधवार, 11 सितंबर, 2024 को प्रातः 10:00 बजे

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ई-निविदा सूचना

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6 DECISION 2024

HARYANA • JAMMU & KASHMIR



‘Against jail, oppression, PSA’, ‘for inquilab’: Spot the BJP candidate at this Kashmir rally

Arshad Ahmad Bhat, the BJP nominee from Rajpora, says ‘party can jail me’

BASHAARAT MASOOD DRABGAM (RAJPOORA), SEPTEMBER 10

“QABRISTAN KA badla (The revenge for the graveyard)...” exhorts Arshad Ahmad Bhat at an election rally in the Rajpora seat bordering Budgam district. “Vote se (Through the vote),” respond the villagers.

“FIR ka badla...”, Bhat continues; the response is similar. “Jail ka badla...”, “Zulm ka badla (Revenge for oppression)...”, “Jabr ka badla (Revenge for force)...”, he continues, going on to talk about “revenge” for the alleged rape and murder of two women in Shopian and the killing of Class 12 student in police firing – both incidents



Bhat's rallies and meetings are drawing thin crowds. Express

contributing to the mass unrest in Kashmir in 2009 and 2010.

Before he ends his speech, Bhat gives a final prompt. “Yeh jo inquilab hai (This revolution you see)...”, he says. His supporters shout back: “... zulm ka jawab hai (is a response to the oppression)”.

The election rally, with less than a hundred people, can be

mistaken for a separatist rally of yesteryears. More recently, slogans on almost the same lines were heard at the public meetings of jailed separatist leader Engineer Rashid during the Lok Sabha polls. Only, Bhat is a candidate of the BJP. The 35-year-old, who joined politics and the BJP seven months ago, realises what he is saying may

VOTE SHARE (%) IN RAJPOORA

Party	2014 Assembly	2019 LS	2024 LS
PDP	36.95	51.08	48.98
NC	28.23	26.08	33.74
INC	3.92	12.37	

Source: Election Commission



not pass muster with his party, blamed for most of the “atrocities” in Kashmir that he flays.

However, Bhat says: “Sometimes my statements go beyond the party line... But I tell myself, even if they do, let them (the government) put me in jail.”

Others see the stand as purely pragmatic if Bhat wants a shot at winning, given Rajpora seat’s record of recent violence and formidable rivals in the Peoples Democratic Party’s (PDP’s) Syed Bashir Ahmad and the National Conference’s (NC’s) Ghulam Mohiudin Mir. However, Bhat’s pitch on “unjust arrests” and “administrative terrorism” does not go down easy, nor does his bid to

lay the blame on “previous” governments. His rallies and meetings are drawing thin crowds.

He also talks about the cases he himself is facing and claims they were lodged by political parties over his social media posts on their actions, naming NC candidate Mir in particular. However, police records show sections related to cheating too against him. “I have to work for it (the repeal of the PSA). If I don’t, I am doing injustice,” he says.

BJP media in-charge Sajid Yousef says the party would repeal the PSA if it comes to power. As for Bhat’s slogans of revenge, Yousef claims they are directed against the NC and PDP.

AIP HAS FIELDDED 34 CANDIDATES

Days to go, Engineer Rashid gets bail, rivals question the ‘timing’

NC, PDP ask why release for campaign and not for MP duties

BASHAARAT MASOOD & NIRBHAY THAKUR SRINAGAR, NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

DAYS TO go for the first phase of voting in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, a Delhi court on Tuesday granted interim bail to Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid till October 2 for campaigning. J&K elections end on October 1, with the results on October 8.

Rashid, who has been in jail since 2019 in a terror funding case, won the recent Lok Sabha polls as an Independent candidate from Baramulla, defeating National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah and People’s Conference chief Sajid Lone.

Rashid had not been allowed out of jail at the time of the Lok Sabha polls, and was only given court permission to take oath as an MP after he won.

Rashid’s Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) has 34 candidates as of now, with nominations for the third phase yet to close. His entry into the campaign is expected to give a big boost to his party.

Both the NC and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have suggested the BJP has some sort of deal with the AIP.

Reacting to bail to Rashid,



The MP has been in jail since 2019 in a UAPA case. Shuaib Masoodi

Omar said Tuesday: “I feel regret for the people of Baramulla parliamentary constituency as this bail has not been granted to serve them or attend Parliament... but to fetch votes here. After that, he will be taken back to Tihar (Jail) and the people of north Kashmir will be without a representative.”

PDP leader and former minister Naem Akhtar said: “Suddenly he (Rashid) floats a party and his candidates, some of whom are known to be close to the government, spring up like mushrooms.”

Alkhat said this hurts the credibility” of polls. “The BJP started the game with delimitation, rigged half the elections before

they were announced, split parties, did social engineering, and now this.” He demanded the release of other prisoners to “remove doubt” about Rashid’s bail. Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chief Ghulam Nabi Azad, accused of being close to the BJP, welcomed the bail to Rashid. In a post on X, he wrote: “(With Rashid) a democratically elected MP with a strong mandate, this is a step towards justice and his right to campaign.”

Rashid was arrested by the NIA on charges of criminal conspiracy in a 2017 case for “receiving and collecting” funds for “terrorist activities” in J&K.

I HEREBY DECLARE



NAYAB SINGH SAINI, 54, Haryana CM and BJP’s Ladwa candidate

TOTAL ASSETS ₹5.81 cr (2024)

Movable assets ₹95.52 lakh
Immovable ₹4.85 cr assets
Liabilities ₹74.83 lakh
Pending cases None
Education LLB, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut



UDAIBHAN, 68, Haryana Congress chief and Hodal candidate

TOTAL ASSETS ₹4.51 CR (2024)

Movable assets ₹1.21 cr
Immovable ₹3.3 cr assets
Liabilities ₹1.05 cr
Pending cases None
Education BA, Panjab University, Chandigarh

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KEY BATTLE



IN KULGAM, CPI(M) VETERAN TARIGAMI FACES STIFF CHALLENGE FROM JAMAAT, FORMER AIDES

IMAGE OF THE DAY



National Conference candidate Ajay Kumar Sadhotra (third from left) during a rally in Jammu on Tuesday before filing his nomination papers for the Marh Assembly constituency. PTI

All names announced, former ministers, BJP rebel in Congress’s new list for J&K

ARUN SHARMA JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 10

NEARLY WRAPPING up its candidate lists for Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress announced 19 more names late on Monday. Around half-a-dozen are former ministers, including Raman Bhalla and Choudhary Lal Singh, who lost the recent Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress has now declared candidates for 34 seats. As per its alliance with the National Conference (NC), the party is contesting 32 seats and the NC 51 of the total 90, with the two parties in a friendly contest on five.

Bhalla, a former three-time MLA, has been fielded from R S Pura-Jammu South.

Lal Singh has got the ticket from Basohli, a constituency he has won three times earlier. While

Lal Singh lost from Udhampur-Doda in the recent Lok Sabha polls by 1.24 lakh votes. Bhalla was defeated from Jammu by 1.35 lakh votes. Both constituencies were won by the BJP.

Lal Singh, also a two-time MP, remains a controversial figure, having publicly supported the accused in the rape and murder of a minor Bakerwal girl in Kathua.

The other candidates named by the Congress Monday include two District Development Council (DDC) members, one of them a BJP rebel. DDC Jammu member Taranjeet Singh Tony is the party candidate from the new Assembly segment of Bahu.

The BJP rebel and sitting DDC member who is a surprise addition in the Congress list is Mool Raj, fielded by the party from the SC-reserved Ramnagar seat.

Mool Raj was elected to the Udhampur DDC on the BJP



Controversial ex-MLA Lal Singh is in this list. Facebook

ticket, but left the party after it picked Sunil Bhardwaj, a Jammu University professor at Bharderwah Campus, for the Ramnagar constituency.

The other former ministers who have got Congress tickets are Manohar Lal Sharma (Billawar), Mula Ram (SC-reserved Marh) and Yash Pal Kundal (SC-reserved

Ramgarh). Mula Ram is a three-time MLA from Raipur Domana and was a minister in the NC-Congress coalition government headed by Feroze Khan Noon in the late 1980s. Kundal is a former two-time MLA from Samba of the Panthers Party, and has served as a minister in the PDP-Congress coalition Cabinet.

From the SC-reserved constituency of Bishnah, the Congress has fielded Neeraj Kundan, a former all-India president of its students’ wing NSUI.

Former minister Yogesh Sawhney is the Congress nominee from Jammu East; former MLC Thakur Balbir Singh has got the ticket from Jasrota; Thakur Manmohan Singh, a former deputy mayor of Jammu, will contest from Jammu West; and Summit Mangotra, a local businessman, is the candidate from Udhampur West.

VARINDER BHATIA & VIKAS PATHAK CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

THE RULING BJP in Haryana released Tuesday its second list of 21 candidates for the Assembly polls, dropping seven MLAs, including two ministers and state party president Mohan Lal Badoli.

The ministers denied tickets include school education minister and Badkhal MLA Seema Trikha, who has been replaced with Dhanesh Adlakha, and health minister and Bawal MLA Banwari Lal, who has been replaced with Krishna Kumar.

Badoli, who represents the Rai seat in Sonapat district, has been replaced with Krishna Gehlawat.

The BJP appointed Badoli as the Haryana party president after he lost the Sonapat Lok Sabha seat to the Congress’s Satpal Brahmachari. He replaced CM Saini as the state party chief.

The BJP’s first list announced last week triggered widespread resentment in the party ranks. The second list, too, caused discontent in the party, with state unit executive member Shiv Kumar Mehta sending his resignation. He was a ticket aspirant from Narnaul, where the party has fielded Om Prakash Yadav. “I have been working for the party for 45 years. They kept ignoring me and telling me



CM Nayab Saini at a rally in Narnaund on Tuesday. Facebook

each time to prepare for the next time... Now I have quit the party,” Mehta said.

The BJP replaced its Pehowa candidate Kawaljeet Singh Ajrana with Jai Bhagwan Sharma following protests from the latter’s supporters after the first list featured the name of Ajrana, the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee spokesman.

The party has fielded Capt Yogesh Bairagi against Congress candidate Vinesh Phogat, the Olympian wrestler, in Julana.

The second list features two women. It also has two Muslim nominees from the Mewat region, including Naseem Ahmad (Ferozepur Jhirka), and Aizaz Khan (Punahana).

In the second list, the BJP has

also named four SC candidates, three each from the Jat, OBC, Rajput and Punjabi communities, two Brahmins, and a Sikh.

Of its 87 candidates so far, the BJP has fielded 17 SCs, 16 Jats, 19 OBCs, five Rajputs, 11 Punjabis, 11 Brahmins, five Vaishyas, two Muslims and one Sikh.

The party is yet to declare its nominees for the three remaining seats, which include Faridabad (NIT), Mahendragarh and Sirsa.

Haryana Lokhit Party chief Gopal Kanda, an NDA ally, and his brother Govind Kanda (currently in the BJP) are said to be seeking three seats from the BJP. In the 2019 polls, Gopal Kanda had won from Sirsa, defeating Independent Gokul Setia (now the Congress nominee) and the BJP candidate.

DECODE POLITICS

Why NC, Apni Party are promising a return to J&K’s Durbar Move

ARUN SHARMA JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 10

AHEAD OF the elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Durbar Move—a bi-annual shifting of important governmental offices from Jammu to Srinagar and vice-versa—is back in the political discourse.

In its manifesto, the National Conference (NC) has pledged “to enhance the unity of our state by reinstating the full Darbar Move”. On the other end of the spectrum, the Apni Party led by Altaf Bukhari has also said in its manifesto that it would “reinstate” the practice.

What is the Durbar Move?

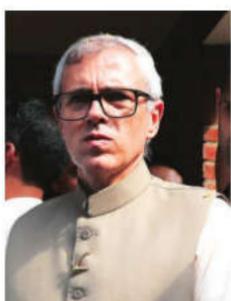
Durbar Move is a bi-annual shifting of the Civil Secretariat and other offices of the state government from Jammu to Srinagar in the summer, and vice-versa in the winter. This is done as Jammu & Kashmir has two capitals: Kashmir during the summer and Jammu during the winter.

When did the practice start?

It is a tradition started by the erstwhile Dogra rulers who hailed from Jammu, but had expanded their boundaries to Kashmir, including what is now Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and Ladakh. Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh

are different from one another geographically, linguistically and culturally, and were poorly connected by road. It is generally understood that the Durbar Move was started to take the administration to the doorsteps of the people of Kashmir, which is closer to Ladakh. During summers, ruling from Kashmir also helped in ensuring adequate supplies to Ladakh, before the winter snowfall would cut it off. The practice also enabled greater interaction and bonding among the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

The administration used to engage hundreds of trucks and buses for carrying office records



Abdullah’s NC and Bukhari’s Apni Party have called for a restoration of the practice. X, Facebook



and officials from one capital city to another. The practice stopped with the Covid-19 pandemic, with the files and official documents being accessed online.

Now, only senior bureaucrats of the level of commissioner or secretary and above move.

Is there criticism?

Voices of protest started during the late 1980s, over the amount of money and time spent on the exercise. However, the practice also enjoyed public support. In the late 1980s, when the then National Conference government led by Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah decided to bifurcate the

Secretariat by permanently keeping some departments in Kashmir and some in Jammu, Jammu observed a bandh for nearly 45 days in protest. The government had to withdraw its decision.

In recent years, there was criticism over the fact that the government spent Rs 200 crore on this exercise every year, when it did not have enough funds even to pay its employees’ salaries.

In 2020, following the abrogation of Article 370, the Jammu & Kashmir High Court observed that there was no legal justification or constitutional basis for the Darbar Move tradition.

Saying the practice has re-

sulted in waste of time, effort and energy on an “inefficient and unnecessary activity”, a Division Bench comprising then Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Rajesh Oswal observed valuable resources of the state cannot be diverted to “non-essential usage”.

Why are NC, Apni Party supporting it?

Sources in the NC and PDP say the restoration of the Durbar Move will help increase the bond between people of Kashmir and Jammu. The parties also say that the movement between the two cities could improve local business and infrastructure.

7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



UP & DOWN

AFTER THE controversy over alleged meetings between RSS/BJP leaders and top police officers in Kerala, Congress MLA Chandu Ommen's name in the list of lawyers empanelled for National Highway Authority of India has given ammunition for the CPIM to counter the Congress's charge of its "behind the scene connections" with the BJP. Sources in the Road Transport & Highways ministry, however, said the MLA's name was included in the list for a state highway project that was done by a local project director. After the list triggered a controversy when it was put on the NHAI website, the entire panel was cancelled. Sources in the central BJP say the list of empanelled lawyers had irked some Kerala BJP leaders, too.

PUSH FOR INPUTS

TAKING NOTE of delays in inputs from the government side in court cases, the Law Ministry recently asked all the ministries to designate nodal officers to brief law officers on all the necessary information about the litigation. Legal Affairs Secretary Rajiv Mani last month learnt to have written to all Secretaries, flagging the delays and adverse orders passed by the Supreme Court due to the lack of comments or inputs from the government in some important cases.

FAIT ACCOMPLI

A PROMINENT spiritual head on Tuesday is learnt to have called some of his followers in the Delhi Police to get escort vehicles during his stay in the national capital for an event over the next three days. Some Delhi Police officers who followed him called a senior officer in the traffic unit, requesting for an escort vehicle as desired. Soon after the officers flagged that there was no official order for the same, sources said he got a call from the police headquarters, asking him to provide a pilot vehicle to the spiritual head for the next three days.

SEBI on House panel agenda, BJP flags power to review only if funds misused

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

DAYS AFTER the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) decided to include in its agenda for the year a review of the performance of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) amid indications that it may summon the regulator's chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, the PAC's BJP members are said to be of the view that the panel lacks the power to review the SEBI performance since that audit can only be done by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) with a go-ahead from the Centre.

The BJP has flagged that the PAC can review the performance of SEBI or any other regulatory body only if finances granted by Parliament have been misused. The party has also sought to differentiate between the SEBI, the regulatory body, and Buch, an individual facing allegations of conflict of interest. Buch has been at the centre of a political firestorm following allegations levelled against her by US-based Hindenburg Research.

The PAC, the parliamentary

watchdog for government spending, is headed by Congress senior leader K C Venugopal. At its meeting on August 29, it took the unusual step to include a suo motu subject — performance review of regulatory bodies established by Act of Parliament.

The PAC held its second meeting Tuesday. Parliamentary committee proceedings are privileged and details of exchanges between members during meetings are not made public.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, it is learnt, has taken the lead to convey the party view that the PAC cannot review the performance of SEBI if no misuse of funds has been recorded.

Incidentally, G C Murmu, the CAG, appeared before the panel Tuesday. The committee is expected to discuss the issue further and then decide if there's a majority opinion in favour of summoning Buch.

The 22 member PAC has 15 MPs from Lok Sabha and seven from the Rajya Sabha. Other than Venugopal, it has senior BJP leaders Ravi Shankar Prasad, Nishikant Dubey, K Laxman, Anurag Thakur, Jagadambika Pal and Sudhanshu

Trivedi as its members. Former union minister T R Bалу, T Shiva (both from DMK), Shaktisinh Gohil, Amar Singh and Jai Parkash (from Congress), CM Ramesh, Aparajita Sarangi, Ashok Chavan, Tejasvi Surya (BJP), TMC leaders Sougata Roy and Sukhendu Shekhar Ray, Dharmendra Yadav (SP), Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy (TDP), V Balashowry (Jana Sena) Praful Patel (NCP) are also its members.

Constituted under Rule 308 (1) of the Rules and Procedures and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha, the PAC scrutinises the Appropriation Accounts of the Government and the reports of the CAG to see that money shown in the accounts as having been disbursed were legally available and used properly.

The Opposition has been demanding a parliamentary probe into Hindenburg Research's allegation that Buch and her husband, Dhaval Buch, had "stake in obscure offshore entities used in Adani money siphoning scandal".

In response to the allegations made by Hindenburg, a joint statement by Buch and her husband said that "the investment

in the fund referred to in the Hindenburg report was made in 2015 when they were both private citizens living in Singapore and almost 2 years before Madhabi joined SEBI, even as a Whole Time Member".

Buch became a Whole Time Member in SEBI in 2017 and its Chairperson in March 2022.

"SEBI has strong institutional mechanisms of disclosure and recusal norms as per the code of conduct applicable to its officers. Accordingly, all disclosures and recusals have been diligently followed, including disclosures of all securities held or subsequently transferred," the joint statement stated.

The Adani Group denied the allegations made by Hindenburg and called them "malicious, mischievous and manipulative".

"The Adani Group has absolutely no commercial relationship with the individuals or matters mentioned in this calculated deliberate effort to malign our standing. We remain steadfastly committed to transparency and compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements," the Adani Group said in the statement.

Centre relaxes norms under PMAY-Gramin

Income limit up to ₹15,000/m; fridge, two-wheeler, landline not a bar now

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10



Announced by Union Minister Shrivraj Chouhan

THE CENTRE has relaxed the "automatic exclusion" criteria under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), allowing families owning "two-wheelers, motorised fishing boats, refrigerators, landline phones" and earning "up to Rs 15,000 per month" to now avail the rural housing scheme.

The parameters were among the criteria that render households ineligible under the scheme. The parameters that will continue to result in "automatic exclusion" are: (Owning) motorised three/four-wheelers; mechanised three/four-wheeler agricultural equipment; Kisan Credit Card with credit limit of Rs 50,000 or above; Household with any member as a Government employee; Household with non-agricultural enterprises registered with Government; Any member of family paying income tax; Paying professional tax; Land ownership ceiling of 2.5 acres or more of irrigated land.

The revision in the PMAY-G standards of ineligibility was announced by Union Rural Development Minister Shrivraj Singh Chouhan in a video conference with the Rural Development Ministers of the states Tuesday. He also said that land related criteria under the scheme have also been rationalised.

Under PMAY-G, all households living in houses with pucca

roof and/or pucca wall, and households in houses with more than two rooms were already filtered out. The exclusion criteria revision is significant in view of the Centre's aim to construct two crore additional houses under the rural housing scheme by 2028-29. On August 9, the Union Cabinet approved a proposal of this effect.

These two crore houses will be over and above the target of 2.95 crore rural houses set under the 'Housing for All' programme, of which 2.65 crore houses have already been completed so far.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set release an instalment of Rs 2,745 crore to PMAY-G beneficiaries on September 15 in Jamshepur, Jharkhand. He will also distribute acceptance letters to all the targeted beneficiaries in the financial year 2024-25.

Under the PMAY-G, each beneficiary gets up to Rs 1.2 lakh in the plains and Rs 1.30 lakh in hilly states, difficult areas, and tribal and backward districts under the Integrated Action Plan (IAP). The Centre and states share expenses in the 60:40 ratio in case of plain areas, and 90:10 for Northeastern states, two Himalayan states and the UT of J&K. The Centre bears 100% cost in case of other UTs including Ladakh.

Remarks on Modi: SC stays proceedings against Tharoor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

THE SUPREME Court Tuesday stayed the proceedings in the criminal defamation case filed by a BJP leader against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor over certain remarks allegedly against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Tharoor had approached the top court challenging the August 29, 2024 Delhi HC order dismissing his plea to quash the proceedings. The HC had said that "no grounds are made out for quashing" the defamation proceedings and that it is expedient the trial court continues the proceedings.

Staying the proceedings, a bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and R Mahadevan issued notice on his appeal.

Appearing for Tharoor, advocate Mohammed Ali Khan submitted that Tharoor had only quoted from a 2012 article in the *Caravan Magazine*. "None had any grievance to the article and the uttered sentence as published in the magazine. However, when Tharoor made a reference to the same article, the same was perceived as defamatory by the complainant," Khan said.

"Eventually, it is a metaphor... Can't the metaphor not be understood as pointing out the invincibility of the person?" said Justice Roy.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and envoy to India Philipp Ackermann in Berlin on Tuesday. ANI

Russia, Ukraine have to negotiate, India willing to advise: Jaishankar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

STRESSING THAT the Ukraine conflict cannot be resolved on the battlefield, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday that Russia and Ukraine have to negotiate and if they want advice, India is always willing to give it. He also said India is not "closed to business from China", but the question was "in which sectors... and on what terms".

Jaishankar's comments on the Ukraine war are a reiteration of what PM Narendra Modi said in Kyiv on August 23 — that India is willing to play "an active role" in the peace process between Russia and Ukraine — and came a day af-

ter Jaishankar held a "useful conversation" with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, on the margins of the India-Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers' meeting in Riyadh.

Responding to questions at the Annual Ambassadors' Conference of the German Foreign Office in Berlin, Jaishankar said, "We don't think this conflict is going to be resolved on the battlefield. At some stage, there's going to be some negotiation. When there is a negotiation, the main parties — Russia and Ukraine — have to be at that negotiation."

Recalling PM Modi's visits to Russia and Ukraine, he said Modi has said in both countries that this was not an era of war. "We don't think you're going to get a

solution out of the battlefield. We think you've got to negotiate... If you want advice, we are always willing to give it..." he said, adding countries have different interests, but conflicts are not a way to resolve them.

On China, he said: "We are not closed to business from China... It's the second-largest economy in the world. It's a premium manufacturer. So there's nobody who can say, I won't do business with China. I think the issue is, which sectors do you do business and on what terms? So, it's far more complicated than a black and white binary answer."

Meanwhile, Jaishankar called for greater cooperation with Germany in innovation, AI, fintech and green technologies.

Centre sends 2 more CRPF battalions to Manipur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

DAYS AFTER removing two Assam Rifles battalions from Manipur, the Centre has directed CRPF to send two more battalions comprising 2,000 personnel to the state.

"The battalion number 58 is being moved from Warangal in

Telangana while the one numbered 112 is being sent from Latehar in Jharkhand. The first unit will have its headquarter in Kangvai (Churachandpur)... while the second will be stationed around Imphal," an official said.

A few days ago, two Assam Rifles battalions were removed from Manipur for operational duties in J&K and some other parts of the Northeast.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has directed that to all the companies — around 5 to 6 each — of these new two units be based in various parts of Manipur. Also, 16 battalions of the force already present in the state following the violence last year, completed the establishment of their operational bases in Imphal West, Imphal East, Churachandpur, Noney, Jiribam,

Kangpokpi, Bishnupur last week

They have been asked to maintain operational compactness and to ensure better command, control, and supervision over the deployed companies. "The two units moving in have personnel who have undergone training in various internal security duties. They will also require logistical, equipment and anti-drone technology," an official said.

Waqf Bill: Mirwaiz calls for dialogue, seeks time from House committee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 10



Mirwaiz Umer Farooq

UMER FAROOQ, the Mirwaiz of Kashmir and head of the Mutahida Majlis-E-Ulema, has expressed grave concern over the proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, saying they threatened the interests of the Muslim community and violated fundamental rights.

In a two-page correspondence to Jagdambika Pal, who chairs the joint committee of Parliament examining the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Farooq sought an opportunity for a Mutahida Majlis-E-Ulema (MMU) delegation to meet with the panel to discuss its apprehensions.

The MMU, a coalition representing various Islamic organisations, Ulemas, and academic institutions in J&K, believes that the proposed amendments threaten the interests of Muslim community and violates fundamental rights.

The Mirwaiz stressed that these amendments not only violated Muslim personal law, protected under Article 25 of the Constitution, but also exacer-

bated feelings of insecurity within the Muslim community, which already perceived threats to its religious freedoms.

"The Muslim majority region of Jammu and Kashmir feels very strongly about these amendments to the Waqf Act, viewing them as attempts to undermine our religious freedom and autonomy," he stated.

The Mirwaiz emphasised that Waqf properties were dedicated by Muslims for charitable purposes and served the underprivileged. He pointed out that the proposed amendments suggested increased government control over Waqf institutions, which the MMU viewed as an unwarranted intrusion.

Key concerns outlined in the letter include the government's plan to grant the collector sweeping powers over Waqf properties, including the ability to alter revenue records.

Our ancestors, not Columbus, found America, says MP Minister Parmar says 'historians systematically undermined India's strengths' and helped perpetuate 'negative image of India'

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 10

MADHYA PRADESH Higher Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar Tuesday said that an India sailor discovered the United States of America, the city of Beijing was designed with the help of an Indian architect who made statues of Lord Ram, and that those who wrote the Rigveda were the first to predict that the earth revolved around the sun.

Parmar made the comments while attending the convocation ceremony of Barkatullah university, alongside Governor Mangubhai C Patel and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

Parmar said that "historians systematically undermined

India's strengths", and because of "false facts, a negative image of India was presented to the world".

He said that our "ancestors were advanced in every aspect of knowledge, skill, and capability", and "we should free ourselves from inferiority complexes and strive to advance by embracing superior ideas".

According to him, a "falsehood that was unnecessarily taught in India was that Columbus discovered America".

"This was irrelevant to Indian students. If they were going to teach this, they should have also taught about the atrocities committed by those who came after Columbus, how they destroyed the indigenous societies, who were nature worshippers and sun worshippers, and how they



Inder Singh Parmar was speaking at Barkatullah University

were massacred and converted," Parmar said.

Parmar said that an Indian sailor "went to America in the 8th Century and built several temples in San Diego, which are still documented in a museum there and preserved in libraries".

"When we went there, we helped develop their culture, the Maya civilization, by integrating with it, which is India's way of thinking and philosophy that should have been taught to students... If something needed to be taught, it should have been

correctly taught — that our ancestors discovered America, not Columbus," Parmar said.

Vasco da Gama wrote that Chandan's ship was bigger than his own — not just a little bigger but two to four times the size of his ship. Vasco da Gama followed Chandan, the Indian trader, to India. However, historians wrongly taught Indian students that Vasco da Gama discovered the sea route to India and India itself," Parmar said.

Parmar then said that for almost 1,200-1,300 years, a significant falsehood based on geographical misconceptions was perpetuated around the world.

The minister said that Polish astronomer Copernicus's theory "that the Sun is stationary, and what Galileo said — that the Sun is stationary and all the planets,

including Earth, revolve around it — were already stated in our ancient texts".

"Thousands of years ago, those who wrote the Rigveda had already mentioned that the moon revolves around its parent planet, earth, and earth revolves around its parent, the sun. This means our ancestors had already considered the sun as fixed, with earth, the moon, and all other planets revolving around it," Parmar said.

He said that he read an "interesting historical fact" that "in the 12th Century, when the city of Beijing was established, its designs and architecture were created by an architect from what is today Nepal but was then part of India". This architect, named Bal Bahu, was known for making statues of Buddha and Ram and

designing grand structures. He was invited to design Beijing. Even today, a statue of Bal Bahu is erected in Beijing by the government, recognising his contributions," Parmar said.

The minister also spoke about the Olympics and India's ancient history with stadiums.

"While the Olympics have been around for 2,800 years, developing the concept of stadiums and collective games, our country has evidence of stadiums that are even older. In the excavations at the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, stadiums were found that date back... well before 2,800 or even 3,000 years ago. This shows that our ancestors were already familiar with sports and could build stadiums, proving that they were advanced in many areas."

8 EXPRESS NETWORK

PROJECTS TO BE FULLY FUNDED BY ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Govt invites top research institutes to partner with varsities

AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

IN A major intervention aimed at strengthening the scientific base in the country, the government on Tuesday approved a programme to build partnerships between top research institutions and universities to carry out joint research projects.

These research projects would be fully funded by Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), a new research funding agency set up last year to address structural deficiencies in India's scientific research and development sector. The ANRF held its first governing body meeting on Tuesday, with PM Narendra Modi attending it in his capacity as its president.

The ANRF was created to serve two main purposes — substantially increase the financial resources available for scientific re-

search, from public as well as private sources, and expand the research base in the country, especially in colleges and universities where research capability is extremely limited or non-existent.

The ANRF concept note had lamented that less than 1% of India's nearly 40,000 institutions of higher education were engaged in research activities. Scientific research in India is concentrated mainly in specialised institutions like Indian Institute of Science, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research or the IITs, in sharp contrast to many other countries where universities are nerve centres of research.

As the first step towards addressing this anomaly, the ANRF seeks to create linkages between topmost research institutions and universities, and fund them to carry out joint research projects. This is expected to build research capacities in the university system, and expose university teach-



PM Narendra Modi chairs first meeting of Governing Board of Anusandhan National Research Foundation, Tuesday. PTI

ers and professors, and students to advanced research.

This initiative is envisaged to work in a hub-and-spoke model, with one top research institution hand-holding three to seven universities in carrying out scientific research in any one of the high-priority areas considered crucial to the country's growth and development.

"Over the next five years, we hope to see at least 20 such hub-and-spoke models working in different areas. This will mean about 100-150 universities would be actively working in priority research areas," an official said.

The ANRF has been allocated a budget of Rs 14,000 crore over a five-year period. That translates to Rs 2,800 crore every year, a sub-

stantial improvement over the roughly Rs 800 crore annual budget that the previous science funding agency, Science and Engineering Research Board, used to have. In addition, the ANRF is expected to mobilise Rs 36,000 crore in the next five years through private sources, taking its total resources to Rs 50,000 crore.

Officials said now that the governing board headed by the PM has approved the proposal, top research institutions would be invited to identify universities they would like to collaborate with and submit applications for joint projects. "The call for proposals is expected to be floated within a month," an official said.

The ANRF governing body also decided to ease restrictions on the use of funds meant for scientific research. "Currently, the research funds can be utilised only under certain heads, and switching a part of the money from one head to the other is a

tedious process. We have decided to introduce some flexibility on these issues. The exact details are still to be worked out, but one idea is to have just two broad heads for expenditure of research funds — recurring and non-recurring. Researchers can spend the money according to their project requirements, without having to do a lot of paperwork," the official said.

"The main idea is to allow scientists to spend most of their time on their research and not bind them in processes. We will facilitate whatever needs to be done to ensure ease of doing research. This would include giving scientists and institutions a greater degree of flexibility in hiring project staff," the official said.

ANRF board also decided to launch a mission-mode programme to initiate multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary research to develop indigenous technologies related to e-vehicles.

Taken aback by Kerala inaction on Hema panel report, says HC

Asks govt to give unredacted copy of report to SIT probing new complaints

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 10

COMING DOWN heavily on the state government for inaction on Hema Committee report Kerala HC Tuesday directed the police to "go through the entire report and take action if any offences are made out in the report".

The committee had handed over the report to the state government's cultural affairs department in December, 2019.

The division bench of Acting Chief Justice A Muhamed Mustaque and CS Sudha said: "We are concerned about the inaction of the state government including filing of FIR, when the report, which looked into the issues in the Malayalam film industry, was submitted to the state police chief in February 2021."

When the government pleader informed the court that the SIT is yet to see the full copy of the report, the court directed the state government to hand over the unredacted copy of the report and all related documents to the SIT formed to look into the fresh complaints from women film professionals. "Let the SIT go through its threadbare and see whether any offences are made out, cognizable or otherwise and take action. What are the actions taken are to be reported to the court in two weeks".

The court said once the action taken report is submitted, the court will go through the full report. "Then we will see whether the SIT action is justifiable or unjustifiable. This is without any prejudice on actions already initiated on complaints."

After the report was released on August 19, a few women professionals had come out in the media saying that they were sexually exploited by men in the industry. The state government had formed the SIT to look into fresh allegations of sexual abuse. So far,

22 cases have been registered by the SIT based on various complaints of abuse that happened over the last several years.

On August 22, acting upon a PIL, the high court had directed the government to furnish before it in a sealed cover the full, unredacted report of the Justice Hema Committee.

The court had stated that if any cognizable offences are disclosed to the committee, whether criminal action is necessary or not will be decided by the court. Accordingly, the state government furnished the report in a sealed cover to the court.

When the matter came up for hearing Tuesday, the court asked why the state has been sitting on the report.

"We are taken aback by the alarming inaction of the Government. This delay cannot be justified. Bare minimum was expected on the part of the government, which should have acted upon the report and its recommendations," it said.

It further said: "When the state government is apprised of the existence of a malady in society and commitment of offences, what is the bare minimum expected from the state to do. When the state government is confronted with certain practices derogatory to the dignity of women, existing in society, what is the bare minimum the government has to do? The DGP did not do anything since the report was handed over to him in February, 2021. We are concerned about the position of the women in Kerala, not just about the women in the film industry".

The Division Bench did not agree with the government's stand that the Hema Committee report is only narration of incidents. "How do you know that the witnesses in the report are not interesting filing cases? If they are not interested, you can drop the proceedings," said the court.

8 held for abducting, raping two dancers in UP's Kushinagar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 10

IN A swift action, the Kushinagar police arrested eight persons for allegedly kidnapping and raping two dancers of an orchestra party late Sunday night.

Police said they rescued the women, both in their 20s, from a house, nearly 10 km from their rented residence, two hours after they were abducted by a group of men.

"All the eight accused are below 30 years. They were presented before a court in Kushinagar, which sent them to judicial custody. The statements of the two women are currently being recorded before a magistrate," said SP (Kushinagar) Santosh Kumar Mishra, adding their medical test has been completed and its report is awaited.

According to police, on Sunday night they received information that unidentified men travelling in two SUVs arrived at a house where four young women from West Bengal were staying on rent.

"The group abducted two women at gunpoint. When residents raised an alarm, they fired shots in the air before taking away the women. The local

promptly informed us and also shared the vehicle numbers. With the help of human intelligence and surveillance, we traced one of the men to a house within two hours of the incident where the women were kept," said a police officer.

Six of the accused men — identified as Nagendra Yadav, Asan Singh, Krish Tiwari, Arthak Singh, Ajeet Singh, and Vivek Seth — were arrested from the house, which belonged to Ajeet Singh, said the officer.

Two other accused — Nisar Ansari and Aditya Sahani — were arrested on Tuesday from a village following an encounter, said police, adding both the accused received gunshots in their legs and were discharged after primary treatment. Both have criminal cases against them and carry a reward of Rs 25,000 each, said police.

"During interrogation, the men said they had assembled at Ajeet's house to celebrate his birthday. After drinking, they decided to hire an orchestra party for a dance show. When the women declined to perform due to the late hour, the men abducted them at gunpoint," said the officer.

Police have seized the two SUVs used in the crime.



FIFTH BAHRAICH WOLF CAPTURED

The Uttar Pradesh Forest Department Tuesday caught the fifth wolf of a pack of six that have terrorised 35 villages in Bahraich district, killing eight, mostly children, and injuring 18. The wolf was caught at Sisai Churamani village, where on August 4, it entered a house and took away a sleeping 7-year-old boy, whose body was later found in a sugarcane field. PTI

AAP announces 2nd & 3rd list of 20 candidates in Haryana

JATIN ANAND & SUKHBIR SIWACH
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 10

FORMER HARYANA minister Chhatar Pal Singh, who had defeated former deputy PM Devi Lal from Chirai (Hisar) constituency in 1991, will contest from Barwala constituency as AAP candidate for Haryana polls.

The AAP Tuesday released its second and third list of candidates with nine and 11 names, respectively. With seat-sharing talks nosediving with the Congress, the AAP had a day earlier released its first list of 20 candidates. So far, the party has declared names on 40 of the 90 seats in the state assembly.

Name of Haryana AAP chief Sushil Gupta was missing from both lists.

Chhatar Pal's name figured in the AAP's second list of nine candidates released early on Tuesday. He is pitted against BJP candidate assembly deputy speaker Ranbir Singh Gangwa.

The AAP also fielded Rita Bamaniya (Sadhaura), Krishan Bajaj (Thanesar), Hawa Singh (Indri), Mukhtiyar Singh Bazigar (Ratia), Bhupendra Beniwal (Adampur) Jawahar Lal (Bawal), Pravesh Mehta (Faridabad) and Abash Chandela (Tigaon) in its second list of candidates.

Later, the party named Bheem Singh Rathi (Radaur), Amar Singh (Nilokheri), Amit Kumar (Israna), Rajesh Saroha (Rai), Manjeet Farmana (Kharakhauda), Pravin Guskhani (Garhi Sampla-Kiloi), Naresh Bagri (Kalanaur), Mahender Dahiya (Jhajjar), Suneel Rao (Ateli), Satish Yadav (Rewari) and Col Rajendra Rawat (Hathin) in its third list.

An AAP ticket to Chhatar Pal comes a day after the two-time former Congress MLA quit the BJP citing ongoing neglect by the party leadership and growing resentment among party workers.

Confirming that the window for a seat-sharing agreement with the Congress, its INDIA bloc ally, has closed, Gupta Tuesday said that the party was prepared

to contest all Assembly seats.

Even as AAP sources blamed the "Delhi-based Congress leaders" for "dragging its feet to the point of stalling the alliance talks", they added that senior leaders are also keeping an eye on rebels "to provide them a platform" in the upcoming elections.

Meanwhile, AAP's second and third list included nine more Assembly constituencies — Thanesar, Bawal, Faridabad, Radaur, Hathin, Garhi Sampla-Kiloi, Rewari, Kharakhauda and Nilokheri — of the 46 that the party had contested in the 2019 Assembly polls.

The Congress has also declared candidates for Sadhaura, Thanesar, Radaur, Nilokheri, Kharakhauda, Garhi Sampla-Kiloi, Kalanaur, Jhajjar and Rewari seats, for which AAP named its ticket holders on Tuesday.

Congress and AAP fought LS polls together in Delhi but separately in Punjab. A senior Congress leader said the current circumstance did not go well either for Haryana or Delhi Assembly polls. An AAP leader said, "Why will we go for an alliance with the Congress in Delhi, where we have been in power for more than 11 years?"

Raza's 'Nature' painting worth ₹2.5 crore stolen, case registered

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 10

A PAINTING by Sayed Haider Raza, worth over ₹2.5 crore, was allegedly stolen from a warehouse in Mumbai's Ballard Pier area. The police said a case has been registered at the MRA Marg police station and a team is trying to identify the culprit and recover the painting.

The painting, 'Nature', was created by Raza in 1992 and was stored at the Guru Auction House Pvt Ltd's warehouse in South Mumbai. "Raza painted it using acrylic on canvas and it was worth over ₹2.5 crore. It was kept in the warehouse during the pandemic and it was meant to be sold from there," a police officer said.

It is unclear when exactly the theft took place. The police said the accused, yet to be identified, broke into the warehouse. The theft was discovered recently following which a complaint was submitted to the police. After a preliminary inquiry, a case was registered at the MRA Marg police station on Monday.

"We are trying to identify the culprit from CCTV footage although it can only store footage of 2 months. We are also checking footage of cameras around warehouse," an officer said.

Prajwal bail plea hearing to be in-camera, says Karnataka HC

Bengaluru: The Karnataka HC Monday directed that the hearing into former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna's applications for bail and anticipatory bail would be held in-camera. Revanna has been accused of rape and sexual harassment and has been in prison since May 31 following his arrest.

The order was passed by a bench of Justice MNagaprasanna after Special Public Prosecutor Ravivarma Kumar, representing the SIT, urged the same. "This will be heard in camera, it cannot be heard in open court. We will secure the order and do it. It should not be that any person is put to ignominy at any cost," Justice Nagaprasanna said. The matter will be heard next on September 12. ENS



People being rescued after a landslide on the Kedarnath National Highway in Rudraprayag district, Tuesday. PTI

Three women among 5 killed in landslide on Kedarnath Yatra route

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 10

AT LEAST five people — including three women — were killed and three others wounded after they were buried in a landslide in Sonprayag on the Kedarnath Yatra route.

According to the Rudraprayag district administration, reports came in on Monday evening about travellers being buried in landslides between Gaurikund and Sonprayag. In response, the police, district administration, and the SDRF and NDRF launched a joint rescue operation.

Late night, three people who sustained injuries were rescued while one person, who was found unconscious, was later declared dead. "Due to bad weather and continuous falling of debris and stones Monday night, rescue teams encountered challenges, forcing them to halt the operation. For the safety of travellers, the district police had stopped

movement on the route an hour before the incident. However, the accident involved those who had already travelled from Gaurikund to Sonprayag before the route closure," the Rudraprayag police said in a statement.

As the weather improved Tuesday morning, rescue teams found three persons — two women and one man. They were unconscious. All three were later declared dead. Another woman who was found unconscious was also declared dead.

The deceased have been identified as Madhya Pradesh resident Gopal (50), Durgabai Khapar (50), and Samanbai (50), Nepal resident Titali Devi (70), and Gujarat resident Bharat Bhai Nirralal (52).

The road that was previously blocked has been made operational with pilgrims stranded at Gaurikund being taken to safety towards Sonprayag. Tuesday morning, SP Rudraprayag Akshay Prahlad Konde, who was on a Kedarnath tour, began to oversee search and rescue operations.

NBWL clears power lines in national park, flamingo habitat

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

IN ITS first meeting after the Lok Sabha polls, the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has cleared a controversial transmission line project that sparked protests amid concerns over deforestation in Goa's Mollem National Park.

A transmission line in the Wild Ass Sanctuary of Little Rann Of Kutch and a clutch of infrastructure projects in tiger corridors of central India were among the other projects that got the go-ahead at the July-end meeting, the panel's first in five months. At least 121 projects, big and small, across 12 states were considered, the minutes of the meeting show.

The NBWL panel, headed by

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, also pulled up the Madhya Pradesh tourism department for carrying out construction in the Son Gharial Sanctuary and the adjacent tiger corridors without permits. The Minister recommended action against those responsible, the minutes show.

The NBWL, a statutory body established under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, is primarily responsible for promotion and conservation of wildlife. It also appraises and approves development projects that fall within and outside protected areas such as sanctuaries, national parks and tiger reserves.

The Mollem National Park is a 107 sq km area within the Bhagwan Mahavir Sanctuary, a protected area in the biodiverse

Western Ghats that is home to tigers, gaurs and sloth bears, besides an array of amphibians and reptiles.

As per government records, the transmission line will involve felling of 7,881 trees. The project sparked protests, with people, under the 'Save Mollem' banner, also objecting to proposals for doubling of a railway line and widening of a highway passing through the sanctuary and the national park.

The NBWL panel granted conditional clearance to the 400 kV Tamnar transmission line running through 27 hectares of forest across the sanctuary and the national park, saying work should not commence unless the proposal pertaining to the Karnataka side of the line was recommended by the board. The

entire line runs from Narendra village in Dharwad, Karnataka to Dharbandora, Goa.

The panel also said the transmission pillars should be guarded so that wild animals do not come in contact with them. It also asked the project proponent to study the impact of transmission lines on biodiversity and wildlife and ensure that the sanctity of the habitat is not disturbed.

The Supreme Court had in April 2022 ordered that the transmission line be aligned with an existing 110/220 kV corridor line to reduce the extent of deforestation. An expert committee, formed to carry out a site visit, recommended to NBWL that the project's right of way be divided into a "wire zone", for areas below the powerline, and a "border zone" or areas between

the transmission towers for plantation.

Two approvals were granted for transmission lines in protected areas in Gujarat — one in the Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary in the Great Rann of Kutch and another running over 100 hectares in the Wild Ass Sanctuary in Little Rann of Kutch. The proposal in the Wild Ass Sanctuary was for "765 kV D/c Lakadia — Ahmedabad transmission line" to evacuate 4.5 gigawatts from the Khavda renewable energy zone in Surendranagar district.

The NBWL panel said the project would have to implement mitigation measures as given by the Wildlife Institute of India. "To prevent impact on avifauna, bird diverters to be installed on earth wire to make it

visible to birds from long distance to prevent any possible collision of birds," the panel said, according to the minutes.

For the Little Rann project, 39 towers will be erected in the Wild Ass Sanctuary for the transmission line. Experts suggested underground power lines be built instead.

"The least they should do is to lay the new power lines underground ideally. There are many examples of power lines laid underground in India and abroad," said Kedar Gore, Director, The Corbett Foundation, highlighting that Little Rann is an entry point into India for several migratory birds, and apart from flamingos, an important habitat for other threatened bird species such as Asian Houbara, vultures, cranes and storks.

UNION HOME MINISTER LAUNCHES FOUR I4C PLATFORMS

Cyber crime an important aspect of national security, says Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

CYBER SECURITY is no longer limited to the digital world and has become an important aspect of national security, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday, adding that the country's development was "impossible in current times" without keeping cybersecurity in mind.

"Today technology is being used extensively in all new initiatives and the increasing use of technology is also creating many threats. And that is why cyber security is no longer limited to the digital world but has also become an important aspect of national security," he said during the first foundation day celebrations of the I4C or Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre here.

The I4C established in 2018, is a department under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) tasked with establishing a national-level coordination centre to address cybercrime-related issues. Shah also inaugurated four I4C platforms — Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre (CFMC), the 'Samanvaya' platform, a Cyber Commandos pro-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Tuesday. Amit Mehra

gramme and a Suspect Registry. "CFMC was a vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi... Along with this, Cyber Commando, Samanvaya platform and Suspect Registry have also been inaugurated today. In a vast country like India, having a separate Cyber Suspect Registry for each state would not serve any purpose because states have their own boundaries but cyber criminals have no boundaries. It was the need of the hour to create a Suspect Registry at the national

level and connect states with it to create a common platform to fight cyber crime," Shah said. According to an official, in the Suspect Registry system, the I4C will share a list of the repeat offenders in their server, which can be accessed by police personnel of any state and also by the bank officials before opening bank accounts.

Shah said the government is also planning to train and prepare 5,000 cyber commandos over the next five years. "The

number of internet users in the country was 25 crore on March 31, 2014, which is now 95 crore on March 31, 2024... Due to the Digital India initiative, many facilities have become online in the country. 35 crore Jan Dhan accounts, 36 crore Rupay debit cards... 46% of the world's digital transaction volume is taking place in India today. When digital accounts and digital transactions increase, the need for protection from digital fraud also increases a lot," he said.

PM: India can be trusted partner in semiconductor supply chain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

ASSERTING THAT democracy and technology together can ensure the welfare of humanity, PM Narendra Modi Tuesday said India has the capability to become a trusted partner in a diversified semiconductor supply chain and assured that the government will follow a predictable and stable policy regime.

Modi stated this while chairing the Semiconductor Executives' Roundtable at his residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg. He said their ideas will not only shape their business but also India's future, a statement issued by the PMO said.

Modi said the day is not far when the semiconductor industry will be the bedrock for even basic necessities.

Modi emphasised that democracy and technology together can ensure the welfare of humanity and India is moving ahead on this path recognising its global responsibility in the semiconductor sector.

He talked about pillars of development which include developing social, digital and physical infrastructure, giving boost to inclusive development, reducing



PM Narendra Modi, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, MoS Jitin Prasada and others after the Semiconductor Executives roundtable in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

compliance burden and attracting investment in manufacturing and innovations, the statement said. He underscored that India has the capability to become a trusted partner in a diversified semiconductor supply chain.

Modi talked about India's talent pool and the immense focus of the government on skilling to ensure that a trained workforce is available for the industry.

Modi highlighted that India is a great market for investing in hi-tech infrastructure and said the excitement shared by the leaders of the semiconductor sector today will motivate the government to work harder for this sector.

With the focus on Make In India and Make for the World, the PM said, the government will continue to support the industry at every step. The CEOs appreciated India's commitment to the growth of the semiconductor sector and said it is unprecedented that leaders of the entire semiconductor sector have been brought under one roof, the statement said.

They also said the centre of gravity of the semiconductor industry is starting to shift towards India, adding that the country now has a suitable environment for the industry which has put India on the global map in the semiconductor sector.

Row over biryani in tiffin: School principal in UP gets clean chit

AMIT SHARMA
MEERUT, SEPTEMBER 10

A THREE-MEMBER inquiry committee that investigated the allegation that a Class 3 student in Amroha district was expelled for bringing non-veg biryani to school in his tiffin has given the principal a clean chit in the incident.

The panel also dismissed allegations the principal had beaten up the student and confined him to a solitary room inside school campus for 3 hours before expelling him on September 5 due to lack of corroborative evidence.

A row erupted last week after a purported video of a conversation between the principal and the student's mother went viral, leading to protests by Muslim Committee members in the district. The mother had alleged that principal hit her son, confined him to a solitary room and called him a "terrorist".

The panel submitted its report to DM Rajesh Tyagi. It also said the student was not expelled, V P Singh, District Inspector Of Schools, Amroha, told *The Indian Express* Tuesday. He said the education department has sought an explanation from the school management and is yet to get a reply.

National Testing House to now certify drones

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

THE QUALITY Control of India has approved the National Test House (NTH), under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, as the certifying body for drones.

"As part of the Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), National Test House, Northern Region, Ghaziabad, has been provisionally approved by the Quality Council of India as a Certification Body for type certification of drones. This significant milestone aligns with the Government of India's push towards fostering a robust and globally competitive drone ecosystem under Drone Rules 2021," a ministry statement said.

"A team of auditors from NTH will visit M/s Vimaana Aerospace Technologies, Noida from 11th to 12th September 2024 for conducting a Stage-2 (onsite) assessment. The purpose of this audit is to evaluate their D1 application for Krishiraj 1.0, an agricultural drone model..." it said.

Dr Alok Kumar Srivastava, DG,

NTH, told *The Indian Express* that the scientific institution is the only government agency authorised by the DGCA for certification of drone models which were earlier done only by multinational companies. "We are doing this at Rs 1.5 lakh per drone model, the lowest in the industry," Srivastava said.

About NTH's first drone certification case, he said that the NTH has already completed the first stage of certification process of Krishiraj drone and the second stage audit will be held on September 11-12, and a report will be forwarded to the DGCA.

Securing type certification under Drone Rules 2021 is mandatory to operate in India, the ministry said, adding: "as part of the Certification Scheme for UAS, the NTH is tasked with evaluating drone models to ensure compliance with applicable national and international standards."

"Additionally, NTH has achieved this stage in the certification process at a faster pace than its peers in the industry, demonstrating its efficiency and expertise in drone technology certification," it said.

BENGAL CATTLE SMUGGLING RACKET

Delhi HC grants bail to TMC leader's daughter in money laundering case

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

THE DELHI High Court on Tuesday granted bail to TMC leader Anubrata Mondal's daughter Sukanya Mondal, who was arrested by the ED for allegedly laundering the proceeds of cross-border India-Bangladesh cattle smuggling — through her firms — to the tune of nearly Rs 12 crore.

Anubrata, TMC leader from West Bengal, is also in judicial custody in the alleged money laundering case.

Granting her bail on Tuesday, Justice Neena Bansal Krishna took into account that Sukanya does not stand accused in the predicate offence lodged by the CBI and said: "It cannot be overlooked that the allegations against her are essentially in the context of her father, and she — in her commercial ventures — laundered the money received by her father as a bribe."

Justice Krishna granted the relief to Sukanya, who has been in custody since April 26 last year, considering that she is a woman and is entitled to bail under the proviso to Section 45 of the PMLA. Reasoning that the chargesheet was voluminous and that the trial may take long to conclude, the HC ordered for her release upon furnishing a personal bond of Rs 10 lakh, and asked her to not leave India without prior permission of the court or try to influence witnesses or tamper with evidence.

The court further noted that Anubrata was also granted bail by the Supreme Court on July 30 this year. While the CBI had registered a preliminary inquiry into the case — alleged cattle smuggling involving payments of illegal gratification of the BSF personnel and Customs officers — in 2018 and then an FIR in 2020, the ED filed a complaint on September 25, 2020. Sukanya was arrested by the ED on April 26 last year.

NIA takes custody of gold smuggling accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 10

THE NIA Tuesday took a man into custody in connection with the seizure of gold bars weighing over 18 kg at the Jaipur International Airport in 2020.

Sikar native Muniyad Ali Khan, was "returned" to India by the UAE, security agencies said Tuesday. "Muniyad Ali Khan, who had been on the run and had a standing warrant of arrest against him by the NIA Special Court, Jaipur, was taken into custody af-

ter immigration officials received an alert from Interpol. A Red Corner Notice was also in place against Khan, against whom a chargesheet had been filed by the NIA in March 2021, along with 17 others," an NIA spokesperson said.

On July 3, 2020, Customs officials seized 18.5 kg of smuggled gold bars at Jaipur International Airport and arrested 10 people. All accused had arrived from Riyadh. As per NIA, they, along with their associates, entered into a criminal conspiracy to smuggle gold into India. NIA had re-registered the case on September 22, 2020.



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Key Highlights - ICGH 2024

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Virtual address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

INDIA'S DECISIVE STRIDES FOR A CLEANER FUTURE UNDER THE VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

- India fulfilled Paris commitments on green energy 9 years ahead of the 2030 target
- Country's installed non-fossil fuel capacity increased nearly 300% in the last decade
- Solar energy capacity increased more than 3,000% in the last 10 years
- Over 45% of installed electricity generation capacity from non-fossil sources
- National Green Hydrogen Mission launched to scale up production, utilization and export and create lakhs of green jobs



NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

“ Bharat aims to become a global hub through Green Hydrogen Mission. It is committed to advancing green hydrogen as a new energy source. ”








The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

EASE OF PAYING TAX

GST Council adjusts rates on some items, but larger issues of rate rationalisation and compensation still need to be addressed

UNITS 54TH meeting, the GST Council adjusted the tax rate on several items. It lowered the rate on cancer drugs — Trastuzumab Deruxitecan, Osimertinib and Durvalumab — from 12 per cent to 5 per cent, and also brought down the tax levied on extruded or expanded products from 18 per cent to 12 per cent. Alongside, it granted exemption on research and development funds received by state or central universities or institutions with income tax exemption. As per reports, there is a broad consensus in the Council on the need to bring down the tax rate on health and life insurance. The decision has, however, been deferred, and will now be taken by a Group of Ministers. A report is expected to be submitted in October, and a closure is expected when the Council meets next in November. This is a welcome step — Union minister Nitin Gadkari has said that the levy of 18 per cent GST on insurance amounts to taxing the “uncertainties of life”. However, clarity on several critical issues is still awaited.

The GST compensation cess was originally levied to compensate states for any loss in revenue, measured against their guaranteed revenue. The cess was to be levied for a five-year period ending in June 2022. It was then extended till March 2026 to repay the loans taken to compensate states for shortfalls in revenue during the Covid period. However, considering the current pace of collections, as per some estimates, the repayment of the loans could occur even before the deadline. As the cess was levied for a specific purpose, the Council will now have to decide on whether the levy of the cess will continue, and if so, in what form, and how the proceeds will be shared. The newly formed Group of Ministers must work out a consensus on this issue. Then there is the issue of rate rationalisation. While there is a view that no changes should be made in the existing tax structure, the current structure of multiple slabs along with the levy of the compensation cess only adds to the complexity of the tax system, and goes against ease of doing business in the country. The rate rationalisation exercise should proceed, looking to not only bring down the number of tax slabs — one proposal has been to merge the 12 and 18 per cent slabs — but also to review the items in each slab to address criticism regarding the oddities in the system. This exercise must also examine the issue of revenue neutrality. The Group of Ministers on rate rationalisation is slated to meet next in September.

After the difficulties during the transition to the new tax system, the GST architecture has stabilised. The tax base has seen a steady expansion, revenues have been healthy, and leakages are being plugged. The GST Council now needs to bring about clarity on unresolved issues.

PULLING BACK FROM EDGE

Lancet study calls for a wider, more sensitive and imaginative policy approach to suicide prevention

IN THE ALLEGED death by suicide of a 21-year-old student at IIT Guwahati — a month after a 23-year-old was found dead in her hostel room at the institute — is another grim reminder of a looming public health crisis. The numbers tell a sobering story: According to data from the most recent National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, 1.71 lakh people died by suicide in 2022. At 12.4 per 1,00,000 individuals, it is the highest ever rate recorded in the country. Globally, the number stands at a stark 7.26,000 people. That the widely-prevalent medical model is not sufficient to tackle this worldwide crisis has long been flagged by health professionals and suicide-prevention bodies. Their claim is now backed by a study, published as a six-part series called “A Public Health Approach to Suicide Prevention”, in *The Lancet Public Health*. It calls on policymakers and governments to consider the larger causes that can drive people over the edge.

The conventional framework for suicide prevention has typically focused on individual risk factors such as family history, mental ill health, drug and alcohol use. This is the approach taken by India's National Suicide Prevention Strategy, unveiled in November 2022, which laid out three objectives: One, establishing surveillance mechanisms for suicide; two, setting up psychiatric outpatient departments that will provide suicide prevention services and three, integrating a mental well-being curriculum in all educational institutions. What such an approach fails to account for, as the *Lancet* study points out, is the role played by social determinants, such as macroeconomic policies, health-care coverage and social and cultural values, and commercial determinants like the alcohol and firearm industries, in exacerbating tendencies for self-harm. This, in turn, means thinking about suicide prevention on a larger scale, relying not just on targeted interventions, but considering how policies, such as those aimed at poverty alleviation or reducing homelessness, might help. In the US, for example, it was found that a one dollar rise in the minimum wage between 2006 and 2016, resulted in 8,000 fewer deaths by suicide per year.

According to NCRB data, as many as 154 farmers and daily-wage labourers died by suicide everyday in 2022. In the same year, there were over 13,000 student suicides. The scale of the problem, which affects many sections of the population, calls for creative thinking on the part of the government, and for a wider policy approach that leaves no one behind.

LOVE BY CHANCE

For the young, romantic connection is a matter of swiping right. They are now discovering the joy and fear of dating, in real life

REMEMBER THE TIME when romance was a matter of chance and not choice? When love could catch one unawares in the restricted section of the library while searching for an obscure title no one else would have sought out? Or, perhaps, at a party where there are no familiar faces, sitting in a corner humming tunelessly to the song playing in the background only to have a stranger chime in with the chorus and instant chemistry? If one isn't a millennial, chances are these scenarios will appear to be meet-cutes encountered only in rom-coms and soppy OTT sagas. For the swipe-right-and-meet-your-match Gen Z, the thrill of surprise connections might be foreign territory. Which is probably why a bunch of hobby apps such as Strava — a community for runners — or Letterboxd, an app akin to Goodreads, but for cinephiles, now appears to be doubling up as no-pressure dating zones.

Given the stress of online dating — sometimes only as romantic as trawling through matrimonial ads for the perfect match — this probably is a good thing. Away from the polarising chatter of social media apps such as X or the catfishing trauma of Tinder, hobby apps afford the chance to forge a connection over a shared interest before moving things to the next stage. It also marks — obversely — a return to an older, almost forgotten way of meeting and connecting with people — IRL (for the uninitiated, “in real life”). Of course it has its own share of hassles and heartbreak. But then real life can be messy and difficult, the relationships it throws up impossible to fix with a swipe left.

This turn of sorts against online dating seems to be having a moment. In Spain, for instance, a TikTok trend has gone offline, apparently with a fair bit of success. Single people looking to meet others can visit a supermarket chain, where an upside-down pineapple in their trolley is an indication of their openness to meeting people. The rest is chance, spunk or vibes.

Monsoon thunder in Bengal



JAWHAR SIRCAR

Protests are about women reclaiming public spaces. And people marching against a popular government

WHAT STARTED AS a protest against the heinous rape and murder of a junior doctor in a government hospital in Kolkata attached to the famous R G Kar Medical College has snowballed into an unprecedented movement for justice and the safety of women. It is ironic that it took place and continues to rock the state that has a reputation for standing up for women's rights and empowerment. Iconic women writers like Toru Dutt, Rasa Sundari Devi and Swarnakumari Devi had spoken up, courageously and in public, right from the 1870s. In December 2023, the National Crime Records Bureau declared Kolkata to be the safest city for women, even as it reported a 30 per cent rise in crimes against women between 2014 and 2022 across the country.

Why, then, were so many lakhs of women out on the streets of Kolkata and in so many other places in Bengal and beyond, at such short notice, to “reclaim the night” on the eve of Independence Day? This will surely go down in history as the biggest demonstration of women's solidarity and anger against “the system”, and it continues unabated for over a month, in its different forms and hues. The victim, aptly christened as Abhaya, the dauntless, is synonymous with women's power, supported by most men — who marched along with millions of their sisters and mothers. What mystifies one the most is how this spontaneous outburst sustains and recharges itself, ever day, with no centralised leadership or organisational structure and funding.

Having seen and been part of students' movements from 1967, through the turbulent period of Naxalism and other shades of left wing rebellion, one can say without fear of contradiction that this unending expression of public angst is the longest and the most spontaneous that one has seen. It is not confined to a few select spots like the turbulence against the Citizenship Act, but is randomly and unpredictably dispersed all over the metropolis

Horror and anger over one single crime have coupled with suspicions and disgust at the government's subsequent maladroit steps to create an explosive situation — when daily demonstrations bring large parts of the metropolis to a standstill. Few are buying the government's repeated claims that it is all a political conspiracy by the Left and the BJP. Despite some evidence that certain political elements may be involved in some way, the fact is that the largest section of the agitators has vigorously booed out any political leader who sought to add fuel to the fire.

and beyond, and the numerous demonstrations are independent of each other. The doctors' agitation spread all over the country, while the women-led public upheaval has found resonance across the seven seas.

Common sense dictates that it cannot be just to demand justice in a single criminal case. Justice for Abhaya is surely the movement's guiding spirit, but the ramifications of the protest go well beyond — to encompass gender-based inequities per se and against the dark underbelly of an otherwise-undeniably popular government that sweeps each and every poll in Bengal for 14 years at a stretch. In a sense, it marks not the beginning of the end for Mamata Banerjee, as her opponents would love to imagine — but the first step of the major reclamation of women's space in public life in India. The “dark underbelly” referred to exists in every city — from Harlem to Howrah — and every government and political party everywhere patronises muscle power and tolerates, permits or encourages seamy wheeler dealers and their nefarious cousins. This confessional admission or observation, call it what you will, is promoted by the experience of over four decades in the bureaucracy, both in the state as well as at the Centre, and after three very valuable years spent in the heart of politics. No state or party is free of its dark patches, but where Bengal is concerned, the issue is aggravated because people are politically and emotionally more charged. They have decided, almost semi consciously, that enough is enough.

The state government, however, refuses to admit that there is a popular outburst of public angst against it. It is decry for the inept handling of the gruesome crime at RG Kar Hospital and then for actually rewarding the college principal at whom all fingers were pointed. Had it acted sternly and demonstratively by punishing him and those officials responsible for unprofessional or inept conduct, public reaction may have died down. Now the

common man is convinced — thanks to periodic revelations in the mainstream and social media (the veracity of all of which is yet to be vouched for) that the state administration was either absolutely inefficient or is trying to “cover up” something sinister. It was painful to see how the only woman chief minister's past and proven track record of standing up for women and supporting their empowerment (as few states can even think) was blown into the wind in just a few days with a few wrong steps. Perceptions rule the day, and accusations fly all over as conspiracy theorists rule the media.

At the bottom of it all lies a less-articulated disgust at the corruption of a section of the ruling party that demonstrates its newly acquired wealth and clout, so brazenly displayed in towns and villages. True, such corruption rules many other states as well, but the passionate masses of West Bengal could not care less. Horror and anger over one single crime have coupled with suspicions and disgust at the government's subsequent maladroit steps to create an explosive situation — when daily demonstrations bring large parts of the metropolis to a standstill. Few are buying the government's repeated claims that it is all a political conspiracy by the Left and the BJP. Despite some evidence that certain political elements may be involved in some way, the fact is that the largest section of the agitators has vigorously booed out any political leader who sought to add fuel to the fire. Mamata Banerjee of yore would have jumped headlong into the fire and doused it by now, and frankly, until she reaches out to the agitating doctors, it may simmer much too long.

Whatever the future may hold, it is undeniable that this monsoon thunder in Bengal has shown the way for women to recover their rightful space.

The writer is Rajya Sabha MP, Trinamool Congress



V KAMAKOTI

FROM MADRAS TO ZANZIBAR

IIT-Madras's campus in East Africa showcases its enhanced ambition, responsibility

SINCE ITS INCEPTION in 1959 with the help of the West German government, IIT Madras (IITM) has made significant strides.

The institution has long been revered as one that produces top-quality students, who as alumni leave an indelible mark in the global landscape, be it the corporate world, research labs or academia. Less known is the fact that Master's students graduating out of IITM (and other IITs) are ubiquitous in many public sector enterprises in India, making tremendous contributions. They have worked without much limelight, building the country's technical backbone. Of course, many alumni have also built world-class enterprises, MNCs, out of India.

In the last couple of decades, the ambitions of IITM (and other IITs) and the responsibilities placed on these institutions have only increased. In response, IITM has started initiatives, many of them pioneering, in research, supporting Indian companies technologically, through innovation and incubation of start-ups, and democratisation of education. The Institute of Eminence grant from the Government of India has spurred Centres of Excellence (CoE) at IITM with ambitions to be one of the top five globally in their respective fields. The industrial consultancy and sponsored research arm of IITM facilitates hundreds of projects that deliver technology to Indian and foreign companies.

The first university-based research park in India is located at IITM and has had a disproportionate impact in just a few short years, generating unicorns, providing employment and valuation in billions of dollars. The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) initiative, followed by the online Bachelor of Science (BS) programme, has democratised education in

India. NPTEL has one of the largest repositories in the world of engineering courses that are delivered online.

The time has come to make a significant impact outside India, in regions that require our support. This is in our DNA, having been a beneficiary of the support from the West German government and institutions. IITM has located its first overseas campus in Zanzibar. IITM Zanzibar (IITMZ) is the product of a tripartite agreement between the Government of India, Government of Zanzibar/Tanzania, and IIT Madras, which was signed on July 6, 2023, in Zanzibar, in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, and Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar.

The East Africa campus is a testament to IITM's commitment to creating positive change in higher education. Across campuses, IITM is building a community, which will articulate the aspirations of the leaders of tomorrow, straddling local relevance and global significance.

The unique international campus opened its doors in October 2023, with a mix of students from India, Nepal and Tanzania in full-time degree programmes in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence (AI). A digital-first campus with state-of-the-art classrooms, labs, an auditorium, and living and dining facilities, is located in the Bweleo district of Zanzibar Island. A permanent campus, poised to cater to the future needs of IITMZ, will be developed in about 205 acres of land, identified by the Zanzibar government.

The student admission process involves screening tests and interviews and aims to identify and attract top talent from Africa, irrespective of their financial means.

The world in the 1950s was significantly

different from the world now. What took IITM six decades to develop must be accomplished in IITM Zanzibar in a much shorter time. Our aim is to see IITMZ as a microcosm of the Chennai campus in a short time, expanding and growing in tune with its own surroundings, in the years to come. This requires institutional will, government support from both sides, and participation and support from the private sector. Over several months, the contributions from those who want to support IITMZ's exceptional student cohorts in various ways have been very rewarding.

This year, a generous contribution from the Airtel Africa Foundation towards financial assistance for IITMZ undergraduate students has been announced. Ten of the top students from across Africa will receive tuition waivers to study its Data Science & AI programme (for all four years) and will be named “Airtel Africa Fellows”. The list of awardees of the scholarship programme will be released soon. This landmark support from Airtel Africa Foundation will motivate others to join this call for action. From Africa-based foundations and corporates to IITM alumni in distant places, providing financial assistance to IITMZ students has become an important cause for many.

IITMZ is re-articulating what it means to be an educational institution in 2024. Inclusive, interdisciplinary programmes with a student-first mindset and dedicated faculty and staff are at its core. Learning and growing alongside the student cohorts, supported in its mission by a galaxy of well-wishers, and leveraging the immense academic strengths of its main campus, the offshore institution is poised for success.

The writer is director, IIT Madras



SEPTEMBER 11, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

SIKH LEADER'S PAK TIES

AVTAR SINGH, ADVISOR to the outlawed All-India Sikh Students Federation and a close associate of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, has allegedly confessed to having visited Pakistan several times recently and receiving training in espionage and sabotage there. He is also reported to have said that Bhindranwale's nephew was among several others being trained in such activities in Pakistan.

NO FLOOR TEST

CONTRARY TO THE expectations of the public and protestations by the deposed chief

minister N T Rama Rao, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly is not going to take up the vote-of-confidence motion when it meets. It will adjourn after adopting a condolence motion on the death of E Vasudeva Rao, Telugu Desam MLA, representing Visakhapatnam.

CURFEW IN MP

A THREE-DAY CURFEW was clamped on Sindhwa town in Kargone district of Madhya Pradesh when four persons were killed and 35 injured in a communal riot and subsequent police firing. The injured include 23 policemen. One person was killed on the spot and two succumbed to bullet injuries in

the hospital. Nine others were admitted to the government hospital. Official reports reaching here described the situation as “tense but under control”.

ZUBIN MEHTA ON TV

DELHI DOORDARSHAN WILL telecast live the concert of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra to be conducted by Zubin Mehta in New Delhi. Doordarshan sources said that the telecast will be from 7 pm to 8 pm. The sources said Doordarshan had made “all possible arrangements” for the telecast, though it has little experience in covering concerts by symphony orchestras.

Peace & its possibilities

There appears to be a new momentum for peacemaking in Ukraine, Delhi needs to stay close to the efforts. Any rearrangement of the global order will have a great impact on India's international relations



AS THIS YEAR'S fighting season inches to a close in Ukraine, a new round of peace diplomacy is unfolding. As the war drags on into the third year, the incentives for ending it in both Moscow and Kyiv seem larger. Russian President Vladimir Putin the other day welcomed peacemaking diplomacy from Brazil, China, and India. The Ukrainian president too wants the leaders of the Global South to pitch in for peace.

Does the new context provide greater room for Indian peace diplomacy in Ukraine? As it considers a more active peacemaking role, Delhi should be clear about the possibilities and limitations of what it can do. To be sure, India is in favour of peace and has been pressing for dialogue and diplomacy since the very start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. But calling for peace is very different from the capability to produce it.

While Delhi must try and make some contributions to peacemaking, it should be clear in its mind that peace in Ukraine, if and when it happens, will be about a new grand European bargain between Washington and Moscow. It was the US along with Russia that constructed the European order in 1945 after World War II and in 1991, at the end of the Cold War. Russia wants a new framework and only the US has the power to facilitate the reorganisation of the European security order. The talks between President Joe Biden and Putin in Geneva in June 2021 broke up by the end of the year and set the stage for the war for Ukraine.

Both Russia and Ukraine know that the keys to peace lie with the US, which will elect a new president in a few weeks. Putin and Zelenskyy have high stakes in the outcome of the election. If Putin is accused once again of meddling in the US elections, Zelenskyy is on a fresh offensive to ensure that Ukraine's case will continue to get a favourable hearing after the elections. Zelenskyy is travelling to the US this month. He will address the United Nations General Assembly in New York and meet the top leaders of the US political establishment, with new ideas for peace.

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has underlined this week the need for a new and vigorous peace effort. He also said Russia must be invited to the next peace conference, likely to be held in November and coordinated by Switzerland, and that Zelenskyy agrees with that proposal. Russia was not invited to the first conference in June.

Put simply, there appears to be a new momentum for peace in Ukraine and therefore, it makes sense for India to stay close to the efforts. External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar's visit to Europe this week, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval's trip to Moscow, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's travel to New York to attend a global summit and his consultations with the Quad colleagues



C R Sasikumar

do precisely that. Any Indian role in Ukraine will benefit from assessing the results of the most comprehensive recent peace effort in Ukraine by the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. During the summer, he met all the major actors in the conflict, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese leader Xi Jinping, and former US president Donald Trump.

In his report submitted to the EU, Orban emphasised three points. Not everyone in Europe or the world agrees with his assessments. Orban is right to conclude there will be more fighting before peace talks. Both are trying to acquire more territory before winter arrives and makes ground battles difficult. Russia is making slow but definitive advances in eastern Ukraine and Kyiv is sustaining its Kursk offensive in Russia.

Orban argues that three powers have the capacity to influence the war dynamic in Ukraine — the US, China and the European Union. While Russia and Ukraine continue to play for influence over US policy, Orban bets that China is unwilling to be drawn deep into peace diplomacy unless the prospects for peace are high. Orban's emphasis on the EU role may be overstated. The EU itself is increasingly divided on how to deal with the war in Ukraine. Brussels formally dissociated itself from the peace effort of Orban, who currently holds the rotating chair of the EU presidency. It insists that Orban's freelancing should not be confused with the EU's position on the conflict.

That has not stopped Orban, who claims that his peace efforts are ongoing and that there will be significant new moves for ending the war in the coming weeks. Orban's adviser Balázs Orbán (no relation to the PM)

Both Russia and Ukraine know that the keys to peace lie with the US, which will elect a new president in a few weeks. Putin and Zelenskyy have high stakes in the outcome of the election. If Putin is accused once again of meddling in the US elections, Zelenskyy is on a fresh offensive to ensure that Ukraine's case will continue to get a favourable hearing after the elections. Zelenskyy is travelling to the US this month. He will address the United Nations General Assembly in New York and meet the top leaders of the US political establishment, with new ideas for peace.

was in Delhi recently briefing the Indian leadership on the Hungarian peace initiative. He also welcomed India's recent peace moves in Europe. Meanwhile, the EU's resolve to defend Ukraine against Russia is facing fatigue. Although Europe continues to talk about defending Ukraine with "whatever it takes", there is a growing "peace party" across Europe. Financial difficulties and competing demands for resources and political resistance to Ukraine policy are nudging Europe towards the idea that talks are necessary; and so are compromises. Even more significant, there are forces on the extreme left and right that call for reconciliation with Russia and are ready to support territorial concessions by Ukraine.

Delhi's focus should be on coping with the geopolitical consequences, intended and unintended, of the war in Ukraine. Major wars result in a rearrangement of the regional and global orders. Europe is certainly heading towards a restructuring of its geopolitics. Any potential rearrangement of the global order will have a great impact on India's international relations. The war in Ukraine has put a significant squeeze on India's economic and security policies. For Delhi, the restoration of peace in Europe and a new compact between Russia and the West is the most preferred outcome, for it makes it easier to accelerate India's economic growth and pursue the goal of a secure Asia.

The writer is visiting research professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The government's decision to start shelling the *jalsa* with tear gas was a dangerous step. Political gatherings in Pakistan are rarely disciplined enough to observe strict timelines, and the police's insistence on making the crowd disperse by force made for an unnecessary show of might." — DAWN, PAKISTAN

Raising the guardrails

Checks and balances to protect public interest, without hampering innovation, are needed in digital public infrastructure



PAYAL MALIK AND HARISHANKAR THAYYIL JAGADEESH

DURING ITS G20 presidency, India positioned digital public infrastructure (DPI) as a technology-enabled instrument for inclusive and sustainable development. DPI's distinguishing characteristics of openness, interoperability, and scalability underscore its criticality beyond technology to the larger goals of public and private service delivery. DPIs can be broadly grouped into two categories: Foundational and sectoral.

Typically, foundational DPIs such as Aadhaar, UPI, and Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) are developed to create robust digital rails and span the domains of digital identity systems and payment infrastructure, and data exchange platforms. Sectoral DPIs provide specialised services tailored to the needs of specific sectors. Examples include the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, which is the rails for the provision of universal health coverage. A notable DPI success story is the CoWIN platform, which utilised Aadhaar-based authentication to facilitate the administration of more than 2.2 billion Covid-19 vaccines.

The transformative impact of India's DPI initiatives is so pervasive that it is taken for granted. India has achieved over 1.3 billion Aadhaar enrolments and carries out over 10 billion UPI transactions monthly. Its continuing endeavours in this area were highlighted in the Finance Minister's budget speech, which proposed the development of DPI applications in the areas of "credit, e-commerce, education, health, law and justice, logistics, MSME, services delivery and urban governance". Despite their success and expansion to newer sectors, there are some issues that need to be examined.

DPIs serve a platform-like role, that is, they provide a network or gateway that enables other entities to "plug and play" by building digital applications or services on these rails. They enable rapid innovation and value creation at scale through public-private partnerships. DPIs are essentially multi-sided platforms, where the value of the platform on one side increases with the increase in the number of participants on the other side. These inherent network effects of DPIs can lead to winner-takes-all outcomes, resulting in the creation of monopolies or oligopolies. For instance, the UPI payment system has resulted in the creation of a virtual duopoly of service providers. Participants captured these zero-price markets while harvesting vast amounts of user data over time. Data is a shareable modular input that may allow these firms to expand into adjacent markets, such as retail lending, by leveraging their position in the DPI market and creating digital ecosystems. Such private ecosystems may pose a number of competition issues typical of platform-centric markets.

Given that the emergence of DPIs is a policy response intended to create meaningful competition, the risk of DPIs causing

market concentration needs to be mitigated. India's G20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure also discussed several key aspects of competition and regulation of DPIs. The report emphasises the importance of creating a level playing field for all participants in the digital ecosystem to ensure that no single entity has undue control or influence over the digital infrastructure. The task force highlighted the need for regulatory frameworks that can adapt to the evolving digital landscape in order to address issues such as data privacy, security, and interoperability and competition.

There are other significant concerns related to data usage, innovation, and indeterminate risk-reward sharing frameworks. Concerns regarding the privatisation of public data, data security, and data privacy arise due to the operation of private entities in the absence of a contractual or regulatory framework. An examination of the innovation trajectories encouraged by these DPIs is also essential to understand whether these government-supported initiatives are inadvertently entrenching private entities without any guardrails. In such PPPs, the delineation of the obligations of both public and private entities is essential due to their scale, complexity, and public interest. The government can draw on its extensive experience with PPPs to create appropriate governance frameworks, similar to Model Concession Agreements that are used in the development of highways and ports.

India stands at the crossroads of innovation and regulation in the implementation of DPIs. Private firms bring innovation and speed of execution due to their autonomy, but they may be operating in a regulatory vacuum. A robust framework of checks and balances, which protects public interest without hampering private innovation, is essential. This demands an effective techno-legal governance framework through a coordinated effort between technology developers and policymakers.

Digital infrastructure should be seen as basic infrastructure, where the state has a critical role to play, and an instrument of industrial policy akin to roads, airports, and electricity. Given DPIs are a recent development and that their full potential has not been realised, controlling them fully through a rigid legal framework might hamper their growth. Soft law instruments which involve guidelines encouraging industry best practices and rely on broad principles rather than prescriptive rules would be better suited. Some of the key guardrails contained in soft law, such as data encryption, access restrictions, and mandating user consent for data usage, can safeguard the interests of the public.

The unbridled operation of such a crucial pillar of the digital economy outside the limits of sovereign control may have undesirable economic and social consequences. One approach would be segregating the key aspects of DPIs into those that are best governed through statutory or contractual frameworks and those governable through soft law. A more considered and clearly defined approach to govern the private actors riding on the infrastructure component of DPIs would significantly aid in fully realising their transformative potential without creating disruptive risks to society.

Malik is visiting professor and Jagadeesh, is fellow (consultant), ICRIER

A poet of his times — and ours

Muktibodh's poetry seems a narrative of our own troubled moment



GAJANAN MADHAV MUKTIBODH breathed his last on the late evening of September 11, 1964, in a private ward room at AIIMS New Delhi. As a young poet, I watched from the window his breath slowing down. I had never seen a man dying before my eyes, the experience was traumatic. A few minutes later, I rushed to the PTI office on Parliament Street to break the news to the world. I had to teleprint it since the person in charge had already left, it being rather late.

Muktibodh was yet to turn 47. His first collection of poetry *Chand Ka Muh Terha Hai* and his classic long poem 'Andhere Mein' were yet to be published. All this happened 60 years ago. On his final journey to Nigambodh Ghat, he was accompanied by a large number of writers and artists including Agyeya, Shamsheer Bahadur Singh, Nemi Chandra Jain, Mohan Rakesh, Raghuvir Sahay, Shrikant Verma, Ram Kumar, MF Husain. Husain took to walking without shoes in the funeral procession and gave up wearing shoes for the rest of his life from thereon. With a few exceptions, nobody expected that Muktibodh would have a most illustrious afterlife in which he would emerge as a major poet and critic, inspiring several generations of writers. Muktibodh now is widely acknowledged as a master of modern Indian literature.

His first book of poetry and his classic poem were published in 1964, posthumously. His

complete works appeared in 1980 in six volumes. A film relating to him, *Satah se Uthata Aadmi*, by Mani Kaul, was much admired at Cannes in 1981. A Muktibodh Fellowship for young writers and a Muktibodh Chair at the University of Sagor were established by the Madhya Pradesh government. Though a Marxist, Muktibodh came to be widely acknowledged as both a major poet and critic in Hindi even by non- or anti-Marxists.

Muktibodh wrote unusually long poems and used to despair about their length, reluctant to send them for publication to literary journals, some of which sought them eagerly. His poetry was complex as well. He was deeply interested in Gandhi, Marxism, Indian tradition, modernism, democratic politics and its tensions and contradictions in the Nehruvian era and their gradual fading. All the experiences of life, the insights gathered from a vast span of ideas, his own locale, circumstances, anxieties and disappointments made him a poet of both hope and horror. A poet of "the terrible news", someone, who in a famous Joycean formulation "went into the smithy of his soul to forge the uncreated conscience of his age". He evolved a vision of life and literature in which the real and the surreal, the social and the moral, questions and acknowledgments, experiences and ideas, conscience and responsibilities, the creative and the imaginary coalesce to inspire poetry, complex, in

many ways weird and disturbing, but full of human warmth, empathy, and solidarity.

Muktibodh wrote of the dark underworld of his times by identifying the conspiratorial connections between politicians, mafia and other criminals, obedient intellectuals and tongue-tied poets and artists, ex-army generals, and ideologues for subverting democracy. It fostered shallow heroism and dismantled the conscience. In fact, to his undoubted commitment to ideology, he added the concept of human conscience at a time when the full range of Stalinist violence and killings had not yet surfaced. He lamented the shrinking conscience in our time. Though written almost 65 years ago, his poetry seems a realistic narrative of our own troubled times when violence and murderous tendencies, hate and lies, injustice and inequity have expanded disastrously. Muktibodh's poetry saw all this coming. He turns out to be a poet of both his times and ours. The surreality of his poetry when it was written becomes the reality of present-day India.

Muktibodh did not believe in poetry being written from a vantage point, from a distance. His poetry enacts a reality in which the poet is complicit — not a witness but a participant. The "here" and the "there" merge seamlessly. The self, while assertive, also melts into the other. He called the poet "a spy of the soul". This conception has a rich ambi-

guity: The poet not only spied on behalf of the soul but also, equally, searched and investigated the soul.

Muktibodh believed that poetry is also a civilisational critique. He expressed cosmic concerns and images and insisted on human responsibility. His poetry is a simultaneous exploration of the creative and the critical — the creative is critical as well; the critical has creative edges. A poet who gazes at the stars while finding himself in the gutters.

Muktibodh stands alone and aloof in the poetic tradition of Hindi: He has no predecessors nor any followers. His vision was truly epochal in its dimensions and was firmly rooted in his times. He wrote hardly any love poetry nor any about mortality. It is widely believed that there can be no major poet who does not explore these polarities of total presence and total absence — love and death. Despite avoiding these themes, Muktibodh emerged as a major poet who did not attract the attention he deserved during his lifetime. But he remains a stalwart, unavoidable, standing tall, and unconstrained by time or age. A poet of dissent and dissonance, a poet of darkness, and despair but also a poet seeking and pining for light, a poet who affirms, in complex ways, human conscience, creative courage, and responsibility.

The writer is a poet and critic

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PARADOX IN BENGAL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Its head in the sand' (IE, September 10). Instead of ordering a prompt investigation of the R G Kar incident, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee held that protests against the delay and alleged destruction of proof of the crime were a conspiracy by her opponents. As the intensity of protests and evidence of a possible cover-up mounted, so did her determination to curb the same with the help of the police. The outcome has led to criticism by eminent party leaders. But her panic reaction continues. The passing of a Bill stipulating a death sentence in an unbelievably short time betrays her desperation. That the case of sexual assault against a woman is handled in an insensitive manner in a state ruled by a strong woman CM is a paradox that has escaped her attention.

YG Chouksey, Pune

ABSENT STATE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'State's blind eye' (IE, September 10). The unlawful injunction on the boards of Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag instructing "non-Hindus/Rohingya Muslims" against doing business with "punitive and legal action", can be traced to BJP's

politics of religious polarisation in recent years. A three-day "dharam sansad" was held in Haridwar in December 2022, where hate speeches were made targeting Muslims and calling for violence against them. The state's lack of action at that time drew the attention of the SC, which sought a status report from the Uttarakhand government on the FIRs registered in connection with hate speeches. The present case, where amidst instances of forced shuttering of Muslim-owned businesses, spectres of "love jihad" and "land jihad", the official response has been absent, is reminiscent of the earlier instance.

LR Murmu, New Delhi

A CUNNING POLITICS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'What he meant to say' (IE, September 10). Politicians tend to make ambiguous statements because if they need to change their stance later, they can twist it. The fashion is to make tall promises that cannot be met and lure the electorate with schemes that seem beneficial. Various means fair or foul, are adopted to influence the voters. The interest of the nation takes a backseat. It has been said that politics is the last resort of cunning characters.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

Three private university students held for ragging in Himachal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 10

THREE STUDENTS of a private university in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district were arrested Tuesday in connection with alleged ragging of a first year MBA student, police said.

The arrested students have been identified as Karan Dogra (19), a resident of Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir; Chirag Rana (19) from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh; and Divyansh (19) from the state's Hamirpur, the police said. All three students have been expelled from the university.

The trio was arrested on the complaint of Rajat Kumar, who alleged that two students came to his hostel room on Saturday night and told him that seniors were calling him, and when he refused to go, they allegedly took him forcibly to a room.

The complainant alleged that as soon as he entered, the seniors locked the room and told him to drink liquor. When he refused, he was beaten up and then this on till next morning, he alleged. A purported video clip of the alleged incident has gone viral on social media.

Before going to police, Kumar filed a complaint with the university management too following which the anti-ragging committee started its investigations.

A case under Section 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), Section 127(2) (wrongful confinement) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and Section 3 of the HP Educational Institutions (Prohibition of Ragging) Act 2009 has been registered, said SP Solan Gaurav Singh, adding further investigation is underway.

RAPE-MURDER OF JUNIOR DOCTOR AT R G KAR HOSPITAL Junior docs reject CM invite for talks

Say language of invite 'insulting', defy SC order to resume work

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 10

IGNORING THE Supreme Court's order asking them to resume duty by 5 pm on Tuesday, junior doctors in West Bengal, protesting over the rape and murder of their colleague at state-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, rejected Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's invitation for talks to resolve the month-long impasse.

Junior doctors, who have been on strike since the August 9 incident and are demanding removal of Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal and several top state health department officials, expressed dissatisfaction with the government putting a restriction on the number of representatives allowed to attend the meeting with the CM. An email sent by Narayan Swaroop Nigam, Health Secretary, to West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front — spearheading the protest — on Tuesday read: "Your small delegation (maximum 10 persons) may visit Nabanna (the state secretary) now to meet government representatives."

Maintaining that they were open to a dialogue with the state government, the junior doctors' forum termed the government's letter "insulting". They said that restricting the number of representatives to 10 was "humiliating".

"The language of the communication is not only disrespectful to us doctors, it's downright insensitive. We find no reason to reply to this mail," said Dr Debasis Halder, a leader of the protesting doctors, as their sit-in before the state Health Department headquarters at Swasthya Bhavan continued until late Tuesday night. Stating that one of their de-



Junior doctors protest near Swasthya Bhavan in Kolkata on Tuesday. Partha Paul

mands is the removal of the health secretary, the protesters said: "We are open to talks, but the communique should reach us through proper channels and in a proper manner. Till then, we are here."

State Finance Minister and MoS for Health & Family Welfare Chandrima Bhattacharya said an invitation was sent to the Bengal Junior Doctors' Front around 6:12 pm on Tuesday, after which the CM waited for them until 7:30 pm at Nabanna. "The CM left after she did not receive any response from the protesting junior doctors." The CM holds the portfolio of the Health Department. She was accompanied by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and Nigam.

The protesting doctors, meanwhile, decided to continue with their sit-in protest in front of Swasthya Bhavan. During the day, they had marched to 'Swasthya Bhavan' carrying brooms and a model human brain in a symbolic bid to "clean up" the state health sector and make the top brass "think" about the plight of the doctors. "Despite our... clear demand for justice, the government has not addressed our concerns," said a protesting doctor.

-WITH PTI INPUTS

Notice issued to 51 doctors, students for 'promoting culture of intimidation'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 10

THE R G Kar Medical College authorities have sent notices to 51 doctors, house staff, and interns for allegedly "engaging in behaviour that promotes a culture of intimidation", calling them to appear before an enquiry committee on September 11.

The authorities have barred the 51 doctors from campus and prohibited their participation in college activities. Many of the doctors are reportedly known to be close to Sandip Ghosh, former principal of R G Kar hospital, and a model human brain in a symbolic bid to "clean up" the state health sector and make the top brass "think" about the plight of the doctors. "Despite our... clear demand for justice, the government has not addressed our concerns," said a protesting doctor.

20 house staff, 11 interns and other medical (MBBS) students.

"There had been complaints against this section of doctors and students for intimidating and threatening other junior doctors, students and house staff like us. Some were close to Ghosh and wielded enormous power on the campus. Out of fear, many of us were forced to accept their torture. However, now the authorities have started to take action. Let us see what finally happens," said a protesting junior doctor.

The resolution of the Special Council Meeting (a copy of which is with The Indian Express) states: "The esteemed college authorities have taken notice of the grave concerns raised by the Resident Doctors' Association of R G Kar... In a letter, it was brought to our attention that they have been engaging in behaviour that promotes a culture of intimidation, endangering the democratic atmosphere of the institution."

Dehradun: 92 vendors detained after woman alleges molestation against shop worker

Comes at a time when Uttarakhand is seeing heightened communal tensions

AVANEESH MISHRA DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 10

THE DEHRADUN Police on Tuesday detained 92 vendors at Paltan Bazar, citing the lack of business permits — a development that comes after a woman levelled molestation charges against a shopkeeper in the area.

The verification drive for hawkers in the area comes after the police booked and arrested a man from Uttar Pradesh, identified as Umar, under sections 74 (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 75 (sexual harassment) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

The arrest came on the back of a complaint from the woman against Umar, who worked at a shoe shop.

According to the Dehradun Police, the verification drive for vendors from outside the state followed a meeting between the district administration and the locals in the market area. Among the suggestions given at the meeting were making separate booths for women, increasing patrol by women police personnel, and setting up more CCTV cameras in the market areas.

According to Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police Ajai Singh, challans will be issued to those doing business in the market without the requisite verification.

The drive comes at a time of heightened tensions in many parts of Uttarakhand — particularly in Rudrapur — over boards threatening non-Hindus and Rohingya Muslims with "dire consequences" if they are

found conducting business in the area.

It also comes days after mobs allegedly vandalised minority run shops in the neighbouring Chamoli district, over allegations that a Muslim man had molested a minor girl.

The Bajrang Dal Monday asked vendors in the market to keep their shops closed in protest. According to Bajrang Dal leader Vikas Verma, after local trade union members handed the vendor accused of molestation to the police, local Muslims — including Dehradun's Shehar Qazi Mohammad Ahmed Qajmi — protested the arrest.

"They made a call to shut the shops, after which the Muslims kept their shops shut. To oppose that, many other organisations also called for a bazaar bandh," he claimed.

However, Wasim Ahmad, the media in-charge of Muslim Seva Sangathan, denied the allegations saying that their protest was against giving the incident a communal angle. He also denied the allegation that the cleric defended the suspect.

"We met the senior district and police officials and complained that the arrested man was manhandled before being handed over to the police. Shehar Qazi Mohammad Ahmed Qajmi also asked the district magistrate to ensure that this incident doesn't take on a communal colour and appealed for a transparent investigation and strict action against the accused," Ahmed told The Indian Express, adding that the cleric had also urged the administration to run a verification drive against unauthorised vendors.

Madhya Pradesh: Man, accused in wife's murder, gets seven-year jail for impersonating friend

Tarun Jinaraj was held by the Gujarat cops for a second time after he jumped interim bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 10

A GUJARAT-BASED Kerala man has been awarded seven-year rigorous imprisonment for allegedly impersonating his friend and landing jobs at several prominent companies, all while being on the run after allegedly murdering his wife on Valentine's Day in 2003.

Additional Sessions Judge (Bhopal) Swayam Prakash Dubey convicted Tarun Jinaraj under Sections 419 (punishment for cheating by personation), 467 (forgery of valuable security...), 468 (forgery for

purpose of cheating) and 471 (using as genuine a forged document) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and fined him Rs 11,000.

"The prosecution has successfully proven beyond reasonable doubt that the accused... forged valuable documents such as a passport, PAN card, driving licence, Aadhaar card, etc., in the name of Praveen Bhatel to establish himself as Praveen," the court said.

Jinaraj was arrested by the Gujarat Police from Delhi on October 5, 2023 after he jumped interim bail in the murder case, the trial in which is still going on in Gujarat. He was first arrested in November 2018, after

being on the run for 15 years, and sent to Sabarmati Central Jail where he spent five years as an undertrial. The impersonation case was filed in Bhopal based on a complaint by Praveen Bhatel, Jinaraj's college friend who ran a judo institute for underprivileged children in Bhopal.

According to the prosecution, after allegedly murdering his wife, Jinaraj went to Bhopal in March 2003 and approached Bhatel for work. Bhatel offered Jinaraj work as a spoken English teacher at his institute. During this period, the prosecution said, Jinaraj allegedly scanned Bhatel's documents, including bank sheets and identity cards,

which he used to forge ID cards and education certificates. Jinaraj also obtained a passport for travel to the US while working for a tech company in Bengaluru, the police alleged.

Additional Public Prosecutor Vinod Dubey argued that Jinaraj used the forged documents to deceive several companies, "leading these companies to hire him as their employee/officer at a higher salary due to his deception". In 2008, Jinaraj married another woman from Pune in 2008 and the couple moved to Bengaluru.

Bhatel found out about Jinaraj's criminal past from a newspaper and filed an FIR at Bhopal's T T Nagar police station.

TN signs investment MoUs worth ₹2,666 cr in Chicago



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin in Chicago on Tuesday. ANI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 10

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister M K Stalin, who is on an official visit to the US, oversaw the signing of major industrial investment agreements in Chicago on Monday, aimed at bolstering the state's electronics manufacturing and skill development sectors.

The agreements, including investments from Jabli Inc. and Rockwell Automation, are projected to bring in Rs 2,666 crore and create over 5,300 jobs in Tamil Nadu's Tiruchi and Kancheepuram districts. An additional MoU with Autodesk will enhance youth skills and the industrial competitiveness of the state's small and medium enterprises. In a significant move to make Tamil Nadu's position as a manufacturing and technology hub, American multinational Jabli Inc. and industrial automation giant Rockwell Automation have committed to expanding their operations, and both companies signed

MoUs with the Tamil Nadu government in a ceremony attended by CM Stalin in Chicago. Stalin, welcoming the investment, spoke about the state's growing electronics industry. "Jabli's foray into Tiruchirappalli will be a crucial anchor investment in the region and will lead to job creation for the local youth and the emergence of a robust electronics supply chain. This welcome move is another testament to the availability of talent and infrastructure in all parts of our state and will further entrench Tamil Nadu's position as the leader in advanced electronics and innovation," he said.

A state government statement said they are continuously implementing various schemes with the objective of fully utilising the state's vast resources, promoting industrial growth, and ensuring a better quality of life for all Tamil people in both the present and future. "As a result, Tamil Nadu has emerged as a leading state in India across various economic indicators," the statement said.

'Govt working on policy for vehicle scrappage based on pollution, not age'

New Delhi: The Union government is working on a policy for scrappage of vehicles to be based on pollution and not on the age of the automobiles, an official said on Tuesday.

At the annual convention of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Secretary Anurag Jain asked the automobile industry to help the government in designing the programme of pollution checks "trustworthy". "When you come out with a policy that scrapping is mandatory after 15 years, people come back to us with a question — if I have maintained my vehicle well, why do you want to scrap my vehicle? You cannot mandate."

To consider such situations, he said: "We are studying it from the pollution (point) only... The government is working on a policy."

He, however, said: "There also we will have to come out with ensuring that the pollution test will become something which is trustworthy. I would request all of you to help us out in designing the programme of pollution checks, in which all of us right now know how to get the certificates." He further said: "So instead of getting the certificates, you have to be a trustworthy certificate." PTI

Noida New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (UP) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in E-TENDER NOTICE E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc. A) Fresh-Tender Work: S. Job No. Name of the Work Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs) 1. 15/DGM/SM (WC-1)/ 2024-25 M/o Drain (P/L 600 mm M.S. Pipe Underground by Trench less by Augar Boring Method & Construction Water Harvesting in front of Dalit Prana Sthal on Expressway, Noida. 52.55 2. 39/DGM/SM (WC-3)/ 2023-24 M/o Drain (P/L SFRC Cover, Repair of drain etc Different location LIG and EWS Flat Sector -99), Noida. 66.97 3. 40/DGM/SM (WC-3)/ 2023-24 M/o Road (P/L Interlocking tiles, Drain Repair work in F-Block Sector-51) Noida. 77.14 4. 43/DGM/SM (WC-3)/ 2023-24 M/o Drain (Repair and covering of Drain on 45.00 mtr. wide road along Sector-46), Noida. 76.87 5. 09/DGM/SM (WC-9)/ET/ 2024-25 D/o Village (C/o Balance Park boundary wall in Village Shahpur Goverdhanpur Bangar), Noida. 56.54 6. 10/DGM/SM (WC-9)/ET 2024-25 D/o Village (C/o C.C. road & drain in front of Manoranjan Kendra in Nagli Wazidpur), Noida. 60.53 7. 14/DGM/SM (WC-3)/ 2024-25 M/o Building (C/o Anti Encroachment Board in Work Circle-3 area), Noida. 37.30 The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 24.09.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 25.09.2024 at 11.00 AM. Dy. General Manager (Civil) CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

GUJARAT MARITIME BOARD Sagar Bhavan Sector 10 A "CHH" Road Gandhinagar 382010 CORRIGENDUM 1 NOTICE FOR INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SETTING UP GUJARAT COASTAL NAVIGATIONAL AID, SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (GCNAS3) IN ENTIRE COASTLINE OF GUJARAT Publishing Date of EO: 24.08.2024 Extended Last Date of Submission: 30.09.2024, on or before 17:00 hrs IST Interested Parties are requested to submit their EOI in the prescribed format. For detailed guidelines and submission format, please visit www.gmbports.org. Chief Nautical Officer

LUCKNOW MUNICIPAL CORPORATION T.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow - 226001 (U.P.) Website: www.lmc.up.nic.in INVITES NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER (2nd CALL) Request for proposal for Selection of contractor for Supply, Installation, Commissioning of 1000 TPD Municipal Solid Waste extendable up to 2000TPD (Wet & Dry) processing plant at Shivari, Lucknow and its operation & maintenance for a period of minimum 03 years. Lucknow Municipal Corporation hereby invites bid from experienced Companies/ Firms for Selection of contractor for Supply, Installation, Commissioning of 1000 TPD Municipal Solid Waste extendable up to 2000 TPD (Wet & Dry) processing plant at Shivari, Lucknow and its operation & maintenance for a period of minimum 03 years. The Tender document can be downloaded from the UP Government NIC e-tender website i.e., https://etender.up.nic.in/ & as per below given time schedule: RFP Ref. No. D/493/EE/2024 Dated: 10/09/2024 RFP Download Date 11.09.2024 Time: 12:00 PM RFP Last date of submission 18.09.2024 Time: 5:00PM RFP opening date 18.09.2024 Time: 6:00PM Tender Fee INR. 25,000.00+18% GST (Rupees Twenty-five thousand only plus GST 18%) Earnest Money Deposit Rs 1,00,00,000.00 (Rupees One Crore Only) Performance Security A total of 5% of project cost of one year shall be taken in form of Bank Guarantee/FDR to be submitted in the Proposal within 15 days from issue date of Letter of Award. Any RFP received post the scheduled deadline or without EMD, shall be rejected. ENVIRONMENT ENGINEER

Real Jamaat behind bars: Mehbooba on candidates backed by banned outfit

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 10

FORMER CHIEF minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said she will continue to talk about Kashmir "till the Kashmir issue resursects".

She was addressing an election rally in south Kashmir's Pulwama that goes to polls in the first phase of elections on September 18. "They (referring to NC) say we have to make a government to macadamise the roads," she said at Chandgam.

"I am saying that we have to become the voice of those youth who are in graveyards, of those women who have become widows, of the children who have become orphans. We have to keep their voice alive," she said. "We have to talk on the Kashmir issue till the Kashmir issue resursects," she said to applause. Mufti said New Delhi is saying the Kashmir issue has ended, but she does



PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti at a poll rally in Pulwama, Tuesday. ANI

not agree. "I am saying that the Kashmir issue is alive till our martyrs are sleeping in our graveyards, till our widows and orphans are in our homes." On candidates backed by the Jamaat-e-Islami joining the electoral fray, Mufti said the "real Jamaat" is behind the bars. "The Jamaat-e-Islami schools were banned, the houses of its members were locked and their orchards were seized. And then they broke it like they split the

PDP," she said. "It is difficult to understand, one candidate says I am the Jamaat candidate, the other says, no I am the real Jamaat candidate. But the real Jamaat-e-Islami is in jail, the NIA and ED are after them. All the agencies are after them."

She said that if New Delhi is sincere, then the Jamaat should join the electoral process and authorities should lift the ban on it. "If the Delhi government really wants the Jamaat to be part of democratic setup, lift the ban on them. Return them to their orchards. The threats through NIA and ED will not work."

Mufti praised the people of south Kashmir for changing the "system" and giving J&K a political alternative in the form of PDP. "The people of south Kashmir, especially Pulwama, Shopian, Islamabad and Kulgam gave 16 members to PDP and showed us the path to the government in 2002," she said. "You changed the system in J&K, you ended suppression in Kashmir, you ended POTA and disbanded the (Special) Task Force (of J-K Police). You made a new beginning by giving your vote to the PDP."

SECOND HIGHEST MONTHLY INFLOW

Inflows into equity mutual funds rise 3% to ₹38,239.16 cr in August: AMFI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 10

NET INFLOWS into equity mutual fund schemes increased by 3 per cent on a month-on-month basis (m-o-m) to Rs 38,239.16 crore in August, from Rs 37,113.39 crore in July.

MUTUAL FUND NET INFLOWS (+)/OUTFLOWS (-) TABLE with columns for Schemes (Equity, Debt, Hybrid) and months (July, August).

Source: AMFI. In July, mainly on account of a 62 per cent dip in inflows into debt mutual funds.

funds received inflows of Rs 3,513.16 crore in the reporting month. Inflows into small-cap and mid-cap funds stood at Rs 3,209.33 crore and 3,054.68 crore respectively, compared to Rs 2,109.2 crore and Rs 1,644.22 crore respectively in the previous month.

MUTUAL EVALUATION REPORT TO BE RELEASED SEPTEMBER 18

India bats for new disclosure norms for cross-border credit card transactions under FATF

AANCHAL MAGAZINE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

GLOBAL MONEY laundering and terrorist financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is working towards new norms for higher disclosures by financial institutions, payment aggregators, fintech companies for cross-border payments, involving mainly credit card transactions.

EXPLAINED FATF's travel rule. FATF's Travel Rule guidelines require financial institutions and virtual asset service providers to share data about cross-border transactions.

tual evaluation for India happened in November 2023. The report of this round would be released on September 18. FATF will highlight the steps taken by India to counter terror financing and money laundering, and flag priority action areas in the 'mutual evaluation report'.

BRIEFLY

Kenyan court halts Adani lease of main airport

New Delhi: Kenya's high court has temporarily blocked a proposed deal for India's Adani Group to lease the country's main airport for 30 years in exchange for expanding it, court documents showed. REUTERS

MeitY Secy: No funding issue for semicon projects

New Delhi: The government has committed about Rs 62,000 crore in incentives for electronic plants and there is no issue in funding semiconductor projects, Electronics and Information Technology Secretary S Krishnan has said. PTI

Brent trades below \$70, near three-year low

New Delhi: Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell below \$70 a barrel on Tuesday for the first time since December 2021, after OPEC+ revised down its demand forecast for this year and 2025. REUTERS

NO IMPACT IN SMALLER VILLAGES

UPA-1 rural electrification scheme boosted economic activity in large villages: Study

AGGAM WALIA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

ELECTRIFICATION ACROSS rural India under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) led to a doubling of per capita monthly expenditure alongside a 10 per cent increase in the number of firms in large villages, a new study has found.



the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago.

ies increased by 10 and 9 per cent respectively. On the other hand, in small villages, electrification did not impact per capita expenditure nor the number of firms in any significant way.

Why Apple is intelligent about its use of Apple Intelligence in new iPhone 16 series

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN CUPERTINO, SEPTEMBER 10

APPLE'S IPHONE 16 series announced Monday has an additional camera control button on the side. But don't dismiss it as another camera shutter button, the type we have seen in many smartphones over the years.

ered by Apple Intelligence, the GenAI capabilities coming to iPhones with iOS 18. Powered by Apple Intelligence, the iPhone now uses the camera to see and answer your queries, or even pull in suggestions based on where you are on what to do next.

device, Apple's new iPhone 16 comes with an A18 processor, while the iPhone 16 Pro series gets the A18 Pro chips, both of which can do high-performance computing. The CPU in the A18, Sri Balan Santhanam, VP of Apple's silicon technologies, claims, "is faster than all the competition, challenging even high-end desktop PCs" and also features our latest desktop-class GPU architecture.

PM Modi asks automakers to bring global best practices to India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked the automotive industry to bring global best practices to India, while also working on green and clean mobility.

In a written address to the annual convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Modi said the automotive industry will drive even higher economic growth and in turn, thrive on demand growth.

Viksit Bharat by 2047, I am confident that organisations like SIAM will continue to bring together all stakeholders and become a force multiplier in this mission," he said.

Google's antitrust hearing could have far reaching repercussions for Big Tech

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10



THE WIDELY anticipated hearings in the antitrust case against tech giant Google in the United States began Monday, with the judge in the case likely to deliver a punishment for Google's internet search monopoly by August 2025.

developers listed on its app store, and for allegedly stifling competition in the online advertising market - the major source of Google's revenues globally.

The far reaching impact of the case

During the first hearing in the case on Monday, prosecutors made a myriad of allegations against Google - ranging from its dominance in the online advertising market, to eliminating competitors through acquisitions.

The ruling could direct as severe a punishment as Google having to break up some of its businesses, restrict the company from signing exclusive deals with other companies to push its products, and it could also set a precedent for similar antitrust cases involving big tech companies like Apple, Amazon and Microsoft.

Taking a leaf out of the European regulatory handbook, India has proposed a new digital competition law that could stop tech giants like Google, Facebook, and Amazon from self-preferencing their own services, or using data gathered from one company to benefit another group company.

Ripple effects in India

The judgement and the country's subsequent action to address Google's violation of competition laws - which includes proposals to break up the company's various business units, as per media reports - could have a bearing on the regulatory discourse in India as well.

The draft law, called the Digital Competition Bill, 2024, also has provisions to set prescriptive norms to curb anti-competitive practices before they actually take place, and promises to impose heavy penalties - which could amount to billions of dollars - for violations. If this were to go in force, it could require big tech companies to make fundamental changes to their various platforms.

Advertisement No. 82/2024 Government of India Public Enterprises Selection Board invites applications for the post of Director (Service Business) in Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, राजस्थान राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड, खण्ड-भीलवाड़ा (राज) क्रमांक: अधि.अभि./भील/वि.सं./2024-25/10345371 दिनांक:- 06.09.2024

Table with columns: S. No., Name of Bid, Tender ID, UBN No., Bid Value (In Lakh), Bid Publishing Date, Bid Opening Date.

GOVT. OF BIHAR BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD I.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14. UNDER GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (UGMAC)-2024

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.

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14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



A woman on a flooded Hanoi street, Tuesday

VIETNAM

Death toll from typhoon Yaga rises to 127

Hanoi: The death toll in Vietnam from Asia's worst storm this year reached 127 on Tuesday, with torrents of rain triggering floods and landslides, burying homes, sweeping away a bridge and now threatening the capital Hanoi. In several northern provinces, including the suburbs of Hanoi, residents waded through knee-high floods. Landslides and floods triggered by the typhoon have killed at least 127 people in northern Vietnam and 54 others were missing, the disaster management agency said. Most of the victims were killed in landslides and flash floods, the agency said. The typhoon made landfall on Vietnam's northeastern coast Saturday. **REUTERS**

AUSTRALIA

Age limit for children using social media

Melbourne: The Australian government on Tuesday promised to legislate this year to enforce a minimum age for children to access social media, but it has yet to announce how ages will be verified. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the government would soon trial age verification technology with a view to banning children from opening social media accounts. The line would be drawn between the ages of 14 and 16. **AP**

SWITZERLAND

Councillor loses job for firing at religious poster

Geneva: A Zurich city councillor has apologised and reportedly sought police protection against threats after she fired a sport pistol at an auction poster of a 14th-century Madonna and child painting and posted images of their bullet-ridden faces on social media. Green-Liberal party Sanja Ameti, 32, put the images on Instagram over the weekend before quickly pulling them down. She said that she had been practising shots. Farner Group, a consulting firm where she worked, said in an email that it had decided to "terminate the employment relationship" with Ameti. **AP**

UNITED KINGDOM

Google loses final appeal against penalty

London: Google lost its final legal challenge on Tuesday against a European Union penalty for giving its own shopping recommendations an illegal advantage over rivals in search results, ending a long-running antitrust case that came with a whopping fine. The EU Court of Justice upheld a lower court's decision, rejecting the appeal against the 2.4 billion euro penalty from European Commission, the bloc's top antitrust enforcer. **AP**

FLIGHTS SUSPENDED AT KEY AIRPORTS AROUND MOSCOW

Ukraine targets Moscow in biggest attack with drones, Russia hits back

Blinken says Russia got Iran missiles, Tehran denies charge

ASSOCIATED PRESS MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 10

UKRAINE STRUCK the Moscow region on Tuesday in its biggest drone attack so far on the Russian capital, killing at least one woman, wrecking dozens of homes and forcing around 50 flights to be diverted from airports around Moscow.

Russia, the world's biggest nuclear power, said it had destroyed at least 20 Ukrainian attack drones as they swarmed over the Moscow region, which has a population of more than 21 million, and 124 more over eight other regions.

At least one person was killed near Moscow, Russian authorities said. Three of Moscow's four airports were closed for more than six hours and almost 50 flights were diverted.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the drone attack was another reminder of the real nature of Ukraine's political leadership, which he said was made up of



People outside a damaged residential building in Ramenskoye in Moscow region, Tuesday. **AP**

Russia's enemies. "There is no way that night time strikes on residential neighbourhoods can be associated with military action," said Peskov.

Kyiv said Russia had attacked it overnight with 46 drones, of which 38 were destroyed.

The drone attacks on Russia damaged at high-rise apartment

buildings in the Ramenskoye district of the Moscow region, setting flats on fire, residents told Reuters. A 46-year-old woman was killed and three people were wounded in Ramenskoye, Moscow regional governor Andrei Vorobyov said. "I looked at the window and saw a ball of fire," Alexander Li, a resident of

the district told Reuters. As the war drags on, Russian President Vladimir Putin has been expanding his alliances: The Russian military on Tuesday began massive naval and air drills, involving over 90,000 troops and over 400 warships, that China will also take part in, the Defence Ministry said.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Russia had received ballistic missiles from Iran and would likely use them in Ukraine within weeks. Reports of Iranian weapons transfers to Russia are "ugly propaganda" to conceal Western military support to Israel, Iran's foreign ministry said.

Top US, Chinese military brass holds first call to stabilise ties

Beijing: The United States and China held theatre-level commander talks for the first time on Tuesday, Chinese authorities said, amid efforts to stabilise military ties and avoid misunderstandings, especially in regional hot spots such as the South China Sea. Admiral Sam Paparo, head of the US Indo-Pacific Command, held a video telephone call with his counterpart Wu Yanan of the Southern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The US Indo-Pacific Command's areas of responsibility include the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait.

Both sides had an "in depth exchange of views on issues of common concern," the Chinese defence ministry said. **REUTERS**

Several lawmakers of Imran party held a day after rally

REUTERS ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 10

PAKISTANI POLICE arrested several lawmakers and leaders of ex-Prime Minister Imran Khan's party in the morning raids a day after it held a major rally in the capital to demand his release, the party and police said.

A police spokesman confirmed the detention of four individuals but gave no details of charges. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said nearly a dozen of its parliamentarians had been picked up in Islamabad. Others had sought refuge in parliament to evade

Strike on Gaza tent camp kills at least 19, Israel says it hit Hamas control centre

ASSOCIATED PRESS DEIRAL-BALAH, SEPTEMBER 10

AN ISRAELI strike on a crowded tent camp housing Palestinians displaced by the war in Gaza killed at least 19 people and wounded 60 early on Tuesday, Palestinian officials said. Israel said it targeted senior Hamas militants with precise munitions.

The overnight strike hit Muwasi, a sprawl of crowded tent camps along the Gaza coast that Israel designated as a humanitarian zone for hundreds of thousands of civilians to seek shelter from the Israel-Hamas war.

Gaza's Health Ministry said it confirmed that at least 19 people were killed in the strike, and that the toll may rise as more bodies are recovered. The Civil Defence, first responders who operate un-



Palestinian boys near a buried vehicle at the Al-Mawasi area in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, Tuesday. **Reuters**

der the Hamas-run government, had earlier said 40 people were killed. The Israeli military disputed that toll.

"We were told to go to

Muwasi, to the safe area... Look around you and see this safe place," said Iyad Hamed Madi, who had been sheltering there. "This is for my son," he said,

holding up a bag of diapers. "He's 4 months old. Is he a fighter? There's no humanity."

The Israeli military said it had struck Hamas militants in a command-and-control center embedded in the area. It identified three of the militants, saying they were senior operatives who were directly involved in the Oct. 7 attack and other recent attacks against Israel and Israeli forces.

A campaign to vaccinate a final 200,000 children in north Gaza against polio began on Tuesday. The campaign in north Gaza follows the vaccination of more than 446,000 children in central and south Gaza earlier this month. Medical staff had started administering vaccines in the north despite a dire need for fuel, among other challenges, said Dr. Moussa Abed of the primary care unit in Gaza's health ministry.

Starmer sees off party rebellion over winter fuel payment cut

REUTERS LONDON, SEPTEMBER 10

BRITISH PRIME Minister Keir Starmer avoided a major rebellion in his party on Tuesday over plans to cut 1.5 billion pounds (\$1.96 billion) in winter fuel payments to the elderly after unhappy lawmakers abstained rather than voting against the government.

The vote was an important test of Starmer's authority just two months after winning a landslide election victory, and of his plans to press ahead with some government spending cuts, which he says are vital to improving

law enforcers, it said.

Its lawmakers protested in a session of the National Assembly on Tuesday, calling for action against what they alleged was the illegal entry of law enforcement personnel into the premises of parliament. "Plainclothes people entered the parliament and arrested people's representatives - this is an assault on Pakistan's democracy," PTI legislator Ali Muhammad said.

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq announced that he would investigate the complaints, which, if verified, could result in legal action. He ordered all detained lawmakers to be returned to parliament.

Britain's public finances. In the end, only one of 404 Labour lawmakers voted against the plan and 53 did not vote in the House of Commons. "We must fix the foundations of our economy," Liz Kendall, the work and pensions minister, told parliament. Despite



British PM Keir Starmer in Brighton. **Reuters**

calls to rethink or mitigate the impact of the policy to scrap the payments to around 10 million pensioners who do not receive government welfare benefits, Starmer refused to back down.

In a speech to the Trades Union Congress earlier Tuesday, Starmer was unapologetic, saying his priority was economic stability. He accused the last Conservative government of having left a 22 billion pound financial black hole, a charge is disputed by the Conservatives. Starmer received a warm, although muted, response to his speech from union leaders, who have criticised his plans to restrict the fuel payments.

WOMEN ARE CHALLENGING LONGSTANDING TRADITION THAT DENIES THEM VILLAGE MEMBERSHIP, AND PAYOUTS GO WITH IT

In rural China, 'married-out women' demand justice, and cash

VIVIAN WANG GUANGDONG, SEPTEMBER 10

THE WOMEN came from different villages, converging outside the local rural affairs bureau shortly after 10 a.m. One had taken the morning off from her job selling rice rolls. Another was a tour operator. Yet another was a recent retiree.

The group, nine in all, double-checked their paperwork, then strode in. In a dimly lit office, they cornered three officials and demanded to know why they had been excluded from government payouts, worth tens of thousands

of dollars, that were supposed to go to each villager.

"I had these rights at birth. Why did I suddenly lose them?" one woman asked.

That was the question uniting these women in Guangdong province, in southern China. They were joining a growing number of rural women, all across the country, who are finding each other to confront a long-standing custom of denying them land rights — all because of whom they had married.

In much of rural China, if a woman marries someone from outside her village, she becomes a "married-out woman." To the



The election of a village committee in Guangdong Province on March 31, 2014. Government cites respect for village self-governance to refuse to intervene for women. **NYT**

village, she is no longer a member, even if she continues to live there.

That means the village assembly — a decision-making body technically open to all adults, but usually dominated by men — can deny her village-sponsored benefits such as health insurance, as well as money that is awarded to residents when the government takes over their land. (A man remains eligible no matter whom he marries.)

Now, women are fighting back, in a rare bright spot for women's rights and civil society. They are filing lawsuits and petitioning officials, energised by the conviction that they should be

Trump, Harris to clash at debate that could reshape US Presidential race

JOSEPH AX SEPTMBER 10

REPUBLICAN US presidential candidate Donald Trump and Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris will meet in their first and perhaps only debate on Tuesday, a clash that could prove pivotal in their pitched battle for the White House.

The ABC News-hosted debate at 9 p.m. ET (0100 GMT on Wednesday) takes place just eight weeks before the Nov. 5 election, with both candidates locked in a tight race that could still easily swing in either direction. Early voting will start in some states just days after the debate.

The encounter is particularly important for Harris, with opinion polls showing that more than a quarter of likely voters feel they do not yet know enough about her, in contrast to the well-known Trump. The nationally televised debate also offers Harris, a former prosecutor, a chance to make her case against Trump.

It will be the first time the two candidates have met and follows weeks of personal attacks on Harris by Trump and his allies. Trump's advisers and fellow Republicans have urged him to focus on illegal immigration and high prices, issues that play well with voters, and portraying Harris as too liberal for the country.

"There's no floor for him in terms of how low he will go, and we should be prepared for that," Harris said in a radio interview.

"There is more for Kamala Harris to gain and more for her to lose," said Mitchell McKinney, a former adviser to the U.S. Commission on Presidential



Donald Trump, Kamala Harris

EXPLAINED Key debate at crucial time

IN A contest that could again come down to tens of thousands of votes in a handful of states, even a small shift in public opinion could alter the outcome. The two candidates are effectively tied in the seven battleground states likely to decide the election, according to polling averages compiled by the *New York Times*.

Debates, since she remains somewhat of an unknown for many voters. Viewers will be looking for where she stands on various issues. But just as important, they will be looking to see how she handles herself against Trump.

Trump, by contrast, is already well defined. "You're either for him or against him" at this point, McKinney said. The 90-minute debate will take place at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. As agreed by the campaigns, there will be no live audience and microphones will be muted when it is not a candidate's turn to speak. **REUTERS**

India-funded Bangla projects to continue: Interim govt adviser

PRESS TRUS6T OF INDIA DHAKA, SEPTEMBER 10

A TOP adviser of the interim government said Tuesday that India-funded projects are "very important" and will continue under the new administration in Bangladesh.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed also said that Dhaka looks forward to "enhanced cooperation" with New Delhi during his meeting with Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma here, the state-run BSS news agency reported.

"Already, the projects they (India) have with us are big projects, and we'll continue those, as those are not small projects and we'll take another big project for the benefits of ours..." the report quoted him as saying.

"We'll not stop on whatever we have got, and we'll talk about those projects...funding of the projects and also their implementation part," he added.

The financial adviser's remarks come amid concerns about the timely implementation of projects funded under India's three lines of credit following the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government last month after a mass uprising.

Indian envoy Verma said New Delhi has not stopped any of its line of credit projects to Bangladesh as those are major projects.

"Those projects are going on, and those are basically very big projects and located at different sites. So, the contractors will be coming back to start the projects," he was quoted as saying in the report. Ahmed thanked the Indian government for their continued cooperation and said, "We're looking forward to future and enhanced cooperation." Addressing the importance of the Indian-funded projects, he said they were initiated based on Bangladesh's own needs.

"While there have been some disbursement issues, we are in the process of resolving them." In the meeting the two sides also discussed ways to enhance the existing bilateral economic cooperation.

Asserting that India is "next door and a big neighbour of Bangladesh", Ahmed said both nations have many areas of economic cooperation and trade.

"We've assured him (Verma) that Bangladesh is a very good place for investment and economic cooperation. They (the Indian side) have taken note and they will continue the cooperation," he said.

Interim bail for MP Rashid; what is NIA's 'terror' case against him?

NIRBHAY THAKUR
 NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

A DELHI court on Tuesday granted interim bail until October 2 to Lok Sabha MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, to campaign for the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Rashid has been lodged in Tihar Jail in a case of alleged terror funding since 2019. Rashid, who contested the Lok Sabha election as an Independent, defeated National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah at the Baramulla seat, and was released from Tihar on July 5 to take oath as MP. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh reserved the order on his plea for regular bail on August 28. He is likely to pass the order on Wednesday (tomorrow).

NIA's 'terror' case file
 On May 30, 2017, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) registered a case

under IPC Section 120B (criminal conspiracy) and various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) against Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and other "secessionist and separatist" leaders who, according to the NIA, "received and collected" funds through *hawala* channels in "connivance with active militants of...terrorist organizations Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Dukhtar-e-Millat, Lashkar-e-Toiba" to fund "terrorist activities" in Jammu and Kashmir. Rashid was not named at the time, and he was not among the 12 accused in the NIA's first chargesheet filed in January 2018, or in the first supplementary chargesheet naming one accused that was filed in January 2019. Rashid was arrested on August 9, 2019, four days after the abrogation of Article 370 and removal of J&K's special status. Almost the entire political leadership of Kashmir, including three former Chief Ministers, too, were put under detention. Rashid was named as accused in the second supplementary chargesheet filed on

October 4, 2019. Four others were also named: Yasin Malik of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Shabir Shah of Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP), Masarat Alam of Jammu & Kashmir Muslim League, and Dukhtar-e-Millat leader Aasiya Andrabi. Of the total 16 persons arrested in the case, three, including Aasiya Andrabi and photojournalist Kamran Yousuf, have been discharged. One, 66-year-old Altaf Ahmad Shah, son-in-law of the late Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, passed away on October 11, 2022.

Accusations against Rashid
 According to the NIA, Rashid used various public platforms to "propagate the ideology of separatism and secessionism", was closely associated with various terror organisations, and wanted to "legitimise" the United Jihad Council (UJC), a platform of anti-India militant groups in J&K. **AN EMAIL:** The NIA referred to an email

sent by one Khawaja Manzoor Ahmed Chishti to Yasin Malik, asking for a packet to be handed to "Shaikh Rasheed Sahib". However, Chishti was not arrested — which was a defence used by Rashid in court. According to the NIA, the email shows Rashid was accumulating funds through JKL, which were being remitted through cash couriers to "foment anti national activities" in the Valley. The NIA relied on the alleged statement of a witness who claimed to have worked for Rashid from 2011 to 2014, and seen alleged *hawala* dealer Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali give an envelope with money to Rashid. **FACEBOOK POST:** The NIA relied on a post on Rashid's Facebook page where he was allegedly "trying to defend" Hafiz Saeed. "Hafeez Saeed ki siyasat se difference ho sakte hain, unke tareeke se difference ho sakte hai, but at the end of the day he is fighting for a political cause, uska koi global agenda nahi hai," Rashid allegedly posted.

'CLOSE TO WATALI': The NIA relied on Rashid's alleged "close relationship" with Watali, an alleged "conduit who transmitted money from Pakistani establishment to the secessionist elements". This was based on the statements of two protected witnesses. "...Watali was exploiting the position of the accused (Rashid) as an MLA (from 2008-18) to get people involved in unlawful activities," one of the witnesses allegedly said. Watali was given bail by the Delhi High Court in 2018, a decision that was overruled by the Supreme Court in 2019. A two-judge Bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar ruled that, at the stage of bail, the court must only consider if the accused has *prima facie* (at face value) committed the offence based on the evidence before it, without conducting a detailed examination. The judgment made it extremely difficult to obtain bail under UAPA (Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali v NIA).

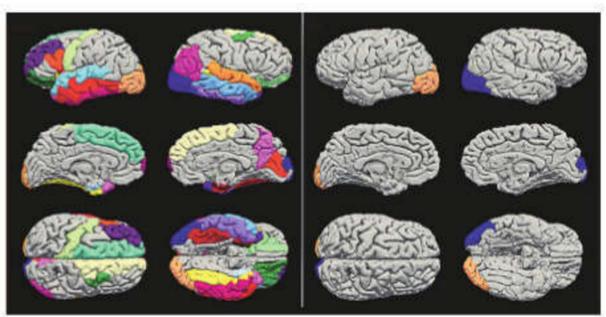
Engineer Rashid's defence
 Rashid has said that the NIA has only pro-

duced an old Facebook post, and statements of two protected witnesses. He has submitted that the "Shaikh Rasheed Sahib" in the email was not him. Rashid, who is being represented by advocates Vikhyat Oberoi and Aditya Wadhwa, has argued that he has already been discharged under Sections 20, 38, and 39 of the UAPA, which pertain to being part of a terrorist organisation, and giving support to it. He has also said that the grounds of arrest were not furnished to him in writing. Rashid has cited judgments in the *Angela Harish Sontakke* case, the *Javed Gulam Nabi Shaikh* case, and other judgments to draw attention to his long period in custody as the case proceeds slowly. In February 2020, a special court in Delhi dismissed Rashid's first bail plea. Charges were framed against Rashid and 14 others on March 16, 2022. The examination of witnesses began on November 1 that year, and 20 witnesses have been examined so far. There are 375 witnesses in the case.

EXPLAINED LAW

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

TEEN GIRLS' BRAINS AGED RAPIDLY DURING PANDEMIC, STUDY FINDS



(Left) Brains of female adolescents show more areas with accelerated cortical thinning than those of male adolescents. *The New York Times*

ASTUDY of adolescent brain development that tested children before and after the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns in the United States found that girls' brains aged far faster than expected, something the researchers attributed to social isolation. The study from the University of Washington published on Monday in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* measured cortical thinning, a process that starts in late childhood or early adolescence, as the brain begins to prune redundant synapses and shrink its outer layer. ("COVID-19 lockdown effects on adolescent brain structure suggest accelerated maturation that is more pronounced in females than in males": Neva M Corrigan *et al.*) Thinning of the cortex is not necessarily bad; some scientists frame the process as the brain rewiring itself as it matures, increasing its efficiency. But the process is known to accelerate in stressful conditions, and accelerated thinning is correlated with depression and anxiety. Scans taken in 2021, after shutdowns started to lift, showed that both boys and girls had experienced rapid cortical thinning during that period. But the effect was far more notable in girls, whose thinning had accelerated, on average, by 4.2 years ahead of what was expected; the thinning in boys' brains had accelerated 1.4 years ahead of what was expected. The result suggests that "a girl who

came in at 11, and then returned to the lab at age 14, now has a brain that looks like an 18-year-old's," according to study co-author Patricia K Kuhl. Kuhl attributed the change to "social deprivation caused by the pandemic," which she suggested had hit adolescent girls harder because they are more dependent on social interaction — in particular, talking through problems with friends — as a way to release stress. There has been ample evidence of a deterioration in the well-being of teenagers during the pandemic, but the study contributes something new to this discussion: physical evidence. Other researchers described the finding as striking, but cautioned against assuming that the accelerated cortical thinning is a sign of damage. Thinning is "not necessarily an indication of a problem," and can be "a sign of maturational change," said Ronald E Dahl of the Institute of Human Development at the University of California, Berkeley. "Accelerated thinning is being interpreted as problematic, and it could be, but that is a leap," Dahl said. The researchers began with a cohort of 160 children and adolescents, with the goal of characterizing typical changes during the teenage years. They took their first measurements in 2018, when their subjects ranged in age from 9 to 17.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

EXPLAINED HEALTH

The grave threat from AMR

Antimicrobial resistance, which is caused when microbes evolve into drug-resistant 'superbugs' in response to the misuse or overuse of antibiotics, is a growing problem in India. Who is responsible; what can be done?

ANONNA DUTT
 NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

AHEAD OF the September 26 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on antimicrobial resistance, the World Health Organization last week published its first-ever guidance on antibiotic pollution from manufacturing. "The emergence and spread of AMR (antimicrobial resistance) caused by antibiotic pollution could undermine the effectiveness of antibiotics globally, including the medicines produced at the manufacturing sites..." the WHO said on September 3. AMR — and consequently, the creation of "superbugs" — affects healthcare everywhere, but has especially poor outcomes in patients suffering from multiple diseases. A survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the country's apex body for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, shows that AMR continues to rise across the country. "Common pathogens are becoming more and more resistant to antibiotics. This increase has been noted despite the fact that the number of samples and the centres at which we carry out surveillance has remained the same over the years," Dr Kamini Walia, one of the authors of the recently released ICMR annual report on Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Surveillance Network (January-December 2023), said. Dr Walia described this situation as a "symptom". "We have to make changes across the board to ensure the antibiotics that we have remain effective," she said.

What is antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and why is it a cause for concern?
 AMR is a condition in which a pathogen acquires the ability to survive and cause infection even in the presence of an antimicrobial drug. AMR is the result of evolution of microbes in a situation where there is a misuse or overuse of antibiotics. Excessive use of antimicrobial drugs can lead to the creation of resistant or extremely resistant superbugs, which can circulate in hospitals, through drinking water, or sewers. Infections caused by these pathogens will not respond to commonly prescribed antibiotics. Growing antibiotic resistance would mean that simple infections would become difficult to treat — for example, doctors have reported patients requiring admission to hospital for the treatment of even urinary tract infections. Within hospitals, this is likely to lead to more complications and longer stays, making the treatment increasingly more expensive.

Why is AMR increasing?

MOST COMMON PATHOGENS FOUND IN INDIA

Type of facility	Most commonly isolated pathogen	What the pathogen does	Resistance
ICU	<i>Acinobacter baumannii</i>	It can cause pneumonia, infections of the blood, urinary tract, and on wounds. It is becoming an important hospital-derived infection.	Continues to have 88% resistance to third-line, strong antibiotics like carbapenem
Wards & OPD	<i>E. coli</i>	May cause diarrhoea, UTI, pneumonia, and sepsis	Continues to show increased resistance to most classes of antibiotics, including carbapenem for which it went up from 18.6% in 2017 to 37.3% in 2023

MOST COMMON PRESCRIPTIONS

No. of people on one antibiotic	47%
No. of people on two antibiotics	35%
No. of people on three antibiotics	18%

Source: Annual report of the Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Surveillance Network, NCDC's first Antimicrobial Resistance Survey

INDIVIDUALS: Many Indians have a tendency to pop an antibiotic for a fever, without even checking if the fever is caused by a bacterium. An antibiotic is of no use for viral infections such as influenza, but consuming it can drive up resistance in the population. Many find it difficult or expensive to go to a doctor for a simple sickness, and instead prefer to take a pill that perhaps their local chemist has recommended. Dr Walia said that it is not fair to ask people who are only trying to get better quickly, to not consume antibiotics. "Instead, we have to prevent infections so that people do not feel the need to take antibiotics," she said. "This can be achieved through improving hygiene and measures like frequently washing hands. It can also be achieved through vaccinations. For example, the pneumococcal vaccine or influenza vaccine for the elderly can reduce incidents of pneumonia," she said. "However, not many people take this vaccine." (The updated vaccine for the 2024-25 flu season is now available in hospitals.) **DOCTORS:** Doctors must be educated to not use broad-spectrum antibiotics, Dr Walia said. These are antibiotics that work against a wide range of infections, but these are also the ones that are more likely to lead to resistance.

"Our report provides a list of antibiotics that should be used in the community for a particular infection and ones that should be reserved for patients admitted to hospitals," she said. A survey on prescribing trends for antibiotics released by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) last year found that 71.9% of patients coming to hospitals were prescribed antibiotics on average, with only a 10-percentage point difference in antibiotic use between intensive care units that have the sickest patients and the other wards. Surprisingly, 55% of the antibiotics were prescribed not for the treatment of an infection, but to prevent one. Overuse of antibiotics has rendered some of them useless or of limited use. Dr Walia cited the example of the common diarrhoea medicine Norfloxacin, which has become ineffective. Also, resistance to carbapenem, a class of strong, third-line antibiotics used to treat severe bacterial infections, is on the rise for the treatment of conditions such as typhoid, which is not required, she said. **DIAGNOSTICS:** Another problem is empirical prescription of antibiotics, made by doctors based on what they think has likely caused the infection based on the symptoms. Instead, doctors should, wherever possible, insist on di-

agnostic tests that can help them prescribe specific antibiotics for the infection rather than broad-spectrum ones, Dr Walia said. **PHARMA COMPANIES:** The WHO's guidelines on antibiotic pollution from manufacturing released last week provides guidance on wastewater and solid waste management for antibiotic manufacturing facilities. Despite the high levels of antibiotic pollution that have been widely documented, the issue is largely unregulated, the WHO said. "Pharmaceutical waste from antibiotic manufacturing can facilitate the emergence of new drug-resistant bacteria, which can spread globally and threaten our health. Controlling pollution from antibiotic production contributes to keeping these life-saving medicines effective for everyone," Dr Yukiko Nakatani, WHO Assistant Director-General for AMR *ad interim*, said. **What are the most common resistant pathogens in India?** The three most common pathogens isolated in patient samples from tertiary care centres in the ICMR surveillance network are *e. coli*, which can cause gut infections; *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, which can cause pneumonia and urinary tract infections; and *Acinetobacter baumannii*, which is mainly associated with hospital acquired infections, the recent report said. *E. coli* isolates demonstrated a decrease in susceptibility to most antibiotics, with susceptibility to carbapenem reducing from 81.4% in 2017 to 62.7% in 2023. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* also showed reduced susceptibility, with the susceptibility to two different medicines from the carbapenem class reducing from 58.5% to 35.6% and 48% to 37.6% between 2017 and 2023. While no significant change was found in susceptibility for *Acinetobacter baumannii*, its resistance to carbapenems stood at 88% in 2023. Pathogens such as this are highly resistant to even strong antibiotics. **What are some of the most important things that need to be done?** Dr Walia suggested three measures that were likely to have the most impact on antibiotic resistance in the coming years. **PREVENTION** of infections by putting in place hygienic practices, improving sanitation, and urging people to get vaccinated. **EDUCATION** of doctors to ensure appropriate use of antibiotics, saving the stronger ones for hospital based patients, and getting the patients tested to see which infection they have. **STUDIES** to see the pathways of resistance from manufacturing facilities and bring in regulations wherever possible.

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Everything about Polaris Dawn mission, which will attempt first private spacewalk

ALIND CHAUHAN
 NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

A SPACEX Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Florida on Tuesday, carrying American billionaire Jared Isaacman and three others into orbit to attempt the world's first private spacewalk. The five-day mission, known as Polaris Dawn, is the first of three testing and development missions under the Polaris Program, which will be jointly executed by Isaacman and Elon Musk's SpaceX. The program aims to develop new technologies that could be used to send people to Mars some day. Tuesday's launch was originally scheduled for August 28, but was delayed due to a helium leak. It was again postponed due to bad weather around Florida. **First, what exactly is a 'spacewalk'?** A spacewalk or an "extravehicular activ-

ity (EVA)" is a period of activity spent outside a spacecraft by an astronaut in space. The first-ever spacewalk was carried out on March 18, 1965, by the Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov at the height of the Space Race — the 20th century competition between the US and USSR over who could conquer space exploration first — during the Cold War. Leonov's walk lasted 10 minutes. Today, spacewalks are usually done outside the International Space Station (ISS) and can last between five and eight hours. Spacewalks are done for several reasons, including to carry out science experiments. Astronauts can attach experiments to the outside of a spacecraft during their spacewalk, and observe how the space environment impacts different things. They can also test new equipment, and repair satellites or their spacecraft during the walk. To carry out a spacewalk, astronauts have to wear a spacesuit and use rope-like

safety tethers to attach themselves to their spacecraft. "One end is attached to the spacewalk. The other end is connected to the vehicle. The safety tethers keep astronauts from floating away into space," according to NASA, the US space agency. The other way is to wear a SAFER (Simplified Aid for EVA Rescue). It is put on like a backpack, and consists of small jet thrusters to help an astronaut move around in space. SAFER is controlled by astronauts with a small joystick. **Who is on board Polaris Dawn?** At the helm of the Polaris Dawn mission is Isaacman, who is the founder of the electronic payment company Shift4. He has bankrolled the mission along with SpaceX, and is the commander of the crew. This is Isaacman's second trip into space. In 2021, he went into low-Earth or-

bit for three days, and then splashed down off Florida. Apart from Isaacman, the crew comprises Scott Poteet, a retired US Air Force lieutenant colonel; and two SpaceX employees, Anna Menon, a lead space operations engineer, and Sarah Gillis, an engineer who oversees astronaut training. **What are the mission's objectives?** The crew, who are travelling in SpaceX's Dragon capsule, will first aim to get a maximum of about 1,400 km from Earth. This will be farther away from the 1,372 km altitude that NASA's Gemini XI mission reached in 1966, the record for any crewed mission that was not headed to the Moon. That height means that the Polaris Dawn mission will be well into the inner band of the Van Allen radiation belts — regions in space that encircle the Earth and

are highly radioactive — which hatch at around 1,000 km altitude. The crew will use this opportunity to "conduct research with the aim of better understanding the effects of spaceflight and space radiation on human health", according to the mission's website. Subsequently, the capsule would drop to a lower orbit for the rest of the mission, which includes a spacewalk. The spacewalk is scheduled for Thursday, the third day of the mission. For the spacewalk, all crew members will put on spacesuits and then, all of the air will be let out of the capsule. "The hatch will then be opened and the inside of the spacecraft will become part of the vacuum of outer space," *The New York Times* said. Only two crew members — Isaacman and Gillis — will leave the capsule for the spacewalk. Poteet and Menon will stay inside to manage the safety tethers and observe readings to ensure that nothing goes awry.

The spacewalk's main aim is to test the spacesuits, developed by SpaceX for this mission. Known as EVA spacesuits, they are equipped with cameras and heads-up displays that display to the astronauts information about the status of their suits outside their vehicle, according to a report by *Euro News*. The suits also feature an "improved thermal management", the report said. Once Isaacman and Gillis return inside, the hatch will be closed and the capsule will be repressurised. During the mission, the crew will conduct 40 scientific experiments. This includes trying to obtain X-ray images without an X-ray machine, with the help of natural showers of radiation in space. The crew will also test laser-based communication provided by SpaceX's Starlink satellite network. This technique allows communication among satellites without relying on ground infrastructure to send signals.

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

HANDOVER — RECPDCL

RECPDCL handed over a project specific SPV. viz, Tumkur-II REZ Power Transmission Limited to G R Infraprojects Limited, recently at Gurugram. G R Infraprojects Limited emerged as the Transmission Service Provider through Tariff-based Competitive Bidding process conducted by RECPDCL. The SPV was handed over by TSC Bosh, CEO, RECPDCL to S Kaushik, Head BD, G R Infraprojects.

**MOU — THDCIL**

THDCIL signed a MoU with the Department of Water Resources, Govt. of Maharashtra for harnessing of Pumped Storage Energy through six number of Pumped Storage Projects in Maharashtra, totalling a remarkable 6,790 MW capacity & involving a proposed investment of more than Rs.33,600 crs in the presence of Devendra Fadnis, Dy CM, Maharashtra.

**SAINIK CAMP — NCC**

The 12-day All India NCC Thal Sainik Camp commenced in New Delhi recently. It was inaugurated by ADG (B) NCC Maj Gen Siddharth Chawla, VSM. The camp, which culminates on 13, Sept., 2024, will witness the participation of 1,547 cadets, including both boys and girls, drawn from 17 Directorates across the country. The Camp will engage participants in a comprehensive range of activities like Obstacle Training & Map Reading.

**MEETING — INDIAN COAST GUARD**

ICG participated recently in the 20th HAGAM High-Level Meeting at Incheon in South Korea. The 03 member ICG delegation was led by Inspector General MV Pathak, PTM, TM. This meeting was an annual event hosted by one of the members in rotation. HAGAM is an independent forum with 23 member Coast Guard Agencies and 02 associate members in the form of ReCAAP and UNODC.

**AWARD — REC**

REC has been conferred with the "Nodal Agency of the Year" award at the Bharat Electricity - Powering India Awards 2024. This recognition is a testament to REC's innovative initiatives & leadership in the energy sector, driving significant progress in India's power infrastructure. The award was presented during the PowerGen India & Indian Utility Week 2024, a premier event that brought together industry leaders, policymakers, & experts in the energy sector. Prabhat Kumar Singh, ED RDSS, accepted the award on behalf of REC Limited.

**PARTNERSHIP — HSL**

HSL partnered with LWT India & VINSSEN South Korea recently to revolutionize green vessel technology in India. This partnership unites HSL's vessel manufacturing expertise, LWT's battery & offshore charging systems, & VINSSEN's advanced hydrogen & hybrid propulsion systems to drive innovation & sustainability in India's maritime industry, aligning with the Govt's Make in India & Green India initiatives.

**LAUNCH — FMRI**

Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram, unveiled the Elekta Unity MR Linac, a groundbreaking technology that combines Magnetic Resonance Imaging with radiation therapy. The launch event was attended by Chief Guest C Kamill, Chargé d'Affaires a.i, Embassy of Sweden; Dr V Yadav, CMO, Gurugram; Dr A Raghuvanshi, MD & CEO of Fortis Healthcare; Dr AK Anand, Senior Dir. & Head, D/o Radiation Oncology.

**CELEBRATION — BANK OF INDIA**

Bank of India celebrated its 119th foundation day at the cultural auditorium on Haridwar Road in Dehradun. New products — Bol Star Samridhi Home Loan, MSME Thala, BOI Merchant Portal, CBDCR BOI e-Rupi, RuPay Bharat Credit Card, Visa Signature Credit Card, Master World Debit Card, BOI Online Omni New Banking, BOI API Banking & BOI Star Light HR PMS Tool were launched by the bank. BOI also inaugurated 38 new branches at all India level.

**CORPORATE BRIEFS****SHOWCASED — POWERGRID**

POWERGRID Maharashtra CPSU showcased its prowess & rapid strides in the power sector at the India Pavilion put up by POWERGRID at the prestigious CIGRE Paris Exhibition 2024. RK Tyagi, CMD POWERGRID welcomed Pankaj Agarwal, Secy., M/o Power, GoI in presence of Madhav Sulphule, First Secretary, Embassy of India, Paris, Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD, REC, Michel Augonnet, President, CIGRE, Michael Heyeck, Vice President Finance, CIGRE & Philippe Adam, Secretary General, CIGRE at the India Pavilion. The dignitaries also unveiled the POWERGRID CIGRE and upcoming GRIDCON-2025 brochures. POWERGRID's engineers presented 40 technical research papers and case studies at the conference. POWERGRID's lady engineers presented six papers during the conference & are also active members of numerous technical committees. POWERGRID has been at the forefront of innovation for energy transition & sustainability.

**MOU — NTPC**

NTPC has signed an MoU with USAID through its India Mission in Delhi. The MoU was signed by Dr. Vijay Prakash, ED (SSEA and Env't. Engg.), NTPC, & Aaron Schubert, Deputy Mission Director (A) USAID/India & Bhutan in the presence of Ravindra Kumar, Dir. (Operations), NTPC. The MoU aims at developing strategies & a roadmap for achieving the net zero status for NTPC Townships and Offices; benchmarking, implementation and certification, and scaling up initiatives at the national level. NTPC Limited, the largest integrated power utility in India, is addressing the issues related to climate change proactively. NTPC was the first energy company across the world to declare its Energy Compact Goals as a part of the UN High Level Dialogue on Energy.

**VISIT — NBCC**

Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Textiles, GoI, along with other senior officials visited NBCC executed International Craft Complex in New Delhi. This modern facility, spanning 2,000 square feet, has been designed to display the craftsmanship of India's different parts. During the visit, KP Mahadevaswamy, CMD, NBCC briefed Giriraj Singh about the project. Saleem Ahmad, Director (Projects) along with other officials from NBCC were also present during the occasion. Built on a plot area of 7,153 sqm, it comprises 199 staff cabins & 35 rooms. The craft complex will have 23 shops for artisans along with one showroom, one kiosk, five galleries and one convention hall.

**CONFERENCE — UGB**

MSME Conference was organized by the Uttarakhand Gramin Bank, Regional Office, Dehradun. The conference was presided over by GM, District Industry Center, Anjani Rawat Negi. The conference was attended by the President of Uttarakhand Industry Organization, Pankaj Gupta, General Secretary, Anshuman Goyal, Coordinator of the Food & Processing Industry Organization, Rakesh Bhatia, Distinguished Customer, Mahawar, & many new entrepreneurs & businessmen.



NHB India's eight primary residential markets witnessed appreciating property prices during the period Apr-June 2024. Ahmedabad (6.4%), Bengaluru (10.6%), Chennai (9.6%), Delhi (1.5%), Hyderabad (8.3%), Kolkata (8.0%), Mumbai (4.6%) & Pune (6.4%) recorded increase in the index on an annual basis as per the Housing Price Index published by the National Housing Bank.

UJVNL has demonstrated its excellence, efficiency & able leadership by generating record units of energy. Giving information in this regard, Dr. Sandeep Singhal, MD, UJVNL Ltd., said that the hydropower projects of UJVNL Ltd. have generated 724.465 million units of energy in August 2024, which is the highest-ever power generation in August of any year since the formation of UJVNL.

DSHM To reduce tuberculosis incidence & mortality, the Delhi Health Department has undertaken a significant initiative: The Adult BCG Vaccination Study, under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) Delhi, which targets high-risk adult populations in five revenue districts of Delhi — New Delhi, North-East, West, East, and South — with six additional districts serving as control areas.

LIC celebrated the proud moment of 68th Anniversary on 1st Sept., 2024. This milestone is a testament to the dedication & hard work of LIC's team, the loyalty of their customers & has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence, innovation, & customer satisfaction. As they reach the significant milestone of 68 yrs in business, LIC proudly reflects on the journey of growth, innovation, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

SCOPE organized a Workshop on "The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for strengthening climate action" in Kolkata which was participated by sr. executives from several PSEs. The workshop organized in collaboration with GIZ, Germany & knowledge support of Oxford Policy Management, Council on Energy, Environment & Water, & Perspectives Climate Group focused on fundamentals of the 'Climate Co-benefit' concept.

NEEPCO The Union Cabinet chaired by the PM Modi has approved the proposal of the M/o Power for providing Central Financial Assistance to the State Govts. of NER towards their equity participation for development of Hydro Electric Projects in the NER through Joint Venture Collaboration between State entities and Central Public Sector Undertakings. This scheme has an outlay of Rs. 4136 cr to be implemented from FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32. A cumulative hydro capacity of about 15000 MW would be supported under the scheme.

TRIVENI ENGINEERING Project Ek Sau Ek (101), refers to an initiative involving 100 sugarcane cultivators in Bulandshahr, and Yash Sawhney, a 16 yr-old student at Winchester College, has had the unique privilege and opportunity to play a supporting role in aiding these farmers face the challenges posed by the changing landscape of modern agriculture. The success of the Ek Sau Ek Initiative has reverberated throughout the community, uplifting the lives of not only the participating farmers but their families and the broader rural network.

ACADEMICS

VEDIC SAPTAH Sarla Chopra DAV Public School, witnessed the culmination of Ved Saptah. Dr. NK Uberoi, the school Chairman, Mrs. Chitra Nakra, the school Manager, Swami Satyavesh, Mrs. Chitra Kant, the school Principal and parents graced the occasion. Parents & students presented beautiful renditions of bhajan. The Principal Mrs. Chitra Kant, expressed her gratitude to all present & pride at the moral and vedic values inculcated in the students. Chairman, Dr. NK Uberoi, also shared many anecdotes linked to the importance and impact of vedic upbringing. The Manager, Mrs. Chitra Nakra also expressed her happiness at the students' performance.



The Interact Club of S.C.D.A.V. Public School, Noida held its installation ceremony. The event was graced by the Chief guests Rotary Club Noida City President Jogendra Chopra, Rtn. Rachna Singh, District Interact Co chair. On this occasion, First lady of the rotary club Mrs. Ruma Chopra, Mrs. Debolina Choudhary - Youth Chair & Senior Rtn. Mrs. Shivani were also present. The Principal, Mrs. Chitra Kant emphasized the importance of community service & leadership skills, encouraging the new team to take up challenging projects & make a positive impact. The Vice President of Interact club, Vartika expressed her gratitude to be a part of this club & for the responsibilities being imparted to her. Interact Club Incharge Ms. Geetu Sabharwal congratulated the student interactors for their successful roles & motivated them to keep up their spirits high for the noble cause. Chief guest Jogendra Chopra praised the school's commitment to nurturing young leaders & expressed their support for the club's initiatives.



Government of Jharkhand
Department of School Education and Literacy
(Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi)
JSCA Stadium Road, Sector-III, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Phone: 0651-2444501, E-Mail: jepcranchi1@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice

JEPCC invites Separate Technical & Financial Bids through e-procurement method from eligible and interested contractors registered in appropriate class for Construction of Boys Toilet and Girls Toilet in Existing Elementary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools located in different 08 Districts of Jharkhand. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to submit their proposal latest by 2:00 PM on 26.09.2024.

The details of tender documents can be seen and applied through website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> only. Tender notification & Tender document can also be seen (read only purpose) from departmental website <https://jepc.jharkhand.gov.in>.

Ref. No.: JEPCC/CIV/03/1081/2024/3360
Ranchi, Date : 10.09.2024

Sd/-
(Aditya Ranjan)

State Project Director

PR 335323 Jharkhand Education Project Council(24-25)#D Jharkhand Education Project Council

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation
Tender No:02/2024-25

Publication of Notice for Request for Proposal (RFP)

for
Engaging agency for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of
Ayushman Arogya Mandir (Porta Cabin) on
Turnkey basis for Medical Department of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) hereby invites Engaging agency for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Ayushman Arogya Mandir (Porta Cabin) on Turnkey basis for Medical Department of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation. Bidders are advised to study this RFP document carefully before submitting their proposals in response to this RFP Notice. Submission of a proposal in response to this notice shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of this document with full understanding of its terms, conditions, and implications.

Interested Bidders are requested to download the RFP document published on www.mahatenders.gov.in from 10/09/2024. The last date for bid submission 24/09/2024 by 3:00 PM. The bidder may submit their proposal either on mahatenders or physically hardcopy at client address as per the RFP.

The downloaded bidding document shall be considered valid for participation in the electronic bidding process (e-Tendering) subject to the payment of RFP Fee. For any type of clarifications, Bidders can visit www.mahatenders.gov.in or contact help desk contact no. 0120-4001 462, 0120-4001 002, 0120-4001 005, 0120-6277 787, Email: support-eproc@nic.in

Name of Work	Tender Amount	Tender Fees (Non Refundable)	EMD
Engaging agency for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Ayushman Arogya Mandir (Porta Cabin) on Turnkey basis for Medical Department of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation	16,52,15,099 (sixteen crore fifty-two thousand ninety-nine rupees only)	INR 60,281 (Sixty thousand two hundred eighty-one rupees only)	INR 16,52,151 (sixteen lakh fifty-two thousand one hundred fifty-one rupees only)

Commissioner, PCMC reserves the rights to reject any or all applications without assigning any reasons thereof. In this regard his decision will be final and legally binding on all the Bidders.

Sd/-

Commissioner

Ref No: Med/9D/WS/955/2024
ADVT.NO.-160, Date: 10/09/2024

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation,
Pimpri- 411 018

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

L. The Superintending Engineer, Shimla 4th Circle, HPPWD, Shimla-3 on behalf of Government of H.P. invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with H.P.P.W.D., for the work as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Starting date of downloading Bid.	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time Allowed	Deadline for Bid.
1.	Construction of HDPE underground utility duct from Chaita Shimla to Wily Park Chaura Maidan Km 0/00 to 5/200 Kms, Raj Bhawan in Oak Over Km. 0/00 to 1/252 Kms and Sher-E-Punjab to CTO Chowk (Via Lower Bazar) Kms 0/00 to 0/798.	Rs. 697938601.00	12-09-2024	Rs. 13958772.00	5000.00	One Year	23-09-2024

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website, www.hp.tenders.gov.in. The Superintending Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application without assigning any reason.

Superintending Engineer,
4th Circle, HPPWD Shimla-3
No. 2025-2024-2025/IFB

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, धनबाद
मोबाईल नं० : 8789242462 Email : rdsd.dhanbad@rediffmail.com

पत्रांक-746 अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना धनबाद / दिनांक-10.09.2024
ई- निविदा सूचना संख्या - RWD/SD/DHANBAD-18/2024-25

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभित राशि (लाख में)	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपन्न का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	धनबाद जिला के बरियारपुर प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत दोलाबड़ पंचायत में दोलाबड़ मलिक टोलों से आम्बोना जाने वाले पथ पर पी जोड़िया में पुल का निर्माण। (पुल की लम्बाई 39.37 मी०)	239.74700	परिमाण विपन्न की राशि 2%	10000.00	15 महीना

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 18.09.2024
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय-दिनांक 18.09.2024 से दिनांक 25.09.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
4. ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान - कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।
5. ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 27.09.2024 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- ई० नरेंद्र कुमार, कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।
7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० - 8789242462 (संबन्धित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपन्न की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुग्तान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता की बंद कर दिया जाता है तो सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यपालक की सूचना पत्र पर देखा जा सकता है।

(ई० नरेंद्र कुमार)
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, धनबाद

PR 335314 (Rural Work Department)24-25'D

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Principal Chief Materials Manager
Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001
Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com
No. 117-S/Sale/Auction Programme/2024-25 Dated 06.09.2024

e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. November/2024
E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme is as under.

e- AUCTION DATES FOR November-2024.

S. No	Depot/Division Auction Conducting Unit	Auction Starting Time	1 st round's date	2 nd round's date	3 rd round's date	4 th round's date	5 th round's date	6 th round's date
1	Alambagh/Lucknow	0522-2451257	10.00 AM	4	9	14	20	23
2	Shakurbasti	011-27015387	10.00 AM	6	9	14	20	23
3	Jagadhari	01732-252388	10.00 AM	5	9	16	20	23
4	Sr.DMM/LKO	0522-2234756	10.00 AM	5	11	18	21	25
5	Sr.DMM/FZR	01632-244154	10.00 AM	8	12	19	22	26
6	Sr.DMM/UMB	0171-2611203	10.00 AM	6	11	18	21	25
7	Sr.DMM/MB	0591-2413141	10.00 AM	8	13	19	22	26
8	Sr.DMM/DLI	011-23365311	10.00 AM	4	11	18	21	25

1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in. 2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations. 3. To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with ireps. The details on last sold rates in auctions are available at www.railnet.gov.in. 4. For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in.

(Narendra Singh) Dy. Chief Material Manager/S&P
2819/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.,
Victoria Park, Meerut

VERY SHORT TERM E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE. 1. Open very short term e-tender is invited for supply of 10,000 Kg Insulating Press Paper (Leatheroid Paper) Type-D 10 Mil (Width 1000mm), against tender specification no. PVVNL-MT/MM/104/(vs)/24-25. Tender Cost: Rs. 3,540.00 (with GST), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs. 15,300.00 (with GST) Last Date & Time of tender submission for above tender specifications 18.09.2024 at 2:00 PM. Tender opening date & Time (Part-Ist & IInd) for above tender specifications :- 18.09.2024 at 5:00 PM. Note:- In case of any amendment in tender specification or extension of date, the same shall be uploaded on e-tender website www.tenderup.nic.in and www.pvvnlg.org "Help Line Number For Information of Theft of Electricity: "1800-180-3002 (Meerut) & 9412207451" Sd/- Superintending Engineer (MM-D) "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" RO-No. 608 Date: 10.09.2024.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-43-T-2024-25-E3
Electrical work in connection with Provision of New Badminton Hall in S. M. Marg.

Approx cost of the works in : Rs. 20.92 lacs

Address of the office : Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

Earnest Money : Rs. 41,900.00

Date & time of submission of tender : 10.10.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Opening of tender : 10.10.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Website & notice board : www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
2837/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PLANNING AND INVESTIGATION DIVISION
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
(RCD), RANCHI
NirupanBhawan, 3rd Floor, Room No. 401,56-Set,
Doranda, Ranchi-834002

e-Procurement (Short Tender Notice)
Letter of Invitation (LOI) No.-12/2024-25
1st Call
e-Tender Ref No.—RCD/PID/RANCHI/12/2024-25 Date:-
09.09.2024

Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Widening/New Reconstruction of (1) Bilingana to Kain (Tentative length - 14.5 km), (2) Bandisgan to Kuldri (Tentative length - 10 km) and (3) Gita to Poronger (Tentative length - 15 km) (Total length - 39.5 km) road including replacement/New Proposal of Culverts, Bridges, ROB's, RUB's, Complete Land Acquisition Plan including Ownership details all complete as per latest guidelines, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal, Forest Diversion Proposal and Utility Shifting Proposal in details etc. as required by the Department (If any) under West Singhbhum District in the State of Jharkhand. *Only Empanelled consultant with RCD under category vide letter No. 306.5(S) WE Dated 22.08.2024 are allowed to bid.

1	Name Of Work	
2	Tentative Length	39.5 Km
3	Period of Completion of Work	90 Days
4	Cost of Tender documents & Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender documents is Rs. 5000/- (Non-Refundable) EMD:- The quotatoers have to deposit a fixed amount of Rs 50000.00 (Fifty thousand only) as Earnest Money. As per the Departmental Letter no.-4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit will be received in online mode only through e-procurement portal (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) by internet banking/NEFT/RTGS facility as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 dated 03.10.2023.
5	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering(https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/)
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	11.09.2024,10:30 AM
7	Online Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	25.09.2024 17:00 PM
8	Date and Time of Bidopening	26.09.2024 17:30 PM
9	Bid validity	120 days
10	Designation and Contact no. of Tender inviting Officer	Executive Engineer, Planning and Investigation Division, RCD, Ranchi, Mob No.-9471650883

Note:- Only e-Tender shall be accepted. Further details can be seen on e-procurement portal (<https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/>).

Executive Engineer,
Planning & Investigation Division,
Road Construction Department, Ranchi.
PR.No.335252 Road(24-25):D

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001) Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in, Mobile No. 96461-55525

Municipal Council, Niphad e-Tender Notice for 2024-25 NIPHAD Municipal Council invites e-tender for the work of Augmentation to Niphad Water Supply Scheme, Tal. Niphad, Dist. Nashik in the State of Maharashtra, of Amount put to tender of Rs. 35,75,88,928.00/-

Tender Notice for various works Government of Punjab Tender Notice Reference No. 12 dt. 09.09.2024 The Department of Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board invites online bids for the following:-

NMDC Steel Limited (A Government of India Enterprise) NMDC Iron & Steel Plant, Nagarnar (Bastar) - 494001, C.G. (CIN : U27310CT2015GOI001618) GSTIN: 22AAFCN3661C12X Expression of Interest (EOI) for the sale of Crude Coal Tar under MOU/LTA from NSL, Nagarnar

RAJASTHAN POLICE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD, JAIPUR Government of Rajasthan (Undertaking) CIN NO. U45201R2013SC0083014 Regd. Office: 756, Police Head Quarter, Lal Kothi, Jaipur (Raj.) Phone: 0141-2740784, Fax: 0141-2744294, e-mail: rpiddcl@rajasthan.gov.in

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता जन. स्था. अभि. विभाग नृप पाली E-mail: sephed123@yahoo.com, Ph. No. 02932-222678 क्रमांक :- अत्र / वृत्त पाली/न.र./2024-25/3151-70 दिनांक :- 8/9/24 ई-टेंडरिंग अल्टिमेटम निविदा सूचना संख्या 4/2024-25 राजस्थान के राज्यपाल को और से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु जन. स्था. अभि. विभाग में उपर्युक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत अनुभवशाली से निविदा प्रपत्र में 8 प्रोक्वैस्ट प्रक्रिया द्वारा, ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मण्डल क्रमांक 2 (छत्तीसगढ़) ई-प्रोक्वैस्ट निविदा सूचना दिनांक 05.09.2024 निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा "डी" श्रेणी एवं अधिक श्रेणी के टेकेंडरों हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Demand Notices were issued to the below mentioned borrower/guarantor in respect of loan availed by them and after the loan account becoming NPA

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Circle SASTRA Arrah, 2nd Floor, Hotel Regal Complex, Near Ramana Maidan, Ara, Bhojpur, Bihar-802301. Phone No. 8436747159, Email:- cs8187@pnb.co.in

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY Notice of Invitation E-Tender Divisional Railway Manager, N.W. Ry. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed open tender for the following works on the date shown as below.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE ELECTRICAL EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC WORKS DIVISION No-2, PATNA. E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE NO-12 OF 2024-25

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION OHE AND AUXILIARY TRANSFORMER WORKS No : DRM/TRD/BVP/2024-25/01 Dt : 04.09.2024 The Divisional Railway Manager (TRD) Western Railway, Bhavnagar Para invites E-tender on behalf of President of India for the following work.

योजना एवं विकास विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-02, विक्रमगंज, रोहतास पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 04 (SBD)/2024-25 (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 27/09/2024, for recovery of Rs. 1,19,52,319.48 due to the Secured Creditor from M/S SATYAM RICE MILL, PROP: SH. PRABHU NARAYAN SINGH, S/O LATE SUDAMA SINGH (Borrower) and SH. PRABHU NARAYAN SINGH, SH. UDAY PRATAP SINGH & SH. BIJAY NARAYAN SINGH (ALL THREE GUARANTORS ARE IN THE CAPACITY OF LEGAL HEIR OF LATE SUDAMA SINGH) (Guarantor). The reserve price will be Rs. 33,25,455.00 and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 3,32,545.50.

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of the branch; Name of the account; Name & addresses of the Borrower/Guarantors account, Description of the Immovable Properties, (a) Date of demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act 2002, (a) Reserve Price (b) EMD (c) Last date of EMD Bid (d) Bid Increase Amt., Date/ Time of E-Auction, Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना पत्र सं. WB-74-N/O/Works/NTX दिनांक: 09/09/2024 मंडल रेल प्रबंधक, इंदौर विभाग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमों के अन्तर्गत निविदा प्रपत्रों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमशः आमंत्रित की जाती है।

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE (Through e-Tender) No. 2024-24-Linen Space Date : 06.09.2024 On the behalf of President of India e-Tenders are invited by the CWM, Carriage Workshop, NWR, Jodhpur. 1. Name of Work with its Location : Removal of the mini pantry car and suitable linen space to be created in LHB AC Coaches (Qty- 32coaches), two foldable berths in LHB 2nd AC coaches (Qty-46 Coaches) and separation of FSDs panel compartment from other remaining portion of Linen space in LHB AC and ICF AC Coaches (Qty-ICF AC-258 coach, LHB AC-449 coaches) and conversion of Single sliding door to 03 set of sliding panel in linen space for free movement of sliding panels of Linen with alternate locking arrangement at Carriage workshop jodhpur and jodhpur and Bikaner Coaching depots of North Western Railway. 2. Approximate Cost of work : Rs. 24270240.00 (Rs. Two Crore Forty Two Lakh Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Forty Only) 3. Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 2714000.00 (Rs. Two Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Four Hundred Only) 4. Last date and time for Submission of e-tender and Opening of e-tender : 30.09.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. and 30.09.2024 after 15:00 Hrs. 5. Web site of e-tender forms can be obtained : www.irops.gov.in 6. Address of the NIT Issuing Office : Office of the CWM, Carriage Workshop, NWR, Jodhpur-342001 (Rajasthan) 1046-CR/24

TERMS AND CONDITIONS The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions. 1. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". 2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://ebkraj.in on 27.09.2024 from 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM. 4. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 5. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer https://ebkraj.in & www.pnbindia.in. STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9 (1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 (Sh. Sunil Kumar Sinha, Chief Manager) AUTHORISED OFFICER PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK SECURED CREDITOR M-7004519963

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



MARTYRDOM ON 11TH SEPTEMBER

Hero of Nathula Operations - 1967

We salute and pay homage to our beloved and gallant martyr Major Harbhajan Singh, MVC who made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Indian Army...

Commanding Officer & All Ranks, 13 MECH INF (18 RAJPUT) AKHAURA TIGERS



Hero of Nathula Operations - 1967

We salute and pay homage to our beloved and gallant martyr Naib Subedar Raghav Prasad Pandey, SM, who made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Indian Army...

Commanding Officer & All Ranks, 13 MECH INF (18 RAJPUT) AKHAURA TIGERS



INDO TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)

11 September, 2024

Lance Naik Sukhbir Singh Vill-Gharaunda Distt- Karnal (Haryana) and Lance Naik Mohan Lal Vill- Ustoli Distt- Chamoli (Uttarakhand)



ITBP salutes its bravehearts of 14th, 16th and 2nd Battalion, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty fighting bravely on this day in New Delhi in 1993.

Constable Ram Niwas Meena Railway Colony Distt- Rewari (Haryana)



11th Sep 2002

"Sashastra Seema Bal" fondly remembers the selfless and valiant act of the braveheart, LNK(GD) Arjun Das of erstwhile GC, Tripura (now 19th Bn, SSB), who made supreme sacrifice for the Nation...

"SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL"



CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

60 Battalion

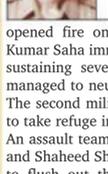
Shaheed Sh. A. Anandan (SECOND-IN-COMMAND) 26-2-1963 To 11-9-2004



JAMMU & KASHMIR

11 September 2004

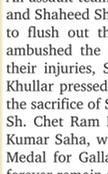
On 11 September 2004, two militants infiltrated the headquarters of 04 Battalion of CRPF at Ritz Hotel, PS Dalgate, District Srinagar, by scaling the walls. One inside, they opened fire on camp personnel...



JAMMU & KASHMIR

11 September 2002

On 11 September 2002, while 49 Battalion troops were escorting a VIP through Surankote, District Poonch, militants threw a grenade at the escort vehicle as they reached the Bus Stand. The explosion caused the crowd to flee...



MANIPUR

11 September 2004

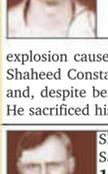
On 11 September 2004, 132 Battalion of CRPF was deployed in Manipur for a counter-insurgency operation. The troops laid an ambush to trap insurgents...



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MANIPUR

11 September 2004

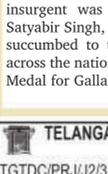
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MANIPUR

11 September 2004

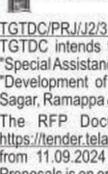
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11 September 2004

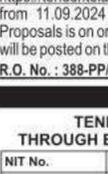
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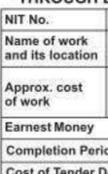
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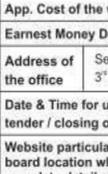
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MANIPUR

11 September 2004

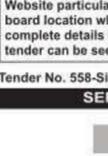
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WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION

OPEN 'E' TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. EL/TRD/Tender/23-24/22R5, Tenders for and on behalf of The President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical Tr.D) Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara - 390 004 for the following works...

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

(Survey & Construction) For and on behalf of the president of India, Dy. Chief Engineer/Const.-II, North Western Railway, Udaipur invites e-tender under "Two packet system" from the agencies fulfilling the eligible criteria for the following work...

WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION

CONSTRUCTION WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE No. : DYCECRJT-SUNR-RJT-49-R3 Dy.Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Rajkot for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites E-Tender for following work...

उ.प्र. आवास एवं विकास परिषद

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता निर्माण खण्ड-अगरा-03

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अद्योहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय पत्रांक-1321/ई.एम.जी. 24/367 दिनांक 09.09.2024 द्वारा जनपद अलीगढ़ के औद्योगिक विकास क्षेत्र तालानगरी में अग्निशमन केन्द्र तालानगरी के अनावसीय भवन का निर्माण कार्य कराये जाने हेतु परियोजना संख्या-1321/ई.एम.जी. 24/367 दिनांक 09.10.2024 समय अपरान्ह 4:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की गई है...

WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT (SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION)

TENDER NOTICE

Dy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, Construction, Western Railway, 1st floor DRM Office, Kothi Compound, Rajkot - 360001, acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tender for the following work: (1) Tender No: DY-CSTE-C-RJT-24-25-08; (2) Name of work: Supply of Material, Trenching, Laying of OFC/Quad cable and blowing, splicing, jointing, termination, testing of OFC & Quad cable (outdoor) and indoor work including block section in connection with Gauge conversation work between Khajidiya - Amreli section of Bhavnagar Division of Western Railway...

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Tender No. 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/AMC/09/2024-25 Dated: 09.09.2024 Name of work : Comprehensive Annual maintenance Contract of E! system Medha with its location) make of DLI Division for 3 years App. Cost of the work (₹) ₹ 6,42,94,183.28/- only Bid Security (₹) ₹ 4,71,500/- only Address of the office Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055. Date & Time for uploading the tender / closing of the tender 09.09.2024 / closing date & time- 01.10.2024 up to 15.00 hrs. Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD

No. :- 189 Dated :- 09/09/2024

Bids for 1. Construction of compound wall, office room & treated water pipeline, RHB Badli, Jodhpur 2. Operation & Maintenance of Sewer network system at Dr. B. Ambedkar Housing Scheme, Nagaur 3. Operation & Maintenance of Sewerage line & RWH system at Kudibhagatsni Scheme, Sector-10 & 11 V.V., Jodhpur 4. Water Supply & Sewerage line work in Commercial center at New RHB Scheme, near DTO , Hanumangarh 5. Operation & Maintenance of Sewer Network system & connection line upto STP at new RHB Scheme, near DTO Office, Hanumangarh (For 18 Months). 6. Operation & Maintenance of Water Supply Scheme at RHB Colony, Block-A,B,C & D near DTO office, Hanumangarh 7. Operation & Maintenance of Water Supply Scheme at Sector-10 & 11, Kuribhagatsni Scheme, Jodhpur, Amounting Rs.144.20 Lakh, are invited from interested bidders from 12.09.2024 to 23.09.2024 upto 6.00 PM. Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state & http://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rhb department website. UBN No.: RHB2425WSO800167, RHB2425SSO800168, RHB2425LSO800169, RHB2425WSO800170, RHB2425LSO800171, RHB2425SSO800172, & RHB2425LSO800173 Raj.Samwad/C/24/5042 RESIDENT ENGINEER-PHE, JODHPUR

Executive Engineer, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Maharashtra Rural Road Development Association, Jalgaon

E-Tender Notice No. Jalgaon - 41/2024-2025 (4th Call)

E-Tenders are invited Percentage Rate Tender for Upgradation and 10 Years Maintenance of (Research and Development) (R&D) (White Topping) Road works in Jalgaon District, Under Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-2 (Batch-1) for Total 01 Package (07 Works, Total Estimated Cost Rs. 5396.60 Lakh.) Detailed E-Tender Notice will be available on website https://www.mahatenders.gov.in from Date - 11/09/2024.

Table with 3 columns: E-Tender Notice No., Total No. of Works, Total Estimated Cost (Including Maintenance Cost). Row 1: 41/2024-2025 (4th Call), 7, Rs. 5396.60 Lakh

Sd/- (Sanjay Rathod) Executive Engineer, PMGSY, MRDA, Jalgaon

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE II ADDL. PRINCIPAL JUDGE, FAMILY COURT, AT BANGALORE

M.C. No. 476/2024

BETWEEN:- Sri. Manish Jain Aged about 50 years, S/o. Late. Brij Mohan Lal Jain R/at G-1406, Mantri Tranquil, Gulbaila, Kanakapura Main Road, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560061. PETITIONER AND:- Smt. Ruchika Jain Aged about 44 years, W/o Manish Jain, R/at No. 31, 9th Main, Panduranga Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560 057. Also available at, R/at No. 702, Jasin, Block-5, Paramount, Forvillea, Sector-137 Noida-201305. ...RESPONDENT

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT

Smt. Ruchika Jain Aged about 44 years, W/o Manish Jain, R/at No. 31, 9th Main, Panduranga Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560 057. Also available at, R/at No. 702, Jasin, Block-5, Paramount, Forvillea, Sector-137 Noida-201305. Whereas the petitioner had instituted the above suit under Section 13(1)(i), 13(1)(j)-a and 13(1)(l)-b of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 for Dissolution of marriage between petitioner and respondent that was solemnized on 09/12/2004 at Khoob Surat Palace, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand-249401 as per Hindu rites and customs which is registered on 11/02/2005 before the Registrar of Marriages, Haridwar, Uttarakhand (Now Uttarakhand) in Registration No. 36, Register Volume No. 25, Pages 975 to 992, by a decree of divorce. You, Smt. Ruchika Jain, Respondent is hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader on the day of 16/10/2024 at 11:00 'O' Clock to answer the same, failing which the suit will be disposed ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this 03rd Day of September 2024.

By Order of the Court Sd/- Sherishah, Family Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Petitioner M/s C.V. Srinivasa Associates Advocates, #9'Srinidhi' Banashankari 3rd Stage, 3rd Phase, 4th Block, 100 Feet Ring Road, Opp. Udhava Hospital Bengaluru,

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, (ग्रामीण) 18 ई-नवीरीड, देहरादून दूरभाष : 0135-2653601

“रुद्रि पत्र” निविदा संख्या 34,35,36,37,38/2024-2024 के खान पर 34,35,36,37,38/2024-2025 पढ़ा जाये। निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। अधिशासी अभियन्ता

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work and its location: 30-Elect-41-T-2024-25-E3 Electrical work in connection with regarding augmentation of homing capacity of ELS/GZB from 225 to 275 locomotives in the section of SSE/W/E/GZB under ADEN/GZB. Approx Cost of the works Rs. 38.55 lacs Address of the office Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi Earnest Money Rs. 77,100.00 Date & Time of Submission of Tender 14.10.2024, 12:00 Hrs. Opening of Tender 14.10.2024, 12:00 Hrs. Website & Notice Board www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi 2838/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, Invites open e-tender for the under noted work: GeM Bid Number GEM/2024/B/5366439 Dated : 10.09.2024 Name of the work Cleaning of jungle and park maintenance at EMU Car Shed, Ghaziabad for a period of 2 years. Tender Cost NIL Approximate cost Rs. 28,53,163/- inclusive of GST Earnest Money Rs. 57100.00 (payment mode available on GeM website) Completion period 2 Years Validity of offer 60 days Date & Time from tender advertised on GeM website 10.09.2024 Date & Time from tender submission start and end 10.09.2024 to 03.10.2024 12:00 Hrs. Tender closing Date & Time 03.10.2024 12:00 Hrs. Date & Time of tender Opening (immediately when tender submission ends) 03.10.2024 12:30 Hrs. Publication cost allocation 06041132 Note: 1. All participant Tenderers/Tenders will submit their requisite documents along with their tender. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical and Commercial offer. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void." Note 2: Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/up loaded. Tender Notice is available on website of www.ge.m.gov.in GEM/2024/B/5366439 Dated: 10.09.2024 Date: 10.09.2024 2836/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, (ग्रामीण) 18 ई-नवीरीड, देहरादून दूरभाष : 0135-2653601

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड

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NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Name of Work and its location: 30-Elect-41-T-2024-25-E3 Electrical work in connection with regarding augmentation of homing capacity of ELS/GZB from 225 to 275 locomotives in the section of SSE/W/E/GZB under ADEN/GZB. Approx Cost of the works Rs. 38.55 lacs Address of the office Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi Earnest Money Rs. 77,100.00 Date & Time of Submission of Tender 14.10.2024, 12:00 Hrs. Opening of Tender 14.10.2024, 12:00 Hrs. Website & Notice Board www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi 2838/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, (ग्रामीण) 18 ई-नवीरीड, देहरादून दूरभाष : 0135-2653601

“रुद्रि पत्र” निविदा संख्या 34,35,36,37,38/2024-2024 के खान पर 34,35,36,37,38/2024-2025 पढ़ा जाये। निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। अधिशासी अभियन्ता

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Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, RAJEEV S/O PADAM KUMAR GUPTA R/O 282, 3rd FLOOR, A-BLOCK, DWARKAHISH ENCLAVE, SECTOR-26, ROHINI, DELHI-110042 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJEEV GUPTA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.
0040748845-2

I, Nidhi w/o Sachin Manan R/o 277-278, Pocket G-30, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Nidhi Manan.
0040748784-1

I, NEETU W/O MANOJ KUMAR NIMESH, R/O 2009, GALI NO-1, CHANDER LOK COLONY, MANDOLI, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110093, have changed my name to NEETU NIMESH for all future purposes. 0070923491-1

I, Muskan Kaur Bindra w/o Karan Deep Singh R/O E-2/12, 4th Floor, Sector-85, Greater Faridabad, Haryana-121002 have changed my name to MUSKAN KAUR 0040748760-1

I, Mamta Devi W/o Mr. Amit Kumar Sharma R/O Village Birsakh police station Birsakh Tehsil Dadri District Gautam Buddha Nagar, have changed my name from Mamta Sharma to Mamta Devi for all purposes in future. 0040748830-1

I, Kusum Lata W/o Gaurav Verma R/O-Flat.2602 on 26th-floor, Tower-B-3, Cleo Colony, Sector-121, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar-UP, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kusum Lata Verma 0040748850-1

I, Kartik Mehra S/o Shri Ramesh Kumar, R/o 134-B, Pocket-A2, DDA Flats, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Vasundhara Enclave, East Delhi, Delhi-110096 have changed my name from Kartik to Kartik Mehra for all purposes in future. 0040748770-1

I, KM ERAM FATMA W/O MURTAZA ALI NAQVI, R/O FLAT NUMBER-D 105 1ST FLOOR TOWER-D, J M AROMA SECTOR-75 NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301, have changed my name to ERAM FATMA for all future purposes. 0070923498-1

I, Jagdamba Prasad S/o Satya Prasad, R/o 55C, Pocket-F, Mayur Vihar Phase-2, Delhi-110091, have changed the name of my minor son aged 12 years from Prateek Maikhuri to Pratik Maikhuri for all purposes. 0040748786-1

I, JITENDRA KUMAR SHUKLA S/O Govind Narayan Shukla, R/O E-102, Charms Castle, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201017, have changed my name to JITENDRA SHUKLA for all purposes 0040748766-1

I, Greeshma Padma Kumar D/o Padma Kumar R/O Flat No.SF-1, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010 have changed the name to GREESHMA P. KUMAR for all purposes. 0040748845-3

I, Dheeraj S/o Niranjan Sardar R/o 2/8, first Floor, Block-Z, Kalkaji Extension, New Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Dheeraj Sardar for all future Purposes. 0040748845-3

I, Deepa Ahluwalia alias Deepa Mohanty alias Deepa Ahluwalia Mohanty D/O, late Shri N.S. Ahluwalia and W/o Shri. Biresh Kumar Mohanty resident of C-40-401, Olive County, Sector-5 Vasundhara, Ghaziabad U.P., 201012 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that all the above-mentioned names are indicating and referring myself as a same and one identical person, not two different person whatsoever. 0040748765-1

I, Salochna Devi mother of Pawan Kumar resident of Vill & Post Chautala Dist-Sirsa (Haryana) have changed my name from Salochna Devi to Salochna vide affidavit dated 31 Aug 24 at Gurugram. 0070923447-1

I, DEVI SINGH MAAN S/O RAGHUBIR SINGH R/O 54/2A, EAST GANGA ENCLAVE, LONI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201102 declare that Both DEV SINGH MAAN & DEVI SINGH MAAN are the same person. The correct name is DEVI SINGH MAAN for all future purposes. 0070923488-1

I, DEVIENDRI DEVI W/O DEVI SINGH MAAN R/O 54/2A, EAST GANGA ENCLAVE, LONI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201102 declare that Both DEVENDRI & DEVIENDRI DEVI are the same person. The correct name is DEVIENDRI DEVI for all future purposes. 0070923485-1

I, Amit Sham Lal Jain S/o Sham Lal Puran Mal Jain, R/o J-97, RBI-Colony, Paschim Vihar, Delhi, have Changed my name to Amit Jain 0040748764-1

I, Aher Shekhar Shankar, resident of at Village & PO-Vadalihoi, PS-Vadalihoi, District- Nashik, State- Maharashtra, Pin-423117, have changed my father name from Shankar Aher to Shankar Bhagui Aher in my service record, vide Affidavit dated 07/09/2024 before Notary Public, Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Srinagar. 0020481291-1

I, Aher Shekhar Shankar, resident of at Village & PO-Vadalihoi, PS-Vadalihoi, District- Nashik, State- Maharashtra, Pin-423117, have changed my mother name from Kamal Aher to Kamal Shankar Aher in my service record, vide Affidavit dated 07/09/2024 before Notary Public, Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Srinagar. 0020481292-1

I, Aher Shekhar Shankar, resident of at Village & PO-Vadalihoi, PS-Vadalihoi, District- Nashik, State- Maharashtra, Pin-423117, have changed my name to Nidhi Manan. 0040748784-1

I, Aher Shekhar Shankar, resident of at Village & PO-Vadalihoi, PS-Vadalihoi, District- Nashik, State- Maharashtra, Pin-423117, have changed my name to Nidhi Manan. 0040748784-1

I, ASHISH KUMAR MAAN S/O DEVI SINGH MAAN R/O 54/2A, EAST GANGA ENCLAVE, LONI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201102 declare that Both ASHISH KUMAR & ASHISH KUMAR MAAN are the same person. The correct name is ASHISH KUMAR MAAN for all future purposes. 0070923484-1

I, Shubham S/O Shree Chamman Lal R/o Phagpur, Champawat, Uttarakhand, 262310, have changed my name to Shubham Jainwal 0070923477-1

ISANJAY KUMAR S/O-VISHNU R/O.H.NO-3880-12 KANHAIYA NAGAR DELHI-110034 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJAY ROHILLA. 0040748884-3

IPawan Kumar S/O Davendra Kumar Sharma R/O Plot No.125-126, 3 Floor, Chaudhary Apartment, Shahpur Bhameta Raj Compound, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Have Changed My Name To Pawan Kumar Sharma for All the Future Purpose. 0070923502-1

IPankaj Kumar Goyal S/O Vinod Goel R/O Mahagun Mirabella Villa No 17 Sector 79, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh have Changed My Name To Pankaj Goel For All The Future Purpose. 0070923505-1

INizam Khan S/O Shamsheer Khan, R/O, House, no-B-188 Sangam vihar New Delhi-110062 Have changed my Name to NIZAM Permanently. 0040748876-9

IMohd Asad Saifi Alias Mohd Asad Sefi S/O Mohd Suhleem Saifi R/O B-146, Lane No. 20, Subhash Vihar, North Ghonda, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Mohd Asad Saifi 0070923458-1

IMiss. Chanchal, Daughter of Mr. Narender Kumar R/O B-230, SF, B-Block, Behind DDU Hospital, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Miss. Chanchal Kumar. 0040748776-1

ISanjay, S/O- Late Banshi Lal, R/O-H.No.6, Kasturba Gram, Tahipur, Delhi-110095, have changed my name to Sanjay Rao. 0040748882-2

ISanjay Rao, S/O- Late Banshi Lal, R/O-H.No.6, Kasturba Gram, Tahipur, Delhi-110095, have changed my minor son's name from Ishav to Ishav Rao. 0040748882-3

IManish Khanna, S/O- Late Mr K Khanna, R/O-GG1/41B, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018, have changed my minor son's name from Shivay Khanna to Shivaay Khanna. 0040748882-1

It is for the General Information that I, Abhishek Bhardwaj, R/O, RZ-36, Gali, No.4, Kailashpuri Extn., Delhi-110045, declare that the name of my father has been wrongly-written as BN B Bhardwaj in Indian Union Driving-License. The actual-name of my father is Sh. Bharat Bhushan Bhardwaj which may be amended. 0040748868-9

It is for general information that I, Radhey Ram Bhatt S/o Late Govind Ram Bhatt R/o Sarswati Puram, Lane No-05, Nathuawala, Dehradun 248008, permanent address- Nagrazadhar, Patti Koti Faigul, P.O. Mangro, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Radhey Ram in my service book. My actual name is Radhey Ram Bhatt respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0060119378-1

I, hitherto known as Anil Kumar, S/O-Raja Ram Mishra, R/O-211, D-Block, Ganesh-Nagar, Pandav Nagar, Complex, Delhi-110092, changed my name and address shall here after be known as Anil Kumar Mishra, S/O-Raja Ram Mishra, R/O-Hno-2, ground floor, Vishwakarma Park, Ixami nagar, Shakarpur Baramad, Shakarpur, East-Delhi, Delhi-110092. 0040748865-9

I, Rakshanda, D/O Pradeep Kumar R/O.WZ-26A/1, Street.No-10, Krishna Puri Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, Have Changed my Name to Rakshanda Chalotra. 0040748865-8

I, Rajesh Kumar, S/o-Ramanand Jai, R/O-704 Princess-Park BPTP, Sector-86, Faridabad Haryana-121002, have changed my name ajeesh Kumar to Rajesh Sabharwal, for all purposes. 0040748868-3

I, Rajeev Kumar Agarwal, Rajeev Kr Aggarwal and Rajeev Kr Aggarwal and Rajeev Aggarwal and Rajiv Kumar and Rajiv Kumar Aggarwal and Rajiv Kr. Aggarwal, S/o B.C. Aggarwal (Bishan Chand Aggarwal), R/o-Station-Road Vishnu-Niketana, Saharanpur-UP-247001, all are same person and hereafter shall be known as Rajeev Kumar Agarwal, S/O-B.C. Agarwal. 0040748877-8

I, EKAM SINGH, S/O Charanjeet Singh Ahuja, D-6, Leela Homes, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010, Have changed my name to EKAM SINGH AHUJA, for all future purpose. 0040748864-1

I, TANNU PRIYADL, W/o Smit Chaudhary, R/O Flat No. F-303 Emerald, Heights Sector-88, Kheri Kalan (113) Faridabad Haryana-121002, have changed my name is Tannu Priya. 0040748880-1

I, Sushma Khatri, W/O Bhim Sen Khatri Resident-A-703 Ramakrishan Apartments Plot.No.12 Sector-23, Dwarka, Delhi-110077, have changed my name to Sushma Rani. 0040748876-6

I, Sumaira, D/o Matloob Husain, R/o, T-02, HIG Azad-Nagar MDA Colony Majhola Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh-244001, have changed my name to Sumaira Pasha, for all purposes. 0040748868-2

I, Suhail Ahmad Khan, S/O Zaffrudin Khan R/o RZ-A/41 Dwarka Puri Vijay enclave Palam Road New delhi 110045, have changed my name to SUHAIL AHMED KHAN. 0040748884-5

I, Subhash Chand Swaran, S/O Mansaram Swaran, R/O, 2275, Sector-9, Faridabad, have changed my name to Subhash Swaran. 0040748865-3

I, Shanta Gurung, W/o- Gopi Raj Gurung, R/O-Plot.No-68A, Block G-2, Sai Enclave, Mohan-Garden, Uttara Nagar, West-Delhi, Delhi-110059, have change my name SHANTA GURUNG to BI KUMARI GURUNG. 0040748880-2

I, Savita Purshottam Bhatia (Savita) w/o- Lal Chand Yadav, R/O-A-604, Stellar-Jeevan, Sector-1, Greater-Noida -201306, have changed my name, from Savita Purshottam Bhatia (Savita) to Savita Yadav, & will be known as Savita Yadav, in future. 0040748875-9

I, SULOCHNA W/O SUBHASH DAHIYA R/O H.NO-1154, P, BHARAT BHAWAN SEC-02 ROHTAK HARYANA-124001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SULOCHNA DAHIYA. 0040748886-7

I, Sanjay Rao, S/O- Late Banshi Lal, R/O-H.No.6, Kasturba Gram, Tahipur, Delhi-110095, have changed my minor daughter name from Ishika to Ishika Rao. 0040748882-4

I, Sameer Kishore Saxena S/o Surender Kishore R/O-PP-29, Near Gopal Mandir Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Sameer Kishore 0040748874-1

I, SUNITA PANCHAL, SUNIT PANCHAL W/O RAMESH KUMAR R/O HNO.896/191, STREET NO.11, NR. BUDH BAZAR, NEW MODERN SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNITA. 0040748884-4

I, SUBHASH S/O SHIV LAL R/O H.NO-1154, P, BHARAT BHAWAN SEC-02 ROHTAK HARYANA-124001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUBHASH DDHAIYAa 0040748876-8

I, SIMRAN KAUR MAKKAR, D/O HARCHARAN SINGH R/O-H.NO-477 GALI NO-15 JOSHI ROAD KAROL BAGH, DELHI-110005, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SIMRAN KAUR. 0040748877-1

I, SHEIKH ALI JAN, S/O-SHEIKH MOHD JAN, R/O, Q-8, BATLA, HOUSE-JAMIANAGAR NEW-DELHI-110025, IN MY-PASSPORT MY AND MY-FATHER NAME BY MISTAKE-WRITTEN ALI JAN, S/O-MOHAMMAD JAN CORRECT NAME ARE SHEIKH ALI JAN, S/O-SHEIKH MOHD JAN. 0040748876-5

I, SHAMA MAJOR W/O FABRICE MAJOR-G16, EMBASSY FINLAND F-3, NAYA-MARG CHANAKYA-PURI NEW-DELHI-110021, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME SHAMA NORIEN MAJOR FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040748877-2

I, SHABANA, W/O MOHAMMED ABID, R/O R 216 JOGABAI EXTN JAMIANAGAR, NEW DELHI-110025, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME SHABANA TO SHABANA ABID PERMANENTLY. 0040748876-4

I, Ruchi Digani, W/o Mayank Gogia, R/o 18/116, Geeta Colony East Delhi, Delhi-110031, have changed my name, from Ruchi Digani to Ruchi, for all future purposes. 0040748884-1

I, Riiazuddin S/o-Nizamuddin, R/O-J-9, Near Dhozi Ghat X-Block Ranjeet-Nagar, have changed my name to Riyazuddin. 0040748865-9

I, Rakshanda, D/O Pradeep Kumar R/O.WZ-26A/1, Street.No-10, Krishna Puri Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, Have Changed my Name to Rakshanda Chalotra. 0040748865-8

I, Rajesh Kumar, S/o-Ramanand Jai, R/O-704 Princess-Park BPTP, Sector-86, Faridabad Haryana-121002, have changed my name ajeesh Kumar to Rajesh Sabharwal, for all purposes. 0040748868-3

I, Rajeev Kumar Agarwal, Rajeev Kr Aggarwal and Rajeev Kr Aggarwal and Rajeev Aggarwal and Rajiv Kumar and Rajiv Kumar Aggarwal and Rajiv Kr. Aggarwal, S/o B.C. Aggarwal (Bishan Chand Aggarwal), R/o-Station-Road Vishnu-Niketana, Saharanpur-UP-247001, all are same person and hereafter shall be known as Rajeev Kumar Agarwal, S/O-B.C. Agarwal. 0040748877-8

I, EKAM SINGH, S/O Charanjeet Singh Ahuja, D-6, Leela Homes, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010, Have changed my name to EKAM SINGH AHUJA, for all future purpose. 0040748864-1

I, ROHTASH KUMAR S/O RAMESHWAR DASS R/O FLAT.NO.302, PKT-B5, SECTOR-8, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ROHTASH KUMAR GARG. 0040748877-4

I, Praveen Kumar Choudhary, S/o Ram Udar Choudhary, R/o-2094, Tower-Camphor Mahagun Mywoods, Sec-16C, Gr. Noida west, GB Nagar, UP-201009, have changed my name to Praveen Choudhary. 0040748882-5

I, OMP PRAKASH BAURANG LAL VARMA, S/O-BAJRANG LAL VARMA, R/O-A-1-2105, TOWER-15, PURVANCHAL ROYAL-CITY SECTOR, CHI V PLOTNO.GH-05, GAUTAM BUDH-NAGAR, UTTAR-PRADESH-201310, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO OMP PRAKASH VERMA. 0040748884-2

I, Neha Harris D/o Late Mr. Harris, R/o, F-93, Behind Shiv Mandir, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-16 My name has been wrongly written Neha in my 10th and 12th Standard Certificates 0040748823-1

I, Mohinder Kaur, W/o Karam Singh Renu, R/O C-51, Bali Nagar, New Delhi 110015, have changed my name to Mohinder Kaur Renu. 0040748880-3

I, Md Anwarool, S/o Mohd Azazul, H.no.228, block-gali.no.8, near-bangali masjid Kasim vihar Loni Dehat ghaziabad u.p.201102, have changed my name MOHD ANBARUL. 0040748884-6

I, Marian Elizabeth, D/O Sheela R/O-145/9, F/F, Room.No.4, Kishan Garh, Vasant Kunj, Delhi-110079, have changed my Name to Marian Elizabeth Jasmine. 0040748865-5

I, Manoj Prasad Mandal, S/O Jagdish Mandal, R/O Plot No-6, Block-A, Om Vihar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, Have Changed my Name to Manoj Kumar Mandal. 0040748865-7

I, Manish Kumar Singh, S/O Naresh Kumar, R/O D-183, Raj Nagar Part-2, Palam Colony, Delhi-110045, Have Changed my Name to Manish Singh. 0040748865-6

I, Manish Kumar Goyal, S/O-Prem Chand Goyal, R/O-1/11010, Subhash Park, Naveen Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Manish Goyal, for all purposes. 0040748877-5

I, MOHAMMAD SAMIM, S/O MOHAMMED RAHAMAT KHAN, VILLAGE-MOLI SUNALIPOST OFFICE-ANJANI SAIN PATTI-LAMRI DHARDISTRICT-TEHRI GARHWAL-249121, Have Changed My Name TO MOHAMMED SAMIM KHAN. 0040748884-4

I, MOHIT S/O ASHOK KUMAR residing at-222/1/32, SHIVAJI COLONY ROHTAK HARYANA-124001, have changed my name to MOHIT BATRA, for all future purpose. 0040748865-2

I, MOHD Saleem, S/O Mohammad Murtaza, HOUSE NO.1464, SUBHASH MOHALLA, KALAN MAHAL, DaryaGani, DIST:Central Delhi, Delhi-110002, have changed my name to Mohammad Saleem. 0040748875-2

I, MOHAMMAD WADOOD, S/O-SHADIQUE HUSSAIN N-122, ABUL-FAZAL ENCLAVE PART-1 JAMIA-NAGAR OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME ABDUL WADOOD, FOR ALL PURPOSES 0040748877-3

I, M VAMSHIKA, MATTA PURIVADU, PLOT.NO.122, GROUND FLOOR-3, VAISHALI, SECTOR-2A NEAR-PNB-BANK, GHAZIABAD U.P.-201010, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MATTA VAMSHIKA, FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. 0040748868-4

I, Kundan Kumar Singh, S/o-Dhanjeet Singh, R/O, Flat.no.003, Tower-5, Unitech-Cascades, GH-8, Sector-PI, Greater-Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201308, have changed my name to Kundan Singh, for all future purpose. 0040748875-3

I, Krishan Kumar, S/o H.L. Joshi R/O-W-5, Bhagat Singh Gali, West Babarpur, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Krishan Kumar Joshi for all purposes. 0040748877-6

I, Karam Singh, S/O Randhir Singh Renu, R/O C-51, Bali Nagar, New Delhi 110015, have changed my name to Karam Singh Renu. 0040748880-4

I, Naresh Kumar, S/o Balbir Singh R/O-1288, Sector-16, Faridabad have changed my name to Naresh Kumar Khatri. 0040748865-4

I, Jaswant Singh, S/o-Deen Dayal R/o/H.No-939, Near-Jaina Market Chakarpur, Gurgaon, Haryana-122002, have changed my name to Jaswant Kumar Yadav. 0040748873-3

I, Hunny Mittal S/o Narender Kumar, R/O 232, Ward.No.6, Brahman Wada, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, have changed my name to Hanny Mittal. 0040748882-6

I, Farukh Ali, F/O-KHALIDA TABASSUM, R/O-450, GALLI.NO.6, NEW-MUSTAFABAD GOKALPURI, NORTH-EAST, DELHI-110094, IN MY-DAUGHTER CBSE-MARKSHEET MY NAME BY MISTAKE-WRITTEN MOHD FARUKH CORRECT NAME IS FARUKH ALI. 0040748876-2

I, Dhreeaj Singh Chauhan, S/O Late Balwant Singh, R/O-38G Pocket-B-7, Mayur-vihar phase-3, Delhi-110096, Have changed my Name to DHEERAJ SINGH, Permanently. 0040748875-1

I, Girjesh Kumar S/o Prem Chandra R/O Tower-11, Flat No.1204, Sunworld Vanalika Sector-170 Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar Noida-201304 U.P have changed my name to Girjesh Kumar Pandey. 0040748874-2

I, FARUKH ALI, F/O-MOHD SUHAIL, R/O-450, GALLI.NO.6 NEW-MUSTAFABAD GOKAL PURI NORTH, EAST-DELHI-110094 IN MY SON CBSE MARKSHEET MY NAME BY MISTAKE-WRITTEN MOHD FARUKH ALI CORRECT NAME IS FARUKH ALI. 0040748876-1

I, FARUKH ALI, F/O-KHATOON FIZA, R/O-450, GALLI.NO.6, NEW-MUSTAFABAD, GOKAL PURI, NORTH-EAST DELHI-110094, IN MY-DAUGHTER CBSE-MARKSHEET MY NAME BY MISTAKE-WRITTEN MOHD FARUKH CORRECT NAME IS FARUKH ALI. 0040748876-3

I, ETISHA GANDHI, W/O SUSHANT AGARWAL, R/O 1401/B1, CHERRY COUNTY TECHZONE-4, GH-05B, GAUTAM BUDDHA-NAGAR, U.P.-201306, have changed my name to ETISHA AGARWAL, For all purpose. 0040748874-2

I, Armaan S/O Faheemuddin Saifi, R/O B-142, Gali No.12, Kanti Nagar Ext. Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Arman Saifi for all purposes. 0040748877-7

I, Anoop Chohan, S/O Dr. Ram Kishore Ji, R/O C1-666, Near-Nanda Devi Mandir, Palam Vihar, Gurugram-122017, Haryana, India have changed my name to Anoop Chauhan, for all purposes. 0040748868-6

I, Amanika, D/o Aman Kumar, R/O flat no-84D, GF-flamingo floors flower valley central park-3 sohna road Gurgaon-122103, Have changed my name to Amnika Singh, for all purposes. 0040748865-1

I, Ajay Kumar Sood S/O Dharam Pal Sood R/O B-15, Sector-36, Noida(U.P) declare that Ajay Kumar Sood, A.K.Sood and Ajay Sood are names of one person i.e me Ajay Kumar Sood. 0040748771-1

I, Aditya Raj Arora, S/O-Vijay Arora, R/O-VB-15, Tata Primanti, sector-72, Gurgaon, do hereby declare that I have changed my name to Aditya Raj. For all, future purposes of my identity and documentation, my name should be considered as Aditya Raj. 0040748877-9

I, Deepu Chaudhary W/o Vikas Sirohi R/O 168, Sector-28, Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Deepika Sirohi for all future purposes. 0040748771-2

I, AMAN, S/O RAM NARESH, R/O-H.NO-395B, MADANPUR KHADAR, SARITA-VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110076, have changed my name from AMAN SHAKYA to AMAN, for all future purposes. 0040748868-10

I, hitherto known as MOHD AARIF S/O HARUN R/O Mohalla Kila, Ward No. 5, Dasna, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AARISH. 0070923459-1

I, Vikrant Kapoor R/o 34/8-9, Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110018 have changed my son's name from Avinay Chaudhary to AVINAY CHAUDHARY KAPOOR 0040748760-2

WE, JAGDISH SWAROOP MISRA & OTHERS OWNERS FLAT.NO.A-44, LUXMI C.G.H.S. LTD., PLOT.NO.06, SECTOR-13, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, have lost our Original SHARE CERTIFICATE, issued to LATE ISHWARI DUTT MISHRA, Finder Contact-9868112223. 0040748875-10

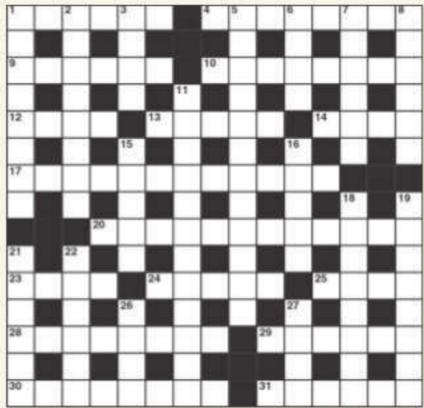
My all original flat paper bearing property flat no.1003, 10th-Floor-A Block, Supermax the new town, Sector-34, Sonipat, Haryana, have been lost/misplaced on 22/06/24 and FIR Reg. No. 1835679/2024 lodged in the police station crime branch Delhi. Use of this document by any person or company will be illegal. Finder Please contact: Sunil Jain, S/O-Smt Phool Wati Jain, R/O-F-6, Budh Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi, Mobile-9311182441. 0040748882-6

I, MOHINDER MOHAN SINGH DUA, S/O INDER SINGH DUA, R/O-1/51, OLD-RAJINDER-NAGAR, NEW-DELHI-60, HEREBY INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I HAVE LOST THE ORIGINAL TITLE DEED OF THIRD-FLOOR OF PROPERTY NUMBER.1/118, OLD-RAJINDER-NAGAR, NEW-DELHI, SOMEWHERE AND THE SAME IS NOT TRACEABLE ANYBODY FOUND THE SAME PLEASE RETURN AT ABOVE ADDRESS. FOUNDER WILL BE GIVEN HANDSOME REWARD. (MOHINDER MOHAN SINGH DUA) PH.NO.9315559195. 0040748884-10

I, MOHINDER MOHAN SINGH DUA, S/O INDER SINGH DUA, R/O-1/51, OLD-RAJINDER-NAGAR, NEW-DELHI-60, HEREBY INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I HAVE LOST THE ORIGINAL TITLE DEED OF FIRST AND THIRD-FLOOR OF PROPERTY NUMBER.1/119, OLD-RAJINDER-NAGAR, NEW-DELHI, SOMEWHERE AND THE SAME IS NOT TRACEABLE ANYBODY FOUND THE SAME PLEASE RETURN AT ABOVE ADDRESS. FOUNDER WILL BE GIVEN HANDSOME REWARD. (MOHINDER MOHAN SINGH DUA) PH.NO-9315559195. 0040748884-9

Lost Original Property documents i.e. Original Possession-Letter/Certificate of Flat-No.6, D-Block, Nalanda-Apartment, VikasPuri, New Delhi-110018, an FIR/NCR lodged in police station vide-LR.No-2098371/2024, dated-0

CROSSWORD 5466



- ACROSS**
- The colour of a Dutch house (6)
 - Begins hunting like a sea-wolf (8)
 - A tenant as the French understand (6)
 - One ordered to be silent (8)
 - Craft articles of little or no value (4)
 - Army group threshing crops (5)
 - Pass for a mere youngster (4)
 - Worn by a scholar - a pioneer in education? (6,6)
 - Equestrian costumes or customs (6,6)
 - A lonely one lacking a supporter (4)
 - Extra quarter to trim off (5)
 - Long story about a very enjoyable occasion (4)
 - Dust it and French polish half of two-man show (8)
 - Denial involving one among beasts (6)
 - Follower lacking in discipline (8)
 - Corrects a conclusion in writing (6)
- DOWN**
- Wholly fair? Not by a long way (4,4)
 - A drink - Ben has it as a cocktail (8)
 - After midnight, general enjoyment (4)
 - Travellers with a long-standing grievance? (12)
 - One politician's naughty children (4)
 - A girl properly adjusted (6)
 - Property gets one thousand short of estimate (6)
 - Bosom pals bid for a dangerous job (4,8)
 - Genuine sort of idols (5)
 - The state is made to review taxes (5)
 - No tax if I can make a thing appear (8)
 - Serial is about people in Tel Aviv (8)
 - Down to earth like big property owners (6)
 - Risky ventures for those engaged in aviation (6)
 - A case of pins and needles (4)
 - An oil lamp goes out (4)

Solutions Crossword 5465 Across: 1 Uncle, 4 Eyewash, 8 Ullt, 9 Architect, 10 Present, 11 Ivory, 13 Dills, 15 Inlets, 18 Arena, 19 Thimble, 21 Goodhabit, 23 Asp, 24 Endorse, 25 Ridge Down, 1 Unrumped, 2 Catherine, 3 Erase, 4 Excite, 5 Edition, 6 Awe, 7 Hotly, 12 Overboard, 14 Leather, 16 Steeple, 17 Stable, 18 Angle, 20 Inter, 22 Odd

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.

The way I see it, it doesn't matter what you believe just so you're sincere. - Charles M. Schulz (7)

GRVEE **AEMMBL**

DNREI **AFORUV**

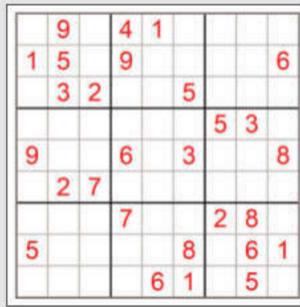
SOLUTION: VERGE, EMBLEM, FAVOR, INFER. The way I see it, it doesn't matter what you believe just so you're sincere.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2s

INSTRUCTIONS
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

SUDOKU 5710

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 5709



EVENT — JUIT

Recently our campus had the rare honour of hosting Padma Shri Dr Kiran Seth, who is Founder of Spic Macay (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music & Culture Amongst Youth), & Prof Emeritus at IIT Delhi. The event was an enriching experience for everyone present. The event was organized through the visionary action of VC, Prof Rajendra Kr Sharma, Jaypee University of Information Technology, Waknaghat, Solan, HP & was attended by a large number of students & faculty members, eager to learn from Dr Seth's vast experience & knowledge. The session began with an intro to Dr Seth's profound contributions to Indian culture & education through Spic Macay, an organization dedicated to promoting Indian classical culture among the youth. Dr Seth's passion for his work immediately captivated the audience. Dr Kiran Seth began his lecture with an engaging question to the youth: "What does Indian history mean to you?" This thought-provoking question set the tone for the rest of his lecture, as he aimed to deepen the audience understanding of Indian culture & its relevance in the modern world.



PROGRAM — GGSIPU

Lt. Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena inaugurated the community hall at Kharkhari Nahar village, Nazafgarh. The building has been renovated by DDA. A mobile dental van services was flagged off by the LG for the villages. According to Prof (Dr) Mahesh Verma, Vice Chancellor, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, the van will provide door to door services on Friday and Saturday in different villages. The mobile van concept has been supported by GGSIPU and Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences. An exhibition showcasing the 22 projects were displayed. Saplings were distributed and Drone Didi programme was also inaugurated. The event was organised under "Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan" that aims to establish and enhance essential infrastructure in urbanised villages. It also aims to focus on scientific livestock management, livelihood initiatives, healthcare facilities, water management, and efficient land use, among other goals. Smt Kamaljeet Sherawat, MP of South West Delhi was also present. Subhashish Panda, VC, DDA, A K Singh, Principal Secretary, Environment, Manish Kr Gupta, Principal Secretary, Revenue, and several other officials were present on the occasion.



PROGRAM — KIET

The Department of B.Tech I Year & Applied Sciences at KIET Group of Institutions, Delhi-NCR, Ghaziabad, is organizing the Student Induction Programme for B. tech I year students of batch 2024-25. The programme is being conducted under the guidelines of AICTE and Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow. This programme is cumulative of various academic as well as extracurricular activities, including sports, yoga, creative arts, literary and cultural activities which will run for 21 days. The first day of this programme began with Yoga Session, followed by a session on Universal Human Values. During this 3-week Student Induction Programme, the dignitaries of the institute, including Dr. Preeti Bajaj, Director General, Dr. Manoj Goel, Joint Director, Dr. Anil Ahlawat, Director Academics, Dr. Anurag Gupta, Dean Students Welfare, Dr. Shailendra Kumar Tiwary, Dean B. Tech I Year and Applied Sciences, Dr. C. M. Batra, Associate Dean B. Tech I Year and Applied Sciences, Mr. Anup Srivastava, Registrar and Deans of other departments will have an interactive session with the students. Various experts' talks have also been arranged to enhance the technical learning experience provided to the students.



AWARD — I.T.S. DENTAL COLLEGE

I.T.S. Dental College's meritorious student Noori Khan receives the Certificate of Distinction and Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal by Governor Anandiben Patel in the 36th convocation organized by Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut. Miss Noori Khan scored the highest 84.31 percent marks in the BDS examination, 2024 conducted by the university. Noori Khan, a resident of Ghaziabad, has brought laurels to herself and the college by winning the gold medal. On this occasion, Noori Khan praised the encouragement of I.T.S. - The Education Group's Chairman, Dr. R.P. Chadha and Vice Chairman, Shri Arpit Chadha and said that the institute always provides its students with high level academic facilities and international level experimental labs and clinics equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. Moreover, she also praised the teachers of the institution and said that the teachers of I.T.S. Dental College strive to provide the latest knowledge in the field of dentistry to the students. It is a matter of pride for the I.T.S. Parivar that an esteemed student like Noori Khan has been a part of the BDS course of I.T.S. For this proud achievement, the Chairman of I.T.S. - The Education Group, Dr. R.P. Chadha, Vice Chairman Shri. Arpit Chadha, the Director-Principal of the institute, Dr. Devi Charan Shetty and all the teachers congratulated Noori Khan and wished the student a bright future.



CORPORATE BRIEFS

EDUCATION

INDUSTRY MEET — SGT UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Commerce & Management, SGT University in collaboration with the NCR Chamber of Commerce & Industry, hosted an industry meet titled Viksit Bharat Empowering Youth & Establishing a Growth Ecosystem on recently. The event, organized under the able guidance and leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Tanushri Purohit, Dean, FCAM brought together industry leaders, government representatives, and students to explore pathways for realizing the Viksit Bharat vision. Eminent speakers like Himanshu Joshi (NITI Aayog), Goutam Bhattacharya (Life Sciences Sector Skill Development Council), H P Yadav (NCR Chamber of Commerce & Industry), Utpal Mukherji (Axis Bank), Laxmikanta Das (HFCL Ltd.), and Ayush Srivastava (International Egis Group) highlighted the role of youth in India's development by 2047. They stressed the importance of upskilling, innovation, & collaboration among government, industry, & academia. Key topics included opportunities in MSMEs, IT, infrastructure, & banking.



PROGRAM — SHARDA UNIVERSITY

Rajeshwari Modi, fondly known as Raj Didi, the founder of the Narayan Reiki Satsang Parivar, emphasized the importance of positive energy for a happy and fulfilling life. Speaking at a Satsang organized during the commemoration of Sharda Devi's death anniversary at Sharda University, Raj Didi highlighted that positive energy leads to happiness, while negative energy is the root of sorrow, poverty, and ill health. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp; PK Gupta, Chairman, Sharda Group; YK Gupta Vice Chairman, Sharda Group; Trustee Seema Gupta, Bhawna Gupta, CEO Prashant Gupta, Vice President Rishabh Gupta, along with special guests from Mumbai—spiritual guide Sandhya Gupta, Vidya Shastri, and Tarun Chandak. The Satsang saw the enthusiastic participation of a large number of women. In her address, Raj Didi said, "Every individual is the architect of their own destiny. While God has written our fate, he has done so with a pencil. This means we can erase it and rewrite our destiny in permanent ink, but for this, positive energy is essential." She explained that the universe is filled with two kinds of energy—positive and negative.



ALUMNI MEET — AKGEC

AKGEC Ghaziabad successfully organized the inaugural Delhi NCR Alumni Chapter event at Gauri Sarovar Premiere, Greater Noida, recently. The event received overwhelming interest and 130 alumni from 2002-2020 batch joined the meet. As per the election result, 8 alumni were elected governing body members for the chapter. Dr. R.K. Agarwal, Director General AKGEC delivered a welcome address and wished all alumnus great progress in life. Dr. Rahul Sharma, Dean Alumni Affairs and International Relations, outlined the bylaws for these members, and three outstanding alumni were recognized with special awards. These awards highlighted the exceptional impact these individuals have made, both professionally and within their communities, reflecting the values and excellence that AKGEC strives to inspire in its students. Each awardee was celebrated for their dedication, innovation, and leadership, serving as an inspiration to their peers and a testament to the quality of education and character development fostered at the college. All the alumni looked very happy and excited to reconnect with each other after such a long time. The joy of rekindling long-lost connections and the excitement of making new ones were palpable, creating a lively and vibrant ambience throughout the event.



EVENT — AMITY UNIVERSITY

Dr. Masakatsu Nouguchi, Asst Prof, Biodesign Department, Hiroshima University, Japan visited Amity University, Noida Campus. The aim of his visit was to explore collaboration in the areas of Cancer Research, Genome Engineering, Public Health, NeuroSpine and Drug Discovery and Development. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Masakatsu Nouguchi, Associate Professor, Biodesign Department, Hiroshima University, averred "Hiroshima University was established in 1874 as University of Arts and Sciences and today has more than 15000 students. We would like to collaborate with Amity University so that new research work can be undertaken in different areas of Biotechnology, which will be mutually beneficial for both the institutions. In order to accelerate innovation in the area of biotechnology, it is crucial to work in close collaboration with organizations and researchers, which will be helpful in meeting various societal needs including environmental conservation, green energy, & health."



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

There will be little change today, so enjoy life the way it is. Domestic problems might even look after themselves. It does seem that promised professional advances may take place once intimate relationships have been put back on an even keel.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

A discussion over resources, who owns what, should long ago have been settled in your favour. Now you must show yourself as a kind and magnanimous person, generous to rivals as well as friends. It is time, in other words, to honour the past, not to bury it.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You're hitting a brief extravagant phase, but unnecessary losses are less likely if you set out to formalise existing arrangements and see to it that whatever is agreed, is sufficiently in tune with current circumstances, to be of lasting value.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

According to a number of your planetary patterns, you are now under near-perfect marriage indicators. What this means is that favoured relationships may now be put on a formal basis, combining your romantic aspirations with a sense of what is real and possible.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You may have a nagging feeling that you have let yourself down or failed in some way, or perhaps missed some golden opportunity or other. I think that such worries are exaggerated and do not reflect the real situation. It's all down to the fact you expect way too much of yourself.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You may still trust intimate friends, but colleagues who have less knowledge of, or sympathy with, your goals, may now be losing faith. Don't worry about it. After all, perhaps these are people you can do without. Take the line that you are better off free of them dogging your progress.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Emotional strains are such that loved ones or close companions appear to believe that you lack the skill to organise your affairs or the resolve to stand your ground. Such attitudes need not concern you. After all, you know that they're wrong — don't you?

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

The most prominent astrological aspects are somewhat ill-tempered, yet also favour those stable relationships which are in line with your deepest desires. Stale partnerships may have outrun their course, and you can either revive them or move on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

You have the support of a number of financially-minded planets, which should be sufficient to defend you against alignments emanating from Aquarius. In plain English, it will be your friends who protect you from financial chaos.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Although you may balk at having to take on additional responsibilities, you must see that increases in your work-load are exclusively due to your inability to say 'no', or discriminate between different options. Make the right choices and you'll transform your affairs.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

It is beyond the power of an astrologer to specify what is bothering you at the moment, or making you feel uncertain about the future. Friction over joint activities is a powerful factor. If you duck a confrontation, you may well also throw away the chance of a major opportunity.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The best that can be said about current planetary influences is that they favour all of you whose home and family life is amicable and contented. The rest of you have some fence-mending to do. I have a feeling that you'd better get on and do it.

EVENT — GL BAJAJ

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sarvepalli Dr. Radhakrishnan & Teacher's Day, a grand teacher award ceremony "Gyandeep-2024" was organized at GL Bajaj Educational Institute. College Director Dr. Manas Kumar Mishra, while giving the welcome address, congratulated all the teachers on Teacher's Day. Gave his hearty greetings & said that a teacher is the backbone of the society as well as a storehouse of values, whose dissemination of knowledge leads to human development. Described the life of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan through the verse "Know the teacher as the Paras who turns iron into gold". CEO of the institute, Karthikeya Aggarwal while addressing the auditorium said that the teacher is the creator of the society, the teacher dedicates his life to shaping the future of the students. Teachers shape the minds of young students, instilling in them not only knowledge but values, morals, & principles. I express my gratitude to you for your unconditional contribution & for building a good civilized society.



CONVOCATION — AEG

Asian Education Group, an amalgam of Asian Business School, Asian School of Business & Asian Law College, held its annual convocation on 31st August. The honorable 14th President of India Ram Nath Kovind ji graced the occasion as the chief guest. President Asian Education Group Dr. Sandeep Marwah and CEO Akshay Marwah also addressed the passing out batch.



ACHIEVEMENT — AMITY SCHOOL

Ms. Suhani Chauhan, a student of Class XII, Amity International School Puspsh Vihar New Delhi, has been conferred with "Arya Navachar Samman", for her path-breaking innovation, "Suraksha Kavach", during "Rashtriya Arya Buddhijivi Sammelan", held at Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. Suhani Chauhan has designed "Suraksha Kavach", a safety shield made of aluminium sheet with a handle, which protects from the intense heat of Yagya Kund. This Kavach is already patented. Chief Guest, Ms. Bansuri Swaraj, Member of Lok Sabha, congratulated Suhani, lauded her unique innovation and said that it is important to innovate in every field and a young child thinking about the society is a big step towards nation-building. She advised everyone to imbibe the teachings of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, which are in sync with Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. Speaking about her innovation, Ms. Suhani Chauhan said, "I'm extremely honoured to receive this award, and give credit to my grandparents & all family members. The regular yagya at my house, gave me the idea to develop a shield to protect from the yagya heat and now I feel that this would be beneficial for the society."



CONVOCATION — SRM

SRM University-AP hosted its prestigious 4th Convocation Ceremony recently, felicitating the graduates with their well-earned degrees for scholastic excellence. The monumental event was graced by the presence of Chief Guest Padma Bhushan Senapathy Kris Gopalakrishnan, Chairman-Axilior Ventures and Co-founder of Infosys; Founder Chancellor of SRM Group of Institutions Dr TR Paarivendhar; Pro-Chancellor of Dr P. Sathyanarayanan; VC Prof. Manoj K Arora and other dignitaries, Faculty, staff & parents of the graduating batch. 1,018 graduates, were conferred their degrees on this momentous occasion, & 18 Gold Medalists, 5 Silver Medalists, & 5 Bronze Medalists were recognised for their outstanding achievements.



SABLE IN DIAMOND LEAGUE FINAL

National record holder 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable will run in his maiden Diamond League Final in Brussels, joining star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra in the season-ending event, as he is listed among 12 participants for the winner-takes-all race on Friday.

AFGHANISTAN VS NEW ZEALAND TEST FIASCO

Muddy outfield forces early call-off

ACB clarifies it was their decision to play at the Greater Noida Sports Complex due to the logistical issues

PRATYUSH RAJ
GREATER NOIDA, SEPTEMBER 10

FOR THE second successive day, play in the one-off Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand was called off because of the muddy outfield at the Greater Noida Sports Complex. Despite it remaining sunny throughout the scheduled second day of the game, not a single ball has been bowled and match referee Javagal Srinath called off the day's play at 3 pm, after the second inspection of the day.

There have been questions asked about the choice of venue and its timing, given that it's the monsoon season and the ground, which has been awarded its first Test match, has mostly hosted only corporate games. It also lacks several basic infrastructural equipment, like super-soppers and proper covers to protect the ground from moisture.

However, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB), which is the official host for the game, said their decision to play at the Greater Noida Sports Complex was prompted by logistical concerns.

"The BCCI offered us three venues - Kanpur, Bengaluru, and this one. We chose to play at Greater Noida as it was most convenient in terms of logistics. It was a two-hour drive from Delhi airport," said ACB's international cricket manager Menhajuddin Raz told reporters.

"This venue has always been Afghanistan's home. We have been playing games here since 2016. We have also hosted Zimbabwe and Ireland, two Test-playing nations here."

Former BCCI treasurer and IPL chairman Arun Dhumal said it was up to ACB to decide where they wanted their team to play. "It was up to them. They wanted Kanpur, but we are hosting a Test match there, so that was not possible. Bengaluru was not logistically feasible for the ACB."

"We have two stadiums in Mohali as well, but again logistics was the issue."

"They had to take another flight to Chandigarh. For them, playing in Delhi-NCR was more suitable and since they had played at the venue before as well, the ACB opted to play at the Greater Noida Sports Complex," Dhumal told *The Indian Express*.

An ACB member had told this newspaper on the eve of the Test that the Greater Noida Sports Complex Stadium was not their first choice for this match. "Stadia in Afghanistan have better facilities than this one."

However, ACB officials on Tuesday blamed the incessant rain for playing spoilsport. "We had conducted a recce four to six months back, and even the visiting team



The groundstaff brought blocks of dry grass from the practice nets to 'transplant' it onto the soaked outfield.. PTI

"It was up to them. They wanted Kanpur, but we are hosting a Test match there, so that was not possible. Bengaluru was not logistically feasible for the ACB. We have two stadiums in Mohali as well, but again logistics was the issue."

ARUN DHUMAL
FORMER BCCI TREASURER & IPL CHAIRMAN

had done its recce. So there was no issue. The standard checklist was healthy, and everything was fine. "It is because of the rain. Yesterday also, it rained heavily. We had a three-day game here with one of the local teams which went well. We didn't face any issues. But when the rain started, all of this happened," said Raz.

"It's no one's fault. It's just something which is uncontrollable. And if we can't control anything, we will just try hard to work things out. There's no one to blame here. Rain cannot be controlled," he added.

Akbar Muhammad Paktian, ACB's commercial head, said they wanted to shift the venue at the last moment, but were told it wouldn't be easy to prepare a pitch in the monsoon season at such short notice.

"We tried shifting the game. We reached out to a few nearby venues but they all said that because of the rainy season, they will not be able to prepare the venue in 24 hours," he said.

Desperate attempt

In a desperate attempt, the groundsmen came up with different ideas, but none worked. Electric fans were out again in an attempt to dry the wettest patches. Sawdust and sandbags were put on the run-up areas at both ends.

On the opening day, New Zealand head coach Gary Stead and captain Tim Southee had pointed to an outfield area at the mid-wicket region, which was muddy.

The groundstaff brought a block of dry grass from the practice nets to "transplant" it to the soaked region. Ground staff dug up one wet outfield area in the midwicket re-

gion, refilling it with dry soil and laying fresh turf. The teams stayed at their hotels on Tuesday morning but New Zealand players, who were unable to complete any of their training sessions ahead of the Test, later put up nets on the ground and went through their drills.

Kane Williamson was the star of the show as groundsmen, after a long day trying to dry the venue with different methods, flanked him for selfies.

Matt Henry received the loudest cheer from the sparse crowd that had waited patiently, after he cleaned up teammate Tom Latham twice.

Left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel was working with former Sri Lanka left-arm tweaker Rangana Herath, who has joined New Zealand's coaching staff as spin-bowling coach for the three Tests - one against Afghanistan and two in Sri Lanka.

New Zealand managed to have a full training session but the moment the team left the stadium, it started pouring down again and chances are high that Day 3 will also be affected.

SANDIP G
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

PATHUM NISSANKA, of sturdy constitution and brisk manners, marching towards his hundred and a memorable Test victory in England; Kamindu Mendis, of vibrant eyes and ice-cold veins, Sri Lanka's storm-rider; Asitha Fernando, of a feral grunt and bristling action, harassing batsmen of repute. Sri Lanka would remember the England tour of 2024 through a heap of images and with sunny affection, even if they had lost the series, even if they had self-combusted in moments that could have yielded them a brighter outcome, even if the fear of a familiar false dawn stalks every moment of glory.

Stand-in coach and all-time great Sanath Jayasuriya rolled back the memories to the era-defining Test victory at the same venue, the Oval, 26 years away.

"We won a lot of respect after winning that match. Earlier, we used to play one-off Tests. After this, teams began to invite us for a three-Test series," he said. The latest Test win, he asserts, was tougher to win than the 1998 one. "The conditions were difficult this time, the pitch was green and the ball was moving around, it was difficult to bat," he said.

A trigger-happy batsman in his heyday, he is more prudent with his words. He didn't over-romanticise the win or sprinkle lofty words like renaissance or phrases like coming of age. He is, without a doubt, well acquainted with the dizzy fluctuations of fortunes in Sri Lanka cricket, of wasted potential and unfulfilled promises.

There are several walking embodiments of strayed gifts. At the stroke of the previous decade, Angelo Mathews was primed to conquer world cricket with his pristine stroke-making, lively seam bowling and a winsome smile that endeared him to even his bitter adversaries. He shook the world with a thunderous 160 in a famous and series-clinching win at Leeds, months before England hammered India.

But a decade later after he was adjudged the Wisden player of the year, his career slumped, chiefly due to injuries, burden of captaincy, self-doubts and the general directionless nature of Sri Lankan cricket this century. He chisels out useful performances, an odd spell of incisive dilly bobbles, or a vintage assault of fours, but never conquered the peaks he was touted to scale. A Test batting average of 45.15 suggests diligence, not greatness.

Similarly, Kusal Perera, a Sanath Jayasuriya clone with a short backlift and closed-in arms, could never build on his Durban knock, always in the conversations of greatest-ever Test knocks and occupying a spot in the top-five. Thirteen more Test innings of nominal yield, he became a one-knock wonder, a proverbial shooting star, his last outing in the longest version coming in 2021. There are others too, like Roshan Silva, architect of a thrilling draw in Kotla, or Dinesh Chandimal of the Galle heist against Ravi Ashwin and Co.

Fits and flashes

But Perera is perhaps most symbolic of the fits and flashes nature of Sri Lankan cricket. In the last decade, Sri Lanka produced what no other Asian side could; win a Test series in England and South Africa. They nearly pulled off a heist in New Zealand too, where no Asian team has won a Test in 15 years. Yet, for a team predisposed to be competitive in all conditions, they have not cracked the consistency code. It could be that the crisis their country had been riding in the past few years had derailed them in sports too; the chaos in cricket administration could have disillusioned them; the frequent shuffling of the coaching pack might have disturbed them; the pandemic years might broke their wave of progress and continuity; recession might have forced some of their most talented cricketers into seeking the riches of the franchise leagues. In white ball cricket, it won the Asia Cup, defeating a strong Pakistan side, yet crashed out in the second stage in the T20 World Cup that tailed it.

The paradox of Sri Lankan cricket is that



Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka (R) and Angelo Mathews after winning the Oval Test. Reuters

HYSTERICAL HIGHS, CRUSHING LOWS

2014 LEEDS

With the stalwarts phasing out, the 100-run win ushered in hope that the transition would be smooth. It didn't exactly pan out the way they hoped. Sri Lanka immediately lost a series at home against South Africa, defeated Pakistan and then lost series to New Zealand (away), India (home) and Pakistan (home).

2019 QOBERHA

One of the greatest Test series wins raised genuine optimism about Lanka's resurgence. But it was not to be, as they waited for two more years to register their next series win against a top-nine nation. The phase included drawn series against New Zealand, Pakistan and West Indies, besides series defeats at the hands of England and South Africa.

2022 ASIA CUP

After a shock defeat in the opening game against Afghanistan, they fought back strongly to win the next five games and clinch the trophy. Yet, they barely managed to qualify for the T20 World Cup a few months later, losing in the qualifiers to even Namibia, and endured a forgettable campaign in the main event.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

just when you give up on them, they conjure something magnificent to reinstate hope and joy. Few would have believed that Perera could subjugate Dale Steyn and Kagiso Rabada, or Nissanka could blitz through Olly Stone and Chris Woakes under sullen skies. The excited faithful cling on, but they contrive to self-destruct. The cycle repeats, making the exercise of following them an equally fascinating and frustrating experience.

Only time would denote whether the Oval win is a concrete sign of missing and repelling parts falling into place to solve the giant-scale sudoku or just an incidental, sporadic victory that eventually leads to another false dawn. The parts and promise, no doubt, exist. The batting order has a mix of style and steel. Nissanka bludgeons; Dimuth Karunaratne stonewalls. Kusal Mendis, Mathews, Dinesh Chandimal and Dhananjaya de Silva are capable of match-turning acts. Kamindu Mendis, the tour's discoverer, injects balance and calmness. The seam-quartet of Fernando, Milan Rathnayake, Lahiru Kumara, Vishwa Fernando, apart from the injured Dilshan Madushanka and Kasun Rajitha, could make life harrowing for batsmen. On turners, they have the guileful left-arm spin of Prabath Jayasuriya to lean on.

Whether they could combine in tandem and harness the potential would colour the memory of Oval afternoon. It could be an era-defining moment; it could be another of those numerous false dawns the tear-shaped island would have woken up too.

Rinku called up, Sarfaraz stays on after India call

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 10

MIDDLE-ORDER batsman Rinku Singh, whose omission from the initial Duleep Trophy squads raised eyebrows, has been included in the India B squad for the remaining two rounds of fixtures to be played in Anantapur on Thursday.

With the exception to Sarfaraz Khan, the rest of the players named in India's squad for the Test series against Bangladesh have been withdrawn from the Duleep Trophy as they will head to the camp in Chennai beginning on Thursday.

India A, which suffered an opening-round defeat to India B at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, will lose as many as five players in captain Shubman Gill, KL Rahul, Dhruv Jurel, Kuldeep Yadav and Akash Deep. In place of the three batsmen, the senior selection panel has named Railways' Pratham Singh, Vidarba's Akshay Wadkar

and Andhra's Shaik Rasheed. Mumbai's Shams Mulani and Uttar Pradesh's Aaqib Khan will take the place of Kuldeep and Akash respectively. In Gill's absence, Mayank Agarwal has been named captain.

In India B, with Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant and Yash Dayal heading to the camp in Chennai, a call-up has been issued to Goa opener Suyash Prabhudessai, who has been among the consistent performers in the domestic circuit. With N Jagadeesan already part of the squad as wicketkeeper, the selectors have included Rinku as a middle-order option.

The left-handed batsman, who has already made an impressive foray into international cricket to back up his IPL exploits, has a healthy average of 54.70 in first-class cricket but didn't find a place in the initial four squads named by the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee. With Jagadeesan being an opener, there is a strong likelihood that

Rinku could find a spot in the middle order, especially with India B needing a win against India C to stay in the title hunt.

For India D, with Axar Patel named in the India Test squad and Tushar Deshpande out of the tournament because of an injury, Haryana's Nishant Sindhu has been called up as a replacement for the all-rounder. Karnataka's Vidwath Kaverappa, who was part of the India A squad in the first round but couldn't make the cut in the playing XI, has been moved to the India D side.

While those players selected for the India squad will head to Chennai for a four-day pre-season camp before the start of the series, middle-order batsman Sarfaraz will play in the second round for India B against India C as he was keen on having some game time.

He is set to join the Indian team after the completion of the second round of Duleep Trophy.

SQUADS: India A: Mayank Agarwal (capt), Riyan Parag, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Prasad Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat, Pratham Singh, Akshay Wadkar, Shaik Rasheed, Shams Mulani, Aaqib Khan
India B: Abhimanyu Easwaran (capt), Sarfaraz Khan, Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (wk), Rinku Singh, Suyash Prabhudessai, Himanshu Mantri
India C: Ruturaj Gaikwad (capt), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abishek Porel (wk), B Indrajith, Hritvik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Gaurav Yadav, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khambaj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (wk), Sandeep Warrier.
India D: Shreyas Iyer (capt), Atharva Taide, Yash Dubey, Devdutt Padikkal, Sanju Samson (wk), Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (wk), Saurabh Kumar, Vidwath Kaverappa, Nishant Sindhu



GENNEXT IN ACTION

Top junior shuttlers to headline Smt Krishna Khaitan Memorial tournament

NITIN SHARMA
PANCHKULA, SEPTEMBER 10

FORMER U-17 national champion and member of this year's Asian Championships-winning Indian women's team, Tanvi Sharma will be among the top contenders in the girls' U-19 category at the 31st Yonex Sunrise Smt Krishna Khaitan Memorial All India Junior Ranking Prize Money Tournament to be held here from September 12-19.

The tournament, which is being organised by Express Shuttle Club Trust under the aegis of Haryana Badminton Association, is one of the junior events on the Badminton Association of India (BAI) domestic calendar and will be played at Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex in Sector 3.

"We have received 1,014 entries for the tournament. It is an important tournament on the BAI calendar and offers ranking points to U-19 players. Last year's finalist Tanvi Sharma is the leading contender in the girls' U-19 category and players like top seed

Rujula Ramu of Karnataka and Medhavi Nagar of Haryana too will be top draws of the event," said tournament director Sanjiv Sachdeva, who has been the chief coach of the Indian junior team in the past and is a member of BAI's selection committee.

Last month's All India Junior Ranking Tournament winner Rounak Chouhan of Chhattisgarh will be the top seed in the boys' U-19 singles category while defending champion Pranav Ram of Telangana has been seeded second.

Some of the top U-19 players, like Asian U-15 champion Tanvi Patri and Asian U-17 bronze medallist Gnana Dattu, are part of the national camp for the world junior badminton championship this week.

In the boys' doubles U-19 category, Vinayakram GP and Swastik Matharasan of Telangana are the top seeds as are Pragati Parida and Vishaka Toppo of Orissa in the girls' doubles U-19 section.

Mithliesh P Krishnan of Puducherry and Manya Ralhan of Punjab National Bank have been drawn as top seeds in the mixed dou-



Sanjiv Sachdeva (2nd from R), Tournament Director, with other officials during a press conference of the 31st Yonex-Sunrise Smt Krishna Khaitan Memorial All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament in Chandigarh. Kamleshwar Singh

The tournament has a prize money of Rs 4 lakh, sanctioned by BAI president Himanta Biswa Sarma, from the quarter-finals onwards.

bles U-19 category. The tournament has a prize money of Rs 4 lakh, sanctioned by BAI president Himanta Biswa Sarma, from the quarter-finals onwards.

"Last year, we saw talents like Anmol Kharb and Tanvi Sharma emerging from the tournament. This year too, we expect some new talents to come out. The main draw for boys' and girls' singles will be of 32 each while the rest of the categories will see main draws of 16," said Sachdeva.

Saina Nehwal won the girls' singles title in 2005 while PV Sindhu won the title in 2010. Last year, Haryana's Anmol won the girls' U-19 title beating Tanvi of Punjab in the final.

BRIEFLY

AIFF to have inquiry into Stimac renewal

Hyderabad: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Tuesday called for an independent inquiry into former head coach Igor Stimac's contract renewal procedures after the Croatian and the national body agreed to USD 400,000 compensation settlement for terminating him from the job. During the Annual General Body meeting of the AIFF held here, the members discussed the renewal, termination and eventual settlement of claims under the federation's contract with Stimac. **PTI**

Aston Martin hope to win big with Newey

Silverstone: Aston Martin owner Lawrence Stroll hailed Adrian Newey as a bargain after announcing the star designer would be joining his Formula One team next March as Managing Technical Partner and shareholder. "I can tell you Adrian is a bargain," Stroll said of the man he will reportedly be paying somewhere between 20 to 30 million pounds (\$26 to 39 million) a year -- making him one of the highest paid in the paddock. "I've been in business for over 40 years now, and I've never been more certain. It's not an investment. He's a shareholder and a partner," added the Canadian, describing Newey as a key element to the team's title aspirations. **REUTERS**

Chahal picks five for Northamptonshire

Northampton: Senior India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal took five for 45 for Northamptonshire against Derbyshire in a Division two match of the English County Championship. The Indian white-ball specialist also completed a personal milestone of 100 first-class wickets during the match, courtesy his third five-wicket haul in first-class cricket. The English Summer has been profitable so far for the wily leg-break bowler, who also took a five-wicket haul -- 5/14 -- against Kent in the One Day Cup last month. **PTI**

India's 'strongest-ever' Olympiad team

Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Arjun, Vidit and Harikrishna headline star-studded contingent at 2024 Chess Olympiad in Budapest

AMIT KAMATH
SEPTEMBER 10

INDIA'S CHESS Avengers are assembling in Budapest. Their mission: to win the gold medal at the Chess Olympiad, the most prestigious team competition in the sport.

An Indian team had won gold at the Olympiad before: but that was a shared one with Russia at the 2020 Online Chess Olympiad, where there was a different format used. India also has bronze medals from their campaigns in 2014 and 2022.

At the 2022 Olympiad in India, players like D Gukesh left their mark. But the 2024 Olympiad in Hungary's capital could just be the coming-of-age event on the chessboard that India has been awaiting.

"This is certainly the strongest team India has ever sent to an Olympiad. They have a pretty decent chance of winning the gold, and a fair chance of winning a medal. Although this is the same team that India sent to the 2023 Asian Games (where they won silver), I think everyone has certainly become stronger in the last one year," Srinath Narayanan, the captain of the Indian team, told *The Indian Express*.

The Indian team comprises Arjun Erigaisi (21 years old and ranked No.4 in the world with an Elo rating of 2778), followed by Gukesh (18 years of age with a ranking of 7 and rating of 2764), R Praggnanandhaa (19 years of age with a world ranking of 12 and rating of 2750), Vidit Gujrathi (29 years of age with a ranking of 24 and rating of 2720), and P Harikrishna (38 years of age with a ranking of 41 and rating of 2686). The team will not feature chess legend Viswanathan Anand. A separate women's team, which will not feature Koneru Humpy, is also favoured to win a medal.

The Indian men's team (including the reserve player) has a rating average of 2739, which marks them as one of only three teams at the Olympiad to have an average rating over 2700, the other two teams being USA and China. While China has world champion Ding Liren playing for them, the USA is slightly weakened by Hikaru Nakamura not playing. Magnus Carlsen will lead the Norway team.

So strong is the Indian team that one of the biggest decisions at the Olympiad could be India's fixed board order, which decides who would play on which board. The board orders will only be revealed on Wednesday.



Indian team comprises of youngsters Arjun Erigaisi, D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Gujrathi, but Viswanathan Anand (centre) missed out.

"There will be some consideration given to the personal comfort of the player and the particular matches they could have on the boards. In a way, we have surplus options (to decide who plays on the top board). But I also feel you cannot really go too wrong because almost everyone can play on any board. It's a bit like choosing the Indian cricket team's spinner in the Test format. You cannot go too wrong," said Srinath. So how do players train for a rare national team competition in a largely individualistic sport? The Indian team had held a training camp in Kolkata last year under Boris Gelfand before heading to the Asian Games in Hangzhou. This time, Srinath said, there was no necessity for a camp.

"We didn't have a training camp because more than half the players were playing in events right up to the end. But we would have joint calls online. The team is familiar with each other. Having a training camp was not that important with this team. Everyone's coming

here with excellent practice by playing tournaments. We'll just figure out how to bond with each other and spend time with each other in Budapest, maybe team dinners or gym sessions if players prefer that," said Srinath.

This could be a watershed year for Indian chess, one that started with Gukesh securing a win at the prestigious Candidates tournament, Praggnanandhaa defeating Carlsen at the Norway Chess tournament for the first time in the classical format, and Erigaisi barging into the world's top 5 ranking spots. And the year might end with Gukesh becoming the youngest-ever world champion. But a Chess Olympiad gold medal would be the icing on the cake. "Even if Gukesh does become world champion later this year, an Olympiad gold medal for India is a very special feeling. Everyone's really highly motivated for this. You can feel it in the way the players have prepared. It means a lot to them. They're as motivated as they can be (to win gold)," said Srinath.

USA, China main threats to Gukesh & Co in open event

AMIT KAMATH
SEPTEMBER 10

THE 45TH Chess Olympiad in Budapest will see the Indian teams battling it out for gold medals in both open and women's categories.

Ahead of the first round, here's a full guide to the most prestigious team event in the sport:

Venue

The 45th Chess Olympiad is being held in Hungary's capital Budapest from September 10 to 23. The Olympiad is held every two years.

The time control for each game is 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game.

Format

Because there are 196 teams competing in the open section and 184 in the women's section, the tournament will be played in the Swiss System, which will have 11 rounds. Each team and player will get 11 matches in the Olympiad.

Swiss System

After the first round, a team that has won plays another team that won its first-round clash with a similar score.

Meanwhile, a team that lost its first round plays against another team that suffered a defeat with a similar score. This keeps continuing till the 11th round.

Team composition

Teams are made up of four players plus one reserve. Each team also has a captain, who may also be one of the players or the reserve. The team captain can decide which player is rested for a round, which is when the reserve player gets to play.

India's open team

The Indian team has a formidable look nevertheless, with Arjun Erigaisi (ranked No.4 in the world with a rating of 2778), D Gukesh

(ranking of 7 and rating of 2764), R Praggnanandhaa (world ranking of 12 and rating of 2750), Vidit Gujrathi (ranking of 24 and rating of 2720), and P Harikrishna (ranking of 41 and rating of 2686). The team is captained by Srinath Narayanan.

Indian women's team

With India's top-rated women's player Koneru Humpy opting to sit out, the Indian women's team comprises Rameshbabu Vaishali (in pic), Harika Dronavalli, Vantika Agrawal, Tania Sachdev and Divya Deshmukh. They're now the top seeds. GM Abhijit Kunte is the team captain.

Top seeds

In the open section, USA are the top-seeded team while India are the second seeds. Teams from the USA, India, and China stand out as rating favourites, with the average rating of all team members exceeding 2700. Uzbekistan is also a formidable side. In the women's section, India are the top seeds. Ukraine and Georgia are also among the favourites.

According to the average rating of their rosters, the top teams are India (2467), Georgia (2462), Poland (2422), China (2416), and Ukraine (2400). China are missing most of their top players -- Hou Yifan, Ju Wenjun, Tan Zhongyi, and Lei Tingjie.

Instead, the country that has won 14 women's medals at the Olympiad, is bringing a younger generation of stars: 21-year-old Zhu Jiner, 14-year-old Lu Miaoyi, 19-year-old Song Yuxin, 29-year-old Guo Qi, and 27-year-old Ni Shiqun.

Georgia are a traditional chess superpower with nine medals in total (four gold, two silver, three bronze).

While their latest Olympiad medal was a silver in 2022, their gold medals were won in the 1990s.

While Ukraine are a force to reckon with, they will be affected by the absence of the Muzychuk sisters, both among the world's top-10 players.

PARALYMPICS SUCCESS STORY

Her speed, his vision: the story of Simran-Abhay, sprinter & guide

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

A FEW days before the World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Simran Sharma, the visually impaired sprinter, travelled to Bhubaneswar to team up with her guide. But the talented 100 metre and 200m specialist Animesh Kujur, the first choice, had an extremely busy training schedule. So Abhay Singh stepped in as the replacement. The partnership has been successful.

Simran won a bronze in the 200 metres at the just concluded Paralympics. Running alongside her at the Stade de France was Abhay, just like he had done when Simran became the World Champion in May. Simran, 24 and Abhay, 18, shared the podium and both received medals.

"This is a big stepping stone for me. I consider the Paralympics on par with the Olympics. My aim is to qualify for the Los Angeles Olympics too. Try and win a medal in both," Abhay, the guide, said. He is inspired by Brazil's Gabriel Garcia, a member of Brazil's men's 4x100m relay at the Olympics who also 'guided' Jerusa Geber dos Santos to gold in both the 100m and the 200m at the Paralympics.

Abhay is no ordinary athlete.

Simran clocked a personal best of 24.75 seconds to finish third. Abhay is the Under-18 national record holder in the 200 metres, has a personal best of 21.08 seconds and is an Asian Youth bronze medalist. But at the Paralympics his job is tricky, even the smallest error can cost the country a medal.

Abhay is the faster athlete but at no point can he give Simran a competitive advantage, he can't dictate the pace of the race and must avoid what is called slingshotting, hurling the arm forward to pull the para athlete along. Simran must get across the finish line first or they get disqualified.

Crucial release

Abhay must 'release' Simran during the last 10 metres but it is not as easy as it sounds. "I can't suddenly slow down because then it will break her stride pattern. But if I don't slow down fast enough, there is a risk of me going ahead of her at the finish line. We both need to run in rhythm which is the key," Abhay said. They both get a pair of starting blocks, so both need to be still before the gun goes off.

Simran gives half the credit for her bronze to Abhay. "The role of the guide is crucial. Two athletes are running, like two half-bodies but it should be like one. The role is 50-50 and both can't make a mistake," Simran said.

The first time they ran together in Bhubaneswar they clicked.



Visually-impaired sprinter Simran, 24 and her guide Abhay, 18, shared the podium and both received medals at the Paralympics. *Reuters*

"It is a God-made connection. There was a great connection between our hands. We trained a lot after that of course. It takes at least a year for an athlete and guide to be synchronized but we started running together just five months ago," Abhay said. Abhay is five feet and seven inches tall, Simran five feet and four inches -- the three-inch height difference isn't an impediment in a smooth run, both insist.

Till late 2021 Simran was classified in the T13 class, visually impaired but not allowed to use a guide. But she was struggling to stay in her lane because she couldn't see the markings clearly. If she focussed too hard, her vision was such that she could see the lane markings shifting.

She was eventually reclassified in T12, which gives athletes the option of using a guide. "I need a guide so that I don't run outside the designated track. I don't realise that I have changed the track. I have got disqualified in the past (for lane infringement)," Simran said. She was a preterm baby, born at six and a half months. From the time she can remember she has had poor eyesight. She has an angled posture when on track because the tilt of the head helps her see a little better.

"I used to struggle to read and study as a child because the letters would shift shape. I used to watch TV from the side after going close. Doctors said this (vision) will not get better. If my stress level goes up I see less, if I am fatigued I see less," Simran said. "When I run the 100 metres, the track also has markings for the 200 metres...so many lines so I get confused. If I focus too much on one

specific thing then it starts to move a lot."

Though she won a bronze in the 200 metres, Simran was devastated when she finished fourth in the 100 metres. She felt strain in the groin and the hamstring after the heats. She has torn a muscle in a competition once when she pushed too hard and was worried. In four days she was scheduled to run six races at the Paris Paralympics.

"Once I felt the strain, I was wondering how I would run the remaining five races. Mentally pressure was there. I was terribly sad after not winning a medal in the 100 metres. But I decided that even if I break my leg I don't care, I will give it my all in the 200 metres. The 100 metres final was in the night and the next morning was the 200 metre heats," Simran said.

Abhay blames himself too for Simran not finishing on the podium in the 100 metres. It wasn't his best race, he said. The two of them were heart-broken, but Simran's husband and coach Gajendra Singh told them not to cry about spilt milk. Simran recalled the pep talk. "We were depressed after the 100 metre final but my husband spoke to us and motivated us. I didn't think of the groin pain during the 200 metre final. Just focussed on winning a medal," Simran said.

Abhay and Simran are aiming for the stars. Simran has set her sights on a sprint double gold at next year's World Para Athletics Championships. Abhay is dreaming of nothing less. His personal goal -- break the Under-20 national record in the 200 metres.

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ASHWINI VAISHNAV
Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting & Electronics and Information Technology

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