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**After signs of a thaw, talks again break down between CM & doctors**

**RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA**  
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 14

TALKS BETWEEN the West Bengal government and doctors protesting the R G Kar rape and murder once again broke down on Saturday evening — hours after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's visit to the protest site indicated a thaw in the impasse. The development came on a day the Central Bureau of



CM Mamata Banerjee speaks to junior doctors at her residence on Saturday. Express

Investigation arrested Sandip  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



**COMRADE'S LEGACY**

Sitaram Yechury's family members sign papers to donate his body for research, at AIIMS Delhi. Hundreds on Saturday bade farewell to the CPI(M) leader. @cpimspeak REPORT, PAGE 13

**Across boards & states, more Class 12 girls than ever are choosing science**

**ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

GIRLS ARE closing the gap in science at the school level, with more of them opting for the stream than ever before, as is evident from an analysis of their Class 12 Board results. The Indian Express analysed data from 25 school boards between 2010 and 2023, and found that of the total students who passed their Class 12 Board exams in the science stream, 45.53% were girls — up from 38.22% in 2010. The proportion of boys in the science stream decreased from 62% to 54% during the same period. The trend is evident even among the total number of girls who cleared Class 12 — the share of those who studied science in this cohort went up from 31% in

**ATTACKS NC, CONG, PDP AT DODA RALLY**

**PM: Terrorism is breathing its last in J&K**

'Stones once hurled at security forces and police are building a new J&K'

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 14

DECLARING THAT "terrorism is breathing its last in Jammu and Kashmir", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday that the Assembly elections in the Union Territory is a battle between three families of the NC, Congress and PDP on one side and "lakhs of young sons and daughters of the soil with dreams in their eyes" on the other. Addressing an election rally at the Sports Stadium in Doda, Modi promised a secure, peaceful and prosperous J&K, saying the stones that used to be once hurled at security forces and police were now building "a new



PM Narendra Modi in J&K's Doda on Saturday. PTI

**DECISION 2024**

**PAHARI-GUJJAR DIVIDE IN BATTLE FOR JAMMU ST SEATS**

**PM: BJP SET FOR HARYANA HAT-TRICK**  
PAGE 12  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**INSIDE**



**YOGI: GYANVAPI NOT A MOSQUE, IT'S THE LORD HIMSELF** P 13

**IN ODISHA, SCHEME THAT HELPED BJP WIN TO BE LAUNCHED ON PM BIRTHDAY** P 14

**THE WORLD**

**TRUMP SAYS WILL DEPORT HAITIANS IN OHIO** PAGE 18

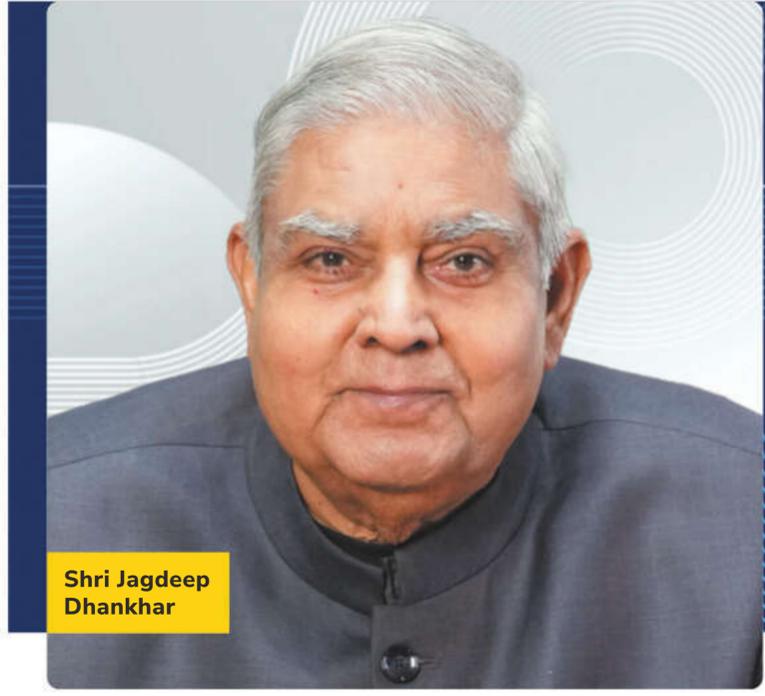
**HEARING ON PLEA SEPTEMBER 20**

**NGT judge hears case with son as amicus, advocate flags conflict of interest**

**NIKHIL GHANEKAR**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

A PLEA before the National Green Tribunal by an advocate has raised questions of propriety and potential conflict of interest against

Justice Sudhir Agarwal, one of the tribunal's six judicial members. In his plea admitted on May 22, advocate Gaurav Bansal alleged that Justice Agarwal had heard a case in which his son, Gaurav Agarwal, was appointed  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar

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Women Breaking Barriers & Creating Global Impact

Lions International PRESENTS

**NEWS 18 SHE शक्ति 2024**

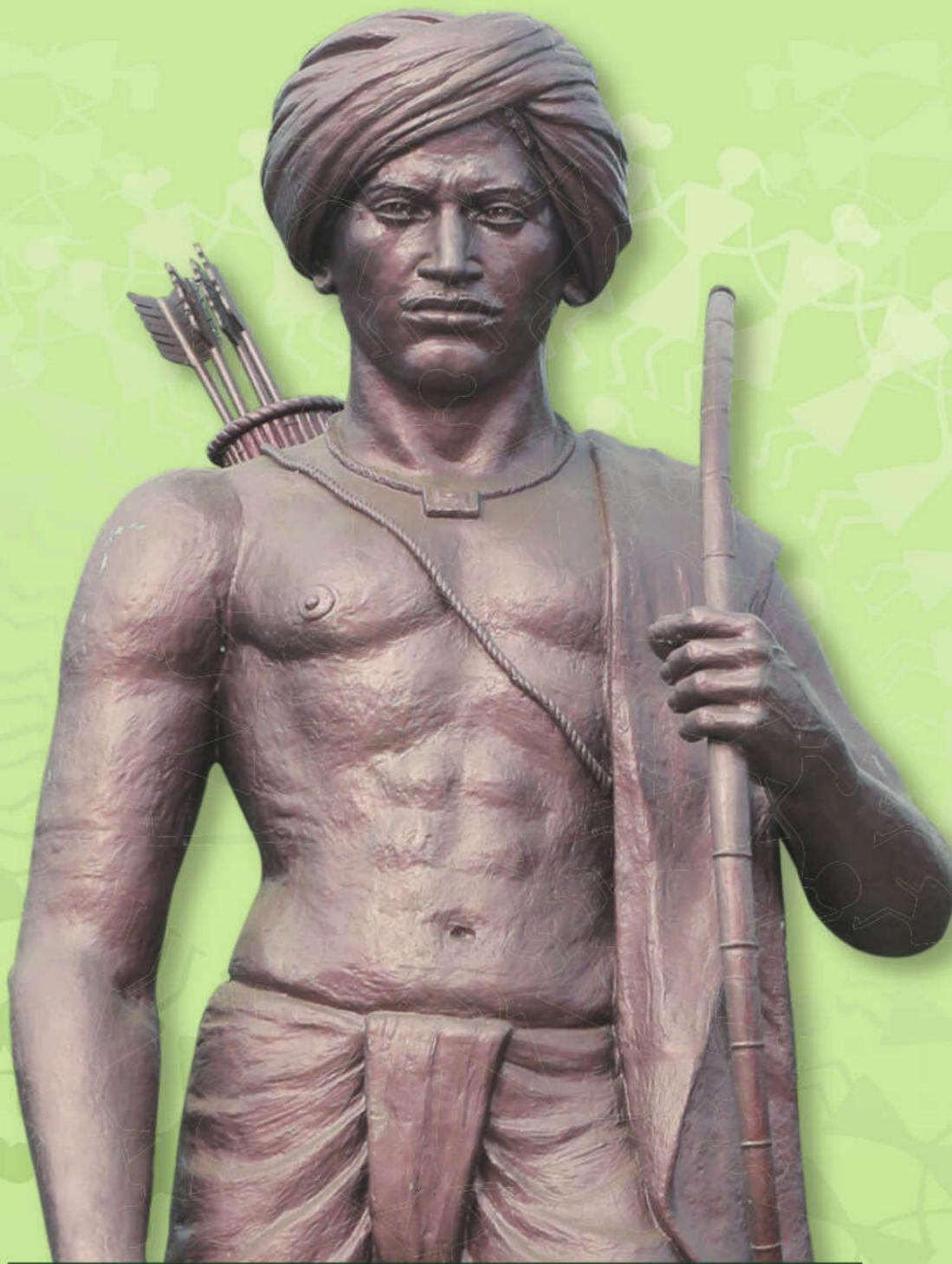
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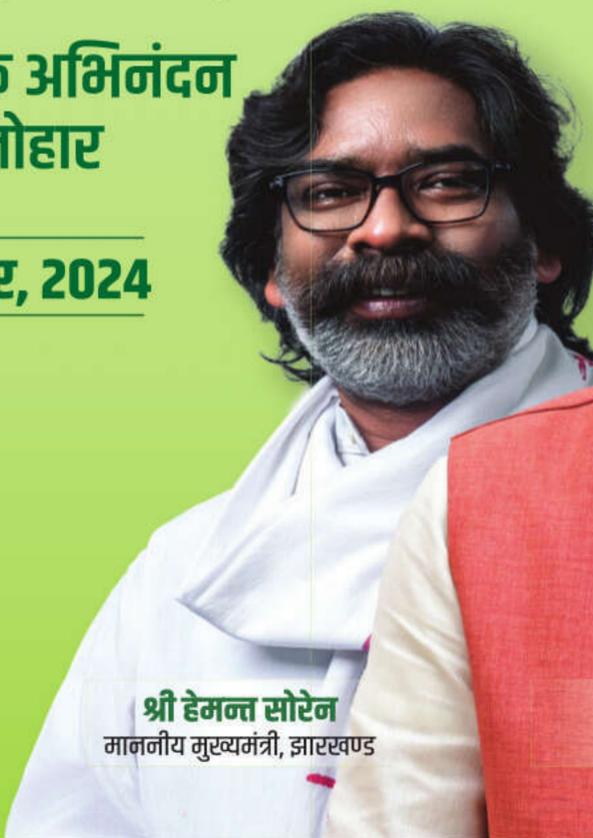
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Idit Yaniv, WhatsApp's Head of Design, talks about the challenges and philosophy behind designing a globally used app while focusing on simplicity, reliability, and privacy

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**'GOAT' REVIEW**

Vijay-Venkat Prabhu actioner is nothing more than a cocktail of movie references



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**EXPRESS AUDIO**

**Israel job scheme, 'RAM' on a goat, and a treaty for AI regulation**

Why a showpiece bilateral jobs scheme is threatening to unravel, a legal dispute involving a goat and two men from Mumbai, and the first 'legally binding' international treaty on AI.

**Protect citizens' rights, ensure speedy justice: Shah to DGPs**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

At the National Security Strategies Conference, Shah said the impact of the new criminal laws could be achieved through a change in mindset, adoption of technology and coordination. Shah told DGPs: "I urge you to protect the constitutional rights of citizens and ensure speedy and timely justice for victims."

**FROM PAGE ONE** FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

**Terrorism breathing its last in J&K: PM**

Jammu and Kashmir". He accused the NC, Congress and PDP of creating a breeding ground for terror that came in handy for the enemy - he was referring to Pakistan. He said these parties wanted to "keep their shops running" and, as a result, "thousand of children lost their lives because of their sins".

Reminding the people of the days when terror was at its peak and there used to be an undeclared curfew after sunset, Modi said those were the days when even the Home Minister of the then Congress government at the Centre was scared of visiting Lal Chowk in Srinagar.

But due to the work done in Jammu and Kashmir in the last 10 years, he said, "terrorism is breathing its last in Jammu and Kashmir".

Turning towards Shagun Parihar, BJP's Kishwar candidate whose father Ajit Parihar and uncle Dalip Parihar were killed by terrorists in 2018, Modi said, "Daughter Shagun is not just a candidate for us, but a living example of our determination to wipe out terrorism."

"The political powers you trusted did not bother about your children, they only promoted their own children," Modi said, adding that they also did not promote a new leadership in J&K.

He said it was only after the formation of the BJP government at the Centre in 2014 that he tried to bring up a new leadership in J&K by holding the panchayat elections in 2018 and the Block Development Council and District Development Council polls in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

"Why were these polls held?" he said, adding "so that democracy reaches the grass-roots and the youth come forward to take up reins of the decision-making process in J&K".

"Those doing dynastic politics were opposed to this attempt of mine," he said, adding "we challenged their intentions and 30,000-35,000 youth entered politics after the local body elections and took the reins of J&K in their hands." This has led to a new era of development in Jammu and Kashmir and the credit, he said, goes to the youth.

Pointing out that only the BJP government will give statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Modi asked people to guard against those depriving them of their rights.

Taking a swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi without naming him, Modi said, "These people now keep a copy of the Constitution in their pockets only to hide their past misdeeds. *Unhoney Babasaheb (B R Ambedkar) ke Constitution ki atma ko nocha hai* (They have torn the spirit of Babasaheb's Constitution)." He was referring to the denial of reservation to Scheduled Tribes, Paharis and OBCs, voting rights to West Pakistan refugees and people from Gorkha and Valmiki communities. He said such laws were brought that they made people strangers in their own land.

Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts, which form part of the Chenab Valley region of Jammu province, are going to polls along with some constituencies in South Kashmir in the first phase of the Assembly elections on September 18.

The BJP hopes to repeat its 2014 performance in the Chenab Valley region where it won four of the six Assembly constituencies, barring Inderwal and Banihal.

Post the 2022 delimitation of Assembly constituencies, two new constituencies - Doda West and Padder-Nagseni - have been carved out in Doda and Kishtwar districts, raising the total number of Assembly constituencies in the Chenab Valley region to eight. The other six are Doda, Baderwah, Inderwal, Kishtwar, Ramban and Banihal.

**NGT judge**

as an amicus by the Tribunal. Incidentally, Bansal's plea was also heard by a bench on August 20 which Justice Agarwal is a part of, along with expert member Dr Afroz Ahmad. An amicus is an officer of the court and the tribunal relies on the amicus while hearing a case.

The bench reserved its order and the next hearing is on September 20.

Justice Sudhir Agarwal, a former judge of the Allahabad High Court, was appointed to the green tribunal in April 2021. Bansal has been practising before the NGT for 12 years and before the Supreme Court as well. His efforts in an intervention application he had filed on conservation of Corbett Tiger Reserve earned him the Supreme Court's appreciation in March this year.

The case in question, Nitin Dhiman vs State of Punjab, relates to water pollution in Ludhiana. Another bench of the tribunal, comprising Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and Dr Ahmad, appointed advocate Gaurav Agarwal as amicus in this Ludhiana pollution case on April 20, 2023.

The bench of Justice Tyagi and Ahmad said that given the "serious nature and magnitude of the environmental questions" involved in the (Ludhiana) case, Gaurav Agarwal was appointed as amicus to help the Tribunal in "just and fair adjudication."

The Punjab State Pollution Control Board was ordered to pay Gaurav Agarwal Rs 50,000 to take care of travelling, transportation, accommodation and photography, the order stated.

On February 1, 2024, the Ludhiana case was listed before a bench of NGT chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Justice Agarwal and expert member Dr A Senthil Vel. According to Bansal's plea, Justice Agarwal, instead of recusing, "adjudicated the said matter."

Although Justice Agarwal was not part of the bench when the NGT ordered Gaurav Agarwal's appointment as amicus (in the Ludhiana case), judicial propriety, said Bansal, requires that these cases are not heard by him when one of the parties is directly related to the judge.

Incidentally, Bansal's plea was filed as an intervention application in an unrelated case regarding non-compliance of pollution norms in Himachal Pradesh, which is being heard by Justice Agarwal. In that case, Bansal is appearing for the applicant.

In his plea, Bansal questioned advocate Gaurav Agarwal's competence to be appointed as amicus and stated that there was no "reasonable nexus" between his appointment as amicus and "his experience and eminence in the field of Environment." The plea added, "It is also important to mention here that even the Orders by virtue of which Mr Gaurav Agarwal has been appointed as an Amicus, has said nothing about his knowledge in the field of environment."

Asked about his son's appointment as amicus and Bansal's plea, Justice Agarwal told *The Indian Express* that the instances cited in the plea did not amount to conflict of interest and there was no bar on children of judges practising in the same courts. He said that the Tribunal appoints amicus on a daily basis and that there is no favouritism involved.

When asked why he did not recuse himself from the hearing of the Ludhiana pollution case on February 1, 2024, which had his son as amicus, Justice Agarwal said, "If it was pointed out to me and it was objected to, I would have recused myself". Justice Agarwal added that no recall of order has been directed in the matter in question.

Advocate Gaurav Agarwal said, "It is incorrect... that the bench of which my father, Mr Justice Sudhir Agarwal, was a part, has appointed me as Amicus Curiae. Hence, there arises no issue of impartiality and conflict of interest."

Queries were sent to the office of NGT chairperson Justice Srivastava but there was no comment.

Before he filed his plea highlighting the alleged conflict of interest, advocate Bansal had, on May 13, also flagged the same issue to NGT chairperson Justice Srivastava in a complaint. That complaint cited two other cases where advocate Gaurav Agarwal was appointed amicus to assist the court. Justice Agarwal was not part of the bench that heard those two cases.

When asked how his plea would affect his litigation going ahead, Bansal said: "I do not have a personal vendetta against either Justice Agarwal or his son. I have no issue if he is part of the bench hearing my cases in the future. As a lawyer, it is my duty to point out that my clients get justice in a fair and transparent manner and in a moral way. Justice must not only be done, but must also be seen to be done."

Currently, there are two benches in the NGT.

**Across boards and states, more Class 12 girls than ever choose science**

2010 to 40% in 2023. During the same period, the share of girls who cleared Class 12 in the commerce stream went down from 20% to 12% and those in arts streams, went down marginally from 46% to 45%.

The findings are in line with the increasing enrolment of women in sciences in higher education, where, in fact, in many programmes, the gender gap has already closed. As per the 2021-22 All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) released earlier this year, in the science stream, out of the 57.18 lakh students enrolled at the undergraduate, postgraduate, MPhil, and PhD levels, 52.1% are women.

Unlike for science, the gender gap in the commerce and arts streams hasn't registered a big shift. For instance, in 2023, among all Class 12 students who passed the Board exams in the commerce stream, 47% were girls, up from 44% in 2010. During the same period, the proportion of boys in the commerce stream fell marginally from 56% in 2010 to 53% in 2023.

In the arts stream, where girls have traditionally dominated, their share among all students who cleared Class 12 is now 57%, while boys represent 43%. Thirteen years ago, the picture was nearly identical (56.8% girls, 43% boys).

While nationally, 45% of students who passed with science in Class 12 were girls, there are many states where the gender gap has already closed completely. The state boards of Chhattisgarh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu saw more girls than boys clearing Class 12 in the science stream in 2023.

The state board with the largest share of girls in the science stream in 2023 was Chhattisgarh - 63.25% of those who cleared Class 12 were girls - a big jump from 39.18% in 2010. A significant rise was also seen in the state boards of Madhya Pradesh (from 34.42% in 2010 to 50.89% in 2023) and Nagaland (from 39.04% in 2010 to 46.64% in 2023).

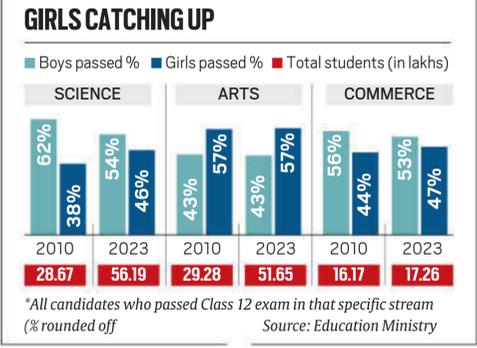
While the central boards - CBSE and ICSE - too have been recording a rise in the share of girls clearing Class 12 in the science stream, their numbers are slightly lower than the all-India figure of around 46%. While in CBSE, 42.64% of those who cleared their Class 12 in science subjects in 2023 were girls (up from 37.91% in 2010), in ICSE, their share rose from 39.41% in 2010 to 43.85%.

The *Indian Express* analysed data from 2010 to 2023 since it was from 2010 that the Education Ministry started collecting state-wise data for Board results. The *Indian Express* also analysed Class 10 Board exam results and found that more students are now scoring over 60%.

Out of 20 board examinations analysed for both 2023 and 2007, 19 recorded an increase in the percentage of students scoring 60% or more last year.

The only exception was the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, where the percentage of students scoring 60% or more in Class 10 fell from 25.25% in 2007 to 15.29% in 2023.

Out of the 20 examination boards for which data was available in the Education Ministry's report for 2007, the Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education saw the highest rise of around 67 percentage points. This was followed by the Nagaland Board of School Education with an increase of around 53 percentage points, and the Uttar Pradesh State Board (Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad) with a rise of around 48 percentage points.



**Jharkhand HC orders panel to look into claim of 'Bangladeshi infiltration' into Santhal Pargana area**

**ABHISHEK ANGAD**  
RANCHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE JHARKHAND High Court has ordered the institution of an independent fact-finding committee to probe the "infiltration of Bangladeshi immigrants" into the state's tribal Santhal Pargana area. This, it said, becomes necessary given the "conflicting" stands taken by the Centre and the state on the subject.

In its order on September 12, a Bench of Acting Chief Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad and Justice Arun Kumar Rai said that the court was in no position to assess the infiltration issue on its own given the "conflicting" stands.

Since 2022, the court has been hearing the PIL by a Jamshedpur resident alleging Bangladeshi infiltration in Santal Pargana area, which comprises six districts. "...after going through the affidavit filed on behalf of the State that the issue of infiltration has been disputed and now the Central Government is saying that the power has been delegated to the State Government and when the stand of the State is that there is no infiltration, as such, this Court is not in a position to assess the issue, as has been alleged in the present PIL," the order said, adding that to reach to a conclusive finding, "independent fact-finding committee is to be constituted".

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is claiming there is infiltration, the court said. "The State is disputing the infiltration issue, while, the data which has been furnished, as has been taken note in the order (August 8) with respect to decrease of the tribal population from 44.67% in the year 1951 to 28.11% in the year 2011 reflects otherwise," noted the HC order.

In its affidavit, the MHA said the Registrar General of India has confirmed a "drop in tribal population" in the area.

**After signs of a thaw, talks again break down between CM and doctors**

**EXPLAINED** **Clock ticking**

MAMATA'S OUTREACH comes at a time when her government has been facing heat from both the protesting doctors and the opposition. With junior doctors refusing to join work, TMC insiders say the party leadership is feeling the pressure to contain the situation as soon as possible.

doctor in the delegation claimed. The CM, though, appeared to suggest the doctors were being unreasonable. While the doctors were deliberating, she came out of her residence and requested them to have a cup of tea: "Please don't get drenched in the rain. Why are you not coming in? If you are not ready to enter the meeting, no problem. Please have a cup of tea."

"We asked for 15 people, you came with 40. Even then, we have made arrangements for you," she said.

On the contentious point of videography, she said, "If you won't come in, why write an email (seeking a meeting). You are disrespecting me. I have been waiting for three days. Forget politics. Come, speak for the sake of the people. I will sign the minutes (of the meeting). The video will be released with court permission. Trust me, I won't mislead you."

Saturday had started on a more cordial note between the two sides, as Banerjee and West Bengal DGP Rajeev Kumar met the junior doctors at the dhama site outside Swasthya Bhawan - the state health department. During her visit, Banerjee told them that she would be ready to consider their demands "if they could trust" her, but also added that she "needed time".

"This would be my last attempt to appeal to you," she said. She said, "I have personally come here to you. I could not sleep last night. I felt the pain. You were sitting on dhama while it was raining last night... I too spent sleepless nights because I'm your guardian".

"If you return to work, I promise I will study your demands and talk to the officers. If you trust me, give me some time. I will take action against anyone guilty," she said.

She promised not to take action against the protesters, saying, "We are not the Uttar Pradesh police". "We need to probe anyone's role before we can take action. No complaint of corruption has come to me. If there is a complaint, we will investigate and give punishment," Banerjee reiterated.

Afterwards, the junior doctors sent an email to the CM, saying they were "grateful that you have shown an exceptional goodwill gesture by coming amidst us in this adverse weather and shared your thoughts with us".

"We are more than willing to have a discussion in your esteemed presence with adequate representations as agreed by both the parties. We are eagerly awaiting for your positive response to end this impasse," the email read.

Chief Secretary Manoj Pant wrote on behalf of the state government: "Dear junior doctors, I am in receipt of your email dated September 14. In this regard, you are kindly invited for a discussion with open mind at 6.00 pm today at Kalighat residence of the Hon'ble chief minister, government of West Bengal. A delegation of 15 junior doctors may kindly attend the said meeting."

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**O**BERVED annually on September 15 across India, National Engineers Day, a day dedicated to recognising the critical role that engineers play in shaping the nation's infrastructure and technological landscape, not only celebrates engineers' noteworthy contributions and achievements but also commemorates the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, a distinguished engineer, whose contributions have left an indelible mark on India's development.

preparation of a water supply and drainage system that was successfully implemented in Yemen's Aden in the early 1900s.

He gained prominence for designing the flood protection system for Hyderabad and developing a system to safeguard Visakhapatnam port from sea erosion. Additionally, he served as the Chief Engineer for the KRS Dam in Mysore and later chaired the board of engineers for the Tungbhadra Dam in Karnataka's Hospet. As the Dewan of Mysore, Visvesvaraya spearheaded the establishment of factories and institutions funded by Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV, significantly contributing to the overall development of the Kingdom of Mysore.

Alongside playing a key role in founding the Government Engineering College, now known as the University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, in Bangalore in 1917 — one of India's earliest engineering institutes — he also oversaw the commissioning of new railway lines in Mysore. He provided technical advice for the Mokama Bridge over the Ganges. Sir Visvesvaraya's legacy, marked by contributions well into his 90s, exemplifies the transformative power of enduring dedication and ingenuity.

**CELEBRATIONS** Celebrations of National Engineers Day are multifaceted, involving a range of activities — seminars, workshops, and lectures — organised by the government, educational institutions, and professional bodies.

These events provide a platform for engineers to discuss contemporary issues, share knowledge, and explore innovative solutions. These activities not only honor the contributions of Sir Visvesvaraya but also inspire the next generation of engineers to follow in his footsteps and contribute to national development.

As a celebration of the engineering profession and a tribute to Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya's extraordinary contributions, National Engineers Day in India serves as an opportunity to reflect on past engineering achievements while motivating current and future engineers to address pressing global challenges through engineering excellence, innovation and sustainable practices.

## Ajay Kumar Garg Engineering College A tribute to the legend

**E**NGINEERS' Day is celebrated on September 15 in honour of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, one of India's greatest engineers, often referred to as the father of Indian engineering due to his significant contributions to the field and society's development. India has commemorated his birth anniversary as Engineers' Day since 1968.

At Ajay Kumar Garg Engineering College (AKGEC), Ghaziabad, we take pride in celebrating this day annually as a tribute to this legendary engineer. Since its establishment in 1998, AKGEC has been committed to providing top-tier technical education, becoming one of Uttar Pradesh's premier engineering institutions. Affiliated with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, the college offers B.Tech programs in 12 disciplines and postgraduate programmes in MCA and M.Tech. The college is accredited by AICTE and boasts A++ grading from NAAC, with all major B.Tech programs accredited by NBA.

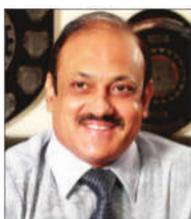
AKGEC students consistently rank among AKTU merit lists, securing gold, silver, and bronze medals, with the prestigious AKTU Chancellor's Medal awarded to our students for five consecutive years. The college has also earned the AKTU Distinguished Alumni Award for two consecutive years. The institution has received the Academic Excellence Award for Best Engineering College in UPTU (now AKTU) from the Governor of Uttar Pradesh for two successive years.

AKGEC's achievements extend beyond academics. AKGEC has received the Best Industry Institute Interface award from both the Uttar Pradesh Government and the Royal Academy of Engineering, U.K.

The college has established a number of Centres of Excellence in collaboration with eminent multinational industries like Kuka Robotics, Bosch Rexroth, National Instruments, Siemens, Mitsubishi Electric, Fronius, Janatics India, Automation Industries Association, Pepperl & Fuchs, B&R and Festo. The primary objective of these centres is to provide industry relevant training in inter-disciplinary state-of-the-art technologies to bridge the gap between academic curriculum and industry needs for making its students globally employable.

On this Engineers' Day, AKGEC proudly extends its heartfelt wishes to all aspiring engineers whose passion, creativity, and commitment will shape tomorrow's world. Your journey forward is an exciting one, filled with opportunities to solve real-world challenges, drive innovation, and contribute to society's advancement. The future is yours to design, and with your knowledge and dedication, you have the power to make a lasting impact.

Happy Engineers' Day! Keep learning, keep innovating, and keep building a brighter, sustainable future!



Dr RK Agarwal Director General, AKGEC

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## VisionIAS

### In Honour of The Architects of Progress

Engineers' innovations are deeply embedded in every aspect of our daily lives, reflecting the profound impact of their work on society

**I**MAGINE for a moment — wherever you look, whether it's the screen you're reading this article on or the newspaper that was printed through a press machine, you are surrounded by the marvels of engineering. Engineers' innovations and solutions are deeply embedded in every aspect of our daily lives, reflecting the profound impact of their work on society and beyond.

street vendors simple and accessible. This shows that engineers play a crucial role in bridging technology with governance, ensuring that technological advancements align with national priorities and improve the lives of citizens.

#### ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Sustainable solutions are essential in today's world as we confront escalating environmental challenges. Engineers play a vital role in shaping a sustainable future by developing innovative technologies, designing energy-efficient systems, and implementing eco-friendly practices. Their efforts ensure that progress and environmental stewardship work together, paving the way for a balanced and resilient world.

### Sustainable solutions are essential today as we confront rising environmental challenges

#### A TRIBUTE TO ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

As National Engineers Day unfolds, let us celebrate the extraordinary achievements of engineers who have dedicated their lives to solving complex problems and driving progress. Their work has not only transformed our physical environment but also paved the way for a sustainable future. Their stories inspire us and remind us of the immense possibilities that lie ahead when creativity and expertise come together for the common good.

Happy National Engineers Day to all the engineers who continue to inspire and transform our world with their exceptional skills and vision!  
-Team VisionIAS



#### CELEBRATING NATIONAL ENGINEERS DAY

National Engineers Day, celebrated every year on 15th September, marks the birth anniversary of Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, one of India's greatest engineers and visionaries. His legacy is a testament to the power of engineering in transforming societies. His pioneering work in flood management, including the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam, and his role in modernizing Mysore State serve as enduring examples of engineering excellence and innovation.

#### ENGINEERS AND NATION-BUILDING

In India, engineers have been pivotal in nation-building. Indian engineers have turned visionary projects into tangible realities. The railway lines stretch across vast distances, connecting diverse regions and enabling economic growth. Similarly, the development of space technology has placed India on the global stage. One can envision the triumph and relief felt as Chandrayaan 3 successfully touched down on the moon illustrating India's advancing expertise in space technology.

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# Digital Banking



## Cutting-edge tech aid financial transactions and customer experiences

*The advent of digital banking has not merely introduced a new way to manage money; it has fundamentally redefined the relationship between individuals and their financial institutions.*

In the digital age, the landscape of banking has undergone a seismic shift, redefining how we interact with financial institutions and manage our money. Digital banking, with its integration of advanced technology, has not only simplified financial transactions but also fundamentally transformed the banking experience. By leveraging cutting-edge technology, digital banking has made financial services more accessible, efficient, convenient and secure - thus revolutionizing the way people interact with their money while reshaping the financial services industry and setting new standards for how banking operates in the 21st century.



**The accelerated growth of India's digital banking sector, propelled by the country's large population along with the rise in smartphone use and internet penetration, has resulted in a substantial increase in the total digital payment transaction volume, reportedly, from 2,071 crore in FY 2017-18 to 13,462 crore in FY 2022-23 at a CAGR of 45 per cent.**

Traditional banking methods and allows users to perform banking activities without the need for physical branch visits, encompasses the provision of banking services through digital channels such as mobile applications and online platforms. While these on-

line and mobile banking platforms have enabled customers to perform a wide array of transactions- checking balances, transferring funds, paying bills, and even applying for loans - without stepping into a branch, digital banking involves more than just ac-

cessing accounts online. It encompasses a broad spectrum of services and technologies designed to improve the banking experience, including online account management, digital wallets, and automated investment services. The rise of digital banking can be attributed to several key factors, including advancements in technology, increased internet penetration, and changing consumer expectations alongside the availability of the infrastructure needed for banks to develop and deploy digital solutions. While the proliferation of smartphones and high-speed internet has made it easier for consumers to access banking services at any time and from anywhere, the cost savings associated with operating fewer physical locations have driven banks to invest more heavily in digital infrastructure and innovation. Moreover, the convenience of managing finances virtually from anywhere and the faster service offered by digital banking align with the modern consumer's preference for on-demand services and instant gratification.

The multitude of benefits that digital banking offers to empower users includes convenience, efficiency and the enhancement of the overall customer experience through several advanced features that provide greater control over clients' finances. Tools such as budgeting aids, spending

## CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA Embracing The Revolution

OVER the past few decades, our country has witnessed a rapid and dynamic shift towards digitization. The widespread adoption of digital technologies has transformed the way businesses operate, governments function, and individuals interact. In this digital age, Banks across sectors are striving to harness the potential of technology to enhance efficiency, productivity and customer experience. While technological advancements play a vital role in driving digitization, the human element is equally important. One of the fundamental aspects of a successful digital transformation is empowering customers with the necessary digital skills and knowledge. As Banks adopt new technologies, customers must be equipped to effectively leverage these tools.



**JS SAWHNEY**  
General Manager  
Central Bank of India

Digitalisation is an ongoing process as technology is evolving rapidly. Encouraging a culture of continuous learning ensures that customers stay up to date with the latest developments and remain proficient in using new tools in Banking. It brings significant changes to traditional ways of conducting transaction, and banks must undergo cultural shifts to adapt to these changes. The customers are always at the forefront of the digitization process of banking, implementing changes and improving efficiency across various banking processes. Their active participation in change initiatives can lead to significant improvements in productivity, customer experience and overall business performance.

Digital Banking often involves the automation of repetitive tasks and the integration of systems. This streamlines operations and reduces the burden on employees, allowing them to focus on more value-adding activities. It also enables Banks to collect and analyze customer data, leading to personalized and targeted interactions. The cus-

tomers who understand how to leverage these insights can create a seamless and exceptional customer experience.

Central Bank of India (CBoI) has launched a Digital transformation project to enhance customer experience, drive revenue growth, reduce costs and improve productivity. The project is being implemented in a phased manner by the bank to evolve from its traditional banking business model to a seamless digital banking business model. As a part of digital transformation, CBoI also plans to align its human resources to the digital environment, have an integrated call centre, payment ecosystem, fintech/online marketplace integration, wealth management, collections management and build a highly secure and data-driven digital bank. Recently, CBoI has launched WhatsApp platform in which the customer enjoys a seamless service requests. The Customer agrees to receive messages from the Bank, including promotional offers, product updates, and other important information, sent to the registered phone number via WhatsApp. By subscribing to the services provided through the WhatsApp platform, the Customer can receive alerts regarding account information, transactional updates, and other communications via WhatsApp.

The role of customers is crucial in digitization, as they are the driving force behind the successful adoption and implementation of new technologies. Empowering employees through digital skills development, encouraging adaptation to change, and recognizing their transformational impact on organizational processes are also the essential elements of a successful digital transformation strategy in Digital Banking. As technology continues to advance, the partnership between human expertise and digital innovation will continue to be vital for Banks that want to thrive in the constantly evolving digital landscape.



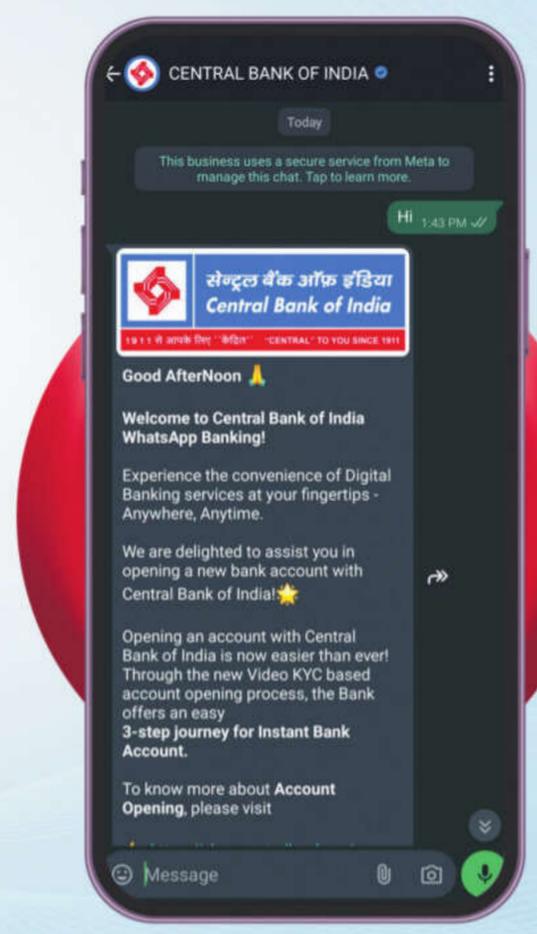
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# Through Business Blasters initiative, students learn skills that many take years to acquire, says Atishi

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

IN A recent visit to Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Delhi Education Minister Atishi praised student entrepreneurs for their innovative start-up ideas developed through the Business Blasters programme, the Delhi government said in a statement on Saturday.

Atishi had on Thursday announced the commencement of the Business Blasters programme for students of classes 11 and 12 across Delhi government schools

for the 2024-25 academic session. Under the programme, launched by the Delhi government in 2021, top 150 start-ups formed by students of classes 11 and 12 are provided seed money to implement their business ideas.

Speaking to students, Atishi highlighted how the programme fosters creativity and empowers students to think beyond conventional solutions. "Our students are learning skills through Business Blasters that many take years to acquire," she said.

The programme, she noted, is helping students identify everyday challenges and craft entre-



**Delhi Education Minister Atishi**

preneurial solutions, transforming them into job creators rather than job seekers. Atishi emphasised that in a country grappling with rising unemployment, such initiatives are crucial, offering young people the tools to carve their own paths.

According to the statement, many students shared how the programme has altered their out-

look. One noted that it instilled confidence and taught them to overcome challenges, while another said it shifted their focus from just making money to building successful businesses. Students also highlighted the programme's role in teaching essential skills such as time management, teamwork and leadership.

"The students said that Business Blasters has given them the confidence to become financially independent and do better in life with their skills. One of the students said, "Today, thanks to this programme, we have stopped dreaming about searching for a

job...The students shared that this programme not only gave them skills like time management, finance management, sales, marketing, leadership, teamwork..." the statement added.

It further said that among the notable start-up ideas presented was an AI-based app to reduce absenteeism, an eco-friendly cutlery initiative using edible millet and a platform to streamline exam notifications for students. Other projects included customisable T-shirt printing, paper made from grass to prevent deforestation and smart plant-watering systems for busy individuals.

## CONCERN OVER TRAFFICKING, CHILD MARRIAGE

# HC orders police in Noida and Ghaziabad to probe trusts that solemnise marriages

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 14

THE ALLAHABAD High Court has directed the police commissioners of Gautam Buddha Nagar, of which Noida is a part, and Ghaziabad to conduct a "thorough and discreet" probe into the functioning of trusts and societies allegedly involved in solemnising marriages in violation of the Hindu Marriage Act and Child Marriage Restraint Act.

The court directed that the inquiry should include profiling the president, secretary, and purohit (the officiating priest) of the trust

or society, as well as any other person directly or indirectly involved. "It should also cover details of the trust's financial transactions, the fees charged by members of the trust and priests in the name of dakshina for solemnising marriages," it added.

Hearing a petition filed by a couple seeking protection after they got their marriage solemnised at an Arya Samaj Mandir in Greater Noida, the court said: "In essence, such marriages lead to human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and forced labour... Additionally, these issues place a significant burden on the courts. Therefore, a robust sys-

tem for document verification and ensuring the accountability of trusts and societies needs to be developed."

Additionally, the inquiry should examine the resources, contacts, and networks through which the trust's management approaches eloped boys and girls for marriage solemnisation, the court said. This includes identifying persons, who assist these couples in creating false documents, court added.

The court directed the police commissioners of Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad to submit the report by September 26, the next date of hearing.

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# Digital Banking




trackers, and financial analytics help users manage their money more effectively. For instance, certain applications offer insights into spending patterns and suggest ways to save, making financial management more intuitive and user-friendly.

From the use of innovations such as biometric authentication and artificial intelligence (AI) enhancing security and providing personalized financial advice to AI-driven chatbots and virtual assistants taking care of customer support and answering queries in real-time, digital banking is increasingly becoming more efficient, user-friendly, and secure - fundamentally transforming the way individuals manage their finances and interact with their banks.

### THE PROMISING FUTURE OF DIGITAL BANKING

The future of digital banking is poised to

be shaped by ongoing technological advancements and evolving consumer expectations. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT) are expected to play a significant role in shaping the future of financial services through digital banking.

Blockchain technology promises to revolutionize transaction security and transparency by providing a decentralized and immutable ledger for financial transactions. This could reduce fraud and increase trust in digital transactions. AI is set to revolutionize banking further by offering more sophisticated personal finance management tools, predictive analytics, and enhanced customer service through advanced chatbots. Meanwhile, IoT has the potential to integrate financial services with everyday objects, such as smart devices that can automatically track spending and provide real-

time financial insights.

### A NEW PARADIGM IN BANKING

In essence, digital banking is not just a technological advancement; it is a fundamental reimagining of the banking experience in response to emerging technologies and changing consumer needs, which has unequivocally revolutionized the financial services industry and rendered banking more convenient, efficient, customer-centric, innovative and accessible than ever before. As technology continues to advance, the potential for further innovation in digital banking to meet the demands of a digital-first world is vast - promising even more transformative changes in the way we handle money.

As we look to the future, it is clear that digital banking will remain at the forefront of financial innovation, shaping the way we manage our financial lives and interact with the world of finance.

## UCO Bank's Initiatives for a Cashless Economy

DIGITAL banking has seen transformative growth in India, driven by technological advancements and government initiatives aimed at financial inclusion. The Indian government's push for a cashless economy, coupled with widespread smartphone adoption, has accelerated the adoption of digital banking services. Banks are now offering a range of digital services, from online account management to mobile payments, making banking more accessible and efficient for millions.

UCO Bank, a prominent player in the Indian banking sector, has actively embraced digital transformation to enhance customer experience and operational efficiency. Among its notable



**Sumit Khandelwal,**  
Deputy General Manager &  
Zonal Head, New Delhi, UCO Bank

initiatives is the UCO Mbanking Plus mobile app (Rated 4.7/5 on Google Playstore), which provides a suite of services including fund transfers, bill

payments, and account management right from users' smartphones. Additionally, UCO Bank has introduced UCO NetBanking, offering a secure online platform for managing accounts and transactions.

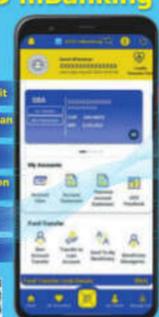
To further drive digital adoption, UCO Bank has launched various financial literacy programs aimed at educating customers about digital tools and cybersecurity. The bank is also investing in technological upgrades to ensure robust and secure banking experiences. Through these initiatives, UCO Bank is not only modernizing its services but also contributing to the broader goal of a digitally empowered financial ecosystem in India.



# DIGITAL WORLD



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# 8 THE CITY

## FARIDABAD: DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE CALLED IN

# Car stuck in flooded underpass, bank manager & cashier drown

AISWARYA RAJ  
GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 14

TWO BANK employees drowned after their car got stuck in a waterlogged underpass, which according to the police was 12-feet deep at certain points, in Faridabad on Friday night. The entry point to the underpass had one barricade with a rope, though it was lying on the ground. Police, however, maintained that officers present at the spot had "gestured" to the driver to not enter the underpass but he did so anyway.

The deceased, Punya Ashray Sharma (48) and Viraj Dwivedi (26) were on their way home when their Mahindra XUV 700 entered the Old Faridabad railway underpass around 10.30 pm. Sharma worked as a manager at HDFC Bank in Sector 31 and lived in a residential society in Faridabad while Dwivedi was a cashier at the same bank and lived in Sector 28 in Gurgaon.

"Police asked them not to wade into the water. However, the car went ahead. A little down the stretch, the car went under water and the two men got stuck inside," said a police officer.

Sharma was taken out from the car around 11.30 pm and rushed to Fortis Hospital in Gurgaon where he was declared



The victims, Viraj Dwivedi and (R) Punya Ashray Sharma

dead on arrival.

Dwivedi's body could be recovered only around 4.30 am. "We had to call in the State Disaster Response Force to find the body, as he had got out of the car. The body was sent to the government hospital in Faridabad," the officer added.

According to police, the stretch gets flooded every time after it rains. "The entire stretch was flooded and our officers were present there. They gestured at the car, but they ignored it and sped away," said Assistant Sub-Inspector Rajkumar Yadav at Faridabad NIT police station.

"There were four to five barricades, but due to flooding, most of them were not in place," he added. Faridabad had received 56.4 mm of rainfall in the 24-hour period starting 8.30 am on Friday.

No FIR has been registered as the families have not raised sus-

picion over the deaths.

The body of Sharma, who hails from Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur, was taken to his village for cremation after postmortem examination on Saturday.

Dwivedi's brother Vikram, who works as a quality analyst at a firm in Noida's Sector 59, said his brother was going to his colleague Sharma's house when the incident took place.

"He lived in Gurgaon but decided to go with his colleague on Friday evening. I was not aware of this. Around 7.30 am, my neighbour woke me up saying he received a call from our home in Uttar Pradesh's Ambedkar Nagar saying that Viraj had died. I went to Faridabad and saw his body," he added.

Vikram said that Dwivedi came to Gurgaon two years ago after he got a job in the bank. "He loved the city and had many friends here. I saw him for the last time two months ago when

we went home together. I don't know who is responsible for this. His friend from the office told me to file a complaint against the authorities, but I have not even been able to process the loss yet," he said.

Dwivedi's body was sent to his village Saturday afternoon.

Meanwhile, a report submitted by the Municipal Corporation of Faridabad (MCF) to the Deputy Commissioner on the incident states: "The two men were alarmed by the two railway guards who were stationed there... Everything happened suddenly, the car got submerged. The two men managed to come out... but as the car started floating, they lost their balance... The JE... jumped into the water to find them... one body was found and brought out. The man was given CPR... after which some eye movement was witnessed so the JE took him to the hospital."

"The police gypsy was present and officers had also signalled to stop the vehicle but they didn't pay attention. It is also pertinent to mention here that the Executive Engineer informed ACP Traffic, SHO Traffic as well as Traffic Inspector in advance in the evening and then followed up in late evening to get the entry to the underpasses (NHPC and Old) barricaded," the MCF report claimed.

## Day after, more cops deployed, barricades at spot; agencies say they are not to blame

AISWARYA RAJ  
FARIDABAD, SEPTEMBER 14

A DAY after bank employees Punya Ashray Sharma and Viraj Dwivedi drowned in the waterlogged Old Railway Road underpass in Faridabad's Fatehpur Chandela, six barricades surrounded the area on Saturday. The water too remained — just a foot had receded over 15 hours.

On Friday, there was just one barricade — tied with rope suspended from a bamboo stick and an electric pole — when the men decided to drive their Mahindra XUV 700 through the underpass that was filled with 12-foot-deep water that nearly touched the roof. The rope was on the ground when the men ventured in around 11 pm; they were heading back from Gurgaon after work.

On Saturday, when *The Indian Express* visited the spot, the road was barricaded with all three sides. An ERV stood guard while seven cops were deployed, not letting in even pedestrians. Stains on the walls indicated a higher water level that receded recently. On the street above and on all sides of the underpass, garbage had been dumped, clogging a drain.

Faridabad received 56.4 mm of rainfall till Saturday morning. According to the IMD, Faridabad has received 155.9 mm of rainfall this month so far, 87% excess for this time of the year.

Additional Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Faridabad (MCF), Swapnil Patil, said in the previous year, there were two motors of 30HP each running on a genset of 125 KVA. "This year, we added another motor of 30 HP; this totals three motors of



A barricade leading up to the underpass, Saturday. *Express*

30HP each with a genset of 250KVA now. This mechanism installed by MCF was running without fail since 1 pm Friday," he said.

However, the water had not receded even at 3 pm on Saturday.

A senior official in the district administration said Faridabad saw unprecedented rain Friday. "Our pumping system was in place, but it rained heavily and we had to deploy machinery at many points. This is a low-lying area so it takes time before the stretch is drained out... So far, no order has been issued by higher authorities seeking an enquiry," he added.

Locals, meanwhile, claimed the underpass gets flooded each time it rains. "This area is in a depression and run-off water from the Sector 21, Railway Station and surrounding areas gets collected here... responsibility rests on the MCF and police to ensure no one goes there. They alleged the two men went inside despite their or-

ders. How is that possible?" claimed G N Mishra, a retired school teacher, who lives nearby.

Gesturing at the cops deployed, he said, "It takes a tragedy for the government to wake up."

Police also maintained the stretch floods after every rain. "Our officers gestured at the car, but they ignored it and sped away," said ASI Rajkumar Yadav from the Faridabad NIT police station. "There were four-five barricades, but due to flooding, most of them had sunk," he added.

Meanwhile, agencies deflected responsibility.

In a report submitted by the MCF to the Deputy Commissioner, it said the underpass was constructed by Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) in 2006-2007 and handed over to the civic body. "At the time of construction, HSVP provided a sump well with a 20 HP motor; no disposal line was provided/laid by HSVP... rainwater gathers/accumulates in this underpass from Sector-21B, Old Faridabad Railway Road and Village Fatehpur Chandela," it states.

The report flags that "the accumulation of water in this underpass was not solely due to rain".

The MCF said the drain along Badhkal flyover to Sector 28/29 dividing road flowed into the underpass, causing water accumulation. This overwhelmed the capacity of pumps. "This drain pertaining to FMDA (Faridabad Municipal Development Authority) is completely covered and may require desilting..." it says.

When contacted, FMDA Chief Engineer Vishal Bansal said the MCF conducts desilting. However, the civic body maintained that the main drain, starting from the culvert near Sector 21A along Badhkal flyover to sector 19-28 dividing road, is not cleared and partially silted.

"This relates to FMDA," the agency said.

## Railway overbridge coming up near Palla to be made six lanes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GREATER NOIDA, SEPT 14

TO CONNECT the Multi Modal Transport Hub (MMTH) and make travel between Dadri and Greater Noida more convenient, the under-construction railway overbridge (ROB) near Palla, which was initially planned as a four-lane bridge, will now be expanded to six lanes. Greater Noida Authority officials said Saturday.

The Integrated Industrial Township Greater Noida Limited (ITGNL), a joint venture of Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor and Greater Noida Authority, will bear the cost for the additional lanes.

While the overbridge project will cost around Rs 194 crore,

with Greater Noida contributing around Rs 75 crore. Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation will pay the remaining amount. The project is expected to be completed in the next 18 months.

N G Ravi Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of Greater Noida Authority and Managing Director of ITGNL, said, "The under-construction railway overbridge near Palla and Bodaki will not only benefit MMTH but will also help thousands of people traveling daily between Greater Noida and Dadri. It will be a milestone for the planned development of Greater Noida Phase 2."

He said the bridge will provide easier access to the Greater Noida Railway Terminal for those traveling from western regions like Greater Noida, Noida and Delhi.

## ASHA KIRAN SHELTER HOME DEATHS

# L-G orders show cause notice against admin; AAP hits back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

FOLLOWING THE deaths of 14 inmates in July at the state government-run Asha Kiran shelter home, Delhi L-G V K Saxena has ordered that a show cause notice be issued to the shelter's administrator. In a letter to the Delhi chief secretary, the L-G said an explanation has been sought from the administrator on why disciplinary action should not be initiated against him for failing to discharge his duties and invoke corrective action even when specific lapses had not been pointed out in writing by the CMO.

According to documents filed before the Delhi High Court in a PIL last month, unhygienic living conditions, lack of drinking wa-

ter, and staff crunch affecting the care of inmates were among issues that were flagged to the administration at the home.

The L-G also directed the Delhi health secretary to ensure that doctors are appointed to vacant posts at shelter home within a week. "The Social Welfare Department, in consultation with NIMHANS and the Health Department, should reassess the requirement of specialists trained to understand the special needs of intellectually challenged inmates and undertake necessary measures for their recruitment," he said.

Responding to the L-G's note, the AAP sought to question the alleged lack of sensitivity displayed by his office when it came to posting officers at the facility. "The kind of officers who were

## Robber, bizman and informer: Who was Nadir Shah, the target

GK-1 GYM OWNER SHOT DEAD



MAHENDER SINGH  
MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

IT WAS on January 20, 2009, that Nadir Shah was arrested for the first time by the Delhi Police from a TV channel's studio in Noida, said officers. At the time, he was a member of the notorious Satte gang; while gang leader Satya Prakash was arrested in an encounter at Green Park, Shah escaped and surrendered days later, police said.

Over the years, Shah became a police informant. He also opened several call centres in Delhi, a restaurant in Dubai that failed, and a gym in South Delhi's Greater Kailash 1 — it was outside this gym, called Sharx, that the 34-year-old was gunned down, shot five times by four men, on Thursday night.

While the assailants are yet to be arrested, four men involved in the recce and arranging the weapon used in the crime were nabbed Friday. Another was arrested Saturday. Police had said their initial probe revealed that the conspiracy was allegedly hatched by Anmol Bishnoi — younger brother of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi — who is currently operating from the US, and Rohit Godara, who is based in the UK. In a purported Facebook post hours after the shooting, Godara claimed responsibility.

According to police, Nadir Shah, whose family was from Afghanistan, lived in Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin where his father worked as a carpet seller.

A Class VII dropout, police said Shah initially worked as a carpenter before he fell into the company of local drug peddlers. "He then joined the Satte gang. While he started by providing them information about jewellery shops, banks and cash carriers, he soon began to take part in robberies," said a retired police inspector, who was part of the Green Park encounter



Police outside the gym; (left) Nadir Shah. *PTI*

team.

"Before the encounter, the South district police planned to make me a decoy in the gang. During this time, I saw Shah; he was a small-time drug peddler then, giving money to people on interest... On the day of the Green Park encounter, he was in a car and managed to escape along with an associate named Harpal. Later, like in a scene from a movie, they went to a news studio in Noida to surrender," the retired inspector said.

Police records show Shah spoke Hindi and English. Three cases of robbery and attempt to murder were registered against him in 2009, and a case of extortion in 2018.

"Lodged in Tihar jail following his arrest, Shah allegedly grew close to South Delhi-based gangster Ravi Gangwal. Once he got out of prison, however, he changed tack. He made contacts in the Delhi Police and gave them information about criminals in rival gangs... he also helped some criminals surrender before the police. In the meantime, he continued working as a drug peddler. He also started working with a South-Delhi-based builder, who was also allegedly working as a land grabber," said a top Delhi Police officer.

Shah also got into the business of call centres and started operating several of them in Delhi in a partnership. An officer said around two-three years ago, Shah got in touch with a South Delhi businessman who runs call centres in Delhi and made more money with his help.

## IPL bookie's family in Delhi complains of threat from gangster Rohit Godara

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

ADELHI businessman, whose son, a bookie, was arrested in the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal, allegedly received a threat from gangster Rohit Godara, known to be a close aide of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, police said Saturday.

Police said Pradeep Jain received a WhatsApp voice message on September 8 where a man claiming to be Godara threatened him with dire conse-

quences if he did not reply in two days. "He demanded Rs 10 crore from the Jains and threatened to kill the entire family," Surendra Chaudhary, DCP (Shahdara), said.

When Pradeep failed to respond, he got a call on September 10 where he was allegedly abused and threatened by the caller.

According to a police officer, Pradeep's younger son Nitin has a business in Dubai and is actively involved in online betting operations and was previously arrested in 2013 for being involved in the

IPL spot-fixing case. "There's been no confirmation of Nitin's link with the threat. But we are probing," the officer added.

Godara, who hails from Bikaner and has been named in over 35 criminal cases, is known to be Bishnoi's associate and handles operations from UK. In a Facebook post, he purportedly took responsibility for the murder of gym owner Nadir Shah Thursday night. Previously, Godara had also taken responsibility for the March 2 killing of a Gurgaon-based bookie.



The shelter home is run by the government. *Archive*

posted at Asha Kiran shows that the 'Services' department which comes directly under the L-G had no sensitivity towards the vulnerable conditions of the inmates of the shelter home," they said in a statement.

It also said that the Delhi gov-

ernment had flagged the "serious scarcity" of doctors and paramedic staff at Asha Kiran Shelter Home which was the "real cause of mismanagement" at it.

Meanwhile, in his letter to the chief secretary, the L-G said action should be taken regarding infrastructure upgradation and added that procurement of additional equipment should proceed on a war footing.

He said despite clear instructions from this Secretariat, adequate compensation to the parents/guardians of the deceased inmates has not been intimated. He also instructed the Asha Kiran administration to maintain digital records of inmates at the time of admission, which tracks the history of treatment, health parameters, and nutritional inputs. The L-G also told the CS that

an enquiry has been initiated by his office and sought a white paper on the matter. "I had asked for a white paper on the revamp and refurbishment of all such facilities under the Social Welfare Department for decongestion, outlining short- and long-term measures. The Chief Secretary may review the progress at his level in absence of a regular minister in charge being designated by the Chief Minister. ATR on the progress of work should be submitted to this Secretariat monthly," he said.

He said the CMO was flagged that there is a rise in tuberculosis cases at Asha Kiran and in many such cases, inmates have died. "The primary reason for such deaths was non-timeously diagnosis and absence of treatment," he said.

## 5th accused held, shooters still at large

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

TWO DAYS after a 35-year-old gym owner was shot dead in South Delhi's Greater Kailash 1, police arrested a fifth person in the case, Mohammad Sajid, on Saturday. Four men, involved in the recce and arranging the weapon used in the crime were nabbed Friday. However, the shooters still remain at large.

The victim, Nadir Shah, was shot dead outside his gym on Thursday. The New Delhi Range of the Special Cell is probing the case. The four others arrested were identified as UP residents Akash Yadav, Nitalesh Tiwari (20) and Vishal Verma (19), and Naveen Balyan (33) from Sonapat. Police suspect that rivalry between jailed gangster Samir alias Hashim Baba and gangsters Rohit Chaudhary and Ravi Gangwal may be behind the incident. Shah was also a close aide of Chaudhary, said police.

According to police, a man named Deepak Madras, an associate of Gangwal, had been spotted with Shah on several occasions. "In March 2021, Hashim's aide, Shahrukh, along with his aides, had opened fire at Madras, but he managed to escape despite receiving gunshot injuries. Shah was told to ask Madras a witness to change their statements. However, during trial, the duo did not do so," a senior officer said.

During questioning, accused Balyan also told police that he received a call from a person in the US who shared a number, and directed him to contact them to eliminate Shah. This was because Shah was friends with a businessman who had refused to pay extortion money to jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, claimed police.

"Police found the businessman, who has now shifted to Dubai, had filed a complaint with the Southern Range of the Special Cell on June 16 last year after he received calls/video calls from Bishnoi and US-based designated terrorist Goldy Brar to pay Rs 2.5 crore to them. He claimed he received the first call in Dubai," a source said. The source added that probe revealed that the businessman approached Shah, who, with the help of his contacts, tried to negotiate the extortion amount. It came to light that the amount was not paid to Lawrence. "Later, Lawrence also refused to take money from him..." a source said.

An officer said five cases — three cases with the IFSO of Special Cell, one with Dwarka district and Outer district of cyber fraud — were registered against the businessman this year.

## BRIEFLY

### 4 arrested for kidnapping friend for Rs 1.25 lakh

GHAZIABAD: Four men were arrested in Ghaziabad Saturday for allegedly kidnapping their friend for a ransom of Rs 1.25 lakh to fund their addiction to online gaming. The Muradnagar police identified the arrested men as Deepak (27), Aakash (26), Sanjay (29) and Tarun (25). On September 14, the complainant in the case, Lakshman Singh, had approached police alleging that his friend Aakash Jha has been abducted by his friends and is being held hostage at a hotel at Muradnagar. **ENS**

### Four injured after collision between cars

NEW DELHI: A collision between two cars, a BMW and a Creta, near Delhi's Chanakyapuri on Simon Bolivar Marg left four people injured on Friday afternoon. The driver of the Creta, and the car's owner were taken to the RML Hospital. Both suffered minor injuries, police said. An FIR has been filed. **ENS**

# 2 Crore New Houses Equipped with amenities



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- Reservation of **4.90 lakh houses** for PVTG Groups
- Priority to specially-abled beneficiaries
- Priority to rural women beneficiaries in the ownership of pucca houses
- Construction of **2.66 crore pucca houses** completed



## August presence

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar  
Hon'ble Governor, Jharkhand

Shri Hemant Soren  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jharkhand

Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan  
Hon'ble Union Minister of  
Rural Development and Agriculture

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw  
Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Information  
and Broadcasting & Electronics and  
Information Technology

Shri Bidyut Baran Mahto  
Hon'ble MP, Jamshedpur

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PERSONAL

I,Varun Ashok Sharma,S/O-Late.Ashok Sharma,resident of Prateek Wisteria,Tower-N-606,Sector-77,Noida-UP,have changed my name from Varun Ashok Sharma to Varun Sharma.Henceforth,I would be known by the name of Varun Sharma,for all future purposes. 0040749654-11

I,VISHAL JYOTI SHARMA,D/O YUDHISTHAR LAL SHARMA, R/O E-116,KARAMPURA,NEW DELHI-110015,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VISHAL JYOTI. 0040749647-2

I,SUMAN W/O SANJAY CHAUDHARY R/O B-8/169,Ground Floor, Sector-3,Rohini,Delhi-110085 have changed my name to SUMAN CHAUDHARY. 0040749671-2

I,SHARAD TONDARE,S/O-NAGNATH BHADRAPA TANDARE, R/O-TOWER-12A,FLAT 1403, LOTUS BOULEVARD,SECTOR-100,NOIDA MAHARISHI-NAGAR, GAUTAMBUDDH-NAGAR,U.P-201304,have changed my name to SHARAD NAGNATH TONDARE, for all future purpose. 0040749668-6

I,SANJAY KUMAR S/O PREM LAL,R/O-B-8/169,Ground Floor,Sector-3,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to SANJAY CHAUDHARY. 0040749671-3

I,Roohi W/O Manoj Kumar,R/O A-5/5,West Jyoti Nagar, Shahdara,Delhi-110094,have changed my name,from Roohi to Roohi Sharma,for all future purposes. 0040749668-9

I,Rajesh Kumar Sethi,S/O Roop Chand Sethi,R/O,DG-2/227-C,2nd-Floor Vikas-Puri, Tilak-Nagar,West-Delhi,Delhi-110018,that name of mine has been wrongly-written as RAJESH SETHI in my-minor daughter Srishri Sethi aged-14-years in her School-Records.The actual-name of mine is Rajesh Kumar Sethi. 0040749674-2

I,PUNIT KASANA,S/O-DHANRAJ, R/O-A-62,HARSHAWRUP-COLONY, NEAR-POST OFFICE, FATEH-PUR BERI,SOUTH-DELHI, DELHI-110074,declare that name of mine and my-father has been wrongly-written as CHARAT SINGH and DHANRAJ In the actual-name of mine and my-father are PUNIT KASANA and DHANRAJ,which may be amended-accordingly. 0040749647-7

I,Azad Singh s/o Sultan Singh,R/O B-60,Sangam Apartment,Plot No.23,Sector-9, Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Azad Singh Saini permanently. 0040749668-3

I,Deepak S/o Sh.Satya bhan/R/O C-34A, Amar Colony,Gali.No.3, Nangloi,Delhi-110041,inform that My-Minor Daughter's Name In School-Record wrongly-Written Kinjal Guraniya Correct-Name Kanak Guraniya. 0040749647-10

I,Dharmvir Singh,S/O Ghasi Ram R/O Village-Sehlanga, Jhajjar, Haryana-124106,have changed my name to Dharmvir Singh permanently. 0040749647-6

I,Divyaben Jagjivankumar Sharma,W/O Varun Sharma, resident of Prateek Wisteria, Tower-N-606,Sector-77, Noida-UP,have changed my name from Divyaben Jagjivankumar Sharma to Divya Jagjivankumar Sharma. Henceforth,I would be known by the name of Divya Jagjivankumar Sharma,for all future purposes. 0040749654-10

I,Ex-No-9109492N,NK(TS) Javaid Ahmad Untoo,S/O- Mohd Akbar Untoo,R/O- Tekipora, Tehsil-Sogam, District-Kupwara.In my service records name's and Do B of my children's has been wrongly mentioned Son as Junaid Ahmad Untoo, Do B-15-10-2008 instead of Junaid Javid Untoo, Do B-23-09-2009, daughter as Marajon Nasa, Do B-09-06-2010 instead of Merajun Nessa, Do B-10-08-2013 as in education certificates. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to unit 5 JAKLI. 0020481530-1

I,Sanjida Khatoun Alias Bibi Sanjida Firdaus W/O Ali Akbar R/O Mohalla Madawari, Ward No/16, Gopalganj, Bihar-841428, have changed my name to Sanjida khatoun 0070924209-1

I,Vijay Kumar Chaliha S/o Sh. Rampal Chaliha R/O Chaliha House No.58/1, Kalu Sarai, Near Houz Khas Metro Station Gate No.4, New Delhi-110016 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Stuti to Stuti Chaliha for all purposes. 0040749611-6

I,Arun Kumar Lakra,S/O-Sahib Singh Lakra,R/O A-2/133,Near Govt School,Janakpuri,Delhi-110058,have changed my name to Arun Kumar Takra. 0040749647-3

I,Abha and XXX Abha,D/O-Suraj Bhan Vashisht,R/O-205,125,Parkway,Forest-North York,On,M2J1L9,Canada,is also Known as XXX Abha according to Canadian Passport,both names are of one person the same-person. 0040749654-4

I,SUMIT KUMAR S/O-Sohan prasid, house no-E 139, kusumpur pahari vasant vihar new delhi 110057,changed my name to SUMIT. 0040749647-1

I,Yashpal singh S/O Dharamveer singh R/o village-Dujana tehsil-Dadri District-Gautambudh nagar. My daughter name is Yashika nagar and her Date of birth is 8/06/2010.My name is mention-as Yashpal nagar in her educational document which is incorrect.The actual name of Mine is Yashpal singh. 0040749618-1

I,ANJALI D/O Khyat Singh Rawat R/O H. No.- 3/60, Second Floor, Trilok Puri, East Delhi, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to ANJALI RAWAT.0070924222-1

I,Aanchal Galav W/O Nittin Jain, R/O W-2/21,DLF Phase-3,Gurgaon (Haryana),inform that Aanchal as given name and Galav Surname. 0040749654-2

I,Durga Kumari C/O Binod Kumar Singh R/O Flat No.1280B, Block-E, Tower-5, Ghaziabad, UP-201016 have changed my minor daughter's name from IRSHITA to IRSHIRA KUMARI for all purposes. 0040749618-2

I,Durga Kumari C/O Binod Kumar Singh R/O Flat No.1280B, Block-E, Tower-5, Ghaziabad, UP-201016 have changed my minor son's name from KARTIK to KARTIK KUMAR for all purposes. 0040749618-3

I,Iqbal Singh S/O Harbhajan Singh, R/O-23/86A, Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Iqbal Singh Wadhwa. 0040749618-4

I,Jyoti,W/O Nittin Kumar,R/O-59, 2nd Floor,Pocket-28, Sector-24,Rohini, Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Jyoti Sharma 0040749668-4

I, Mohd Arman S/O Chand Mohd R/O Type -II/47, Schedule-B, President Estate, New Delhi-110004, aged 33 years have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mohammad Arman for all future purposes. 0070924211-1

I,Sattamal Kumar,S/O Parshuram,R/O-149, E-16, Rama Vihar, Delhi-110081,have changed my name to Satmal Kumar. 0040749668-5

I,ARUSHI D/O RAJAN GARG R/O D-28, Ground Floor,New Multan Nagar, Delhi -110056 have changed my name to ARUSHI GARG. 0040749671-1

I,Anil Goel,S/O Sh.Moti Ram, R/O-6/165,1st-Floor,Farsh-Bazar,Shahdara,Delhi-110032, Confirm that legal name is Anil Kumar Goel and Anil Goel is one and same-person. 0040749654-9

I,Ankit Mukherjee resident of Lal Chand Mukherjee son of H.No.241,Mir Dard lane MAMC Campus,Darya Ganj,New Delhi-110002,inform that in my documents my father & Mother name wrongly mentioned as Lal Chand Mukharjee and Reena Mukharjee whereas there correct and actual name is Lal Chand Mukherjee & Rina Mukherjee. 0040749671-4

I,RAKESH KUMAR,S/O-MANGAL SINGH ABROL,R/O-117-B,G&J BLOCK, GREEN APARTMENT, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAKESH KUMAR ABROL AND RAKESH KUMAR IS ONE SAME PERSONS. 0040749647-9

I,RAJ KUMAR ABROL,S/O-MANGAL SINGH ABROL,R/O-88B, GREEN APARTMENT,G&J BLOCK, PITAMPURA DELHI-110034,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME RAJ KUMAR ABROL AND RAJ KUMAR IS ONE AND SAME PERSONS. 0040749647-8

I,Sunil Kumar S/o Sh. Bant Ram Bainsla R/O A-63,3/F, South Extension Part-II, New Delhi-110048 have changed my name to Sunil Choudhary Bainsla for all purposes. 0040749611-5

I,Deepak Kumar Tulasayan S/O Mahesh Kumar Tulasayan R/O C-415, Gali No-10, Block-C, Majlis Park, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Deepak Kumar Tulsyan 0070924223-1

I,Premvati W/o Shri Chand Jain R/O 1930, Gali Lahsua, Near Amar Sushil Oshudalay, Bazar Sita Ram, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Premvati Jain 0070924219-1

I,Kamal Prakash alias Kamal Prakash Bhardwaj,S/O-Khem Chand Bhardwaj,R/O-B-4/8, Gali No.5,Kabir Nagar, Delhi-110092,inform that in my service records my & father's name has wrongly mentioned as Kamal Prakash & Kamal Prakash Bhardwaj,Khem Chand & Khem Chand Bhardwaj instead of Kamal Prakash Bhardwaj & Khem Chand Bhardwaj. 0040749671-5

I,MEENA W/O Gopal Das,R/O-I-447, Shastri Nagar, Meerut,U.P have changed my name to MEENA DEVI,for all future purposes. 0040749647-5

I,MEENU KAUSHIK W/O SUNIL KUMAR R/O HNO.47,MAIN CHOWK,NEAR JUGAL MEDICAL-STORE,BUDHPUR,DELHI-110036, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MEENU SHARMA. 0040749668-2

I,Mohammad Nasir,S/O-Mohammad Sadiq,R/O-8847, Pul-Bangash,Naya-Mohalla, Near Azad-Market-Chowk, Azad Market,Delhi-110006, That in my-Passport my-father name has been wrongly-written as Mohammad Saddeeq instead of Mohammad Sadiq,which may be amended accordingly. 0040749668-7

I,NASIR AHMED S/O ABDUL GAFOOR R/O 1784, MOHAMMADIN ELAICHI MARG,TURKMAN-MARG, DELHI-110006,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD NASIR. 0040749668-1

I,Om Parkash Sarraf Alias Om Prakash,S/O-Brij Mohan Lal Sarraf,R/O-D-1102,La Lagune Apartments,Golf-Course Road-Gurgaon,Sector-54, Haryana-122011,have changed my name to OM PRAKASH SARAF,permanently. 0040749668-8

I,PARVEEN ALWADHI S/O SURAJ PARKASH R/O 8/27 East Punjabi Bagh New Delhi 110026, have changed my name to PARVEEN KUMAR. 0040749674-1

I,SURENDER SINGH,S/O AMAR SINGH,R/O RTZ-44 ARJUN NAGAR NIHAL-VIHAR NANGLOI DELHI-110041, have changed my name to SURINDER SINGH. 0040749647-4

I,DEEPAK SAINI,S/O-SHRI RAM AVTAR SAINI,R/O-3953,GALI AHIRAN MANISHA,RAM-CHOWK,BAHADUR-GARH ROAD,DELHI-110006,DECLARE THAT HAVE CHANGE MY-SON'S NAME NAKSH SAINI TO MADHAV SAINI IN EVERY GOVERNMENT-DOCUMENT AS WELL AS HIS SCHOOL-RECORDS,FOR FUTURE. 0040749654-1

I,Yogesh Kumar Chandak S/O Govind Prakash Chandak R/O A-79, Sector-72, Noida(U.P) inform that Yogesh Chandak & Yogesh Kumar Chandak both are same & one person. The correct name is Yogesh Kumar Chandak for all future purposes. 0040749608-1

I,hitherto known as Brijesh Kumar,S/O Har Charan,R/O T-87A,Third Floor,Front-Side, Shukkar Bazar Road,Near Bikaner Sweets, Uttam Nagar,D.K Mohan Garden,West Delhi,Delhi-110059,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Brijesh Malhotra. 0040749657-3

I,hitherto known as Eshant,S/O Brijesh Malhotra,R/O T-87A,Third Floor,Front-Side, Shukkar Bazar Road,Near Bikaner Sweets,Uttam Nagar,D.K Mohan Garden,West Delhi,Delhi-110059,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Reena Malhotra. 0040749657-1

MATRIMONIAL. A Bride wanted. Suitable medico match for fair 57" skin kamboj, 1997 born girl doing post graduation in pathology Phone no.-8847543782 0050250485-1

DOCTORS. Anshik Manglik Sarawat Brahman boy 2-6-1990, 5'-8", 8.50 pm Graduation and Diploma in Aviation, working in MNC Hyderabad, upper caste welcome 988685007 0110048466-1

MANGLIK. Anshik Manglik Sarawat Brahman boy 2-6-1990, 5'-8", 8.50 pm Graduation and Diploma in Aviation, working in MNC Hyderabad, upper caste welcome 988685007 0110048466-1

OTHERS. Suitable match for Punjabi Sikh (Ad-harm) boy, Feb95/5'6" B.Tech, MBA working in MNC Gurgaon. Well settled educated family. Father working PSU. Seeks Professionally qualified working girl. #9467339730. 00502501119-1

DOCTORS. Suitable MD / MS / MCH. Preferably Army Officer match for 1987 / 5'4". MBBS. MS. Army Major Sikh Girl. Contact:94169-66809 0020481525-1

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LOST & FOUND. I,NAZAN BEGUM,W/O-TANVIR AHMED SHAH,R/O-1709,SECOND-FLOOR,KUCHA-DAKHNI RAI,PATAUDI HOUSE,DARYAGANJ,NEW-DELHI-02,HEREBY INFORMED THE GENERAL-PUBLIC THAT I HAVE-LOST THE ORIGINAL-CONVEYANCE DEED OF MY-MOTHER MRS KHURSHED BEGUM IN RESPECT OF FLAT.No. 103-B,DDA-FLATS,MATA SUNDIRI-ROAD,NEW DELHI-02,SOMEWHERE AND THE SAME IS NOT TRACEABLE ANYBODY-FOUND THE SAME PLEASE RETURN AT ABOVE ADDRESS-FOUNDER WILL BE GIVEN HANDSOME REWARD.(NAZAN-BEGUM) PH.NO.8586998674. 0040749674-7

LOST & FOUND. I,NAZAN BEGUM,W/O-TANVIR AHMED SHAH,R/O-1709,SECOND-FLOOR,KUCHA-DAKHNI RAI,PATAUDI HOUSE,DARYAGANJ,NEW-DELHI-02,HEREBY INFORMED THE GENERAL-PUBLIC THAT I HAVE-LOST THE ORIGINAL-CONVEYANCE DEED OF MY-MOTHER MRS KHURSHED BEGUM IN RESPECT OF FLAT.No. 103-B,DDA-FLATS,MATA SUNDIRI-ROAD,NEW DELHI-02,SOMEWHERE AND THE SAME IS NOT TRACEABLE ANYBODY-FOUND THE SAME PLEASE RETURN AT ABOVE ADDRESS-FOUNDER WILL BE GIVEN HANDSOME REWARD.(NAZAN-BEGUM) PH.NO.8586998674. 0040749674-7

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PUBLIC NOTICE. My client Purveen Bano W/o Late Sh. Mohd. Azam, R/o C-113, Shabeen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-II, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 has severed her all relation and disown/der her son Mohd. Hashim from her all movable-immovable properties and assets. My client shall not be responsible for any acts and deeds done by him. Sd/- SAJJID ALI ADVOCATE CHAMBER NO. 786, LAWYERS BLOCK SAKET COURT NEW DELHI-110017 0040749674-7

PUBLIC NOTICE. To be known that I GAURAV KUMAR S/o Shri J.B. Bhoria & late Smt. Kauslha Bhoria, R/o Flat No. 07, Nav Jagriti Apartments, C-11, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi, say that my mother late Smt. Kauslha Bhoria was the owner of Flat No. 07 (HIG Simplex) in Nav Jagriti Apartments, C-11, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096. THE ORIGINAL SHARE CERTIFICATE AND POSSESSION LETTER, in respect of the above said Flat are lost and F.I.R./N.C.R. to this effect have been lodged vide NCR No. 9242011 Dated, 09.05.2011 and L.R. No: 2117599204 Dated, 14-09-2024 MOBILE No. 7020549613 0040749674-7

PUBLIC NOTICE. MAY IT BE KNOWN TO GENERAL PUBLIC NOTICE THAT my clients Ms. Kawajit Singh & S. Harpreet Singh both residing with their children at WZ-7-11B, Sant Gurbh, Gali No. 6, Near Seelgill Clinic, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, do hereby sever all their social relations with their sister-in-law (Bhabhi) Ms. Manmeet Kaur & S. Parmajit Singh both residing with their children at WZ-30B, Krishna Park, Gali No. 16, Near Durga Mandir, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 from their family as all of them are not only disobedient, disrespectful but their behaviour and conduct is apparently unlawful towards the family & other family members of my clients. Whosoever will be dealing or having social relations with them w.e.f. today onwards will be dealing at his/her own risk, cost and consequences. My clients shall not be liable for any of his, deal and transaction etc, with immediate effect. Sd/- BALDEV RAJ ADVOCATE Ch. No. Y-1, Civil Wing, Haz Tazari Courts, Delhi-110054 0040749674-7

PUBLIC NOTICE. KNOW all men by this presents that my clients namely DEVENDER S/O SH. JAGDISH PRASAD & SMT. ROSHANI DEVI W/O SH. DEVENDER KUMAR BOTTI RO HANOOR, BEHIND TALI MILL, VILLAGE BEGUMPUR, DELHI-110086. They have disowned and debarred their son named MR. MAYANK from all their movable and immovable properties, due to their bad behavior, misconduct and disobedient attitude and my clients have severed all relations from him. If their son anybody deals with any person shall do at his/her/their own risk in future and my client shall not be responsible. PAKRASH CHAND Advocate Ch. No. 11, Civil Wing, Haz Tazari Courts, Delhi-110054 Enr. No. D/90652019 0040749674-7

PUBLIC NOTICE. If for general information I, GURNEET TEJ DO SH. SURINDER SINGH TEJ EX. WIFE OF MAJOR P. VIJAY MENON R/O D-1906, RABINDRA NAGAR, AMRITA SHERGILL MARG, NEW DELHI-110003 declare that I divorce from my husband MAJOR P. VIJAY MENON vide court decree HMA Case RT No. R3-2352/09,2016 dated 02.11.2016, further I remarried to SH. MANASHVI KUMAR S/O SH. SHASHI KANT SINGH vide marriage certificate No. 90740000008957 dated 09.09.2024. Henceforth I have changed the name of my minor daughter AANYA MENON aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as AANYA for all future purposes. Sd/- Satish Kumar Advocate Ch. No. C-184, C.L. Joseph Block 15 Hazrat Courts, Delhi-110054 0040749674-7

PUBLIC NOTICE. IT IS FOR THE INFORMATION TO PUBLIC AT LARGE THAT MY CLIENT SHRI ARUN GOEL S/O SHRI AMRITA GOEL R/O 211408, GALI NO. 6, PREM NAGAR, PATEL NAGAR, DELHI 11008, IS THE ABSOLUTE AND LAWFUL OWNER OF PROPERTY BEARING NO. 211446, GALI NO. 6, PREM NAGAR, PATEL NAGAR, DELHI 11008, AN PERSON CLAIMING THE OWNERSHIP TITLE, RIGHT, INTEREST OR LOAN, MORTGAGE OF THE SAID PROPERTY SHALL BE A ILLEGAL, UNLAWFUL FRAUD, AND MY CLIENT IS NO WHERE INVOLVED, AND NONE CAN CREATE THIRD PARTY INTEREST IN SAID PROPERTY. ALL ARE CAUTIONED NOT TO DEAL WITH THIS PROPERTY IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER. MY CLIENT WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACT DONE CONTRARY TO LAW. Sd/- Satish Kumar Advocate Ch. No. C-184, C.L. Joseph Block 15 Hazrat Courts, Delhi-110054 0040749674-7

LEASE & RENTAL. INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR LEASE. Highway Touching Land Near Sarola Bridge-Kikvi, Pune - Satara Highway Road. Area - 4.5 acre 9422011658 9284344247

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON. See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Versha Prop of: M/s Kamal Versha Food Products, 313, Gali No. 4, Bagh Kare Khan, Kishan Ganj, Delhi Also At: M/s Kamal Versha Food Products, Smt. Versha, R/o: B-23, Subhadra Colony, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CC No. 8940/16 U/S 138 NI Act, P.S.: Bawana, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Versha cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Versha has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON. See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Nizamuddin @ Kamla S/o Babuddin R/o SQ Block, Gali No. 2, Garima Garden Shamshad Colony, Tulsi Niketan Near Kabristan, Ghaziabad (U.P.) has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case FIR No. 185/2011 u/s 379/411/34 IPC IPC at P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Nizamuddin @ Kamla cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Nizamuddin @ Kamla has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said Nizamuddin @ Kamla accused of FIR No. 185/2011 u/s 379/411/34 IPC IPC at P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 22.10.2024. By Order Sh. Sarthak Panwar Ld. MM, Room No. 114, Rohini Court, Delhi DP/12241/ON/2024 (Court Matter)

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PUBLIC NOTICE. KNOW all men by this presents that my clients namely DEVENDER S/O SH. JAGDISH PRASAD & SMT. ROSHANI DEVI W/O SH. DEVENDER KUMAR BOTTI RO HANOOR, BEHIND TALI MILL, VILLAGE BEGUMPUR, DELHI-110086. They have disowned and debarred their son named MR. MAYANK from all their movable and immovable properties, due to their bad behavior, misconduct and disobedient attitude and my clients have severed all relations from him. If their son anybody deals with any person shall do at his/her/their own risk in future and my client shall not be responsible. PAKRASH CHAND Advocate Ch. No. 11, Civil Wing, Haz Tazari Courts, Delhi-110054 Enr. No. D/90652019 0040749674-7

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY. E-Tender Notice No. DCE-BL-13-2024 Dy. Chief Engineer/Bridge Line/N.E. Railway/Gorakhpur acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works:- SN-1: E-Tender Notice:- DCE-BL-13-2024, Description of Work: Painting of OVG, Under Slung Girder, Plate Girders, Composite Girders Bridges and ROBS as per detailed list attached including trolley refuge, man refuge, Pathway, other steel structures etc. in L/N division of N.E.Railway. Approx. Tender Value (Rs): ₹ 4,24,05,342.60, Earnest Money (Rs): ₹ 3,62,000.00, Cost of tender document: Nil, Completion period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 12 (Twelve) months. 1.Date of E-Tender opening 11.00 Hrs on 07.10.2024, 2.Receipt of E-Tender upto 10.59 Hrs on, 07.10.2024, 3.Detailed E-tender notice, Eligibility criteria, terms & conditions are available at website: www.ireps.gov.in Dy. CE/Bridge Line Gorakhpur CPROW-245 Never travel on roof and foot boards.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY. E-Tender Notice. Divl. Ry. Manager, N.W.Ry. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to 15.00 hours on 04.10.2024 as below:- Tender No.: 108 Name of work with its Location : Installation of track mounted automatic Gauge Face Lubricators on curves-310 Nos over Bikaner division under control of ADEN/ Ratnagar. Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 144132330.00 Earnest Money : Rs. 870700.00 Tender No.: 109 Name of work with its Location : Provision of fault analysis rooms (diagnostic panel room) at 12 way side stations in the jurisdiction of DEN/SOUTH under control

# Kejriwal holds meet on Haryana polls, to address workers today

JATIN ANAND & SAMAN HUSAIN  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

A DAY after he was granted bail in the excise policy case by the Supreme Court, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday took the first steps towards taking charge of the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) political campaign in Haryana even as he is said to be preparing to reclaim the reins of the capital's administration after being behind bars for six months.

The AAP convenor chaired a "high-stakes" meeting with senior party leaders on Saturday to discuss plans for the October 5 Haryana elections where, according to a senior AAP leader, he will lead the party's political charge along with former deputy CM Manish Sisodia and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Party sources said AAP's focus would be on laying its foundation in each of the 90 Assembly constituencies in Haryana, with a focus on garnering as much vote share as possible.

In Delhi, sources said a Cabinet rejig to include Sisodia-Kejriwal's



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, accompanied by wife Sunita, former deputy CM Manish Sisodia and AAP MP Sanjay Singh in New Delhi on Saturday. Gajendra Yadav

number two both in the party as well as the government - would be the CM's first priority, followed by "significant decisions on pending policy and administrative issues". This is likely to include the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana, under which eligible women are entitled to a monthly payout of Rs 1,000 by the government.

"The re-inclusion of Manishji in the council of ministers is a top priority... The CM is likely to officially resume his duties starting the first working day next week,

that is Tuesday," a party source said.

In a statement, the AAP said, "Fresh out of jail after six months, AAP's National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal wasted no time, rallying senior leaders with a powerful victory mantra in a high-stakes meeting on Saturday."

"The party is ready to launch an all-out campaign to conquer Haryana," it added.

Among those who attended the meeting were Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, Sandeep Pathak, Raghav Chadha, Gopal Rai, Atishi and

Saurabh Bharadwaj. AAP's National General Secretary (Organisation) Sandeep Pathak said, "The CM called a meeting of the senior leadership to discuss the campaign plan for the Haryana election." A plan was formulated for campaign in each Assembly constituency of Haryana, Pathak said, adding that in the coming days, the party plans to campaign extensively in the state.

"Ever since the honorable Supreme Court has given bail to Arvind Kejriwal, the enthusiasm and resolve of our party workers have increased manifold. They are ready to work with more energy than before. We believe that this time, the elections in Haryana are going to be very exciting," he later told mediapersons.

Kejriwal is set to address AAP workers at the party's headquarters on Sunday morning. With the party recently shifting its office from Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg to Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane, it will be Kejriwal's first visit to the new headquarters. "The workers are fired up... Arvind Kejriwal is going to meet them after so many days," Pathak said.

# CM has no dept under him, can sign file that goes to L-G: AAP

'Modi, Shah behind arrest to finish off Kejriwal's politics'

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

A DAY after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was granted interim bail in the excise policy case by the Supreme Court, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday underlined that since he does not have any government department as part of his portfolio, he only needs to sign files that go to the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) for approval.

Underlining that Kejriwal was free to discharge his duties as chief minister despite the bail conditions imposed on him by the Supreme Court, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh told mediapersons: "...the Supreme Court has not put restrictions on the work of the Delhi government, or the work of Arvind Kejriwal. He has the right to sign every important file which goes to the L-G..."

"Because he does not have any department and because the court has not put any restriction on his signing files that go to the L-G, he will continue working, 100 per cent, as the three-time popularly elected chief minister of Delhi..." he added.

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of being behind the arrest to "finish off Arvind Kejriwal's politics", Singh said, "The comments made by the Supreme Court yesterday make it clear that the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal was a conspiracy hatched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The court noted the same things that we have been saying since day one; the BJP's and Amit Shah's aim is to finish off Arvind Kejriwal's politics."

Alleging that Shah's aim was "horse trading in Delhi, breaking

off legislators, toppling governments", Singh said Kejriwal had chosen to resist these designs from behind bars rather than "bowing down".

Citing Friday's order by a bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Singh demanded to know why the CBI had waited for 22 months to move in on Kejriwal. "The CBI is trapped in Amit Shah's cage... it arrested Arvind Kejriwal on his directions. This is why following the honourable Supreme Court's order... Amit Shah has no moral right to continue as the Union home minister... he should resign immediately," he said.

"A Union home minister who works towards toppling governments, arresting sitting chief ministers, splitting political parties, purchasing legislators - such a home minister does not deserve to be on their post for even a minute," Singh added.



CM with Abhishek Manu Singhvi. PTI

## Kejriwal meets Abhishek Manu Singhvi at home

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday met senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi at his residence on Saturday.

Singhvi has been appearing for the AAP leaders in the excise policy-related cases in the Supreme Court.

The AAP posted a photo of Kejriwal and Singhvi with their spouses, on X, after the meeting.

"Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his wife met the senior most lawyer of the country Abhishek Manu Singhvi who provided legal help to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in his fight against conspiracies of the dictator, at his residence," AAP said in the post. PTI

# Kejriwal at Hanuman temple: 'Lord's blessings always with me in my fight against injustice'

HIMANSHU HARSH  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

A DAY after he was released from Tihar Jail, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday visited Prachin Hanuman Mandir at Connaught Place and said that Lord Hanuman's blessings have always been with him in his "fight against injustice".

The AAP convenor arrived at the temple around 12 pm, accompanied by his wife Sunita Kejriwal, former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia as well party leaders Sanjay Singh and Saurabh Bharadwaj.

The temple's Mahant welcomed Delhi chief minister with a tilak, presenting him with Bajrang Bali's mace and a sacred triangular flag. Kejriwal meditated with his wife and offered water to the Shilving. He also shared a video of his visit on X.

In a post, he said, "Today, along with my wife Sunita Kejriwal and other companions, I visited the ancient Hanuman temple in Connaught Place and worshiped Lord Hanuman and received his blessings. In this fight against injustice, Lord Hanuman's blessings have always been with us. I prayed to the Lord for everyone's happiness and prosperity. May the Lord keep this courage in all of us in this fight to save the country."

Sisodia, quoting a couplet

from the Hanuman Chalisa, wrote on X, "Today, I visited the ancient Hanuman temple in Delhi with Arvind Kejriwal and took blessings of Hanuman ji. It is the grace of Hanumanji, due to which, despite all the conspiracies, Arvind Kejriwal and all of us are among you all. May Lord Bajrangbali keep his blessings on all the people of Delhi and remove the troubles of everyone."

Sisodia and Singh had previously visited the temple after being granted bail in the liquor policy case.

The AAP also shared a video and photo of Kejriwal and his wife and other party leaders offering prayers at Hanuman temple on its official X handle.

"CM Arvind Kejriwal, who came out of jail after fighting a fake case and dictatorship, prayed for the peace and happiness of all the country's people by visiting and worshipping Anjani Putra Hanuman Ji and Lord Bholenath Ji in the ancient Hanuman temple of Connaught Place," AAP said in a post. "It was with the blessings of Lord Hanuman that Arvind Kejriwal fought strongly against the dictator even in jail," the post read.

Kejriwal had last visited Hanuman Mandir during the recent Lok Sabha elections, on June 2, before his interim bail granted by the Supreme Court in the excise policy case ended.



Arvind Kejriwal with his wife Sunita at Hanuman Temple on Saturday. ANI

# FIR lodged after AAP workers burst crackers

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE DELHI Police has booked unknown people for bursting crackers and causing air pollution after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was released from Tihar Jail on Friday. The FIR was registered at the Civil Lines police station, near the CM's residence.

The FIR stated that around 6.45 pm on Friday, a huge crowd had gathered near the CM's residence and were bursting crackers. "When we went closer to inspect, the people gathered there



AAP supporters in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

(who were bursting crackers) ran away and we couldn't determine who was behind the crack-

ers. The crackers have caused air pollution and it is dangerous for the health of nearby residents and the general public," said the FIR registered under section 223(b) (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

On September 10, the Delhi government had banned the use, sale and production of any type of firecrackers till January 1 next year to curb the winter pollution.

Responding to the FIR, the AAP said in a statement, "The people of Delhi were ecstatic with the release of their favourite leader and Delhi CM Arvind

Kejriwal. It was an emotional moment after the release and a few people expressed their happiness."

Meanwhile, welcoming the FIR, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the bursting of crackers had left Delhi shocked and the incident shows the "hypocrisy of AAP leaders". "Delhiites are shocked to see the hypocrisy of AAP leaders, who have banned cracker burning by Hindus on festival days like Diwali but are themselves bursting crackers worth lakhs of rupees to celebrate the release of Arvind Kejriwal," he added.

# Constitution not exclusive domain of Lutyens' Delhi: Justice Nagarathna at NLU convocation

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE CONSTITUTION is neither the product nor the exclusive domain of Lutyens' Delhi but breeds in an unheard perspective in every crossroad of this country, Supreme Court judge Justice B V Nagarathna said at the 11th convocation of National Law University in Delhi on Saturday.

"You may be torn between temptation and your duty to your client... In such situations, have the courage to stand firm to your eth-

ical convictions," Justice Nagarathna said while congratulating the graduating students at the event that was also attended by AAP leader and Delhi Education Minister Atishi.

Maintaining that Mahatma Gandhi saw lawyers as agents of social change and vanguards of social movements, Justice Nagarathna said, "India's independence movement is a pinnacle for such feelings."

"Frolic submissions and frivolous petitions convert the court into an exclusive domain of the other which the citizen is not sup-

posed to understand and only piles on pendency," she said, urging the graduates to not misuse forums by filing frivolous petitions.

"An advocate must not let themselves be used as masks for a busy body merely to harass litigants or the state..." she added. Justice Nagarathna called advocacy a "calling" more than a career. The cause of justice must motivate lawyers, not the remuneration, she said. "The day lawyers view constitutional methods as electives and not mandates, is the day public confidence in law will shatter," she said, adding that

it was incumbent upon NLU graduates to show that their actions as lawyers were "limited by legality and emboldened by morality".

"Your generation sits at the intersection of traditional legal practice and legal transformation, and an opportunity to truly democratize the legal system," she said.

"As these young graduates step into the world, as aspiring lawyers and judges, I hope they dedicate themselves towards upholding the constitutional values of India. All the best to these upcoming members of the bar and bench..." Atishi said in a post on X.

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WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of HOME FIRST FINANCE COMPANY INDIA LIMITED, pursuant to demand notice issued on its respective dates as given below, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 calling upon you/Borrowers, the under named to pay outstanding dues as within 60 days from the date of receipt of respective notices. You/Borrowers all, however, have failed to pay the said outstanding dues within stipulated time, hence HOME FIRST FINANCE COMPANY INDIA LIMITED are in exercise and having right as conferred under the provision of sub section (4) of section 13 of SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with rules thereunder, taken POSSESSION of the secured assets as mentioned herein below:

Sr. No	Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Demand Notice	Total O/s as on date of Demand Notice (in INR)	Date of possession
1.	Gopal Gupta, Kajal Kumari	Flat-G -2, Plot No50, Jaipur Development Authority, G- 2 Grounds Floor Pavandham - Vth, Plot No - 50, Laxmi Nagar, Kalwar Road, Jaipur (Rajasthan), Jaipur, 302012. Bounded by - North by : Plot No. 51, East by : 30-0 Wide Road Corridor, West by : Plot No. 49, South by : 30-0 wide Road / Flat No. G-1.	04-07-2024	19,71,103	10-09-2024
2.	Gourav Maheshwari, Sapna Maheshwari	Flat-PLOT NO. 9A, KHASRA NO. 543, SHIVA SMART CITY, PLOT NO. 9A, KHASRA NO. 543, SHIVA SMART CITY, VILLAGE-CHHAPRAULA, PARGANA & TEHSIL-DADR, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, U.P., Uttar Pradesh, 201005. Bounded by - North by : Road 21 wide, East by : Plot No. 9, West by : Plot No. 10, South by : Plot No. 22	04-07-2024	17,76,703	10-09-2024
3.	Hemant Sharma, Shivadatta ,Rajvati .	FF-01 Front LHS, KHASRA NO. 399, PREM VIHAR-III, VILLAGE SADULLABD, LONI GHAZIABAD, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201102. Bounded by - North - Plot of Tajammul, East- Other's plot, West- Road 20 wide, South- Plot of Markandey Prajapati	04-07-2024	13,85,519	10-09-2024
4.	Kailash Chandra Gurjar, Seeta.	Flat-Plot No. 83, Seller ,plot no.83, Khasra no. 3663, asind, Bhilwara, Rajasthan, 311301. Bounded by : North by :Other Aaraji, South by : Road 30 Feet, East by : Plot No. 84, West by : Plot No. 82	04-07-2024	19,47,325	10-09-2024
5.	Kamal Singh, kamali Bai	House-3271, Patta No. 3271, Misal No. 21, Khasra No. 1487/1251, Dhaneswar, Dhaneswar, Rajasthan, 323022. Bounded by - East by : House of Pachu Bheel, West by : House of Bhawana Bheel, North by : Road, South by : House of Devi Lal Bheel.	04-07-2024	17,20,257	10-09-2024
6.	Kavita N Chaudhary, Vimal Chaudhri	Flat-FF-02, Plot No. 98 & 99, Khasra No. 1587MI, Khasra No. 1590MI, Radha Garden Hadbarast, VILLAGE RAISPUR, PARGANA DASNA, TEHSIL & DISTT. GHAZIABAD Uttar Pradesh 201013	04-07-2024	7,39,121	10-09-2024
7.	Lokendra Singh, Rup Kanwar	House-48-A, 49-A, scheme -Suraj Nagar, at akeda near Delhi bye pass road no.17, VKI area, Plot no. 48-A, 49-A, scheme -Suraj Nagar, at akeda near Delhi bye pass road no.17, VKI area, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 302013. Bounded by - East by : Road, West by : Others Plot, North by : Plot No. 50-A, South by : Plot No. 47-A.	04-07-2024	12,01,967	10-09-2024
8.	Loknath meena, Mira Bai	House-100, Patta No. 100, Misal No. 68, Khasra No. 137, Rangpur, Kota, Rajasthan, 324002. Bounded by - East by : House of Mr. Rajesh Meena, West by : House of Mr. Satish Kumar Malav, North by : Road, South by : House of Mr. Hari Lal Meena	04-07-2024	9,72,909	10-09-2024
9.	LOVKUSH KUMAR, BHAGYAVATI .	House-KHASRA NO.-13, KHASRA NO.-13 MIN, HOUSE NO. C- 132 WAKE MAUZA AWAS VIKAS NARAYAN KUNJ COLONY, TEHSIL- KASHIPUR, DISTT. UDHAM SINGH NAGAR, UTTARAKHAND 244714, kashipur, Uttarakhand, 244713. Bounded by - East by : House No. C-113(4.62M), West by : Road 5.90 Wide (4.62M), North by : House No. C-131(6.93M), South by : House No. C-133(6.93M).	04-07-2024	14,06,688	10-09-2024
10.	Mangal Singh Naruka, Mamta Devi	House -259, Goverdhan Dham-III, At Khori Road , Luniyawas, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 302019. Bounded by:- North:- plot no 260, East:- 30'-0" wide road, West:- Other's plot, South:- Plot no 258	04-07-2024	16,37,091	10-09-2024
11.	Md Mohidul gazi, rina bibi gazi, Sunita	Flat-MIG UGF-3, Plot No. D-26, Ganga Vihar, Upper Ground Floor, Rear Side, Plot No. D-26, Ganga Vihar, Village Sadullabad, Pragana & Tehsil Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201102. Bounded by - North by : Road 30 wide, East by : Plot No. D-27, West by : Plot No. D-25, South by : Others Plot.	04-07-2024	17,93,876	10-09-2024
12.	Nitin Goutam, Priyanka , Lekh Singh	House-Kh No 319, Khasra No.319, Village-Sihani Pargana-Loni Tehsil & Distt- Ghaziabad, U.P., Old Abadi in vill Sihani, Khasra No.319, Village-Sihani Pargana-Loni Tehsil & Distt-Ghaziabad U.P., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201003. Bounded by - North by : Other Plot, South by : property of Santosh, East by : 15 Feet wide Road, West by : Other Plot.	04-07-2024	9,04,572	10-09-2024
13.	Prakash Chand, Mukesh Kumar	Plot-48, Plot no.48, Scheme- Gun Sagar 1st, fatapura road, near JDA scheme, Vatika road, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 302029. Bounded by - East by : Road 30, West by : Plot No. 47, North by : Road 30, South by : Plot No. 49.	04-07-2024	8,19,131	10-09-2024
14.	Prashant Sharma, Vikas Sharma, Geeta Sharma	Plot- 25A, Plot No 25A, Khasra No 401, Plot No 25A, Khasra No 401, Village Rupwas, Dadr, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Up, GAUTAM BUDDH NAG, Uttar Pradesh, 203207. Bounded by - North by : Plot No. 10, East by : Plot No. 25, West by : Plot No. 24, South by : 20 Wide Road.	04-07-2024	10,20,574	10-09-2024
15.	Prem Chand Sharma, Ajay Kumar Sharma, Vishnu Kumar Sharma, 988	House-Plot No. 116, Shyam Vatika, At Gram-Heerapura, Luniyawas, Jaipur, Shyam Vatika At Gram-Heerapura, Luniyawas, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 303608. Bounded by - East by : Road 30, West by : Plot No. 123, North by : Plot No. 117, South by : Plot No. 115.	04-07-2024	15,42,751	10-09-2024
16.	RAJU, USHA .	HOUSE -KHASRA NO. 1806, PLOT NO. 345, KRISHNA ENCLAVE, VILLAGE DHOOM MANIKPUR, PARGANA & TEHSIL DADR, DISTT. GAUTAM BHUDDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH 203207. Bounded by - North:- Plot no 346, East:- Other's property, West:- Road 20 wide, South:- Plot no 344	04-07-2024	6,46,646	10-09-2024
17.	Ramkishan Gurjar, Krishna Devi Gurjar	Plot.NO - 148 , Scheme - Gokul Dham, Near Ring Road, At Village Khedi Gopalpura, Sangner, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 303905. Bounded by - North:- Plot no 149, East:- Plot no 137, West:- 30'0" Wide Road, South:- Plot no -147	04-07-2024	4,73,724	10-09-2024
18.	Sachin, Nitin Kumar, Akash Kumar	House-KhasraNo.331/3M, KhasraNo.331/3Min, Village Kachnal Gaji, Tehsil Kashipur, Udham Singh Nagar, Kashipur, Uttarakhand, 244713. Bounded by - East by : Road 18 feet wide, West by : Vacant Plot (Piyush), North by : Open Plot (Sudhir Kumar), South by : House of Vidhi Agarwal.	04-07-2024	4,40,795	10-09-2024
19.	Sanu , Savita Pathariya	Plot no.D-43 NP, Sanu , North Part of Plot No. D-43, Scheme Royal City, Machwa, Kalwar road, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 302012. Bounded by:- East:- Royal no D 30, West:- Road 30 Ft, North:- Plot no D 44, South:- Plot no D 43 South Part	04-07-2024	25,94,735	10-09-2024
20.	Shivam Chauhan, Vinesh Kumar, NIKHIL SANGWAN	Flat-SF 4, Second Floor ( Rear LHS ) PLOT NO. 272 & 273, KHASRA NO. 1529, BALAJI ENCLAVE COLONY, VILLAGE RAISPUR, PARGANA DASNA, DISTT. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201002. Bounded by - North by : Plot No. 271, East by : Road 20 feet, West by : Others Plot, South by : Others plot.	04-07-2024	7,45,533	10-09-2024
21.	SONU- HAJRA , SOHIL , RIJWAN .	PLOT NO. 45 & 46, BLOCK-B, KHASRA NO. 1342, SHIV VATIKA CITY-4, VILLAGE-DOOM MANIKPUR, PARGANA & TEHSIL- DADR, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH 203207. Bounded by:- North:- 17 Wide road, East:- Plot no 47, West:- Road 22 Wide, South:- Plot no 43 & 44	04-07-2024	12,65,730	10-09-2024
22.	Ujma, Arif .	Flat-Kh No 170 MIN, Raghunathpur, UJMA, Krishna Vatika Phase 1, Kh. 170 VIII, jalapur Raghath pur krishna vatika phase 1 modinagar ghaziabad, modinagar, Uttar Pradesh, 201204. Bounded by - North by : Plot of Anish, South by : Plot of Gulzar Ahmad, East by : Other Plot, West by : 16 Feet wide Road.	04-07-2024	14,31,670	10-09-2024
23.	Urmila , Aman .	Patta No. 9700, Misal No. 107/2022-23, Khasra No. 1795/988, Dabi, Rajasthan, 323022. Bounded by:- North:- Road, East:- House of Narayan Sundhiya, West:- House of Sunita Yadav, South:- House of Ravindra Yadav	04-07-2024	4,57,662	10-09-2024
24.	Vijay Prakash, Vikram Singh	House-654(D), narayan vihar 'O', Phase 05, at Asarpur/Ganpatpura/Bhankrota Ajmer road, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 302026. Bounded by - East by : Plot No. 665, West by : Road 30 feet wide, North by : Plot No. 653, South by : Plot No. 655.	04-07-2024	25,48,414	10-09-2024
25.	Virender Kumar, Veena Devi, Pooja Virender,	Flat-3rd Floor Plot No. 20, Rear Side with Roof Rights Property Bearing No. RZ-20, Gali No. 5, Khasra No. 290, West Sagarpur Colony, Village Nasirpur, New Delhi 110046	10-04-2022	16,56,851	09-09-2024

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower / Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned above.

The BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS and the PUBLIC IN GENERAL are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above referred Properties/Secured Assets or any part thereof and any dealing with the said Properties/Secured Assets shall be subject to charge of HOME FIRST FINANCE COMPANY INDIA LIMITED for the amount mentioned hereinabove against Properties/Secured Assets which is payable with the further interest thereon until payment in full.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of subsection (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset.

Place: NCR, Rajasthan  
Date: 15-09-2024

Authorised Officer,  
Home First Finance Company India Limited

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# 12 DECISION 2024

HARYANA • JAMMU & KASHMIR



## FIRST POLLS WITH ST-RESERVED SEATS

# Pahari-Gujjar divide in Jammu ST seats; BJP, INDIA play role reversal

While BJP is leaning on Pahari Hindus, Opposition bloc is banking on Pahari-Gujjar divisions

### MANOJ CG

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 14

AFTER THE abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, two significant political developments took place in Jammu and Kashmir. One, in a first such move, nine seats out of 90 were reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs) following delimitation in 2022. The second move came in February this year, when the BJP-led Centre took another gamble, granting ST status to four new communities including Pahari, thereby expanding the ST list of J&K, which already included the Gujjars and Bakarwals.

Of the nine ST seats, six are in the Jammu region – including five in the Rajouri-Poonch belt and one in neighbouring Reasi – and three in the Kashmir division. Gujjars and Bakarwals have a sizeable population in Rajouri and Poonch districts. In what was seen as an ambitious social engineering move, the BJP dispensation had earlier hoped to attract these two predominantly Muslim communities, which have an identity distinct from Kashmiri Muslims, to its side by ensuring representation to them through the reservation of seats. But the expansion of the ST list, in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls, has complicated matters ahead of Assembly elections.

The BJP's initial enthusiasm vis-a-vis Gujjars was not without reason. It had managed to get some prominent Gujjar leaders to its side, including Abdul Ghani Kohli, a former minister in the PDP-BJP government.

With several Gujjar-Bakarwal outfits having openly opposed the expansion of the ST list and vow-



A BJP rally in the Jammu region, which has six ST seats. Facebook

ing to vote against the BJP, which still managed to rope in some prominent Gujjar leaders while eyeing the support of Pahari, the fight for the six ST seats in the Pir Panjal region in the Jammu division is telling.

These contests also appear to defy the national trend. While the BJP is still hoping to attract some Gujjar-Bakarwal Muslim votes, the Opposition INDIA bloc is banking on a religious divide involving Gujjars-Bakarwals on one side and Pahari on the other.

In the 2014 polls, the then J&K state had for the first time in decades voted along communal and regional lines – the Jammu Hindu heartland voted for the BJP and the Kashmir Valley and Jammu's Muslim-majority belts sided with the NC and PDP.

The six ST seats at stake in the current polls are Rajouri, Budhal, Thannamandi, Surankote, Mendhar and Gulabgarh. The BJP could not win any in 2014. Two seats had gone to the PDP and Congress each and one to the NC.

Thannamandi is a newly created seat after delimitation.

Significantly, the first signs of Gujjar-Bakarwal consolidation came in the Lok Sabha elections when the NC's Mian Altaf Ahmed, a Gujjar face, won the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat.

In 2014, a hung verdict had led to the PDP-BJP forming a coalition government. But the BJP withdrew its support in 2018 following which J&K has been under the Central rule. In this election, INDIA allies NC and Congress are contesting together. Here is a look at how the contest is shaping in the six Jammu ST seats.

### Rajouri

In Rajouri, the BJP candidate is Vibodh Kumar Gupta, a Pahari Hindu. The Congress has fielded state party general secretary Iftikar Ahmed, a Pahari Muslim. The PDP has fielded Tasadiq Hussain, a Gujjar. There were two other Gujjars in the fray – BJP rebel and ex-MP Chowdhary Talib Hussain and former judge Zubair Ahmed

### RAJOURI-POONCH

6 TRIBAL SEATS



Raza, who have now withdrawn. The Congress is hoping for a religious polarisation, which, BJP insiders admit, could hurt Gupta.

### Surankote

The BJP's Surankote candidate is Mushtaq Ahmed Shah Bukhari, one of the leading lights of the Pahari reservation movement. A two-time MLA and ex-NC leader, Bukhari had come second in 2014. He left the NC to join the BJP ahead of the recent Lok Sabha elections. He had apparently fallen out with NC chief Feroz Khan Noon over the ST status for Pahari.

His Congress rival in the seat is Mohammed Shah Nawaz, a Gujjar. Another Gujjar leader and Congress rebel Ch Mohd Akram, who had won the seat on a Congress ticket in 2014, is contesting as an Independent. The PDP candidate is also a Gujjar. While the BJP hoping for a Pahari consolidation, the Congress is banking on Gujjars coming together.

### Thannamandi

In Thannamandi, it is a face-off between one Gujjar and three Pahari. The PDP candidate is Qamar Hussain, a Gujjar, who had won from Rajouri in 2014. The

other prominent candidates – the Congress's Mohd Shabir Khan and the BJP's Mohd Iqbal Malik besides an Independent – are all from the Pahari community. Here again, the Gujjar-Pahari divide is visible. BJP sources admit their candidate is on a weak wicket since there are three Pahari candidates. Even the Congress camp believes there could be a Gujjar consolidation in favour of the PDP.

### Mendhar

In Mendhar, the NC candidate is ex-MLA Javed Ahmed Rana, a Gujjar. His previous PDP opponent Mohd Mahroof Khan, who had come second, has joined the NC. The BJP's nominee is Murtaza Ahmed Khan, a Pahari. He was the Congress candidate last time. The PDP candidate is Nadeem Ahmed Khan, also a Pahari. A Gujjar leader Engineer Ishaq Chowdhary is in the fray as an Independent.

### Budhal

All the three main candidates in Budhal are Gujjars: the BJP's Chowdhary Zulfiqar Ali, a former minister and two-time MLA, the NC's Javid Iqbal Choudhary and the PDP's Guftar Ahmed Choudhary. Javid is the nephew of Zulfiqar, a renowned Gujjar leader. He had won the seat in 2008 and 2014 on the PDP ticket.

### Gulabgarh

In Gulabgarh, a Gujjar-dominated seat, the fight is between the NC's Engineer Khurshid Ahmed and former minister Aijaz Khan. The BJP's Mohd Akram Khan and the PDP's Mohd Farooq are also in the fray. All are Gujjar candidates. Aijaz is a three-time MLA and former Congress leader.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with senior BJP leaders at a rally in Kurukshetra on Saturday. Kamleshwar Singh

# 'Stage set for BJP hat-trick in Haryana': PM in Kurukshetra

### SUKHBIR SIWACH

KURUKSHETRA, SEPTEMBER 14

ADDRESSING HIS first rally in Haryana on Saturday ahead of the October 5 Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the people of the state to elect a BJP government for a third time.

In Kurukshetra, a key hub of the farmers' protests against the now-scrapped central farm laws during 2020-21, the PM highlighted the farmer-centric policies of the BJP-led governments in Haryana and at the Centre.

Expressing confidence about the BJP's victory in the polls, Modi said: "My Parliament colleague (Kurukshetra MP) Naveen (Jindal) ji was telling me that I should look at Haryana's 50-year history. There is a uniqueness – whichever government exists in Delhi, Haryana also forms the same government in the state... My political experience tells me that Haryana has decided to ensure a hat-trick of the BJP here."

Modi also took aim at the Opposition Congress and the factionalism within the party. "First, the Congress should take care of its internal Mahabharat (infighting). The manner in which the Congress is projecting and promoting one family (Hoodas), all of Haryana is watching."

The PM also challenged the Congress to implement pro-farmer policies in Telangana and Karnataka, where it is in power. "Look at what is happening in Karnataka. In some months of their tenure in Karnataka, there have been 1,200 suicides by farmers. The Congressmen should be

ashamed. You have committed a sin by spreading lies in the name of farmers," Modi said.

Accusing the Congress of being "anti-Dalit", Modi cited incidents that had occurred under the previous Congress governments in Haryana. "A Kand (atrocities) took place in Gohana in 2005, who can forget Mirchpur Kand of 2010 and what happened to Dalit daughters in 2014 – it sends shivers down the spine. At the time, CM (Bhupinder) Hooda ji, Congress ka shaahi parivaar (royal family), all had their lips sealed," he said.

The PM also alleged the Congress was out to end reservation. "(The Congress has) recently said if they come to power, they will abolish reservation for Dalits, backwards... The Congress should listen to my words that till Modi is in power, he won't let any loot from the Constitution of Babasaheb Ambedkar. This is Modi's guarantee," he said.

Modi also projected the BJP's record on creating jobs. "During the Congress's tenure, nobody was getting a job without *parchi* and *kharchi* (favouritism). The BJP government abolished this system (and) gave 1.5 lakh government jobs with transparency."

He also hit out at the Congress over its promise to restore the old pension scheme (OPS) for the government employees.

"The Congress's politics has become limited to false promises and false agenda tactics. Now, they have stopped talking about the OPS when their lies were caught. On the other hand, it is the BJP that has brought a new pension scheme that guarantees pensions for retirees," he said.

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WILL CPM RETURN TO HARYANA ASSEMBLY AFTER 37 YEARS?



# 'Want inclusive govt, be it NC, PDP, other local parties...': Jamaat in Zainapora fray

### NAVEEDIQBAL

ZAINAPORA (SHOPIAN), SEPTEMBER 14

IN FEBRUARY this year, police vehicles mounted with loudspeakers had announced across Jammu and Kashmir about the extension of the ban on the Jamaat-e-Islami for the next five years. On Saturday, the members of a key panel of the Jamaat-e-Islami – which was initially banned in 2019 under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) – held a rally for Independent Aijaz Ahmad Mir, 38, whom they are backing in Zainapora for the J&K polls.

Off the main road in the Zainapora town in South Kashmir, men and women of all age groups trickled into an open ground to attend the rally in the afternoon. Besides Mir, on the stage were some members of the Jamaat panel, which has been in talks with the Centre to get its ban lifted.

### VOTE SHARE (%) IN ZAINAPORA

Party	2024 LS
NC	43.03
PDP	32.00
Apni Party	11.20
DPAP	1.86

Note: The Zainapora seat was created after delimitation in 2022  
Source: Election Commission

Mir is a former People's Democratic Party (PDP) MLA from Zainapora, which was called Wachi prior to the 2022 delimitation. Last month, Mir quit the PDP after being denied a ticket and entered the fray as an Independent. A week later, he received support from the Jamaat panel, which is trying to script its re-entry into electoral politics after more than 30 years.

Addressing a gathering of about 800 people, Gull

Mohammad War, a member of the Jamaat panel, said, "Many geopolitical realities have changed. We want an inclusive government for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Whether that is NC, PDP, People's Conference (PC) or Engineer Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party (AIP). That is why we did not put up candidates in Bijbehara or Ganderbal." Iltija Mufti of the PDP and NC vice-president and ex-CM Omar Abdullah are contesting from Bijbehara and Ganderbal respectively.

Calling for lifting of the ban on the Jamaat and urging the Centre for a "dialogue", War said, "When blood was needed, we gave our blood. When jail was necessary, we went to jail. Now, this new state of affairs demands political reconciliation and resolution for the Kashmir issue."

Mir spoke of the Jamaat's influence in the area. "About 35% of the voters in this area are in some way influenced by the Jamaat," he claimed, adding that

the Jamaat vote that would go to the PDP in previous elections would "not happen this time".

Mehran Salim, who was present at the rally, said, "The importance of these elections is heightened by Jamaat's participation in it."

Maria Noor, 19, who will cast her first vote in this election, said, "We want to send a strong candidate to the Assembly. This is the first time elections are being held after 2019 (Article 370 abrogation). We want him to speak about it (Article 370)."

Amid slogans for the release of the jailed Jamaat leaders, Aijaz Mir ended his speech with an attack on the PDP. "The PDP denied me a ticket but I know I have the mandate of the people," he said.

A former sarpanch from the area, Mir, 38, won the Zainapora seat in 2014 on the PDP ticket, defeating the NC. This time, he is contesting against the PDP's Ghulam Muhiuddin Wani and the NC's Showkat Hussain Ganaie, among others in the fray.

### IMAGE OF THE DAY



Supporters during PM Narendra Modi's rally in Doda on Saturday ahead of the J&K Assembly elections. ANI

### KEY PLAYERS

### SUKHBIR SIWACH

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 14

IN JUNE, Union Home Minister Amit Shah proclaimed that Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini would lead the party into the Assembly elections. This effectively projected Saini as the party's CM candidate, a rare move for a party that seldom declares its CM face ahead of state polls.

However, this did not deter Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh's supporters from referring to him as the state's "bhaavi mukhyamantri (CM to be)". In election meetings addressed by Rao, his supporters also raised slogans referring to him as a probable CM candidate. Earlier this week, Rao went to Rewari along with the party's candidate from the seat, Laxman Yadav, where he told reporters, "This (dream of becom-

ing CM) is not mine but the wish of the public. It is still the wish of the public that I should become the CM: Had south Haryana not supported the BJP in 2014 and 2019, Manohar Lal Khattar would not have become CM twice."

Singh flexing his muscles and highlighting his importance to the party comes at a time when it is facing anti-incumbency and a resurgent Congress going into the Assembly elections. His supporters also believe he has been left shortchanged several times since he joined the party before the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. Though there was an influx of Congress heavyweights into the BJP following his entrance into the party – leaders such as Chaudhary Birender Singh and Dharambir Singh – and it is believed to have strengthened the BJP's prospects in the Assembly elections later that year, Singh lost out to Khattar

in the CM race. He was overlooked in 2019 too and when the party replaced Khattar with Saini this March. After the Narendra Modi government returned to power in June, Khattar was promoted to the Union Cabinet while Singh remained a Union Minister of State.

In an interview last year, Singh spoke of his CM ambitions. "There is no doubt that in our region (south Haryana) people have made and broken CMs. In 2014, the BJP would not have come to power had our people not come together... I harboured the ambition to become the CM and people shared these sentiments. When the government was formed, people felt that their leader was not chosen. But it was the party's decision," he said.

The Gurgaon MP's supporters claim he wields influence in at least 22 Assembly seats in the region, a claim the Congress strongly



Singh's supporters are referring to him as "CM to be". Express

disputes. Singh's supporters claim that the party has fielded at least eight candidates in the region on his recommendation. In addition to these seats, Rao's close associate Dharambir Singh, the Bhiwani-

Mahendragarh MP, said four to five tickets from his area should be seen as part of the Union Minister's quota. While five years ago the party refused to field Singh's daughter Aarti Rao, this

time she is contesting from Ateli that is part of the Bhiwani-Mahendragarh Lok Sabha seat.

The Union Minister's close aides said he was satisfied with the ticket allocation. His stock in the party has risen further because senior BJP leaders such as Ranjit Singh Chautala, the power minister, former Assembly Deputy Speaker Santosh Yadav, and former minister Karan Dev Kamboj left the party after being denied a ticket for the Assembly polls. Kurukshetra BJP MP Naveen Jindal's mother Savitri Jindal has filed her nomination papers as an Independent candidate from Hissar. Former state BJP chief Ram Bilas Sharma, who also comes from south Haryana, has also been left unhappy after being denied a ticket.

Though Rao Inderjit Singh himself has acknowledged the party leadership's decision to

project Saini as its poll face, his supporters have not given up hope. As Aarti Rao filed her nomination papers from Ateli, Dharambir Singh spoke of how in 1982 then Union Minister Bansi Lal had fielded his son Surender Singh in the Assembly elections so that it would be easy to vacate the seat and win it if he had an opportunity to become the CM. However, it was Bhajan Lal who succeeded in getting the top post back then. "For the first time, such a good chance is before us. This is not an election merely for the daughter (Aarti Rao)," Dharambir told the minister's supporters.

However, Rao Inderjit Singh's critics point out that he was not made the CM even when the BJP almost swept south Haryana. With a revitalised Congress and anti-incumbency big factors, repeating that performance looks unlikely, they add. "In 2019, the

BJP won 16 of the 22 seats in south Haryana but still Rao Inderjit Singh was not made the CM. This time, the Congress will win a majority of the seats, including in the south," said senior Congress leader Captain Ajay Singh.

Belonging to the erstwhile family that ruled the Ahirwal kingdom – spread over present-day Rewari, Mahendragarh, Gurgaon and parts of Bhiwani, Dadri, Nuh, Jhajjar and Alwar in Rajasthan – Rao is the son of former Haryana CM Rao Birender Singh. Born in Rampura, Singh graduated from Delhi University's Hindu College and went on to get a Law degree before joining politics at the age of 26. He made his Assembly poll debut from Rewari's Jatana on the ticket of the Vishal Haryana Party founded by his father Rao Birender, which merged with the Congress in 1978.

# 13 GOVT & POLITICS

## With chants of 'comrade ko lal salaam', Sitaram Yechury gets a final farewell

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

FISTS RAISED in final salute to their — and several others — comrade, hundreds marched over 2 km through New Delhi on Saturday afternoon to bid adieu to CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury.

Yechury's mortal remains were carried in an ambulance from the CPI(M) headquarters at AKG Bhawan, where they were kept for public viewing, to Ashoka Road in a procession, with his friends, party workers, and students sustaining a relentless chorus of 'comrade Sitaram ko lal salaam' — one hoarse voice in the crowd piping down only for the cry to be picked up swiftly by another.

Much like some of New Delhi's roundabouts on Saturday afternoon, white tents raised in front of AKG Bhawan rang with cries of 'red salute to comrade' earlier in the day, where Yechury's family, his friends, the CPI(M) leadership, students, academics, leaders of other political parties, and representatives of foreign embassies gathered to pay their last respects.

AAP leaders including Manish Sisodia and Raghav Chadha, Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, Udhayanidhi Stalin of the DMK, and former Vice President Hamid Ansari were among those who arrived to pay their respects, as did the ambassadors of China, Palestine, and Vietnam, along with representatives of the embassies of Russia and Cuba.

Those in the CPI(M), who have known Yechury from their



BJP chief J P Nadda, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and (right) Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and other party leaders pay tribute to Sitaram Yechury at his residence in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI & Express

own time in student politics, remembered him for his guidance. M B Rajesh, minister in the Kerala government, said, "Since my SFI days, he was a leader who inspired us. Our slogan was 'study and struggle' and our SFI leaders would talk of Sitaram and Prakash (Karat) and how they worked towards it, along with his fight against the Emergency. When I became state secretary of the Kerala SFI, I came in contact with him. When we were in Parliament, I had his guidance... he was in the Rajya Sabha and I was in the Lok Sabha..."

"He would teach us how something is to be seen through a Marxist lens... not just politics, but other problems too. He always knew more than any of us no matter what the subject. He came home to Palakkad once for dinner, where there was puttu. Sitaram drew a Portuguese connection to the puttu, and how it

was something Portuguese soldiers made to prepare a meal quickly," he said.

"I used to translate for him when he used to come to Kerala for rallies. He was a favourite and extremely friendly, both within the party and outside," Rajesh said. "After a literary festival once, we stepped out to drink coffee, and I realised he liked his coffee strong and his cigarettes were the most bitter. But he was the opposite... he had a good sense of humour both in public meetings and in person, and he could connect with people very easily."

Former Rajya Sabha member and now minister in the Kerala government, P Rajeev, said, "I had worked with him when we were in the Rajya Sabha. It will be difficult to find another leader like him, who could find acceptance irrespective of political affiliations. Party leaders would seek out Sitaram to help bring everybody on a common plat-

form. To bring different sides together and arrive at a consensus, he was important. He upheld democracy even within the party, and could untangle the knots of any problem with grace. He could explain the same things to a whole range of people; nobody else had such a connect. He bid goodbye at a time when he was crucial, to the country and to the Left."

Students from the SFI who gathered to pay their respects to him said Yechury's presence was something they had been able to count on. Sanam Husain, PhD student and unit secretary of the SFI at Jamia Millia Islamia, said, "We have lost not just a political leader, but the leader of a student movement. When we would go to a place, we would look at Sitaram Yechury and go 'okay, comrade Yechury is there'. Student politics has this legacy now and Sitaram Yechury was a pioneer of that legacy."

Rajya Sabha MP V Sivadasan also recalled turning to Yechury during his time in student politics. "From my time in student politics onwards, I have had the opportunity of being associated with Sitaram. Once, after a protest, we were jailed and Sitaram came to check on us and welcomed us when we were released, boosting our enthusiasm. He was somebody we could approach with our questions... somebody we could lean on, and a guiding light on our path," he said.

Former DU professor G N Saibaba told reporters outside AKG Bhawan, "When I was arrested in 2014, Yechury and his comrades stood with me and my family... it is a loss for me, the entire country, and the communist movement."

After the procession concluded at Ashoka Road, Yechury's body was donated to AIIMS later on Saturday.

## Gyanvapi not mosque, it is Lord Vishwanath himself, says CM Yogi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 14

AT A time when the battle over claims to the disputed site in Varanasi is being fought in court rooms, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said Saturday that Gyanvapi, which "people unfortunately call a masjid", is in fact Lord Vishwanath himself.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of an international seminar on 'Contribution of Nathpanth in the Creation of a Harmonious Society' at the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University. Yogi Adityanath follows the Nath sect and is also the head priest of the Gorakhnath Math.

Elaborating on the tradition of saints and sages, Adityanath described it as a force that unites the society and the nation. He spoke in detail about Adi Shankar who was born in Kerala and established spiritual centres in all four corners of the country.

"When Adi Shankar arrived in Kashi, Lord Vishwanath sought to test him. As Adi Shankar went to bathe in the Ganga during Brahma Muhurta, Lord Vishwanath appeared before him disguised as an untouchable. When Adi Shankar asked him to step aside, Lord Vishwanath, still in that form, said to him, 'If you are truly full of advaita knowledge, you should not see only the physical body. If Brahma is the ultimate



Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath. File

truth, then I possess the same Brahma as you," he said.

According to the CM, when a stunned Adi Shankar asked him who he was, he replied, "jis Gyanvapi ki saadhna ke liye - durbhagya se us Gyanvapi ko aaj log dusre shabdon mein masjid kehate hain lekin woh Gyanvapi saakshaat Vishwanath hi hain - jis Gyanvapi ki upasana ke liye aap chah kar yahan aaye hain, main uska saakshaat swaroop Vishwanath hoon (The Gyanvapi for whose worship you have come here - unfortunately people today call it a mosque, but Gyanvapi is Lord Vishwanath himself - I am its embodiment.)"

"Our saints and sages have consistently emphasised that untouchability is not only a barrier to spiritual practice but also an obstacle to national unity and integrity," he said.

Adityanath said if more attention had been given to eliminating untouchability, the country might never have been enslaved. "The tradition of saints never prioritised untouchability

within society, and this is also the ethos of the Nathpanth. The Nathpanth respects all castes, sects, religions, and regions, striving to bring everyone together."

He said the Nath sect, on the one hand, focuses on spiritual elevation through physical purification, while on the other, makes efforts to unify every section of society.

He referred to Maharashtra as a state that maintains a tradition of reading Navnaths similar to the Ramcharitmanas, and predicted that the Nathpanth tradition would continue to expand in Punjab, Sindh, Tripura, Assam, Bengal, and even to Nepal, Bangladesh, Tibet, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

He suggested that the Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath Shodhpeth at Gorakhpur University lead the efforts to create a museum to document and store Nathpanth traditions.

Speaking on Hindi Diwas, he emphasised that Hindi is a practical language for uniting the country and is derived from Sanskrit, the language of the Gods. He referenced Bharatendu Harishchandra's concept of Nij Bhasha Unnati, noting that his passion for the language continues to inspire people.

"If our language and sentiments are not our own, progress will be hindered at every level," he said, commending the Central government for promoting Hindi both in India and globally over the past decade.

## Assaulted by Rahul's team in US after question to Pitroda over Bangladesh Hindus: Journalist

Not aware of the incident, will look into it, says Pitroda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

AN *India Today* journalist has alleged he was assaulted by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's team in the US after he asked Indian Overseas Congress (IOC) chairperson Sam Pitroda if Gandhi would be raising the issue of Bangladeshi Hindus during his four-day visit to the country.

The journalist, Rohit Sharma, also alleged that members of Gandhi's team seized his phone and forced him to delete the recording of the interview with Pitroda. Pitroda said he "was not aware of the incident" but added he will look into it.

According to Sharma, who lives in Washington DC, the alleged incident took place on September 7 at Pitroda's villa in Dallas where "around 30 people, some of whom had flown in from India, others from the IOC USA... were eagerly awaiting Rahul Gandhi's arrival at DFW International Airport".

Narrating the incident, which he described as a "nightmare", on the *India Today* website, Sharma, said his interview with Pitroda was "smooth" until the last question "changed everything". According to his piece, Sharma asked Pitroda, "Will Rahul Gandhi raise the issue of

## PM: India's son faced cruelty in US

New Delhi: Attacking the Congress over the alleged assault of a journalist in US, PM Narendra Modi said the "word Constitution does not suit" the party. "...On American soil, an Indian son, and that too a journalist who works for the Constitution, was locked in a room, and the way he was

treated... Are you improving Indian prestige by beating up an Indian journalist on American soil?" PM said in Doda. "The word Constitution does not suit you. Brothers and sisters, you have to be very careful of Congress's false promises. What it does, and the kind of government it runs." ENS

Hindus being killed in Bangladesh during his meetings with US lawmakers?"

"Before Sam could fully answer — beginning with, 'It's up to Rahul and the lawmakers to decide what's relevant, I can't speak on their behalf but...' — chaos erupted. One person in the room yelled that the question was 'controversial' and others joined in... Then, a member of Rahul's advance team seized my phone and began shouting... Stop it! Stop the interview!", he wrote.

He alleged that, "One individual tried to grab my mic, but I resisted. They managed to stop the recording by forcibly taking my phone. Amid the commotion, Sam (Pitroda) was whisked away to the airport to meet Rahul Gandhi."

According to Sharma, "at least 15 men remained in the room, demanding I delete the last ques-

tion from the interview".

"Desperate to ensure no trace of the interview remained, they even checked my iCloud..." Sharma alleged, adding that he later sent a message to Pitroda to tell him about the incident. "He suggested we could record another interview the next day. But unsurprisingly, it never happened," Sharma wrote.

According to Sharma, "while Rahul later spoke to members of the American press about how the freedom of journalism had shrunk under India's current government, his team was busy silencing me."

Speaking to *India Today* on Friday, Pitroda said: "I wasn't there. I do know I gave an interview to Rohit Sharma. He was very pleasant and we had a decent conversation. And I am not aware of it. If something happened, I will look into it. I will follow up."



Union Home Minister Amit Shah inspects a stall during the launch of Indian Language Section of the Official Language Department at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

## Hindi sakhi of all Indian languages, complement each other, says Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

UNION HOME MINISTER Amit Shah Saturday said that there is harmony between Hindi and other Indian languages as they complement each other to boost India's cultural outlook.

Addressing the fourth Akhil Bhartiya Rajbhasha Sammelan on Hindi Diwas, Shah said the promotion of Hindi cannot happen until all other Indian languages are strengthened and the official language establishes a dialogue with all of them.

"Our country is not a geopolitical, but a geo-cultural country

and the link that connects our country is culture... There can never be a competition between Hindi and other Indian languages as they are friends and complement each other," he said.

Shah said the Centre is working towards the use of Hindi in education, technical education, and the judiciary.

"Rajasthan, UP, MP and Uttarakhand have today made the entire curriculum of medical education in Hindi and work is underway to prepare engineering curriculum in about 13 languages of India in the coming days," he added.

Shah said the Hindi Diwas

this year is very important for everyone because, on September 14, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India accepted Hindi as the official language of the Union.

"Hindi has seen many ups and downs in 75 years but at this juncture, I can definitely say that Hindi has no competition with any local language. Hindi is a friend (sakhi) of all Indian languages and they complement each other," he said.

Shah said the Hindi Diwas is an occasion to take a pledge to make Hindi a communication language, a common language, a technical language and now an international language.

## Always 'the other SP bahu', Aparna's wait for role in BJP continues

MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 14

SEVEN YEARS of wait, two elections with no ticket, and a high-wattage party change — Aparna Yadav a.k.a the "choti bahu" of the late Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav could be forgiven for thinking she has paid her dues. Apparently, not yet.

On September 11, the 34-year-old finally, and by all accounts reluctantly, took charge as Vice-Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh Women Commission after holding out for six days for a better position in the BJP dispensation. Aparna joined a day after she met UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, with whom she is

believed to have a good equation as both are Thakurs originally from neighbouring Uttarakhand.

Refuting reports that she was "unhappy", Aparna did not miss the chance to hint at her status two years after moving from her in-laws' SP to the BJP. She was like "Eklavya", Aparna said, "without any work", and now that she had a "direction", would get going like "Arjun". In the epic Mahabharata, Eklavya is an archer with skills to match the legendary Pandava, with Arjun also celebrated for his focus.

While adding that she had every right to raise her point of view, Aparna said there was no logic in talking about the issue now. And though she went on to thank the party leadership, it was with a reference to Prime Minister



Took charge as Vice Chair of UP Women Commission on Sept 11

Narendra Modi as "Parashuram". In Hindu mythology, Parashuram is the god who killed many Kshatriya (Thakurs identify themselves as Kshatriyas) warriors.

As compared to her sister-in-law Dimple Yadav, the wife of Mulayam's political heir and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who is seen as the reluctant politician, Aparna is the "ambitious" one. With her husband and Mulayam's younger son Prateek not interested in politics, Aparna first emerged on the horizon

three years into her marriage, when she shared the dais with Mulayam at the SP's National Executive in 2014.

When the UP Assembly elections came around three years later, the SP fielded Aparna from Lucknow Cantonment, a BJP bastion. Mulayam is believed to have stepped in to get her a ticket after Akhilesh, by then the incumbent CM and in control of the SP, showed reluctance. Akhilesh did not turn up to campaign for her, though Mulayam and Dimple pitched in.

However, those were the UP polls that the BJP swept, bringing Adityanath to power. Aparna lost by 33,796 votes.

Pushed gradually to the SP sidelines after that, particularly as an ailing Mulayam receded into

the background, Aparna made a return to the headlines close to the 2022 Assembly elections when she kept putting up social media posts praising PM Modi, or supporting the BJP's anti-cow slaughter campaign, and when she dropped in at Gorakshanath Peeth in Gorakhpur, headed by Adityanath. Just before the Assembly polls, Aparna finally took the plunge and joined the BJP. Given her association with the SP first family, it was a big psychological boost for the BJP.

However, two years later, Aparna's future remains uncertain — the BJP did not give her a ticket in either the 2022 Assembly elections or the 2024 Lok Sabha polls; nor has she been given any significant responsibility in either the cadre or the gov-

ernment. And then, while the Adityanath government named Aparna to the UP Women's Commission, it was as vice-chairperson, with the chairmanship going to senior BJP leader Babita Chauhan.

Sources say Aparna has been placated with the promise of a "greater responsibility" soon.

Asked about her, BJP leaders are generous, crediting her for leadership qualities but saying everyone has to follow a "system" in the party. "Though she holds no posts, she is always ready to meet workers, especially women, and raise their issues. She is also very active in the Mahila Morcha. It is just that she is quite young and there is a system within the party. She will grow but in due course of time," a woman BJP leader said.

## 4-time Rajasthan Cong MLA Zubair Khan dies

HAMZ KHAN  
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 14

ZUBAIR KHAN, a four-term Congress MLA from Alwar's Ramgarh seat, died Saturday morning in Alwar. He was 62.

In a statement on X, Khan's wife, Shafia Zubair, a former MLA herself, said: "It is with sadness that we have to inform you all that respected Zubair Khan ji has passed away. Zubair ji breathed his last today (14 September 2024) at 5:50 am. Khan had been unwell for some time.

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, former CM Ashok Gehlot and others expressed condolence on Khan's demise.



The former MLA had been unwell for some time

In 1990, he was elected as an MLA for the first time after he won Ramgarh.

He retained this seat in 1993, and was made the Deputy Chief Whip in the first Ashok Gehlot government. He lost the seat in 1998.

In 2003, he was elected for a third term from Ramgarh. He lost the Assembly election in 2008, 2013, and in 2018. He won from the seat again in 2023.

# 14 EXPRESS NETWORK

## JUNIOR DOCTOR'S RAPE-MURDER

### CBI arrests R G Kar former principal, inspector over 'evidence tampering'



Tala police station officer-in-charge Abhijit Mondol after being arrested by the CBI in Kolkata on Saturday. PTI

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA  
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 14

THE CBI Saturday arrested Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, as well as a police inspector in connection with the case of the rape and murder of a junior doctor at the institute.

The CBI alleged they were involved in disturbing the crime scene, tampering with evidence, violating official rules, criminal conspiracy and misleading investigators.

The central agency had arrested Ghosh, 53, in a case related to corruption at the hospital on September 2. He is currently in prison.

The inspector — Abhijit Mondol of Tala police station — was summoned for interrogation by the CBI on Saturday. The agency arrested him after seven hours of questioning.

Earlier, Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer attached with the Kolkata Police was arrested and charged with the rape and murder. The junior doctor's body was found in a hospital seminar room on August 9, an incident that triggered widespread anger.

According to CBI sources, Mondol could not provide proper answers on his role after

the body of the junior doctor was discovered.

As an officer-in-charge of the Tala police station, under whose jurisdiction the hospital fell, he was allegedly found to be tampering with the crime scene.

He also allegedly delayed filing an FIR. After being arrested, he was taken to a hospital for a medical check-up.

According to CBI sources, the role of both the ex-principal and the doctor was under scrutiny. Sources said the investigation found both flouted rules and tried to tamper with evidence.

Ghosh and Mondol will be produced before the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate court in Sealdah tomorrow. The court has also told the Presidency central jail to produce Ghosh before it on September 15.

Agitating junior doctors as well as the family members of the victim have accused Ghosh as well as police officials of trying to hush up the incident.

One of the demands of agitating junior doctors has been the resignation or suspension of Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal.

Apart from Ghosh, vendors Biplav Singha and Sumon Hazra, and Afsar Ali Khan, additional security to Ghosh, have been arrested.

## 3 militants killed in Baramulla encounter

BASHAARAT MASOOD  
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 14

THREE UNIDENTIFIED militants were killed in a gunfight in Kreeeri in North Kashmir's Baramulla Saturday in an operation that the Army termed as a "significant success" and a "major disruption of Pakistan's nefarious designs" ahead of the Assembly polls.

A joint team of J&K Police, the Army and paramilitary forces launched a cordon and search operation at Kreeeri's Chak-e-Tapper village Friday based on specific intelligence inputs pointing to the presence of militants in the area.

As the team were cordoning off the area, the militants opened fire, which prompted the security team to retaliate. Brigadier Sanjay Kanoth, commander of Army's 10 Sector Rashtriya Rifles, said at a press briefing.

"For some time, we have been

receiving inputs about the movement of unidentified terrorists in the general area of Kreeeri. Yesterday on 13th September, we received a specific intelligence input about the movement of some unidentified terrorist in Chak-e-Tapper," the officer said.

A joint team of the Army, the J&K Police and its SOG and the SSB was dispatched, he said.

"When our parties and columns were in the process of establishing a cordon, (the) terrorists hiding in a disused building opened a heavy volume of fire," he said. "They continued to open a heavy volume of fire throughout the night." The operation continued into morning when the troops "in a professional manner engaged the terrorists and neutralised them," he said, adding "war like stores" were recovered. According to Kanoth, the operation "assumes significance" as J&K is bracing for polls.

## Promised scheme that helped BJP win Odisha to be launched on PM's birthday

SUJIT BISOIYI  
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT 14

SUMATI ROUT (57) and two of her neighbours have queued up at a seva kendra at Ganjam's Sahaspur village. It's 11:20 pm on Monday night, but that hasn't prevented a long line forming in front of the centre.

Route and her neighbours have come to register under the BJP's promised Subhadra Yojana. Scheduled to be launched by PM Narendra Modi on his birthday on September 17, the proposed scheme aims at providing women with yearly financial assistance of ₹10,000 in two instalments.

According to Deputy CM Pravati Parida, as of Saturday, about 50 lakh women had already registered under the scheme.

With its launch fast approaching, seva kendras are swamped with requests to enrol.

"I tried to enrol during the day at two other common service centres but couldn't because of long queues. I heard enrolment was also done at night at this centre, which is why I came,"

Route tells *The Indian Express*. Parida's has clarified that there was no fixed deadline for enrolment and it would continue "until the last beneficiary submits her applications". However, people continue to queue up at the centres, sometimes even choosing to stay overnight to register early next day.

At Sahaspur seva kendra, 33-year-old Aarti Pati hopes to enrol soon. "We know there is no deadline but we'll lose one instalment if we don't enrol now.



Women wait outside a seva kendra at Sahaspur to enrol under the Subhadra Yojana. Express

Route tells *The Indian Express*.

That's why we have decided to turn up at night," says Pati. Through the scheme, the BJP hopes to cover over 1 crore women aged between 21 and 60, with the Mohan Majhi government earmarking ₹10,000 crore for the purpose. A key electoral promise by the government, the scheme is said to have played a crucial role in dislodging the Naveen Patnaik government by targeting his BJD's core voter base — women.

The BJD owed a considerable portion of this base to its Mission

Shakti scheme, an integrated women empowerment programme that aimed at providing various assistance to women.

According to Jayant Mohapatra, a retired professor of political science at Odisha's Berhampur University, "Since the promise of the scheme helped BJP dent BJD's women vote bank, BJP is trying to ensure proper implementation by covering maximum possible beneficiaries."

Government sources claim that the PM himself will kick off the money transfers by sending it to a select group of beneficiaries on the day of the launch.

But long queues and poor internet connections have been slowing down the enrolment process, and problems such as incomplete Aadhaar details are also cropping up.

"As Aadhaar-based e-KYC is mandatory for enrolment, issues like unclear photographs (affecting facial authentication), biometric failures (fingerprint issues), or OTP challenges (due to mobile number not being linked with Aadhaar) are emerging during e-KYC process of enrolment. Many people are coming

up to update their Aadhaar details," one official says.

At a service centre in Raghunathpur on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Jyotsharani Mangaraj (44) enrolled after three days of running around. "Huge rush and poor connections were major hurdles but I managed to submit my application because I came in at 5 am," she says.

BJD leader Pramila Mallik criticised the Majhi government for providing a "meagre" ₹5,000 for six months. "The BJP in its election manifesto committed that they will give ₹50,000 to every woman in the state... Besides, the women cannot be self-sufficient with ₹5,000 assistance," she tells *The Indian Express*.

However, women say the scheme would benefit them as much as Mission Shakti. At Raghunathpur seva kendra, 29-year-old Lalita Nayak is waiting to get her Aadhaar linked with her bank account — a mandate under the Yojana. "I'm part of an SHG now under the Mission Shakti programme... and earn ₹2,000 per month. The Subhadra money will further boost our confidence," she says.

## Centre raises import duty on edible oils

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

DAYS AFTER allowing soybean procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP), the Centre has increased import duties on edible oils. The Ministry of Finance issued a notification to this effect Friday.

Praising recent agricultural policy decisions — including lifting of export curbs on onions and Basmati rice — by his Government, PM Narendra Modi said these will "greatly benefit" farmers. "Whether it is reducing the export duty on onions or increasing the import duty on edible oils, many such decisions are going to greatly benefit our food producers. While these will increase their income, employment opportunities will also increase in rural areas," the PM wrote.

In a statement, Union Minister of Agriculture Shivraj Singh

Chouhan said the Government had taken a decision to "increase import duty on edible oils from 0% to 20%". Upon adding other components, the total effective duty will be 27.5%, Chouhan said.

The decision comes at a time when prices of soybean, the leading source of edible oils, are reported below the MSP. The other two are sunflower and palm oil. Last week, the government allowed procurement of soybean at MSP in four states — Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana. Maharashtra, the country's second largest producer of soybean, is set for polls later this year.

Friday, the Centre also removed the \$550 per metric tonne minimum export price for onions "with immediate effect" as well as reduced the export duty from 40% to 20%. The \$950 MEP condition for issuing registration-cum-allocation certificates for Basmati rice was also removed.

## 'A NEW MEMBER'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with 'Deepjyoti', a calf born at his official residence in New Delhi, on Saturday. 'A new member at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg! Deepjyoti is truly adorable,' said PM Modi in a post on X. PTI

## Follow example of Union MoS Naik, withdraw Goa land use applications: AAP to politicians, VIPs

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA  
PANAJI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE AAP in Goa has appealed to "influential people and VIPs", including politicians and their associates, who are alleged beneficiaries of a contentious change in land use. According to the investigation, the TCP department approved change in land use for at least 20 lakh sqm of land over the past 18 months, converting "green zones" into "settlements" — allowing construction activity for both residential and commercial purposes, pushing up the land's value manifold.

Shripad Naik, MoS for Power and New and Renewable Energy, had said Friday he is "ready to withdraw" his application if "any kind of illegalities are found." Or,

if the provision under section 17 (2) of the TCP Act "is found illegal or if any discrepancy is found in the procedure".

AAP released a list of 10 alleged beneficiaries (people and firms), of which six names were mentioned by *The Indian Express* — a firm that has TCP Minister Vishwajit Rane and his spouse as directors, Environment Minister Aleixo Sequeira, BJP MLA Pravin Arlekar and former Navelim MLA Avertano Furtado of the Congress.

AAP MLA Venzy Viegas said he welcomed Naik's statement and called on "VIPs" on the list, "including ministers, MLAs and

their associates" to follow his lead and "give up their approvals for land conversion".

Stating that "it was a matter of concern that legislators are involved in land zone changes", Viegas said, "Follow his (Naik's) footsteps. I am only expressing my open request to all to withdraw their applications filed under section 17 (2) and section 39 (A) of the TCP Act and Goans at large will bless you."

Viegas said the total land proposed for conversion to settlement by those among the beneficiaries amounted to over 1.3 lakh sq m. "These are not small numbers. If the BJP government

continues to allow this, Goa's future is at stake," he said.

AAP state vice-president Ramrao Wagh said the rampant conversion of land in Goa over the past four-five years is "nothing short of a sell-out".

Giriraj Pai Vernekar, state spokesperson, BJP Goa, said, "AAP Goa should refrain from giving sermons to BJP — a party trusted by the people... Regarding land conversions, the CM has clearly stated any violations will be dealt with strictly. If AAP has any evidence of wrongdoing, they should bring it forward, instead of resorting to baseless allegations."

## In Kerala, rap song captures hearts and an obsession: 'Let's go play football'

SANDIP G  
KOCHI, SEPTEMBER 14

A BOY with an unbuttoned shirt sits brooding on a step, his hand drawing patterns and positions on an imaginary football field. A young cyclist in a crumpled shirt and striped lungi, a towel wrapped around his head like a headband, stops and asks him: "Ummante kuttynde morentha vaadan, panthalchaan poovam (Why is mama's boy downcast? Let's go play football!)"

A pair of mud-caked football boots is tied to the cycle handle. The boy smiles and jumps onto the crossbar, and the two wobble along the rustic landscape.

Like a game of football that starts on a frenetic end-to-end note, the opening lines set the pace for the genre-blending *Panthalchant* — a collaboration of styles and confluence of Kerala's most popular hip-hop

and rap artists Dabzee, Baby Jean and Joker, and orchestrated by director-lyricist-singer Muhsin Parari, all from the football-crazed Malappuram district.

Within a week of its release, the third instalment from the album *Muriginals*, it crossed a million views on YouTube and twice as many on Spotify. The song spills out of the speakers from football fields and cafes to pubs and FM stations, an extension of Malayalis' changing music sensibilities and the proliferation of hip-hop into the state's mainstream pop culture.

The spontaneous success amuses Parari, who co-scripted the stirring tale of a family tending to an injured Nigerian sevens footballer in *Sudani From Nigeria*, among other movies. In that sense, *Panthalchant* was one of the simplest yet most fulfilling concepts he and his group had conceived.

"Both football and music are

so much ingrained in us that it was a matter of me casually floating the idea to Dabzee and Co and then setting the lyrics in little time. It's an authentic reflection of the passion we have for the sport, conveyed through the song," Parari says.

The football field — be it the caged turf enclosures that have sprung up across the Malabar countryside or the unkempt maidans — is a metaphor of their life, he says. "I take my son to the field, my father had taken me, his father had taken him. So is music, passed on from generations. Everyone who has worked for the song still plays football and is mad about the game," he says.

Over the next four minutes, the hip-hop virtuosos take you on a ride through the football heartland of Kerala, acquainting the audience with subtle cultural, linguistic and social textures and traditions of Malappuram, striking an emo-



Rapper Dabzee in a still from *Panthalchant*

tional chord for even those unacquainted with the deeply colloquial dialects and its regional undertones.

Several layers are knitted intricately and imperceptibly around the premise of football. The frames — more like a bundle of interlaced snapshots — capture football in the villages of

Malabar with all its grandeur and splendour, igniting nostalgia. The shimmering moist re-dearth, the ragged football, the counterfeited overlarge jerseys that proudly bearing the names of football's elites, the Lionel Messi-like skyward-prayer celebration after scoring a goal, the rumbling lines in the backdrop

"manathu nokeet ummane orkum (gazing skywards and remembering mother's strength)", teenagers walking along a ridge bouncing the football off the heads, street-side acrobats, and bust-ups in a pond with neck-high water.

The three singers bring distinct flavours to the song. Dabzee, originally Mohammed Fasil, who swapped a career in marketing in the Middle East for his passion music, injects emotion into the song. He is the youth on the cycle, later he mumbles football when lying on the surgeon's table. He fuses the rhythmic riffs and rhyme scheme of Mappilappattu (folklore Muslim songs), harnessing the elasticity of a flexible dialect with the spunk of hip-hop. Parari puts this in context: "I think Mappilappattu is a natural body for rap. In rap, you put in a lot of syllables in short sentences. It is the same in

Mappilappattu. It was just a matter of them finding each other."

Like a winger that pounces from the flanks, enters Baby Jean, originally Habish Rahman. He brims with energy, twists short and snappy verse, with a playful turn of phrase and word-play, the pace of rendition as fast as a peak Ronaldinho slalomming past a battalion of burly centre-backs. He breathlessly rattles out, with dazzling interior rhyme schemes: "Nurukka pojinjo, keesal edthoo, begam paanja sub irikenda (wrap the snack, squeeze it into the pocket, if you go fast, you wouldn't end up as the sub)." One of the youngest of the lot, at 23, he has produced a slew of hits, most notably *Bandana* and *Thalakkanam*.

The third, Joker aka Fazeen Rashid, improvises, like an ingenious forward providing a back-heeled assist, seamlessly mixing English and Malayalam

## Jharkhand: Man succumbs after physical test for excise constable, 13 deaths so far

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, SEPTEMBER 14

A 21-YEAR-old man died Saturday, two days after collapsing during the physical assessment test for Jharkhand Excise Constable recruitment in East Singhbhum district. This took the number of candidates who have died during the gruelling physical tests since August 22 this year to 13.

The physical tests, overseen by the Jharkhand Police, are the first step of the recruitment drive. Candidates who complete the run in 60 minutes can take the written test, and go through a medical test before being recruited.

Official sources said the deceased has been identified as Maramulla Maraya, a resident of Jamshepur. He was referred to the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences Ranchi Thursday.

Excise Department Secretary Manoj Kumar said: "One more person has died. We are waiting for the report. Preliminary report on the deaths of 12 people states that the aspirants lacked practice among others."

Deputy Medical Superintendent RIMS Rajiv Ranjan told *The Indian Express*: "Patient was admitted after he had collapsed during the run. His blood pressure was very low and pulse rate high and there was fluid in the chest. The patient was gasping for breath so we had to put him on an invasive ventilator. Later it was also found he had acute kidney injury, which could be due to several reasons. The exact cause of death will be known only after the autopsy."

## Ban meat, liquor consumption in holy towns along Narmada: MP CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 14

MADHYA PRADESH CM Mohan Yadav Saturday announced a ban on meat and liquor consumption around religious towns and sites along the banks of the Narmada River.

In a Cabinet meeting this week, Yadav emphasised importance of maintaining cultural and religious integrity of the Narmada, which stretches across 1,312 km, flowing from its origin in Amarkantak to the Gulf of Khambhat.

He ordered the state administration should ensure that no settlements or commercial activities near the river's sacred sites allow the sale or consumption of meat and liquor. "The Narmada is not just a river but the cultural heritage of our state," Yadav said. "Its sanctity must be preserved, and we will take strict action to ensure this."

"Narmada River is a centre of devotion, faith, and reverence for the people of the state. In a consumer-driven lifestyle, the damage done to nature and the environment has adversely affected rivers and other water sources, making it essential to save them from these impacts," Yadav said.

The move comes as officials plan to develop the Narmada Parikrama, a spiritual pilgrimage around the river, into a major religious tourism attraction.

words in his verse, offering the sort of terrace talk commentary you listen during the game. For instance he sings: "And I just dribbled him past, pinne post-ka thooki." I dribbled past him and swung my foot towards the post.

Hereon, like the endgame of an intense game, the song assumes a furious tenor, pushes and tackles flying, shots and boots whizzing, and ends with the eternal regret of a footballer after a missed goal scoring chance: "Passitudainho, passitudainho... You should have passed..."

Parari says: "It's a universal football experience. Every line is relatable, every visual is what we have seen and experienced. This is our life." One day, everyone had been that boy in an unbuttoned shirt, drawing patterns on an imaginary ground with a chalk, waiting for an elder brother to drag him to his field of dreams.

# SP MLA, wife booked for child trafficking, bonded labour

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 14

BHADOLI POLICE have booked SP MLA Zahid Beg and his wife on charges of child trafficking, violations of Juvenile Justice Act and Bonded Labour Act nearly a week after a 17-year-old girl was found hanging in a storeroom of the MLA's house.

Police said a team visited the Bhadohi Sadar MLA's house on September 9 and found the body of the girl hanging inside a storeroom. During probe police learnt

that the girl worked as a domestic help in the MLA's household. On September 10, a team of district police and officials, including members of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), the district probation officer, and the labour officer, raided the MLA's house and found a 15-year-old girl.

In her statement, the girl said she had been working as a help at the MLA's house for the past two years. The other girl also worked as a house help, and they shared the same room. She also said she was not paid, while the other girl received ₹1,000 monthly salary.

The 15-year-old, who has been sent to a children's home for girls in Prayagraj on the direction of the district CWC chairperson, reportedly told the police that a week before her death the 17-year-old girl wanted to run away complaining that she felt exhausted. The 15-year-old also alleged that they were scolded and beaten up. "An FIR against the MLA and his wife has been lodged on the direction of district CWC," said an officer.

The officer said no injury marks were found on the body of the 17-year-old girl and prima facie it appears to be a case of suicide.

# Ayodhya 'gangrape': Akhilesh demands strict action against accused, 'irresponsible' cops

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday demanded strict punishment for the accused in the alleged gangrape of a woman who works at the Ayodhya's Ram Temple complex. He also sought punitive action against "irresponsible policemen". The police have so far arrested five men in connection with the incident.

The 20-year-old woman accused nine people of rape. According to her complaint lodged at Ayodhya's Cantt police station, she was gangraped on three different occasions be-

tween August 16 and 25. Yadav shared on X a 13-second clip of the woman narrating her ordeal, including lack of cooperation from the police.

"The video statement of a gangrape victim in Ayodhya has revealed the root cause of the increasing cases of atrocities against women in Uttar Pradesh, how the victim had to suffer to file a report due to some insensitive policemen." "Due to the complexity of filing a report, many crimes are not even registered, which boosts the criminals' morale," he said. PTI

# Agra sexual assault case: Girl's mother says hospital tried to 'shield the doctor'

NEETIKA JHA  
AGRA, SEPTEMBER 14

DAYS AFTER a doctor was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl in Agra, her mother alleged that the medical college tried to "put pressure on her and shield the doctor."

Dilshad Husain, 23, a resident doctor of the SN Medical College, was arrested by the Agra Police on September 11 and has been suspended by the medical college. Two committees have been formed by the college administration to probe into the matter.

According to the girl's mother, her daughter, who was in the doctor's cabin, told her that "the doctor had touched her inappropriately." She said the incident took place around 11.50 pm on September 10, following which she called the helpline 1098 to inform the authorities. She alleged that the hospital authorities issued a discharge notice of her daughter to her over WhatsApp on September 11. "It was done to create pressure and show that we never came here... the hospital tried to shield the doctor," she alleged.

# TMC panchayat leader held for rape, suspended from party

ATRIMITRA  
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 14

A TMC panchayat samiti member was arrested on the charge of raping a woman after locking her in his house. On Friday, when she said she 'escaped', this incident caused an uproar in West Bengal's Sonamukhi of Bankura.

The TMC suspended the accused, Satyanarayan Misra, for an indefinite period. The Bishnupur organisational district leadership of TMC said he has also been removed from the panchayat samiti. Misra also held the post of Sonamukhi block president of party's labour union - Indian National Trinamool Trade Union Congress.

It is alleged that he repeatedly sexually assaulted the woman, who went to the Sonamukhi police station with her family on Friday. Bankura SP Vaibhav Tiwari said an investigation is ongoing.

The TMC's Bishnupur district leadership reportedly announced Misra's suspension "immediately" after the allegations.

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH  
6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW**

No.: ME-3/2024/2001 Lucknow: Dated 14 September, 2024

**Revised Time Schedule for the Second Round of  
Online Counseling for UP NEET UG-2024**

In order of the revised time Schedule dated 13.09.2024 issued by the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC), Government of India, New Delhi, the revised time Schedule for the second round of online counseling for admission to undergraduate courses (MBBS / BDS) of government / private sector medical / dental colleges / institutions / medical universities of the state under UP NEET UG-2024 is as follows:-

S.No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1	Date of Online Registration & upload of documents	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 (From 2:00 PM to 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 (Till 11:00 AM))	05 days
2	Date of deposition of Registration & Security Money	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 (From 2:00 PM to 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 (Till 2:00 PM))	05 days
3	Date of Merit List Declaration	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	01 day
4	Date of On-line Choice Filling	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024 (From 11:00 PM to 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 (Till 5:00 PM))	04 days
5	Date of Allotment Result Declaration	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	01 day
6	Date for downloading the allotment letters and admission	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024, 01 <sup>st</sup> October and 03 <sup>rd</sup> October to 05 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	05 days

The time Schedule issued for the second round through this office letter No. ME-3/2024/1864, dated 05 September 2024 is considered revised to this extent, the rest of the rules and instructions will remain unchanged.

Candidates who have already deposited the registration / registration fee are not required to register / deposit the registration fee again.

Candidates should assess their eligibility themselves as per the instructions contained in the Government Order / Brochure of UP NEET UG 2024.

The brochure and important instructions of UP NEET UG-2024 are available on the website <https://upneet.gov.in> and [www.dgme.up.gov.in](http://www.dgme.up.gov.in). Keep visiting regularly for updated information. Help Line Numbers: 8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700

**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**Central University of Punjab**  
Dated: 13.09.2024 **WALK-IN-INTERVIEW** Advt. CUPB/24-25/05

Online Applications are invited for Teaching and Non-Teaching positions on purely temporary & contractual basis:

- Assistant Professors (Education for ITEP-08; Education for M.Ed.-01; Commerce/Management-01; Mathematics-01; Theatre-01)
- Laboratory Assistant: 01 (UR)
- Accompanist - Harmonium: 01
- Lighting Technician: 01

Visit website [www.cup.edu.in](http://www.cup.edu.in) for Last date to apply online and more details. Registrar, Bhatinda, Bathinda Road, VPO Ghudsa, Dist Bathinda-151401, Email: [recruitment@cup.edu.in](mailto:recruitment@cup.edu.in)

**भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल**  
(विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित)  
**Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal**  
(Estb. by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

Advt. No.: IISER/DOAA/2024/02 September 15, 2024  
**Admission for Academic Year 2024-25**

Applications are invited for the semester commencing from January 2025.

**Ph.D. Programme (For National and International Students)**

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**Humanities and Social Sciences Stream:** Economic Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences (Cognitive Science & Social Work and Sociology).

Details of qualification, eligibility, application form and application procedure are available on <https://www.iiserb.ac.in/admission>

Last Date for Submission of Application: October 14, 2024 (Updates, if any, shall be notified on the Institute website)

**शैक्षणिक अखिबस्ता**

**GREATER NOIDA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Plot No. 1, Sector K.P-4, Greater Noida City, Gautambudhha Nagar - 201308 (U.P.)  
Website : [www.greaternoidaauthority.in](http://www.greaternoidaauthority.in), E-mail: [authority@gnida.in](mailto:authority@gnida.in)

**Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority invites applications for the purpose of selection of suitable person for engaging them as Consultants.**

Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority invites applications from willing persons for engagement as Consultant for Solid Waste Management (01 Post), Waste Water/Sewer Treatment (01 Post), Horticulture (01 Post), Water Management (01 Post) and Sports(01 Post) on contract basis for a period of 06 months may be extended to another 06 months basis with the approval of competent authority, depending on the functional requirement, performance appraisal, fitness of individual etc. For the details regarding eligibility, job requirement and terms & conditions, prescribed format for submitting applications, please visit Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority's website [www.greaternoidaauthority.in](http://www.greaternoidaauthority.in). Willing persons, who meet the eligibility criteria may submit their applications by 19th September 2024 to the undersigned.

**Deputy Collector (HRD)**  
Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority  
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**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
Corrigendum Notice No. W.584/E-Tendering/182-188-DHN-2024-25 Dhanbad dt. 11/09/2024

Sl. No.	Existing E-Tender No.	E-Tender Nos. should be read as
1	176-DHN-2024-25	182-DHN-2024-25
2	177-DHN-2024-25	183-DHN-2024-25
3	178-DHN-2024-25	184-DHN-2024-25
4	179-DHN-2024-25	185-DHN-2024-25
5	180-DHN-2024-25	186-DHN-2024-25
6	181-DHN-2024-25	187-DHN-2024-25
7	182-DHN-2024-25	188-DHN-2024-25

All other details, term and condition exists in the e-tender notice No. 176-DHN-2024-25 to 182-DHN-2024-25 dt. 27.08.2024 will remain unchanged and unaltered.

**Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.), East Central Railway, Dhanbad**  
PR/01120/DHN/ENGG/C/24-25/20

**WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION**  
**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE NO. DRM-BRC 083 of 2024-25;** Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of The President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C), Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works: Sr. No. (1) Tender No. DRM BRC 083 of 2024-25. Name of Work: In situ fabrication of Gueded Joints at various locations across Vadodara Division. Approximate cost of the work: ₹ 1,77,87,423.15/- Bid Security to be deposited: ₹ 2,38,900.00/- Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Tender is to be submitted on 03.10.2024 before 15.00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15.30 Hrs. Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Website @ [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C) Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara-390004. YW623/NIT of 2024-25 dated 09.09.2024 171

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**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work :-

E-Tender No. - ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-24-24-25 in single packet system. Name of work : Conducting Static & Dynamic load test on composite girder at Garhwa Road Station for Garhwa Rail Over Rail project and adequacy check of existing bridges of various projects under jurisdiction of Dy. CE/Con/Barkakana. Approx. cost of the work in (Rs.) ₹68,25,835.24. Bid Security in (Rs.) ₹1,36,500/-, Period of work completion : 03 (Three) Months. Date and time for closing of tender : 04.10.2024 at 15.30 hrs. Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website <http://www.irops.gov.in>. Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.irops.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/corrections etc. in connection with this e-tender.

**CAO/Con/South ECR/Mahendraghat, Patna**  
PR/01123/CONS/Engg./T/24-25/44

**WESTERN RAILWAY-RAJKOT DIVISION**  
**REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE WORK**

E-Tender Notice No. 21 of 2024-25 date 09/09/2024; Office Address: Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot, Gujarat - 360 001; Website: [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in); (01) e-Tender No. DRM-RJT-2024-25-E-49; Name of Work: Rajkot Division: Improvement and Repairs to staff quarter at Morbi (60 quarters) and Nazrabag (06 quarters) station; Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 1,49,99,995.92; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,25,000.00; (02) e-Tender No. DRM-RJT-2024-25-E-50; Name of Work: Rajkot Division: Outsourcing of Track Maintenance activities under Sr. Section Engineer (PWAY) Khambhaliya for a period of 24 months. Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 4,25,47,726.74; Earnest Money: ₹ 3,62,700.00; For both tenders: Date & Time of Opening of Tender: 01/10/2024, 15:00 Hrs.

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Organized by ESTC Ramnagar, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India  
**Government Certificate course on Digital Marketing with AI**

Duration 2 Days, Date-21,22 Sept. 2024, Time-10.30 Am to 5 Pm

Venue: MSME DI EXT. centre, ESTC, First floor, 1 Block, Outer circle, connaught Place, New Delhi 110001

Mail ID: [estcs@msme.gov.in](mailto:estcs@msme.gov.in) Website: [www.estcindia.com](http://www.estcindia.com) Phone No. 011-20810492

Course Contents: Introduction to AI, Chat GPT, Gemini, Google, AI Image & Video Creator, Instagram & Facebook (Organic & Paid Marketing) LinkedIn Professional Use, Google Business Profile Creation Youtube & Earning, Search Engine Optimization (SEO)

Fees :- Regular - 4500/- +18% GST Student - 2500/- +18% GST

QR Code for Registration

After successful completion, Certificate will be issued

Contact - 8007656893, 9403566219, 9270076724, 9999948317

Documents required- Aadhar card Xerox educational proof photo 2 photos.

**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: [jepcraanchi1@gmail.com](mailto:jepcraanchi1@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 Jharkhand Balika Awasiya Vidyalaya located in different 02 Districts of Jharkhand. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to submit their proposal latest by 2:00 PM on 04.10.2024.

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>. Sd/-

Ref. No.: JEPCC/CIV/03/1090/2024/3420 Ranchi, Date : 12.09.2024 (Aditya Ranjan)

PR 335675 Jharkhand Education Project Council(24-25).D  
State Project Director  
Jharkhand Education Project Council

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank**  
ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH (D.P.- 17415)  
GROUND FLOOR, LUV KUSH TOWER, EXHIBITION ROAD, PATNA-800001,  
Mobile No.: - 8102916048, Email : [cb17415@canarabank.com](mailto:cb17415@canarabank.com)

**(15 Days E-Auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Properties)**  
**SALE NOTICE**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is". Details are as under:

Date & Time of Auction/EMD: Auction Date: 30.09.2024, Auction Time: 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, EMD Date & Time: 27.09.2024 10:AM to 4:PM

Name/Address/Contact No. of the Branch	Name of A/c / Guarantor/Mortgagor	Outstanding In Rs.	Details of Property	Reserve Price EMD Multiplier Amt.
Canara Bank ARM Branch, Patna, Mob.: 8102916048	Borrower: M/s Kiran Stores, Prop: Kiran Devi, W/o- Prabhakar Singh, Ward No- 2, Nagar Panchayat, Sheohar, Pin- 843329 Guarantor: Kiran Devi, W/o- Prabhakar Singh, Ward No.- 2, Nagar Panchayat, Sheohar, Pin- 843329	Rs. 20,89,075.87 as on 03.06.2023 together with future interest and charges from 04.06.2023	All that part and parcel of the Residential Land and Building in the name of Mrs. Kiran Devi -163, Khata No 1496, Khesra No- 212, Ward No 2, Nagar Panchayat, Sheohar, Pin- 843329, Area- 9 Decimal, Bounded By: North- Hari Kishore Tiwari, South- Ashok Tiwari, East- Kreta, West- Road	Rs.14,40,000/- Rs. 1,44,000/- Rs. 10,000/-

For Detailed Terms and Conditions of the Sale, Please refer to the link provided in [www.canarabank.com](http://www.canarabank.com)

Date : 12.09.2024  
Place : Patna  
Authorized Officer  
Canara Bank

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank**  
ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH (D.P.- 17415)  
GROUND FLOOR, LUV KUSH TOWER, EXHIBITION ROAD, PATNA-800001,  
Mobile No.: 8102916048, Email: [cb17415@canarabank.com](mailto:cb17415@canarabank.com)

**(15-Days E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties)**  
**SALE NOTICE**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is". Details are as under:

Date & Time of Auction/EMD: Auction Date 30.09.2024, Auction Time 11.30 AM to 1.30 PM, EMD Date & Time 27.09.2024 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM

Name/Address/Contact No. of the Branch	Name of A/c / Guarantor/Mortgagor	Outstanding In Rs.	Details of Properties	Reserve Price EMD Multiplier Amt.
ARM Branch, Patna Mob.: 8102916048	Borrower: Mrs. Malti Devi W/o Prakash Poddar, Maksuspur, Dhobi Tola, Near Mahabir Sthan, Munger-811201 Guarantor: Mr. Mukesh Kumar, S/o Sri Nath Sah, Shadipur, in front of Nathuni Dealer, Behind Bari Durga Sthan, Munger-811201	₹ 42,33,744.58 as on 10.01.2024 together with future interest & charges from 11.01.2024	All that part and parcel of landed property situated at Mauza-Maksuspur, Thana-Kasim Bazar, Munger, Sale Deed No-1627, Dated-22.05.2007, Tazui No-414, Jamabandi No-295/298, Khesra No-258, Sheet No-2, Holding No-496 (Old) / 534 (New), Area-1.65 Decimal in the Name of Malti Devi. Boundries: North- Aradhna Sinha, South- Shashikala Devi, East-Govt. Toilet, West- 10' Municipal Path	₹ 20,07,000/- ₹ 2,00,700/- 10,000/-

For Detailed Terms and Conditions of the Sale, Please refer to the link provided in [www.canarabank.com](http://www.canarabank.com)

Date: 12.09.2024  
Place: Patna  
Authorized Officer  
Canara Bank

**SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
STRESSED ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB) PATNA  
2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001  
Mob.: 9973629898 / 7903329679 | E-mail : [sbi.05176@sbi.co.in](mailto:sbi.05176@sbi.co.in)

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(2) 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 movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the PHYSICAL POSSESSION of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 22.10.2024 (Tuesday). Other details of the e-auction are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower(s)	Amount of Demand (as per SARFAESI notice)	Name of Mortgagor/ Guarantor	Date of 13(2) Date of 13(4) under SARFAESI Act	Reserve Price (Excluding GST) below which the property will not be sold EMD Bid Increment Amount
1.	Shri Chandra Kumar S/o Shri Satya Narayan Prasad, Near Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh, Navratna Hata, PS-K Hat, Dist.-Purnea, Pin-854301	Rs. 65,09,898/- as on 31.01.2023 with further Interest, Cost Charges, Other Miscellaneous expenses etc, less deposit/ recovery made thereafter, if any.	1. AC Deluxe Bus No.: BR10PB/2042, Make/Model: Ashok Leyland/Jan'2018, Type of Vehicle: AC Deluxe Bus (Vehicle Class- HPV), Seating Capacity: 48, Chassis No.-MB1PREHD5JAH5275, Engine No.: HWEZ429630, MANUFACTURED: 2018, DATE OF REGISTRATION: 10.07.2018, Tax Paid upto: 09.01.2023, Fitness valid upto 16.08.2024, Insurance valid upto 19.01.2025	10.02.2023 16.05.2023	₹15,60,000/- ₹1,56,500/- ₹10,000/-

**e-Auction Terms and Condition**

- Date of e-auction: 22.10.2024 (Tuesday), Time: 240 Minutes from 12:00 Noon to 04:00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes each.
- Website/portal for e-auction-<https://eBkray.in>
- The General Terms & Conditions are available on- <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>.
- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold will all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank.

The Authorised Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act, 2002.

This publication is also a 30 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

Date : 10.09.2024  
Place : Purnea  
AUTHORISED OFFICER  
STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, PATNA

**SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
STRESSED ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB) PATNA  
2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001  
Mob.: 9973629898 / 7903329679 | E-mail : [sbi.05176@sbi.co.in](mailto:sbi.05176@sbi.co.in)

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the SYMBOLIC POSSESSION of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 22.10.2024 (Tuesday). Other details of the e-auction are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower(s)	Amount of Demand (as per SARFAESI notice)	Name of Mortgagor/ Guarantor	Date of 13(2) Date of 13(4) under SARFAESI Act	Reserve Price below which the property will not be sold EMD Bid Increment Amount
1.	M/s P C World Prop.: Gautam Kumar At- Chitrawani Road, Bhatta Bazar, Purnea Pin- 854301	Rs. 33,72,907/- as on 30.11.2022 with further Interest from 01.12.2022 plus other charges, costs etc.	Smt. Juli Kumari, W/o Shri Gautam Kumar situated at Mauza-Alamganj andar Mohalla-Basant Bagh, Pargana-Haveli, Thana and Sub-Registry-Sadar, Dist-Purnea, Thana No.-239, Tazui No.-815, Khata No.-77, Khesra No.-176(Part) & 206 (Part), Area-77 Decimal 4 1/2 Kadi i.e. 3 Katha 11 dhur 2 dhurki, vide Sale Deed No.-6572 dated 09.06.2015, Boundaries: North-Purv Vikreta, South-Purv Vikreta, East-Purv Vikreta, West-Private Rasta 12 feet.	19.12.2022 17.05.2023	₹18,65,000/- ₹1,86,500/- ₹10,000/-

**e-Auction Terms and Condition**

- Date of e-auction: 22.10.2024 (Tuesday), Time: 240 Minutes from 12:00 Noon to 04:00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes each.
- Website/portal for e-auction-<https://eBkray.in>
- The General Terms & Conditions are available on- <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>.
- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold will all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank.

The Authorised Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act, 2002.

This publication is also a 30 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

NB: 30 days Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors has already been sent by Regd. Post at their last known address. In case they do not receive the said notice, this E-auction Sale Notice may be treated as substituted mode of service.

Date : 10.09.2024  
Place : Purnea  
AUTHORISED OFFICER  
STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, PATNA

**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

**01 NOV 1978-15 SEP 2017**  
This historic day fills our hearts with pride and sorrow alike when in the highest traditions of the Indian Army, you laid down your life in Counter Insurgency Area of Assam. World is a lesser place without you but we know that you are with the gods above and even heavens have improved by your gracious presence.  
**Fondly remembered by  
CO and All Ranks of 3 RAJPUT**

**19 Mar 41 - 15 SEP 65**  
We pay homage to Maj Bhagat Singh, Vrc (Posthumous), who made the supreme sacrifice while fighting the enemy during 1965 Indo Pak War (J&K). His dauntless courage and sacrifice will forever inspire the organisation.  
**CO & all ranks of 6th Battalion  
Brigade of The Guards**

**ON THE 83RD RAISING DAY OF THE FIRST BATTALION, THE BIHAR REGIMENT, WE PAY HOMAGE TO THE MARTYRS OF THE BATTALION AND REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE SERVICE OF THE NATION.**

**Op Ablaze - Nagaland**  
**AND** Nk Francis Ekka, L/Nk Barnabas Kerketta, Sep Rama Nand Singh.  
**Sep Maujan Oraon**

**UNOSOM II - Somalia**  
**Hav Theophil Tiru, SC** **L/Nk Bikram Tudu, SM**

**Op Vijay**  
**Maj M Sarvanan, Vrc** **Hav Rattan Kumar Singh, SM** **Hav Birsra Oraon, SM** **Nk Ganesh Prasad Yadav, Vrc**

**L/Nk Bidy Nand Singh, SM** **Sep Pramod Kumar, SM** **Sep Arbind Kumar Pandey** **Sep S S P Gupta, SM**

**AND Sep Garasiya B B M Bhai.**  
**Sep Hardeo Prasad, SM** **Sep N S K Kavaji, SM**

**Op Rakshak (Punjab & J&K)**  
**Sep Emmanuel Tigga** **Hav Jonathan Marandi** **Sep Akhilesh Kumar Singh** **Sep Ranjay Kumar**

**AND Sep A P Ekka.**  
**Sep Ajay Kumar** **Sep Jacob Kispotta** **Sep Lalit Mohan Singh** **Sep Maghvendra Pratap Singh**

**Op Snow Leopard (LADAKH)**  
**Nb Sub Hemshankar Prasad**

**Your gallantry and supreme sacrifice were recognised through awards of Battle Honours "HAKA", "GANGAW" and "BATALIK". You gallantry will always serve as an inspiration for us. We, the fraternity of the Veer Biharis, salute you.**  
**The Bihar Regiment Association**

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE  
15 September 2002**  
On September 15, 2002, troops from the 9th Battalion, along with the SOG, conducted an operation in the Kandi Marg area of Anantnag district targeting militants. While no initial contact was made, militants ambushed the troops as they were returning, opening fire from a jungle hideout. The troops quickly disembarked and retaliated, advancing towards the militants' positions. Despite a fierce firefight, the militants managed to escape into the dense jungle. During the encounter, Shaheed SI Gyan Singh, who led the assault, suffered severe injuries. Despite his wounds, he continued to fight bravely until he succumbed to his injuries and was martyred.

**September 15, 1971**  
Constable Vijay Bahadur, serving with the 1st Battalion of CRPF at a section post in Raja Bagan, Cossipore Police Station, Calcutta, was crucial in ensuring regular distribution of food and water to troops. On September 15, 1971, a truck delivering food was hit by a grenade thrown at the troops. The explosion injured Constable Vijay Bahadur, among others. He was evacuated to Calcutta Medical College, where he succumbed to his injuries on October 3, 1971.

**Shaheed SI Gyan Singh 9 Battalion 1-1-1950 To 15-9-2002**  
**Shaheed Constable Vijay Bahadur 1 Bn 15-9-1971**  
**Shaheed HC/Dvr Bhuwal Singh 72 Battalion 1-7-1967 To 15-9-2006**  
**Shaheed Constable Ram Nath Yadav 72 Battalion 16-8-1976 To 15-9-2006**

**15 September 2006**  
The 72nd Battalion of the CRPF was deployed in Jharkhand to combat Maoism. A three-day special operation was conducted in the Tiscoppy jungle area, PS: Gomia, Bokaro district, starting September 13, 2006. Despite no initial contact with Maoists, the troops were ambushed on September 15, 2006, by IEDs followed by gunfire. Shaheed HC/Dvr Bhuwal Singh and Shaheed Constable Ram Nath Yadav were critically injured in the blast and later succumbed to their injuries, making the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

**BJP MLA held for harassment, casteist abuse**

**Bengaluru:** BJP MLA Munirathna was arrested on Saturday in connection with two FIRs lodged against him for alleged harassment, threats and casteist abuse, police said.  
"We have taken him into custody. He was detained in Kolar and brought to Bengaluru, after which he has been formally arrested in connection with the cases filed against him," a senior police officer said.  
Advocate Sadananda, representing the BJP MLA and former minister, said: "We will also be approaching the high court."  
The cases against the Rajarajeshwarinagar MLA were filed at Vyalikaval police station on Friday, they said.  
In the first FIR filed by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) contractor Cheluvvaraju, the MLA is accused of demanding Rs 30 lakh as a bribe and threatening to terminate his contract if he did not pay the money. The second FIR was registered under the SC/ST Act, the police added. **PTI**

**ADDRESS AT A JOURNALISM AWARD EVENT IN NAGPUR**

**Was offered PM post by Opp leader before recent LS elections: Gadkari**

Rejected it immediately, goes against my conviction, principles: Union Minister

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14**

UNION MINISTER for Transport and National Highways Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said a senior opposition leader offered him the prime minister's post before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. However, he turned down the offer as it was against his conviction.  
The Union minister was addressing a journalism award event in Nagpur. "One senior leader from opposition party approached me with the offer of prime ministership. I was told if I gave the nod they would work towards my prime ministership," Gadkari said.  
"I immediately rejected the offer. I categorically told that leader, I am a person who be-

lieves in ideology and conviction. I have always lived and worked on principles," he added.  
"I made it clear that I never harbored the ambition of becoming the PM of the country. Therefore, there was no question of taking any offer. My upbringing is such that I have lived on certain principles and conviction, which are non-negotiable and cannot be compromised."  
Although Gadkari refrained from identifying the opposition leader or sharing more details, his revelation has come as a surprise to many within his own party.  
Despite his roots in the RSS-BJP, Gadkari has cordial relations with leaders across parties, including Congress. In Maharashtra, Gadkari has excellent equations with both Shiv



'Made clear I never harbored ambition of becoming PM'

leader AB Bardhan. Gadkari said, "I was often asked about my friendship and respect for Bardhan. I liked his commitment and conviction to his party. Whether it is politics or any profession what matters is conviction."  
"There are journalists who dedicate their lives working honestly. But over the years there has been rise in 'supari journalists'. These types misuse Right to Information to blackmail persons and serve their own vested interests. I know such a person who owns a Mercedes car," he said.  
Expressing his admiration for *The Indian Express*, Gadkari said, "We all know the tremendous role of Ramnath Goenka. During Emergency there were journalists who even went to prisons and stood by their principles."

**Assam: Vedanta's oil and gas exploration in Hoolock Gibbon habitat gets in-principle nod**

**NIKHIL GHANEKAR  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14**

The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted an in-principle approval to Vedanta's Cairn Oil and Gas proposal for oil and gas exploration drilling on 4.49 hectares in eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of Assam's Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, home to the endangered Hoolock Gibbon.  
The FAC's in-principle nod, also known as Stage-I clearance, comes on the back of a recommendation for project approval by Assam's principal chief conservator of forests and chief wildlife warden. In its meeting held on August 27, the panel noted that the chief wildlife warden, Assam, and the regional office of the Union environment ministry had recommended clearance for the project.  
The chief wildlife warden had noted in his recommendation that the project site falls in the ESZ of Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, Jorhat, and there was significant movement of wild elephants in the area connecting the sanctuary and Dissoi Valley Reserve Forest. The chief wildlife warden also submitted to the FAC a wildlife conservation plan and human-animal conflict management plan and earmarked Rs 5.57 crore for implementing them.  
The conservation plan has proposed measures such as the planting of native species, the erection of wildlife protection signages, awareness programmes, and consultation with local stakeholders for Hoolock Gibbon conservation. The endangered ape species faces

threats such as qualitative loss of habitats, fragmentation of habitats, poaching and unscientific plantation, the plan had noted.  
The Gibbon sanctuary is spread over 21 sq km in Jorhat and supports around 125 Hoolock Gibbon living in more than two dozen family groups, according to a 2023 Wildlife Institute of India study. According to the study over time, the sanctuary has become a 'forest island' having lost connectivity with surrounding forest patches.  
The regional committee's recommendation stated that during the exploration, safety measures as laid down in a report of parliamentary committee on petroleum and natural gas should be followed. The FAC endorsed the regional committee's prescriptions and said the "state government shall ensure the compliance of conditions" in the parliamentary panel report.  
The report was prepared by the standing committee on petroleum and natural gas in the backdrop of May 2020 Baghjan oil and gas leak which caused widespread environmental damage and displacement of people in Tinsukia district.  
The standing committee in its report had made many recommendations ranging from periodic safety reviews and promotion of safety culture to self-reliance in tackling emergencies in oil and gas installations, among others.  
Compensatory afforestation in lieu of felling 1,350 trees has been proposed on non-forest land in Tinsukia district, FAC's minutes noted. After compliance of conditions laid down in the approval, the project is considered for final approval.



**HOUSE COLLAPSE IN MEERUT**

Three people were killed, two injured and seven feared trapped after a three-storey house collapsed in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut district on Saturday. **PTI**

**Around 10,000 records of historical significance, found during cleanliness drives, to be exhibited**

**DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14**

AFTER SPECIAL cleanliness drives over the past three years led to thousands of historical records being rediscovered in Union government offices, the public is likely to get a look at the documents at a new exhibition soon, *The Indian Express* has learnt.  
Around 10,000 files of historical significance were handed over by the government to the National Archives of India (NAI) after being discovered during the annual special campaign under the Swachh Bharat Mission, it learnt. These include copies of records about the shifting of the capital from Calcutta to New Delhi by the British in 1911, administrative reforms after Independence, and documents

on how corruption cases against officers of the erstwhile Indian Civil Service (ICS) were handled.  
The file concerning the creation of the crucial Establishment Officer post, responsible for senior appointments, was also found.  
The special campaign, which is held from October 2 to October 31, was started by the government in 2021 to improve sanitation in government offices and weed out records. According to data published by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the campaigns have led to 96.1 lakh files being weeded out and 355.5 lakh square feet of space being freed. The government has earned Rs 1,162.49 crore in revenue from selling off

scrap, which includes everything from scrap metals from the railways to old electronics in various ministry offices.  
"The special campaigns over the past three years have enabled preservation of records of historical nature and several records have been transferred to the NAI. The DARPG, with the collaboration of NAI, is exploring the possibility of holding an exhibition of some of these records," V Srinivas, DARPG Secretary, told *The Indian Express*.  
Officials at the NAI said the documents have been duly conserved for display and an exhibition will be organised next month. Some documents include copies of the report of the Administrative Reforms Commission, which was appointed in 1966 to make recommendations on reform and reor-

ganisation of public administration. The 1964 report of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, known as the Santhanam Committee after its chairman MP K Santhanam, is also among the records found.  
While government records older than 25 years, except classified information, are supposed to be transferred to the NAI, many ministries and departments have not been doing so over the years. At a meeting to discuss preparations for the cleanliness drive with officials from different ministries on September 6, NAI Director General Arun Singhal said that though there had been a substantial increase in reporting to the archives by ministries, many departments had still not appointed records officers. He said this must be done immediately, as per the minutes of the meeting.

**Pink bollworm attack: Haryana cotton farmers opt for paddy**

**AISWARYA RAJ  
SIRSA, SEPTEMBER 14**

AROUND 35 KM away from Ghaggar river in Sirsa district's Chormar Khara village, Prem Pal Singh is constructing a tank to store water pumped out from his tubewell. The 42-year-old farmer has installed solar panels to power the tubewell and irrigate his paddy field.  
Last year, Singh had sown cotton on his five acres of land, but pink bollworm (PBW) infestation caused heavy losses prompting him to switch to paddy. The only problem in the switch was the lack of water for growing paddy. "Thankfully, we have had a good monsoon this time, which is why my field is flooded now. I have supplemented it with irrigation from the tubewell as the groundwater here is saline," says Singh, adding that switching from cotton to paddy was a "majburi (compulsion)" and not a "shauk (choice)".  
In Sirsa, Fatehabad and Hisar, the three major northeast Haryana cotton-growing districts, an environmental crisis is unfolding. Haryana has seen an overall fall in acreage under cotton cultivation to 4.76 lakh hectares (lh) this kharif season from 6.65 lh in 2023. This has been accompanied by an increase in the area under rice from 15.20 lh to an all-time-high of 16.44 lh in the state.

The reduction in the cotton area — also reported in neighbouring Rajasthan (from 7.91 lh to 5.13 lh) and Punjab (2.14 lh to 1 lh) — has been attributed mainly to PBW infestation. Its larvae burrow into the bolls (developing fruits) of cotton plants. The resultant damage affects both the weight and quality of the harvested bolls, containing the lint fibre and seeds. The pest's infestation, reported on a significant scale since 2021, has not been the only factor. In May-June this year, at the time of sowing, the price of kapas (raw unginned cotton) averaged Rs 6,700-6,800 per quintal in Haryana mandis. This was against the average Rs 11,100-11,200 per quintal two years ago.  
Shyam Sundar, a farmer from Mohmadpuria in Sirsa's Rania tehsil, has planted paddy on 6.5 acres and guar (cluster beans) on 7.5 acres this year. Last year, his entire 14-acre land had cotton crops. However, his average yield was just 2 quintals/acre, compared to the normal 12 quintals earlier. Also, he could realise a price of only Rs 4,500/quintal, as the cotton bolls didn't open on time due to PBW infestation, affecting the quality of his kapas produce.  
"I harvested 28 quintals in all and sold them for Rs 1.26 lakh, but incurred expenses of Rs 2 lakh (in growing cotton). Why should I grow this crop," asks the 35-year-old. He expects a minimum yield



A paddy field in Sirsa. *Praveen Khanna*

of 20 quintal/acre from basmati, which is currently selling at Rs 2,500-3,000 per quintal.  
The monsoon was deficit in June and July, which led Shyam Sundar to also plant guar, a legume that requires very little water. "Last year, I didn't receive any crop insurance payment (under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana). My premium was debited, but the officials cited some technical faults with the insurance company for non-payment," he says.  
Even as farmers are deserting cotton for paddy, most parts of Sirsa are seen as not suitable for the water-guzzling crop. Cotton requires only three-four irrigations. In good monsoon years, even a single irrigation suffices. Paddy, on the other hand, needs the field to be flooded, with the

number of irrigations anywhere from 20 to 30.  
Experts from South Asia Biotechnology Centre in New Delhi say the switch from cotton to paddy can be a temporary measure but not a permanent solution. Ram Pratap Sihag, Joint Director (cotton) in the Haryana government, says the state has announced incentives such as Rs 7,000/acre to farmers who have switched from paddy to other crops this year and Rs 4,000/acre to those cultivating paddy through "direct seeding" instead of the traditional more water-intensive puddling-cum-transplanting route. He also hoped that farmers in Sirsa would return to planting cotton "as PBW infestation is likely to be less this year".  
Sirsa received 313.5 mm of an-

**EXPLAINED**  
**Spread of pink bollworm**  
THE PINK bollworm first appeared in north India in 2017-18 in a few districts in Haryana and Punjab, primarily cultivating Bt cotton, and spread to Rajasthan by 2021. PBW primarily spreads through the air. Residue of infected crops, often left by farmers on the field to be used as fuel, can also harbour PBW larvae. Infected cotton seeds are another reason behind the spread.

irrigation could cause salinity hazards and reduction in crop yields, according to a government assessment report.  
For several kilometres on both sides of Hisar-Sirsa Road, paddy is the only crop as far as the eye can see. At Panjuana in Sirsa tehsil, Sahil Godara and his brother Shubham are preparing a pesticide mixture to be sprayed on their six-acre paddy field. This is the second consecutive year they are cultivating paddy on four acres where they were previously growing cotton. They have taken an additional two acres on lease for Rs 80,000 a year. "This area has a canal nearby. The closer you get to Ghaggar river, the higher are the lease rentals," says Shubham. He too believes that paddy generates more certain, if not better, returns than cotton.  
Madan Lal, a farmer from Salamkhera village in Sirsa, is yet to shift to paddy. Spraying pesticides on his 15-acre cotton field, the 58-year-old farmer says he has little choice as his village has no water to sustain paddy. "Last year, I harvested six quintals of cotton per acre. My yields as well as price realisation were low. But we don't have the option of growing any other crop," he says. He has sprayed pesticides worth Rs 4,300 per acre, hoping to keep PBW from striking his crop this year.  
**FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com**

**BRIEFLY**

**WEST BENGAL**  
**2 tribal women lynched in Birbhum, 15 held**

**Kolkata:** Two middle-aged tribal women in Birbhum district were beaten to death by neighbours on suspicion of practising witchcraft Friday, the police said Saturday. The bodies of Lodgi Kisku and Dolly Soren were found in an irrigation canal near Harisarah village. Police said 15 people have been arrested over the incident. **ENS**

**UTTAR PRADESH**  
**Class 3 student dies of cardiac arrest in school**

**Lucknow:** A 9-year-old student of Lucknow's Montfort School died of cardiac arrest while at school, the principal said Saturday. Manvi Singh fell unconscious in the playground, she was rushed to a nearby Hospital. The girl's family took her to Chandan Hospital, where the doctors said that she died due to cardiac arrest, the principal said. **ENS**

**Can't dissolve Hindu marriage as contract: HC**

**Prayagraj:** The Allahabad High Court ruled that a Hindu marriage is not to be dissolved or terminated as a contract. Allowing a wife's appeal against dissolution of marriage, the HC said the sacrament based Hindu marriage may be dissolved (in law), in limited circumstances and too only on the strength of evidence led by the parties. **PTI**

Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

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# Manipur: dark side of the moon?

LEAFING THROUGH previous columns, I chided myself for not writing about Manipur more often. I last wrote on Manipur on July 30, 2023, and it is now over 13 months. It is unpardonable. As it is unpardonable for all Indians to have consigned Manipur to the deepest recesses of their collective consciousness.

When I wrote last year, the portents were ominous. I had said 'It is the beginning of ethnic cleansing'. I had said 'Today, from all reports that I have received or read, there is practically no Kuki-Zomi in the Imphal valley and there is no Meitei in the areas dominated by the Kuki-Zomi'. I had said that 'the chief minister and his ministers work out of their home offices and do not — or cannot — travel to the affected areas'. I had also said that 'None of the ethnic groups trusts the Manipur police' and 'No one believes the official numbers of the casualties'.

## THREE IN THE DOCK

Every word that I wrote has, regrettably, come true. In a parliamentary democracy, one or more in authority must bear the responsibility for the tragic slide of Manipur. Here are the three men who are in authority —

**Mr Narendra Modi**, the prime minister: he seems to have taken a vow that, come what may, he will not visit the state of Manipur. His attitude seems to be 'let

Manipur burn, I shall not step on Manipur's soil'. Since the start of his third term on June 9, 2024, the PM has found the time to visit Italy (June 13-14), Russia (July 8-9), Austria (July 10), Poland (August 21-22), Ukraine (August 23-24), Brunei (September 3-4) and Singapore (September 4-5). His schedule for the remaining months of 2024 include visits to the United States, Laos, Samos, Russia, Azerbaijan and Brazil. It is beyond contest that the PM has not visited Manipur not because of lack of time or energy but because he is determined to not visit the hapless state.

His refusal to visit Manipur is a measure of his stubbornness. We got glimpses of that during the Gujarat riots, the anti-CAA protests and the farmers' protests against the three farm laws, and when he instructed his ministers to oppose all adjournment motions — whatever the urgent matter — in both Houses of Parliament.

**Mr Amit Shah**, the Home Minister: his instructions cover every aspect of the governance of Manipur from appointment of senior officers in the state government to deployment of the security forces. He is the government of Manipur. Violence has escalated rapidly on his watch. The people of Manipur are not fighting each other with only guns and bombs. For the first time in independent India, rockets and weaponised drones have been used. In the past week, curfew

has been imposed in two districts, schools and colleges have been closed, internet has been suspended in five districts, and police are fighting students on the streets of Imphal. Two more battalions of the CRPF (2000 men and women) have been rushed to Manipur to strengthen the 26,000 personnel already deployed.

**Mr N Biren Singh**, the chief minister of Manipur: he is captive in a prison of his own making. He and his ministers are not able to go around even in the Imphal valley. He is hated by the Kuki-Zomi. The Meitei thought he would ensure their security but his complete failure has made him the most unpopular man in Manipur, including among the Meitei. There is no semblance of administration. His inept and partisan governance was the cause of the civil unrest, now he is the problem and the provocation to all sides. He should have resigned many months ago. His continuance reflects the imperious, never-admit-a-mistake attitude of Mr Modi and Mr Shah.

## DIVIDED DE FACTO

Manipur is, *de facto*, two states. The districts of Churachandpur, Pherzawl and Kangpokpi are fully controlled by the Kuki people, and Tengnoupal district (including the border town of Moreh) that has a mixed population of Kuki-Zomi and Naga is practically under the control

of the Kuki-Zomi. The Kuki-Zomi run a separate administration. There are no Meitei government employees in the Kuki-Zomi controlled area; they are ensconced in the districts of the valley. The Kuki-Zomi do not want to be part of a state where the Meitei are in a majority (40 MLAs in a House of 60 members). The Meitei want to preserve the identity and territorial integrity of Manipur. The level of enmity between the communities is high and deep.

There are no talks between any one — government and the ethnic groups or between the Meitei and the Kuki-Zomi. The Nagas have their own, historical grievances against the central and state governments, and they do not want to be embroiled in the Meitei vs Kuki-Zomi conflict.

## NO LIGHT ANYWHERE

Manipur is trapped in a web of suspicion, deceit and ethnic conflict. It was never easy to maintain the peace and carry on a government in Manipur. It has become unimaginably worse thanks to the callousness of the central government and the incompetence of the state government, both run by the BJP. The prime minister of India has perhaps realized that his journey to Manipur, a state in the Union, will be as perilous as a journey to the dark side of the moon.

**Fifth COLUMN**  
TAVLEEN SINGH  
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# Rahul needs an education

EVERY TIME POLITICAL analysts and polls indicate that it is time to take Rahul Gandhi seriously, he trots off on a foreign visit and says enough stupid things to prove them wrong. Of the stupid things he said on this visit, his first foreign trip as Leader of the Opposition, the stupidest was that the Lok Sabha elections were rigged. Why do I consider this the stupidest of the things he said on his trip in the United States? Simply because you do not need to be politically literate to know that if Narendra Modi had rigged the elections, he would have at least ensured that he got a full majority.

This simple piece of deduction appears to have escaped the notice of the Leader of the Opposition. So, speaking at Georgetown University he said, "In a fair election, I do not think the BJP would have come anywhere near 240 seats... I don't view it as a fair election at all. It was rather a controlled election." In the same breath (interview), it stunned me to hear him say that the Election Commission had not played fair and had done what Modi wanted. This, from a man whose mother ensured that a Chief Election Commissioner was nominated to the Rajya Sabha as soon as he retired and made a minister in the government she controlled. This, from a man whose family presided over rigged elections in the Kashmir Valley for decades. It is time for some history lessons for the man who, a recent poll reveals, is the people's choice for prime minister after Modi.

The second stupidest thing that Rahul Gandhi said on this visit was that Sikhs in India are no longer able to wear turbans or a 'kada'. The words were barely out of his mouth when a Canadian Khalistani leader went loudly and visibly public with a statement that basically said, "We told you so". What is it about foreign climes that make the heir to our most storied political Dynasty nearly always spout nonsense when on foreign soil? Remember that on an earlier foreign excursion Rahul Gandhi declared that democracy had ceased to exist in India.

What annoys me deeply about this kind of reckless ranting is that India desperately needs a strong Opposition so that there are guardrails that prevent the delusional overconfidence Modi has exhibited often in the past ten years. The Prime Minister's autocratic style of governance and the offensive arrogance of some of his ministers have unsettled even Modi's most ardent supporters. When he failed to get the BJP a full majority this time, you could almost hear a collective sigh of relief across the length and breadth of our ancient land. But this does not mean that Indian voters would have preferred to replace Modi with Rahul. He would do well to remember this. It might persuade him to stop behaving as if he has all the answers.

He may discover that caste is not the only reason why '90% of Indians' are not participants in India's journey towards prosperity. He rails against the absence of lower castes in positions of power without noticing that this is because they have not been given the tools to rise above poverty and deprivation. The most powerful of these tools is education. If lower caste children had access to good schools, they would compete easily with those who come from the upper castes. It is one of the mysteries of Indian politics that so many 'socialist' prime ministers never noticed the urgent need to build schools capable of providing real education instead of just basic literacy.

One of Modi's biggest failures is that he did too little to improve our lousy school system. If he had put up with much energy into this as he did into Swachh Bharat, things could have changed immensely in the past ten years, when most of our biggest and least literate states have been run by BJP chief ministers. The situation is so bad that our vaunted demographic dividend could end up being useless.

There have been other failures of governance in the past ten years, but they have gone unnoticed by Rahul Gandhi and his advisors. Like a needle stuck in a rut, he continues to rant and rail against the takeover of educational institutions by the RSS without observing that there is not much for them to take over. They may tinker with history books, and they certainly have been doing this. But they have failed to address the real problem, which is that most Indian children leave school without learning or skills.

When Rahul Gandhi returns home, he would do himself and his party a big favour if he directed his energy towards giving Indian children the chance of a real future. He said on this foreign trip that ninety percent of Indians lacked 'access to opportunity' and hinted that this was because of the evils of the caste system. For months, he has banged on and on about the need for a caste census. Clearly, this would result in more reserved jobs, and more reserved seats in schools and colleges.

The answer is not to continue expanding reservations. The answer is for our political leaders to realise that for India to ever become a fully developed country the most vital change that must happen is for India's children to have access to real schools.

# Mere paas Maa hai: From Salim-Javed to Kamala

Just SAYING ANNIE ZAIDI



WHEN THE celebrated Hindi writing duo Salim-Javed wrote "Mere paas Maa hai", they were clearly on to something. That brief line of movie dialogue has survived five decades in public memory as a pithy reminder of the emotional, moral and ideological power invested in motherhood in our collective imagination. However, one reason it remains deeply resonant is that, aside from death and taxes, if there's one other thing we can be sure of, it is our mothers. If we exist, someone birthed us, and regardless of how present or absent our individual mothers might be, mothering marks us in life as well as in the realm of imagination.

Julia Kristeva has written of consecrated motherhood as a fantasy of lost territory that is nurtured by all adults. In the religious sphere, we see it in the form of a Mother Goddess or as Mother Mary, while in culture, we see it as the ordinary-seeming Ma who holds her son's heart in her fist. In politics too, it emerges as the motherland, although politicians also tap into the power of consecrated motherhood when they bring their flesh-and-blood mothers into political discourse. We saw this most recently when Kamala Harris described her mother as an immigrant in the US — "a brown woman with an accent" who was tough, courageous, and yet, never lost her cool.

What Harris doesn't quite say is that her mother, being human, is fallible. Instead, she sticks with the fantasy Ma — an unfailing, temperate presence who compensates for other lacking, including an absent or distant father. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the docu-series *Angry Young Men* (Amazon Prime), where we see screenwriters Salim Khan and Javed Akhtar reflecting on the loss of their mothers in childhood. Like childhood itself, everyone experiences mothering as a gradual loss and writers often tap into this, capturing our longing to return to a maternal lap where we are eternally safe. It is in this lap that Birju (Sunil Dutt) dies, shot by the righteous Radha (Nargis) in *Mother India* (1957) and it is towards this lap that Vijay runs in *Deewar* (1975), despite having been rejected by his Ma (Nirupa Roy).

looms larger if she is widowed, divorced or has been abandoned by the father. In this form, she is nearer to the primal Mother — the unrivalled creator and provider whose primacy cannot be challenged. In this way, she becomes an article of faith rather than a flesh and blood woman. The tricky part, of course, is that articles of faith never have any longings of their own. In *Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution*, Adrienne Rich writes that it is only as mothers that women's bodies are seen as "beneficent, sacred, pure, asexual, nourishing". In order to be deemed worthy, a woman must be seen as maternal, or at least potentially maternal, and these ideas still play out in public discourse.

Hindi cinema especially favours mothers who are simultaneously all-forgiving and a force of moral rectitude. A few recent films such as *Kapoor and Sons* (2016) and *Badhaai Ho* (2018) have offered us more complex mothers but even here, the mother is neither sexually assertive nor ambitious beyond the domestic realm. Perhaps because in our real-world cultures too, we find it difficult to accept mothers cast in any role other than nourishing, the schism between good and bad mothers is maintained on-screen. Good mothers are givers and the bad ones are takers. Besides, bad mothers in Hindi cinema are often pictured as stepmothers or aunts (thus, not "real" mothers) — and the plot occasionally revolves around getting them to fall in line. In films like *Beta* (1992) where Laxmi (Aruna Irani) is a murderous stepmom, but Raju (Anil Kapoor) is willing to drink poison rather than confront the possibility that his mother would hurt his interests. Absolute devotion to an idealised Ma thus transforms even a bad mother into a good one.

Like popular cinema, politics too must appeal to a mass base. US Vice-Presidential hopeful JD Vance's remarks about "childless cat ladies" is a fine illustration of the anxieties surrounding women's bodies should they refuse to be herded into the category of mother. In marked contrast, as Rich had pointed out half a century ago, fatherlessness is not seen a problem to be fixed, much less a slur. It is hardly surprising then, that politics has little room for female leaders who assert themselves as sexual beings but who are not mothers. We need them to be maternal so that they nourish us and, if they're smart politicians, they put to good use the full power invested in motherhood. But as for changing the way things are for women in general, it might take more than motherhood to pull that off.

Zaidi is a writer and filmmaker

history HEADLINE ANJISHNU DAS



# 1931 caste Census: from British to Mandal link

THE NEARLY century-old exercise to last count castes in a Census in India gives a good idea of the challenges the enumerators can face in any fresh effort, plus the complexities of the exercise. While the Opposition is ramping up its demand for a caste census, the RSS last week indicated its support for a caste census, though adding it should not be used for political or electoral purposes. The BJP, on the other hand, has neither opposed the demand openly, nor made any commitment to it.

The 1931 Census that counted castes was conducted by the colonial British government, and was the first such exercise after the 1901 Census. The caste section put the numbers of Other Backward Classes (OBC) at 52% of the total 271 million population. This figure became the basis of the Mandal Commission's recommendation in 1980 to grant 27% reservations to OBCs in education and government jobs, which was implemented only in 1990.

JH Hutton, then Census Commissioner, countered those who argued against adding caste to the Census exercise saying that "the mere act of labelling persons belonging to a caste tends to perpetuate the system". Hutton's logic was that "it is impossible to get rid of any institution by ignoring its existence like the proverbial ostrich".

"It is difficult to see why the record of a fact that actually exists should tend to stabilise that existence," Hutton wrote in the 1931 Census. "Caste is still of vital consideration in the structure of Indian society."

But Hutton and his team ran into a series of problems while enumerating caste. Hutton enumerated some of them — from "a wave of non-cooperation, and the (salt) march of Mr Gandhi and his contrabandistas" to the Congress observing a 'Census Boycott Sunday', to numerous local-level movements which hampered efforts.

Besides, over the course of previous Census exercises, the methodology on caste had undergone several changes. For instance, in 1881, only groups with more than one lakh population were counted. In 1901, Census Commissioner HH Risley decided to use the "varna hierarchy" system, sparking numerous movements by caste groups who viewed the Census as a vehicle to move up the social order.

In the book *Caste, Politics, and the Raj*, historian Sekhar Bandyopadhyay writes that at the time, the Census was viewed not merely as a population count for each caste, but as a way "to fix the relative status of different castes and to deal with question of



The Census schedule from 1951. Census of India

social superiority... (which) gave rise to a considerable agitation both at organised and unorganised levels".

R B Bhagat, a professor at the International Institute for Population Sciences in Mumbai, wrote for the *Economic and Political Weekly*: "In the Census, the underprivileged found an opportunity to express their aspiration and if possible to acquire new identity through enumeration". Hutton was openly critical of using the varna hierarchy in the Census. "All the subsequent Census officers in India must have cursed the day when it occurred to Risley... to attempt to draw up a list of caste according to their rank in the society. He failed, but the result of his attempt is as troublesome as if he has succeeded," he wrote.

So, in 1931, occupation rather than varna was used to classify castes. But this model had its own pitfalls. For one, it was unable to reconcile the variations in an occupational group's social standing across regions — for instance, Hutton noted "cultivation in northern India is a respectable occupation, whereas in parts of southern India it is largely associated with the 'exterior' castes". "Admittedly this method... is far from being entirely satisfactory, since... cannot simultaneously recognise more than one of several traditional occupations for the same caste," Hutton wrote, but added that grouping castes roughly by occupation "also avoids any semblance of arrangement by order of social precedence".

While Hutton's use of the occupational model addressed the question of defining caste, the 1931 Census still was unable to fully account for the fluidity of caste identity and the variations in the names of groups across regions, says Ayan Guha, a research fellow at the University of Sussex who has written on the history of caste.

"The first problem was to define caste. You have to agree on the traits that make certain groups a caste and certain groups not a caste... The second problem was that caste has a lot of fluidity... The third problem was the standardisation of names — same castes with different names in different regions," Guha tells *The Indian Express*. Guha adds that Hutton had also flagged the problem of the dynamic nature of identity claims with groups changing caste identities from census to census. "A caste group that was Rajput in the last Census is now (in 1931) claiming to be Brahmin," he says.

In fact, an official in Madras noted in the 1931 Census report, "Sorting for caste is really worthless unless nomenclature is sufficiently fixed... Had caste terminology the stability of religious returns, caste sorting might be worthwhile. With the fluidity of present appellations it is certainly not..."

Guha also points out there was "variations was no uniform approach towards classification criteria for ordering of caste groups". "It depended on provincial census commissioners and their subjective assessment," he says.

Guha says that if a caste census is to be conducted today, it is likely to run into the same issues as the 1931 Census. In particular, the fluidity of caste identity — from one group seeking to be identified as a tribe, like the Meiteis in Manipur, to some groups fusing over time, like herder communities coming together as Yadavs, to the fission of some castes — will likely pose a challenge.

"Those who are saying do (a caste census), they should think about how to do it. We already know how the colonial Census had issues with caste. That debate on the methodological dimensions of caste enumeration, its fluidity and the boundaries between groups is missing," Guha says.

She SAID ANSHU SALUJA



# Vinesh readies for another bout

FROM THE protest site at Delhi's Jantar Mantar to the Paris Olympics, from the nail-biting quarter-final and semi-final matches to looking forlorn in a hospital bed, from the wrestling ring to the electoral ring — life has indeed turned into an unpredictable roller-coaster ride for wrestler Vinesh Phogat.

Not long ago, the 30-year-old was defamed, called names and written off. When she questioned the stranglehold of power in her sport, particularly women athletes being preyed on, she was hounded, and dragged through the mud, both literally and figuratively. But she rose above it all, thanks to her determination and resilience, and what a spectacular rise it was.

forts were not rewarded at the Paris Olympics, should we have cheered and lauded her any less? When she returned home, weary and disheartened, she was once again confronted with a toxic mix of derision, contempt and misogyny — an ugly game of subversion and displacement of responsibility that played out at multiple levels. Once again, and a little too hastily, attempts were made to discredit and dismiss Vinesh.

In 2023 too, when she and other wrestling stars protested in the open and fearlessly spoke truth to power to clean the rot in the sport, the response was a brute mix of apathy and hostility. The protest had to be crushed by all means, including the use of force. To this end, she and other defiant wrestlers were battered, shunned and dismissed. Still, Vinesh stood her ground. Systematic attempts were made to project

her as an irresponsible and self-consumed athlete who was ungrateful for the facilities being showered upon her. For her discomfiting questions and stiff resistance, she was accused of discrediting her sport — even the nation.

However, Vinesh tore into all these attempts with her steely resolve and force of will. She claimed her nation back for herself, and claimed it with a fervour and ferocity. She has truly lived up to the Olympic motto — *Citius, Altius, Fortius — Communiter* (Faster, Higher, Stronger — Together) — where she fought so fearlessly. The exceptional endurance she displayed in successive bouts on that fateful day at the Olympics was inspiring for an entire generation. We stood humbled by her courage in facing the overwhelming odds stacked up against her. She swam against the tide and defied it to surge across the ocean,

unimpeded and unbound. Her journey will, without doubt, encourage many others to resist oppression at the hands of the resourceful and powerful.

Now, Vinesh has entered a new arena — electoral politics. Unlike sports, where persistence, regular training and hard work are highly likely to pay, electoral politics is a circuitous struggle without defined principles or practices. In this contest, there are hardly any set rules to play by and two plus two rarely, if ever, adds up to four. There is no assured recipe for electoral success. It depends on a mishmash of complex factors like the party's ideological and organisational strategies, its appeal among the voters, the candidate's image, identity, social relations, available finances and many others.

Vinesh is set to contest from Haryana's Julana Assembly seat. Whether she will win or not, remains to be seen. What certainly

seems promising is that she will, to quote her, "win the battle of life" (*The Indian Express*, September 6, 2024), on the strength of her indomitable spirit.

Her relentless struggle teaches us a valuable lesson. Voices sought to be muted and marginalised for going against the grain and "discrediting" the nation — feminist and queer collectives, environment protection activists, human rights advocates, scholars, journalists and other dissenting groups — should, in fact, be allowed in the spirit of democratic values and inclusivity. Through their language of protest, defiance and dissent, they often strive to craft a more inclusive and representative nation. Thus, they expand hopes and claims for a just, equitable and dignified existence for all.

Anshu Saluja is an assistant professor of History at Azim Premji University, Bhopal. The views expressed are personal.

## TOP OF THE WORLD

Reuters  
Russian opposition leader Alexei NavalnyUNITED KINGDOM  
Infighting rocks Russia's exiled Opposition

London: Splits in Russia's opposition in exile have widened sharply, shifting their focus from political activism to infighting after allies of late opposition leader Alexei Navalny accused another opposition figure of ordering attacks on their activists. The two movements - one run by allies of the late Navalny and the other run by Kremlin critic Mikhail Khodorkovsky, have been involved in public disputes before, but the latest dispute is the most potent yet, with the Navalny camp accusing Leonid Nevzlin, an Israel-based tycoon and Khodorkovsky ally, of ordering assaults on Navalny aides Leonid Volkov and Ivan Zhdanov and on the wife of an Argentina-based activist. **REUTERS**

UNITED STATES  
Biden to make first Africa visit with Angola trip

Washington: President Joe Biden is planning a trip to Angola in coming weeks, fulfilling an earlier promise that would make him the first U.S. head of state to visit sub-Saharan Africa since Barack Obama in 2015, three sources familiar with the plans said. The trip, which is still being finalized, is likely to occur after the United Nations General Assembly meeting in September and before the Nov. 5 presidential election, one of the sources said. The White House declined to comment on the trip plans. Biden had hoped to visit Angola late last year but the trip was postponed after the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in October. **REUTERS**

IRAQ  
Four ISIS leaders killed in Aug 29 raid

Baghdad: Four ISIS leaders were killed as part of a U.S.-Iraqi raid in Western Iraq on Aug. 29 that killed 14 operatives, the U.S. military said on Friday. The U.S. disclosed the operation in August; it also injured seven military personnel. On Friday, U.S. Central Command said it was able to now confirm the deaths of several ISIS leaders, including Ahmad Hamid Husayn Abd-al-Jalil al-Ithawi, who was responsible for all operations in Iraq. **REUTERS**

## Days after debate remark, Trump vows to deport Haitians in Ohio city

Haitians in US say former President's remarks could put lives at risk

REUTERS  
CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER 14

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL candidate Donald Trump pledged on Friday to conduct mass deportations of Haitian immigrants from the Ohio city of Springfield, even though the majority of them are in the United States legally.

The city for days has found itself at the center of a social media maelstrom after right-wing agitators latched onto false claims that Haitian arrivals were eating household pets.

"We will do large deportations in Springfield, Ohio," Trump said at a press conference at his golf resort near Los Angeles.

The majority of the 15,000 Haitians in Springfield are there legally. Trump's longstanding pledge to conduct mass deportations usually refers to those in the country illegally. Trump did not repeat the assertion he made during Tuesday's presidential debate with Democrat Kamala Harris that immigrants were eating dogs and cats, remarks that have been widely mocked.

At the White House, President Joe Biden urged the attacks on the Haitian community to cease. "It's simply wrong.



Former President Donald Trump at a rally in Las Vegas, Nevada on Friday. Reuters

There's no place in America. This has to stop," he said.

The Biden administration extended Temporary Protected

Status to hundreds of thousands of Haitians in the US in June, a decades-old program that protects legal immigrants from deportation and gives them work permits.

Trump has cited the tensions in Springfield as an example of the need for hardline immigration policies. The influx of Haitians has boosted the economy but also has strained social

services. "I'm angry about illegal Haitian migrants taking over Springfield, Ohio. You see that mess, don't you?" Trump said at a rally in Las Vegas, Friday.

Haitian community leaders across the US said the Republican candidate's remarks could put lives at risk and further inflame tensions in Springfield.

"We need help, not hate," Springfield's mayor Rob Rue told ABC News. City officials say they have received no credible reports of anybody eating household animals.

There's no place in America. This has to stop," he said.

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## RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE



## FRENCH WOMEN PROTEST RAPE

A demonstration in support of Gisele Pelicot, who was allegedly drugged and raped by 50 men solicited by her husband Dominique Pelicot, in Marseille. Express

■ Feminist associations have called for over 30 gatherings in cities from Marseille to Paris in support of Gisele Pelicot.

■ As her story has rippled through France, Pelicot, 72, has become a symbol of France's fight against sexual violence.

■ It was her decision to insist on a public trial to alert the public to sexual abuse and drug-induced blackouts.

## Sweden to grant migrants \$34,000 to return home, critics say it sends a wrong message

LYNSEY CHUTEL  
STOCKHOLM, SEPTEMBER 14

SWEDEN, A nation long known for its open-arms policy toward migrants, plans to drastically increase its cash offer - by 35 times, to more than \$34,000 - to those who agree to go home.

On Thursday, the country's right-wing government announced that it would raise the existing benefit - 10,000 krona (or about \$978) per adult - to



The plan increases the cash offer to migrants by 35 times

350,000 krona per person, and reduce the red tape involved in ap-

plying for the grant in a bid to attract more takers. The existing benefit includes a cap for families of 40,000 krona, or about \$3717.

The increase, which will take effect in 2026, goes against the advice of a government-appointed inquiry, which said in a report last month that promoting repatriation would hinder migrants' integration into Swedish society.

"Potential gains do not appear large enough to justify the risks," the panel warned. **NYT**

**E** Only one took the offer last yr

EXPERTS DOUBTED if the higher amount would tempt many immigrants to return. Only one person took advantage of the grant last year, and experts doubt that many more will take advantage of it, even at a higher benefit.

## TO ENABLE ARRESTED IMRAN PARTY MPs ATTEND PARLIAMENT SESSIONS PAK DECLARES PARLIAMENT LODGES AS SUB-JAIL

The speaker of Pakistan's national assembly has declared the Parliament Lodges here as sub-jail for jailed former PM Imran Khan's party's MPs who were arrested earlier this week under the anti-terror law. The move aims enabling them to attend the sitting of 9th Session of National Assembly.

## 'PUTIN WILL NOT PREVAIL IN THIS WAR'

## Biden meets Starmer, dismisses Putin's threat over long-range strikes

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 14

PRESIDENT JOE Biden brushed off a threat from Russian leader Vladimir Putin about war against the West if Ukraine's allies allow it to use weapons deeper inside Russia. It's a shift that Kyiv has pleaded for but does not appear likely to be announced following a meeting Friday between Biden and Britain's prime minister.

Ukraine was a key topic for Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer following this week's visit to Kyiv by their top diplomats, who came under fresh pressure to loosen weapons restrictions.

Two US officials familiar with discussions said they believe Starmer will seek Biden's approval to allow Ukraine to use British Storm Shadow missiles for expanded strikes in Russia. Biden's approval may be needed because Storm Shadow components are made in the US.

Putin said a day earlier that allowing long-range strikes "would mean that NATO countries, the United States and European countries, are at war with Russia."

Speaking to journalists shortly before the talks with Starmer, Biden said he wanted to make "clear that Putin will not prevail in this war." Asked what he thought about Putin's threat, Biden answered, "I don't think much about Vladimir Putin."

Sitting at a table across from Biden before their closed-door meeting, Starmer said, "I think the next few weeks and months could be crucial" for the war.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin stressed Friday that decisions on what military support to provide Ukraine were complex.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and President Joe Biden with British PM Keir Starmer at the White House, Friday. Reuters

## Could have done more to prevent Ukraine war, says NATO chief Stoltenberg

REUTERS  
BERLIN, SEPTEMBER 14

NATO COULD have done more to arm Ukraine to try to prevent Russia's invasion in 2022, the outgoing head of the Western military alliance said in an interview released on Saturday.

"Now we provide military stuff to a war - then we could have provided military stuff to prevent the war," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told German weekly newspaper FAZ.

Stoltenberg pointed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's reluctance to provide weapons that Kyiv had asked for before Russia's full-scale invasion because of fears that tensions with Russia would escalate.

"To end this war there will have to be again dialogue with



Russia at a certain stage. But it has to be based on Ukrainian strength," he said.

Meanwhile, Russia and Ukraine conducted a major exchange of prisoners on Saturday, 206 in all, in their second such swap in two days, officials said. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that all 103 Ukrainians returned were from the military.

Russian Defence Ministry said that the 103 Russian soldiers exchanged had been taken prisoner in the border Kursk region where Ukrainian forces launched a surprise incursion in August.

## 14 Palestinians killed in Israel strikes on central, south Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
DEIR-AL-BALAH, SEPT 14

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES hit central and southern Gaza overnight into Saturday, killing at least 14.

The airstrikes in Gaza City hit one home housing 11 people, including three women and four children, and another strike hit a tent in Khan Younis with Palestinians displaced by the Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Civil Defense said Saturday.

They followed airstrikes earlier this week that hit a tent camp on Tuesday and a United

Nations school sheltering displaced on Wednesday.

A campaign to inoculate children in Gaza against polio drew down and the World Health Organization said about 559,000 under the age of 10 have recovered from their first dose, seven out of every eight children the campaign aimed to vaccinate.

"As we prepare for the next round in four weeks, we're hopeful these pauses will hold, because this campaign has clearly shown the world what's possible when peace is given a chance," said Richard Peepkorn, WHO representative in Gaza and West Bank.



Israeli soldiers in Gaza on Friday. AP

## Amid tensions, Pak removes its special envoy to Kabul: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 14

THE PAKISTAN government has removed its special representative to Afghanistan Asif Durrani, amid heightened tensions between Islamabad and Kabul, media reports said on Saturday.

According to an official notification, Durrani was "relieved of his responsibilities as Special Representative on Afghanistan in Management Position" on September 10, *The Express Tribune* newspaper reported.

No official reason was given for the move. However, citing sources, the report said Durrani, who was appointed to the post in May 2023, failed to make an impact on the Pakistan-Afghanistan relationship.

It also said Durrani had no acceptability in Kabul as he only had a handful of engagements with the Taliban-led interim government.

The Dawn newspaper reported the country's powerful military was unhappy with his performance, and Durrani, too, had grown frustrated as his policy advice was regularly ignored by his principals.

## A FORGED PRINT DELAYED DISCOVERY OF THEFT OF THE PORTRAIT LONG ENOUGH FOR IT TO BE SOLD IN A LONDON AUCTION

## Churchill's famous 'Roaring Lion' portrait, stolen from Canada 2 yrs ago, found in Italy

IANAUSTEN  
OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER 14

FOR THREE decades, a fierce-looking Winston Churchill, a hand on his hip, stared down guests in a lounge at the Fairmont Château Laurier hotel in Ottawa.

It was a legacy of Yousef Karsh, the portrait photographer of royalty, politicians, artists, actors and authors who long lived in the hotel and operated his studio there.

Just over two years ago, however, a maintenance worker noticed something wrong. The frame on the portrait didn't

match those of other photos Mr. Karsh had permanently lent the hotel when he and his wife moved out in 1997.

The photo was a decoy, a poor inkjet copy of the print with an ineptly forged signature of Karsh that had been left behind by a thief. Now, Churchill's portrait may end up back in its rightful place. The Ottawa Police Service said Wednesday that an international investigation had tracked down the stolen photo in Italy and that it would soon send an officer there to retrieve it.

The police disclosed that a man from a small northern

Ontario town was arrested in April and charged with the theft and various other crimes, including forgery.

"I thought this would never be recovered," said Jerry Fielder, the director of Karsh's estate. "There didn't seem to be many leads." (Karsh died in 2002).

The theft, he added, was "really devastating" to Karsh's widow, Estrellita Karsh, who is 94. She declined, through Fielder, to be interviewed. "She's been following all of the progress of the investigation," Fielder said.

The Ottawa hotel told reporters on Wednesday that it



The portrait was commissioned in 1941 by the then Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King. NYT

would display the portrait again - this time with better security. The area where it hung, along with Karsh's portraits of Albert Einstein, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Casals and other notables, is closed for renovation.

Fielder, who identified the replacement photo as a forgery, attributed the photograph's recovery to the persistence of Acting Detective Sgt. Akiva Geller of the Ottawa Police.

Detective Sergeant Geller, at the news conference, offered few details about the case, citing a trial that is likely to take place. On Thursday the police identified

the man arrested and now facing six criminal charges as Jeffrey Iain James Wood, a 43-year-old from Powassan, Ontario.

Exactly when the forgery replaced the genuine print is not known. After soliciting snapshots from the public, the hotel narrowed down the disappearance to between December 25, 2021, and January 6, 2022. Pandemic restrictions at the time meant that guests were scarce in the hotel.

A photograph of the forgery taken by a NYT reporter in April 2022 - four months before the theft was discovered and while the reporter was on a different as-

ignment - shows that it was dangling from a piece of cord on a crooked wall hook.

The genuine 20-by-24 inch, gold-toned print was sold in an online auction in May 2022 by Sotheby's in London for 5,292 British pounds, or about \$6,900.

The photograph, which came to be known as "Roaring Lion," transformed Karsh from a local portraitist into an internationally known photographer of the famous. In 1941, William Lyon Mackenzie King, the Canadian PM, asked Karsh to photograph Churchill after he spoke to Canada's Parliament. **NYT**

## 19 ECONOMY

ENERGY STORAGE ONE OF OUR GROWTH-ORIENTED SEGMENTS: HITACHI ENERGY CEO

## 'Energy transition demand has suddenly grown; need to have better planning'

HITACHI ENERGY Ltd, with a market cap exceeding Rs 54,000 crore, is a major player in the energy sector, offering critical equipment and services for the green transition. N VENU, managing director and chief executive officer of Hitachi Energy, in a conversation with AGGAM WALIA, addressed key topics, including the resilience of the supply chain for power transformers amid growing global demand, advancements in energy storage systems, and the unique challenges posed by offshore wind generation. Edited excerpts:

**Can you share some details on the supply chain for power transformers in terms of resilience and localisation?**

When it comes to the supply chain, it is very robust. When we talk of the main things, like transformer bushings and insulation materials, those are all available. Our challenge is probably CRGO (cold rolled grain oriented) steel, which we use within the transformer. We don't have the capacity built in the country for that from the steel manufacturers. But we have now seen announcements from some of the steel industry players to manufacture CRGO steel. Then, to some extent copper, depending upon the market.

But otherwise, we have created a very robust supply chain in ensuring that we meet the demand requirements of this country and also from outside.

Having said that, the energy transition demand has suddenly



grown. Whether it is demand arising out of renewable generation capacity adding up or creating a robust transmission network, it has gone up. We need to have better planning in terms of ordering and visibility. The issue is not about not having enough supply but ensuring that we have better planning to see that both demand and supply matches with the requirement.

**In recent years, costs of transformers have gone up significantly—over 70-80 per cent by some estimates. Is that a result of demand-supply imbalance?**

Cost is basically a market-driven phenomenon. I don't call it supply-demand issues. In my view, there is enough balance between the supply and the demand. It's not that there is an over-supply or over-demand case. Having said that, there is enough demand and at the same time today customers are willing to accept from any geographical (source). India is very well positioned and if we are having a customer from Europe or the Middle East, they are will-



ing to accept, which was not the case earlier. So from that standpoint, supply-demand is there but otherwise its cost is primarily market-driven, a bit of inflation challenges everywhere, and also the metal prices. (Cost for) most of a transformer, around 60 per cent of the commodities like oil, copper, and CRGO, are market-driven.

**How does Hitachi plan to balance the domestic and export markets given the rising global demand for transformers?**

Way back in 1949, we started in a small way and since then we

have expanded both our manufacturing, our engineering, our talents, etc. We have 19 manufacturing factories here. Our main focus is to cater to the domestic demand. We have enough demand here and it has been growing. Over a period of time, we set ourselves a target to use this Indian manufacturing base to also cater to the rest of the world, wherever it is feasible. Based on that, we said that in the midterm we should reach 25 per cent of our total orders and revenue to be exports and we have met that target.

Our aim is to sustain this momentum up to a particular per cent and focus on the domestic market. We believe that the domestic market has a lot of opportunities to offer in terms of renewable energy, interstate transmission network, and also the industrial penetration, which is going to come in a big way as industries decarbonise.

**Energy storage is coming in a big way. How do you look at these developments?**

With so much renewable energy coming in, to ensure that the system is stable and to have round the clock green energy, you need to have storage. There are a lot of options in storage—pump storage is one example but the challenge with pump storage is that it has a long gestation period because you need to do a lot of civil work. Battery energy storage is another alternative.

Again, the pathway to storage is not one technology but multiple technologies. With battery storage, the cost of lithium-

ion batteries is very high, so sometimes it doesn't make a return on investment, and that's the reason why the government has come out with a viability gap funding for the short-term basis. When it comes to Hitachi Energy, this is one of our growth-oriented segments. We do not manufacture batteries but we create energy storage systems using third-party batteries. This market is going to come up in India and we are looking at various scenarios to see how we play our part here.

**India is also looking to build offshore wind capacities. What are some of the key technological challenges with offshore wind?**

Globally, offshore wind is one of our core segments—we have connected around 38 GW of offshore wind using our technology. If offshore wind comes in near to the shore, then people use AC (alternating current) for economics and wherever it is in deep water, we use the DC (direct current) technology.

We have our offerings which we call oceanic where we have innovative solutions designed for the offshore environment. It's a fully qualified portfolio of transformer and services for the offshore industry, for fixed-bottom, floating, and subsea applications. Of course, there are some technological needs, for example it has to be corrosion resistance, structural integrity and grid integration. In addition to that, we need to also have a lot of remote monitoring and maintenance because every time we cannot go offshore.

## NSE co-location case: How Sebi saw lapses in 2019 but found no evidence in 2024

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

FIVE YEARS after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) came down heavily on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) for alleged lapses in high-frequency trading offered through its co-location (colo) facility directing the exchange to disgorge Rs 624.89 crore and prohibited seven top officials including Ravi Narain and Chitra Ramakrishna, both former managing directors and CEOs, from associating with a listed company or a market intermediary for a period of five years, the market regulator has disposed of the charges and let them off the hook.

The Sebi order will benefit Ravi Narain and Chitra Ramakrishna, Anand Subramanian (former group operating officer), Ravindra Apte and Umesh Jain (former chief technical officers), Mahesh Soparkar (former senior vice president—special projects), Deviprasad Singh (former head of the IT operations) and the NSE which has been gearing up for its mega IPO.

**What is the NSE co-location case?**

The NSE faced allegations that some brokers got preferential access through the co-location facility at the stock exchange, early login and 'dark fiber'—which can allow a trader a split-second faster access to data feed of an exchange. Even a split-second faster access is considered to result in huge gains for a trader. The allegations of unfair access were first raised by a whistle-blower in January 2015. The whistle-blower wrote to the Sebi alleging that a few brokers were able to log into the NSE systems with better hardware specifications while engaged in algorithmic trading, allowing them unfair access and advantage. The unfair access issue pertains to 2012-14 when NSE used to disseminate price information through a unicast system. In such a system information is disseminated to one member after another. The letter to Sebi alleged that sophisticated market manipulation has been taking place for several years at the NSE co-location centre. It also said that NSE had allowed non-empowered internet service provider (ISP) to lay fiber in its premises for few stock brokers.

**WTM order in 2024 says low probability of collusion, cites lack of evidence**

According to the latest Sebi order, all the evidences, material and objective facts which have formed



the basis of current SCN (show-cause notice) were also part of the earlier show cause notice and were examined by SAT and based on such examination, it was held that there was no evidence to suggest violation of PFUTP Regulations or SECC Regulations by the NSE and its employees. "When these evidences, material and objective facts did not lead to violation of PFUTP Regulations or SECC Regulations, they cannot lead to determination of collusion or connivance where the establishment of violation would additionally require presence of "conspiracy" or "secret or indirect consent or permission" making such establishment of violation more difficult," the order said.

The fact that OPG Securities was logging on to the secondary server till May 2015, even after the warning in the first half of June 2012 does indicate indirect consent by the NSE to OPG, Sebi order said. However, the fact that 93 trading members were logging to the secondary server during this period reduces the probability of collusion or connivance. Further, it is seen that in spite of multiple reports of Deloitte, EY, Sebi External Committee where external experts have examined email dumps, communication record for a reasonable period of time, still, no direct or indirect evidences, material, objective facts of collusion and connivance have been reported. This has further reduced the probability of collusion or connivance between OPG and its directors with Notices (seven NSE officials), the regulator said.

**Sebi orders in 2019, 2021 found violations**

On April 30, 2019, Sebi came down heavily on NSE for alleged lapses in high-frequency trading offered through its co-location facility and directed to disgorge Rs 624.89 crore and barred the exchange from accessing the market for funds for six months. Sebi also asked Narain and Ramakrishna to disgorge 25 per cent of their respective salaries drawn during a certain period.

**Action against OPG**

In a separate order on Friday, SEBI directed Delhi-based broker OPG Securities Pvt Ltd, owned by Sanjay Gupta, Sangeeta Gupta and Om Prakash Gupta, to disgorge Rs 85.25 crore with an interest of 12 per cent (per annum). "I hold that the total amount of unlawful gains of Rs 85.25 crore (Rs 40.41 crore as intraday and Rs 44.84 crore as overnight) is held to be the unlawful gains that OPG earned by virtue of consistently connecting to the secondary server of the NSE collocation facility. FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

They were also prohibited from associating with a listed company or a market infrastructure institution or any other market intermediary for a period of five years.

In 2021, SEBI in its 96-page adjudication order said NSE failed to comply with the provisions of Stock Exchange and Clearing Corporation (SECC) Regulations in "letter and spirit" and Ramakrishna and Narain are "vicariously liable for the acts of omissions/commissions committed by NSE during the investigation period".

Sebi said the conduct of the NSE and Ramakrishna are "blameworthy being in defiance of the obligations casted under SECC Regulations". "... the default is grave and the gravity of this matter cannot be ignored. Therefore, no lenient view should be taken and the case deserves imposition of monetary penalty..." said Sebi order passed by adjudicating officer Amit Pradhan. The adjudication by Sebi has concluded that NSE failed to provide a level playing field for members subscribing to its tick-by-tick data feed system. This TBT data feed is used for algorithmic trading.

However, January 2023, the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) set aside market regulator SEBI's Rs 625 crore disgorgement order against the NSE, its ex-CEOs Chitra Ramakrishna and Ravi Narain in the co-location scam. In its order, SAT pulled up the market regulator, asking, "how SEBI directed NSE to conduct an investigation against itself."

## BRIEFLY

**NCLT recalls order on Zee-Sony merger**

New Delhi: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has allowed withdrawal of its order approving the merger of Zee Entertainment and Sony Pictures Networks India and recalled its earlier order passed in this regard. The Mumbai bench of the NCLT had last week recalled its order passed on August 10, 2023, in which it had approved the merger of Zee Entertainment with Sony Pictures Networks India. It observed the parties have "mutually consented" to withdraw the scheme on account of the settlement agreement and the board of directors has passed the resolutions to withdraw the scheme of amalgamation. PTI

**Adani Green Energy names S Shah as new CFO**

Bengaluru: Adani Green Energy on Saturday said Saurabh Shah, now deputy chief financial officer (CFO) of Adani Enterprises, would assume the role of CFO at Adani Green Energy, replacing Phuntok Wangyal, who will step down effective September 30. REUTERS

**S&P revises S Arabia's outlook to positive**

Bengaluru: S&P Global Ratings revised Saudi Arabia's forecast to positive from stable on Friday, citing strong non-oil growth outlook and economic resilience. The agency said the positive outlook reflects the Saudi government's potential to bring in more reforms and investments, contributing to the development of non-oil economy. The upgrade also reflects the economic resilience against ongoing volatility stemming from the hydrocarbon sector. Saudi Arabia had announced an economic overhaul, known as Vision 2030, to end its reliance on oil for economic growth. REUTERS

## PM E-DRIVE: Exclusion of electric cars from the scheme could dent sales further

AGGAM WALIA  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

UNDER THE Centre's new PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme, entailing an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore over two years, fiscal incentives have been extended to electric two- and three-wheelers, buses, trucks, and even ambulances. However, unlike its predecessor, the FAME-2 scheme, the latest subsidy makes a significant omission—electric cars.

While electric cars were also left out of the stopgap Electronic Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS), introduced in April and set to expire by the end of this month, the industry had hoped the final scheme would include some benefits for four-wheelers. The chorus for subsidies grew louder especially after a marked decline in sales following the conclusion of the FAME-2 programme. With their exclusion now confirmed, the government's stance is clear—lower GST for electric cars, schemes for localisation of components and batteries, and additional funds for charging stations to address range anxiety are deemed sufficient steps on its part.

**No sops for electric cars**

Approved by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday, the PME-



India has approximately 25,000 public charging stations for its 46 lakh registered EVs, across vehicle types. File

DRIVE scheme aims to support approximately 25 lakh electric two-wheelers, 3 lakh electric three-wheelers, and 14,000 electric buses through demand incentives. Automakers will be able to claim reimbursements from the government on the sale of eligible electric vehicles. Like its predecessor FAME-2, PM E-DRIVE will be administered by the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

The scheme aligns with the government's broader push for e-mobility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and dependency on fuel imports. It is set to play a crucial role in reaching the ambitious target of 30 per cent electric vehicle penetration by 2030.

However, unlike FAME-2, which supported 55,000 electric passenger cars, including strong hybrids, PM E-DRIVE maintains a conspicuous silence on electric

cars. There is one exception—the proposal to install 22,100 fast chargers for electric four-wheelers, a subtle recognition of the lingering concerns around range anxiety. The exclusion of electric cars from the new scheme comes after the Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that the EV sector no longer requires subsidies at an industry event earlier this week. He cited declining lithium-ion battery costs and the growing benefit of economies of scale, predicting that within two years, the cost of petrol and diesel vehicles would be on par with EVs.

**Sales dropped after FAME-2 ended**

After the FAME-2 scheme ended in March, electric car sales saw a notable decline across the country. In the five months lead-

ing up to its conclusion, from November to March, electric car registrations averaged 8,158 per month, peaking at nearly 10,000 in March, according to data compiled by EVReporter. In contrast, between April and August, following the scheme's expiration, registrations averaged 7,456 cars per month, reflecting a 9 per cent drop. August recorded the lowest monthly sales of 2024, with just over 6,300 cars registered, a 10 per cent decline compared to August 2023. This muted consumer response in the absence of fiscal incentives indicates that the electric car market is not yet self-sustaining. However, a broader slowdown in overall car sales across fuel types could also partly explain the dip in EV sales.

In addition to the cost difference between internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles and electric cars, inadequate charging infrastructure continues to be a pain point for buyers. According to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, India has approximately 25,000 public charging stations for its 46 lakh registered EVs, across vehicle types. The current ratio of 184 EVs per charging station is much higher than in other countries actively promoting e-mobility. Moreover, many of these stations are not equipped to charge electric cars and do not offer fast charging options.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Indian car buyers getting more upwardly mobile

VIKRAM CHAUDHARY  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE AVERAGE selling price of a passenger vehicle in India has increased by almost Rs 4 lakh in the past five years. According to data shared by top carmakers, the average selling price of a car in India in FY24 was Rs 11.5 lakh, which is a sharp growth from Rs 7.61 lakh in FY19.

Also, in FY24, 47 per cent of cars sold in India were priced above Rs 10 lakh—a figure that was just 15 per cent in FY19. "In FY24, 47 per cent of cars sold in India were priced above the Rs 10-lakh mark, and 53 per cent under Rs 10 lakh.

In FY19, the corresponding figures were just 15 per cent for cars priced over Rs 10 lakh and



85 per cent under Rs 10 lakh," they said.

Carmakers have attributed this growth to a rise in input costs of cars, thereby increasing their sticker price, rising interest in SUVs which are priced more than sedans and hatchbacks in the same segment, a strong GDP growth seen after

the lockdown, rise in the number of women buyers, growth in corporate earnings, and a YOLO (you only live once) mindset among Indians after Covid-19.

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Bank of Baroda, said that after the lockdown there has been a clear move towards purchase of premium cars and SUVs.

"As soon as one starts working, there is a desire to own a big car—a vehicle that stands out. Banks and NBFCs provide the nudge by offering easy credit facilities," he said.

"With ESOPs and high levels of salaries, especially in the BFSI industry and the services sector, young people have high purchasing power, and that's getting reflected in booming sales of premium cars and SUVs."

Carmakers added that SUVs today form almost 55 per cent of car sales, and the starting price of SUVs is Rs 7-8 lakh.

Even within midsize SUVs, top-end variants are in demand. For example, although Hyundai's Creta—India's best-selling SUV—is available at starting price of Rs 11 lakh, the range-topping SX(O) variant, priced from Rs 17.27 lakh to Rs 20.15 lakh, is the real puller, and it contributes to more than 30 per cent of Creta sales.

In addition, variants with sunroof contribute to 70 per cent sales, variants with connectivity features 50 per cent sales, variants with ADAS semiautomatic driving 42 per cent sales... it implies that most Creta buyers go for top-end variants, the ones loaded with features. FE

HITS RECORD ₹2.01 LAKH CRORE IN FY24

## GST evasion doubles in FY24; Mumbai tops detection list

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

TAX EVASION of Rs 2.01 lakh crore was detected in the financial year 2023-24, nearly double the Rs 1.01 lakh crore detection in the previous financial year under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, data released by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) on Saturday showed. Mumbai topped among zones with the highest amount of GST detection at Rs 70,985 crore, followed by Delhi (Rs 18,313 crore), Pune (Rs 17,328 crore), Gurugram (Rs 15,502 crore), and Hyderabad (Rs 11,081 crore), as per the latest annual report of the DGGI.

The report by the investigative arm of GST showed that among services, real money online gaming and the banking, financial, and insurance sectors were the most evasion-prone. Among goods, iron, copper, scrap & alloys, and pan masala, tobacco, cigarette, and bidi were identified as the sectors most prone to GST evasion in FY24. The latest annual report of the DGGI showed that 6,084 cases of GST evasion were detected in FY24, compared to 4,872 cases in the previous financial year. Out of this, voluntary payment amounted to Rs 26,605 crore in a

## INCREASE IN DETECTION

- The number of GST evasion cases detected rose to 6,084 in FY24 from 4,872 cases in the previous financial year
- The real money online gaming sector and the banking, financial, and insurance sectors were identified as the most prone to GST evasion

total of 4,520 cases in FY24. In the previous financial year, voluntary payment had stood at Rs 20,713 crore in 3,683 cases.

Non-payment of tax, including clandestine supply, undervaluation, etc., comprised 46 per cent of the total GST evasion cases in FY24, followed by avilment of fake input tax credit (20 per cent) and wrong avilment/non-reversal of ITC/blocked credit (19 per cent).

Sector-wise breakup for 2023-24 showed that the real money online gaming sector recorded the highest GST evasion of Rs 81,875 crore in 78 cases, followed by the banking, financial, and insurance (BFSI) sector with Rs 18,961 crore eva-

sion in 171 cases. Works contract services had 343 cases involving Rs 2,846 crore of evasion, while the pharmaceutical sector had 22 evasion cases with GST evasion of Rs 40 crore.

Among goods, in 2023-24, 1,976 cases of GST evasion were detected in the iron, copper, scrap, and alloys sectors, involving Rs 16,806 crore of tax evasion. Pan masala, tobacco, cigarette, and bidi came second with 212 cases registering an evasion of Rs 5,794 crore.

Plywood, timber, and paper had 238 cases involving tax evasion of Rs 1,196 crore. Electronic items saw 23 cases with an evasion of Rs 1,165 crore, followed by marble, granite, and tiles with 235 cases and Rs 315 crore of GST evasion.

During 2023-24, the total GST evasion detected by DGGI officers and the Central GST zone was over Rs 2.37 lakh crore in 20,576 cases. This includes Rs 2.01 lakh crore detected by DGGI in 6,084 cases and Rs 35,377 crore by CGST zones in 14,492 cases. The detection of GST evasion by DGGI has been steadily rising since the rollout of GST in 2017. In 2017-18, Rs 7,879 crore of GST evasion was detected, followed by Rs 19,319 crore in 2018-19, Rs 21,739 crore in 2019-20, Rs 31,908 crore in 2020-21, and Rs 50,325 crore in 2021-22.

BRIDGE

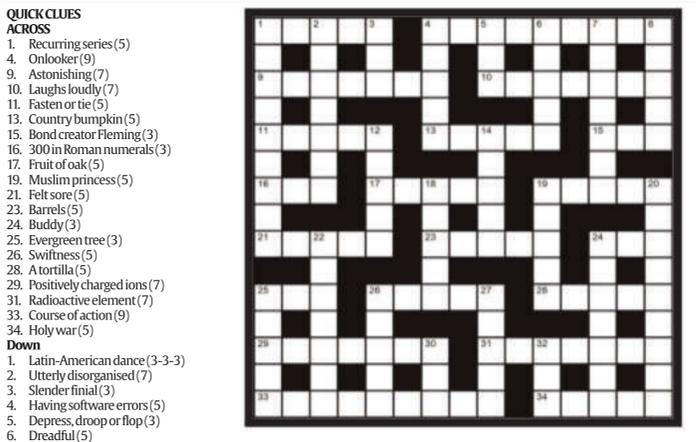
Bridge game details including dealer (West Vulnerable: Both), North and South hands, and West's play sequence.

West shows that he has real hearts, leading the ace, king, and queen of hearts. East follows with the jack and five and he discards a small diamond on the queen of hearts.

Bridge game details including dealer (West Vulnerable: North/South), North and South hands, and West's play sequence.

You have the West hand and you hear South bid 3NT and North, 3NT. You consider doubling but elect to take the sure profit. Your lead?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2495



- QUICK CLUES ACROSS: 1. Recurring series (5), 4. Onlooker (9), 9. Astonishing (7), 10. Laughs loudly (7), 11. Fasten or tie (5), 13. Country bumpkin (5), 15. Bond creator Fleming (3), 16. 300 in Roman numerals (3), 17. Fruit of oak (5), 19. Muslim princess (5), 21. Felt sore (5), 23. Barrels (5), 24. Buddy (3), 25. Evergreen tree (3), 26. Swiftless (5), 28. Attortilla (5), 29. Positively charged ions (7), 31. Radioactive element (7), 33. Course of action (9), 34. Holy war (5). DOWN: 1. Latin-American dance (3-3-3), 2. Utterly disorganised (7), 3. Slender finial (3), 4. Having software errors (5), 5. Depress, droop or flop (3), 6. Dreadful (5), 7. Sketch (7), 8. Ascended (5), 12. Listened to (5), 14. Types (5), 18. When expected (2,3), 19. Subatomic particle (5), 20. Misspoken (9), 22. Hamlets friend (7), 24. Slightly hungry (7), 25. One of the world's oldest football competitions (2,3), 26. Uttered words (5), 27. Two (5), 30. Former France coin (3), 32. RK's Kal\_Aur Kal (3).

If it's your Birthday

Sunday September 15 Mars, the planet responsible for your energetic qualities, is about to adjust its position, sending you a series of much more lively messages than has been the case over recent weeks.

Monday September 16 You can afford to be helpful - and to give partners the benefit of your wise advice. Pursue your goals in a down-to-earth and business-like manner.

Tuesday September 17 You'd do well to concentrate on initiatives and enterprises which are already underway before you try to set up fresh projects and partnerships.

Wednesday September 18 Keep all bases covered and every option open over the coming month. If you should be confused as to whether you should accept an offer, then go for it.

Thursday September 19 You'll be encouraged to take on new responsibilities over the next year but there doesn't seem to be too much pressure.

Friday September 20 You'll be making up your mind about all sorts of treasured ambitions, although probably keeping your decisions secret. Tell everyone who is involved.

Saturday September 21 Emotions are still running high, but your strongest quality is your romantic idealism. You are dreaming of the perfect world, and expect only the best from other people.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Your financial situation will be coloured by your emotions, so this may therefore not be the best time for taking level-headed and clear decisions about your future.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Jupiter is still aligned with communicative regions of your chart, enabling you to put your case with energy, verve, enthusiasm - and sensitivity. This is therefore an ideal time to arrange meetings, hold discussions, attend interviews and generally lay out a firm strategy for the future.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) The principle astrological alignments at the moment are helpful, and you may count on a successful outcome whatever you do, and as long as you play fair by others. Moneywise you seem to be functioning well, at least better than in the past.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Sometimes the stars tell you to think about others. You must be prepared to put your own interests to one side and place yourself at the disposal of those who need your support and sympathy, no matter how much this may tax your emotional reserves.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) You appear to have itchy feet and are desperate for a change of scenery. The likelihood is of many short journeys rather than a long voyage, but life will be no less adventurous for all that.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) Friends will be ready to listen and eager to help, so do not keep worries to yourself. Some of you are getting the idea that love is a more important part of your relationships than mere emotional security.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Romance is best found in foreign cultures and climes, while people from overseas will be those who offer you the greatest inspiration. Are you thinking of travelling? It would be in your interests to get away for a while and experience new surroundings.

NOTICE For Ordinary Members ("A" Class Shareholders) Notice is hereby given to all the Ordinary Members ("A" Class Shareholders) of Lokmanya Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd. registered till 31st March 2024, that the 30th Annual General Body Meeting of the Society for the financial year 2023-24 will be held on Monday 30th September 2024 at 5.00 p.m. at Lokmanya Sabhagruha 568, Tilak Wada, Narayan Peth, Pune-411030.

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 clue.

Word jumble puzzle with letters in a grid and shaded squares. Clue: A crown is merely a hat that lets the rain in. - Frederick the Great (5,.,3)

SUDOKU 5714

A 9x9 Sudoku puzzle grid with some numbers filled in.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5714

The solved 9x9 Sudoku puzzle grid.

WEST

West hand details for a bridge game, including cards and scores.

Answer: A crown is merely a hat that lets the rain in. - Frederick the Great

PROCLAMATION REGARDING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Jaideep @ JD S/o Late Sardar Jaswant Singh R/o WZ-H 31, Sant Nagar Extension, Tilak Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case FIR No. 146/2004 u/s 420/467/468/471/474 IPC & 12 PP Act, P.S. Special Cell, Lodhi Colony, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Jaideep @ JD cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Jaideep @ JD has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said Jaideep @ JD accused of FIR No. 146/2004 u/s 420/467/468/471/474 IPC & 12 PP Act, P.S. Special Cell, Lodhi Colony, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on 19.10.2024.

By Order: Ms. Nabeela Wali Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Room No. 26, Patiala House Court, New Delhi

"IMPORTANT"

Whist care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any losses or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting in an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED

All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Limited (www.coalindia.in), respective Subsidiary Company (WCL, www.westerncoal.in), CIL e-procurement portal (https://coalindiatenders.nic.in) and Central Public Procurement Portal (https://procure.gov.in). Bids for the tender can be submitted through https://coalindiatenders.nic.in only. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, are published on https://coalindiatenders.nic.in only. In addition, procurement is also being done through GeM Portal (https://gem.gov.in).

STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH TRAINING

VARUN MARG, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI - 110024 Email - publicationscert@gmail.com, www.scertdelhi.nic.in Contact No. 24331354

F.No.3(64)/ Pub. Deptt/SCERT/2024-25/6383-84 Dated: 12/09/2024 Certificate for compliance on content regulations of Government Advertisements by HOD

Online tenders through e-procurement platform are invited for empanment of Delhi & NCR based reputed firms with rate contract for printing & binding, typesetters, copy editor & proof readers, illustration & designing etc.

Table with columns: Date and time of release of tender through e-procurement solution, Last date for submission of e-bid through e-procurement (online), Last date of submission of EMD of Rs. 5,00,000 in physical form at SCERT, Online Opening of Technical Bid (tentative), Online Opening of Financial Bid (tentative).

For more details please log on to https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in. and https://scert.delhi.gov.in/ (for Reading only).

Sd/- DR. RITA SHARMA Director, SCERT

website - tribtal.cg.gov.in क्रमांक /141-1/प्रचार/2024-25/6001

मध्यम स्त्री बाल परिवर्तन प्रकल्प योजना अंतर्गत संचालित प्रचार आवासीय विद्यालयों के जॉब से 12वीं (बर्ष) 2024-25 से 2028-29 तक का 11वीं / 12वीं (बर्ष) 2024-25 से 2025-26 में आयोजन एवं कोर्निंग कार्य हेतु फिक्स्ड की व्यवस्था के लिए पंजीकृत कोर्निंग संस्थाओं से अर्जित करने हेतु अधिसूचना के तहत दिव्य आमंत्रण

मध्यम स्त्री बाल परिवर्तन प्रकल्प योजना अंतर्गत संचालित निम्नलिखित प्रचार आवासीय विद्यालयों में आयोजन एवं कोर्निंग हेतु "स्त्री की अधिव्यक्ति (EOI)" का ऑनलाइन दिव्य आमंत्रण प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किया जाता है

Table with columns: क्र.सं., प्रचार विद्यालय का नाम, निविदा क्रमांक. Rows list various schools and their respective bid numbers.

उपरोक्त निविदा में ऑनलाइन प्रस्ताव प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 01/10/2024 सां 5:30 तक तथा निविदा को समिति के समक्ष खोला जाना व तकनीकी मूल्यांकन तिथि 03/10/2024 सां 3:00 बजे की जाती है। वे संस्थाएं जो पूर्व में ऑनलाइन आवेदन कर चुके हैं उन्हें पुनः आवेदन करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। सेवा शर्तें चयनवृत्त में

निविदा संबंधी अन्य कार्यवाही की सूचना संबंधित अधिकारी / चयन समिति द्वारा प्रकल्प से विभागीय वेबसाइट पर दी जायेगी। विद्युत जनकरी तथा निविदा संबंधी हेतु विभागीय वेबसाइट www.tribtal.cg.gov.in तथा ई-प्रोकोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in पर उपरोक्तानुसार उल्लिखित निविदा क्रमांक से वांछित जानकारी / प्रश्न का अवलोकन / डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। (आयुक्त प्रबंधक द्वारा अनुमोदित)

उप-आयुक्त आदिप जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास अटल नगर, रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़ No. 242502428/4

The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd

TENDER NOTICE For more details, please visit E-Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Table with columns: No, E-Tender ID, Items. Lists tender details for pipe supply and engineering services.

Chavara. 13.09.2024 Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 T.A. No. 724/2022

STATE BANK OF INDIA vs VIJAY SINGH AND ORS.

To: (1) Vijay Singh S/o Sudhir Kumar, E-147, Sect-57, Near Essar Petrol Pump Gurgaon Haryana Also at: House No. 303 11c Pali Putra Colony, Pana, Bihar - 800013. Also at: M/s Strategic Learning Solution Pvt. Ltd. 14, Vipul Sijaria, Block-B, Sushant Lok-I Gurgaon Haryana-120002

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 77,18,572/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakh Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Twelve only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Hon'ble Pt on 30-09-2024 at 10.30 AM. (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.etribunal.gov.in Phone No. 011-23748473).

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence. Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose- All the Advocates / Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application / Software; "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing case to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-land Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Link. In any exigency you that, the Advocates / Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 29th July, 2024. by order of this Tribunal Assistant Registrar

Respondent may contact under mention phone number for further enquiry. Ld. Registrar, DRT-I Ph. No.: 011-23748473. Email: drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. SRDEE-TRD-IZN-2024-25-T13 Date: 12.09.2024

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, North Eastern Railway, Izzatnagar for and on behalf of President of India, invites sealed "OPEN" E-Tender for the following work. Name of work: OHE related work for Development/ Upgradation of goods shed at BITROI station in Izzatnagar Division of NE Railway. Tender reference no.: SRDEE-TRD-IZN-2024-25-T13; Approx. Cost (in ₹): ₹49,88,659.54; Earnest Money/ Bid Security (in ₹): ₹99,800/-; Cost of Tender documents (in ₹): 0.00/-; E-Tender closing date and Time: 07.10.2024 at 11:00; Completion Period: 12 Months; E-tender online will be submitted upto 11:00 Hrs. on date 07.10.2024. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the official website of Indian railways i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT E-TENDER NOTICE No. DRM-BRC 084 of 2024-25; Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of The President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C), Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works: Sr. No. (1) Tender No. DRM BRC 084 of 2024-25. Name of Work: ZETC-Water Proofing work of TRD, Admin & General Building, Hostel No. 3 & 5, Improvement of SSE/STM/BRC office/Depot/Workshop at old Primary school in D cabin and Painting of outside, Inside & Steel Structure of ELS, T1, MEMU, Service building and other colony. Approximate cost of the work: ₹ 1,44,85,835.11/-; Bid Security to be deposited: ₹ 2,22,40,00/-; Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Tender is to be submitted on 03.10.2024 before 15.00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15.30 Hrs. Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Website @ www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C) Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara-390004. W/23/NIT of 2024-25 dated 10.09.2024 172

DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAINS

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

Office of Superintending Engineer

3rd Circle P.W.D. Pithoragarh. E-mail: sepwdpth@rediffmail.com

Letter No. 4309/ 458CB-03/ 2024 Dated: 13-09-2024

National Competitive E- Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available online from date 19-09-2024 at 5.00 PM onward on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in.

Table with columns: S. No., Name of Work, Earnest Money (in Lac), Cost of Tender (in Rs.), Validity of Tender (day), Period of Completion (months), Contractor's category of registration.

1 Construction work of three-storey parking in the district court complex of Pithoragarh district.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHOPAL (M.P.)

2nd Floor, ISBT Office (Project Cell) Notice Inviting e-Tenders

Ref No. 480 Date: 9/9/24 Tender for online submissions are invited on website www.mptenders.gov.in under "Live Tender" and Department Name "Bhopal Municipal Corporation" for following work. Detailed NIT, Tender Schedule and other information can be seen on the website www.mptenders.gov.in.

Table with columns: S. No., Tender id no., Name of Work, Probable Amount of Contract (Rs. in lakh), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.), Cost of Bid Document (In Rs.), Period of Completion (in Months), SOR.

1. Interested bidders can view the NIT on website https://www.mptenders.gov.in/ 2. The Bid Document can be purchased only online from 3. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website https://www.mptenders.gov.in/only. Sd/- Executive Engineer (Project) Municipal Corporation Bhopal

## 21 SPORT

## BRIEFLY

## Davis Cup: India trail 0-2 against Sweden

Stockholm: N Sriram Balaji was easily tamed by Elias Ymer while Ramkumar Ramanathan lacked the killer instinct even against a lower-ranked Leo Borg as India were left trailing 0-2 against Sweden in the Davis Cup World Group I tie, here on Saturday. Balaji, who is a doubles specialist, found the going tough against Ymer, who raced to a 6-4 6-2 win in the opening singles. Ramkumar, who is a seasoned Davis Cupper now, was expected to bring India back into the tie but he lost to 603-ranked Borg, son of the legendary Bjorn Borg 3-6 3-6, in the second singles at the Royal Tennis Hall. **PTI**

## ISL: Chennaiyin beat Odisha 3-2

Bhubaneswar: Thousands of mourners in Strikes by Farukh Choudhary and Daniel Chima Chukwu helped Chennaiyin FC halt the long unbeaten streak at home of Odisha FC with a come-from-behind 3-2 win in an Indian Super League match here on Saturday. Chennaiyin thus broke Odisha FC's 569-day run at home, courtesy a brace from Farukh (48th, 51st) and a powerful strike from Chima (69th). An electrifying start saw Samik Mitra deny the hosts with an early save. Soon, Farukh's appeal for a spot-kick was disallowed by the referee, who subsequently pointed to the spot at the other end when Hugo Boumous went down under a challenge from Samik. Diego Mauricio scored from the spot to give Odisha the lead. **PTI**

## Illness ends Indian pair's semifinal bid

Ho Chi Minh City: The Indian badminton duo of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto's promising run at the Vietnam Open Super 100 tournament came to an unexpected halt after the former's battle with illness forced the pair to withdraw from their semifinal match. Seeded sixth, Kapila and Crasto were scheduled to face the Indonesian pair of Adnan Maulana and Indah Cahya Sari Jamil in the crucial semifinal clash. **PTI**

## Diamond League Final: Sable ninth

Brussels: National record holder 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable finished ninth in the season-ending Diamond League final with a below-par time here on Friday. Sable clocked 8 minute and 17.09 seconds to finish ninth in the 10-man field in his debut DL final. Amos Serem of Kenya emerged as the Diamond League champion with a time of 8:06.90, while reigning Olympic and world champion Soufiane El Bakkali (8:08.60) of Morocco was second in the season-ending finale. **PTI**

## Livingstone helps England level series

Cardiff: Liam Livingstone and Jacob Bethell shared 90 runs off 47 balls to lead England to a Twenty20 series-tying win over Australia at Sophia Gardens. The series will be decided on Sunday at Old Trafford. Set 194 to win, England slipped to 79-3 when Phil Salt walked into an apparent trap laid by fellow stand-in captain Travis Head, holing out to Matthew Short, but Livingstone and Bethell broke the back of the chase. **BRIEF SCORES: Australia:** 193/6 (Jake Fraser-McGurk 50, Josh Inglis 42; Brydon Carse 2/26, Liam Livingstone 2/16) lost to **England** 194/7 (Liam Livingstone 87, Jacob Bethell 44; Sean Abbott 2/37)

## SANDEEP DWIVEDI

SEPTEMBER 14

IN MARCH this year, India's very young Test team out-Bazballed England. In the fifth and final Test at Dharamsala, the playing XI had five batsmen in early or mid-20s – Shubman Gill (25), Yashasvi Jaiswal (22), Devdutt Padikkal (24), Sarfaraz Khan (26) and Dhruv Jurel (23). Gill scored a ton, Padikkal and Sarfaraz had 50s, Jurel was sharp behind the stumps and Jaiswal with 700 plus runs was the Man of the Series.

For Rohit Sharma and his young 'garden mein ghunne wale batsmen' this was a real and metaphorical walk in the park. The world marveled at India's bench strength, the subsequent World T20 triumph would extend the euphoria. Those were the heady days – the batting pool overflowing, bees were humming over the blooming nursery and golden sunshine blanketed the healthy Indian cricket ecosystem.

But even then, beyond the horizon, there was a shade of grey.

The present was pleasing but the future wasn't blindingly bright. The youngsters looked the part but it didn't seem that the page had turned. This didn't feel like a generational shift, Gen Next didn't seem ready for the lead roles.

India were and are on the top of the Test ranking but the spine of the team is in the mid-30s. In a team sport like cricket, transition doesn't happen when the young perform in the absence of seniors.

The first clear sign of a real change shines through when the rookies close doors on old hands. That hasn't happened.

From the Dharamsala Five, three – Padikkal, Sarfaraz and Jurel – are unlikely to take the field next week when India start their busy Test season by taking on the much-improved Bangladesh.

Padikkal isn't even in the squad. Sarfaraz and Jurel haven't really cemented their places in the playing XI. Tears wouldn't be shed and there wouldn't be an outrage overdrive when KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant expectedly replace them for the September 19 to 23 Bangladesh game at Chennai.

## Asterisk against their names

As for Gill and Jaiswal, they are the class toppers. They are in the process of carving their own corners in the Test dressing room. But they haven't been able to wipe out the asterisk next to their names.

Till as recently as the England Test series this year, Gill was said to be one failure away from going back to the domestic grind. Jaiswal has had a phenomenal start to his Test career but still these are early days. He hasn't been tested on foreign soil against the Big 3 – England, South Africa and Australia. The jury is still out, they will be back to deliver their verdict after seeing him

**From the Dharamsala Five, three, Padikkal, Sarfaraz and Jurel, are unlikely to take the field next week when India start their Test season by taking on Bangladesh.**

## EYE ON TEST SQUAD

## Future loading...

... Jaiswal, Gill & co. have potential to help team move past Rohit-Virat era but despite early promise a generational shift may not be a given



For every bright spark, like Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal, there is a cautionary tale like Prithvi Shaw's. Reuters/File

perform Down Under. By the way, the series starts at Perth in November with Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood sharing the new ball.

Over the next three months, India will

be playing 10 Test matches – 5 at home and 5 in Australia.

This will be the chance for Gill and Jaiswal, and their equally young peers, to be the pillars and plinth of the team of the post

Virat-Rohit era.

Interestingly, that period, from the look of things, could end up as a throwback to the MS Dhoni chapter of Indian cricket. Wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant, 26, at present

## Bowling coach Morkel wants to groom inexperienced quicks

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

ON HIS first day at the Indian Test camp as the new bowling coach on Friday, Morne Morkel had spent a lot of time at the nets with the pacers, observing their bowling and talking with them. At the end of the day, he would talk about how he will strive to "understand the guys' strengths and weaknesses", and help the new generation of bowlers to "up-skill and get them up to the standard". He also shared an emotional interaction with his father when his job as coach was confirmed by the Indian cricket board.

India's main pace unit is strong with the likes of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Shami leading, but the bench strength consists of largely inexperienced bowlers.

Morkel would have a lot on his hands in shaping and moulding them.

"It's one thing having talent and skill and how can you make those guys feel welcome in an intimidating environment," Morkel told bcci.tv. "As soon as players have that comfort and feel they belong here, that's when the performance comes. I am looking forward to that and obviously up-skill them and get them up to the standard... I understand that there will be expectations of winning and luckily I have experienced that in my playing days and I can share that knowledge," he added.

The former South African pacer, who took 544 wickets across formats including 309 Test scalps, felt that the senior players will lead the way. "We are quite lucky to have quality senior players and they will lead the charge. Our responsibility is to support them



Former South African fast bowler Morne Morkel, the India bowling coach, has taken 309 Test wickets.

**As soon as players have that comfort and feel they belong here, that's when the performance comes. I am looking forward to that and obviously up-skill them and get them up to the standard... I understand that there will be expectations of winning and luckily I have experienced that in my playing days...**

**MORNE MORKEL, INDIA BOWLING COACH**

and give them the best sort of advice." He also talked about how he was "blown away" by how Indian players went about things and "how professional they were".

Morkel, whose previous international stint was as bowling coach of Pakistan dur-

has out-ranked the most-privileged section of Indian cricket, the batsmen, to be a top captaincy contender.

But all that can change, this race of the 20-something cricketers is surely to be dynamic and India will follow it with anticipation and also a sense of nervousness. They have reasons to be skeptical.

This cricket-crazy nation, while celebrating grand graduations, have also endured false dawns.

## High bar to clear

Over the years, post-2000 Indian batsmen showing early promise can be boxed in different categories. First there's Sachin Tendulkar – a prodigy who never failed. A small step below are the likes of Kohli and Rohit – the strong-willed players and leaders who take lessons from their early mistakes to be the game's greats. Then there are the equally lofty batting pedestals with batsmen with distinguished services to Indian cricket who chartered new courses – Dravid, Laxman, Ganguly, Sehwag, Pujara and Rahane.

These too are big shoes to fill.

Worryingly, there's also the Prithvi Shaw career trajectory. The 24-year-old Mumbai opener who scored a blazing hundred on Test debut now doesn't find a place in any of the four teams of the ongoing Duleep Trophy tournament.

So far, Jaiswal and Gill have handled fame and fortune with maturity. They have shown the drive and skill to rise among the ranks.

During off-season Jaiswal moves out of Mumbai to the spartan Rajasthan Royals academy in interior Maharashtra to improve as a batsman. Gill, the boy from the border village of Chak Kherewala in Punjab, had almost a Tendulkar-esque start. On the junior circuit he never failed, but at the senior level he faced a hiccup. He would find his way again, rediscover the love for training and was back in business.

However, it will be only by the end of this WTC cycle next year that India's Test team for the second quarter of this century should take shape.

It's unwise to jump the gun, it's prudent to wait before passing the judgement on India's 20-something batsmen.

The broadcasters would want you to believe that Gill and Jaiswal are the obvious heirs apparent to Virat and Rohit – two cricketers with formidable bodies of work. But that's just the hype machinery doing its job, selling a dream so that the subscribers stay tuned.

The fans do understand cricket but the endless bombardment of pseudo-positivity can brain-wash the most rational of minds.

In the words of Rob Delaney, the American writer, actor and comedian, "Optimism is good, I suffer from it congenitally, but let's not be ridiculous..."

ing the 2023 ODI world cup, has worked with India's head coach Gautam Gambhir for three IPL seasons at the Kolkata Knight Riders.

**BRIEF SCORES: India A** 290 all out and 380/3 declared (Pratham Singh 122, Tilak Verma 111 not out, Shashwat Rawat 64 not out) vs **India D** 183 all out and 64/1 (Ricky Bhui 44 batting).

**Easwaran fights the odds**  
In the other round two fixture, India B's determined pursuit of India C's whopping 525 dwindled progressively as Anshul Kamboj wreaked havoc on a flat strip. Captain Abhimanyu Easwaran's unbeaten hundred left India B with a fighting chance after Anshul single-handedly uprooted the middle order. Mumbai sensations Sarfaraz Khan (16) and Musheer Khan (1) were trapped cheaply by the Haryana seamer. Anshul then registered his maiden First-Class five-for when he cleaned up Nitish Kumar Reddy, ending his wait for the milestone in his 15th appearance.

Holding on with the tail, Easwaran's 24th First-Class hundred eventually dragged India B to stumps with a 216-run first-innings deficit hanging over them ahead of the final day's play.

**BRIEF SCORES: India C** 524 all out vs **India B** 309/7 (Abhimanyu Easwaran 143 batting, N Jagadeesan 70; Anshul Kamboj 5/66).

## DULEEP TROPHY

## Centuries by journeyman Pratham, rising star Tilak stub out India D

## LALITH KALIDAS

SEPTEMBER 14

WHAT DOES a Duleep Trophy hundred represent in 2024?

Sixty-three years on, the predominantly zonal tournament now turned into a red-ball exhibition under the national selectors' watch, retains its charm for the trier.

For Pratham Singh, an engineering graduate, a late-blooming cricketing career was glued to uncertainty for six years until he struck his maiden First-Class hundred in his 29th match in February. On Saturday in Anantapur, Pratham doubled the tally with another second-innings hundred. As he raised his arms aloft in jubilation, the 32-year-old played like he belonged in his 30th red-ball outing, his Duleep Trophy debut for India A.

For Tilak Varma, 22, the challenge was to match the initial promise and sustain his healthy red-ball numbers. But for a majority of tons in the Ranji Trophy plate league and brief injury concerns, the Hyderabad youngster had to get back among runs on a higher plateau to remain in contention.

The twin southpaw attack was too much for Shreyas Iyer's India D to contain on another listless day in the field. Consequently, India D were left to chase a daunting 487-run target shortly after tea on Day 3 as Tilak sauntered to his fifth FC hundred.

## Making up for lost time

While he had missed out on the first attempt, falling for seven, Pratham's overnight do-over teased his positive intent and shot-making profile.

The Railways opener's rearguard had grabbed attention in his last Ranji Trophy game against Tripura in Agartala.

Manning a 378-run chase where Railways had conceded the first-innings lead and stumbled to 31 for three, Pratham blunted the opposition with his stoicism, remaining unbeaten for 300 balls. Pratham, by then, had slammed his maiden red-ball ton (169 not out) and overseen the highest-ever chase (378) in Ranji history against a shell-shocked Tripura in their state capital.

On Friday evening, Pratham raced off the blocks with a swivelling pull for four off Harshit Rana. He carted seamer Vidwath Kaverappa to the point boundary before



Pratham Singh, 32, scored his second First-Class hundred. Express

flicking and drilling Arshdeep Singh for successive fours through fine leg and long off. In the morning session's play on day 3, Pratham made his intentions clear as he swept and lofted a threadbare spin attack.

Employing some typical left-handed languidity, Pratham vaulted to his century as he

**Tilak's assured footwork befuddled the tweekers as Iyer extensively resorted to spin in the phase. Effectively, 89 of Tilak's unbeaten 111 runs came against spin, including seven fours.**

walloped Kaverappa for a maximum over mid-wicket and followed up with successive boundaries. While Pratham placed India A in the driver's seat before tapping a delivery to first slip off Saurabh Kumar, Riyan Parag fluffed another chance with the blade.

The instinctive slugger spanked left-arm spinner Saurabh with a mistimed six over long-on before holing out to a similar stroke soon after. Parag's tendency to give away high-voltage starts has subdued his campaign to four iffy knocks across two rounds with questions lingering over his defensive temperament.

India D's frolic was short-lived as Tilak combined with Shashwat Rawat (64 not out) and blunted the bowlers.

# Steady climber Anushka on the right track

**NITIN SHARMA**  
PANCHKULA, SEPTEMBER 14

Anushka Juyal has overcome challenges to slowly but surely make progress on the badminton court. An ankle injury six months ago was a setback, while compartmentalising time for the sport and to prepare for her Class 12th Board exams was a challenge. In her quest to polish her skills, she has trained at three different academies in three cities. The injury is in the past now. On Saturday, the 17-year-old completed a 15-0, 15-5 win over Shravya Akula of Telangana in the girls' Under-19 second round (qualification) of the Yonex Sunrise 31st Smt Krishna Khaitan Memorial All India Junior Ranking Prize Money Tournament being played at Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex.

After the win Anushka, a student of SD College in Chandigarh, spoke about the recent challenges and her long term ones as well.

"Whether it was my 12th board exams this year or the ankle injury prior to that, it has been a rollercoaster ride for me. I have shifted three cities to train at academies in my bid to achieve what I dreamt to achieve in badminton. Luckily for me, my father, a former national level player, allowed me to train at whichever academy I got selected to. I am winning and that makes all the hard work worth it," Anushka said.

In 2018 the Uttarakhand youngster, who first started playing badminton at the Ordnance Factory Hall at Dehradun, shifted to the Shining Stars Badminton Academy at Ballabgarh, Haryana, under the Khelo India scheme to train under Indonesian coaches Supto and Haryawan.

"The Indonesian coaches focussed on my fitness right from the Under-13 level since they knew it would come in handy at the Under-15 and Under-17 level. So the focus was on specific training for one type of stroke like chopping by hitting 400-500 shots per day for one week and then another type of stroke like tossing or the drop for the second week. It helped me prepare mentally well too for the strokes at a young age," Anushkar recalled.

But injury struck last year. She recovered and is back on court doing what she loves the most. Winning badminton matches.



# A chaotic, fun throwback

Harmanpreet helps India register a thrilling 2-1 victory against Pakistan

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
SEPTEMBER 14

TO A casual hockey watcher, Saturday's Asian Champions' Trophy group-stage finale between India and Pakistan would have seemed like a battle of equals.

And therein lies the story. For Pakistan, in an abysmal state of despair after missing the last three Olympics, the 1-2 loss would feel like a moral victory. For India, flying high after a bronze at the last two Games, a slight indictment before the tournament's business end.

"We are not happy," was midfielder Nilakanta Sharma's assessment of India's below-par performance during the post-match interview. His teammates were baited by Pakistan, who drew them into individual battles and dragged them to their level, knowing it was the only way to take home a point, if not all three. The Indians fell for it. Craig Fulton would not have liked how his team lost control but, unwittingly, it meant India and Pakistan rolled back the years.

All game plans were shunned. There were breathtaking forward runs with the players convinced they possessed superpowers to dribble past the entire opposition. The defences were porous, making the match more fun. There was a generous sprinkling of drama – rash tackles, heated exchanges and both teams ending with one player less.

For large parts, it resembled a basketball match where both teams took turns to have a go at one another's goal. In these times when structure is the buzzword, this shapeless hockey provided unbridled joy.

It's what allowed Pakistan, against most expectations, to surprise India and take the lead.

Nineteen-year-old Hanan Shahid, declared the rising star of the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai last year, picked the ball up at half line. Instinctively, the youngster whose dodging skills are spoken of highly in Pakistan hockey circles embarked on a mesmerising run that would have made a few old-timers nostalgic. He relied on his pace and supple wrists to beat the first Indian man, balanced the ball on the face of his stick and dribbled the airborne ball to go past the second, and left the third defender flat-footed to enter India's 'D'. He released the ball in time for Nadeem Ahmad, who got the final touch from a close range to put Pakistan 1-0 up in the 8th minute.

That Pakistan hockey is on life-support isn't the story anymore. It's players like Shahid



Captain Harmanpreet Singh (right) led by example, scoring both the goals. *HI*

who play with zero burden and possess all the skills a modern hockey player does, that keep the hopes alive of a revival.

But Pakistan's plan to get India to play their way was fraught with risks as it relied on two things – that they would sustain the same energy levels for a full 60 minutes and that India would not regroup and raise their levels.

Both these factors played a role in the eventual outcome.

## Harmanpreet, the difference

India will still take heart from the fact that they could summon their best game on demand. Immediately after Pakistan opened the scoring, India – who hadn't enjoyed a stable spell of possession yet – took control of the ball and passed it with more authority.

By playing like this, India had steamrolled every opposition in the continental championship so far. It took a goal from the Green Shirts to remind them of that.

After five minutes of patiently holding the possession, India clawed back into the match by winning a penalty corner that was flicked into the goal by captain Harmanpreet Singh in the 13th minute. Six minutes later, Harmanpreet scored again from an identical drag-flick – keeping the ball between the knee and waist high to the goalkeeper's left – to give India the lead. The difference between India and Pakistan came to the fore during this brief

**NUMBER PLATE**

8

Number of years since India last lost to Pakistan. After Saturday's game, India have been unbeaten against their arch-rivals in 17 matches. The last time they lost to Pakistan was in February 2016 at the South Asian Games.

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**SCORELINE**

India <b>2</b>	Pakistan <b>1</b>
Harmanpreet (13', 19')	Nadeem (8')

period. India could switch between gears seamlessly, not panic after conceding early and smartly plotting their way back into the game – that's how they also beat Spain in the bronze medal playoff in Paris. Pakistan, despite giving all they had, could not find that extra gear.

Still, they did enough to keep India on their toes and refused to go out without a fight. And if not for Krishan Pathak's spree of outstanding saves – truly announcing himself as India's Number 1 goalkeeper in the post-Sreejesh era – the outcome could have been vastly different. Fulton would not be pleased that his team never looked in complete control against a side that is ranked outside the top 15 of the world and hasn't qualified for the last three Olympics.

But even on their bad day, India won to end the group stage commitments of the Asian Champions Trophy as the only team with a 100 percent winning record. It also means India extended their unbeaten run against Pakistan to 17 over 8 years. The last time Pakistan defeated India, as per the International Hockey Federation records, was in February 2016 in the South Asian Games.

On Saturday, this one-sided dominance didn't reflect on the field. For a casual observer, Pakistan and India would have felt like equals. And before Monday's semifinals – where India will face Korea while Pakistan will take on hosts China – this would be a much-needed wake-up call for Fulton's side.

# Divya pulls rabbit out of hat with 17 seconds left

**AMIT KAMATH**  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

DIVYA DESHMUKH was in a completely losing position in the fourth round of the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, with just about 17 seconds left on the clock, with three pawns lesser on the board than her opponent, women's grandmaster Mitra Hejazipour. She had one move to make to stave off doom. By this stage, the top seeded Indian women's team's fate in the tie against France was in the balance, with Vaishali drawing her game but Harika Dronavalli and Tania Sachdev still battling in positions that could have swung either way.

One of the nuances of the Chess Olympiad is that individual victories or losses can be easily offset by the rest of the team's results so players always have to keep an eye on the adjoining boards to decide if they should push their own opponent, or settle for bloodless draws.

Tania, in fact, who was asked to play on the fourth board in place of Vantika Agarwal on Saturday, was caught in a complicated position at that stage. But she chose to grind on. "I couldn't see what was happening on Harika's board because she was too far away. And I knew Vaishali had drawn. But I could see Divya's board and it was crazy! So even though my board was complicated I decided to play on," Tania said on the Chessbase India broadcast. The situation on Divya's board had all the tension of a Bollywood thriller where the protagonist needs to find the right combination to disarm a ticking bomb. In this case, the code that Divya needed to punch in was to move her knight to the d2 square. It was a move that put pressure on her opponent's blood-thirsty queen on the b3 square, and one move later, the knight could switch to attacking the pawn standing as a sentry in front of Hejazipour's king on the f6 square.

It was almost like wrestling with two opponents: Hejazipour sitting on the board across from her and the invisible tick-tock of the clock. But when the odds stacked against her, Divya pulled a rabbit out of the hat: finding the right move with her queen and making it past the 40-move time control. It took another 16 moves, but she ground out a victory to secure a 3.5-0.5 win for the Indian women's team over France.

Divya had gone on the attack from the 17th move itself with her pieces trying to put Hejazipour's king under duress on the far-



Divya Deshmukh ground out a victory to secure a 3.5-0.5 win for the Indian women's team over France.

thest corner of the chess board. But having cornered her opponent's king into a dark alley, Divya found that the Frenchwoman's pieces were up for a knife fight. As Divya pushed her opponent, she over-extended, and soon was in a losing position herself as Hejazipour built a fortress with a moat around her king.

In the past rounds, Divya had been one of the first ones to finish her match, thereby handing the rest of her teammates a boost in their own contests. But on Saturday, she ended up being the last one to find victory.

## Topsy-turvy day

At the time of going to press, Gukesh and Vidit Gujrathi, were still battling on for the second seeded Indian team in the open section. Both Indians held sizeable advantages in their matches with the team already ahead in the tie. Arjun Erigaisi had claimed victory for India on the third board while Praggnanandhaa had accepted a draw on board 2.

The open section saw massive upsets as the top seeded American team was handed defeat by the Ukrainians while Uzbekistan, the defending champions at the Olympiad also lost to Vietnam. While Fabiano Caruana claimed an easy win for USA, Wesley So was handed a crushing defeat by the veteran Vasily Ivanchuk, a player who is from Viswanathan Anand's era. Anton Korobov then took down Ray Robson, who was slotted in in the absence of Levon Aronian by USA.



**Dr. Mrs. Sushma S. Kulkarni**  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NICMAR University, Pune

**Engineers' Day**, 15th September which marks the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, commemorates the legacy of an iconic engineer who laid the foundation for modern engineering practices in India. This day cherishes the contribution of all engineers who have relentlessly strived hard and pushed all boundaries with ground-breaking innovations across various fields.

When it comes to civil engineers, they play a crucial role in shaping the built environment, transforming landscapes into habitats, changing the skyline of towns, and cities, and creating and maintaining the infrastructure that supports the needs of modern society. Modern civil engineers have led to the creation of remarkable structures that showcase innovation, engineering prowess, and aesthetic beauty. However, many of our Millennials and Gen-Z engineers encounter challenges on big construction projects owing to their complexity, multiple stakeholders' involvement, large budgets, and tight timelines. Therefore, in the evolving landscape of technology and business, the role of the techno-manager has become increasingly vital. Techno-managers blend engineering prowess with

managerial acumen, serving as the bridge between technical teams and business leadership. Their unique ability to understand both the technical intricacies of projects and the strategic goals of the organization enables them to drive innovation while ensuring alignment with business objectives.

India is currently witnessing a surge in both ongoing and upcoming construction projects across various sectors, driven by the government's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and urban development. Some of the most significant projects are the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Dholera Smart City, Great Nicobar Development, Bharatmala Pariyojana, Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project, Mumbai Coastal Road Project, Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (Bullet Train). The focus of the country remains on creating sustainable & technologically advanced cities and industrial corridors, that are essential for the country's long-term growth and development and to manage them there is a need for a trained workforce who excels in both technical and managerial facets to manage such gigantic tasks.



## Engineers' Day

**NICMAR University, Pune**, is a pioneer in developing such skilled techno-managers, who are equipped to handle the complex demands of the built environment, for the last 40 years. These techno managers are priceless assets in any project environment as they are accomplished to flawlessly integrate technical expertise with management ideologies. NICMAR's techno-managers are proficient at managing large-scale complex projects, ensuring they are completed on time and within budget, and maintaining the highest quality standards. They occupy key positions in the construction Industry owing to their capability to understand the intricacies of construction technology, coupled with strong leadership and decision-making skills. They help to drive a construction project from conception to completion and are recognized as strategic thinkers who ensure that both technical and business objectives are met. These techno managers are at the forefront of digital transformation, helping construction giants in the country in the adoption of emerging technologies like AI, IoT, and data analytics. They are well-trained in the concept of managing resources efficiently, optimizing project outcomes, cost



**Dr. Smitha R. Yadav**  
Dean, School of Construction, NICMAR University, Pune

reduction, and overall helping in enhancing the performance of engineering projects. Moreover, these techno-managers play a crucial role in risk management, ensuring that projects are not only innovative but also sustainable and compliant with industry standards. These professionals help in resource allocation and forecasting the labour requirements at different stages of the project. These professionals are also skilled at developing detailed project budgets and monitoring costs throughout the project lifecycle. NICMAR techno-managers excel in overseeing the human and financial aspects of construction projects, planning and monitoring, and ensuring their successful execution while maintaining operational efficiency and financial stability. This holistic approach is critical for the completion of large, complex projects within set timelines and budgets.

On Engineers' Day, it's essential to acknowledge the contributions of all these engineers and techno-managers who not only provide technical solutions but also strategically guide organizations toward long-term success. Their dual expertise in technology and management makes them indispensable in today's complex and fast-paced engineering environments, driving progress and innovation for a better future.

By:  
**Dr. Mrs. Sushma S. Kulkarni, Vice Chancellor.**  
**Dr. Smitha R. Yadav, Dean, School of Construction.**

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Udbhav Seth

# eye

## THE CULT OF THE CLOWN

With a new film on Batman's arch-nemesis The Joker, a look at how the figure of the jester has persisted around the world for centuries by mocking the strong and tickling the weak

**I**N THE opening scenes of *IT*, the 1986 horror novel by American writer Stephen King, a clown lures a child into a sewer and eats him. This is not unusual. This clown is a demon, an arrival from an alien planet who has been feasting on the residents of this small town for centuries and the child is nothing special, only the latest in a series of victims that pile as high as Mount Everest. He can shape-shift, become a vampire, a mummy, or even a werewolf — all the classic villains of mid-20th century American television — but it was a clown that King settled on for his default appearance because “some kids are afraid of Frankenstein’s monster, and some kids are afraid of Dracula, but almost all kids are afraid of clowns, with their weird hair, pasty complexions, too-big eyes, and... most of all... their laughing, screaming mouths,” he writes in the book’s foreword.

The figure of the clown, the jester, the fool who pokes fun at society while prancing on its periphery because he never quite figured out the rules and now doesn’t care, is as old as time, in both history and literature. He featured in ancient Egypt, as short people brought in from surrounding lands to amuse the pharaohs; in ancient Rome, where deformed slaves were traded for household amusement; and medieval England, when the occupation finally rose to one of courtly stature, featuring in Shakespeare’s plays. India and China, too, have rich histories of jester-like figures in Birbal, Tenali Rama and Gopal Bhar, who have left their locales behind to capture the national imagination.

His most recent incarnation was in the form of Joaquin Phoenix’s *Joker* (2019), whose sequel, *Joker: Folie à Deux*, comes out next month. The films have given the notorious DC Comics character a past, a reason for turning to a life of crime because the system left him behind, echoing numerous mentally ill people around the world whose health insurance fails them, who were abused in childhood, and see violence as the only way out.

In the 2019 *Joker* finale, a city rises up to

protest extreme inequality and anti-poor policies — all wearing the Joker mask — mirroring the 2011 Occupy Wall Street movement in which thousands marched on the streets of New York against the ‘one per cent’ of America’s population that cornered, and still corner, a bulk of the country’s wealth, while wearing Guy Fawkes masks.

This mask was popularised by *V for Vendetta*, the 1988 British comic which also featured a starkly similar finale, in support of an anarchist vigilante who makes the news by publicly murdering politicians, police officers and bureaucrats in a fascist future. Though not strictly a clown mask, the Guy Fawkes mask smiles, having a “haunting” effect in the comic, according to author Alan Moore in a 2011 interview in *The Guardian*. “We could show a picture of the character just standing there, silently, with an expression that could have been pleasant, breezy or more sinister... When you’ve got a sea of V masks, I suppose it makes the (Wall Street) protesters appear to be almost a single organism... That in itself is formidable.”

*The Indian Express* film critic Shubhra Gupta adds that a masked figure such as the clown has been a symbol of “subversion and anarchy” for centuries, adding, “It’s less about the mask and more about what it stands for. Shakespeare’s clowns would often come in between the story’s

main figures, give the audience some comic relief, and leave.” She points to yesteryear Hindi film actors, like Shakti Kapoor, Kader Khan and Johnny Walker, who rose to fame playing comic characters, often as sidekicks and served a similar function. The one time



In the 2019 *Joker* finale, a city rises up to protest extreme inequality and anti-poor policies, wearing the Joker mask, mirroring the Occupy Wall Street movement of 2011

the industry tried to buck the trend, it was a “colossal flop”.

“*Mera Naam Joker* (1970) was disruptive because the clown was central to the story,” says Gupta, recalling the story of a circus clown who, after multiple romantic failures, decides to put on one final performance. “Nobody wanted to see Raj Kapoor in that role. (Through the film), the actor was looking back on his life and career. He was sad and overweight, a character/actor wondering if he’s the main act anymore.” Later, however, the film became a cult classic due to its commentary on the introspection and isolation that goes into artistry, with actor Randhir Kapoor recently lamenting that Indian audiences back then misunderstood the character, only used to seeing clowns as objects of laughter.

This, says Mumbai-based actor Ashwath Bhatt, is a crucial difference between the clown and the fool. “Clowns are laughed at; fools laugh at you,” he says, adding, “In India, anyone with a red nose and make-up is called a joker but it’s derogatory. It’s someone not to be taken seriously. I always tell people, don’t call such a person a joker, call him a clown.”

The distinction is central to clowning, a practice studied by Bhatt for years around the world to bring it to India — both in the form of theatre and therapy. He has led multiple projects to spread this non-native art form in a

country like India, which “needs thousands of clowns” due to the stress of modern life. He has done workshops with corporates, dispelling the notion that “to laugh in the office” means you are “unserious”, and taken actors to hospitals and orphanages to make patients and lonely children laugh. “When I do clowning exercises with acting students, across cultures, they say it makes them feel liberated, fearless and joyful. Acting like a clown reconnects you to your inner child,” he says.

Theatre critic Abhilash Pillai agrees, adding that clowning is a completely non-verbal art form that can cut through India’s linguistic diversity to make political statements because “clowns and jokers hit each other and break egos.” He recalls a circus act he saw as a child in which a male and female clown bickered over how to catch a bird at the top of a ladder, a struggle that illuminated the communication and compromises necessary for a healthy domestic life.

But that Indian circus is long gone. Having enjoyed a heyday in the 1960s and 1970s, “when circuses were a part of Nehruvian nation-making”, says Thrissur-based Pillai, most circus companies have died out due to lack of government support and increased regulation on fire hazards, animal cruelty and child trafficking. Moreover, its workers in states such as Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kerala, Assam and Karnataka remain uncompensated for lifelong injuries. “Governments haven’t given them money (to keep up with changing times), unlike in Europe, where new kinds of circuses have emerged. Indian circus performers only get train concessions,” he says.

“I find the stupidity of modern life really funny — bikes cramming into narrow spaces, everyone always in such a rush,” says Bhatt. He likes it when educated, office-going, high-salary-earning people suddenly crack child-like jokes in living rooms to make their loved ones laugh. “My attitude can irritate people but such chaos is amazing, in a way. Behaving like a clown relaxes you, lets you see the lighter side of life, something we desperately need today. It may not solve the problems of the world, but it certainly helps you deal with them,” says Bhatt.

ILLUSTRATION: KOMAL

## Outsider as Insider

The tradition of the court jester was codified in the *Natyashastra* much before Shakespeare — a bumbling character, his was the voice of reason

Rinku Ghosh

“BETTER A WITTY fool than a foolish wit,” said Feste, the Shakespearean fool in *Twelfth Night*, seemingly deployed for comic relief but a truth teller who described how pretence was a double-edged sword. An asset for the wise to hide their strengths, and a drag for the dunce who stands exposed.

The fool or the court jester in literature evolved from being a funny man with strange antics to becoming the conscience of his time and the sounding board of the

monarchy. He was the earliest satirist, who used humour to lower the guard of courtly hierarchy and be irreverent, defiant even. The crown would be hollow without his humanity.

The tradition of the court jester was codified in the *Natyashastra* much before Shakespeare, between 200 BCE and 200 CE. Called *vidushaka* (the clown), the character was a bumbling oddity but trusted by the king or the hero, depending on the narrative. He was usually a Brahmin but beyond the physical trait of a sacred thread, the *vidushaka* was anything but. He



RECONCILER-IN-CHIEF

Polish artist Jan Matejko’s painting, *Stanczyk*, an interpretation of the royal jester

was not scholarly but street-smart, could be seemingly facile but not lacking in practical wisdom and a great diplomat in matters of statecraft. And among the echo chambers of fawning courtiers, his was the voice of reason.

In fact, the *vidushaka*, though depicted as a Brahmin, was an antithesis to the starchy stiffness of the upper caste that had societal control. He presented himself as an eccentric with physical oddities — he was either pot-bellied, a glutton, hunch-backed, bald or a dwarf. But in his angularity and imperfection, he was actually critiquing the rulebook Brahmin. While his odd physical appearance challenged the herd mentality of the king’s courtiers, the *vidushaka*’s insistence on rejecting hyperboles and speaking the language of the masses made him Everyman’s representative. In that sense, the *vidushaka* became a silent protester, who used humour, wit and standalone skills to get the king’s ear.

Exaggeration, whimsy and clumsiness

were all the jester’s delusory armour to gain acceptance and sympathy so that he could be trenchant when it really mattered. If the king was commander-in-chief, the *vidushaka* was his reconciler-in-chief.

Literature, paintings and sculptures have recorded *vidushakas* as confidants of women, too. In fact, they were trusted by courtesans, the so-called “fallen women”, who existed in the shadows. Vatsyana wrote that the *vidushaka* was the bridge between citizens and women in public roles, mostly performers.

History has recorded the significance of jesters, who became trusted advisers to the king, often helping him out of sticky situations. The Mughal emperor Akbar may have made Birbal a *navratna*, one among his close circle of nine men, but the fact that Birbal is still clubbed with Akbar as a duo is proof enough of his popularity and his role as the spokesman for the common man. His wit survives in popular fiction but flows from the authority that he earned at court.

Gonu Jha, often known as the Birbal of Bihar, was known to be a military scholar in the court of Hari Singh of Mithila, once the seat of learning. But it is through stories of wit that he became a cult hero. Tenali Rama, who served as a poet in the court of King Krishnadevaraya (1509-1526) of the Vijayanagar kingdom, was self-taught. Sagacious and known for his smart resolution of the most complex problems, the king accorded him the status of a friend rather than an advisor.

Meanwhile in Bengal, the fictional Gopal Bhar or Bhand (a literary character given to mimicry and exaggerated comedy) earned the right to spar with his patron king, Raja Krishnachandra, on equal terms. Both challenged each other through light-hearted banter that was not about disrespect or rebellion, but a healthy debate that punched holes in the opponent’s argument and was settled when both found an equilibrium. Neither hero, nor anti-hero, the jester in literature is a stabiliser of society.

**DOWN IN JUNGLELAND**  
**RANJIT LAL** Author, environmentalist and bird watcher



**QUITE A HOOT**  
A barn owl

**Calm as a Monk**

A look into the discreet lives of barn owls

LOOK, ISN'T that an owl sitting there,' my friend asked me, pointing towards an awning ad-joining our balcony lookout point, in the low-rise housing complex we were staying at (my sister's flat) in Arpora, Goa. She was right. Standing there slightly hunched like a monk in meditation in his cave was a barn owl, scientifically known as *Tyto alba*, which I have modified to *Tyto Hermiti* because that's more what it seemed to be: a true-blue hermit.

He, or she, must be just over a foot tall, with a creamy white breast and gold-speckled mushroom-coloured wings, its heart-shaped face surrounded by its ruff, calm and serene, the slanting oriental eyes mostly closed, the beak like a hardened nail-coloured nose. It hardly moved during the whole day, but sometimes would raise a black-taloned leg, examine it and like the best yogis stand on a single leg for long periods. As dusk approached, it would fluff up its soft plumage, checking that all its feathers

The hideous shriek of a barn owl can send you scurrying in the middle of the night

were in fine fettle, preparing for its night out over the fields hunting rats and bandicoots. By around 7 pm, it would have vanished silently, and at first, I pinned the hideous screeching sounds I heard at the time to it, before realising that these were the sounds made by the gigantic fruit bats that also malevolently flew around at this time.

Two days after that first sighting, *Tyto Hermiti* vanished and didn't appear again during the rest of our stay. Two subsequent visits in the year also revealed the awning to be vacant. But this time (in August of this year) to my (and my friend's) great delight it was back there again, as calm and beatific as ever, and I was told by neighbours that it had been in residence for at least a year.

Barn owls, along with the peregrine falcons, are one of the most well-distributed birds across the globe. They are found practically everywhere, save the polar regions and north of the Himalayas and maybe some of the islands in south-east Asia. They are especially fond of rats

and bandicoots. They are not popular with other birds, which is why, they quietly retreat into hollows or under awnings during the day.

They mate for life and bring up their young (usually large families of five) in hollows of tree trunks, crevices and suitable niches in old and abandoned buildings. There have been reports of barn owls taking possession of some of Gurugram's glittering high-rises, though I am not sure if they are residing there or not: whatever, they're obviously moving up in life! During the courting and later, the incubation period, the male diligently tends to and feeds his partner, bringing her gifts of dead rats and other rodents. The lady can be fearsome in the protection of her chicks. Many decades ago, before the onset of mega-telephoto lenses, the famous bird photographer Eric Hosking had an eye taken out by one, whose home he had probably intruded upon.

Thanks to ash-soft, serrated feathering — especially on the leading edges of their wings — barn owls can fly in total silence and use their exceptional hearing to home in on their hapless prey. Their disc-like faces and asymmetric ears, triangulate the position of their victims perfectly, and the soundless ambush does the rest: the last thing their victims are aware of are talons digging into their backs and the hook-like beak plunging into their necks.

At a raptor-rescue centre in California, I remember watching a party of four barn owls kept in a spacious aviary, recovering from injuries. At first, they were at the back end of the aviary and then, all four flew towards the front end, where we were standing, watching. There was not a sound from those big white wings beating up and down, as they drew close, like giant snowflakes — it was truly uncanny and a little unnerving and you could only be grateful that you were not a rat or squirrel.

Their hideous banshee-like shrieks could send you scurrying if you happened to be crossing a cemetery in the middle of the night! Their body parts have been used for hideous Tantric rituals, which is a bit weird considering that the barn owl has also been considered to be the vahana of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Do we respect nothing?



**Unspooling History**

A new textile section within New Delhi's Crafts Museum stitches together folk craft marked by modern influences of business, politics and culture

Rinku Ghosh

THIS IS the Hooghly of the 19th century, the rupee of the British Raj floating down midstream along with the fish, a metaphor for the city of Kolkata that became the seat of colonial power and its riches. There is the barge carrying officials of the Raj as common people go about their activities on the banks. And somewhere, a Shiva temple co-exists with a Madonna icon, symbolising the syncretism brought in by foreign cultures. This is not a painting but the oldest kantha mural from over 200 years ago that is on display at Textile Gallery 2, National Crafts Museum, New Delhi.

This newly opened section is a curated showcase from the existing 2,600-piece museum collection of textile art. It shows how folk traditions not only transformed and evolved over centuries, adapting to regional variations and incorporating modern influences but also became an unending spool of the visual history of its time. Much like Instagram reels. "Everybody talks about history. But this tells stories through the eyes of our weavers and craftspeople, who documented and interpreted the world around them," says Sunil Sethi, the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) chief, who curated this section with art historian Dr Jyotindra Jain. For eight months, they looked at not just weaves but embellishments like embroidery, kalamkari, brocade, block prints and resist-dye fabrics. "I chose the kantha piece at the entrance because it is a testament of how the simple running stitch was upcycled from something as utilitarian as piecing together old pieces of cloth for a child's swaddle to being a social commentary of its times. This piece has motifs of playing cards, swirling between *sahibs* and *memsahibs*, chandeliers and medallions of Queen Victoria. It is a subtle comment on how the East India Company gambled



**COLOUR CODE**

(Clockwise from top) Hand-drawn in vegetable colours and dyes, this panel on the crucifixion of Christ was done by artists from the temple town of Srikalahasti, Andhra Pradesh; Payal Jain's innovation with design studio leftovers; a zari panel that depicts different weaving techniques

away the fortunes and inheritance of native people. The kantha is also an art form that has survived over a thousand years," says Sethi.

Restoration was a big ask. A team of textile conservators identified the damage to these fabrics and lined them with chemical-free cotton or voile. They used seasoned pine wood as well as a backing of Tyvek, a breathable, waterproof and dust-proof material, to avoid possible condensation. They used vacuum cleaners, distilled water cleansing and even got in women from Bikaner, who are skilled in preservation techniques.

Jain speaks of how most museums are focussed on the authenticity of the past. "But we needed contemporaneity, something that could inspire current design students, as well

And yet tradition has been dynamic. For instance, look at the way weavers and embroiderers incorporated Mughal motifs, the way the kantha thread changed from cotton to silk with the Portuguese influence, how our ikat grew out of Southeast Asian traditions, courtesy the maritime route, and how the Baluchari weaver did an elaborate threaded pallu of a buggy horse and carriage, capturing their socio-economic-cultural milieu," he says.

If the kantha emerged to meet the journaling needs of ordinary women, so did the phulkari. One of the exhibits is an elaborate depiction of a community of women who documented the journey of a girl from birth to her marriage. "The sari collection speaks of this continuous transition. Beyond the warp

and the weft, the border and pallu have always had hand-inserted elements, be it as an applique, embroidery, weaving or printing technique. That's why the sari is the weaver's laboratory of innovation," says Jain.

The show-stealer, though, is the kalamkari art. About 18 ft-long, the stories from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata are depicted in a series of hand-drawn blocks, with a summary in Telugu written beneath each block. Alongside are drawings of the life of Jesus Christ and a good-versus-evil parable from Iran. What's interesting is the differing styles. While the crucifixion of Christ has him as the central deity, his disciples look Indian and wear Indian clothes in the frame. In contrast, the swirling serpent head on the Persian scroll looks influenced by Chinese scroll paintings. "Each piece here is the result of the assimilative process of culture," says Jain.

The natural dyes, too, have moved down centuries, from indigo and yellow to industrial dyes that brought in a new aesthetic. "What surprised me was that the creators were not rigid about rules. Although they stuck to some motifs and symbols, they innovated on design, techniques and colour scheme. And they did that on commissions or had royal patronage," says Sethi.

The zari panel of small squares, depicting different weaving techniques with no repetition, is a masterclass on a single fabric. The Raidana block print panel has more than 1,000 hand-made patterns, far more intricate and refined than machine-printing. And if our modern designers are creating new weaves, the textile museum has an undated old fabric made of peacock feather filaments and bound by zari. Meanwhile, on a museum tour is a group of fashion students from Chennai. They go past the innovation studio by designer Payal Jain, where mannequins are dressed in bridal gowns, made from leftover pieces of fabric and buttons. Wearing traditional saris over T-shirts, these girls embody the museum's new aesthetic possibilities.

**That dreaded four-letter word**

In India, the acceptance of rape among communities continues, despite public outrage and candlelight vigils

IT WAS at a public bar on a lovely evening in the fall of 1994 when I uttered the word 'rape' in a sentence where I was highlighting a violation of some people's rights. Memory has me lost to more details but I still remember that my then-boyfriend and a friend told me in no uncertain terms how disturbed they were that I had used the word 'rape' to describe something other than "the unlawful sexual intercourse carried out forcibly or under threat of injury against a person's will or with a person who is below a certain age or incapable of valid consent because of mental illness or deficiency, intoxication, deception or unconsciousness." I have since memorised the dictionary meaning and tried to make a conscious effort to not use the word 'rape' in vain.

Much has changed since 1994. I am much more nuanced, blessed with far more sophistry in my command of language. I am nowhere near perfect but I have greater empathy, patience and humanity. When I look into a mirror, I see a man much older and far more mature than the innocent newbie who left for New York City in the early '90s, yet in and around Delhi and Mumbai, I still see men behaving today just as they did back then.

An education in the Arts taught me to be sensitive to the world I inhabit. It also gave me exposure to people who dress, walk, talk, think, act and express themselves very dif-



**Suvir Saran**  
Suvir Saran is a chef, author, educator and world traveller

tion, with a very macho and masculine approach to life and living, that taught me how to navigate a world that wasn't always fair and almost never perfectly equitable.

Now back home in India, working on making my restaurants and kitchens a safe haven for all employees, I'm troubled by the many accommodations we need to make for women's safety and basic comforts. Not because of the financial costs and burdens this adds to the running of a business, but because of the statement this makes about what kind of men we are raising in India. We run vehicles back and forth from work and home for our women colleagues to ensure their safe passage. This fear for the well-being of my fellow citizens has made me aware of what a woman must feel in India, a land some call "the rape capital of the planet".

I have gleaned from advocates that the ratio of rape in a society is pretty much the same across all nations. Of course, this statistic could have exceptions, as most generalisations do. But what I have found disturbing in the Indian context is the acceptance we have given to the act of rape in our communities. The outrage, the candlelight vigils, the social media buzz, all of it dies, and then once again we are confronted with an abhorrently horrid act that has numerous men watching without any feelings of revulsion. Not only that, some of them will join in and



**GONE TOO FAR**  
People ought not to be silent anymore about rape

aghast at her male children as I am. She hangs her head in shame that her sons — who are children of mothers, brothers of sisters, fathers of daughters, and grandparents and uncles of girls — have no understanding that they come from women. How any man can remain silent and observe a rape is shocking. That several men would join in a rape, more shocking still.

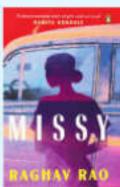
How have we become so desensitised? How have we failed as a society? As an Indian man, I am ashamed of my fellow male citizens but I don't think they are the only ones to blame. Also guilty are the grandmothers, aunts, mothers, sisters, daughters and girlfriends of my nation who haven't found a way to teach the men in their lives to yell and scream when they see a rape and stop it from happening.

I shudder to think that just as some Indian men have become inured to rape, so have our women. It is this appalling reality that has me wishing for miracles that will give mothers, sisters and daughters the ability to educate the men they live and work with.

I don't use the word 'rape' in vain anymore. I'm not sure we can ever rid the world of rapists but a people who are civilised and of conscience ought not to silently watch the rape of a woman or a child.

Bengal gave us the grand poetry of Rabindranath Tagore that showed us how vast and visionary the Indian mind has the capacity to be. Her son, Kazi Nazrul Islam, wrote poetry that defied women. It is my hope that their words can trigger our collective humanity and make us a nation that ensures no one is raped. For that day I pray, and into that heaven of freedom, Mother India, I want you, my beloved country, to awake.

**HOT OFF THE PRESS**



Penguin  
312 pages  
₹699

**MISSY** BY Raghav Rao is the story of a 17-year-old orphan girl who has grown up in a Madras convent and dreams of a life beyond what her peers are destined: one of nunnery and domestic service. One night, she escapes the convent with a man she loves and re-emerges decades later in America under a new name — Missy. She is now a business owner, a mother of two, the epitome of the American Dream. But the arrival of a doctor upsets this idyllic life, threatening her solitude.



Westland  
324 pages  
₹699

**LUCKY ONES** by Zara Chowdhary is a memoir about the 2002 Gujarat violence that claimed the lives of thousands, a majority of whom were Muslim, after a train carrying Hindu pilgrims was set on fire. Told through the eyes of a young Muslim teenager, who was supposed to take her board exam but ends up caged at home, watching a savage violence unfold across Ahmedabad, it is quiet yet fiery, determined to not let the perpetrators flee into the pages of history. Also part of the story are Chowdhary's love for Indian Muslim textile traditions.



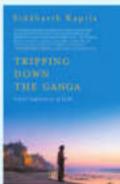
Simon and Schuster  
256 pages  
₹799

**NOT FOREVER, BUT FOR NOW** by Chuck Palahniuk is in the vein of what the *Fight Club* author is known for — sexual depravity, male angst, lots of violence. It's a story about two boys who belong to a family of murderers responsible for many disasters in history. They are being nudged to join the family business but may not be up to the task — with tutors who mutilate sex dolls, parents who are absent or have drug addictions, and convicts and other threats which show up at the door at unobtainable frequency.



HarperCollins  
336 pages  
₹499

**MADWOMAN** BY Chelsea Bieker is about a letter that rips through a life. Clove is a young woman, mother of two, married to a finance man, living the best life possible through credit cards, small talk and organic grocery. Then, one day, she gets a letter from her mother, someone she abandoned to prison decades ago after she was convicted of murdering her father. She recoils, feeling her former life of abuse and neglect come crashing down around the life she has spent years building into a porcelain palace.



Speaking Tiger  
440 pages  
₹799

**TRIPPING DOWN THE GANGA** by Siddharth Kapila is an interrogation of faith by a former believer. Having grown up visiting sites along river Ganga with his devout mother, the author decided, in 2015, to travel its length from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal, meeting *sadhus*, pilgrims, skeptics and *kanwariyas* along the way. The journey took seven years and allowed him to experience Hinduism as it is for millions of believers every day, away from the politics and economics that define it on the national stage.

UDBHAV SETH



COLLECTIVE HOPE

Namaz on Eid at Jama Masjid in New Delhi

**BEYOND THE VOTE BANK**

In his new book, Hilal Ahmed offers a nuanced exploration of Muslim identity and politics, challenging the narrative on the community's marginality in India

Baran Farooqi

**HILAL AHMED'S** *A Brief History of the Present* offers a straightforward account of the situation of Muslims in north India. This does not mean that the book lacks discursiveness. It just means that the author has not shied away from offering solutions, or, at least pointing out hope-filled actions undertaken by people.

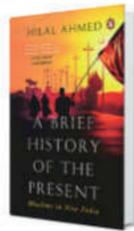
The author problematises the issue of identity at the onset, saying that this must not be considered as flat and obvious, that identity as a lived experience and as an object of analysis could be two entirely different things. Thus, it becomes important to have a nuanced view at all stages of enquiry. For instance, the author's identity as a Muslim can co-exist with his identity as a male, an Indian, a scholar and so on. If the reader accepts this dynamism — of identity and situations — she will be better put to understand Ahmed's hypothesis.

There is no denying the fact that the Indian Muslim society is stratified. Ahmed's book demonstrates the continuous movement between the different strata in different contexts. It takes up in some detail the issue of the liberal Muslim and asserts that she has played a significant role in intellectualising debates about Muslim presence in India.

Multiple factors come into play as we discuss Muslim behaviour in India. Some of the surveys that have been presented in the book give surprisingly hopeful results. Hindus and Muslims also do not seem to entirely disagree

on the question of Narendra Modi's leadership and other socio-economic issues. Ahmed argues that Muslim society differs so widely in its choice of preferred political parties and leaders that there can be no question of the existence of a stable Muslim vote bank. There are no good Muslim political leaders, nor have the Muslims shown any demand for one, the case of Asaduddin Owaisi being a case in point. Rather, as the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) movement has shown, there is a deep political will, which is not electoral, that is at work. Against the stereotypical image of Muslim society, women played a major role in these protests. Jamia Nagar became its fulcrum, where women of all ages and social strata assembled to condemn the CAA and reclaim the Constitution. What was more heartening was the presence of Sikhs, Dalits and Christians among the protestors.

There is no denying that there is a growing disenchantment with the Modi brand of Hindutva politics and one may safely assume that the liberal Hindu, who has no objection to the Indian Muslim's presence, is in the majority. In such a case, why do Muslims remain marginalised and looked down upon, if not hated? *A Brief History...* puts forward the hypothesis that there is an intellectual laziness in the liberal Hindu which has prevented him from working out a proper argument against Hindutva. As a result, while they disagree with the Hindutva ideology, they have never tried to offer a theory for Muslim inclusion. At the time of Independence, India was "imagined" by our freedom fighters, our political leaders, Jawaharlal Nehru's *The Discovery of India*



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PRESENT: MUSLIMS IN NEW INDIA  
BY HILAL AHMED  
Penguin  
256 pages  
₹699

shows the presence of a historical imagination rather than a mere reliance on sources. However, the liberalised Hindu discourse suffers from a victimhood syndrome regarding Muslim presence and is at a loss to respond to Hindutva with a nuanced and positive imagination of India's inclusive past. Ahmed's book puts part of the blame on colonialism, which hammered in the idea of a distinct identity, static and stable. Emphasising nationalism, efforts were made to concretise borders and the communities within them as having defined, read religious, identities. Today, it has become easier to believe in cut-and-dried identities.

To what extent does Ahmed's book blame Muslims for this? That the Indian mind has not been terrorised is stated unhesitatingly in the book. For instance, on the day of the Ram Janmabhoomi judgment, Muslim fear and apprehension did not find expression in anger or violence. The community has also been at the receiving end of many anti-minority measures by the government but has chosen to answer them in peaceful terms by joining education in greater numbers, and also by increasing their presence in administrative jobs marginally. However, the tendency among a section of Indian Muslims to crave a global or civilisational identity cannot be denied. This is a gross mistake, which the book denies. Ahmed claims that Muslims may admire global Muslim communities or root for them in conflict-ridden areas abroad but they are very sure of their Indian identity. Nevertheless, the book discusses 'Muslim political attitude' to be highly diversified and even conflicting, behaving differently at different events.

'Political participation as interaction' versus 'political participation as instrumental action' are two formulations invoked to determine the contours of Muslim political attitudes.

Ahmed proposes that the "deep politics of civil society groups and people's movements should be studied to decipher the way Indian politics is going." Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra emerges as a watershed moment in this. The success of the Yatra signals that the ideals of "*mohabbat ki dukaan*" are here to stay. Even though the liberal anti-Hindutva brigade may not have the guts yet to speak up against engineered communal riots and lynchings of Muslims, the common man has come a long way. Ahmed cites Yogendra Yadav's idea of Swadharma as a political-moral principle which rejects the idea of Modi's New India, aimed to produce obedient and governable citizens. Swadharma proposes an inclusive vision in which everyone gets a chance to participate, which Yadav chooses to call a "believable idea of a just India." Using this theory, Ahmed is able to remind us that though illiterate and impoverished, such people know how to practise democracy and live peacefully with their non-Hindu counterparts. Ahmed's book successfully manages to put forward the idea that the fight against anti-Muslim and anti-minority sentiment cannot be separated from a larger perspective of the struggle for social justice and economic equality.

Farooqi, former professor, Jamia Millia Islamia, is a translator of Urdu to English and a social worker working in the area of education of the marginalised and the minority girl community

**Dust in the Wind**

Amitava Kumar's new book explores the faults and cracks of history with the tale of a father and daughter

Chaharika Uppal



DOWN THE LINE  
Amitava Kumar

ABHINAV SAHA/ARCHIVE



MY BELOVED LIFE BY AMITAVA KUMAR  
Aleph  
360 pages  
₹799

Alexievich's treatment of history as a collection of the everyday — be it a chance encounter with a doctor with an interesting story to tell or a record of talcum powder purchases. Kumar also underscores the idea of mortality — deaths of loved ones, of dreams, of freedoms. Jugnu comes to terms with her father's death as she buys his favourite things from the grocery store. Jadu's writing helped him grieve his mother's sudden death. As for dreams, some die, like Jadu's aspirations to record the history of the true "scrappy" India, but are carried forth by his daughter. Jugnu in many ways, becomes an extension of what Jadu lived for.

Often, the book references the same events through two lenses, that of Jugnu and Jadu, exploring how they remember a pilgrimage, their home, and so on. There's a

scene in the book in which Jadu, now aged, visits Jugnu in America and hands her an outdated map of his "remembered" village — their home. This is a perfect representation of Jadu's idea of home but an imperfect reality for Jugnu because the remembered is now contested space, shaped by experience and inherited knowledge. Nothing, yet so much, seems to happen in Kumar's world, with the book traversing the journey of independent India from the Emergency to the pandemic, through the lens of the ordinary heroism of a man who loves his family and country. As Milan Kundera said, "After all, what can memory do, the poor thing?" Kumar's narrative reimagines human history, embracing where it falters and where it persists.

Uppal is an intern with *The Indian Express*

**SHELF LIFE**

**Stepping into their Boots**

**NAVINA JAJA** is an Indian classical dancer, noted for her contributions to heritage tourism, and leads walks around the country. We meet her to discuss her new book, *Exhibiting India: Art of Heritage Walks*, in which she draws from her experience to expand on the subject. Edited excerpts:

● You write, "Political perspectives add to the complexities of heritage and communities, and it is important for the presenter to build neutral narratives": How hard is it to do that on your walks?

I curated a walk on gender for a German minister just a few days ago. We went to a 15th-century monument in Delhi, Hija ka Masjid, considered a Sufi hospice of transgender people. I discussed where eunuchs were employed, what their temples were, what the sacredness of their entity was. Then came the more political perspective — their vulnerability to HIV and the different classes/castes inside the community, as well as how some transgender people are left out of the LGBTQ movement while urban residents are very active. It let me discuss the grassroots reality of transgender rights.

● What is the best way for technology to be used in heritage tourism?

On site, audio tours can be good, but the drama, the immersion, doesn't happen. That's a human touch which only the enthusiasm of an interpreter can bring. However great a film is, there is always the longing of, "Wow, I have to visit that place." Why does that thirst remain? Because something remains unfulfilled.

● Have unplanned events in heritage walks ever improved them?

Recently, I did a tour to Dholavira, the largest Indus Valley site on our part of the continent. Most people who go there visit and come back. But when I saw that it was next to the salt desert of Kutch, I looked for the mystical musicians of the local community. In the middle of the night we walked along the salt desert and sat under the stars while these folk musicians sang. It was ethereal.

● How can heritage walks improve sustainability?

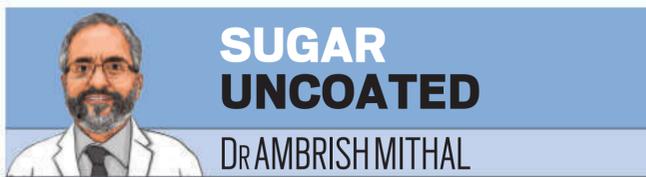
You have to include local communities who know about food, biodiversity, crafts, arts, customs, clothes and so on. How do you engage them to tell their own stories? Those invited to participate should be paid. Also, visitors must understand that, for however long they are there, they can give back to the community. Perhaps by donating books, stationery, battery lamps, dongles. It's also local communities' responsibility to police visitors so they don't litter.

● How does a presenter translate academic content without losing its intellectual tenor?

It's very difficult. Not everybody will pick up a very academic book, but they will pick up a book that is public history. Historians write for the initiated but there has to be a modality where you write for the uninitiated. You have to be an entertaining storyteller. (Think about) the way you narrate, the tone you use, how you create the theatre of history.

ILA BANERJI

Banerji is an intern with *The Indian Express*



## SUGAR UNCOATED

DR AMBRISH MITHAL

# Mix your oils for better blood sugar control

Each oil has a unique chemical makeup, so you have to find a combination that works for you

**D**O YOU know that one gram of fat has nine calories while one gram of carbohydrate has only four calories? However, fats induce satiety for longer periods, delay hunger pangs and lower overall calorie consumption. Fats are a major source of energy for our bodies, help us absorb vitamins A and D and are essential for hormone synthesis and building nerve sheaths. So what should the cooking medium be for people with diabetes as they watch calories?

Oils and fats are made up of chains of smaller fatty acids. When these chains are held together by single bonds, they are known as "saturated" fats; when double bonds are in place, they are referred to as "unsaturated." In general, unsaturated fats are good and saturated fats somewhere in-between. Trans-fats are the worst as they are by-products of hydrogenation that turns healthy oils into solids and prevents them from becoming rancid. They are used in packaged food such as chips, cakes, cookies, pies, crackers, biscuits and frozen foods.



### FACT OF THE MATTER

Each oil has its chemical makeup; some are suited for sautéing, some for searing and others for dressing

Although it contains more than 60 per cent saturated fats, desi ghee also has a favourable ratio of Omega-6/Omega-3 (1.5:1). Consumption of one teaspoonful 5 ml of desi ghee daily is fine. Recent evidence suggests that using small amounts of whole fat dairy and ghee may not be harmful for diabetics or the heart.

### Confused? Watch your intake

Basically, fats should not provide more than 30 per cent of total energy; saturated fats, less than 10 per cent; and trans fats, less than 1 per cent. The optimum ratio of Omega-6/Omega-3 is less than 4 and definitely not over 10.

### No single oil possesses required nutritional properties

Each oil has a unique chemical make-up, so some will be more suited for sautéing, some for searing and others for no-heat preparations, like salad dressings. An oil's 'smoke point' is the temperature at which it starts to burn, break down and form harmful compounds such as aldehydes. The more tightly packed the fatty acids in an oil,

the more stable the oil is for cooking. Saturated fats and MUFAs are less likely to change on heating. Oils with high levels of polyunsaturated fats, such as soybean, sunflower and corn oils, are more prone to degradation when heated repeatedly.

Cold-pressed oils are preferable as they retain more antioxidants that can counteract some of the harmful effects of heating.

The solution is to use a variety of oils. For frying, oils with a high smoke point and a neutral flavour like canola, rice bran, sunflower and groundnut are preferable. Mustard oil too, though strongly flavoured, works well for Indian cooking. For sautéing, flavour-rich but low-smoke-point oils like sesame or olive are healthy. And there's nothing better than olive oil for salad dressing. Examples of combinations shown to be healthy include groundnut/sesame/rice bran/with mustard or canola; sunflower/safflower with olive/groundnut/rice bran.

Dr Ambrish Mithal is Chairman, Diabetes and Endocrinology, Max Healthcare

# Do smoking and drinking impact your health insurance?

Insurers reject claims linked to conditions arising from smoking or drinking – like liver diseases and cancers – viewing them as deliberate risks

Anonna Dutt

**F**IFTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD Ravi Sinha\* was taken aback when his insurance provider denied coverage for complications related to his liver cirrhosis, despite his long history of paying premiums and disclosing his drinking habits. He found himself paying out-of-pocket for his treatment, unaware that any condition directly related to his drinking would disqualify him from benefits. "Yet I had paid premiums for over five years," he says.

Insurers often reject claims linked to conditions arising from smoking or drinking – like liver diseases and lung cancers – viewing them as deliberate risks. They fear there would be too many claims if the patient continues to smoke and drink frequently while dealing with habit-related pre-existing ailments. This would then seem like under-writing a patient's self-indulgence. This is what dissuades health insurance companies from accepting such proposals.

"People with conditions such as liver cirrhosis are denied insurance coverage because it is mostly the result of alcohol abuse. Many patients worry about their insurance money and request us not to mention drinking as the cause of liver damage. I then tell them to change their doctor. Many patients do that, trying to get their costs reimbursed," says Dr SK Sarin, vice-chancellor of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS).

If you are a heavy smoker or drinker, you are likely to be denied insurance coverage altogether. The disclosure may work against you for certain diseases such as liver cirrhosis or heart attacks, say insurance advisors. For those who get the policy without declaring their smoking or drinking status, their claims for unrelated diseases could be denied on investigation of medical reports.

Explains Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, senior consultant of internal medicine at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi, "For instance, a person is admitted to the hospital for dengue. If the insurance company realises that they did not disclose their smoking or drinking habit while vetting their claims, it may refuse to process it altogether. This can happen even though dengue is in no way related to smoking or drinking habits."

### WHAT ARE GREY AREAS?

While most insurance providers say that smokers and drinkers are covered, in reality they might find it extremely difficult to get coverage. "While insurance premiums go up for term plans – insurance plans that provide benefits to the nominee if the policy-holder dies – most companies do not have a separate pricing for health coverage. If a person smokes more than six cigarettes a day or drinks more than 50 ml alcohol every day, they will not be able to get an insurance policy," says insurance advisor Aditya Shah.

Most companies do not check for smoking or drinking status prior to selling a policy but a user must declare it or risk denial of coverage. "The condition of the lungs or liver can very easily be detected on liver function tests,



ILLUSTRATION: PRASANTA BHOWMICK

X-rays and scans that are routinely done when a person is admitted to hospitals. If the company finds evidence of smoking or drinking in these tests, they are likely to refuse coverage," adds Shah. Even for those who make proper declarations, the insurer can refuse coverage for certain conditions.

However, this doesn't mean that smokers and drinkers cannot get any coverage at all. "This is where the role of the treating doctor comes in. Coverage will be refused if they say that a certain condition is caused specifically due to smoking or drinking. All companies have a standard exclusion for self-harm in their policy wording. While this applies for, say hospitalisations due to suicide attempts, it also applies to smoking and drinking that cause harm to the policy-holder," says Shah.

### TRACKING HEALTHCARE COSTS



### NEED TO KNOW

As a middle path, insurance companies could charge higher premiums rather than denying claims

### THE DOCTORS' DILEMMA

This assessment poses a challenge for Dr Chatterjee in arriving at the right diagnosis. "Insurance providers always insist on a diagnosis. Sometimes we may treat persistent fever symptomatically without diagnosing what led to the fever. Insurance providers, however, always insist on a diagnosis," he says. This leads to a lot of back and forth between his team and the insurance providers. "We have to answer questions just to ensure that our patients actually get covered even after they have paid their premiums."

### ASYMPATHETIC VIEW

Dr Sarin says that while consumption of alcohol or tobacco may be a harmful pursuit, there has to be a sympathetic approach for those who have these habits. "It

### Checklist for your cover

**DO NOT** lie about your smoking and drinking status. Falsifying information will cause problems during investigations and claim settlements.

**IF THE** health condition is found to be associated with drinking or smoking habits, which you had not mentioned in the proposal form, then your claim may be rejected.

**INSURANCE PROVIDERS** raise eyebrows when your smoking goes up to over six cigarettes a day and you are a habitual drinker. In such cases your application can be rejected.

is an addiction at the end of the day and they should be entitled to receive treatment," he adds. He suggests a middle-of-the-road approach where insurance companies could charge higher premiums for people who smoke or drink – because they are at a higher risk of several diseases. "This will not only ensure that they receive timely, appropriate treatment but also honesty in reporting their smoking or drinking habits. Right now, people are worried that they will not be covered and hence do not want to give a proper history to their treating doctors," he says.

### THE COST OF TOBACCO CONSUMPTION

A 2020 study from India shows that for every Rs 100 that is received as excise duty from tobacco products, a sum of Rs 816 is imposed on society for its consumption. This can be in the form of direct costs such as the money spent on the treatment, transportation and living expenses incurred during treatment, among others. And indirect costs such as loss in productivity when a person misses work for treatment. "The highest impact of tobacco consumption is felt in poorer families that are more likely to pay out-of-pocket for treatments or at least the allied costs," says Rijo M John, adjunct professor of economics at Rajagiri College of Social Sciences.

He argues that patients who have paid for coverage should not be denied claims. "The insurance products are designed by companies, so they can choose to have higher premiums for those who consume tobacco. Having paid that, there should be no grounds for rejecting claims. Increasing coverage for services such as de-addiction therapies, however, will not be effective," says John. "For a person who is already paying a higher premium because they are smokers, offering de-addiction services will not help much. Once you purchase the policy, what is the motivation for going for these services? People can kick their habits only if they want to. And, that intention will come only when these services are a part of the routine check-ups or consultations," he adds.

(\*Name changed to protect privacy)

# When your doctor is a cancer survivor

The Bengaluru-based internal medicine consultant now advises patients on how to prepare for chemotherapy

Rinku Ghosh

DR NETRAVATI loves the fresh-breath energy of the moist winds as she cycles with her husband and son at Bengaluru's Cubbon Park every weekend. "Cancer taught me the value of positivity and allowing myself unalloyed moments of joy that I will never regret in my lifetime. As doctors, we tell patients to fight but till you are at the deep end yourself, you wouldn't know how fighting seems futile at most times, and how desperately you want to bet on life one more time despite the odds," says the 37-year-old doctor of internal medicine, who now runs her own clinic.

"I feel I understand my patients much better now and can hand-hold them through their crises," says Dr Netravati, who was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of blood cancer in 2021, bang in the middle of a Covid wave. Now after two-and-a-half years, she is cancer-free and though she has to get tested every six to eight weeks for monitoring, she doesn't have fear or anxiety anymore. In fact, she spends a considerable amount of time with cancer patients who are to begin chemotherapy, counselling and guiding them through the process, at Manipal Hospital, where she herself recovered. "I had hidden my condition from my six-year-old son, telling him I had Covid and had to stay in hospital. But now that he's watched my awareness

videos, he says, 'Amma, you are a brave warrior.' And he has no fear. That's the biggest takeaway for me," she says.

### THE DIAGNOSIS

Dr Netravati worked at a private hospital on a Covid shift when she first complained of fever, body ache, lower limb pain, extreme fatigue and sleeplessness, sometimes waking up in the middle of the night with a cold sweat. "Since these are all symptoms of Covid, I got tested and did a complete blood work as well. The figures were shocking, my platelets had fallen below 10,000 and my haemoglobin levels were down to five. My white blood cell (WBC) counts were unusually high. I knew this was something else and consulted Dr Mallikarjun Kalashetty, haemato-oncologist and bone marrow transplantation specialist at Manipal," she says.

She was diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukaemia (APL), a blood cancer characterised by a marked increase in immature white blood cells. It leads to excessive bleeding and quickly fills the bone marrow with malignant cells. This shattered Dr Netravati because she had always been a health-conscious doctor, waking up and sleeping on time, eating clean, getting her mandatory 45 minutes of physical activity. A young mother, she asked the same question that she had heard from patients, "Why me?"

Sensing that she would have just two to



three weeks to live if not treated immediately, Dr Kalashetty admitted her and began with plasma transfusion to get her platelets up and prevent bleeding and haemorrhaging. "Unlike solid cancers, this type of leukaemia is not lifestyle-related or even genetic. We don't know yet what triggers an abnormal change in the blood cells. But it is random and can happen to anybody, anytime," he says. The good part is that it can be cured if detected early enough.

### THE THERAPY AND ITS SIDE EFFECTS

With no time to lose, Dr Netravati called her parents so that they could manage the house in her absence. Her husband, a financial consultant, decided to take care of their



### THE RED FLAG

(Left) Dr Netravati advises everybody not to take any body anomaly lightly. A simple CBC count always indicates a malaise

son and chose work-from-home routines so that he could be with her at the hospital at nights. The 35 days she was there are still a blur, says Dr Netravati.

Dr Kalashetty put her on a combination of chemotherapy drugs to eliminate cancer cells in the bone marrow and targeted therapy, which destroys abnormal cells without harming healthy cells, for a quick remission. Dr Netravati needed three cycles and was also given supportive oral drug therapy.

"I was a mental wreck in the initial stages despite all preparation and counselling. I had long hair and to lose all of that does hit your confidence levels. There was extreme pain as I had a severe side effect called mucositis, which is inflammation and irritation of the

protective layer of tissues of the mouth and the gastro-intestinal tract. It would burn so much, start from about five days after the first chemo and continue for two weeks or more. I had whitish pus patches and had trouble eating, drinking or speaking," she recalls.

This condition usually happens with normal chemotherapy drugs, which destroy all rapidly increasing and dividing cells in the body, regardless of whether they are cancerous or normal. As the mucosal cells are stripped and healing is not as fast during chemotherapy, the inner tissues are exposed and react to anything that the patient ingests.

Even after Dr Netravati was in remission, she had to continue the same drugs for another eight months, with treatment sessions every two months. "There were breaks in between. I lost weight, my appetite and though I am an active person, had extreme fatigue that affected my movements. I was swollen all over. But the ulcers in my mouth and GI tract, which needed separate medication, just threw me off. It seemed like I was on fire and twice during the course of the treatment, I thought of giving up. Then I thought about my son and pulled myself up," she says.

Dr Kalashetty says that the treatment is long as once remission is over, patients receive maintenance therapy over a year. "While every patient breaks down, if the patient happens to be a doctor, who understands what's going on inside the body, the anxiety levels can be extreme. But it is because Dr Netravati understood her blood markers after her sessions that she steered herself to get back up," he says. "The mental strength to

beat cancer came as I crossed all thresholds of pain, like you cross levels in a game," she says.

APL therapies can lead to several complications like a fluid buildup around the heart and lungs, kidney malfunction, low blood pressure, low oxygen levels and shortness of breath and unexplained bouts of fever. "They tracked my WBCs in between chemo sessions to ensure my body would not crash. My life was all about numbers," says Dr Netravati.

### THE TAKEAWAYS

APL was once considered fatal but now with targeted therapies, the cure rates are higher. A European study found the estimated 10-year survival was 77 per cent in the whole population. Other studies show 99 per cent patients were alive four years after treatment, and 86 per cent after five years.

However, Dr Netravati believes in leading a disciplined and a carefully supervised life. "My takeaways for anybody going through this condition are complete the course, monitor yourself life-long, follow the doctor's advice and ignore any suggestion on alternative medicine like ayurveda as a replacement therapy. Cancer cells need to be eliminated with science," she says.

Dr Netravati, who had a clean lifestyle always, now has added two more routines. "My food is cooked, not raw, and home-made. And while I always slept for seven to eight hours, I now take a power nap to refuel myself," she says, while advising every patient of hers not to take any body anomalies lightly. "A CBC (complete blood count) will always indicate a malaise. Respect your body," she adds.



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