

BAREILLY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BAREILLY
 PROPOSED ON NEW BYPASS NEAR JHUMKA TIRAHA AT RAHPURA JAGIR, BAREILLY



BAREILLY INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP

Logistics

Warehouses

Transport Nagar

Industrial

Demand Survey Date : 23 Sep. 2024 to 22 Oct. 2024

Free Hold Plots

Price Starts From ₹ **14,900/-** Per Sq. Mtr.

- ❖ ETP / STP
- ❖ E - Charging Station
- ❖ Common Parking Area
- ❖ Under ground Electricity network
- ❖ Petrol Pump \ CNG Pump
- ❖ CUGL Gas Line Network
- ❖ Cafeteria \ Bank \ Post Office
- ❖ Fire station and fire hydrant network
- ❖ Medical Facility Center
- ❖ Common Facility Center
- ❖ Solid waste management system
- ❖ Dormitory / Hostel Facility for labour



Logistics

ZONE 1

| Plot area | No. of Plot | Plot size (in meter) |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|
| 750 | 45 | 25*30 |
| 1000 | 32 | 50*20 |
| 2000 | 10 | 50*40 |
| 3750 | 10 | 50*75 |
| 5000 | 2 | 50*100 |
| 10000 | 2 | 80*125 |

Warehouses

ZONE 2

| Plot area | No. of Plot | Plot size (in meter) |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|
| 750 | 56 | 25*30 |
| 1000 | 17 | 50*20 |
| 2000 | 9 | 50*40 |
| 3750 | 6 | 50*75 |
| 5000 | 2 | 50*100 |
| 10000 | 2 | 80*125 |

Transport Nagar

ZONE 3

| Plot area | No. of Plot | Plot size (in meter) |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|
| 750 | 70 | 25*30 |
| 1000 | 36 | 50*20 |
| 2000 | 10 | 50*40 |
| 3750 | 7 | 50*75 |
| 5000 | 8 | 50*100 |

Industrial

ZONE 4

| Plot area | No. of Plot | Plot size (in meter) |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|
| 750 | 43 | 25*30 |
| 1000 | 36 | 50*20 |
| 2000 | 10 | 50*40 |
| 5000 | 2 | 50*100 |
| 10000 | 2 | 80*125 |

LOCATION QR CODE



The demand survey forms can be obtained free of cost from the Civil Lines and Aonla branches of HDFC Bank in Bareilly district, the Labella Chowk branch in Badaun district, Soro gate branch in Kasganj, Agra Road Dwarikapuri branch in Etah, Station Road branch in Ujhani Dist. Badaun, DM Road Branch in Bulandshahr, The Townhall branch in Shahjahanpur, and any branch of HDFC Bank in Pilibhit, Rampur, Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh and Dist. Nanital in Uttarakhand. Additionally, applications can be submitted online via the authority's website, or the form can be downloaded by scanning the QR code attached to the demand survey. Along with the application form, a demand survey amount of ₹1000 must be deposited into the authority's account, which is refundable/adjustable. Detailed terms and conditions of the demand survey can be viewed on the authority's website or by obtaining the form from the bank.

SCANNED FOR REGISTRATION



BAREILLY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BAREILLY

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 P.C.S.
 Secretary

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 Vice Chairman

SAUMYA AGARWAL
 I.A.S.
 Chairman / Commissioner Bareilly Division

THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Venezuela's Opposition leader Edmundo Gonzalez.

SPAIN

Maduro's forces coming for me, says Opp leader

Madrid: Venezuela's former presidential candidate Edmundo Gonzalez said on Friday he sought diplomatic refuge after being told President Nicolas Maduro's security forces were coming for him. Gonzalez, whom the opposition insist was the real winner of a July election awarded to Maduro, told Reuters during an interview in Madrid he could have been jailed and possibly tortured had he stayed in Venezuela. He left for Spain after securing guarantees that his family and property in Venezuela would be safe, he said, adding that he wanted to be free to seek support from world leaders. "A security official working with me took me aside to say he had received information that the security organs were coming for me and that it was best to take refuge," he said. **REUTERS**

PAKISTAN

4 held in Punjab province over 'IS ties': Police

Lahore: Four alleged ISIS terrorists have been arrested in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said on Saturday. A spokesperson of Punjab Police's Counter Terrorism Department said that acting on a tip-off, the CTD raided the hideouts of terrorists in four cities of Punjab -- Lahore, Toba Tek Singh, Bahawalpur and Mianwali -- and arrested as many terrorists belonging to Daesh (ISIS). The terrorists were identified as Amjadur Rehman, Sher Ali, Zahabullah and Tayyab Raees. **PTI**

INDONESIA

Rebels release NZ pilot held captive for a year

Jakarta: The New Zealand pilot who's been held hostage for more than a year in the restive Papua region has been freed by separatist rebels, Indonesian authorities said. Philip Mark Mehrrens, the pilot from Christchurch who was working for Indonesian aviation company Susi Air, was handed over to the Cartenz Peace Taskforce, after separatist rebels let him walk free early Saturday, said the taskforce spokesperson Bayu Suseno. **AP**

FIRST ELECTIONS SINCE 2022 ECONOMIC MELTDOWN



A polling center in Colombo on Saturday. Over 13,000 polling stations were set up across Sri Lanka. **AP**

With economic future at stake, Lanka votes for new president

Voter turnout at 75%, curfew imposed in country as counting underway

REUTERS
COLOMBO, SEPTEMBER 21

SRI LANKANS voted on Saturday in an election to pick a president who will face the task of bolstering the country's fragile economic recovery following its worst financial crisis in decades. The election is predicted to be a close contest between President Ranil Wickremesinghe, main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and Marxist-leaning challenger Anura Kumara Dissanayake. Dissanayake narrowly led in one recent opinion poll.

Voting closed at 4 pm and counting started afterward, with results expected to be announced by the Election Commission on Sunday. Postal votes were to be counted first, senior commission official Saman Sri Ratnayake, told Reuters.

The country's election sys-



Presidential candidate Anura Kumara Dissanayake and (right) President Ranil Wickremesinghe in Colombo, Saturday

tem allows voters to cast three preferential votes for their chosen candidates.

If no candidate wins 50% in the first count, a second round of counting determines the winner between the two top candidates, using the preferential votes.

Analysts say this will likely be the case given the close nature of the election.

Saturday's voting was peaceful across the South Asian island nation and queues outside booths



AP & Reuters

lengthened as the day progressed. More than 13,000 polling stations were set up and 250,000 public officials were deployed to manage the election, the poll body said.

The voter turnout in the presidential election is estimated to be around 75 per cent, according to an official.

"I think we desperately need a change and I think a lot of people feel the same way," said Niroshan Perera, 36, a supporter of Dissanayake. This was Sri Lanka's

EXPLAINED Challenges ahead

THE WINNER will have to ensure Sri Lanka sticks with the IMF programme until 2027 to get its economy on a stable path and help a quarter of its people climb out of poverty.

first election since the economy buckled in 2022 under a severe foreign exchange shortage.

"The people have to decide the future of this country. I ask everyone to vote peacefully," Wickremesinghe said after voting at the University of Colombo.

Meanwhile, a curfew has been imposed in the country from Saturday night to 6 am on Sunday as a precaution to prevent any untoward incident, police said. **WITH PTI INPUTS**

Iran withheld launchers for missiles sent to Russia: Officials

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 21

IRAN DID NOT include mobile ballistic missiles with the close-range ballistic missiles that Washington last week accused Tehran of delivering to Russia for use against Ukraine, according to three sources with knowledge of the matter.

The sources said it was not clear why Iran did not supply launchers with the Fateh-360 missiles. A US official said Iran had not delivered the launchers at the time of the US announcement about Iran's delivery of the weapons. A European intelligence official said without elaborating that they did not expect Iran to provide launchers. Two experts said there could be several reasons why the launchers were not sent. One is that Russia may plan to modify trucks to carry the missiles, as Iran has done. Another is that Iran is allowing space for new talks with Western powers on easing tensions.

Russia plans strikes on nuclear facilities before winter: Kyiv

REUTERS
KYIV, SEPTEMBER 21

UKRAINE'S FOREIGN minister said on Saturday that Russia is planning strikes on Ukrainian nuclear facilities before the winter, and urged the UN's nuclear watchdog and Kyiv's allies to establish permanent monitoring missions at its nuclear plants.

"According to Ukrainian intelligence, (the) Kremlin is preparing strikes on Ukrainian nuclear energy critical objects ahead of winter," Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiba wrote on X.

"In particular, it concerns open distribution devices at (nuclear power plants and) transmission substations, critical for the safe operation of nuclear energy," Sybiba did not elaborate on why Kyiv believed such strikes were being prepared.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow. The UN's nuclear watchdog,



After a Russian strike on Ukraine's Kharkiv, Saturday

the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Ukrainian president's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, called for a swift global response to the purported threat of a strike on a nuclear facility.

"This is preparation for a possible nuclear disaster scenario. Russia is a terrorist," he wrote on Telegram. "They must be stopped here and now. The countries of the West and the Global South must react harshly to preparations for terror." **REUTERS**

Putin was joking about support for Harris in US elections: Lavrov

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin was joking when he said Moscow was supporting Democratic candidate Kamala Harris in November's U.S. presidential election, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in an interview with *Sky News Arabia*.

Putin said earlier this month that Russia wanted Harris to win the contest in a comment that cited her "infectious" laugh as a reason to prefer her over Republican candidate and former President Donald Trump. The remark prompted the White House to say Putin should stop commenting on the election.

"It was a joke," Lavrov said. "President Putin has a good sense of humour. He often jokes during his statements and interviews." **REUTERS**

SENTENCED FOR A YEAR, FREED OVER TERM SERVED US SOLDIER WHO FLED TO N KOREA RELEASED

US Army Private Travis King, who last year ran into North Korea and was taken into custody there, was sentenced Friday to one year of confinement then freed based on time already served, his lawyer said. He pleaded guilty to five charges, and the sentencing was held in Texas. **REUTERS**

16 Hezbollah members among 37 killed in Friday's Israeli strikes: Lebanon

REUTERS
BEIRUT, JERUSALEM, SEPT 21

AN ISRAELI airstrike that targeted Hezbollah commanders in a Beirut suburb on Friday killed at least 37 people, including three children and seven women, the Lebanese health ministry said, and rescuers were still searching on Saturday for people missing in the rubble.

Hezbollah said overnight that 16 of its members including senior leader Ibrahim Aqil and another top commander, Ahmed Wahbi, were among those killed in the deadliest strike in nearly a year of conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed group.

The Israeli army, in posts on X, said the strike hit an underground gathering of senior commanders of Hezbollah's elite Radwan forces, and had "almost completely dismantled" Hezbollah's military chain of command. The attack levelled a multi-story residential building in the crowded suburb and a nursery next door was damaged, a source said.

Heavy cross-border strikes continued on Saturday, with Israeli warplanes carrying out some of the heaviest bombardment in 11 months of fighting across Lebanon's south and Hezbollah claiming rocket attacks on military targets in Israel's north. The Israeli army said it hit around 180 targets, destroying thousands of rocket launch barrels.

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati cancelled a planned trip to the U.N. General Assembly in New York over the escalating conflict, his office said in a statement.

Hezbollah has said it will keep fighting Israel until it agrees to a ceasefire in its war against Hamas in the Palestinian enclave of Gaza.



Emergency personnel at the site of the Israeli strike in Beirut's southern suburbs on Saturday. *Reuters*

Palestinians say Israeli strike killed 22 in shelter, army says militants hit

REUTERS
GAZA, CAIRO, SEPTEMBER 21

PALESTINIANS SAID an Israeli strike killed at least 22 people in a school sheltering displaced people in southern Gaza City on Saturday, while the Israeli military said the attack targeted a command centre of Hamas.

The Gaza health ministry said most of those killed were women and children. The Hamas-run government media office said 13 children and six women were among the dead.

The military said it hit a Hamas command centre embedded in the compound that previously served as a school, repeating an accusation that the group uses civilian facilities for military purposes. Hamas denies that. Reuters footage from the site



The school bombed by Israeli jets in Gaza city on Saturday *Reuters*

showed blasted walls, wrecked and burnt furniture, and holes in the ceiling of one room. Some of the dead were wrapped in blankets and carried away on donkey carts, as ambulances transferred other bodies. In Rafah, in the south Gaza, the health ministry said four health workers were killed by an Israeli strike that hit ministry warehouses.

Justice served: Sullivan on killing of Hezbollah leader

Wilmington: US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on Saturday said he was worried about escalation between Israel and Lebanon but that the Israeli killing of a top Hezbollah leader brought justice to the Iran-backed group.

Sullivan, speaking with reporters in Wilmington, Delaware, said he still sees a path to a ceasefire in Gaza but that the US is "not at a point right now where we're prepared to put something on the table." Sullivan said the US is continuing to work



US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan

with Qatar and Egypt as the two countries talk with Hamas, but that Washington, as it talks with Israel, is not in a position to propose a deal that could be accepted by both parties.

"Could that change over the course of the coming days? It could," Sullivan said. **REUTERS**

Fear grips ethnic minorities after violence in Bangladesh kills four

REUTERS
DHAKA, SEPTEMBER 21

ETHNIC MINORITIES in Bangladesh's southern hilly region are living in fear after clashes in which four people were killed and dozens wounded, police and witnesses said on Saturday.

Sectarian violence, sparked by the lynching of a Bengali man on Wednesday, has displaced scores of ethnic families after homes and businesses were set on fire in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) bordering Myanmar and northeast India, they said. A 72-hour road and waterways blockade, called by student-led ethnic groups, is



People protest violence against ethnic minorities in Dhaka in 2021. *Reuters file*

underway in three hilly districts of Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban in the CHT, home to several indigenous tribal groups.

Protesters are calling for punishment of those responsible for

the unrest, which escalated Thursday, leading to the deaths of four men from ethnic minorities. Many families in Khagrachhari and Rangamati have fled.

Despite heavy army, police and border guard patrols, residents remain on edge. "A tense situation is prevailing... peace will be restored soon," said Ahsan Habib, DIG at Chittagong Range Police.

The Bengali man's lynching triggered retaliatory attacks on ethnic minority communities, officials said. Dozens of houses, primarily belonging to Buddhist minorities, were set on fire or attacked. Speakers in local mosques were used to incite Bengali mobs, witnesses said. **NYT**

LUXURY BRITISH DEPARTMENT STORE 'ENABLED' AL-FAYED'S ABUSE, SAY VICTIMS

'Monster enabled by a system': 37 women to sue Harrods over unsafe work conditions

EGAN SPECIAL
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 21

LAWYERS REPRESENTING dozens of women who have detailed harrowing allegations of sexual assault by Mohamed al-Fayed, the former owner of Harrods, said on Friday that they would launch a civil case against the luxury British department store for allegedly enabling his abuse.

At a news conference on Friday, lawyers for at least 37

women said Harrods had "acquiesced to" an unsafe environment that had failed the alleged victims.

Al-Fayed, who died last year at 94, was a billionaire tycoon who owned the iconic store from 1985 to 2010.

"We will say it plainly, Mohamed al-Fayed was a monster," said Dean Armstrong, one of the lawyers, adding, "But he was a monster enabled by a system, a system that pervaded Harrods."

Al-Fayed was "enabled by unsafe systems of work which

Harrods established, maintained, certainly acquiesced to, and, we say, facilitated during his chairmanship," Armstrong said.

Harrods, which is now owned by the state of Qatar's sovereign wealth fund, issued a statement shortly after the documentary was released on Thursday saying it was "utterly appalled by the allegations of abuse perpetrated by Mohamed al-Fayed."

The company acknowledged that during his ownership, "we failed our employees who were his victims and for this we sin-



Al-Fayed, who died last year at 94, was a billionaire tycoon who owned the iconic store from 1985 to 2010. **AP**

cerely apologise." It said its priority had been to "settle claims in the quickest way possible, avoiding lengthy legal proceedings for the women involved."

New accusations have emerged since the documentary, called *Al Fayed: Predator at Harrods*, lawyers said. The investigation featured the accounts of more than 20 female ex-employees whose allegations span years and continents, with accusations of assault in London, Paris, St. Tropez and Abu Dhabi. Five of the women say they were

raped by al-Fayed.

Armstrong said the allegations against al-Fayed combined "some of the most horrific elements of the cases involving Jimmy Savile, Jeffrey Epstein and Harvey Weinstein."

The lawyers said they would deal with each claim individually rather than through a class-action lawsuit, though civil claims had not yet been filed as they continued to investigate each case.

"Every survivor suffered different harm here and different

NO CHARGESHEET IN MOST CASES

Hate-speech FIRs gather dust year after Maharashtra assured SC of action

Officers say at least 19 FIRs await govt nod; Fadnavis says moving as per law

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 21

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW
AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

AWAITING GREEN SIGNAL

19 hate speech FIRs submitted in January-April 2023 await sanction for prosecution from the Maharashtra government.

- 4: Mira Bhayander Vasai Virar Commissionerate
2: Solapur City
2: Buldhana
2: Nashik City
1 each: Navi Mumbai, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Nanded, Pune Rural, Jalna, Latur, Thane City, Mumbai, Ahmednagar

IN APRIL last year, responding to a petition against alleged hate speech in rallies conducted by Sakal Hindu Samaj (SHS) across Maharashtra, the state government had denied any "lapse" on its part and had assured the Supreme Court that it was taking action in these cases. It listed 25 FIRs registered in January-April 2023, including 16 related to Samaj rallies.

PRIME MINISTERS' MUSEUM & LIBRARY

In letter to Sonia, member seeks access to Nehru papers

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

IN THE backdrop of the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (PMML), earlier this year, discussing the reclaiming of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's private papers by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, one of its members has now written to her, asking her to either return the papers, provide copies, or offer digitised access.

After SC flagged delay, appointment of 8 HC Chief Justices gets nod

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

A DAY after the Supreme Court flagged the issue of pending Judges' appointments, the Centre on Saturday notified the appointment of eight High Court Chief Justices.

BJP counts on PM, and separatists in Valley fray, for boost in Jammu

MANOJ CG
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21

FROM JAMMU to Kathua, and from Rajouri to Doda, huge billboards featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi stare at you — contrasting the "situation" in the Jammu division before and after 2014.

WILL DEEPEN INDIA-US STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: PM
Biden, Modi meet ahead of Quad; China, Ukraine & Israel on table

Announcements expected on health, maritime security, climate, emerging tech

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday at his home in Wilmington, Delaware, on the margins and ahead of the 6th Quad summit.



US President Joe Biden with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence in Delaware ahead of their bilateral meeting on Saturday. @MEAIndia

White House officials meet Sikh activists, 'assure more safeguards'

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 21

WHITE HOUSE officials met a group of Sikh activists to assure them that the US government is committed to protecting Americans from any acts of transnational aggression on its soil, a community leader said.



MAKE KEJRIWAL CM AGAIN: CM ATISHI

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi seeks blessings from AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal after taking oath of office along with five cabinet ministers, in New Delhi on Saturday. LG Vinai Kumar Saxena was present at the swearing-in. The new CM said: 'We have only one objective for the elections — to make Arvind Kejriwal CM of Delhi again.'

Kerala man in Norway 'linked' to pager blasts, family says no contact

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 21

THE FAMILY of Rinson Jose — a 36-year-old Indian-born entrepreneur and Norwegian citizen, whose name emerged in the investigation surrounding the recent pager explosions in Lebanon — has told The Indian Express they have not heard from him for the past few days.



Rinson Jose, 36, is a Norwegian citizen

surveillance around the home of Rinson's parents, an officer of the state special branch (intelligence wing) told The Indian Express.

Manipur faultlines deepen, tussle over Unified Command takes centrestage

SUKRITA BARUAH
JIRIBAM, SEPTEMBER 21

LEAKED INTELLIGENCE reports, a fresh flare-up in violence and, most importantly, the issue of who oversees the Unified Command is behind the relationship between the Manipur government and the state's security establishment becoming more strained than ever, top security officials and government functionaries have told The Indian Express.

EXPLAINED Power play
THOUGH THE Manipur CM has maintained a studied silence on the issue of the Unified Command, those close to him have been more vocal. With no let-up in violence in the state, the demands from within the government might only grow louder.

EXPRESS NETWORK

TIRUPATI TEMPLE TIES UP WITH NEW GHEE VENDOR PAGE 9

Polls ahead, EC set to visit Jharkhand, Maharashtra next week

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE ELECTION Commission will likely visit Jharkhand and Maharashtra next week to review preparations for Assembly elections in the two states, EC sources said Saturday.

DECISION 2024



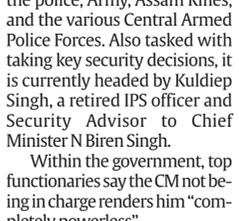
SELJA ABSENCE FROM CONGRESS POLL CAMPAIGN SPARKS BUZZ
₹1,000 IN ASSETS, BJP'S J&K CHIEF IS AMONG 'POOREST' IN FRAY PAGE 6



BJP billboards featuring PM dot Jammu region. Manoj CG

of them. "Nidar (fearless)" has replaced "dar (fear)", claim others. Hoardings with pictures of the BJP's candidates are few and far between.

U.P.: BJP LOOKS FOR BYPOLL BOOST THROUGH JOB FAIRS



WAYANAD'S MISSING LIST: OFFICIALS SEEK DNA CLUES PAGE 7, 9

17 yrs on, kidnap victim gives closing argument in own case — as lawyer

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 21

ONE EVENING, nearly 17 years ago, seven-year-old Harsh Garg was sitting in the medical shop run by his father and uncle in Kheragarh, around 40 km from Agra. Around 7 pm, a gang of dacoits entered the shop and grabbed Harsh.

der. Before dragging the boy inside their car, the dacoits instructed the two men to start collecting money in exchange for Harsh's release. This was on February 10, 2007.

FROM KIDNAPPING TO WINNING COURT CASE
FEBRUARY 10, 2007: Harsh Garg, 7, is kidnapped from Agra
MARCH 6, 2007: Rescued from Shivpuri district, MP
2007-2008: All 14 accused in the case arrested
2022: Harsh gets law degree
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024: Delivers closing argument in the case. Eight dacoits given life imprisonment
Harsh Garg (second from right) with his (from left) uncle Mahesh, father Ravi Kumar and mother Kavita. Express

his law degree from an Agra-based college. "With the court's permission, I argued for 55 minutes during the final stage of the case and even responded to the objections raised by the defence counsel," Harsh told The Indian Express, adding that he appeared in court with the government counsel.

Indian Penal Code. Most of the eight convicts belong to Rajasthan. Four other accused were acquitted due to lack of evidence, the counsel said, adding that two other accused died during the trial. Defence counsel Tejender Rajput said he will file an appeal against the judgment.

witnesses. I ensured that all witnesses appeared on their scheduled dates. I tracked down retired police personnel and made sure they appeared in court to give their statements," he says.

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Biden, Modi meeting ahead of Quad

Russia-Ukraine war; and the rising tension in West Asia in the wake of the Israel-Hamas conflict. PTI reported that the war and Modi's recent visit to Ukraine are also expected to figure in the meeting, according to US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan. Modi, who is here as part of his three-day visit to the United States, will also hold separate bilateral meetings with Albanese and Kishida. Modi was accompanied by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Ambassador of India to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra. The US team included Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs T H Jake Sullivan and Ambassador of the US to India Eric Garcetti. After the meeting with Modi that lasted about an hour, Biden said: "The US partnership with India is stronger, closer, and more dynamic than any time in history. Prime Minister Modi, each time we sit down, I'm struck by our ability to find new areas of cooperation. Today was no different." Biden offered to host the Quad leaders' summit - swapping with India which will now host in 2025 - and this is being

seen as his "farewell summit." In his departure statement Saturday morning, Modi announced his three-day visit to the US during which he will also address the Summit of the Future at the UN General Assembly in New York. "I look forward to joining my colleagues President Biden, Prime Minister Albanese and Prime Minister Kishida for the Quad Summit. The forum has emerged as a key group of like-minded countries to work for peace, progress and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," Modi said. Biden said, "Today, I'll welcome Prime Ministers Albanese, Modi, and Kishida to my home: Delaware. These leaders aren't just essential to ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific - they're friends of mine and friends of our nation. I look forward to all we'll accomplish in the Summit ahead." After he landed at around 8 pm IST, Modi said, "Landed in Philadelphia. Today's programme will be focused on the Quad Summit and the bilateral meeting with POTUS @JoeBiden. I am sure the discussions throughout the day will contribute to making our planet better and addressing key global challenges." Modi, who has invested in Indo-US ties in the last decade building on the strategic part-

nership, will thank and acknowledge President Biden for his leadership towards deepening bilateral ties. This is the third US President Modi has interacted with in office, since he won in 2014 - Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump being the other two. The Modi-Biden bilateral will be watched by many as the two leaders take stock of the state of the relationship that has faced challenges in the last year over the assassination plot of a pro-Khalistan separatist figure in the US. However, convergences far outweigh the differences; the strategic alignment has deepened, there is a growing and shared concern about an aggressive Beijing, access to technology and capital, and the US is emerging as the most favoured destination for Indian youth for education, jobs and innovation. Modi's three-day visit is set to encapsulate all these elements: bilateral (meetings with Biden); multilateral (Quad leaders' summit); diaspora outreach (event at Nassau County, Long Island near New York City); and a forum to discuss the ideas of the future and the next generation (the Summit of the Future at the UN). As Biden signs off as President in January, the US is in the middle

of a closely contested election between VP Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. Meetings with both Harris, Democratic Presidential candidate, and Trump, the Republican Presidential candidate are still "work in progress" and a remote possibility, given that both are campaigning outside New York and Delaware - the two places where Modi is travelling. When Biden entered the White House, he looked to elevate the Quad, which until then had only met at the Foreign Minister level, to a leader-level partnership. This summit is the fourth in-person and sixth overall gathering of the leaders since 2021. A White House official said the Quad summit in Delaware will feature ambitious announcements in multiple areas "in the areas in which the Quad has grown and is used to working and where Indo-Pacific partners prioritise the Quad's delivery." "These include health security, humanitarian and disaster response, maritime security, high-quality infrastructure, critical and emerging technologies, climate and clean energy, and cyber security," said Mira Rapp-Hooper, White House National Security Council Senior Director for East Asia and Oceania. As part of the summit, the leaders are also likely to announce new initiatives to bolster maritime security in the region - with enhanced coast guard

collaboration through the Pacific and Indian oceans - and to improve cooperation on humanitarian response missions. The White House said the leaders would also roll out an announcement related to Biden's Cancer Moonshot Initiative, a long-running passion project of the president and his wife aimed at reducing cancer deaths. The Bidens' son, Beau, died in 2015 at the age 46 of brain cancer. After the Quad summit, Modi will travel to New York for the Indian diaspora event on September 22. Modi said he was eagerly looking forward to engaging with the Indian diaspora and important US business leaders. On September 23, Modi will address the Summit of the Future at the UN headquarters in New York. He returns on September 24. NSA Ajit Doval, usually part of the official delegation, is not accompanying the PM. Sources said that the Jammu & Kashmir elections and domestic commitments have kept him back. Incidentally, days ago, a US court issued summons to NSA Doval, among other top intelligence officials, after pro-Khalistan separatist Gurupatwant Singh Pannun filed a civil lawsuit seeking damages for an alleged plot to assassinate him in the US last year. India has reacted sharply to the charges, with Misri describing them as "completely unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations".

● Sikh activists Education Fund (SALDEF). "Yesterday we had the chance to thank senior federal government officials for saving the lives of Sikh Americans and for vigilance in protecting our community. We asked them to do more, and we will hold them to their assurances that they will," Pritpal Singh, founder of the American Sikh Caucus Committee, told PTI Friday. In a social media post on X, Singh wrote: "...We will hold them to their assurances to do more to safeguard our community." This is the first time the National Security Council has held a meeting with these Sikh activists and separatists. The meeting was initiated by the White House. Congressman Adam Schiff early this week introduced the Transnational Repression Reporting Act of 2024 which would require the Attorney General, in coordination with other relevant federal agencies, to report cases of transnational repression against people in the US. "Through this bill, Congress sends a strong message to both allies and adversaries that violating the constitutional rights of Americans will not be tolerated," SALDEF said. Earlier this week, Khalistani separatist Gurupatwant Singh Pannun filed a civil lawsuit against the Government of India and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval after which the US District Court for the Southern District of New York issued summons in the case. The lawsuit has been also filed against Nikhil Gupta, who has been charged by federal prosecutors in an indictment unsealed in November last year with working with an Indian government employee in the foiled plot to kill Pannun. PTI

● Manipur faultlines While the CM has not commented on the issue publicly, since September 11, when violence flared again in the state and 11 people were killed within the span of a week, both the government and Meitei protesters have reignited the demand. On September 2, MLA and the CM's son-in-law, R K Imo Singh, wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, appealing that central forces be removed from the state and the leadership of the Unified Command be transferred to the CM. Ruling party MLAs led by the CM also met the Governor on September 8, and it is learnt that this was one of the matters raised there too. However, security officials said the issue is politically motivated. "This demand, and even the protests which took place (by the Meitei community, against central forces) are all diversionary in nature. This is raked up every time there is even a murmur that the state might see a change in political leadership. Why were all education institutions in the state closed to coincide with the protests? The police had not recommended that internet services be snapped on September 10, but the Home Department issued a notification for it," said a top security official, suggesting that the protesters are being propped up by the government.

● A 'leaked' report The official also referred to an intelligence report that had been "leaked", days after Jiribam district saw violence in June. The communication - sent to the Manipur Director General of Police, the Security Advisor and the Chief Secretary - asked that a report be submitted explaining how violence in the district had flared on June 6. It referred to an alert sent by the CMO five months earlier, in January, to the DGP and the Security Advisor on reports of movement of "about 200 Kuki-Zo militants from Churachandpur to areas bordering Jiribam", and requesting that security measures be taken to

● Govt appoints judges

had underlined that the Collegium is not a "search committee". Announcing the appointments on Saturday, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal said in a post on X: "In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint/transfer the following Chief Justices of High Courts." According to the list: ■ Delhi High Court Acting Chief Justice Manmohan has been appointed as Delhi HC Chief Justice. ■ Justice Rajiv Shakdher of the Delhi HC has been appointed Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh HC. ■ Justice Suresh Kumar Kait of the Delhi HC has been appointed Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh HC. ■ Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji of the Calcutta HC has been appointed Chief Justice of the Meghalaya HC. ■ Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar of the Bombay HC has been appointed Chief Justice of the Kerala HC. ■ Acting Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan of the J&K and Ladakh HC has been appointed Chief Justice of the same court. ■ Justice Shriram Kalpathi Rajendran of the Bombay HC has been appointed Chief Justice of the Madras HC. ■ Himachal Pradesh HC Chief Justice M S Ramachandra Rao has been transferred as Jharkhand HC Chief Justice. The Supreme Court Collegium for appointment of HC Judges had first recommended these appointments, barring Justice Mukerji, on July 11. As the recommendations remained pending with the Centre, the Collegium made some changes and issued another resolution on September 17. In July, the Collegium - comprising the CJI and two most sen-

ior Judges of the Supreme Court - had recommended the appointment of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait, G S Sandhawalia and Tashi Rabstan as the Chief Justices of the HCs in J&K and Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya respectively. It changed this in September, listing Justices Kait and Tashi Rabstan for the Madhya Pradesh and J&K and Ladakh HCs respectively, while pushing Justice Sandhawalia's appointment until after Justice Shakdher retires on October 18. Following Justice Shakdher's retirement, Justice Sandhawalia was recommended to take over as Himachal HC Chief Justice. In addition to these changes, Justice Mukerji was added to the list, for appointment as the Meghalaya HC Chief Justice. In its contempt petition, the Jharkhand government had said its HC had been functioning without a regular Chief Justice since December 2023, with the exception of former Chief Justice B R Sarangi's 15-day tenure in July - the Centre cleared his appointment six months after the Collegium's recommendation. In 2021, a Supreme Court Bench led by then CJI S A Bobde had set timelines for various stages of the appointment process for Judges. After a recommendation is sent, the Centre must either make the appointment or return the recommendation with specific reasons "immediately", it had said. If the Collegium "reiterates" the same recommendation - which the Centre is typically bound to accept - the appointment should be made in three-four weeks, it had said. Since then, delays in appointments of Judges have been flagged from time to time. In 2021, then CJI NV Ramana mentioned pending recommendations in his speech at the launch of the 'Pan India Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign' of the National Legal Services Authority,

● BJP hopes for boost in Jammu

from the Kashmir Valley, too. The BJP has taken the unprecedented step of denying tickets to several of its senior leaders and legislators, including former deputy chief ministers Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta besides Sat Sharma. On the ground, issues like price rise and unemployment find resonance among people, some of whom also flag "lack of performance" by several former BJP MLAs, but the party leaders claim the situation is changing in their favour with each passing day. "Six months ago, we were not in a position to win even ten seats. But the situation is changing now. Look at what is happening in the Valley," a district BJP president says. He indicates that the BJP is hoping for a consolidation of Hindu votes in Jammu in response to the developments that have unfolded in the Valley. "Separatist elements like Engineer Rashid and Jamaat-Islami cannot be allowed to dictate terms. I think the people of Jammu know that," he says. But it is a double-edged sword. "The people of Jammu are closely watching what is happening in the Valley. Only the Congress-National Conference (NC) alliance

can stop the Valley falling into the hands of radical forces," says a Congress leader. "Now Engineer Rashid, who was in jail, has fielded candidates in Kashmir. The Jamaat is also said to be contesting (several Valley seats). What will happen to Jammu if they all win their seats," says Rajat, a student in Doda. Travelling across the Jammu region - which will now send 43 MLAs (as compared to Kashmir's 47 legislators to the 90-member J&K Assembly following the 2022 delimitation) - you find one common refrain being made by many people, which point to a deep sense of suspicion towards politicians from the Valley. Also, there seems to be a widespread belief that governments over the years have focused all their attention on Kashmir. But their views on the way forward differ, polarised on religious lines. And at the heart of the polls in Jammu lies this divide. The political developments in Kashmir are keenly followed in the region and could impact its voting pattern, at least in the Hindu-majority areas. "Everybody is covering Kashmir, the talk is only about Kashmir. If you write about Jammu, it will be beneficial for us,"

says a Muslim student at Jammu University, who did not want to be identified. His friend, an ABVP activist, agrees, but points out that his political affiliations are known. And as is his party BJP's line, his focus is on how the state has benefited because of abrogation of Articles 370 and 35 A by the BJP-ruled Centre in August 2019. However, regardless of their faith, students resent the scrapping of the Durbur move (shifting the seat of power to Jammu for six months during winter and moving it back to Srinagar in summer in the wake of the abrogation move), arguing it has affected business and trade. They also agree that the return of democracy to J&K following a long spell of central rule is a welcome move. But the youth are divided when it comes to restoration of statehood to J&K. "If statehood is restored, politicians from Kashmir will rule again," says Komal, who is doing her MA in English at Jammu University. "Every scheme of the central government is implemented now in J&K. I hear about a scheme... within a month I see people in Doda queuing up to apply. One hears similar views in Kathua, Rajouri and Doda. In the 2014 polls, the PDP got 28 seats, BJP 25, NC 15, and the Congress 12 seats. The hung verdict led to the PDP-BJP coalition.

● EC

time, however, while announcing the Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir elections, the EC decided not to schedule the Maharashtra polls at the same time. Polling in the three-phase J&K elections started on September 18, with the next two phases scheduled for September 25 and October 1. Polling in Haryana will be held on October 5. Votes will be counted in both states on October 8. Asked why the Maharashtra elections had been decoupled from the elections to the Haryana Assembly, whose term ends on November 3, the CEC said the J&K elections had not been a factor in previous election cycles. The EC is holding Assembly elections in J&K for the first time in 10 years and, as per a Supreme Court order, the polls had to be conducted before September 30.

● PMML

Aruna Asaf Ali, Vijaya Laxmi Pandit and Babu Jagjivan Ram. "I am writing to you as a dedicated member of the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society," Kadri says in the letter. "My academic journey has deeply intertwined with the history of the Indian National Congress (1885-1947), and I hold a profound interest in various facts and records pertaining to its history, particularly in Gujarat," he says, adding that even as "Gandhiji's writings are meticulously documented... unfortunately, Patel did not maintain such comprehensive records prior to independence." Kadri's PhD thesis in 1997 focussed on Mahatma Gandhi, Vallabhbhai Patel and Gujarat's political history. "As a historian, I am keenly interested in tracking his (Patel's) contributions," he says in the letter. Jawaharlal Nehru and his father, Motilal Nehru, left behind significant records of their contributions, which were preserved at the NMML, notes the letter, adding that their immense contributions to nation-building necessitate thorough scientific study, for which access to the complete records is essential. "Upon recent inquiry, I was informed that most of these records

are housed at the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library. It was also conveyed to me that some records were taken by your (Sonia Gandhi's) office, as you were the family's representative and donor," Kadri says in the letter. "I am confident that this was done in good faith to protect these invaluable documents... it is crucial that these records remain accessible to ensure comprehensive understanding of our nation's history... You will agree that Pandit Nehru deserves unbiased research of his contributions, free from any 'political influence'," says the letter, seeking "permission to access these records." The letter suggests access through scanning of the documents. It also suggests that Sonia could provide copies of the documents to PMML, while retaining the originals with her. Seeking Sonia's cooperation in the matter, he says his "sole purpose is to study Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru and Patel in a true scientific historical perspective". The Nehru papers were donated after 1971 by Indira Gandhi and later by Sonia Gandhi. At the AGM of the PMML in February, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, a large part of the discussion centred on Nehru's private papers in PMML's collection, of which 51 boxes were taken back by Sonia in May 2008.

Classifieds EXPRESS EDUCATION Foundation Batch for PSIR By Dr. RAJESH MISHRA BATCH STARTS FROM 23rd SEPTEMBER 3:30 PM with WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT AT KAROL BAGH Exam-Oriented Approach Timely Syllabus Completion in 6 months Entire Syllabus Covered by Dr. Rajesh Mishra Thorough Discussion on PYQs Five DEMO Classes Free SARASWATI IAS Shop No. 64, 3rd Floor, Main Market Bada Bazar Rd, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, 60 011-40535897, 9899156495 9667894991, 7820042822 www.saraswatiias.com Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service (M): 9212665841, 9212008155

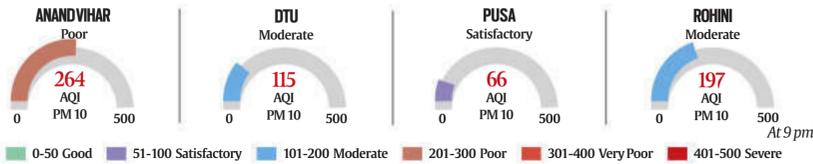
● Hate-speech FIRs gather dust year after Maharashtra assured SC of action

16 linked to SHS. Reason: each of these "sensitive" cases is at various stages of a laborious process to obtain the state government's sanction for prosecution. Eight of the 19 cases involve MLAs or public figures. Sanction is mandatory under the sections invoked in these cases to file the chargesheet - 153(A) and 295(A) related to communal enmity and insult in the IPC. In the absence of a chargesheet, the legal process, including action against the accused or trial, is on pause. Apart from the 16 FIRs linked to SHS rallies, the three FIRs awaiting prosecution sanction include two registered on caste-related charges and one for posting alleged derogatory content against Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on social media platforms. Of the other six FIRs on the list of 25, sources said, chargesheets were filed in three cases where sanction was not required: two related to alleged comments against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and another on damage to a Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue. Another FIR is related to a non-cognizable (NC) crime in which a chargesheet is not required to be filed. The contents of the remaining two FIRs are not known. Contacted by The Indian Express for comment on these findings, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister

WAITING FOR SANCTION Illustrative examples from 19 FIRs FEB 19, 2023, LATUR: T Raja Singh, BJP MLA from Goshamahall in Telangana, for alleged remarks against minority community at SHS rally. FIR filed Feb 27. FEB 24, JALNA: Former VHP international president Pravin Togadia for allegedly derogatory references to the minorities. FIR registered on April 24. Togadia also faces another FIR linked to hate speech at an SHS rally. FEB 26, NAVI MUMBAI: Kajori records revealed that overall in 2023, only 18 FIRs related to hate speech were sent for prosecution sanction to the state government and just one in 2024 so far. Of these, RTI records show, only one proposal for sanction related to SHS rallies is with the Home Department - from Kranti Nagar station in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar. Asked about this discrepancy between RTI records and the investigating officers' assertions that they had sent proposals for prosecution sanction in 19 cases, a senior Home official

attributed this to the "bureaucratic process". The procedure for prosecution sanction in sensitive cases can take six-eight months from the registration of FIR, the official said. According to the official, senior police officers vet these proposals while ensuring that the required paperwork is in place, and a committee goes through each complaint. If the committee is convinced that an offence is made out, the complaint is forwarded to the Home department for approval. After the final green light is received from the government, a chargesheet is filed and the case goes to trial. "In several cases, police officers do not attach the proper documents so we have to send them back. In one case, for instance, we received an application for prosecution sanction for an FIR registered in 2014," said the official from the Home department. In cases of communal hate speech, the FIRs include section 153 (A) (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc) and 295 (A) (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) under the IPC. According to Section 196 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), the police have to seek permission from the Home Department before they can file a chargesheet in such sensi-

● Kidnap victim "During the final hearing, I provided a first-hand account of the kidnaping, including the detailed roles of each dacoit," says Harsh. He says his kidnapers took him to the Chambal ravines, which run through Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Meanwhile, the police identified and arrested two of the accused with the help of surveillance and inputs from local intelligence. "The dacoits took me to several locations along the border before moving me to MP. Over the course of three weeks, I learnt the names and aliases of every gang member. They slapped me once, when I insisted on being sent home," Harsh recounts. The Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Police intensified their search operation after receiving a tip-off that the dacoits were hiding in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh. On March 6, 2007, while attempting to move Harsh from Shivpuri to another location on a motorcycle, two of the accused spotted a police team checking vehicles. They abandoned the boy and fled. Harsh was rescued by police. On March 7, 2007, he was reunited with his family. Between 2007 and 2008, all 14 accused linked to the case were arrested.



SKYWATCH
September 22
Partly cloudy sky
MAX: 36
2°C above normal
MIN: 25
Normal

Bharat gets its Biggest Port

Massive Vadvan Port worth ₹76 thousand crore being Constructed in Maharashtra

100 Days of Modi 3.0
Paving the Path to Viksit Bharat

ATISHI TAKES OATH WITH 5 MINISTERS

'Now, residents of Delhi have to ensure Kejriwal gets to sit on CM's seat again'

Warns of disruption to services if Kejriwal doesn't return as CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

FOUR DAYS after Arvind Kejriwal resigned as the chief minister, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi was sworn in as the new CM of Delhi at Raj Bhawan on Saturday. Along with her, five Cabinet ministers — Kailash Gehlot, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Gopal Rai, Imran Hussain and Mukesh Ahlawat — also took oath.

While Gehlot, Bharadwaj, Rai and Hussain are returning members to the Cabinet, Ahlawat, the Sultanpur Majra MLA, is a new addition. He replaces Raj Kumar Anand, who left AAP to join the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) before the recent Lok Sabha elections.

Atishi still holds all 13 departments that she had earlier, which includes the public works department, power, education, water and finance, among others.

While Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj has been allocated social welfare and cooperative/cooperation as additional departments, he now holds on to eight portfolios, including his previous portfolios like health and urban



Atishi and the five ministers at Raj Bhawan on Saturday. PTI

THE NEW CABINET

- ATISHI**
Public Works Department, Power, Education, Higher Education, Training & Technical Education, Public Relations Department, Revenue, Finance, Planning, Services, Vigilance, Water, Law, Justice and Legislative Affairs, and all other portfolios not specifically allocated to any minister
- SAURABH BHARADWAJ**
Urban Development, Irrigation and Flood Control, Health, Industries, Art, Culture & Language, Tourism, Social Welfare, Cooperative
- KAILASH GAHLOT**
Transport, Administrative Reforms, Information & Technology, Home, Women and Child Development
- IMRAN HUSSAIN**
Food & Supply, Election
- MUKESH AHLAWAT**
Gurudwara Elections, SC & ST, Land & Building, Labour, Employment
- GOPAL RAI**
Development, General Administration, Environment, Forest and Wildlife

In her first address after taking oath, Atishi said it was a "very emotional moment" for AAP leaders. "I would like to thank Delhi's son, the most loved CM in the history of Delhi, the leader of AAP, my elder brother and political guru Arvind Kejriwalji for entrusting me to take care of Delhi's residents. Although I have taken oath as the CM of Delhi, this is a very emotional moment because Arvind Kejriwal is no longer the chief minister of Delhi. Arvind Kejriwal understood the pain of the common people, the poor people living in Delhi, understood their daily struggle. He understood how difficult it is for common families to run their household," she said.

She urged the people of Delhi to support Kejriwal's return, warning of potential disruptions to essential services if he does not come back to power. "Now, the residents of Delhi have to ensure that Arvind Kejriwal gets to sit on the CM's seat once again. The 2 crore voters have to ensure that he sits on the chief minister's seat, else the BJP would stop providing you free electricity, mohalla clinics will not work, the education system would become cripple and bus tickets would not be free for women."

Atishi said that AAP has only one objective in the upcoming elections — to make Kejriwal the CM again. She added that any other CM would have sat on the chief minister's chair after receiving a positive judgment from court but for Kejriwal, it was not enough.

She went on to criticise the BJP's alleged interference in Delhi's governance over the last two years. "In the last one-and-a-half years since the BJP started planning and plotting against us, it has left no stone unturned to create trouble in Delhi's governance, due to which people are also bothered. They stopped medical tests being conducted at government hospitals, they stopped the correction of water bills, the sanitation system has become crippled because of this..."

"...I know that the BJP will conspire against the people of Delhi through its L-G sahab. I know that it will try to stop the Delhi government's works and welfare schemes, but for the next few months, as long as I have this responsibility, I will try to protect the people of Delhi and run the government under the guidance of Arvind Kejriwal...I want to assure the people of Delhi that Arvind Kejriwal is out of jail now; we will not let any conspiracy of BJP succeed," she added.



L-G V K Saxena and Atishi during her swearing-in ceremony on Saturday. ANI

Delhi in every possible manner in the last 10 years, and it is futile to expect his successor to do any better, as her performance as a minister has been below par," he alleged. Atishi, Yadav alleged, had "washed her hands off" when the Capital got water-logged, resulting in deaths due to drowning and electrocution.

"Atishi has inherited Kejriwal's legacy of corruption, mismanagement and incompetence, and even residents of her own Assembly constituency, Kalkaji, are skeptical about her performing any better in the next few months," he added.

L-G V K Saxena with Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday. PTI

'Unsuccessful as minister, no expectation': BJP, Congress on Atishi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

SOON AFTER Atishi took over as the chief minister of Delhi on Saturday, the BJP and Congress targeted her over her performance as a minister.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, while extending best wishes to her, alleged that Atishi had been "unsuccessful as a minister" and the people of Delhi had no expectations from her government. "With Atishi becoming CM, only the face has changed, not the character of the government. Since the government remains the same, corruption, irresponsibility and chaos will persist," he alleged.

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav, meanwhile, accused Atishi of having failed to address the problems of Delhi in the last one-and-a-half years as a minister holding 13 vital portfolios. "Kejriwal destroyed



Virendra Sachdeva and Devender Yadav

Rape charges framed against self-styled godman Daati Maharaj



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

A DELHI court Friday framed charges of rape, unnatural offences and criminal intimidation against "godman" Daati Maharaj and his two brothers in a six-year old complaint filed by his disciple.

The court, meanwhile, discharged Anil, another brother of Daati, in the case and posted the matter for submitting evidence for the prosecution on October 18.

Charges were framed against the three accused under sections 376 (rape), 377 (unnatural offences), and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC.

The case pertains to an FIR registered at the Fatehpur Beri Police station on June 11, 2018 based on a complaint filed by a 25-year-old woman disciple of Daati for allegedly raping her at his Ashram in Fatehpur Beri on January 9, 2016. Police questioned Daati on June 22, 2018.

Woman gets stuck on flyover pillar in Noida for 35 minutes, rescued



Efforts underway to rescue the woman at the flyover. Express

A WOMAN got stuck for 35 minutes on a pillar, where she fell after she lost control of her scooter on a flyover and hit a divider in Noida's Sector 20, on Saturday.

Two persons who went down to help the woman also got stuck. All three were finally rescued by the police and fire bridge personnel.

The incident took place around 12.45 pm when the woman, along with a friend, was travelling from Sector 18 to Ghaziabad.

Additional Commissioner of Police Manish Kumar Mishra said, "When they reached the elevated bridge near Mangal market in Sector 18, a WagonR car took a right turn after giving an indicator. The woman lost her balance and the scooter hit the median. The woman fell on the pillar and got stuck," he said.

Two people went down to help the woman but they also got stuck there, the police said. "We have taken the car into custody... The woman is stressed about the accident... we will talk to her after she is better," Mishra said.

Madhubani and runs a political marketing media firm, could not present his driver's licence on the day of the accident after which the police sent him a notice.

The car, a Mahindra XUV EXD, which collided with victim Akshat Garg's bike on September 15 was purchased in July and had two pending challans, as per its registration details.

5 minors held after teen dies, another hurt after stabbing in Sangam Vihar



Five juveniles, all below 17 years, were detained after a minor from a rival gang was allegedly stabbed to death in Delhi's Sangam Vihar Friday, the police said.

The deceased, a murder accused who was aged 17, was released from an observation home only 10 days ago, they added.

A 16-year-old boy was also allegedly attacked and sustained stab injuries. "Police received a call around 6:30 pm saying a minor was stabbed in K2, Sangam Vihar. When the police arrived, a boy was found dead with stab injuries in the back, while another boy, 16, was found with injuries due to stabbing," a police official said.

"They (the victims) were part of a gang run by a local criminal named Islam," DCP (Crime) Rakesh Pawaria said Saturday.

The minors were accused of a boy's murder in March and were sent to observation homes after a case was registered at Tigri police station. "The boys were accused of murder of a juvenile from a rival gang, led by Hari Kishan, who is in jail for (another) murder," Pawaria added.

The five boys detained were friends of the murdered boy and planned to attack the two minors after their release from the observation homes. "On Friday, near Sunday Bazaar Road, an altercation happened between the victims and the accused. One group consisted of five to six juveniles, while the other had four to five minors, all armed with knives. The deceased was stabbed 12 times and died on the spot," a police official said. All five accused were detained the same day, he added.

BIKER DEAD IN GURGAON ACCIDENT Driver fails to present licence, booked under Motor Vehicles Act



Sandeep. According to the section, a person driving without a licence can be punished with up to three months imprisonment or a fine of Rs 500 or both.

The 25-year-old accused, who hails from Bihar's

Madhubani and runs a political marketing media firm, could not present his driver's licence on the day of the accident after which the police sent him a notice.

The car, a Mahindra XUV EXD, which collided with victim Akshat Garg's bike on September 15 was purchased in July and had two pending challans, as per its registration details.

AT GANDHI DARSHAN
(Near Rajghat)
World Tourism Day

15th CHAMPIONS RUN FOR PEACE

Sunday, September 22, 2024, 07.30 a.m.

Flag Off
VIJAY GOEL CHIEF GUEST
Vice Chairman, Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti
Former Union Minister

R.S.V.P.
Dr. Jwala Prasad
Director, 9821016404

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training
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15-A, Sector-07, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075

Advt. No.: CCRT/11011/07/2024/04

Mission Mode Recruitment: Group - "B & C" posts in CCRT

Applications are invited for the following Group "B & C" posts on Direct Recruitment basis in Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi. The vacancy details are as under:

| Sl. No. | Name of the Post | Group | No. of Posts | Post Reserved | Level |
|---------|----------------------------------|-------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Accounts Officer | B | 04 | UR-03, OBC-01 | Pay Level - 7 |
| 2. | Administrative Officer | B | 01 | UR-01 | Pay Level - 7 |
| 3. | Copy Editor (English-1, Hindi-1) | B | 02 | UR-01, OBC-01 | Pay Level - 7 |
| 4. | Video Editor | B | 01 | UR-01 | Pay Level - 7 |
| 5. | Documentation Assistant | B | 01 | UR-01 | Pay Level - 6 |
| 6. | *Craft Instructor & Co-ordinator | B | 02 | UR-01, OBC-01 | Pay Level - 6 |
| 7. | Hindi Translator | B | 01 | UR-01 | Pay Level - 6 |
| 8. | Accounts Clerk | C | 02 | UR-02 | Pay Level - 4 |
| 9. | Lower Division Clerk | C | 06 | UR-03, OBC-01, SC-01, EWS-01 | Pay Level - 2 |
| 10. | Data Entry Operator | C | 02 | UR-01, OBC-01 | Pay Level - 2 |

*Anticipated vacancy w.e.f. 01 October, 2024.

- The detailed advertisement, prescribed Application Format and General Instructions are available in the CCRT website <https://ccrtindia.gov.in/>.
- The closing date for receipt of the application is 28.10.2024 and late received application will not be entertained after the closing date.

Dy. Director (Administration)
CCRT, New Delhi

CBC 09127/12/0007/2425

In critical condition

The rape and murder of a resident doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata has put the spotlight on the lack of security that women medical professionals face at government hospitals. ANONNA DUTT and ANKITA UPADHYAY visit three government hospitals in Delhi.



HINDU RAO HOSPITAL

‘Many dark spots, very risky to even go to the washroom’

IT IS 10 pm and the medicine ward of NDMC-run Hindu Rao Hospital in central Delhi is overflowing with over 70 patients and their attendants.

A woman resident doctor is informed by a patient that her husband is outside the ward, drinking. The resident doctor calls security guards, telling them to remove the man.

This is not the first time that she has done something like this. Like most government hospitals, security for medical professionals at Hindu Rao Hospital, too, has been found wanting at times.

The resident doctor, whose shift started at 4 pm and will end next morning at 9 am, is exhausted. “Sometimes the ward sees more than 100 patients between 8 pm and 9 am. There is only one doctor,” she says.

Meanwhile, the inebriated man, whom the guards are looking for, has shifted to a “dark corner” of the building and cannot be found. As per the resident doctor, this a regular occurrence. “There are many dark spots here and it is very risky to even go to the washroom...,” she says.

She adds that male attendants who come to the hospital with patients are either hungover or drunk. “They stare at us and pass comments when we are on night shift.”

Weak security

It is 12 am and there is no security guard around, as the resident doctor wants to take a break from work.

As she walks outside the ward while on call with her mother, she says that most of the guards are old and fall asleep by 12 am. “They are mostly more than 50 or 55 years of old and have not been trained to provide security. How can they protect us?” she asks.

She adds that one of her former colleagues had left the hospital because of recurrent night shifts, which resulting in her falling sick, and also the poor security network.

When contacted, the former colleague says she was posted at the hospital’s e-sanjeevani OPD. “The area of e-sanjeevani OPD where I worked was not safe. People came there in inebriated condition and sat with the ward boys. There is no security...,” she adds.

Unruly attendants

Last year, a woman doctor at Hindu Rao Hospital was slapped by a patient’s attendant without any apparent justification. “We filed a complaint with the medical superintendent, took out a candlelight march but they went scot free,” says the resident doctor.

“Last month only, we had informed a family of a patient that chances of her survival are bleak. When she passed away at 2 am, the enraged attendants started breaking everything, including the suction machine and other equipment. The security guards tried to stop them but the attendants misbehaved with the nursing staff,” she adds.

The fear of being assaulted is a constant, the resident doctor says. “We, the women resident doctors, keep each other informed of where we are. We also inform our colleagues and friends about the routes we are taking even within the campus.”

She adds that the parents of one of her colleagues wait at the parking lot of the hospital every night she is on night shift.

An intern working at the hospital says once a patient’s attendant followed her back home. “My colleagues told me to shift to a friend’s house,” she adds.

Poor infrastructure

The resident doctor says most of the times she has to use the washroom, she goes to her hostel. “The washroom here is in a very bad condition. To use the washroom, we either have to go to other departments or to my hostel room,” she says as she takes a poorly lit road to reach her hostel. “If I have to go to my hostel room or other departments, I have to take a long stretch that is completely dark... I feel very unsafe,” she adds.

The duty room, too, where doctors take rest, have only one washroom, which both men and women share. Also, there is no air conditioner.

Officials speak

Medical Superintendent Dr Anand Namolia says that as per Directorate General of Health Services guidelines, work is going on to revamp security across the campus.

“As per Supreme Court guidelines, guards have been deputed and escorts are being provided to resident doctors within the campus... At the dark spots, we have got tube-lights installed... I myself have visited the campus at 2 am... we are ensuring more vigilance,” he adds.

GURU TEG BAHADUR HOSPITAL & DR HEDGEWAR AAROGYA SANSTHAN

Lack of guards, common duty rooms, crumbling infra & sexual harassment

SPREAD ACROSS three interconnected buildings, at the government-run Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital in East Delhi, a youth (18), barged inside a ward and shot dead a patient (32), on July 14. As the doctor on duty and attendants watched in horror, the teenager escaped via the hospital’s multiple entry and exit points, some of which are not manned.

From the rape and murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata’s R G Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9 to healthcare providers at another Delhi hospital reportedly being attacked by a patient’s attendant on August 24 — security for healthcare providers at government hospitals has been found wanting.

A recent visit by the *The Indian Express* to the GTB Hospital and Dr Hegdegar Aarogya Sansthan in Shahdara revealed a grim reality.

From crumbling buildings, guards rushing from one section to the other to manage crowds to women doctors facing sexual harassment and common doctors’ duty rooms whose toilets many women residents refuse to use — the conditions at these tertiary-care hospitals were found severely lacking. Ironically, smaller secondary care hospitals had better security measures in place, proportionate to the number of people who visit these institutes.

Despite several attempts, Medical Superintendent Dr Ashmita Rathore, responsible for both the hospitals, could not be contacted for a comment.

Outdated infrastructure

Located in Dilshad Garden, nearly 7,000 patients visit the out-patient department at the GTB Hospital each day, making it one of the busiest hospitals in the Capital.

A recent visit by the *The Indian Express* revealed the absence of security guards at some of the hospital’s multiple entry and exit points — which proved to be key in the escape of the teenager who allegedly shot dead a patient in July. “All the hospital gates are jammed and cannot be quickly closed in case of an emergency (like a kidnapping, shooting, etc),” says a resident doctor.

Resident doctors say patients cram into the old consultation rooms, about 5x5 feet in size, which are neither properly ventilated nor air-conditioned. “Patients are always crowding the rooms and there aren’t enough guards around. If we leave our bags in these rooms, it’s common for our wallets or phones to go missing,” says a female resident doctor.

Her colleague adds, “At times, patients touch us inappropriately. Some have even wrenched my thighs and back to show me where they are hurting. One patient showed me his nudes under the guise of showing me his X-rays on his phone.”

The guards are always busy controlling the crowds at the hospital’s various clinics and are unable to respond to such daily occurrences, say the two resident doctors.

When it comes to doctors’ duty rooms (spaces that can be used by them to rest during their 36-hour shifts), the Supreme Court had it right when it said that “separate duty rooms for male and female medical professionals are conspicuous by their absence”.

None of the 10 departments visited by *The Indian Express* had separate duty rooms for male and female doctors. In fact, the main emergency room did not have a doctors’ duty room at all. Doctors on duty at the main emergency room say they do not sleep at all during their 36-hour shifts and go to other departments to use the washrooms.

In the absence of dedicated duty rooms, some women residents have taken to sleeping on patient beds that are separated by just a screen. “I have not been able to sleep in the hospital since I heard about the Kolkata incident. It is not as if people cannot just walk into these rooms. In fact, they usually do that,” says a female resident, pointing out that their duty room is in the middle of a cor-

ridor where makeshift patient beds were added from an under-maintenance ward. The first resident recounted, “There was an incident in the gynaecology department recently, where the broken glass on the door of the doctor’s duty room was patched up with cardboard. A doctor was sleeping there at night, when a patient’s relative removed the cardboard to open the door that was locked from inside and entered the room.”

The doctor’s duty room at the hospital’s emergency medicine department resembles a repurposed counter, where all openings in the glass are covered with cardboard, providing flimsy security at best.

The 10 doctors’ duty rooms *The Indian Express* visited were small, crammed with a few beds, a table and a broken old locker cabinet. Some of the rooms did not even have a washroom. While there are CCTV cameras in common areas and corridors, a survey by the residents last month revealed that many

were non-functional.

However, for most residents, the walk at night between buildings or to the hostel is the “worst”. “Though the hospital largely empties out at dusk, outsiders come inside to sleep on the benches and the low walls along the paths, besides the drunk people in some stairwells at times. We have to walk past all of them alone to get to another area in the hospital so we can check on our patients,” says the first resident.

The lack of proper waiting spaces for patients’ attendants — the open spaces beside the main corridors that connect the buildings are meant to be waiting areas — means that they end up sleeping in the empty out-patient areas. The “designated” waiting area is uncovered, leaving families at the mercy of the elements, besides the stench from the drains.

Lack of resources, manpower

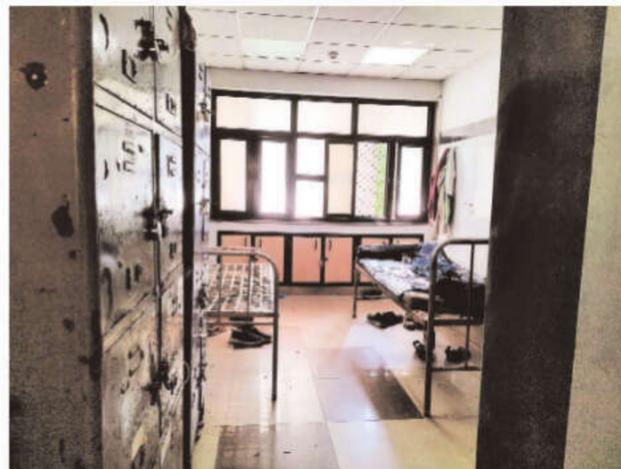
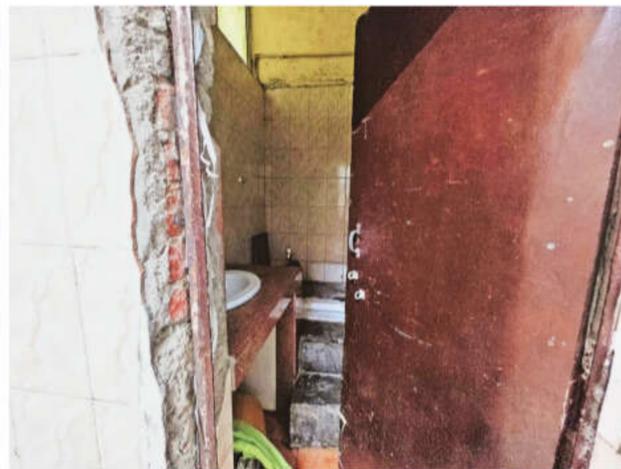
At Dr Hegdegar Aarogya Sansthan, a 200-bed secondary care hospital in Shahdara, the entrances and exits are much better guarded than those at GTB Hospital. The Sansthan has just three main entrances, besides a few smaller ones that lead to open spaces serving as waiting areas. More importantly, there is a police room right outside the emergency department entrance, which helps cut down response time in case of violence.

Though posters on ‘stop violence against doctors’ adorn the main OPD area, a resident doctor and another hospital personnel were beaten by a patient’s attendants days after the 11-day national strike of doctors was called off. “The patients are frustrated. Since many medicines and tests are unavailable at the hospital, we ask them to get them from outside. They come to a government hospital because they have no money, assuming that they will get treated for free,” says a resident doctor, adding that something as routine as saline drips are unavailable at times.

Another resident doctor points out that many guards at the hospital are quite aged. “When incidents of violence do happen, they are not always the most effective at stopping them. At times, we have to protect them.”

Just like GTB Hospital, the only duty room here, which is near the emergency department, is not segregated.

“There are six beds here for all residents, who are on duty from different departments. The worst part, however, are the washrooms, which are located in the corridors of the emergency and OPD areas where patients queue up. When the clinics open, we have to cut through crowds of patients to access these washrooms,” says the first resident, adding that there are fewer instances of violence at the hospital since it gets fewer people unlike GTB.



(Clockwise from top) Dark spots and a broken washroom inside Hindu Rao Hospital campus; a duty room at GTB Hospital. Abhinav Saha & Anonma Dutt

UTTARAKHAND: LARGE-SCALE UNAUTHORISED FELLING OF TREES

NGT orders classification of Nainital town into prohibited, regulated, development zones

State chief secy told to submit compliance report by Dec 15

NIKHIL GHANEKAR NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

BEARING IN mind its environmental sensitivity, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered to classify Nainital town on the lines of a prohibited, regulated and development zone.

It directed the Uttarakhand government to evolve a mechanism for monitoring these zones by forming multi-district committees of officials, experts and local representatives from different fields. A bench of Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert member Afroz Ahmad, from the principal bench, passed the order on September 9, in a case relating to large-scale and unauthorised tree cutting in forest areas adjacent to Nainital in the last few years, which it was alleged caused damage to forest areas and affected recharging of Naini Lake.

"...We are of view that based on carrying capacity and environmental sensitivity, Nainital town may be classified in various zones... development or prohibited zone, regulated zone with rider based on existing environ-

mental conditions," it stated.

The NGT enlarged the scope of the case and with the help of the amicus curiae, advocate Akash Vashishtha, examined other important environmental issues affecting the town. It directed the state government to implement catchment area treatment plans for rehabilitation of several natural lakes which attract tourism to Nainital from around the country.

The bench noted that Nainital in Kumaon division is a major tourist attraction due to several lakes and they create a beautiful landscape. "We are of the view, that foremost importance should be attached to rehabilitation of these lakes by implementing engineering and ecological measures vis-à-vis catchment area treatment by departments concerned in consultation of experts in the field and this aspect may also be looked into by the State of Uttarakhand," the order said.

This comes at a time when Nainital Lake or Naini Lake has been under threat of drying up due to climate change-linked environmental factors, unchecked development activities such as en-

croachments and tree felling in the lake's catchment area. The NGT directed the state chief secretary to ensure compliance of its orders via relevant departments and asked it to submit a compliance report by December 15.

Earlier, the bench had formed a joint panel to look into illegal tree felling. The panel had found five cases of illegal felling of 44 trees. In its order, it noted important findings and recommendations made by the amicus curiae. The amicus had submitted to the NGT that instances of environmentally damaging activities on the hill slopes and around the lake areas were underway.

The amicus curiae's report also pointed out mushrooming of a large number of hotels and resorts in a haphazard way which, it said, has taken a toll on the planning, regulation, sewage management and waste management. "It is submitted that contrary to the stated figure of 148 hotels, Nainital has 600-700 hotels/resorts/guest houses/homestays, etc.," said the NGT order, quoting the report of the amicus.

FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

HC 'concerned' as Naini lake water quality dips

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 21

TAKING COGNISANCE of the degrading water quality of Naini Lake, the Uttarakhand High Court has expressed concern over reports that the water of the lake is causing chronic health problems for the locals, including children.

The HC noted that people are reportedly losing their kidneys due to drinking the water from the lake, and asked how to solve the issues. It has directed the respondents of the case to consult the Jal Sansthan or the Pey Jal Nigam and file a counter affidavit. The HC directed the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board to consult and provide solutions to the problem.

The bench of Chief Justice Ritu Bahri and Justice Alok Kumar Verma was hearing the plea of a hotel that was directed by the NGT to pay Rs 1.82 lakh as environmental compensation. The appellant claimed that the water from his hotel was not going to the lake,

but it is directly going to the sewerage line of the municipality.

"The other issue, which the respondents will consult with the Jal Sansthan or the Pey Jal Nigam, is that the water of Nainital lake is so harsh that it is causing chronic (health) problems even to the children and people are losing their kidneys and what is the solution to these problems," it said, adding that the counsel of the respondent seeks time for a counter affidavit.

The court appointed advocate Pradeep Lohani as amicus curiae in the matter and directed him to assist the court on the chronic problems suffered by the residents of Nainital district because of the harsh water of the lake. Listing the case for December, the court granted relief to hoteliers who were penalised for allegedly releasing untreated wastewater into Naini lake and directed them to pay 10 per cent of the original penalty assessed before the Registry of the court. The Naini Lake serves as the key source of drinking water for the residents.

No mistake on his part: Pinarayi backs Secy as MLA sticks to his stand

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 21



MLA Anvar lacks 'left culture': Kerala CM

KERALA CHIEF Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday gave a clean chit to his Political Secretary and party colleague P Sasi who has been in the eye of a storm unleashed by CPI(M)-backed independent legislator P V Anvar.

Vijayan told the media: "Sasi's functioning as political secretary is exemplary. He is a member of CPI(M) state panel. There was no mistake on his part. The allegations are rejected with contempt and do not deserve any exam. Sasi is not there to act upon all the complaints from Anvar or others. Actions will be taken only as per law. He (Anvar) may be speaking out against Sasi because of his grudge towards him." Over the last month, Anvar had been raising serious allegations against the Home Department under Vijayan.

The two-time legislator had described Sasi as a "total failure" and dubbed him as a "confidant who lands the CM in trouble". Anvar had also alleged that ADGP (law and order) M R Ajith Kumar had connived with the RSS to spoil

this year's Thrissur Pooram, eventually contributing to BJP win in the Lok Sabha polls from Thrissur.

Anvar's allegation triggered a revolt within the ruling LDF with prominent ally CPI questioning Kumar's meeting with RSS national leaders. Indicating that neither the party nor the government is backing the "one-man revolt" of the CPI(M)-backed independent MLA, Vijayan said if Anvar had any complaint against the ADGP, the ruling MLA should have brought it to the notice of the party and the government. "Instead, he took the allegations to the media. Anvar lacks 'left culture' and he is a person who came from Congress..."

Hours after Vijayan's press conference, Anvar raised more allegations against Sasi and the ADGP, and said: "I'm not going to speak against the CM. I will continue my fight within the party as long as I can. If they don't want me, then I will have my way..."

Alok Ranjan new NCRB chief, Amit Garg to head police academy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE APPOINTMENTS Committee of the Union Cabinet on Saturday approved appointment of senior IPS officers Alok Ranjan and Amit Garg as chiefs of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and Hyderabad-based Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVNPA), respectively.

"Ranjan, a 1991-batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the NCRB Director for a tenure up to his superannuation on June 30, 2026. He succeeds his service, batchmate Vivek Gogia, who has been repatriated to the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMU) cadre," according to the official order.

Garg, a 1993-batch IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Director, SVNPA, for a term up to his retirement on October 31, 2027, the order said.

Notice is hereby given on behalf of my client M/s. Gargima Milk and Foods Products Limited CIN No. U15203MP2009PLC022783 having registered office At-3rd floor, Three Kalyan Tower, Near Basanti Cinema, Shree Kalyan Gwallor, (M. P-74005) through its Director Jagender Kumar. My client is the lawful owner and in the possession of the property, land and building part and parcel as described in the schedule of property herein below (hereinafter collectively Referred to as "scheduled Property") and has decided to sell the scheduled Property. (Which is approved by general body meeting of shareholders to the general public)

If Any Person's, Entity, Firm, Institution (Corporate or otherwise) having any claims or any right, title, interest, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the scheduled property or any part thereof or against its owner as mentioned, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made together with supporting documents within seven (7) days from the date of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that the title of my client to the scheduled property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no other person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in the scheduled property or any part thereof or against its owner. Claims or alleged interest, if any, which are not received within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the undersigned office shall be deemed to have been waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes.

Schedule of Property All that piece and parcel of land bearing At Kharsa No. 646/282 Area 1643 Sqmts, 286 Area 3919 Sqmtr, 287 Area 4046 Sqmtr, 642/288 Area 1390 Sqmtr, 644/616 Area 632 Sqmtr, 325 Area 1923 Sqmtr, 328 Area 1561 Sqmtr, 329 Area 520 Sqmtr, 283 Area 2402 Sqmtr, 284 Area 4552 Sqmtr, 285 Area 697 Sqmtr, 617/289 Area 1263 Sqmtr, 290 Area 657 Sqmtr, Total Kharsa 13 total Approximate land area is 25,405 Sqmtrs industrial constructed land along with structure standing & along with dairy plant and machinery situated At Vpo- Edalpur, GT Road, NH 3, District-Dholpur Rajasthan 328001. Sd/- For Vivek Singh, (Advocate) Dated: 21.09.2024 Rajasthan High Court Place: Jaipur A-690, Vidhyut Nagar, Jaipur-302021 (Raj.) M.No. 9928141590



BACK TO WORK

Junior doctors resume services partially at the RG Kar Hospital in Kolkata on Saturday after over 40 days of protests over the August 9 rape and murder case. Express

'Protecting what JNU stands for will be true tribute to Yechury'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE SKILLS that Sitaram Yechury learnt in his student days at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) were put to good use by him as he emerged as a national leader and a relentless fighter for democracy, secularism and federalism, former CPI(M) general secretary Prakash Karat said on Saturday.

At a condolence meeting in New Delhi, Karat said the real tribute to Yechury's memory would be "to defend and protect" what the JNU stands for and lamented that efforts are being made to "undermine and destroy the JNU that we had all worked" to create. "Sitaram, as the General Secretary of our party, the CPI(M), has, in the last one decade, been a relentless fighter for democracy, secularism and federalism, and was playing a key role, important role, in gathering all the secular democratic forces to see that the widest and broadest resistance is put up to this Hindutva, authoritarian, communal regime," Karat said.



Former CPI(M) general secretary Prakash Karat. File

"And I think, therefore, what began in JNU for Sitaram was in fact a continuity," he added. "Fifty years later, the Marxism he learnt in JNU, the skills he learnt as a political activist in JNU, that was put to very good use by him when he emerged as an important national political leader," he said.

Karat further said: "When we took Sitaram on his last journey, we also took him to JNU on the 13th of September... I had mixed feelings when the students and teachers of JNU were paying homage to him." "On the one hand, I was filled with happiness and admiration because that fighting spirit in JNU, I saw, still continues," he said.

Veteran CPI(M) leader Lawrence dies at 95

Kochi: Veteran CPI(M) leader M M Lawrence, who was among the leaders involved in the attack on a police station at Edappally in Kochi during the Communist uprising in Kerala in 1950, died on Saturday, party sources said.

He was 95. Lawrence died at a private hospital, where he had been receiving treatment for age-related ailments for about a month. Lawrence's body will be kept at his residence, the CPI(M) Ernakulam district committee office, and the town hall on Monday for the public to pay their last respects. The body will be later handed over to the Government Medical College Hospital, Ernakulam, the CPI(M) said in a statement.

A former Lok Sabha member representing the Idukki seat, Lawrence served in various capacities, including as a member of the CPI(M) Central Committee, a member of the state secretariat, state general secretary of CITU, and convener of the Left Democratic Front (LDF).

Born on June 15, 1929, in Mulavukad near Ernakulam, Lawrence participated in the struggle for the country's independence. Lawrence joined the Communist Party in 1946. PTI

Advertisement for Gadhaziabad Vikas Pradhikaran (I.S.O. 9001 : 2015 एवं I.S.O. 14001 : 2015 प्रमाणित संस्था) regarding recruitment of Agricultural Scientists. Includes contact info: help@gnegda@gmail.com, @Gda Ghaziabad, @gdagzb.

Advertisement for IIT Bhubaneswar recruitment of visiting faculty. Includes details: No.: IIIT-Bh/Cont. Faculty/2024, Date: 20.09.2024, Recruitment of Visiting Faculty, Applications are invited for recruitment of Visiting Faculty (Professor / Associate Professor / Assistant Professor) position.

Advertisement for MSME-Tool Room, Hyderabad (Central Institute of Tool Design) regarding walk-in-admission into Master of Engineering (M.E.) courses-2024. Includes details: Eligibility for Admission, Age Limit, Duration of Study, Date: Wednesday, 25th September, 2024.

Advertisement for Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Chayan Bhavan, Pusa Campus, New Delhi-110012. Includes File No. 10(03)/2024-Rectt.I.

Advertisement for ASRB invites online applications for filling up 04 (Four) Research Management Positions (RMP) to be filled up on tenure basis for a period of five years at Research Institutes of ICAR. Includes details: www.asrb.org.in, CBC 01307/12/0003/2425, SECRETARY.

Advertisement for CIMS Bilaspur regarding Walk-In-Interview. Includes details: कर्मचारी अधिष्ठाता, छत्तीसगढ़ आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, बिलासपुर (छत्तीसगढ़) 495001, Website: www.cimsbilaspur.ac.in.

Advertisement for Canara Bank regarding [Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) [Section 13 (4)]. Includes details: Name & Address of Borrower / Mortgagee, Date of Demand Notice/Amount Due & Date of Possession, Description of the Immovable Property.

Govt plans 'non-skippable' anti-tobacco ads on OTT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE UNION Health Ministry has proposed a non-skippable health spot of not less than 30 seconds and an audio-visual disclaimer of not below 20 seconds on ill-effects of tobacco to be displayed on OTT platforms as soon as one starts streaming them. Any content released on the platforms on or after September 1, 2023, that shows tobacco use has to carry a prominent static message at the screen's bottom for the duration tobacco use is shown.

The draft notification of the Ministry also states that all films released on or after September 1, 2023 — whether or not certified by the Central Board of Film Certification, whether Indian or foreign — will have to display an anti-tobacco health spot of 30 seconds duration in the beginning and the middle of the film, have an audio-visual disclaimer of 20 seconds before the film and display a static message for the duration tobacco use is shown. The draft allows the platforms to modify only the content released or published after the new rules came into effect last year.

With the rules formulated under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, legal action can be taken against OTT platforms for not complying.

Advertisement for Bank of India ZONAL OFFICE, PATNA ZONE regarding POSSESSION NOTICE (For Stock/ Movable property). Includes details: Whereas, The Undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the BANK OF INDIA, Patna Zone under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed in the table hereunder written calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned against their names in the table, within 60days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

6 DECISION 2024

HARYANA • JAMMU & KASHMIR

I HEREBY
DECLARE

SYED MOHAMMAD ALTAF BUKHARI, 65, Apni Party chief, Channapora candidate and richest in the fray

TOTAL ASSETS
₹165.41 CR (2024)
₹84.97 CR (2019)

Movable assets ₹101.68 cr
Immovable assets ₹63.73 cr
Liabilities None
Criminal cases None
Education Bachelor of Agriculture Science, Kashmir University



MUSHTAQ GURUO, 49, NC's Channapora candidate and fourth richest in the fray

TOTAL ASSETS
₹94.22 CR (2024)

Movable assets ₹6.37 cr
Immovable assets ₹87.87 cr
Liabilities ₹70.67 L
Criminal cases None
Education Diploma, Institute of Mechanical Engineers, Mumbai

A DIVIDED HOUSE

'Sulking' Selja's absence from Cong Haryana campaign sparks BJP buzz

Selja "upset" over Bhupinder Hooda's 'hold'; BJP invites her to cross sides

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 21

THREE MONTHS after veteran Haryana leader Kiran Choudhry snapped her four-decade-long association with the Congress and joined the BJP, the latter seems to be now aiming to get another Congress veteran into its fold.

Citing senior Congress leader and Dalit face Kumari Selja's "absence" from the Congress campaign for the October 5 polls in Haryana, senior state BJP leaders have been hitting out at the grand old party over "disrespect" meted out to Selja.

On Saturday, Union minister and former chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar even invited Selja, the AICC general secretary and Sirsa MP, to join the BJP.

Selja's absence from key Congress events and her "silence" have triggered speculation about her next move. Selja's last campaign event was on September 11 in support of Shalley Chaudhary, the Congress's candidate in the Naraingarh Assembly seat, and Shamsher Singh Gogi, the party's Assandh nominee.

Selja has stayed put at her residence in Delhi over the last 10 days, meeting her supporters and party workers there. But, as campaigning for the Haryana poll peaks, her absence has been conspicuous — she is yet to campaign even for her close aides in the fray.

On September 18, when the Congress released its manifesto for the Haryana polls at the AICC headquarters in Delhi, Selja was



Selja has stayed at her residence in Delhi over the last 10 days, meeting supporters there. Facebook

not present at the event. Sources said she was asked to attend the function by way of a "routine call" made from the AICC headquarters and that no senior leader invited her to the event formally.

On her absence from the campaign, Selja said, "We shall discuss when the time comes. I am in Delhi and I am meeting my supporters." Her close aids told *The Indian Express* that Selja is expected to be back in Haryana for campaigning next week.

At a rally in Gharanda on Friday, Khattar said, "There is so much infighting there (in the Congress). There is our Dalit sister (Selja) sitting at home. A large sec-

tion of people are today thinking about what they should do. Many people were upset with them and we brought them into the BJP. We are ready with an offer and if she (Selja) comes, we are ready to induct her." While speaking to the media after the rally, Khattar added, "It is a world of possibilities... Everything will be known when the right time comes."

Taking a dig at state Congress stalwart and Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly, Bhupinder Hooda, Khattar said, "There is a fight between the father and son, too. The father (Bhupinder Hooda) says he will become the CM, while son

(Rohtak MP Deepender) says he shall be the next CM. There are several others too who are desiring to be the CM (within the Congress ranks)."

Selja is known to be a key *bete noire* of Bhupinder Hooda. Union minister Arjun Meghwal was also among the BJP leaders who attacked the Congress. "It is the tradition of the Congress to disrespect Dalits. The manner in which Bhupinder Hooda's supporters disrespected Selja, Haryana will never forget it," he said Saturday.

Last week, a supporter of the Congress's Narnaud candidate Jassi Petwar, who is considered close to Deepender, had made

casteist remarks against Selja, which went viral on social media. The incident prompted the Haryana Congress leadership, including Bhupinder Hooda, to issue a strong condemnation.

On social media, too, Selja has been virtually silent. While a photo of her with the Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi remains her "pinned post" on X, she has only made six posts on the social media platform over the week.

In a post on Saturday, she condemned the alleged firing at the Congress Kalka candidate Pradeep Chaudhary's cavalcade. She also posted about the Congress's seven manifesto guarantees on Wednesday, and condemned the attack on Dalit families in Bihar on Thursday.

Congress sources said that Selja has been "upset" over the party high command's decision to give ex-CM Hooda a free hand in the distribution of tickets. The party has reportedly named 72 candidates of Hooda's choice out of 90 seats.

Selja and another AICC general secretary Randeep Surjewala, known critics of Hooda and his son, had conveyed their choices of candidates to the party leadership. But, the party leadership chose to go with Hooda's picks.

Selja's absence from the campaign has also set off worry.

"Selja is a senior leader and holds good command over many SC seats. If she is upset, the high command should take note and bring her back to the campaign," a senior Congress leader said.

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• HARYANA MATH

SINCE 2019 LOK SABHA POLLS, THE BJP'S SHRINKING BASE IN SC SEATS

Will MLA's ED arrest make a dent in Sonipat? Cong hopes not

LALMANI VERMA
SONIPAT, SEPTEMBER 21

With Congress Sonipat candidate Surender Panwar lodged in jail in a money laundering and illegal mining case, his daughter-in-law Samiksha Panwar has been leading his campaign for the forthcoming Haryana Assembly polls.

Panwar, the sitting Sonipat MLA, is up against BJP candidate Nikhil Madaan, who is a mayor looking to make his debut as an MLA. Madaan was with the Congress and joined the BJP in July this year, a few days before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Panwar in a case of alleged money laundering and illegal mining in Haryana and Rajasthan.

Panwar first came under the ED's radar in January when his premises were raided as part of an investigation into illegal mining in Haryana. While Panwar's father Dilip Singh Panwar, wife Sunita, son Lalit are also canvassing for him, it is his daughter-in-law Samiksha, 33, who has been at the centre of the campaign. In her public rallies and door-to-door meetings, Samiksha has been appealing to voters to ensure "justice" for her father-in-law.

In one such roadside meeting in Sonipat's Dev Nagar area on Thursday, Samiksha appealed: "Aaj ek beti ko maidan me koodna padha nyay ki ladai ladne ke liye (a daughter has today entered the battle for justice). This is not any BJP versus Congress fight... This is a battle for justice. In this battle, I am reaching out to your people from the past two months and I am sure that Sonipat people will support the truth and justice on October 5 (polling day)... I have come here with great hopes." Samiksha, an engineering graduate, also assured the gathering that her father-in-law will become a minister if he and the Congress win the elections on October 8.

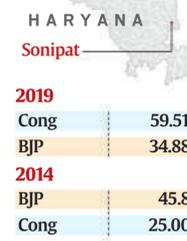
A party leader on stage claimed Panwar was implicated in a false case and called Panwar a "shareef (decent)" person.

Asked about the significance of this election, Samiksha compares it to an "examination".

Sonipat is part of the broad Congress belt in Haryana that comprises the Sonapat, Rohtak, Jhajjar, and Nuh districts.

In the 2019 Assembly polls, Panwar won Sonipat by polling 59.51% votes. The BJP's Kavita Jain came second with 34.88% votes.

VOTE SHARE
IN %



In the 2014 Assembly polls, Jain won the seat by getting 45.80% votes, while the Congress's Dev Raj Diwan got 25% votes. Panwar was at the time with the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and polled 24% of the votes.

On the ground, voters have mixed views about Panwar's arrest and its impact on the Congress in the seat.

Virendra Hudda, 56, said that "if the ED has arrested Panwar in jail, there would be some evidence against him". "I do not have sympathy in my mind for the people named in corruption cases," he added.

On the other hand, Rajinder Singh, a Congress supporter, said, "I have been a supporter of the Congress since the beginning... I vote for the Congress, not the candidate," Singh said, while noting it is going to be a close battle between the BJP and Congress.

In his campaigns, Madaan has been talking of Panwar's arrest and accusing him of not doing much for the seat. Madaan said at a meeting Thursday: "If the public votes because candidates get emotional, everyone would get votes. But votes are not obtained on emotions."

Sonapat BJP district general secretary Navin Mangla said at the meeting that Madaan had organised various programmes dedicated to Lord Ram and organised *bhandare* (community feasts) in Sonapat on January 22 at the time of the Ram temple consecration. "That day brother (Madaan) held programmes for Ram ji... He joined the BJP after taking blessings of Lord Ram."

While the fight appears to be between the Congress and the BJP, other prominent candidates are the INLD's Sardharam Singh and the Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshiram)'s Rajesh.

BUDGAM FIGHT

Apni Party candidate against Omar withdraws, PDP sees 'nexus' with BJP

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 21

THE PEOPLES Democratic Party (PDP) on Saturday accused the National Conference (NC) of "colluding with BJP and its proxies".

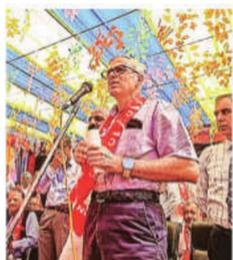
The statement came after after J&K Apni Party (JKAP)'s chief spokesperson Muntazir Mohiuddin withdrew his nomination from the Budgam Assembly seat.

"His (Omar's) is a strong voice and if people of Budgam are fortunate, their issues can be resolved through him".

Mohiuddin added that at a time when "everything has been snatched away from Kashmiris, a strong voice is needed to represent people."

He said he withdrew his candidature to prevent a split of votes in the constituency so that the people get a chance to choose their "favoured leader".

The Altaf Bukhari-led JKAP issued a show cause notice to Mohiuddin Saturday. "JKAP has urged Muntazir to clarify his remarks before the party leadership within 48 hours, failing



Apni Party candidate Muntazir Mohiuddin called Omar a "strong voice". PTI

which a disciplinary action will be initiated against him," the party said.

However, the PDP raised questions over the development, hitting out at both the NC and the JKAP.

PDP spokesperson Mohit Bhan said, "Mohiuddin has emphasised that Kashmir needs a powerful voice in the political arena, and he believes that Omar Abdullah is the best candidate to provide such leadership." Bhan said further that the "decision is

seen as a strategic effort to enhance Abdullah's prospects in a key constituency."

Bhan called for transparency from the NC, urging its Srinagar MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, who has earlier represented the Budgam constituency, to clarify his stand on this issue.

"Mohiuddin has been a key worker of the Apni Party. He has extended his support to Omar Abdullah. On the home turf of their sitting MP (Aga), they (NC) have aligned with the BJP's B team (Apni Party) and BJP itself," Bhan alleged, adding: "They should explain this and give the people a clear answer."

He also claimed that the "barter deal is that in return, the NC is supporting the JKAP in Chhanapora where its president Altaf Bukhari is contesting. Till now the NC (leadership) has not done any rallies in the area to support their candidate."

The NC has not commented on the row so far.

The JKAP, which is said to be close to the BJP, has fielded Qazi Mubisher Farooq in the Ganderbal seat, Omar's home turf and second seat.

IMAGE OF THE DAY



SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann at a roadshow in support of Aam Aadmi Party's Rewari candidate Satish Yadav on Saturday. PTI

KEY PLAYERS

With Rs 1,000 in assets, BJP J&K chief among 'poorest' in fray

Ravinder Raina's family says he donates his earnings to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. As many as six candidates in J&K race have declared zero assets

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21

INTO HIS third term as BJP Jammu and Kashmir president and seeking a second term as MLA, Ravinder Raina made news in the last Assembly for one, taking oath in the name of "Mata Vaishno Devi", and second, for assailing then PDP MLA Engineer Abdul Rashid in the Assembly for allegedly hosting a beef party at the MLA hostel in 2015.

This time, the Nowshera candidate of the BJP stands out for another reason. In his election affidavit, Raina has declared Rs 1,000 cash in hand as his only asset, with no other immovable or movable

asset — making him among the poorest candidates in the Assembly poll fray.

Raina has, in fact, registered a decline in assets from 2014, when he first won Nowshera that is located in the Rajouri border district. At the time, he had declared Rs 20,000 as cash in hand and Rs 1,000 in his bank savings account. Then too, he had declared no immovable properties or liabilities.

As many as six candidates in J&K race — five of them Independents — have declared zero assets, including Vishal Kumar, Bishnah; Asif DM, Jammu East; Raj Kumar Lalotra, Jammu West; Shahid Hussain Mir, Handwara; and Zahid Mushtaq Sheikh, Handwara. As per the

Association for Democratic Reforms, the non-Independent poorest candidate is the PDP's Kathua nominee Sudesh Kumar.

Another Independent, Mohd Akram, who is contesting from Surankote, has declared Rs 500 in hand as total assets.

Of all these minimal asset candidates, Raina is the most prominent. The former RSS *pracharak* has declared no savings in the bank, no purchase or inheritance of any moveable or immovable property, including gold, investments, agricultural or non-agricultural land, and no house or vehicle. Raina has declared no liabilities, with his income-tax returns showing zero annual income in the last five years.



The Nowshera MLA has declared no savings, purchase or inheritance of any property, and no house or vehicle. Facebook

His listed source of income is his "legislator pension". Before the J&K Assembly was dissolved in 2018, MLAs earned a monthly salary of Rs 1 lakh, while former MLAs earn a monthly pension of Rs 50,000. Raina currently resides at a government accommodation, which was allotted to him as an MLA, in the posh Gandhi Nagar locality of Jammu city.

While Raina could not be contacted, his cousin Rakesh Raina said that since 2018, when he was first appointed the J&K BJP chief, the sitting Nowshera MLA has been donating his entire pension to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Trust, for its charity work, with the party taking care of his daily needs including food, hous-

ing and transport. Prior to his appointment as the party president, Rakesh said, Raina would donate his MLA salary to the trust after meeting his own needs.

Those close to him say Raina has maintained this since before joining active politics.

A BSc degree holder with a post-graduate diploma in "human rights and duties", Raina joined the Merchant Navy in 2000 but quit in less than three months, when he joined the RSS. He worked as a *pracharak* for over a decade in the Rajouri district before contesting his debut Assembly election from Nowshera in 2014. He had also served as the J&K president of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, the

BJP's youth wing. Raina's father Pushap Dutt Raina, a retired school headmaster, and mother live with the family of his younger brother Sunil Raina, who works in the Army.

Raina highlights his humble living at his poll rallies, like recently when during a meeting in Nowshera, he put his hand in the pocket of his *kurtas* to show it was torn. Raina's political opponents are sceptical, particularly since he has been an MLA for more than four years. Meanwhile, the assets of BJP candidates have seen a rise since the last polls. The BJP's 62 candidates have average assets worth Rs 9.13 crore. The overall average of the 873 nominees is Rs 3.65 crore in the fray.

7 GOVT & POLITICS

UP rozgar melas: Youth seek jobs, BJP bypoll bounce

ASAD REHMAN

MAINPURI, GHAZIABAD, SEPTEMBER 21

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's helicopter is yet to land. Crowded under a tent in the hues of the Tricolour, on the grounds of A K Inter College in Barnal Nagar, Mainpuri, are youths fighting sweltering heat.

Occasionally, they lift their eyes to the video playing on a giant screen, where under images of various offices run captions proclaiming the achievements of the Adityanath administration when it comes to jobs: "Examination for recruitment of more than 60,000 police officials in a fair manner"; "Jobs for more than 1.54 lakh in police"; "More than 1.38 lakh jobs through the UPSC"; "Government jobs for more than 6.50 lakh candidates since 2017, and more than 3.75 lakh inducted in contractual jobs".

The youths including women have come here in response to government advertisements inviting college graduates to receive tablets from the CM. If luckier, they hope to also return with a job from among the lakhs the

video is promising.

The Adityanath government started "rozgar melas" or employment fairs, of the kind Mainpuri is hosting on August 7, soon after the dismal Lok Sabha election results for the BJP in UP. For now, all have been held or are planned in and around the 10 Assembly constituencies up for bypolls in the state — Adityanath's next big electoral test.

The CM has covered Ambedkar Nagar, Ayodhya, Muzaffarnagar, Varanasi, Aligarh, Kanpur, Moradabad, Mainpuri, Prayagraj, Ghaziabad and Ayodhya districts already, and as per a top UP government official in Lucknow, distributed appointment letters to more than 65,000 youths. "The number could be higher. Some of these jobs are also in foreign countries," the official said, adding that besides appointment letters, "lakhs of tablets and smartphones have been distributed" and "schemes worth hundreds of crores inaugurated and foundation stones laid".

The Karhal seat in Mainpuri is among the most important of the 10, having been vacated by Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh



At a job fair in Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri. Gajendra Yadav

Yadav on winning the Lok Sabha polls. Of the other nine, three were won by the BJP in 2022 and four by the Samajwadi Party and one each by NDA allies NISHAD party and RLD (though the RLD was an SP partner in 2022).

In his speeches at these melas, Adityanath attacks the previous SP government led by Akhilesh saying it practised "bhai and bhateejawad (nepotism)", and says Akhilesh and his uncle Shivpal Yadav undertook recruitments too in a "biased manner".

Among those attending the Mainpuri event is Shailendra Kumar, 24, who has just finished

his diploma from the local Government Polytechnic College. Kumar has travelled 80 km from Etah district to collect his tablet, along with friends and course mates Sandeep Kumar (21) and Anshul Kumar (22).

He is "excited" about the new gadget, Shailendra says. But what he needs is a job. "I have done a diploma after my family spent thousands on my education. Now I am getting to know that I may get a job in Gujarat, Gurgaon or Delhi for Rs 15,000. Why did I study for so many years if I had to do a job for Rs 15,000? An illiterate person can make the same amount driving a cab in Delhi,"

EXPLAINED

Morale booster

WHILE THE 10 seats will have no bearing on the stability of the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government in the state, winning these will be a major morale booster for the party's dismal performance in Lok Sabha elections. For the Opp, a victory will only cement the gains made in June.

he says, adding that jobs are "the biggest issue" in UP.

His friend Anshul, who hails from Mainpuri district, says the Adityanath government deserves credit for reducing "goondagardi", but that it has failed to tackle not just unemployment but the other crucial issue of inflation. "Even mobile data charges have been raised."

With unemployment seen as one of the issues that hurt the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, Anshul is

unequivocal. "Funda simple hai — naukari do, sarkaar banao (The formula is simple — give jobs, win elections)."

BJP leaders say the rozgar melas are as much about jobs as rekindling the party's "lost connect" with the youth. "One of the reasons our performance in the Lok Sabha elections was not good was that the youth have turned away from us, probably because of unemployment issue. Hence, the CM is himself doing these programmes," a local BJP leader says.

But another BJP leader admits worry in the ranks. "If course correction is not done, it will be a huge factor in 2027 state polls."

Pushpendra Saroj, the SP MP from Kaushambi, says BJP cannot keep "misleading" youths on jobs. "Firstly, the stats they give don't match the facts... Even those with advanced degrees are struggling."

BJP state spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi counters that SP has no right to talk about unemployment as, under its tenure, "rate of unemployment was 17.4%, while today it is 2-4%". "BJP government has delivered on job front, the people know it," he says. **FULL REPORT**

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TAKES CHARGE ON SEPT 30

Air Marshal A P Singh to be next Chief of Air Staff

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21



Air Marshal Singh is currently Vice Chief of the Air Staff

AIR MARSHAL Amar Preet Singh will be the next Chief of the Air Staff, the Government announced on Saturday. He will take over on September 30, the day the incumbent, Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari, superannuates.

Currently the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Singh was commissioned into the fighter pilot stream of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in December 1984.

Born on October 27, 1964, he studied at the government school in Delhi's Janakpuri and graduated from the National Defence Academy (NDA) — 65th course (Kilo Squadron) — and was the Cadet Captain. He is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) and National Defence College (NDC).

The top officer is a qualified aerial instructor and an experimental test pilot with more than 5,000 hours of flying experience on a variety of fixed and rotary-wing aircraft.

During his career of nearly four decades, he has served in a variety of command, staff, instructional, and foreign appointments. He has commanded an operational fighter squadron and a frontline air base. As a test pilot, he led the MiG-29 upgrade project management team in Moscow, Russia.

He was also the project director (Flight Test) at the National Flight Test Centre and was tasked with flight testing of the light combat aircraft — Tejas.

Highlighting the importance and efficiency of India's indigenous Tejas, he flew the fighter jet earlier this month, with Army Vice Chief Lieutenant General N S Raja Subramani and Navy Vice Chief Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan in the twin-seater.

The air warrior has held important staff appointments of Air Defence Commander at South Western Air Command and Senior Air Staff Officer at Eastern Air Command. Prior to assuming the charge of Vice Chief of the Air Staff, he was the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Central Air Command. He was at the forefront of the recently concluded largest-ever multinational air exercise 'Tarang Shakti' that was concluded earlier this month.

As the IAF's Vice Chief, he has been instrumental in driving self-reliance in Defence. He is also known for fostering better coordination between the IAF, Army and Navy.

In July, Air Marshal Singh made a strong pitch during an event that amanirbharta or self-reliance cannot be achieved at the cost of India's national security, while underlining that the current geopolitics has thrown up the lesson of being self-reliant, and that it should be pursued holistically in letter and spirit — making him the first top officer to speak on this line publicly.

Kharge hits back at PM, Shah: BJP loves India, but is married to Pak

ARUN SHARMA

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21

DENYING THE BJP's allegations that the NC-Congress alliance in J&K espouses an agenda "aligned with Pakistan's", Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday called the BJP "liars" and said the party "loves India but is married to Pakistan".

"We did not go there to eat biryani and to hug them. You hug them and then blame us," he said at a press conference, referring to PM Narendra Modi's surprise visit to Lahore in 2015 to meet his then counterpart Nawaz Sharif.

Whatever Modi and Amit Shah have said, that Congress



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge in Jammu. PTI

wants to resume talks with Pakistan, these are all lies. They want to divert the issue... Mohabbat hamare saath, shaadi Pakistan ke saath hai unki (They love India but are married to Pakistan)," Kharge said.

Kharge, who was in J&K to address a campaign rally at Khour,

also denied the BJP's claims that Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi spoke about ending reservation to SC/STs. "See, he (Rahul) has not said any such thing about reservation and he will not speak like that. We will not allow him to. So long as there is untouchability and illiteracy in the country, reservation will continue to stay..." said Kharge.

He also questioned the PM's "failure" to act against BJP leaders using derogatory remarks against Gandhi. He said Gandhi was under attack for speaking the truth and "an atmosphere of hate" was being created against him like it was done against his grandmother and former PM Indira Gandhi.

AT RALLY NEAR LOC, HOME MINISTER SLAMS PAK TERROR



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at an election rally in Mendhar, Poonch, Saturday. PTI

Will arm Gujjars, Bakerwals, Paharis through police and Army jobs: Shah

Promises reservation in promotions for three communities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21

PRAISING GUJJARS, Bakerwals and Paharis as "soldiers of India" and saying the entire country was "indebted to them" for protecting the frontiers in J&K, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday promised the communities reservation in promotions as well.

At a poll rally in Mendhar, nearly 2 km from the LoC in Poonch district, Shah also targeted Pakistan and said there was peace in the border districts as the neighbouring country "fears Prime Minister Narendra Modi". "Pakistan would not dare open fire knowing fully well that if bullets are fired, these will be responded by bullets and not the dialogue," he said.

Taking on National Conference and Congress, which are in alliance for the ongoing

Assembly polls in J&K, Shah claimed that the two parties were talking of "ending reservation".

"We are saying that we will give reservation to Gujjars, Bakerwals and Paharis in promotions as well," he said.

Gujjar-Bakerwals and Paharis are entitled to 10% reservation each in government jobs and admissions to professional colleges. While Gujjars and Bakerwals were declared STs by the Centre in 1991, Paharis and three other tribes got the status this year. Also, after the 2022 delimitation, 9 seats were reserved for STs in the 90-member J&K Assembly.

Shah, alleging that NC president Farooq Abdullah promoted terrorism when he was the chief minister of J&K, said, "The NC's flag is red because there was terrorism. Please tell me whether

terrorism is in the interest of anybody."

"What did you (NC) want to do by giving guns into the hands of our children... We too will give guns in their hands, but only after recruiting them into Army, police and CRPF," he added. He said special recruitment camps will also be held in the border area for Gujjars, Bakerwals and Paharis.

While praising PM Narendra Modi, saying his Government wiped out terrorism by replacing guns and stones with laptops in the hands of the youth, Shah also criticised NC's vice president and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for "trying to create a scare that terrorism will resurface in Jammu region".

The second phase of the J&K Assembly elections is scheduled for September 25.

EY INDIA EMPLOYEE DEATH

Will fight to improve work conditions, Rahul tells Anna's parents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

LEADER OF Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday spoke to the parents of 26-year-old Anna Sebastian Perayil, a chartered accountant from Kerala who died four months into her job at Ernst and Young in Pune. Her mother in a letter to EY India chairman alleged that her daughter had died due to "work pressure and long work hours".

Gandhi assured the parents that he will fight for the cause of improving working conditions for the millions of professionals in India.. He also said that he will raise the issue in Parliament.

Gandhi instructed the All India Professionals' Congress (AIPC) chairman, Praveen Chakravarty, to create an aware-

ness movement in Anna's memory for all working professionals in the country. "AIPC will announce a helpline soon to collect information from corporate professionals about issues related to work stress and toxic work culture. After this, AIPC will work to draft guidelines to improve working conditions for professionals in the corporate sector," said a statement issued by AIPC on Saturday.

Gandhi spoke to Anna's parents via a video call arranged by Chakravarty during his visit to their home in Kochi. He offered his condolences to the family and lauded their courage and selflessness in speaking up about this issue in the larger interest of improving working conditions for the millions of professionals in India, a statement issued by the Congress said.

Assembly polls in J&K, Shah claimed that the two parties were talking of "ending reservation".

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Principal Secy to PM calls for expanding insurance coverage across sectors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

EXPRESSING CONCERN over an increase in the frequency and intensity of disasters globally, including in India, Dr PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, has called for a strategic vision for expanding insurance coverage across diverse sectors. He underscored the need for a robust actuarial expertise and a well-defined legal framework.

Addressing a workshop organised by the NDMA on Friday, Mishra said the emerging trends highlight India's potential to innovate in its application of disaster risk insurance and join the global trend toward more resilient, efficient and inclusive insurance solutions.

According to an official state-



Dr P K Mishra was speaking at an NDMA event

ment, Mishra said ensuring that insurance was not only available but also accessible to the most vulnerable is a key challenge.

Mishra mentioned two notable government-backed insurance programmes, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Ayushman Bharat. He said both these initiatives are central to the government's broader agenda of promoting social equity, financial inclusion, and household-level risk management, demonstrating the critical intersection of insurance with development goals.

Atishi as CM: Young, articulate woman face gives AAP chance to hit refresh

She is not likely to be a threat to AAP chief as and when he wants to return as CM



THE NEERJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN

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

IT WAS Atishi's moment on Saturday as she took oath as the youngest Chief Minister of Delhi — and the third woman to hold the post. Her elevation is a political gambit by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal, who resigned as CM to give a new look to his party ahead of the polls in the city-state due early next year.

Atishi's elevation as CM is partly about Atishi herself — even as she is being dubbed by opponents as a "dummy" candidate, a "proxy" or a "Rabri Devi (who was plucked out of political obscurity by husband Lalu

Prasad and installed as Bihar CM before he was jailed in the fodder scam case)".

You can agree or disagree with the first two comparisons, but the third one is misplaced. For, Atishi is a colleague of Kejriwal and, if nothing else, the outgoing CM has shied away from installing his wife Sunita Kejriwal on the Dilli gaddi. Many thought he would — like Lalu.

Atishi's elevation also has something to do with Delhi, the rapid changes that are taking place in the country's capital. And of course, it is about Kejriwal's politics, which has brought about a change of guard in Delhi. Whether Atishi will be CM for two months or five, depending on when the Assembly elections are held in Delhi — she has said Kejriwal will be back as CM if the AAP wins — she has obviously been chosen with care over other senior leaders in the party.

With an accomplished aca-

demical record, Atishi has proved capable of grasping complex issues. She is also articulate and was seen taking charge when

Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia and others were in jail. Above all, she has proved her loyalty to both Sisodia, with whom she worked closely in the sphere of education, and Kejriwal, referring to them as her "guru". She is not likely to be a threat to Kejriwal as and when he wants to return as CM, if the party wins in the elections. A Rakhi Birla, another AAP woman leader, would have been that much more difficult to replace because she is also a Dalit.

While Atishi is not a mass leader, nor does she have a lobby promoting her, the AAP sees her appealing to the Sheila Dikshit constituency in Delhi, comprising people who fondly recall her 15 straight years in power from 1998 onwards. Atishi could also soften the middle class, where

the AAP has lost ground. While it remains popular in the Capital's jhuggi jhompdis, anti-incumbency of 10 years is seen in the middle-class colonies.

Atishi is also a credible woman face. The AAP has built a constituency among women, starting from the improvement of schools, to its schemes such as free bus travel for women and money into women accounts. Atishi will now have to operationalise the latter, the critical Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana to give Rs 1,000 per month to women.

Given that Atishi is known for her uprightness, Kejriwal will also hope this helps the party with an image makeover at a time when many AAP leaders are facing allegations in the liquor policy scam. Honesty in politics was the AAP's Unique Selling Point.

Atishi is set to be the third woman CM of Delhi, after the

BJP's Sushma Swaraj (for a few months in 1998) and Dikshit (1998-2013). Many states have had women CMs — like Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, Jayalalitha in Tamil Nadu,

Mehbooba in Jammu and Kashmir, Mayawati in Uttar Pradesh, and in earlier years, Nandini Satpathy in Odisha and Sucheta Kripalani in UP. Delhi is the only state, rather city-state, which has now got a third woman CM.

The BJP has attacked the "Left leanings" of her parents, talking of the "Marlena" last name she used earlier, given by her parents and standing for 'Marx' and 'Lenin'. The fact that Atishi's parents, who are former university professors and activists, had spoken up in support of Parliament

attack convict Afzal Guru has also been brought up. While the BJP might be looking to rally its Hindu vote with this, many believe this may actually end up

helping the AAP with the Muslims, who have viewed the party with suspicion over its silence on the community's issues and nurtured a pro-Hindu image.

Come now to Kejriwal. To him remains the credit of having forged a political party from a movement in 10 years, not accomplished by any other in the period since Independence, and going on to ensure national status for it. The Assam movement in the early Eighties transitioned into a party in 1985, from AASU to Asom Gana Parishad, but it ruled only one state.

AAP is a political newbie viewed by established parties as an "upstart" — with Kejriwal seen as a "black box" (using the words of a former colleague), who does not reveal his mind easily. But he is known now for sensing the political pulse and for catching his opponents by surprise, as he did with his res-

ignation.

But today Kejriwal probably faces his biggest challenge — to guard his fiefdom, with fatigue setting in, and yet to expand his footprint nationally. And, what is more, to do this against a formidable foe like the BJP, weakened though it is, and even more important with the signs of a Congress reviving, at whose expense the AAP grew.

In the context of India, Delhi is undoubtedly only a city-state, with the CM's powers severely circumscribed. But Kejriwal knows that as the country's capital, with the world beating a path to its door, and located in India's heartland surrounded by states like UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi's importance goes far beyond. It is also a microcosm of India today, with its character having undergone a dramatic change, from a city of essentially Punjabi refugees who came over at the time of Partition, to a city

where Biharis — or Uttarakhandis — are as important.

So Kejriwal, with his team, which includes the new CM Atishi — and the party did not split in the last couple of years, despite its tribulations — has his task cut out. He is called to keep his flock together, overcome the damage caused by the liquor scam charges and the fatigue after 10 years in power, and stay a step ahead of his opponents, both an aggressive BJP and ally-cum-rival the Congress.

Atishi is essentially a poll-time CM. Many will now watch how she utilises the short time given to her to make her mark — and endear herself to Dilliwallas — without being a threat to the party brass.

Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, has covered the last 11 Lok Sabha elections. She is the author of 'How Prime Ministers Decide'

Man stripped, thrashed, forced to drink urine in Barmer, two arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 21

TWO PERSONS were arrested on Saturday after a video went viral on social media in which they are seen allegedly stripping a man and forcing him to drink urine after brutally thrashing him.

cused - Tejaram Jat and Bhagwanaram - both brothers and residents of Mithabera Bamanor village in the district. ASP Jassa Ram said, "The victim approached us on Saturday and lodged an FIR even though the incident happened on September 16. As per our investigation, the accused and the victim are relatives and residents of the same village. The victim allegedly had an affair with a girl belonging to the accused family because of which they thrashed him to extract revenge. We have arrested the accused and further probe is on."

BRAWL BEFORE ALLEGED ASSAULT AT POLICE STATION Seven arrested for scuffle with Army officer, fiancée in Odisha

SUJIT BISOYI BHUBANESWAR, SEPT 21

THE BHUBANESWAR Police Saturday arrested seven students who were allegedly involved in a scuffle with the Army officer and his fiancée the night the couple was "assaulted" at a police station where they went to report the incident.

Sad, women not safe even in police stations, says Naveen

Bhubaneswar: A day after demanding a court-monitored SIT probe and a judicial inquiry into the alleged sexual assault of a woman in custody, Opposition BJD president Naveen Patnaik Saturday said "women are not safe even inside police stations."

Kendrapara and Gajapati districts at the BJD's state headquarters, Sankha Bhavan. He expressed concern, saying, "It's sad that women are not safe even inside police stations in Bhubaneswar and government servants are beaten up in Raj Bhavan. It seems there's no law and order in the state."

NIA to create database of gangsters, prison networks, associates

Details of social media accounts and finances will be added

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

TO IMPROVE the information network on a national level against "organised criminals", the National Investigation Agency (NIA) will make a database of gangsters, criminals running their gangs from behind jails, and their associates. The Central agency will put updated details of the criminals, their social media accounts, their financial network, and most importantly information about their associates and key operational areas.

Bihar in the database, a source said. Sharing some of the key features of the database as per the discussion, a source said it would have the latest photographs of the criminals, biometric details, interrogation report, their logistics provider, weapon suppliers, and harbours. In the meeting, which lasted for around six hours, a senior officer of the Haryana Police Special Task Force (STF) flagged the increasing use of encrypted apps, VPNs, and "dabba calls" by the gangsters based abroad to carry out extortions.

far to put their latest interrogation report, details of their operational areas and their associates, their money funding channel, and their latest phone numbers as well IDs," the source said. In the meeting, which lasted for around six hours, a senior officer of the Haryana Police Special Task Force (STF) flagged the increasing use of encrypted apps, VPNs, and "dabba calls" by the gangsters based abroad to carry out extortions.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Faijan Mohd, S/o Fathe Mohd, R/o Shop No. B-93, Lajpat Nagar-II, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CC No. 1213/18, U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Faijan Mohd cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Faijan Mohd has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना निविदा सं० 69/2024-25-विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के क्षेत्रांतगत पूर्ण जमा योजना में "टर्नकी अथवा पर" मुख्य जनरल मैनेजर डी०एफ०सी०सी०आई०एल० को 152 के०बी०ए० संयोजन देने हेतु स्वतंत्र घोषक निर्माण सम्बन्धी कार्य।

and "sexually harassed and molested" the woman - when they went to report the road rage incident on September 15. In his complaint before the Bharatpur Police on September 15, the Army officer accused the students of assault and harassment. They were arrested Saturday on Odisha's Director General of Police YB Khurania's orders.

Hours before their arrest, the police also took the youngsters to the spot for a "scene recreation". "We have also impounded a vehicle, 11 mobile phones, a video and an audio clip from the students," a senior officer said. Although the police have not revealed de-

tails about the students, sources said that they were between 21 and 22 years old and were studying engineering and management in private colleges in the city. "Four of the accused students are from Rourkela, one each from Bhadrak, Balugaon and Bhubaneswar," one source said.

A source said the decision to make this database was discussed by the police officers of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Delhi at a recent meeting at the Delhi Police headquarters. Officials representing the NIA also attended the meeting.

Next, the henchman makes a second call using another phone to his boss sitting in a different country, keeps the two phones side-by-side, and turns on the loudspeaker to let the boss do the talking. Additionally, a deputy commissioner of police from the Delhi Police suggested booking such criminals under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the source informed.

कार्यालय राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण नियोजन कार्यक्रम, हजारीबाग अतिअल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या -NREP/HAZARIBAG/07/2024-25 दिनांक 20.09.2024

झारखण्ड सरकार कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, हटिया योजना, राँची

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Gagan, S/o Ravinder Pal, R/o B-301 JJ Colony, Bharat Vihar, Sector 15, Dwarka, Delhi, has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 313/17 IPC, U/S 323/341/34 IPC, PS Dwarka North, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Gagan cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Gagan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice No.91/2024, Dt.20.09.2024. Supply Of Stores Items, E-Procurement Tender Notice:- The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website www.ireps.gov.in & Submit Their Offers Online.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, East Central Railway, Barauni on behalf of the President of India invites "Open" E-tender from the eligible and experienced agencies or contractors for E-Tender No. ELS_BJU_Bogie_24_25_2A. Particulars are as under: 01. Name of the work with its location:

HC refuses bail to Azam Khan, son in machine theft case

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court on Saturday rejected a bail application of former Uttar Pradesh minister Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam Khan in a machine theft case. Justice Samit Gopal passed the order rejecting bail. Earlier, the court had reserved its order on September 2 after hearing the counsels for the applicants and the state government. The criminal case was registered in 2022 against Khan, his son and five others alleging that they had stolen the road-cleaning machine, which was purchased by Nagar Palika Parishad, Rampur district. It was further alleged that this machine was later recovered from the Khan's Jauhar University of Rampur. PTI

Table with 8 columns: क्रम सं०, प्रखण्ड, योजना का नाम, प्राक्कलित राशि, परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य, अग्रघन की राशि, योजना पूर्ण करने की अवधि, कोल. Rows include projects like 'पंचायत बहुराशे के ग्राम में पंचायत भवन' and 'ग्राम बाबाई के टोला हाथरस टांड के घर से सुरी मिठा'.

Table with 8 columns: क्रम सं०, प्रखण्ड, योजना का नाम, प्राक्कलित राशि, परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य, अग्रघन की राशि, योजना पूर्ण करने की अवधि, कोल. Rows include projects like 'ग्राम बाबाई के टोला हाथरस टांड के घर से सुरी मिठा' and 'ग्राम बाबाई के टोला हाथरस टांड के घर से सुरी मिठा'.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, हटिया योजना, राँची निविदा निविदा रद्द करने के संबंध में एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्य का नाम REQUEST PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLYING VARIOUS EQUIPMENTS, CHEMICALS, STANDARD REFERENCE MICROBIAL CULTURES, GLASSWARES / PLASTICWARES AND GENERAL ITEMS IN 22 Numbers of District Level Water Testing Laboratories of Jharkhand जिसका निविदा आमंत्रण संख्या- LAB/DWSD/11/2024-25 दिनांक - 13/09/2024 एवं PR - 336101 Drinking Water & Sanitation (24-25) है जो विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुई है को अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द की जाती है।

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Gagan, S/o Ravinder Pal, R/o B-301 JJ Colony, Bharat Vihar, Sector 15, Dwarka, Delhi, has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 313/17 IPC, U/S 323/341/34 IPC, PS Dwarka North, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Gagan cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Gagan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Table with 2 columns: Tender No., Brief Description. Rows include items like 'Procurement of various power printed', 'Stainless steel litter bin', 'Procurement of Hydraulic motors'.

SEARCH FOR VICTIM

General public is hereby informed that a male namely Rakesh, S/o Satpal, R/o Ranbasera Sarai Kale Khan, New Delhi was injured in an accident on 12.06.2021 near Sarai Kale Khan Metro Station Gate No. 3, Kotak Mahindra ATM. In this regard FIR No. 316/2021, U/s 279/337 IPC, Dated 13.06.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Sunlight Colony, Delhi. The person has left the above address to some unknown place and couldn't be traced despite making best efforts to trace him. The description of victim male is as under: Name: Rakesh, Age: 50 Years. If anyone has any information about this victim male please inform P.S. Sunlight Colony, Delhi. SHO Police Station Sunlight Colony, Delhi Ph: 8750870928

कार्यालय जिला परिषद, हजारीबाग अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 22/2024-25 दिनांक 20/09/2024

झारखण्ड सरकार कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, हटिया योजना, राँची

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr. P. C. Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Shivam Kashyap S/o Mahipal Kashyap R/o Vill. Vashudevpur Baroli Tehsil- Syana, Bulandshahr U.P. have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under FIR No. 178/22 U/S 279/337/338 IPC., and 3/181/5/180 MV Act., has been registered at P.S. Khyala Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, Shivam Kashyap cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, Shivam Kashyap has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Table with 8 columns: क्रम, प्रखण्ड, योजना का नाम, प्राक्कलित राशि, परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य, अग्रघन की राशि, योजना पूर्ण करने की अवधि, कोल. Rows include projects like 'ग्राम बाबाई के टोला हाथरस टांड के घर से सुरी मिठा' and 'ग्राम बाबाई के टोला हाथरस टांड के घर से सुरी मिठा'.

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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 person(s) Bhoopram@Faim, S/o: Chhuni Lal, R/o: Village Sangrampur, PS Meerangj, Dist Bareilly, UP has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No: 429/2015 Dt. 18.03.2015, U/s: 25/54/59 Arms Act., PS: Seemapuri, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Bhoopram@Faim, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Bhoopram@Faim, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH 6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW No. ME-3/2024/2106 Lucknow: Dated-21 September, 2024 Important information regarding registration for online Counseling UP NEET PG-2024 In the order of guidelines given in the meeting held on 20.09.2024 by NBEMS, MCC and NMC New Delhi, the dates of online registration (online registration) in MD/MS/Diploma/DNB courses under the counseling of UP NEET PG-2024 are fixed as follows-

Table with 4 columns: S.No., Description, Dates, Total Days. Row 1: Date of online Registration & deposition of Security money, 23rd September 2024 (From 12:00 Noon) to 28th September 2024 (Till 05:00 PM), 06 Days.

1. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 04.10.2024 2. ई-निविदा प्राप्त की तिथि एवं समय 05.10.24 से 12.10.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक। 3. निविदा खोलने का स्थान- जिला परिषद, हजारीबाग। 4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 14.10.2024 पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे। 5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता - जिला अभियंता, जिला परिषद, हजारीबाग। 6. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी। 7. ई-निविदा प्रकोप का दूरभाष सं०-06546 261406 ई-मेल - districtboardhazaribag@gmail.com 8. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी। 9. निविदा की शर्तें कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट या www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। जिला अभियंता, जिला परिषद, हजारीबाग। PR 336618 District (24-25)_D

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9 EXPRESS NETWORK

'FISH OIL IS MORE EXPENSIVE THAN GHEE': TAMIL NADU FIRM TERMS CHARGES 'ABSURD'

Ghee supplier to Tirupati denies adulteration charges

AR Dairy holds ISO certification and follows strict quality protocols, says its official

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 21

A DAY after the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) initiated legal action against the Tamil Nadu-based AR Dairy Food Private Limited for allegedly supplying adulterated ghee to the Sri Venkateswara Temple, the company has questioned the report on which the decision was based.

In his comments to a Tamil news channel Friday, Kannan, a quality control officer at the Dindigul-based AR Dairy Food, called the allegations "unsubstantiated". His comments came a day after TTD Executive Officer J Shyamala Rao announced that samples from AR Dairy's ghee had been found "highly adulterated".

"We have been operational since 1998, and this is the first time such accusations have been made against us," Kannan said.

According to him, AR Dairy runs its own procurement centres and employs advanced technology to test up to 102 quality parameters of milk within 32 seconds. "If the milk fails any quality test, it is rejected immediately," he said. He also claimed that AR Dairy was approved to supply ghee to TTD, a four-member expert team from the temple administration visited their plant to assess their capacity and quality control measures. "Our ghee samples are first tested in national laboratories before being dispatched to TTD. Upon arrival, TTD's own food safety officer checks the samples again," Kannan said.

According to Kannan, AR Dairy holds ISO certification and follows strict quality protocols. None of the previous reports indicated any deviation in quality, he said, calling for a more transparent process of sample collection, such as recording a video to ensure accountability.

"These allegations, ranging from vegetable oil to animal fat adulteration, are severely damaging to our business. Moreover, the claim that fish oil was added is absurd; fish oil is more expensive than ghee. Any adulteration of this kind would immediately be detectable by smell alone," Kannan said, adding that the company contributes to a "very small volume" of the total ghee used for TTD's laddu production.

"We take immense pride in supplying ghee to TTD. For us, it's not just business; it's a blessing and honour," he told the Tamil news channel. The comments come a day after TTD's Officer J Shyamala Rao said at a press conference that samples of ghee supplied by A.R. Dairy had been sent for testing following complaints about the declining quality of laddus, a popular temple offering, or 'prasadam'. "Out of



AR Dairy Foods office and plant in Dindigul. ANI

10 tankers of ghee provided by AR Dairy, four were found to be highly adulterated," Rao said. These remarks came days after Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu alleged at an NDA legislative party meeting that the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government had allowed the use of animal fat and fish oil in the preparation of laddus.

When contacted, Dr. Sathish Kumar, the designated officer for the Food Safety Department in Chennai, refused to comment on the particulars of the case. However, he said there are standard protocols under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for detecting food adulteration that are followed across the country.

"In Tamil Nadu, we adhere to the FSSAI guidelines strictly. When adulteration is suspected, we collect multiple samples from the same batch, with the presence of witnesses and the officials, and send them to a lab for testing. If the results show contamination, the supplier or the shop owner is notified and has 30 days to appeal," Kumar said. Asked about the possible use of animal fat or fish oil being used in ghee, Kumar said that both would be highly detectable through smell and taste. "If animal fat or fish oil were added, people unaccustomed to these substances would notice immediately. The smell of fish oil, in particular, is impossible to disguise," he said.

TTD gears up to serve 8-9 lakh laddus a day, with new ghee vendor

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 21

WITH A new ghee vendor — the Karnataka Milk Federation — in place, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has promised to immediately restore the original quality of laddus at the Sri Venkateswara Temple at Tirumala. The development comes after allegations that animal fat was found in the laddus kicked up a major political row.

"There will be no more compromise on the quality of the laddus and the quality of ghee used (to make it)," TTD Executive Officer J Shyamala Rao told the media Saturday. However, the TTD Saturday temporarily halted the use of cow ghee and milk-based products in preparation of other offerings, or "prasadam", to the deity. Stocks of KMF's famous Nandini brand ghee are being reduced to the temple's kitchens — known as 'poti'. This comes even as over 73,000 pilgrims visited the temple Friday.

The TTD is also stocking up on ghee ahead of the temple's nine-day Brahmotsavam — a grand annual event that will be held from October 4-12 this year and is expected to see lakhs of pilgrims.

"A new vendor, KMF, is in place to supply top quality ghee. We don't see any issues," Andhra Pradesh's minister Nara Lokesh Naidu told The Indian Express, when asked if there would be any crisis of procurement of ghee during the religious event.

Muni Ratnam, who's in-charge of 'Poti' kitchen, said that during the religious event, the temple maintains a stock of 8-9 lakh laddus each day.

The TTD expects 7-8 lakhs devotees during the Brahmotsavam festival. "Sufficient stocks, including ghee to prepare the laddus round the clock, are being procured," he said.

The TTD Saturday temporarily halted the use of cow ghee-based products used for making other offerings known as "Srivari Prasadam". A TTD panel also found deficiencies in the quality of raw materials used in preparation of the free meals, or "anna prasadam", sources said. As a result, all supplies have been temporarily suspended and new vendors are being arranged to supply fresh stocks, it has been learnt. The committee members will also take daily feedback from devotees, sources said.

Never supplied ghee to TTD, says Amul as 7 booked for rumours on X

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 21

A SENIOR official of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) Saturday filed a complaint against seven social media users for allegedly defaming its brand, Amul. The social media users have been accused of spreading rumours on X that the brand had supplied the ghee with animal fat to Tirumala temple.

Hemant Gauni, Deputy General Manager (Sales) at GCMMF, in his complaint stated he came across posts by some X users on Friday that Amul supplied the ghee with animal fat in it. The Cyber Crime Police Station in Ahmedabad has booked the X users under BNS sections 336(4) (committing forgery), and 196(1)(a) (promoting enmity). They have also been booked under IT Act's Section 67 for transmitting obscene material. The GCMMF also issued a clarification on its X handle, 'Amul.coop', on Friday night and said it never supplied Amul ghee to the TTD, which manages the temple. "...Amul ghee is made from high quality pure milk fat..." it said.

BRIEFLY
JAMMU & KASHMIR
Security forces exchange fire with militants

Jammu: A brief encounter took place between militants and security forces in a remote forest area in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Saturday evening, officials said. The gunfight broke out when the forces launched a search operation in Chatroo forest following information about the presence of terrorists, the security officials said. They said reinforcements have been rushed to the area. PTI

BIHAR
18-year-old poses as IPS officer, arrested

Patna: Sikandra police in Jamui arrested an 18-year-old on Friday when he was roaming around in Sikandra market in uniform posing as a trainee IPS officer. The accused, Mithilesh Manjhi, 18, a resident of Govardhan Bigha village of Halsi, admitted that he had been faking as a police officer as the police questioned him about his education and training details. Meanwhile, a video of policemen questioning Manjhi and the youth handing over the toy pistol has gone viral. ENS

KARNATAKA
SIT to probe rape charges against BJP MLA

Bengaluru: The Karnataka government Saturday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the allegations against BJP MLA Munirathna, arrested in connection with a case of rape, sexual harassment and criminal intimidation. Senior IPS officer BK Singh has been appointed as the chief of the SIT, which also consists of IPS officers Labhram, IGP (central), Sowmyalatha, SP Railways, and CA Simon, SP. Meanwhile, a special court Saturday remanded Munirathna to judicial custody for 14 days. ENS

UTTAR PRADESH
FIR against two journalists over posts on X

Lucknow: An FIR has been registered in Lucknow against two journalists — Abhishek Upadhyay and Mamta Tripathi — for their posts on X, questioning the posting of officers of a particular caste on key posts in the state, police said. The case was filed by Pankaj Kumar, who claims to be a freelance journalist. In his complaint, Kumar has accused the duo of posting "false, baseless and misleading information" to tarnish the image of CM Yogi Adityanath. ENS

Dismembered body of Bengaluru woman found in refrigerator

Neighbours thought foul smell was emanating from rotten food: Police

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 21

A WOMAN'S dismembered body was found stored in a refrigerator at a flat in Bengaluru's Vyalkaval on Saturday.

The police said the woman, 29-year-old Mahalakshmi, wife of Hemant Das, was staying alone in the flat. They said 28 body parts were recovered from the 165-litre refrigerator so far and are yet to confirm if there were more.

The police were informed about the murder by neighbours who initially dismissed the foul smell emanating from the house as stench from rotten food, said an officer. The police said they have zeroed in on some suspects and have formed eight teams to investigate the case. Mahalakshmi, who hailed from Jharkhand, was living in Nelamangala with her husband Hemant Das till a few months ago. The couple have a four-year-old girl child. She moved into a 1BHK on the first floor of the Vyalkaval building five months ago following a domestic dispute with Hemant, the police said.

Additional Commissioner of Police (West) N Satheesh Kumar said prima facie it appeared that Mahalakshmi was murdered four or five days ago. A police officer said they are still trying to establish exactly when she was killed as the body was kept in the refrigerator and there was no foul smell till a couple of days ago. "We have

collected details from the place where she worked to know which was her last working day and are investigating further," the officer said. "Her mobile phone has been switched off since September 12, said the officer.

On Saturday, a family living on the same floor informed the flat owner, Jayaram, who lives on an upper floor in the same building, about the foul smell emanating from the flat for two days. They told the police that they initially assumed the smell was coming from spoiled food but when it became unbearable, they asked Jayaram to check.

According to the police, the flat owner realised that the door was locked from outside. Upon opening it, the smell grew stronger and when he opened the refrigerator he found dry blood and the dismembered body of the woman. Shocked, Jayaram informed police as well as Mahalakshmi's mother and brother who live nearby. The police rushed to the spot around 2.30 pm. Later, a forensic team collected samples.

Mahalakshmi's brother Sunil said he learnt about the murder from the flat's owners. A neighbour said Mahalakshmi barely interacted with anyone. She left for work around 9.30 am and returned around 10.30 pm, the neighbour said. Mahalakshmi's husband Hemant works in Nelamangala and the daughter lives with him. "We are questioning Hemant," said the police.

Cong whip in LS writes to FM: Shortage of ₹10, ₹20 and ₹50 notes affecting the poor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

CONGRESS WHIP in the Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore has written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman pointing out "the shortage of small denomination currency notes", which according to him is "affecting millions of citizens, particularly in rural areas and urban poor communities".

In his letter, posted on Saturday, Tagore wrote: "The severe shortage of Rs 10, 20, and 50 denomination currency notes has caused immense inconvenience and hardship." "Reports suggest that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has stopped printing these notes to promote UPI and cashless transactions. While the push for digital payments is understandable, this move disproportionately affects those without access to digital payment infrastructure, particularly in rural areas," said the MP from Virudhnagar in Tamil Nadu.

He also said that "this decision infringes upon the fundamental right to access currency, essential for daily transactions". "The shortage has resulted in difficulties for small businesses, street vendors, and daily wage earners who rely heavily on cash transactions," said Tagore. He asked the FM to "direct RBI to resume printing and distributing the currency notes". "Implement measures to address the digital divide and improve access to digital payment infrastructure in rural areas," he said.

THE SUPREME COURT's decision this week to close all proceedings in an FIR against 30 Army personnel, allegedly involved in the killing of six civilians of Nagaland's Oting village three years ago, has shattered the residents' hope for justice, with many calling it an "insult to the memory" of the victims and their families.

The Naga Students' Federation has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah demanding

sanction for prosecution in the case and revocation of AFSPA in the state. "The Oting incident is not merely an isolated act of violence but a reflection of a systemic injustice that has persisted under the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958... It is time the Government of India revokes AFSPA from the Naga homeland," the students' body said. On December 4, 2021, a unit of 21st Para Special Forces of the Army, in a case of "mistaken identity", fired at a pickup truck in which eight miners were travelling.

While six died on the spot, two survived. Seven more civilians, and one security personnel, died in retaliatory violence.

The SIT in May 2022 filed a chargesheet indicting all 30 personnel of the 21st Para SF unit, including a Major-rank officer, under IPC sections related to murder, among others, pending prosecution sanction. In February 2023, the Department of Military Affairs under the Ministry of Defence denied sanction for prosecution.

The Supreme Court ruled on September 17 that "the proceedings from the impugned FIRs de-

quenced, the next step comparison, where samples with similar DNAs (since several body parts are tested) are put into different groups.

"Thus, we got around 60 groups, with each group finally coming together as different body parts of an individual. Then, we compare these grouped samples with the DNA profile of the blood samples collected from relatives of the missing persons. When a new sample from a newly recovered body part reaches our lab for testing, we do their DNA profiling and see if it matches any of the existing groups," said the joint director.

Talking of the other challenges they faced, an official said that several families had perished in the tragedy, police teams were sent out to look for extended relatives. In some cases, family trees of the victims were drawn and shared

with the team engaged in collecting blood samples.

Forensic experts also said that since all the victims were from a particular region (Mundakkai and Chooralmala), there is a high possibility that inbreeding might have taken place over generations. "Normally, of the 46 chromosomes of a person, four chromosomes are unique to that person. But in many samples tested from this particular region, a decrease in the differences between their chromosomes were noticed. This is mainly due to inbreeding, which happens when distant relatives marry," said an expert familiar with the work at the Kannur forensic lab.

Kilometres away, in Wayanad, among those awaiting closure is Safad Kunthath, 24. He has just registered three missing complaints at the Meppadi police station — the bodies of his father Hamsa K, a

50 Army officers join forest team of I50 to look for leopard that killed 3 in Udaipur

PARUL KULSHRESTHA
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 21

AS PRESSURE mounts to capture the leopard responsible for a spate of killings around the forests of Udaipur, the Rajasthan Forest Department has now enlisted the help of the Indian Army in the search.

According to forest officials, 50 officers of the Indian Army have now joined 150 forest officials to scour the forests and capture the leopard responsible for the killing of three people earlier this week.

Forest officials said the Army was using drone technology to help track down the leopard's pug marks. A forest official also admitted to *The Indian Express* that efforts to track down the leopard had proved to be challenging.

"The jungle is very dense and

'Insult to memory of victims': Students, activists protest SC order on Oting killings

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE SUPREME COURT's decision this week to close all proceedings in an FIR against 30 Army personnel, allegedly involved in the killing of six civilians of Nagaland's Oting village three years ago, has shattered the residents' hope for justice, with many calling it an "insult to the memory" of the victims and their families.

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sanction for prosecution in the case and revocation of AFSPA in the state. "The Oting incident is not merely an isolated act of violence but a reflection of a systemic injustice that has persisted under the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958... It is time the Government of India revokes AFSPA from the Naga homeland," the students' body said. On December 4, 2021, a unit of 21st Para Special Forces of the Army, in a case of "mistaken identity", fired at a pickup truck in which eight miners were travelling.

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Talking of the other challenges they faced, an official said that several families had perished in the tragedy, police teams were sent out to look for extended relatives. In some cases, family trees of the victims were drawn and shared

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Forensic experts also said that since all the victims were from a particular region (Mundakkai and Chooralmala), there is a high possibility that inbreeding might have taken place over generations. "Normally, of the 46 chromosomes of a person, four chromosomes are unique to that person. But in many samples tested from this particular region, a decrease in the differences between their chromosomes were noticed. This is mainly due to inbreeding, which happens when distant relatives marry," said an expert familiar with the work at the Kannur forensic lab.

Kilometres away, in Wayanad, among those awaiting closure is Safad Kunthath, 24. He has just registered three missing complaints at the Meppadi police station — the bodies of his father Hamsa K, a



Army personnel scan footage from a drone (right) in Udaipur, Saturday, Express

during monsoon the bushes make it difficult to see anything or walk. We called the Army to help the administration and they have been working since morning," one official said.

A 16-year-old girl from Undithal village, a 51-year-old man from Bhevawadiya village

Wayanad's missing list: How forensic teams are using DNA clues to join the dots

SHAJU PHILIP
WAYANAD, SEPTEMBER 21

IN THE days after the Wayanad landslide, forensic experts at the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory in Kannur had the difficult job of putting names to the body parts recovered during the tragedy — a severed limb, a dismembered body.

While rescuers pulled out several bodies from the debris at the landslide site, the Punnappuzha river carried with it several severed limbs and other body parts that were recovered kilometres away, at Nilambur in neighbouring Malappuram district.

At the end of the week-long rescue operations, 231 bodies were recovered and 118 persons were declared missing. The missing were feared dead and as their families waited for closure,

forensic teams in the state got down to identifying them through DNA tests.

The unidentified bodies and body parts, each with a specific number for future identification, were buried at the mass burial ground at Puthumala, barely 5 km away from Chooralmala, one of the worst-hit villages. Before the bodies and body parts were lowered into the pit, samples from these were taken for DNA tests. As many as 421 samples were dispatched to the lab in Kannur.

According to State Forensic Science Laboratory Director Dr Pradeep Saji K, testing such a huge number of samples in a short period was a major task for the team at the regional lab in Kannur, which has one of the best DNA testing facilities in India.

"We mobilised our people from other districts and they worked day and night for several

days. The samples (kept in preservatives) were put in the cold room at the lab where we ensured that there is no cross contamination. Now, we have almost completed the testing process," he said.

Explaining the DNA testing process, Bushra Beegum, joint director at the lab in Kannur, said, "Most of the samples for DNA testing were taken from bones of unidentified bodies. In some cases, the samples were taken from teeth and body tissue. DNA extraction in the case of bones is the most time consuming — the bone has to be cleaned to take out the bone marrow. It is a skilled, delicate, manual job which can take up to four hours."

On the many challenges the team encountered, Beegum said, "We need at least .1 nanogram of DNA to create a profile (a pattern of DNA sequences that identifies an individual). Many tissue sam-

ples collected from the river were putrefied and did not have that minimum quantity of DNA that we needed for sequencing," she said.

After the DNA samples are se-

quenced, the next step comparison, where samples with similar DNAs (since several body parts are tested) are put into different groups.

"Thus, we got around 60 groups, with each group finally coming together as different body parts of an individual. Then, we compare these grouped samples with the DNA profile of the blood samples collected from relatives of the missing persons. When a new sample from a newly recovered body part reaches our lab for testing, we do their DNA profiling and see if it matches any of the existing groups," said the joint director.

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Kilometres away, in Wayanad, among those awaiting closure is Safad Kunthath, 24. He has just registered three missing complaints at the Meppadi police station — the bodies of his father Hamsa K, a

plantation worker, mother Jumaila and younger brother Hasin Muhamed, have been untraceable since the tragedy.

"Two rounds of DNA results are out, but my family is still missing. I was told to wait a while for the entire process to be completed, after which the death certificates will be issued," said Safad, who works at a coaching institute in Thrissur.

"All I have done is wait. First at hospitals, waiting for bodies of my father, mother and brother. Then at the make-shift morgue in Meppadi. And now, for the DNA results. If they were identified among those buried at the common burial ground at Puthumala, it would be a relief for us. Otherwise, the thought that my parents and brother are still buried somewhere under the boulders is painful," he says.

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Across THE AISLE



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Kovind committee report: dead on arrival

THE TRUE intention of the government in constituting the *High Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections* was exposed by the Terms of Reference. The first ToR asked the Committee to "examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections..." The Committee's implied mandate was to recommend that simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the 28 states of India (and the Union Territories with Legislative Assemblies) were *feasible and desirable*. It had no mandate to make a recommendation against the idea of holding simultaneous elections. The Committee faithfully fulfilled the mandate.

NO SCHOLARLY BODY

The composition of the Committee also betrayed the bias in the so-called study. Only one among the Chairman and 8 members was a constitutional expert. Another member was well-versed in parliamentary procedure but had not practised or taught law. Two were politicians and one was a bureaucrat-turned-politician. Three were life-long civil servants. The appointment of Mr Ram Nath Kovind to the Chair was an adornment and may have been intended to add gravitas to the Committee. Whatever the Committee was, it certainly was *not* a body of constitutional scholars.

As widely expected, the Committee

recommended that elections to the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies should be held once in five years *simultaneously*. To the best of my knowledge, there is no precedent in any large, federal and democratic country. The comparable models are the United States, Australia, Canada and Germany. In the U.S., elections to the House of Representatives are held once in *two* years, elections to the office of President and Governors are held once in *four* years and not simultaneously, and elections to the Senate are held over *six* years in three biennial cycles. Recently, two states of the Federal Republic of Germany — Thuringia and Saxony — held elections according to their own election cycle that was different from the election cycle to the *Bundestag* (National parliament).

The Kovind Committee was exploring an idea that was the anti-thesis of a federal, *parliamentary* democracy. In a parliamentary democracy, the elected government is responsible to the people's representatives *every day* and there is no assured term for the Executive. The choice of the political model was debated by the Constituent Assembly. The Constitution-makers rejected decisively the *Presidential* system and opted for the *parliamentary* system, because they believed that the parliamentary system would be more suitable to India's heterogeneity.

FORMULAE & FORMULATIONS

The Kovind Committee report is a mixture of arcane algebraic formulae and simplistic legal formulations. The Committee has acknowledged that the proposal to hold simultaneous elections would require amendments to the Constitution: new Articles 82A, 83(3), 83(4), 172(3), 172(4), 324A, 325(2) and 325(3) will be introduced and Article 327 will be amended. The effect of these new provisions and amendments will be to synchronize the *end date* of the life of a State Assembly with the *end date* of the life of the Lok Sabha.

Suppose the Constitutional amendments are passed in November-December 2024 (as hinted by the government) and simultaneous elections are scheduled in 2029. State Assemblies that will be elected in 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028 (altogether 24) will have their term curtailed by 1 to 4 years! Imagine electing a State Assembly in 2027 for only two years or in 2028 for just one year! Why would the people of the State and the political parties accept such an election? Worse, if an election threw up a hung Assembly; or if an elected State government is defeated on the floor of the Assembly; or if a chief minister resigned and no one is able to muster a majority: in such situations there will be a fresh election for the *remainder of the*

term of five years which could be even for a few months! Such elections would be farcical and only political parties or candidates with lots of money (remember electoral-bond rich parties) can contest such elections. The recommendations will give a handle to the chief minister to keep his disgruntled MLAs on leash by holding out a threat of fresh elections for a *truncated* term.

NO FREE PASS

Kovind Committee recommendations fly in the face of history. In the 7 decades of elections between 1951 and 2021, there was a period of instability in only two decades, 1981-1990 and 1991-2000. There has been remarkable stability since 1999. Further, most state governments/Assemblies completed 5 years. Staggered elections did not affect economic growth: the UPA delivered an average growth rate of 7.5 per cent over 10 years and the NDA has claimed that it did better in its 10 years.

The Kovind Committee assumed, wrongly, that the NDA government will be able to pass the Constitution Amendments Bills in Parliament. On the contrary, the Opposition can easily muster 182 MPs in the Lok Sabha and 83 MPs in the Rajya Sabha to defeat the Bills. One Nation One Election is intended to impose One Narrative on a plural and diverse country. ONOE will, I hope, be dead on arrival.

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Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

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Kashmir and Pakistan

IN THIS column, I have explained more than once that as a political columnist my job is to write about politicians, their policies, their governance, their flaws and foibles. I try to do this as honestly as possible. When I was a Modi supporter, made my position crystal clear right here. When I thought it was necessary to point out that Parliament had become a private club for political princes and princelings, I made this clear. For the record, I am no longer a Modi Bhakt. And still believe that hereditary democracy is a bad idea.

This introductory explanation was needed because it seems that neither the Dynasty's devotees, nor my former pals in the Modi Bhakt club believe me. No sooner does this column appear, than my timeline fills up with abuse and accusations. This time, it is Congress Party spokespersons and trolls on the warpath because I wrote that it was wrong for Rahul Gandhi to have said that the Lok Sabha election was rigged. And wrong for him to say that Sikhs in India were in danger of losing the right to wear turbans and 'kadas'.

So, Dynasty devotees, sycophants and bootlickers took to social media to hurl abuse at me and charge me with 'bias' and 'hatred'. Ironically, they sound exactly like their comrades in the BJP. The only thing that makes Narendra Modi's trolls worse is that along with wrongly charging me with being a courtier in the Dynasty's durbar, they charge me with being anti-national, treasonous and a 'Hindu-hater'. My advice to both categories of trolls is, please spend some time introspecting on your own prejudices and half-formed political opinions. I am bored of listening to the same nonsense.

Now let me get to what I intended to really write about this week. I have been following the election campaign in Jammu & Kashmir closely, and am disappointed and more than a little disheartened by the speeches made by the Prime Minister and Home Minister. Last week, the Prime Minister in a speech in Katra asked voters to not vote for the Congress Party because it was promoting an agenda that was the same as that of Pakistan. He said, "Maybe there is no enthusiasm about the alliance of the NC (National Conference) and Congress here (in J&K), but the neighbouring country is very excited. *Unki balle-balle Pakistan mein ho rahi hai*." Loosely translated, this means they are favourites in Pakistan.

The Home Minister, as usual, went one step further and said it was evident that the Congress Party and Pakistan had the same agenda. In a post on social media, Amit Shah had this to say, "Be it asking for proof of air strikes and surgical strikes or saying objectionable things about the Indian Army, the tune of Rahul Gandhi's Congress and Pakistan has always been the same and Congress has always been hand in glove with the anti-national forces."

When India's two most important leaders turn an election campaign into a war zone in which political opponents become the enemy, it harms India. Rahul Gandhi is the Leader of the Opposition now, so to charge him with treason is a serious matter. Is there proof? Or is it just part of the hysterical attack on him and his mother that has lately been playing out on social media? The BJP's dirty tricks department has run a campaign of innuendoes and lies that seeks to prove that the Gandhi family works as agents of Pakistan's ISI. Prove this or stop.

The BJP obsession with Pakistan has served mostly to demean India. Think it through and you will see why. Pakistan is bankrupt, politically dysfunctional and subservient to China. To seriously believe that it is capable of being India's equal is beyond belief. But for some reason, every time an election campaign gets underway Pakistan is dragged into the speeches of senior BJP leaders as if it is an existential threat to India. Of course, it continues to export terrorists into the Kashmir Valley, and more recently to Jammu, but surely it is those who handle our national security that we should hold responsible. Why does this continue to happen when we have been told that jihadi terrorism has been crushed and that Kashmir has once again become the paradise that it once was?

Having visited Srinagar some months ago, I can confirm that I was delighted to see that the fear that once hung over the old parts of the city seems to have disappeared. I managed to drive around at night through bazaars filled with lights and shoppers. And I met Kashmiris who were enjoying the prosperity that an upsurge in tourism has brought. But I also met educated, young men desperate for jobs. When I talked to politicians and journalists, they admitted that beneath the surface calm, there was a simmering rage because of the denial of political rights.

We should celebrate that voters came out in larger numbers last week than anyone can remember from past elections. But it is still unclear why this has happened. When the results come next month what will we discover? Whatever it may be, it is time to accept that if we still have a Kashmir problem, it is more because of mistakes made by our own leaders than because of meddling by Pakistan. For Kashmir's wounds to heal Delhi needs to acknowledge this.

inside TRACK

COOMIKAPOOR



SHIFT FROM NAGPUR

IN THE run-up to its centenary next year, the RSS will move into new quarters in Delhi, far more spacious than its original campus in Nagpur. Three towers, a dozen storeys high, are near completion in Delhi's Jhandewalan. The central tower has four elevators, X-ray machines at entry points, a convention hall, offices and residential rooms. The CISF has been inducted for security checks. Top RSS functionaries, including second in command Dattatreya Hosabale and joint general secretary Arun Kumar, will officiate from the building, which is already operational. The first tower will house RSS-affiliated organisations, including publications *Organiser* and *Panchjanya*. The third tower is for guest accommodation.

With the RSS's key decision-makers stationed in Delhi, will its headquarters in Nagpur, where sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat resides, continue to remain its head office? Incidentally, at the recent closed-door session of the RSS meet in Palakkad, Kerala, Bhagwat had asked members to reduce their dependence on the government and not look at the RSS as a potential gateway for entry into the BJP.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The release of the series *IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack* has sparked fresh recollections of the chilling hijack. One interesting tidbit not known is that the high-level team discussing the safe release of the passengers was regularly served Parsi food. Then External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh later complained to a friend that by the end he was thoroughly sick of dhansak, a special Parsi dal. PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday, December 25, was a day after the hijack and his friend, industrialist Nusli Wadia, customarily sent the gourmet PM vast quantities of choice Parsi fare. The festive cuisine came in handy during the long-drawn-out late-night discussions.

JOINING THE DOTS

PM Narendra Modi has been criticised for urging US President Joe Biden to use his good offices to impress on the Bangladesh government the need to protect the country's minorities. India as the premier power in the sub-continent should have sufficient leverage in its own right, rather than supplicating to an outside super power, some argue. India, however, is realistic enough to trace the fingerprints of the US in the ouster of Sheikh Hasina and installation of

Muhammad Yunus, a close friend of the Democratic party and the Clinton Foundation, as the chief adviser in Bangladesh. While Hasina had once claimed that the US antagonism towards her regime was linked to thwarted efforts to gain control of St Martin Island, an ideal military base strategically located to monitor Chinese movements over the Strait of Malacca, there were additional reasons for the US to adopt an unusually adversarial role towards Hasina's government. The US was unhappy with Bangladesh for permitting the Chinese to build Asia's largest submarine base at Cox Bazar and construct the Padma bridge. Russia's funding of a nuclear power plant at Rooppur was another black mark against Bangladesh, which is near Myanmar, a military dictatorship with extremely close ties to China.

Indian security agencies have observed that the anti-Hasina student demonstrators who staged a coup were remarkably disciplined and not anti-India at the start. Neither the big Indian companies located in Bangladesh, nor the Indian government's properties, other than one cultural centre, were targeted. The crowds that stormed the presidential palace later returned much of the loot, including cash. If the Indian government does not seem very rattled by Bangladesh's demand to hand over Hasina, it is perhaps because the former Bangladesh premier is reportedly sheltered presently on the premises of a leading Western multinational company in India (In a leaked telephone call, Hasina stated that she was not in Delhi). Unfortunately, history shows us that the US Department of State often rides tigers that it cannot dismount. The recent attacks on Hindu homes and temples is an illustrative example.

ON THE SAME PAGE

Arvind Kejriwal's political gamble to dissolve the Delhi Legislative Assembly and hold early polls ironically actually corresponds with the wishes of the Delhi BJP. His hope is that the election would serve as a referendum to demonstrate that the electorate believes his innocence in the Delhi excise case allegedly foisted on him by the ED and that it will re-elect him as CM. Weeks earlier, a delegation of Delhi BJP workers met Amit Shah and requested that the Delhi Assembly polls, due next February, be advanced. One suggestion was to convert the Assembly back into a Legislative Council. The argument for an early poll was that the BJP would benefit from a split in the AAP and Congress vote (In Haryana, the two parties failed to reach an understanding). The BJP is confident of a victory after its impressive show in the Lok Sabha polls, where it got more votes than the AAP and Congress combined. A victory in the Capital will be a morale booster for the ruling party and detract from possible setbacks in the impending Haryana and Maharashtra polls.

History HEADLINE

AMIT KAMATH



ASK FOR trivia involving the history of Indian chess and it is entirely possible that the answer invariably points in the direction of Viswanathan Anand. He is, after all, the man who became the first grandmaster from India, was the first Indian to win the World Junior Chess Championship, became the first senior world champion from India and is the first Indian to be World No 1.

But there was one feat that another Indian chess player achieved long before Anand had the chance to. At the 1980 Olympiad in Malta, when Anand would have been just 11 years of age, Mohamed Rafiq Khan bagged India its first-ever medal — a silver — on the third board at the Chess Olympiad.

The Chess Olympiad, first held in 1927, is the most prestigious event for national teams in the sport. It is a collective flexing of the muscle in a sport that is largely individualistic. Any nation can luck out and discover one star with the potential to become the world champion. But to win Olympiad medals, you need at least three players of exceptional ability. The unique format of the Olympiad means that every nation designates players on the four boards, with the top board players usually being the strongest player in the team. And while the Olympiad is a team event, there are also medals for each individual board.

Both the current Indian teams at this year's Olympiad in Budapest, which started on September 10 and ends on September 23, in the open and the women's sections — are stacked with world-beaters and are likely to return home with medals. If they do, it will be a coming-of-age moment for Indian chess, which started sending teams to the Olympiad from 1956. Almost all of the 10 players competing for India at the Budapest Olympiad have similar stories in the sport: they had access to cutting-edge technology, like chess engines, and got coaching from elite grandmasters very early on in their tryst with the sport.

This is what makes Khan's story stand out even more. He was a carpenter who fell in love with chess after learning the sport on the *patiyas* of Bhopal. *Patiya* is slang for a slab of stone or wood that is placed in front of tea shops or the verandahs in front of homes in Bhopal.

Starting his tryst with chess as a *patiya* player, Khan never became a grandmaster or even an international master — the top two titles chess players can hope to achieve. However, his kind

Before Anand, India had a chess star: Rafiq Khan



Mohamed Rafiq Khan, who bagged India its first-ever medal in the 1980 Olympiad in Malta, was a carpenter who fell in love with chess after learning it on the *patiyas* of Bhopal. Courtesy: Madhya Pradesh Chess Association/Akshat Khamparia

heart and skills on the chessboard did earn him the respectful moniker of *Ustaad* on Madhya Pradesh's chess scene.

The form of chess that Khan learnt on the *patiyas* of Bhopal was a slightly different version of international chess: in desi chess, pawns could only move one square ahead as compared to the modern game, where pawns can jump ahead two squares with their first move. But that mattered for little when he played competitively. Khan won the state championship the first time he competed in it. Back then, there was a two-tiered national championship in chess: National A and National B. Players who did well in National B would make the cut for National A. Playing in the National A back then was a matter of prestige.

"Rafiq ji had what you would call a natural talent. He could not read any chess books because books back then would exclusively be in English or Russian. And he was not educated. Despite that, he was a formidable player. His game play was very practical. Not knowing how to read chess books meant that he had very little theoretical knowledge, so he would not do well in the openings. But he would make up for it in the middle and end games," Akshat Khamparia, Madhya Pradesh's first International Master, who is now a functionary in the Madhya Pradesh Chess Association, tells *The Indian Express*.

"As a person, despite the heights his game reached, he was very down to earth.

He was Madhya Pradesh's first FIDE Master. A genius. If he had received support in those days from the state association, he could have become our first grandmaster. The state still does not have one. He was grandmaster material," Khamparia adds.

Having known Khan, who died in July 2019, Khamparia says that for many Madhya Pradesh players, *Ustaad* was a resource in the pre-computer days of chess. "Now you have computers that feed you the best moves. But back then, you had to calculate everything yourself. This was the age of classical games being adjourned, when players would come back and resume the game the next day and would spend the night plotting their play ahead. He would be of great help to any player from Madhya Pradesh in those days. People would keep him awake all night as they huddled over the board and tried to figure out their next moves," says Khamparia.

The silver medal at the Malta Olympiad aside, Khan's most memorable exploits on the chessboard involved defeating Belgian chess player Albéric O'Kelly de Galway twice by using the O'Kelly Sicilian, a chess variation in the Sicilian Defence.

What was so remarkable about those two wins? The defeats were remarkable because a *patiya* player from Bhopal defeated a Belgian master by using a variation named after the latter, who was one of the foremost exponents of the move.

On the LOOSE

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PARENTS PERPETUALLY bemoaning the fact that their adolescents are attached to their devices may have a sigh of relief that Instagram has announced sweeping changes to protect users under 18. Their posts will be made private by default and notifications to minors will end at 10 pm to promote sleep. For tech-savvy kids, it's pretty easy to bypass these restrictions, but having some guard rails in place is better than having none. By now, we're all familiar with the worrying data out there about the havoc these addictive and anxiety-inducing platforms can create. It's not just inappropriate content or too much screen time that parents need to worry

The young girl's world

about. Social media has irrevocably altered childhood. And not for the better.

At 13, I was climbing trees and reading Archie comics. My daughter, at the same age, is fascinated by 2-minute make-up reels that transform faces, knows every value-for-money beauty product available and has a "skin-care routine". Far be it that it's enough for her to play with mom's make-up like it was for me; her birthday money is saved up for the mind-boggling range of cosmetics available, deaf to my imploring that she simply doesn't need it. It doesn't augur well for their future that this age group scathingly dismisses MAC and Bobby Brown as "aunty make-up", calling out their pricing, pointing to dupes equally good, available at half the price. Influencer culture — 15-year-old brand ambassadors on Instagram posting their "get ready with

me" shorts, evaluating lip glosses and high-lighters have lakhs of followers — and are all the rage with girls between 10 and 14 years. Considering the shift in attitudes towards self-expression, there are no straight answers to the perplexing question: what is the right age to start wearing make-up?

Thirteen seems absurd. It almost makes one nostalgic for the Victorian era, when the purchase of cosmetics was taboo, other than for people in the performing arts. However, that doesn't mean girls weren't in hot pursuit of rosy cheeks back then as well; except, societal pressures meant they had to go to great lengths to hide the artificial enhancements they used to achieve a radiant glow. One rather basic technique was two hard pinches to the face, an effective if brutal way to create an illusion of (temporary) bloom. The very readable *The*

Ladies' Book of Etiquette and Manual of Politeness (1860) extols the effects of beet-root juice and mustard paste to work up a pretty flush, despite the unpleasant sensation of a smarting face on application. Instead of frowning upon what is essentially harmless exploration, perhaps, moms of tween should be grateful for the invention of hypoallergenic rouge instead.

The discovery of personal beauty and attraction, a rite of passage to young adulthood, used to happen a lot later. Since life is yet to happen to them, middle schoolers retain the ability to live firmly in the moment, deeply absorbed in the magic and drama of learning and forming friendships. There was a larger window to transition between childhood and girlhood, a critical time when girls are old enough to know they're becoming

women but aren't yet wracked by self-consciousness. These days, the preteen wonder years, a time of innocence, is lost, because the social rewards for hyper femininity begin way too early. Girls can't just be themselves because the narcissistic, superficial content they're consuming gently manipulates them into believing they need to be something else.

Back in the 1980s and 1990s, across the convent schools dotting India, you'd get a rap on your knuckles for wearing nail polish or kajal. The stern message being to stay grounded: appearances are not reality. Today's virtual life demands the opposite from girls, that they seek validation from their peers online. The psychological cost to viewing airbrushed lives is that we feel compelled to airbrush our own.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films

12 ECONOMY

CRUDE WATCH

OIL ENDS WEEK HIGHER

Oil prices settled lower on Friday but recorded a second straight week of gains, garnering support from a US interest rate cut and a dip in US supply. **REUTERS**

SIMPLIFICATION OF TAX MEANS FEWER SLABS, LESS EXEMPTIONS, AND EASIER COMPLIANCE

Streamlining GST structure: The complications and the way ahead

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

AS THE Goods and Services Tax (GST) authorities set out to chart the future roadmap of the indirect tax regime, seven years after its implementation in July 2017, the biggest question in the minds of stakeholders is—can it be simplified further? A less-complex GST structure essentially would imply a reduction in the number of tax slabs, minimal carve outs and exemptions, easier compliance mechanism and rates at a level at which both states and the Centre are able to safeguard their revenue streams.

The trigger for the most recent discussion on the continuing complexity of the GST structure was when D Srinivasan, the Managing Director of Coimbatore's Annapoorna Hotels, cracked a joke about the "absurdity" of GST rates at an industry meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday, which later led to a political storm between the BJP and opposition leaders. "The problem is that GST is applied differently to each item. For example, there is no GST on a bun. If you put cream in it, the GST becomes 18 per cent. Because of this, customers now say they want the bun and the cream separately so that they can apply the cream themselves to save money," he had said.

It's not the first time that the multiplicity of rates under GST have been flagged as an issue. Multiple rates, especially for different parts of the same item, often result in classification disputes. In September 2022, Gujarat's Appellate Authority for Advance



Multiple rates, especially for different parts of the same item, often result in classification disputes. **File**

Ruling (AAAR) made a clear distinction between packed/frozen parathas and rotis and the appellant, Vadilal Industries Ltd, was told that paratha would attract 18 per cent. The chapati, however, attracts only 5 per cent GST. Tax authorities and manufacturers have previously sparred over Marico's Parachute—whether it was hair oil or just coconut oil, fryum—if it's a papad or not, Nestle's KitKat—biscuit or chocolate, and Dabur's Lal Dant Manjan—tooth powder or a medicinal drug.

Then, for some of the items like cosmetics and toiletries such as shampoo and soaps, the rates differed at the time of the GST rollout in 2017. While shampoos and body wash were classified in the 28 per cent tax slab, soaps were at 18 per cent.

At multiple times over the course of the last six years, the GST Council has worked towards clarifying such discrepancies in the rate structure. The rate on sham-

poos, body wash and soaps were later in November 2017 bracketed together in the 18 per cent slab.

In another instance, the GST rate for food and beverages such as popcorn, cold drinks etc sold at cinema halls had to be clarified by the GST Council in July 2023. While some cinema halls were charging a 5 per cent GST rate for food and beverage served at their premises, at par with the 5 per cent tax rate for standalone restaurants, several local bodies and states had raised questions whether these services could be treated the same as restaurant services. The Council discussed the proposal last year and decided that the food or beverages served in a cinema hall is taxable as restaurant service (5 per cent) as long as the food or beverages are supplied by way of or as part of a service, and supplied independent of the cinema exhibition service.

In cases, where the sale of cin-

ema ticket and supply of eatables such as popcorn or cold drinks etc. are clubbed and sold together, then such bundled supply becomes a composite supply, and the entire supply will attract GST at the rate equivalent to the principal supply—movie ticket. Movie tickets up to Rs 100 are charged 12 per cent GST, while tickets priced over Rs 100 attract 18 per cent GST.

Way forward

At a time when the average monthly gross GST collections have stabilised around Rs 1.8 lakh crore with a year-on-year growth rate of 10 per cent, most stakeholders are reluctant to undertake any major change in the rate structure. State and central government officials said it would be mainly a political call rather than an economic call to tweak rates at this point of time. Consumer-centric items, however, are in the focus at the Council.

For example, the contentious proposal of reducing rates on health and life insurance premiums was discussed in the recently held GST Council meeting on September 9. While most members were aligned to reduce the rate on insurance premiums, it was decided to expand the scope of the existing Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation with a time bound mandate to carry out a review. The GoM has been asked to submit a report by October, following which the decision would be taken by the Council in its November meeting.

The other consistent demand to compress the existing tax slabs—0, 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent—into a three- or four-slab structure is also being discussed. Some members of the GoM on rate rationalisation such as West Bengal

and Karnataka in its first meeting held last month had stated the need to maintain status quo with respect to tax slabs. After last week's Council meeting, however, Sitharaman said that restructuring of slabs is also on the discussion table.

Possible solutions

The ideal solution could have been to have a flat rate with no exemptions or carve outs as is the case in many countries such as Singapore and New Zealand. This was raised during the initial discussions at the time of the rate setting exercise before the GST rollout in India but it was viewed to be complicated for a country with a variety of products like India.

Even the then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said that a single rate is a "flawed idea" and then pointed out in June 2018: "Should we have the same rate for food items, hawai chappals and BMW cars?" In December 2018, Jaitley had said that as revenue would rise "significantly", a standard rate between 12 per cent and 18 per cent will be fixed under GST. "The country should eventually have a GST which will have only slabs of zero, 5 per cent and standard rate with luxury and sin goods as an exception," he had said.

There could be other possibilities also to bring in uniformity in the GST rates. Former Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Najib Shah said that merging of rates would be challenging but if there is consensus that it has to be done, then options are many—either it could be merged chapter wise or the rates could be converged.

FULL REPORT ON
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SLUGGISH PRIVATE INVESTMENT

The deposit crunch faced by banks and why that is crimping their ability to lend

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

INDIA IS among the fastest-growing large economies of the world, with this growth largely driven by the central government's elevated expenditure on infrastructure development. While this government capital expenditure has spurred the growth rate, job creation remains a concern with youth unemployment touching 17 per cent, as highlighted by the World Bank. Private investment, measured by private Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), has been subdued, declining to a four-quarter low of 6.46 per cent in Q4FY24, down from 9.7 per cent in the previous quarter.

The Economic Survey 2023-2024 also highlighted that between FY19 and FY23, the share of private non-financial corporations in overall GFCF increased only by 0.8 percentage points from 34.1 per cent to 34.9 per cent. The survey said that the capex has lifted the productive potential of the economy and it is time for the private sector to "take the baton". One key reason for this is the reduced risk appetite from banks for lending to the private sector, which is the economy's largest job creator. In a potentially worrying trend, S&P Global on Thursday forecasted that year-on-year credit growth is set to decline during the current financial year to 14 per cent, compared to 16 per cent in the previous fiscal year.

Widening credit-deposit gap

A healthy credit growth rate is essential to maintain economic momentum, especially in an economy such as India where bank credit is a key component. However, for banks to extend credit, deposits must grow in tandem. But banks are currently experiencing a deposit crunch, which is limiting their ability to extend credit. This has led to a widening gap between bank deposits and credit growth, resulting in the worst deposit crunch in two decades. A treasury research report by HDFC Bank released Thursday highlighted that over the past two years, deposit growth has averaged 11.1 per cent year-on-year, compared to 16.8 per cent credit growth.

The report notes that similar periods of slower deposit growth relative to credit growth were observed during 2018-2019, 2011-2013, and 2004-2007, all of which coincided with central bank rate hike cycles. Current and savings accounts (CASA)—the banks' pri-



mary low-cost funding sources, account for 41 per cent of total deposits, down from 43 per cent last year. Expressing worry over the declining CASA, former Department of Financial Services (DFS) Secretary Vivek Joshi had told the Indian Express in July that CASA should not fall below 40 per cent.

India lagging behind Asian peers

The Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das had, in July, raised concerns over slower deposit mobilisation compared to credit growth stating that as it may create structural liquidity issues. The Governor said that households and consumers, who traditionally rely on banks for parking or investing their savings, are increasingly turning to the capital markets and other financial intermediaries.

A cross-country analysis by HDFC Bank also shows that India had lower credit to GDP for the current per capita income level when compared to other Asian peers such as Thailand, Malaysia, China. The report said that over the medium-term, stricter Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) as suggested in the new draft guidelines could impede credit growth as higher regulatory requirements reduce the amount of lendable deposits.

Meanwhile, S&P Global also said that "regulatory actions to tame unsecured lending" are also slowing credit growth. The RBI recently increased risk weights for unsecured loans which has moderated loan growth in this segment in recent months.

Changing investment habit

The slowdown in deposit growth comes amid an outflow of household savings from banks to capital markets. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian capital markets have seen a meteoric rise.

However, economists say that the shift in households' saving behaviour towards alternative sav-

ing instruments have not alone lowered bank deposits as a move to alternate saving instruments would still imply that the money finds its way into bank deposits.

"A shift in the savings portfolio of a household alone does not lead to a fall in deposits. It does, however, change the composition of deposits—for instance, a shift to CASA from term deposit or a move towards shorter tenure term deposits compared to longer tenure. This in turn could have an adverse impact on the money multiplier and the deposit creation process," HDFC Bank said. The banks' researchers said that low government spending in the run up to the election has also exaggerated the deposit problem in recent months.

Government spending remained low in the run up to the elections over the last few months and this led to an increase in government cash balances with the RBI—that rose to a high of Rs 4.4 lakh crore in January 2024 and was above Rs 4 lakh crore in May 2024.

'Private sector investment cycle is gaining momentum'

S&P Global has said that there are "initial signs" that the private sector investment cycle is gaining momentum. Government investment in infrastructure and the concomitant revival of the housing sector are crowding in private investments in linked sectors such as steel and cement, it said. However, the broad based recovery is yet to happen.

Notably, this is despite the two crucial interventions by the government. The government had cut the tax rates for corporations in September 2019 from 30 per cent to 22 per cent and introduced the Production Linked Investment (PLI) scheme. But as per the 2024-25 Budget document, the share of government revenue from income tax at 19 per cent turned out to be more than 17 per cent that corporates contributed.

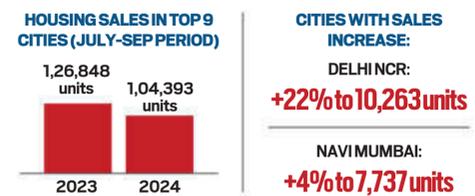
BRIEFLY

OYO to acquire Motel 6 brand for \$525 mn

New Delhi: IPO-bound travel tech platform OYO on Saturday announced it has agreed to acquire iconic American budget hotel chain Motel 6 and Studio 6 brands from Blackstone Real Estate for \$525 million in an all-cash transaction, as the Indian unicorn eyes expansion in the US. Motel 6's franchise network produces gross room revenues of \$1.7 billion, which generates a strong fee base and cash flow for G6. **PTI**

Housing sales expected to decline 18% in July-Sept quarter across major cities

Housing sales are estimated to decline during July-September quarter on high base, as per PropEquity report



"The demand for real estate continues to be robust as even in this quarter the sales are higher than the new launches and such marginal drops in this quarter is a historic trend and not symptomatic of any adverse situation" **Samir Jasuja, CEO & Founder, PropEquity**



| CITIES WITH SALES DECLINE: | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Hyderabad | -42% to 12,082 units |
| Bengaluru | -26% to 13,355 units |
| Kolkata | -23% to 3,590 units |

| CITIES WITH SALES INCREASE: | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Pune | -19% to 21,306 units |
| Chennai | -18% to 4,634 units |
| Mumbai | -17% to 10,966 units |
| Thane | -10% to 20,460 units |

NCLAT rejects tax claim against RCom

New Delhi: The NCLAT has set aside a petition filed by the state tax department claiming dues from Reliance Communications (RCom) observing that it was based on the assessment made after the initiation of insolvency resolution process against the debt-ridden firm. A two-member NCLAT bench upheld the earlier order passed by the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which had rejected the state tax department's second claim of Rs 6.10 crore. **PTI**

India, Korea may upgrade trade pact

Mumbai: India and Korea on Saturday held discussions on upgrading the existing free trade agreement, balancing two-way commerce and promoting investments between the two countries. The issues were discussed during a meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and his Korean counterpart Inkyo Cheong at Vientiane, Laos. **PTI**

Byju's 'borrows' funds to pay salaries in small payments

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

BYJU RAVEENDRAN, co-founder of troubled edtech firm Byju's, assured staff in a letter on Saturday that he had "managed to borrow some funds" and they would receive a small payment as part of their pending salaries by this weekend.

In an email sent to teachers, reviewed by *FE*, Raveendran acknowledged the long-standing delays in salary payments and issued an apology for the financial strain placed on the staff. While part-payments were reportedly made for April and May, the company is yet to disburse full payments for previous months, including February and March.

"I owe you an apology. You have given your best, yet we have not been able to compensate you for your work. This is not right, and for that, I am truly sorry," he wrote in the email. Raveendran described the past three months as "a perfect storm of legal battles, financial uncertainties, and challenges none of us ever expected". He revealed that Byju's is currently navigating an insolvency process, which the company has challenged in court.

Addressing the legal hurdles, Raveendran wrote, "US-based lenders have filed a flimsy case,



staking a claim on our India assets. But they have no entitlement to these assets as per the agreement we signed with them." He added that the trust representing these lenders in India "has no legal standing" and does not represent the majority of the lenders.

Despite expressing confidence in winning the case, Raveendran admitted, "I no longer control the company's bank accounts," which has affected the company's ability to resolve the payment delays promptly.

The founder emphasised the critical role of teachers in Byju's mission, stating, "You are the backbone of Byju's. Without you, there is no company. There are no students. There is no future." A similar email had reportedly been sent in August, where Raveendran promised to clear July's salary, but payment delays have continued as the company navigates the insolvency process. **FE**

Air India refunds fare to Indian-American CEO after his 'worst first-class cabin' video

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

AIR INDIA has issued a full fare refund to Anip Patel, a passenger whose video of the shabby state of the first-class cabin on a Chicago-Delhi flight went viral recently.

In the video, which Patel posted on Instagram earlier this week, he had said that his first class seat in the flight was priced at \$6,300. Patel, founder of a Chicago-based venture capital firm, later wrote in the comments section of the video that Air India reached out to him and refunded the fare.

"I did not file any complaint with @airindia but through social media they saw this video—they called me today and refunded my entire flight...they did make it right and it's worth noting," Patel commented on his Instagram video. The airline has not yet commented on the incident or the refund to Patel.

The video—which showed the cabin in a poor state with damaged interiors, dirty carpets, and broken in-flight entertainment system—clocked over eight million views on Instagram and caused embarrassment to the Tata group carrier, which is in the process of upgrading its fleet and product,



and aims to become a "world class airline". A number of people who commented on the video asked if the airline refunded the fare just because the video had gone viral, and it they do the same for all passengers who go through such an experience. Although Air India has taken on lease a number of newer wide-body aircraft with upgraded cabins and inducted a handful of its own new planes as well, a number of the airline's long-haul and ultra-long-haul flights are still being operated by its old legacy aircraft from the airline's government ownership days. The Boeing 777 operating the Chicago-Delhi flight in this case is one such aircraft.

The airline recently started its \$400-million refit programme to upgrade the cabins of its legacy fleet and spruce up the product. However, this exer-

cise will first see the old narrow-body planes being retrofitted and upgraded first, and the process for the old wide-body jets—40 in number—is expected to start only after a few months. This means that it will be a while before long-haul flights operated by the legacy aircraft will have an upgraded cabin.

In his video, Patel started by saying, "Come with me on the worst first-class cabin I've ever been on." He said that his one-way flight cost \$6,300, and then proceeded to highlight the various issues he faced during the journey. "Look at how gross this is," he said, pointing to the worn and damaged state of the cabin. "There were things moving in every compartment, everything was ripped, or had little wear on it. I understand regular wear and tear, but this was next level."

His frustration extended to the food service. "This was the food menu. It looked very promising, but of course, 30 per cent of its items were not available. They only had one of each item. Four of us were in the entire cabin, and it was basically first come, first served," he said.

Patel was also miffed as the in-flight entertainment system did not work during the 15-hour flight from Chicago to Delhi.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Tata Punch zooming ahead to emerge as highest-selling Indian car this year

VIKRAM CHAUDHARY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE PUNCH is expected to emerge as the highest-selling Indian car in 2024—a first time for Tata, as well as for a non-Maruti Suzuki vehicle.

During January-August, the Punch—a micro-SUV priced from Rs 6.12 lakh-Rs 9.99 lakh—has sold 142,072 units, at a monthly average of 17,759 units, and leads the second-placed Maruti Suzuki Wagon R by a substantial margin of 9,763 units (the Wagon R sold 132,309 units during the period). In the remaining four months of this calendar year, the Wagon R—selling at a monthly average of 16,539 units—is unlikely to catch up with the Punch, despite marginally falling sales of the latter.

The Punch sold 17,978 units in January, 18,438 (February), 17,547 (March), 19,158 (April), 18,949 (May), 18,238 (June), and 16,121 (July).

In August, however, sales dropped 3 per cent month-on-month, to 15,643 units, but these are likely to pick up after Tata launched the updated Punch on Tuesday—when the carmaker revised the petrol engine line-up, increased the number of CNG

variants, and added new features to mid-range and top-end models.

Tata also reduced the price of the top variant by Rs 20,000 (from Rs 10.19 lakh to Rs 9.99 lakh), and announced additional benefits up to Rs 18,000 for a limited period on the Punch.

Sales of the Wagon R have marginally increased in July and August over May and June, but there isn't any novelty factor to boost sales in the remaining part of the year—as its facelift isn't expected anytime soon. This hatchback sold 17,756 units in January, 19,412 (February), 16,368 (March), 17,850 (April), 14,492 (May), 13,790 (June), 16,191 (July), and 16,450 (August).

At the third and fourth positions this year till now are Hyundai Creta (125,446 units sold) and Maruti Suzuki Brezza (124,019 units sold), respectively, but they are too far behind to catch up with the Punch in the remaining four months of the year.

The rest of the top-10 is rounded off by Maruti Suzuki's Ertiga (122,659 units), Baleno (116,315), Dzire (116,085) and Swift (113,870), followed by Mahindra Scorpio (111,350) and Tata Nexon (106,517). **FE**

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

23 ASSAM RIFLES, 22ND SEPTEMBER 2024



The Tagra Teyees family proudly remembers above Bravehearts who in the true traditions of the Assam Rifles made supreme sacrifice while bravely combating terrorism in Udaipur (Tripura) on 22 Sep 1999. May the Almighty grant eternal peace to their soul. Their gallant action will continue to inspire us all.

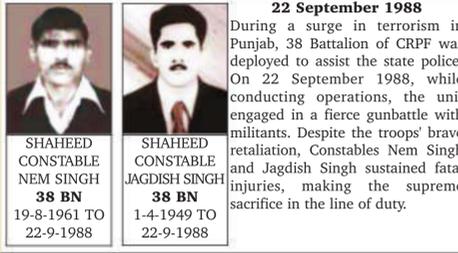
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY COMMANDANT & ALL RANKS 23 ASSAM RIFLES 'TAGRA TEYEEES'

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE



22 SEPTEMBER 1970
On 22 September 1970, a patrol from 8 Battalion of CRPF set out on administrative duty from their camp to Karong. By 0900 hrs, near Bhainsa village on the Nepali Karong upper track, they were ambushed by hostiles who opened heavy fire from all directions. Sub-Inspector M.S. Negi, disregarding his own safety, led Constables Shankar Datt, Kailash Chand, and Jeevan Chand in a brave counterattack to divert the enemy's focus, allowing the rear section to reposition. Head Constable Asha Ram, leading the rear section, joined the fight, and together they repelled the attackers. Despite being critically wounded, Constable Bakhtawar Singh continued to crawl and return fire. The encounter lasted half an hour until reinforcements arrived. Sub Inspector M.S. Negi, Constable Bakhtawar Singh, Head Constable Asha Ram, Constables Kailash Chand, Jeevan Chand, and Shankar Datt made the ultimate sacrifice. Sub Inspector Negi and Constable Bakhtawar Singh were posthumously awarded the President's Police and Fire Services Medal for Gallantry, while the others received the Police Medal for their courage and valor.

22 September 1988
During a surge in terrorism in Punjab, 38 Battalion of CRPF was deployed to assist the state police. On 22 September 1988, while conducting operations, the unit engaged in a fierce gunbattle with militants. Despite the troops' brave retaliation, Constables Nem Singh and Jagdish Singh sustained fatal injuries, making the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.



22 September 1987
Shaheed Constable Ghanshyam Pathak of 36 Battalion of CRPF was deployed in Jehanabad, Bihar. On 22 September 1987, while deployed on law and order duty, Constable Pathak was grievously wounded during a confrontation between groups in the crowd. Despite all efforts, he succumbed to his injuries, laying down his life in the highest traditions of the Force.



यूनियन बैंक Union Bank

Regional Office, Patna
1st Floor, Nasheman Bhawan, Mazahrul Haque Path, Patna - 800001
BRANCH PREMISES (INCLUDING ATM) REQUIRED ON LEASE
Bank requires a well-constructed commercial premises admeasuring 1200 sq.ft. ± 10% carpet area in ready possession / under construction at Kurtha, Block-Kurtha, Dist-Arwal, Bihar preferably on ground floor with parking on two bid system (Technical Bid & Financial Bid). For further details, please visit Bank's website www.unionbankofindia.co.in/e-Procurement portal www.eprocure.gov.in. The bids in prescribed format to be submitted at Regional office at the above address latest by **07.10.2024 upto 4:00 PM**. The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.
Deputy General Manager

PUNYASHLOK AHILYADEVI HOLKAR SOLAPUR UNIVERSITY, SOLAPUR

E-Tender Notice No. 234
Sealed open e-tenders in C-1 form are invited by the University, from the reputed leading lift manufacturing agencies having turn-over not less than 30 Crores with separately quoting yearly maintenance cost for five numbers 15 passenger lifts and one number 10 passenger lift having total estimated cost of Rs. 97 Lacs+ GST. The details of tenders are available on e-tendering module on Government of Maharashtra: <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from 18.09.2024 to 09.10.2024. The tenders can download the entire tender documents from website. The last date of submission of E-tender documents duly filled in shall be received from 18.10.2024 to 25.10.2024 upto 17:00 pm and envelope No.1 will be opened on the 28.10.2024. For further details please see detailed tender notice on <https://mahatenders.gov.in>, <https://sus.ac.in> websites. Conditional tenders will not be accepted. The University reserves the right to accept or reject the lowest or any other tender or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Ref.PAHUS/Engg/2024/234 Date: 18/09/2024 Registrar

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

Very Short E-Procurement Notice
E-tender Reference No.: RCD/CHAIBASA/2024-25/07Date : 20.09.2024

| | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1. | Name of Work | Ordinary Repair/Traffic Restoration work of Asura (PWD) Road to Kumardungji via Balandia Road MDR(183) in 12P,13P,14P,15P,16P,17P,18P,19P, 20P,21P,22P,23P,24P and 25P under Road Division, Chaibasa for the year 2024-25. |
| 2. | Estimated Cost (Rs.) | ₹ 1,96,00,000.00 (One Crore Ninety Six Lacs) Only. |
| 3. | Time of Completion | 03 (Three) Months |
| 4. | Date of Publication of Tender On Website | 23.09.2024 at 11.30 AM |
| 5. | Last date/Time for receipt of bids. | 30.09.2024 Up to 3.00 P.M. |
| 6. | Last date/Time of receipt of cost of bidding document and Bid Security | 01.10.2024 Up to 12.00 P.M. |
| 7. | Date of Opening of Bid | 01.10.2024 at 3:30 P.M. |
| 8. | Name & address of office Inviting tender | Office of the Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Chaibasa |
| 9. | Contact no. of Procurement Officer | 7781899686 |
| 10. | Authority to Open the Bid | E-Procurement Officer, Office of the Chief Engineer(Corr), RCD, Jharkhand. |
| 11. | Helpline number of e-Procurement cell | 0651-3510880 |

* Quoted rate above Schedule rate will be Outright Rejected.
* Estimated value me be increase or decrease.
* Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtender.gov.in>
Executive Engineer
PR 336428 West Singhbhum(24-25)#D RCD, Road Division, Chaibasa.

South Bihar Power Distribution Co. Ltd, Patna Bihar
Registered Office: Viduyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-21

A Govt. of Bihar undertaking
CIN No. U40109BR2012SGC018890
(Department of Stores & Purchase)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. 70/PR/SBPDC/2024
(Through e-procurement mode only - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

South Bihar Power Distribution Co. Ltd. (SBPDC), a Government of Bihar Undertaking, invites online tender for procurement of Solid Press Board of various thickness for SBPDC & NBPDC in Two-tier (Techno-Commercial & Price) online bid from eligible and experienced Original Manufacturer/ authorized dealer of same material of reputed manufacturer as detailed below:-

| S. N. | Name of material | Unit | SBPDC Quantity | NBPDC Quantity | Cost of tender Document including GST@18%, Rs | Total Estimated Cost including GST@12%,Rs | Earnest Money Deposit, Rs. |
|-------|------------------|------|----------------|----------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1. | Press Board 1 mm | Kg | 9,000 | 10,000 | 11,800/- | 41,43,150/- | 82,863/- |
| 2. | Press Board 2 mm | Kg | 6,000 | Nil | | | |
| 3. | Press Board 3 mm | Kg | 6,000 | Nil | | | |
| Total | | | Kg | 21,000 | 10,000 | | |

The Time line for the above tender is as follows:
Last Date of Online Submission of bid along with Tender Cost & processing fees: 16.10.2024, up to 18:00 Hrs
Last Date of submission of EMD and hard copy of receipt of BSEDCL processing fee & tender cost: 17.10.2024, up to 15:00 Hrs
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial bid(Part-I): 17.10.2024, after 17:00 Hrs
Date of Pre Bid Meeting: 07.10.2024, at 11:00 Hrs; Venue: SBPDC, Viduyt Bhawan, Patna

For further details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar
PR-008672 (B & C) 2024-25 **Electrical Superintending Engineer (Purchase)**
नरो की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

South Bihar Power Distribution Co. Ltd, Patna Bihar
Registered Office: Viduyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-21

A Govt. of Bihar undertaking
CIN No. U40109BR2012SGC018890
(Department of Stores & Purchase)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. 71/PR/SBPDC/2024
(Through e-procurement mode only - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

South Bihar Power Distribution Co. Ltd. (SBPDC), a Government of Bihar Undertaking, invites online tender for procurement of Solid Pre-Compressed Board of various thickness for SBPDC & NBPDC in Two-tier (Techno-Commercial & Price) online bid from eligible and experienced Original Manufacturer/ authorized dealer of same material of reputed manufacturer as detailed below:-

| S. N. | Name of material | Quantity of SBPDC (in Kg) | Quantity of NBPDC (in Kg) | Cost of tender Document including GST@18%, Rs | Total Estimated Cost including GST@12%,Rs | Earnest Money Deposit, Rs. |
|-------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1. | Solid Pre-Compressed Board of thickness 1 mm | 2900 | 1120 | 11,800/- | 29,41,120/- | 58,823/- |
| 2. | Solid Pre-Compressed Board of thickness 1.5 mm | Nil | 1620 | | | |
| 3. | Solid Pre-Compressed Board of thickness 2 mm | 2200 | Nil | | | |
| 4. | Solid Pre-Compressed Board of thickness 3 mm | 3450 | 1840 | | | |
| Total | | 8550 | 4580 | | | |

The Time line for the above tender is as follows:
Last Date of Online Submission of bid along with Tender Cost & processing fees: 16.10.2024, up to 18:00 Hrs
Last Date of submission of EMD and hard copy of receipt of BSEDCL processing fee & tender cost: 17.10.2024, up to 15:00 Hrs
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial bid(Part-I): 17.10.2024, after 17:00 Hrs
Date of Pre Bid Meeting: 07.10.2024, at 11:00 Hrs; Venue: SBPDC, Viduyt Bhawan, Patna

For further details please visit: www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar **Electrical Superintending Engineer (Purchase)**
PR-008666 (B & C) 2024-25
नरो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH
DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (PHASE-II)
REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
(TWO-ENVELOPE BIDDING PROCESS WITH E-PROCUREMENT)
NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT

Name of Project: DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (PHASE-II)
Contract Title: Rehabilitation and Improvement of Sirsi Dam (Mechanical Works) Under DRIP-II in Mirzapur District of Uttar Pradesh
Credit No.: 91810-IN
RFB Reference No.: IN-UP SPMU-423006-CW-RFB

1. The Government of India has received for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE-II (DRIP-II). Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward eligible payments under the contract for construction of works as detailed below.

2. Bidding will be conducted through national open competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016, Revised August 2018, November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

3. Bidders from India should, however, be registered with the Government of Uttar Pradesh or other State Governments/Government of India, or State/Central Government Undertakings. Bidders from India, who are not registered as above, on the date of bidding, can also participate provided they get themselves registered by the time of contract signing, if they become successful bidders.

4. THE OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, IWC-1 KANPUR now invites online Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction of works detailed below in the table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the works indicated therein. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address given below during office hours. Bidders are advised to note the clauses on eligibility (Section I Clause 4) and minimum qualification criteria (Section III-Evaluation and Qualification Criteria), to qualify for the award of the contract. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15 of the "Procurement Regulations" setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

5. The bidding document is available online on <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 30.09.2024 to 11.11.2024 for a non-refundable fee as indicated in the table below. Bidders will be required to register on the website. The bidders would be responsible for ensuring that any addenda available on the website is also downloaded and incorporated.

6. For submission of the bid, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the Certifying Authorities authorised by Government of India for issuing DSC. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement in this Project, may obtain the same from the website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> A non-refundable fee of Rs. 2360 (inclusive of tax) is required to be paid. The mode of payment shall be in the form of online through e-tender portal only. All concerned please note that bidding process will not move forward if the bid documents cost (tender fee) is not paid through e-tender portal.

7. Bids comprise two Parts, namely the Technical Part and the Financial Part, and both parts must be submitted simultaneously online on <http://etender.up.nic.in> on or before 15.00 hours on 11.11.2024 and the "Technical Part" of the bids will be publicly opened online on the same day at 15.30 hours, in the presence of the bidder's designated representatives who wish to attend. The "Financial Part" shall remain unopened in the e-procurement system until the second public Bid opening for the financial part. Any bid or modifications to bid (including discount) received outside e-procurement system will not be considered. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids.

8. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security (or "Bid-Securing Declaration," as appropriate) of the amount specified for the work in the table below, drawn in favour of **Executive Engineer WED, KANPUR**. Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid. Procedure for submission of bid security is described in Para 9.

9. The bidders are required to submit (a) original payment documents towards the cost of bid document; and registration on e-procurement website (if applicable); (b) original bid security or Bid-Securing Declaration in approved form; and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document with SUPERINTENDINGENGINEER, IWC-1 KANPUR before the bid submission deadline, either by registered post/speed post/courier or by hand, failing which the bids may be declared non-responsive and will not be opened.

10. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 11.10.2024 at 11:00 hours at the office of SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, IWC-1 KANPUR to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in ITB Clause 7.4 of "Instructions to Bidders" of the bidding document. Bidders are advised to download the bidding document prior to the pre-bid meeting in order for bidders to have a good understanding of the scope of work under this contract for discussion and clarification at the pre-bid meeting.

11. Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to this bid.

12. The address for communication is as under:
Office of Superintending Engineer
Kanhya Prasad
Irrigation workshop circle-1 cantt. Kanpur (UP) 208004
Email : seworkshopidupkn-up@nic.in, Website: idup.gov.in

| Package No | Name of Work | Bid Security (Rs.) | Cost of Document (Rs.) | Period of Completion |
|------------|---|--------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Rehabilitation and Improvement of Sirsi Dam (Mechanical Work) in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh under DRIP-II | 1,20,000/- | INR 2000 + 360 (incl. 18% GST) = INR 2360.00 | 12 months (including rainy season) |

UPID-219726 Dt. 20.09.2024
www.upidadv.gov.in **Superintending Engineer, IWC-1 KANPUR**

GEM- अल्पकालीन निविदा/विज्ञप्ति
पुलिस प्रशिक्षण महाविद्यालय, मुरादाबाद द्वारा 330 वीडियो कैमरा क्रय किये जाने हेतु जेम (GEM) पोर्टल पर बिड संख्या-GEM/2024/B/5412273 दिनांक 18-09-2024 को अपलोड (प्रकाशित) की गयी है। इच्छुक सेवा प्रदाताओं से दिनांक 28-09-2024 को समय 18.00 बजे तक जेम निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। जेम निविदा हेतु निम्न एवं शर्तें जेम पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है।
(अमित चन्द्रा)
अपर पुलिस महानिदेशक,
पुलिस प्रशिक्षण महाविद्यालय मुरादाबाद।
UPID-219664 Date- 20/09/2024
www.upidadv.gov.in

Govt. of Bihar
Office of the Principal
Government Polytechnic, Asthawan, Nalanda
E-mail ID - gp.nalanda@gmail.com, Website- www.gpasthawannalanda.org.in
Advt. NO. - 09/2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
(Through e-procurement mode only - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
Notice Inviting Tender for Machines and Equipments for Consultancy works for Civil Engineering Work.
Government Polytechnic, Asthawan, Nalanda has been constituted under the Department of Science, Technology and Technical Education, Government of Bihar to cater to the needs of technical education. The Government Polytechnic, Asthawan, Nalanda intended to invite bids from eligible entities for "Machines and Equipment for Consultancy works for Civil Engineering Work" in the institute Premises as mentioned in the tender document.
Bidder may download the tender documents (NIT No- 06/2024-25) available on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in from 23/09/2024 and submit the tender by using the downloaded document, on or before 16/10/2024. Least Cost Selection (LCS) method will be adopted for each group of Machines and Equipment for Consultancy works for Civil Engineering work. Tenderer may bid for any one or all three group. The tender shall be accompanied by Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs. 1,00,000.00/- (Rupees One Lac only) and the Cost of Tender document is Rs. 2500.00 (Rupees Two thousand five hundred only) respectively in the shape of Demand Draft from any Schedule Bank in favour of Principal, Government Polytechnic, Asthawan, Nalanda should reach to address- Principal, Government Polytechnic, Asthawan; PO+PS- Asthawan; Dist- Nalanda; Bihar, PIN-803107 on or before 16/10/2024, 05.00 PM through Speed Post/ Registered Post only. The bidders shall submit their eligibility and qualification details, certificates as mentioned in the tender document, in the online standard formats given in www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in at the respective stage(s) only. Last date of submission of Bid is 16/10/2024 upto 05:00 PM.
The technical and financial bids must be submitted through www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in before the date and time specified in the tender document, the processing fee may be applicable as per www.eproc2.bih.gov.in. The Government Polytechnic, Asthawan, Nalanda doesn't take any responsibility for the delay /Non- Submission of Tender/Non-Reconciliation of online Payment caused due to Non-availability of Internet Connection, Network Traffic/Holidays or any other reason.
Note:- Interested bidders may obtain further information about this Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from the office of Principal, Government Polytechnic, Asthawan, Nalanda. No tender will be accepted after closing date and time in any circumstances.
For further details please visit: <https://www.gpasthawannalanda.org.in>
For further details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar
Principal
PR- 008646 (Sci & Tech) 2024-25
Government Polytechnic, Asthawan, Nalanda
नरो की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD
Important Notice regarding Walk-in-Interview for various posts of Program Management Unit (PMU) of Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB)
The Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB) had advertised various posts of its Program Management Unit (PMU) through Notice Nos. - PR 300/2024 & PR 308/2024 issued in various Newspapers. It was notified in the Advertisement that Walk-in-Interview for various posts such as Chief Project Manager, Project Manager Strategy & Implementation, Project Manager IT, Project Manager Secondary Examinations, Project Manager Sr. Sec. Examinations, Project Manager Miscellaneous Examinations, Project Manager Accounts & Finance, IT Applications & Data Centre Expert and Data Security Expert will be conducted on 28.09.2024 and shortlisted candidates will be notified via SMS/WhatsApp/E-mail on or before 5:00 PM, 21 September 2024.
2. It is hereby notified that the Walk-in-Interview scheduled on 28.09.2024 is postponed till further Notice. Accordingly all shortlisted candidates will be notified about fresh Date of Walk-in-Interview in due course through-(1) E-mail (2) Website (3) Newspaper, and (4) SMS.
Advertisement No. - PR 338/2024 **Secretary**

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह
ई- अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई- अति अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना सं- RDD/SD/GIRIDIH/20/2024-25
1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

| क्र० सं० | कार्य का नाम | प्राककलित राशि | अग्रघन की राशि | परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य | कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि |
|----------|--|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | गिरिडीह जिला के पीरटांड प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत पंचायत मंडरो के ग्राम गोंयचोका एवं चिरुडीह के बीच नदी में पुल निर्माण कार्य। (पुल की लंबाई-44.72 मीटर) | 24078500.00 | 481000.00 | 10000.00 | 15 माह |
| 2 | गिरिडीह जिला के पीरटांड प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत कुडको पंचायत के ग्राम कुडको टोला बड़कीटोड बीरगंड़ी में कुडको नदी पर पुल निर्माण कार्य। (पुल की लंबाई-44.72 मीटर) | 24230200.00 | 485000.00 | 10000.00 | 15 माह |

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 23.09.2024
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय - दिनांक 23.09.2024 से दिनांक 28.09.2024 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने का स्थान - कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 30.09.2024 अपराह्न 12:30 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता - कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह।
7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं- 9431323435 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. निविदा विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुतातन जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पढ़ देखा जा सकता है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
गिरिडीह।
PR 336595 Rural Work Department(24-25)D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह
ई- अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई- अति अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना सं- RDD/SD/GIRIDIH/17/2024-25
1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

| क्र० सं० | कार्य का नाम | प्राककलित राशि | अग्रघन की राशि | परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य | कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि |
|----------|---|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | गिरिडीह जिला के प्रखण्ड जमुआ के मेड़ोतरिया एवं चनमनो के बीच झारो नदी पुल का निर्माण। (पुल की लंबाई-58.08 मीटर) | 33740500.00 | 675000.00 | 10000.00 | 18 माह |
| 2 | गिरिडीह जिला के प्रखण्ड सरिया के पंचायत मोकामो के जोमिया नाला पर पुल निर्माण। (पुल की लंबाई-25.36 मीटर) | 20661800.00 | 413500.00 | 10000.00 | 15 माह |
| 3 | गिरिडीह जिला के गांधेय प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत पंचायत कारीबांक ग्राम भलुआ एवं टोला लोहरिया के बीच नदी पर पुल निर्माण। (पुल की लंबाई-44.72 मीटर) | 26805000.00 | 536500.00 | 10000.00 | 18 माह |

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 21.09.2024
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय - दिनांक 21.09.2024 से दिनांक 27.09.2024 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने का स्थान - कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 28.09.2024 अपराह्न 05:30 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता - कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह।
7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं- 9431323435 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुतातन जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पढ़ देखा जा सकता है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
गिरिडीह।
PR 336474 Rural Development(24-25)#D

BRIDGE

Dealer: South Vulnerable: North/South

WEST
♠ 8654
♥ AKQJ10
♦ 432
♣ 3

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
TNT
pass 3NT pass pass
pass

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?

A heart. Wise choice. You lead hearts and more hearts and more hearts and in time you run out of them. Down one. You are happy with this result and are about to toss the hand in but you sense there is still some tension in the air.

It is possible that South does not have the rest of the tricks. Perhaps your partner has an ace. That would be nice. But how are you to tell now? Admit this. Have you ever been so pleased with what you are doing that you did not pay any attention to what others are doing? If so, then you might be willing to admit that you have no idea what your partner played on your hearts.

The North hand: S-KQJH-872 D-65C-AJ1042
The East hand: S-A32H-43D-1087C-98765
The South hand: S-1097H-965D-AKQJ109 C-KQ

You can see all four hands now. East has an ace. The ace of spades. You can also see that if you do not take it, South has the rest of the tricks. (He managed to keep eight tricks just in case you did not lead a spade.) If you fall to lead a spade, can you stand to hear East say that he signalled for a spade lead?

Dealer: South Vulnerable: North/South

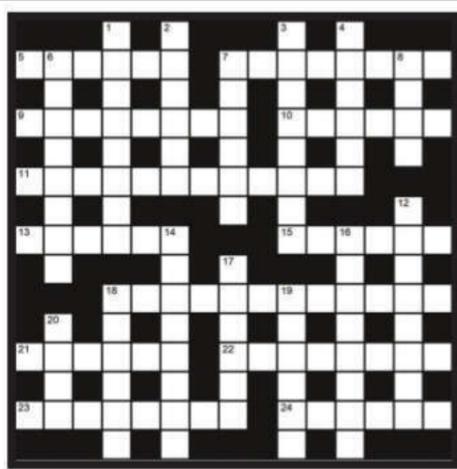
WEST
♠ 64
♥ 64
♦ 109863
♣ KJ87

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
pass 2H pass 2S
pass 4H pass 4H

South opens with 1H and North goes to 2D. South rebids 2S and when the bidding is over, you discover that 2S shows about sixteen points. If opener had a minimum opener, he would just rebid his hearts. North raises to 3H, a forcing bid, and South goes on to game. If you just listened to the bidding and did not look at your hand, what suit would you expect to lead?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2496

- QUICK CLUES ACROSS**
- Spain's peninsula (6)
 - Public (8)
 - From the beginning (8)
 - Elaborate (6)
 - New state carved out of M.P. (12)
 - J.K. Rowling's Harry ____ (6)
 - Nervously (6)
 - Abuse, harm or injury (3-9)
 - Equipment (6)
 - Empty language (8)
 - Arctic animal (8)
 - Pressed (6)



- Down**
- Do business (8)
 - No longer capable (4,2)
 - Sacrifice (8)
 - Put out or satisfy a thirst (6)
 - Infancy (8)
 - Select (6)
 - Regarding (2,2)
 - Stretch (8)
 - Gave comfort (8)
 - Initiative (8)
 - Provision merchant (6)
 - Disgusting, boring or annoying (6)
 - Morocco seaport (6)
 - Contributed (4)

- food containers (8)
- Set back after an instrument breaks (8)
- How decomposition consumed in a roundabout manner (6)

- The shade of a short plural in a pure setting (6)
- Doubtless one wouldn't be (6)
- I put up with what sort of Amazonian language? (4)

- CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS**
- Lively turn I've put on (6)
 - Quite a lot, or some, of the curate's office? (4,4)
 - Drunken cur's swallowed beer, becoming the dog from hell (8)
 - Skirt around a hundred deceptions (6)
 - Something warm to put on and get after the feller (6-6)
 - Traced a difference in making up the package (6)
 - Doing so satisfactorily, thank you (6)
 - Panting cyclists (5-7)
 - Chafe, losing half of riches with the introduction of the Statute (6)
 - Goes and bans new animal

- DOWN**
- Two adjacent pieces in a gradual sequence (3,2,3)
 - The listener has her listening device inside (6)
 - Asking to exchange some leather (8)
 - Upset about love being indulged (6)
 - Draughts, we hear, in Tony's place in the country (8)
 - A good man plugs the hole. That'll restrict the flow (3,3)
 - Progressive route (4)
 - Surely sounds like one making points? (3,5)
 - Inscribe ice (dated wrongly) (8)
 - Lives with escort's middle conventions (8)
 - Puts down some wood (6)

Solutions to 2495

QUICK CLUES ACROSS: 1 Cycle, 4 Bystander, 9 Amazing, 10 Guffaws, 11 Hitch, 13 Yokel, 15 Ian, 16 CCC, 17 Acorn, 19 Begum, 21 Ached, 23 Casks, 24 Pal, 25 Fir, 26 Speed, 28 Nacho, 29 Cottons, 31 Uranium, 33 Procedure, 34 Jihad. **DOWN:** 1 Cha-cha, 2 Chaotic, 3 Epi, 4 Buggy, 5 Sag, 6 Awful, 7 Drawing, 8 Risen, 12 Heard, 14 Kinds, 18 Oncue, 19 Boson, 20 Malformed, 22 Horatio, 24 Peckish, 25 FA Cup, 26 Spike, 27 Deuce, 30 Sou, 32 Asphyxiated. **CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS:** 1 Bayou, 4 Jack-Sprat, 9 Ballots, 10 Alooify, 11 Lulls, 13 Nidus, 15 Tun, 16 Gag, 17 Value, 19 Garbs, 21 Maker, 23 Bushy, 24 Pro, 25 Bin, 26 Wryly, 28 Drunk, 29 Nothing, 31 Calypso, 33 Octahedra, 34 Ghent Down: 1 Bubble-gum, 2 Yule log, 3 Uno, 4 Jason, 5 CIA, 6 Swats, 7 Refuter, 8 Try-on, 12 Saver, 14 Dress, 18 Lobby, 19 Guyed, 20 Stockpot, 22 King Tut, 24 Plum pie, 25 Banjo, 26 Which, 27 Yucca, 30 God, 32 Log

If it's your Birthday

Sunday September 22
Your imagination is on top form, and you may be motivated by your fantasies rather than by the facts. The secret is not to expect too much.

Monday September 23
You're facing a positive period over the next few months. Personal, professional and domestic issues will all be thrown into the melting-pot.

Tuesday September 24
It's decision time. Which way will you jump? Will you choose to stay in the past or make a move into the future? You might get the best of everything.

Wednesday September 25
In partnership matters there is one great moral: look, listen and learn. Other people, whether lovers, friends or very close working colleagues may teach you.

Thursday September 26
You'll be bombarding friends with your many ideas. You're eager to find out the facts and to figure out how and why you've arrived at your current situation. You'll be happy in company.

Friday September 27
Distant horizons beckon. There's a sense that a new dawn is about to break. Just when and how, you can't say, but things are looking up.

Saturday September 28
Helpful stars shine your way. You'll be in for an easier time than many people, so count your blessings. Yet the fact that work and domestic chores may be causing irritation will bind you up.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
The Sun moves on before long, leaving you to stand on your own two feet once again. You're entering a tricky financial phase and will have to face up to a number of awkward choices. Also, it may be time to abandon a commitment.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Mercury, planet of ideas, renews its connection with intense, passionate Pluto, and you could be heading for an intense confrontation. You will have to speak the plain truth, although please pick your words with care and kindness.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Something may happen behind the scenes to change your plans and ideas. Whatever takes place will almost certainly involve your work or whatever other routine chores are pre-occupying you at the moment. Romantic hopes are reinforced by Venus.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The relationship between Mercury and Mars is bound to awaken ideas of social adventure, you'll be on the look-out for new friends and anxious to put former associates in their place. Additional attention is required to all travel plans.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
The Moon issues emotional challenges from Wednesday to Thursday, so these should be the perfect days to apply a little of your cheery Leoline medicine to a close partnership. Only you can do this, so why don't you organise a break from domestic routine and plan something special.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Legal matters seem to have some role to play in your life over the next three weeks. Is it possible that you have embroiled yourself in a bureaucratic muddle? One thing is certain, and that is if you stick to your guns and do what you know to be right, you won't go far wrong. And you might also win some additional respect from the people who matter.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Shopping, saving and investments all occupy your attention. Money matters can only increase in importance as the week passes, but don't expect a quick and easy answer. You will come to realise that you have the chance to set your finances anew.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
It may be more difficult than usual for you to imagine that a close partner can possibly be right, so deep is your belief in your own infallibility. However, any astrologer, on seeing the current planetary picture, would advise you to compromise and bend to circumstances.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
Many freedom-loving Sagittarians are now starting to resemble determined, obstinate and emotional Scorpios. In fact, your behaviour, especially a tendency to secrecy in important matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
The week begins with the Moon powerfully positioned in relation to your sign, so family affairs will probably keep you on your toes. As the days go by, you will see that money lies at the root of all disagreements.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Recent developments in the sectors of your chart associated with relations, children and romance seem bound to work out for the best in the long run, even if you have been rather disconcerted by a number of statements or events. Thursday, when the Moon takes a more maternal role probably.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
The stars are urging self-improvement. This is a special week for all of you pursuing educational goals or working in the travel and communications industry. If there is any way to get other people to see that you really do mean business, then get on with it. Maybe don't be so laid back.

JUMBLERD 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.

Cure for an ____ get another one. - Mason Cooley (9)

NZEOO EGIIONS
EGUIS TABLAS

SOLUTION: NZEON; EGIIONS; EGUISE; TABLAS
Answer: Cure for an obsession: get another one. - Mason Cooley

SUDOKU 5721

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5720

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 6 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 |
| 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 4 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| 5 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 |

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM
No. DY/CE (CY) SIDH/TN/PUB/cancel. Date: 20.09.2024.
Name of Work:- Earth work in Embankment/cutting including Blanking, Construction of Minor Bridges (Box bridges/PSC Slab) including RUB/LHS, Canal Crossings and other miscellaneous works in Bahari-Deosar section From km 122.300 to 144.300 excluding tunnel Portion (from Km 122.300 to km 123.400; from km 124.400 to km 127.550 & from km 130.200 to km 134.250), major Br. portion (from km 134.250 to km 134.500, from km 135.450 to km 135.750 & from km 142.360 to km 142.630) and important Br. Portion (from km 123.400 to 124.400; from km 127.550 to 128.200 & from km 136.100 to km 138.900) in connection with Sidhi-Singrauli New BG Rail line project. This tender is Cancelled due to administrative reasons.
Deputy Chief Engineer (Cons.), WCR, Sidhi

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), Transmission Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-04.

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

| 'e'-Tender Nos. & Date | Name of Work | Ranging (approx.) | Bid document download start date |
|--|--|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| e-Tender Notification No. EP-43/CGM (EY) TC/T/O&M Div-VIII/MoM-WTP-Ph-II/2024-25, dt: 21-09-2024 | MoM of Ph-II 150 MLD WTP at Peddapur for the period of 1 year under O&M Dn-VIII, Patancheru. | Rs. 197.95 lakhs | 23-09-2024 @ 11.30 AM |
| eTender Notice EP.No.44/CGM(EY)TC/T/O&M Div-VIII/2024-25, dt: 21-09-2024 | MoM for arresting heavy leakages with requisite materials and appurtenances at different locations on 900. 1500mm dia transmission lines of Ph-I from P'cheru to L'pally, Ph-II from P'cheru to H'nagar under O&M Div VIII, Patancheru for the period of 1 year. | Rs. 127.37 lakhs | 23-09-2024 @ 11.30 AM |

The Tenderers are requested to upload the information on the Zip format preferably. Further details can be seen on www.eprocurement.gov.in.
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), Transmission Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-04.

UJVN Ltd.
(An Uttarakhnad Govt. Enterprises)
H.O. "UJVNL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone-0135-2763808 Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

RO No. 838 Date: 21.09.2024

TENDER NOTICE
Office of Executive Engineer (Maint.), Khodri Power House, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below
Tender No. -12/EE(Maint.)/Khodri/2024-25.
Name of work: Hiring of Vehicle (Mahindra Bolero/TUV 300/Eq.) with driver for round 'O' Clock Emergency duty at Khodri Power Station.
Estimated cost (In Lakh): Rs. 6.48 (GST extra)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 23.09.2024, 10:00 hrs.
Last date for submission of tender: 14.10.2024, 16:00 hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender document can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com".
Executive Engineer (Maint.), Khodri Power Station
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

GREATER WARANGAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No. SE/GWMC/CTN 08/e-procurement/2024-25, Dated: 21-09-2024
Fresh Works: (1) CC Road at Ramnagar Sump House, Nakkalagutta - Costing Rs. 60.00 Lakhs. Start & Last date of receipt of bids: 23-09-2024 at 05:00 PM Onwards & 30-09-2024 upto 04:00 PM. (2) RFP for Construction of waste to compressed biogas project in the premises sanitation resource park at Rampur in GWMC (Recall). Prebid Meeting on 25-09-2024 at 03:00 pm in O/o. GWMC. Last Date for receipt of Queries: 25-09-2024 upto 05:00 pm. Response to Queries: 28-09-2024 at 05:00 pm. Bid Submission start Date: 28-09-2024 from 05:00 pm onwards. Bid Submission closing Date: 02-10-2024 upto 4:00 pm. NOTE: Further details can be seen @ "e" procurement marketplace @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in.
Sd/- Commissioner
DIPR No. 419-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25, Dt: 21-09-2024
Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation

Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation
Public Health Engineering Department
Tender Notice No. NMMC/ACE(Civil)/15/2024-2025
Name of work :- System Improvements and Augmentation to Scada - Automation for Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation Water Supply Scheme under AMRUT 2.0.
Estimated Cost :- Rs. 111,99,81,856/-
For further details and information required in respect of above Tender, please visit to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.
Additional City Engineer (Civil)
Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation
NMMC PR Adv no.431/24

GUJARAT MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)
Regd. Office : Block No. 14/1, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector-10, Gandhinagar
☎ 079-23250767, 23250766, 23257698

TENDER NOTICE: GMSCL/D-09/2024-25

Tenders are invited online from reputed Manufacturers/formulators /Direct Importers for Emergency Purchase of Tablet, Capsule, Injection, Miscellaneous Items on rate contract basis and details of specification, quantity is available on <https://gmscl.gujarat.gov.in> All tender documents can be downloaded free on the website: <https://tender.nprocure.com> Interested bidders are requested to submit the tender through e-tender process.

Duration of Downloading of tender document (online) :- 21/09/2024 to 14/10/2024 up to 18.00 Hrs.
Last date for Submission (online): 14/10/2024 upto 18-00 HRS.
Last date for Submission of EMD/Tender Fee: 15/10/2024 upto 18-00 HRS
Opening of Technical Bid Date (online): 16/10/2024 At 15-00 HRS.

Pre-Consultation meeting (Pre-Bid)
Interested Manufacturers / formulators / Direct Importers are requested to remain present for pre-Consultation meeting to be held on 07/08/2024 (Sr no 1 to 218) & 08/08/2024 (Sr no 219 to 343) at 11.30 am at Committee room at above mentioned address. Only one representative from eah Manufacturer carrying authority letter would be allowed to participate in the pre-bid.

INF-1081/2024-25 MANAGING DIRECTOR

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा
ई-अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई-अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा संख्या :- 12/RI/2024-25/RWD/JAMTARA दिनांक-20.09.2024
कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

| क्र०सं० | आईडेंटिफिकेशन संख्या | कार्य का नाम | प्राककलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में | कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि / अवधि | |
|---------|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | RWD/JAMTARA/39/RI/2024-25 | दखिनोडीह मोड से कमलपुर चौक तक एक निर्माण कार्य - 2.720 कि०मी० (प्रखंड- नारायणपुर) | 26628000.00 | दो करोड़ छियासठ लाख अवाइस हजार मात्र | 15 माह |

2. बेवसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि : 24.09.2024
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 01.10.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय: 04.10.2024 अपराह्न 3:30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा, ब्लॉक-सी, प्रथम तल्ला, कर्बाईड बिल्डिंग, जामताड़ा, पिन-815351
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये बेवसाइट jarkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रा०का०वि०, कार्य प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा
PR 336502 (Rural Work Department) 24-25 (D)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)-I, North Western Railway, Jodhpur through for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders (Open Tender - Two packet system), for the following work:- **Tender No.:** T.No./J/Const./T-02-2024-25-PSS. **Name of work with its location:** Project Supervision Services (PSS) of various works like Earthwork, Minor/Major/important Bridges, Blanketing, ballasting, Station Buildings, Platforms, FOBs, Platform Shelters, Other Buildings, S&T Structures, Staff and Passenger Amenity, all P&W linking works and any other ancillary works from Km.656.510 to Km. 705.040 (48.53 Kms.) of Luni - Samdari section and from Km. 0.00 to Km.223.44 (223.44 Kms.) of Samdari - Bhildi section in c/w Luni - Samdari Bhildi section in c/w Luni - Samdari Bhildi (Total 271.97 Kms.) Double Line Project on Jodhpur Division of North Western Railway. **Approx. cost of work:** Rs. 10,92,65,088.00, **Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs. 6,96,300.00, **Pre-Bid Conference date:** 27.09.2024 at 15.30 hrs., **Tender Closing date & time:** 18.10.2024 upto 15.00 hrs, **Detail of particular, where e-tender can be seen & filed up:** www.ireps.gov.in, **Official email address:** dycjcu@nwr.railnet.gov.in, 1090-PS/24

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR ALLOTMENT OF SHOPS SANTUSHTI SHOPPING COMPLEX NEW DELHI

1. Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station New Delhi, invites sealed application from resident Indian nationals for allotment of shops at Santushti Shopping Complex, Tejas Camp, Lok Kalyan Marg, New Delhi-110003 as per following details:

| Shop No | Area (Sq ft) | Trade allocated to operate |
|---------|--------------|---|
| 05 | 776 | Ice Cream Parlour/Coffee Shop/Confectionaries |
| 22 | 275 | Designer Boutique/Artefacts |
| 32 | 604 | Men's branded readymade garments outlet/ Branded sports gear outlet |
| 35 | 395 | Handicrafts/Designer Boutique/Home Décor |

2. The period of allotment will be three years as per provisions of Defence Shopping Complex (Maintenance & Administration) Rules, 2006. wef 01 November 24.
3. The rates for allotment of the shop will be charged as License Fee @₹160/- per sq ft, Maintenance charges @₹60/- per sq ft and GST @18%. In addition water & electricity charges will be charged as per consumption. The maintenance charge will be increased by 5% every year. The rates of License fee & Maintenance charges may be revised as applicable by Management Committee SSC at any point of time during contract period.
4. The application form can be collected from Santushti Shopping Complex Office, on all working days starting from 23 Sep 2024 from 1100 hrs to 1630 hrs @ ₹500/- each (non-refundable). Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) equivalent to one month License fee i.e. (Area of shop x ₹160/- per sq ft) in the form of Demand draft/Bankers Cheque issued by any nationalized bank or ICICI, HDFC and AXIS Bank is to be drawn in favour of "Santushti Shopping Complex". Application form duly completed in all respects along with EMD, is to be submitted to SSC office on or before 1500 hrs by 15 Oct 2024. Applications form without EMD will be summarily rejected.
5. Any clarification regarding allotment of Shops or any other issues for prospective allottees will be addressed at the office of Santushti Shopping Complex between 1100 hours to 1630 Hrs on all working days (Monday to Saturday) till 15 Oct. 2024. The opening of application box will be held at 1100 Hrs on 16 Oct 24 at Santushti Shopping Complex. Scrutiny of applications received will be conducted post opening of application box. Applicants or representatives may attend only the opening process in person. Allotment of Shops by draw of lot, (if applicable) will be held at 1100 Hrs on 22 Oct 2024 at Santushti Shopping Complex.
6. For further details please contact Tele No. 011-20867237, or Email santushtishoppingcomplex123@gmail.com
7. Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station, New Delhi, reserves the right to withdraw any shop and / or accept or reject any tender or application without assigning any reason.

OFFICE OF THE GEOHYDROLOGIST
Unit-2, Kherva, Opp. Ganpat University, Mahesana, Gujarat- 384012
email: gwrdcunit2@gmail.com
Tender Notice No.- 02/2024-25
Office of the Geohydrologist, Unit-2, Kherva invites online bid for the following work from the experienced agencies:

| Name of work | Bid Security: |
|--|---|
| The Supply, Installation Testing Commissioning and Maintenance of Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs) (Non-Vented pressure sensor type) with Telemetry System in Piezometers for Ground Water Monitoring and Integrate with Existing Data Centre located at Gandhinagar, Gujarat under ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA (ATAL JAL) | 6,28,000/- (Rs. Six lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand only Tender Fee: 14,160/- (Rs. Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty only |

- The Bidding document is available on e-Procurement portal <https://www.tender.nprocure.com> and the bid is to be submitted through the same e-Procurement portal only.
- Date and Time of commencement of sale of bidding document is 24/09/2024 at 11:00 Hrs. onwards.
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on dated 14/10/2024 at 12:00 Hrs.
- Last date and time for submission of bid is 24/10/2024 up to 18:00 Hrs.
- Last date for receipt of Physical Documents is 24/10/2024 during office hours.
- Date and time for opening of Technical Part of the bid is 25/10/2024 after 10:30 Hrs.

Sd/-
GEOHYDROLOGIST
UNIT 2 KHERVA
No: DDD/MEH/283/2024-25

MORADABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Pili Kothi, Jalkar Compound, Moradabad-244001 (U.P.)
E-Procurement Tender Notice
Ref.No. 249/PA-2/NNM/2024-25 Date : 20.09.2024

| Name of work | Bid Security/EMD (In Rs.) | Time Limt | RFP Document Fee |
|--|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| दिल्ली, कांठ व रामपुर रोड पर सुघार एवं उन्नयन कार्य। | 15.20 lacs | 6 months | Rs. 11,800.00/- |

Key Dates :-

| S.No. | Description | Date and Time |
|-------|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Start date for Purchase of Tender (Online) | 23/09/2024 at 10.00 AM |
| 2. | Last date for submission of tender (Online) | 08/10/2024 at 04.00 PM |
| 3. | Technical bid opening (Online) | 08/10/2024 at 05.00 PM |

Note :-
1. Tender Document and other details shall be available on Website <https://etender.up.nic.in>
2. Amendment to NIT, if any would be published only on website <https://etender.up.nic.in>
3. Bank Details for online payment -
A/c Holder Name - NAGAR NIGAM MORADABAD E-TENDERING
A/c No. - 27050100020717
Bank Name - Bank of Baroda
Bank IFSC Code - BARB0BLYMOR (5th Character is Zero)
4. Document fee Rs. 11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Only) has to be paid through FDR/NSC/RTGS/NEFT during the Downloading of RFP Document & Payment of RFP Document fee in favour of "Municipal Commissioner, Moradabad Municipal Corporation".
5. The NIT may be postponed or cancelled at any time due to administrative reasons and no claim shall be entertained of this account.
6. All the documents are to be submitted online.
The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Uttar Pradesh e-Procurement Portal <https://etender.up.nic.in> from 23/09/2024 at 10:00 Hours (IST) onwards. Online bids are invited for the following works up to 08/10/2024 at 16:00 hours. Technical Bid will be opened on same day at 17:00 hours at Office of the Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Pili Kothi, Moradabad.
For more details on the tender and bidding process you may please visit the above mentioned portal.
Chief Engineer
Nagar Nigam Moradabad

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION (E/M) U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN) GHAZIABAD (U.P.)
Letter No: 3114/Vividh-7/117
Dated: 20.09.2024

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender for "Dismantling of existing Common Header 900mm dia, individual delivery line 600mm dia and Supply & Fabrication & Laying of new Common Header 900mm dia 600mm dia individual delivery line and SITC of 900mm dia, Flow meter, 600mm dia Sluice Valve with actuator including other allied works at 40 cusec G

Puducherry: Right-handed batter KP Karthikeya hit a sparkling unbeaten 85 while skipper Mohammed Amaan also scored a half-century in India U-19's easy seven-wicket victory over Australia U-19 in the first Youth ODI here on Saturday. The match was supposed to be legendary Rahul Dravid's elder son Samit's junior India debut but it couldn't be confirmed whether he was dropped due to combination or he is carrying some injury. **PTI**

Two tons of agony for Bangladesh

Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill make a statement by stitching together a 167-run stand to flatten the visitors in the first Test

VENKATA KRISHNAB
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 21

IT WAS a tale of two centuries that was much more than the runs made and the occasion. These were hundreds that were full of such promise and assurance that it would have made captain Rohit Sharma, head coach Gautam Gambhir and selectors' optimism grow ahead of what is going to be a challenging Test season. Having already taken control of the Test, Shubman Gill's unbeaten 119 and Rishabh Pant's characteristic 109 put Bangladesh into submission as India inched closer to taking a series lead at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on a gloomy Saturday.

Having come together as a batting pair for the first time in their careers at the end of Day 2, Gill and Pant – who had led India at Under-19 levels – had the whole of Day Three to assert their spot. Not that their place in the squad was in question, but there were a few concerns waiting to be addressed. Gill has to show he is the ideal one for No 3, Pant needs to show his game hasn't lost its signature touch. And through the course of their 167-run stand, they answered together, taking India to 287/4 as they set Bangladesh a target of 515.

But, these were not the most testing conditions. On a cloudy morning despite pacers dominating the Test so far, it was the off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz who began the day for Bangladesh. Their field positions – with a spread out field from the beginning – suggested they are just awaiting declaration. There wasn't much of a push. It might seem as easy second-innings runs while playing for declaration, but there was much to lose than gain.

Of all Indian batsmen, the conditions in Chepauk suited Gill's style perfectly. This is a pitch where there is value for horizontal bat shots. But in the first innings, Gill had looked out of place in his brief stay that there was a noise as to what Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood could do in Australia.

India still hasn't warmed up to a batsman of Gill's ilk at No 3. Their last two one-drop batsmen have been so solid in Rahul Dravid and Cheteshwar Pujara that a stroke-maker is seen more as a risky investment. But it is how Test cricket is played these days, where teams prefer batsmen who play shots at a time when bowler-friendly conditions are the norm worldwide.

On Day 2 despite losing Rohit early, Gill had already put the pressure back on Bangladesh and on Day 3 just went about consolidating India's position. With a slightly unconventional style, he opens different angles on the leg-side thanks to his ability to fetch deliveries from outside off. The only trouble that Gill faced was his lighthearted struggles to protect his bat from Pant, who kept on tapping his favourite bat harder every time they converged in the middle.

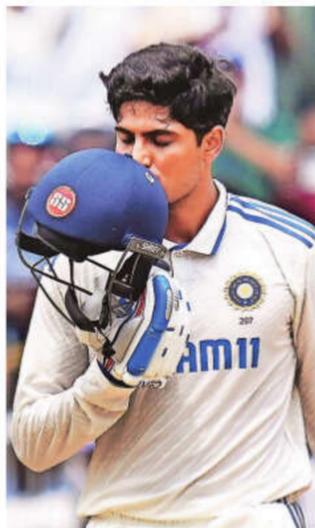
Calculated approach

With a much improved game against the spinners, he was all fluent and authoritative. Trusting his defence against the spinners more, he was prepared to play them out before opening up by using his feet every time they gave a bit of air. 72 of his 119 runs came against spinners. Against pacers, he was solid, but the odd in-coming ones still remains a work in progress.

"Definitely scoring runs against any opposition gives you a lot of confidence and that's what I have been working on, so it gives me a lot of satisfaction. I practiced before the series. I had certain plans, so I think I executed them. It's about having a good defence but then also not missing out on the opportunities that you get as a batsman to be able to score runs. I think the series that I had against England gave me a lot of confidence. And I felt it was a long time coming for me,



With an equally punishing game against pacers and spinners, Rishabh Pant's (109) return to form is what India needed before the Australia tour. **PTI**



Shubman Gill made an unbeaten 119 that led India to 287 for four declared in their second innings. **PTI**

especially batting at that position," Gill said. Pant, on the other hand, was all flamboyance. Apart from bringing something different to the middle-order as a left-hander, Pant liberates India out of tricky situations with his explosiveness. His previous five centuries had all come when India needed them desperately. Even five of his six scores between 90-99 have been valuable jail-breaks for the team. This time he had to do it for himself, just to get the confidence back.

And such was his confidence that the image of the game would be him casually ask-

Apart from bringing something different to the middle-order as a left-hander, Pant liberates India out of tricky situations with his explosiveness.

ing the Bangladesh team to position a fielder at mid-wicket as singles were coming off easily in that region.

Feasting on spin

Like Gill, majority of his runs came against spinners, as he feasted on it with chants of "Rishabh Pant, Rishabh Pant" filling the air. For the major part of the months that Pant was unavailable, it was in Tests that India desperately missed him. In 22 months they had tried four different wicketkeepers – KS Bharat, Ishan Kishan, KL Rahul and Dhruv Jurel – and although they all had their moments with the exception of the former, none came close to playing the sort of impactful innings that Pant is capable of.

With an equally punishing game against pacers and spinners, Pant's return to form is what India needed before the Australia tour. Apart from missing Jasprit Bumrah, Pant's unavailability is what former head coach Rahul Dravid rued about more often for he can seamlessly dictate the pace of the game. India were not looking for quick runs here as they wanted to give their bowlers adequate rest and it meant Pant had to begin the day in third gear before he began to accelerate. The sweeps of varying kinds – the reverse, the falling-paddle, the slog and the conventional sweep, and his trademark scoop off the pacers were all on display at Chepauk as he brought up his sixth Test century even ahead of Gill. With these two in form, India would breathe a touch easier while contemplating the tough season ahead.

How Ashwin baited the visitors on a deck that offered little assistance

VENKATA KRISHNAB
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 21

At 1 pm even as several hundreds of fans were making a delayed entry into the MA Chidambaram Stadium after spending long hours in queues to pick daily tickets, India sprung a surprise with the timing of their declaration. With a lead of 514, they definitely had enough on board when Rohit Sharma called back Shubman Gill and KL Rahul at 287/4 in the second innings. Few had expected India to declare then as the pitch hadn't shown any signs of listening to their bowlers.

Maybe, India believed even if they delayed it by an hour or so, it wasn't going to make much of a difference. Maybe, they wanted to have a go at the Bangladesh batsmen after tiring them out on the field. It wasn't going to come easy on this pitch that was supposed to break up on the third day, but the overnight rains had left enough moisture to prevent it from crumbling.

With Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj not finding any movement, Bangladesh openers Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam, who offered no resistance in the first essay, were beginning to grow in confidence. Zakir even took Siraj out of the attack with a six and boundary in his third over.

But as their head coach Gautam Gambhir wanted, they showed the willingness to adapt rather than being monotonous with the plans. And their fielding was equally sharp in terms of positioning and catching the half-chances that came their way.

In the post lunch session, with Bangladesh



Ravichandran Ashwin had to work hard for his wickets. **PTI**

56/0, Bumrah returned for his second spell and immediately went around the wicket at Zakir. Sans movement, he wanted to make the natural angle work and kept it as close to the batsman as possible. He needed just six deliveries before sending one away from him, prompting an edgy-drive which was caught brilliantly by Yashasvi Jaiswal, diving to his left at gully.

At the other end, with the pitch still not taking much of a turn, R Ashwin too had to work hard for his wickets. To put things in context, it was a day he ended up getting hit for three sixes. Bangladesh top six has five left-handers – the breed he usually has for breakfast – but they were defending him tightly. Bowling from the round the stumps, he operated on a stump-to-stump line, with a fielder positioned in between deep square-leg and fine-leg. He also had two close-in fielders at either side, a slip and a short cover. With no width on offer, if

Bangladesh wanted to score off him, they would have to work the angles with the risk of a closed-bat face. As playing straight brought the two close-in fielders into play and if they were prepared to take him on the leg-side, they had to contend with a boundary rider and a short mid-wicket.

It was a case of who blinked first. And it was Shadman who ended up closing the bat-face too early in trying to work it too fine, and saw the leading edge being pounced by Shubman Gill at short mid-wicket. To Mominul Haque, Ashwin stuck to the same plan, but he tested both edges by bowling a tad quicker (90-95kph) before he slowed one down to 87kph. It gripped and turned off the surface to wink past the edge and hit the top of off-stump and Ashwin set off on a celebratory run.

It was apparent that Mushfiqur Rahim had decided to counterattack as he slogged Ravindra Jadeja for a boundary off the second delivery. Ashwin swooped in. For a spinner, who prefers to bowl with long-on and deep mid-wicket in place so that batsmen don't get easy boundaries or sixes, Ashwin kept both inside the circle to tempt Mushfiqur.

In his first attempt the batsman succeeded by smashing a six over mid-wicket. Ashwin tossed the next one up as Mushfiqur came down the track. But like with Mominul, this ball was slower and Mushfiqur's miscue was grabbed inches off the ground by a diving KL Rahul at mid-on.

Four Bangladesh wickets, all hard earned by India's plans with pitch having no role to play and their fielders complimenting the hard yards put in by their attack – a thoroughly professional day out for India's bowlers.

SCORECARD

INDIA vs BANGLADESH
MA CHIDAMBARAM STADIUM
Toss: Bangladesh won, elected to field

INDIA 1ST INNINGS 376
BANGLADESH 1ST INNINGS 149
INDIA 2ND INNINGS

Y Jaiswal c Litton b Rana 10 (17b, 2x4)
R Sharma c Zakir b Taskin 5 (7b, 1x4)
S Gill not out 119 (176b, 10x4, 4x6)
V Kohli lbw b Miraz 17 (37b, 2x4)
R Pant c & b MH Miraz 109 (128b, 13x4, 4x6)
KL Rahul not out 22 (19b, 4x4)
■ Extras (lb 4, w 1) 5
■ Total (64 overs) 287/4d
■ FoW: 1-15 (R Sharma, 2.3 ov), 2-28 (Y Jaiswal, 6.4 ov), 3-67 (V Kohli, 19.2 ov), 4-234 (R Pant, 55.3 ov)
■ Bowling: Taskin Ahmed 7-1-22-1, Hasan Mahmud 11-1-43-0, Nahid Rana 6-0-21-1, Shakib Al Hasan 13-0-79-0, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 25-0-103-2, Mominul Haque 2-0-15-0.

BANGLADESH 2ND INNINGS

Z Hasan c Jaiswal b Bumrah 33 (47b, 5x4, 1x6)
S Islam c S Gill b Ashwin 35 (68b, 3x4)
NH Shanto not out 51 (60b, 4x4, 3x6)
M Haque b Ashwin 13 (24b, 3x4)
M Rahim c Rahul b Ashwin 13 (11b, 1x4, 1x6)
S Hasan not out 5 (14b)
■ Extras (b 4, lb 4) 8
■ Total (37.2 overs) 158/4
■ FoW: 1-62 (Z Hasan, 16.2 ov), 2-86 (S Islam, 21.3 ov), 3-124 (M Haque, 29.6 ov), 4-146 (M Rahim, 33.4 ov)
■ Bowling: Jasprit Bumrah 7-2-18-1, Mohammed Siraj 3.2-1-20-0, Akash Deep 6-0-20-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 15-0-63-3, Ravindra Jadeja 6-0-29-0.

I have spent a lot of time with Pant on and off the field and watching him score his first 50 and first 100 after his comeback gives me so much pleasure.

SHUBMAN GILL

DULEEP TROPHY

Parag displays his sparkle & range of strokes to take India A closer to win

SANDIP G
ANANTAPUR, SEPTEMBER 21

RIYAN PARAG was cursing near the boundary ropes. The merry stands had fallen abruptly silent. The fervent beating of the drums had stopped and the vocal cords of a few thousands had suddenly choked. All you could hear was the ecstatic shriek of medium pacer Gaurav Yadav; all you could see was the slunk head of Parag, who had just held out at long-off to a rare burst of adrenaline. When the moment of shock was over, they stood up to applaud his 73, an innings where he displayed his wares to prosper in red-ball cricket, one scripted with poise rather than aggression. Parag reciprocated with a wave of his willow, almost as an afterthought, before he resumed cursing his impudence.

Four times in the Duleep Trophy he had made starts—30, 31, 37, 20, in tune with his career of only three centuries in 54 outings—yet all four times he contrived to flounder, often due to impetuous stroke-play. In the first innings of the final round, against India C, he mustered only two off nine balls, looking out of depth on a surface with pace, bounce and carry. But he was determined to grit it out in his final innings of the campaign.

The situation he strode into was not as dif-

icult as he had in the first innings. The third-day surface had lost much of its zippy pace, but yet to take turn. The bounce remained but the slowness meant he had ample time to assess the ball. When he walked out, soon after lunch on a day the sun was benign and not burning, even though the cloud cover abated late swing. Here, in his last innings, he had to show he possessed the temperament to shine in the red-ball.

The range and sparkle of his strokes is well ascertained; he is well-versed with the new-age ramps and scoops, but he owns an organised defence too. He could bowl handy off-spin too in an era in Indian cricket batsmen who could bowl are a rare commodity. He remains as a consideration in the selectors' mind—he had already debuted in ODIs and pocketed six T20I appearances too. A consistent run in first-class games could realise his burning dream of playing Test cricket.

The test here, with the entire crew of selectors watching, was to illustrate his temperament to prosper in first-class cricket, in which he averages 36.15, a modest return for a front-line batsman. His last domestic season was the best of his career, wherein he averaged 75.60 in six innings, but international careers are made out of form sustenance. At that same time, stifling his game could turn counterproductive, and instead strike the magic formula



Riyan Parag made 73 off 101 balls. **PTI**

of being aggressive without being reckless.

For much of the innings, he managed to walk the tightrope. For the first 58 balls, he was just bent on smuggling singles, tipping, tapping and running, nudging and pushing the ball to the gaps. As many as 47 runs were

hoarded through singles (21) and twos (13). Off the 101 balls he faced, there were only 32 scoring shots. It wasn't a case of him playing and missing either. It was a dimension of the game the IPL faithful are unused to.

The lone four in the phase was an outside edge off the 13th ball he faced, off Anshul Kamboj. The edge was a rare lapse too, as he willied to blunt the attack, resisting the temptation of Manav Suthar's floppy invitations and foiling Kamboj's outside the off-stump ruses. With vacant expanses on the leg-side, he nudged him to slog-sweep. But he just leant forward and blocked him to safety. Kamboj vacated the cover fielders and seduced him to drive. He politely refused the offer, often leaving the ball without a fuss.

Once bedded in, the late movement the seamers extracted dissipated and spinners winked by, he grew more adventurous. He swept the trickster Suthar with disdain. The ball dropped slower than he had anticipated but he suspended his stroke until the ripest second and heaved him with a crisp bat-swing. The industrious Vyshak Vijayakumar returned but he thundered him through cover, picking him through the line. But here, he controlled his impulses to unshackle and reverted to the single-gathering mode. A push to mid-off brought his 12th half-century in this format. His next four arrived after 17 balls, a full toss

from Yadav that he clumped through mid-on.

The patience to wait for the loose was the hallmark of his innings, as opposed to attempting fanciful shots off good balls. Another test awaited him in the form of a reverse-swinging ball. He survived an lbw shout of Yadav's nip-baker that swung late, at the stroke of tea. But he survived the phase, and with a composed Shashwat Rawat who compiled a fine half-century to go with his first-innings century, he took India A closer to 200.

And then knocked the moment Parag would rue. He had just short-arm pulled Yadav's hard length ball through mid-wicket with a wild frenzy and crunched him through covers for another four in his next over. The next ball though, he stepped out, manufactured room and slapped him though cover with such raw power that he crowd had begun to jump off the seats. But from nowhere sprung the spidery arms of Raturaj Gaikwad to end his march towards a hundred. It took both the crowd and Parag some time to process the moment. A hundred would have spiralled his reputation, but he showed he has the game to thrive in red-ball cricket. Now, he needs the numbers.

Brief scores: India A 297 and 270 for 6 (Parag 73, Rawat 53, Kamboj 2-52, Suthar 2-75) lead India C 234 (Porel 82, Narang 41, Avesh 3-64, Aaqib 3-43) by 333 runs

BHUI AND IYER LEAD CHARGE FOR INDIA D

Ricky Bhui was 10 runs short of his second successive hundred as India D's overall lead swelled to 311 against India B, when stumps were drawn on the third day. Shreyas Iyer also showed some form with a purposeful half-century for India D, scoring 50 off 40 balls. At stumps, India D scored 244 for 5 in their second innings with Bhui unbeaten on 90 off just 87 balls. Earlier, India B were all out for 282 in their first innings in reply to D's first essay of 349. Starting the day at 210 for 6, Washington Sundar (87) ran out of partners as none of the tail-enders stayed long enough to give him an opportunity to complete his hundred.

Brief scores: India D 349 and 244 for 5 (Bhui 90*, Iyer 50, Samson 45, Mukesh 3-80) lead India B 282 (Easwaran 116, Washington 87, Saurabh 5-73) by 311 runs

BRIEFLY

Bayern beat Werder Bremen 5-0

Bremen: Michael Olise scored twice and Harry Kane scored his 10th club goal of the season as Bayern Munich brushed aside Werder Bremen 5-0 for its latest big win on Saturday. Bayern has 20 goals in only its last three games after beating Holstein Kiel 6-1 last week and demolishing Dinamo Zagreb 9-2 in the Champions League on Tuesday. It was Bayern's sixth win in six games in all competitions under new coach Vincent Kompany, and comes ahead of playing Bundesliga champion Bayer Leverkusen next week. Bayern has 16 goals and three conceded from its four Bundesliga games. Also on Saturday, Vincenzo Grifo scored twice as Freiburg beat Heidenheim 3-0 for its third win in four league games. AP

Harmanpreet in line for FIH Player of Year

New Delhi: Harmanpreet Singh, who powered India to a second successive bronze medal in hockey at the Olympics in Paris, was on Saturday nominated for the FIH Player of the Year Award. The 28-year-old ace drag-flicker, who was the top scorer at the Paris Olympics with 10 goals from eight matches, had previously won the award twice in a row from 2020-22. "It is a great honour to be nominated for the FIH Player of the Year Award again," the Indian defender stated in a Hockey India release. "While I am elated to be named among some of the best players in the world, I would like to acknowledge that it would not have been possible without the support of my team. PTI

Jamshedpur eke out a fighting 3-2 win

Jamshedpur: Spaniard Javi Hernandez struck a brace as Jamshedpur FC eke out a hard-fought 3-2 win over Mumbai City FC after falling a goal behind to secure their first home victory of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season here on Saturday. Hernandez scored in the 44th and 50th minutes while Jordan Murray (36th minute) got the other goal for the home side at the JRD Tata Sports Complex. In the process, Hernandez became the third player in the ISL to score for five different clubs. Nikolaos Karelis (18th) and Yoell van Nieff (77th) found the target for Mumbai City Mumbai City FC started the game on a dominating note. In the fifth minute, they got their first opportunity when Yoell van Nieff snatched the ball from Javi Hernandez and glanced an attempt from distance. PTI

Three Indians make cut at La Sella Open

Denia: Three Indians — Ridhima Dilawari, Pranavi Urs and Tvesa Malik — made the halfway cut at the La Sella Open. The cut fell at level par with 62 players making it through to the final two days. Ridhima (70-71) and Tvesa (70-74) were T-34th and T-52nd respectively. Seher missed out after rounds of 72 and 73. Ridhima, who started from the 10th, dropped a shot on the 13th, but quickly made up with birdies on the 14th and the 18th to turn in 1-under. A bogey on the first pegged her back, but she birdied the fifth, dropped a shot on the seventh and closed with a birdie for a 1-under 71. PTI

CHESS OLYMPIAD

India on golden cusp

Men beat USA and women better China to go into the final round with chance of a double triumph

AMIT KAMATH
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 21

BOTH THE Indian chess teams find themselves on the cusp of history-making gold medals in the open section and the women's sections at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, the most prestigious team event in the sport for national teams.

Heading into Sunday's final round of matches, both Indian teams are on top of the Olympiad standings.

In the open section India defeated the USA, the top seeds heading into the tournament but who have been shaky heading into the home stretch. Gukesh took down World No 3 Fabiano Caruana while Arjun Erigaisi defeated Leinier Dominguez Perez after another long marathon game to offset Praggnanandhaa's loss to Wesley So. Vidit Gujrathi played out a draw against Levon Aronian.

The Indian women's team, who was in second place in the standings coming into the 10th round, defeated a depleted version of China, which was missing all their top players like Tan Zhongyi, Hou Yifan, Ju Wenjun and Lei Tingjie, who have been women's world champions or contenders for the crown. It was Divya Deshmukh's victory that handed India a win while the rest of the players drew.

The Indian team in the open section is currently on 19 points with China on 17 and USA and Uzbekistan on 15. A win over USA all but assured Indian a gold medal with a round to spare in the open section. The women's team, meanwhile, are joint-top of the standings with 17 points as Kazakhstan, who were league leaders ahead of the 10th round, were held to a draw.

India winning a gold medal in the two sections at the Budapest Olympiad would be another milestone in what has been one of the greatest years for Indian chess. We have seen three Indian players qualify for the cut-throat Candidates tournament for the first time ever; a 17-year-old Gukesh becoming the youngest-ever player to win the Candidates; Praggnanandhaa taking down world no 1 Magnus Carlsen for the first time in the classical format at the Norway Chess tournament; and Arjun Erigaisi propelling himself into the world's top 5 ranking spots.

The year could get even better in December with Gukesh having the opportunity to become the youngest-ever world champion at the age of 18, if he can beat world champion Ding Liren.

After Gukesh had won the Candidates tournament earlier this year, the legendary Garry Kasparov had remarked: "The Indian earthquake in Toronto is the culmination of the shifting tectonic plates in the chess world as the 17-year-old Gukesh D will face the Chinese



Gukesh took down USA's World No. 3 Caruana while Arjun Erigaisi defeated Leinier Dominguez Perez. Mark Livshitz/FIDE

"India are playing insanely well. It's great to see. Gukesh and Arjun are really on fire. Pragg is playing really solid chess. Vidit and Harikrishna are playing really well. This Indian team is stronger than ever this year!"

NIHAL SARIN, GRANDMASTER

champion Ding Liren for the highest title. The 'children' of Vishy Anand are on the loose."

The tremors of this 'Indian earthquake' are being felt at every successive elite chess tournament in the world, from the FIDE World Cup, where Pragg made it to the final to the FIDE Grand Swiss tournament, won by Vidit Gujrathi and Vaishali, and the Candidates, where there were two Indian players in the Women's Candidates besides three Indians in the open Candidates.

Formidable outfit

At the Chess Olympiad in Chennai two years ago, the current open team of five players was split into two as India were allowed to field more than one team as hosts. There, Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa played on the India B team and won bronze while Pentala Harikrishna, Vidit Gujrathi and Arjun Erigaisi played in the India A team which ended fourth. But in Budapest, these five players

have come together to form a formidable outfit. "This is certainly the strongest team India has ever sent to an Olympiad. They have a pretty decent chance of winning the gold, and a fair chance of winning a medal. Everyone has certainly become stronger in the last year," Srinath Narayanan, the captain of the Indian team, told The Indian Express before the Olympiad began.

Heading into Saturday's 10th round at the Olympiad, the Indian team was unbeaten in 36 matches (four matches in each of the nine rounds) in the Open section. Pragg's defeat to So is the only game India has lost in 40 games in the open section. While the overall tie against defending champions Uzbekistan ended in a draw, in other matchups, the Indians have successfully bulldozed their way past opponents.

The Indian team's strength can be gauged by the fact that world no 4 Arjun Erigaisi is only playing on the third board — at the Olympiad, most countries choose to arrange their board order (which player will play on which board number) by strength, meaning top players feature on the first or the second board. So far in Budapest, both Gukesh (seven wins and two draws) and Arjun (eight wins and two draws) have played like unstoppable forces while Pragg has played like an immovable object (drawing six of his games). Vidit and Harikrishna, the oldest veterans in the

team, have played measured chess.

What's even more remarkable is that they have not needed the semi-retired Viswanathan Anand, currently ranked 11th in the world, or the fourth member of India's prodigy quartet, Nihal Sarin, to feature in the team thus highlighting the depth in Indian chess. Previously, India has won bronze medals in 2014 and 2022. The Indians also shared gold at the 2020 Online Chess Olympiad, which is a completely different format.

"India are playing insanely well. It's great to see. Gukesh and Arjun are really on fire. Pragg is playing really solid chess. Vidit and Harikrishna are playing really well. This Indian team is stronger than ever this year. The team spirit is excellent, they're all very motivated. Obviously, if Viswanathan Anand was there in the team it would have been even more insane," Nihal tells The Indian Express with a smile.

Nihal, who won a gold on the second board at Chennai two years ago, admits that being the top-ranked player in India is one of the most difficult things in world chess now. He admits to feeling a slight pang at not being a part of the Indian team, but concedes: "I have to play better." Talking about the mindset of the other Indian prodigies, Nihal says: "If they're playing against Magnus Carlsen, while some people may panic, they'll see it as a chance to learn."

Norris takes pole in Singapore; lizard on track halts practice

Singapore: A large lizard scurried onto the track and stopped the third and final Formula 1 practice session for the Singapore Grand Prix on Saturday. The session was briefly red-flagged after Aston Martin driver Fernando Alonso reported over the radio that he'd seen the lizard in the middle of the track. Two track marshals chased the long-tailed reptile and the session resumed shortly after.

Lando Norris edged ahead of his title rival Max Verstappen to start on pole position on Sunday.

Qualifying turned into a one-lap shootout for the top positions when a crash for Carlos Sainz Jr. interrupted the final session. "I was finding it a little difficult to progress much and to get a lot of lap time and more of the guys around seemed to get quicker and quicker," Norris said.

"So it put me under a little bit more pressure, especially with just one lap at the end, but it was good enough for pole and I'm happy with that." The McLaren driver was .203 of a second ahead of Verstappen to start on pole, with Lewis Hamilton third for Mercedes, .316 off Norris' time.

Verstappen, who said he was happy with second after struggling for grip in practice in his Red Bull, leads Norris in the standings by 59 points. There are seven rounds of the championship remaining, including Sunday's race. Norris' teammate Oscar Piastri, the winner in Azerbaijan last week, was only fifth after going slower in the top-10 session than he had earlier in qualifying.

After Hamilton, Mercedes also had George Russell fourth in one of its better qualifying sessions this year, but it was a day to forget for Ferrari as Charles Leclerc had his lap time deleted in the final session for going off track and Sainz crashed.

Sainz spun into the wall in what he called a "big snap" of the steering, possibly caused by cold tires. The car was left with damage to the rear end and Sainz, who seemed unhurt, qualified 10th.

Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez was only 13th in another disappointing result this season. Daniel Ricciardo qualified 16th, eight places behind teammate Yuki Tsunoda, as the Australian's place with RB comes under threat. Red Bull's second team could replace Ricciardo with reserve driver Liam Lawson for the last six rounds of the championship. AP

Norris' teammate Oscar Piastri, the winner in Azerbaijan last week, was only fifth after going slower in the top-10 session than he had earlier in qualifying.

Liverpool bounce back with a 3-0 win over Bournemouth

REUTERS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 21

A QUICK-FIRE double from Luis Diaz set Liverpool on course for a comprehensive 3-0 Premier League home win against Bournemouth on Saturday as the Reds bounced back from last week's embarrassing 1-0 loss to Nottingham Forest.

Diaz was electric in the first half, papering over Liverpool's defensive frailties with a brilliant attacking display from the left wing that overpowered the visitors, with the game effectively over as a contest by halftime.

Arne Slot's side had the VAR to thank for chalking off an early Bournemouth goal from Antoine Semenyo due to offside, with the groans of the home fans who feared another shock defeat turning to whoops of joy as the goal was overturned.

Diaz then went to work, forcing keeper Kepa Arrizabalaga into a fine save in the eighth minute, and he threatened several more times before finally beating Kepa to a long ball and rattling it home in the 26th minute. Less than three minutes later Diaz had his second goal as Bournemouth were sliced open by a five-on-four break, the Colombian using his left foot to drive the ball between the legs of the advancing Kepa for his fifth goal in five league games.

Darwin Nunez then added a brilliant third, attacking down the right and slowing down before suddenly accelerating again to cut inside and curl home a left-foot shot to make it 3-0. With the game out of the visitors' reach, there was little of note in the second half save for the Premier League debut of Liverpool's Enrico Chiesa, who came off the bench and provided a glimpse of the talent that prompted the Merseysiders to pay Juventus



Luis Diaz, who was brilliant on the left flank, scores his second goal in the 3-0 win over Bournemouth. Reuters

a reputed 10 million pounds (\$13.32 million) for him.

Despite their offensive dominance, Liverpool still looked occasionally vulnerable at the back and keeper Caoimhin Kelleher had to claw away the ball after it hit the bar from a late corner, but Bournemouth could not find a way back into the game and the hosts ran out easy winners.

Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca downplayed the significance of becoming the first manager to win his first three away games in the Premier League since his former mentor Pep Guardiola achieved the same feat in 2016. Maresca - who had a spell as one of Guardiola's assistant managers at Manchester City - oversaw Chelsea's 3-0 win at West Ham United on Saturday and said he believed his young squad was making progress, even if they still had room for improvement.

"The way the players are buying the idea, or the different style, since I arrived has been top," Maresca told reporters. "I think we are on the right path, we are in the right direction. But this is a long journey."

Maresca is the fourth permanent coach to work for Chelsea's American owners since they bought the club in 2022.

KEY RESULTS

- Liverpool 3-0 Bournemouth
- Leicester City 1-1 Everton
- Fulham 3-1 Newcastle
- West Ham 0-3 Chelsea
- Aston Villa 3-1 Wolves
- Tottenham 3-1 Brentford

TRIMMED-DOWN GAMES

CWG 2026 finds a new home in Scotland but for India, it's not all good news

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE GOOD news for India's athletes — like thousands across the Commonwealth — is that the troubled Games will be held in 2026. The not-so-good news for India's athletes is it could feature very few sports where the country can contest for medals.

The Commonwealth Games Federation and the organisers in Scotland, who rescued the Games by pitching a slimmed-down event, haven't yet announced the sports that will be a part of the programme. The 2022 edition in Birmingham had 19 sports. The Glasgow organising team has said they will include just 10 sports in the 2026 Games. The CGF is hoping that 13 could be accommodated.

Whichever way the decision goes, it could end up being a lose-lose scenario for India given that shooting is likely to remain excluded, wrestling is fighting for a spot while the axe hangs on other sports like hockey and cricket. At the 2022 CWG, India won 61 medals, including 22 of them gold. Wrestling (12), weightlifting (10), athletics (8), boxing and table tennis (7 each) contributed the most to the overall tally.

Clashing calendar

Originally, when the Australian state of

Victoria was going to host the 2026 CWG before it pulled out, the Games were scheduled to be held in March. In Scotland, where the weather in March can be bitterly cold, that isn't an option. The Games will be shifted to the summer, most likely in the July-August window when the weather too plays ball.

However, since the sporting calendar is designed years in advance, a last-minute shifting of a multi-discipline competition like CWG could see an overlap of events or an extremely crowded summer window.

The headline event of the summer is the football World Cup from June 11 to July 19. To avoid getting swallowed by the biggest single-sport tournament in the world, it is unlikely that the 2026 Games will take place during these dates.

In 2014, the Glasgow CWG was held from July 23 to August 3. So that could be a possible window. However, it would also mean a potential clash with the World and continental Championships of other sports two years before the Los Angeles Olympics.

For instance, the men's and women's hockey World Cup will be held from August 15 to 30 in Belgium and the Netherlands. India will be hosting the badminton World Championships in 2026 and although the dates aren't officially announced, the competition usually takes place in August.

The cricketers — although India tend to



Ozzy the mechanical bull at the opening ceremony of the 2022 Commonwealth Games. A CWG on such a grand scale is unlikely in the future. File

send second-string teams for these events — have a busy July and August as well, with tours to England and Sri Lanka.

And then, there will be the Asian Games — an Olympic qualifier for some sports —

from September 19 to October 4.

Confirmed sports

Given that they were made compulsory sports by the Commonwealth Games

Federation in 2021, athletics and swimming have been formally guaranteed a place.

India's chances to win a swimming medal are next to none. At the Birmingham Games, the track and field athletes returned home with eight medals, including one gold.

However, this time, the elite athletes — namely Neeraj Chopra, Avinash Sable, and Murali Sreeshankar — might be forced to choose as two Diamond League meets, in London and Chorzow (Poland) are scheduled to take place in July and August.

This is apart from the Under-20 World Championships and the European Championships, another major event that could clash with the CWG.

Shooting was not a part of the 2022 CWG and was left out of the original 2026 Games programme as well. The sport is unlikely to return for the Glasgow Games, given that none of the four venues proposed to host competitions have a shooting range.

Wrestling, dropped by the Australian organisers, however, could get a lease of life given that Scotland's largest exhibition centre, the SEC, which hosted the sport in 2014 is also one of the venues proposed.

The Venues

The Glasgow CWG could also set a new trend, wherein the sports programme could be finalised based on the venues available

rather than choosing the sports first and then building a venue.

The organisers have said they will use four venues within an eight-mile radius in Glasgow to save on transport and security, among other things.

The Scotstoun Stadium in the west-end of Glasgow will host athletics. In 2014, the arena, which has a capacity of 12,500, hosted squash and table tennis. Scotland's National Badminton Centre is also located within the Scotstoun campus premises.

The Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome and Tollcross will reportedly host cycling and swimming, respectively, while indoor sports will be held at the Scotland Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), the country's largest exhibition venue.

At the 2014 Games, the SECC hosted weightlifting, boxing, judo, wrestling, netball, and gymnastics. However, if the Scottish organisers remain firm and stick to just 10 sports, not all of these disciplines could make the final cut.

According to the BBC, the National Hockey Centre does not appear to be a part of any plans. The Guardian, meanwhile, reported: "Officials in cricket — which returned to the Commonwealth Games program with women's T20 in Birmingham in 2022 and will rejoin the Olympics in 2028 — do not expect their sport to be included."

eye



SPOTLIGHT, PAGE 2

All Roads Lead to Rome

Lily Collins, the protagonist in *Emily in Paris*, on living every moment through her character and harnessing her voice as an actor-producer



ELSEWHERE, PAGE 3

Going Places, at Home

Has the modern landscape of communication blanching the mystique around travel, with images of every corner just a few clicks away?

KEEPERS OF LOST CITIES

A hundred years after archaeologist John Marshall revealed the Indus Civilisation to the world, historian NAYANJOT LAHIRI looks at the science behind the discovery

HOW DO great discoveries take place and what can we learn — a century later — by juxtaposing the 1924 discovery of the Indus Civilisation with them? I became interested in the process of scientific discoveries in order to understand if an archaeological tale of discovery shares features with other such histories. One common element that struck me was the idea of the 'slow hunch' in Steven Johnson's bestseller, *Where Good Ideas Come From* (2010). The pathways through which fuzzy intuitions can develop into big ideas are well-described in this work. Among its case studies is one that focuses on Joseph Priestley who, in deciding to seal a sprig of mint in glass (to prove that plants create oxygen), was building upon an insight that went back to his boyhood. The young Priestley had apparently trapped spiders in glass jars in the belief that "there was something that was interesting in the way that organisms perished when you sealed them in closed vessels, something that pointed to the larger truth". He kept this hunch alive and eventually it yielded fruit, some two decades later.

The Slow Hunch

Priestley's slow-burn build-up around an early inkling appears to strongly echo John Marshall's sense of the possibility of pushing back the antiquity of India — an idea that incubated in his mind some 22 years before. Marshall came to India as director-general of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 1902. His preparations for work in India included an examination of many objects of Indian origin in England, including three British Museum seals from Harappa, inscribed in an unknown script. These seals took nearly a quarter of a century to flower as the discovery of an entire civilisation — a classic case of the slow hunch being worth nursing.

But there was more to it. Marshall felt the need to follow up on his sixth sense. He deputed Hirananda Sastri in 1903. Sastri was the 'pundit in charge' of the ASI's office in Punjab. He was sent to survey three sites in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab region, which had yielded copper objects in the form of hoards (tools). Marshall saw the copper hoard objects as belonging to an age of bronze which, he believed, could be correlated with what was then termed the Early Vedic Age.

Today, such copper hoards are considered roughly contemporary with Harappan times; a century ago, their age was a mystery. It continued so because nothing was unearthed by Sastri that allowed Marshall to specifically suggest archaeological scaffolding for a very ancient cultural phenomenon. Yet it is obvious that, as early as 1903, the prism through which Marshall viewed the Indian past was one that accommodated such a notion. When I first wrote about the field work done on Marshall's orders, I had not expanded the canvas to reveal how gradual clarity — in this case about a literate 'Bronze Age' — was also the hallmark of several scientific breakthroughs and innovations.

At the same time, in this case, the slow pace was partly a consequence of the constraints within which field research was done in British India, where non-commercial departments worked on very small budgets. Marshall himself was keen to excavate Harappa as early as 1907 but the price of acquiring the mounds was beyond the budget of the ASI.

Circumstances unrelated to archaeology that put Harappa's excavation on the back burner are also discernible in other directions. In 1914, a senior officer of the ASI, Harold Hargreaves, prepared a report on Harappa in which he recommended that they be excavated. Following this report, Marshall asked the civil authorities in Montgomery District (present-day Sahiwal in Pakistan), where Harappa was located, to arrange with the landowners for a temporary occupation of their fields so that excavations could begin in the subsequent year. But they could not begin: now, it was the start of World War I that



(Clockwise from top left) The Dancing Girl, bronze sculpture from Mohenjodaro; the Priest-King, one of the most famous stone sculptures excavated from the Mohenjodaro ruins; Rakhaldas Banerji, considered an important protagonist in the story of the Indus discovery; a Harappan site; John Marshall, then director-general of the Archaeological Survey of India; (Below) a modern impression of a stamp seal (left) and its original (right), at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

resulted in a moratorium on new excavations, the financial crunch made worse by manpower shortages. The dilatory follow-up was also a consequence of unavoidable material circumstances.

Individuals who made the discovery possible

Moving on to the years when Harappa and Mohenjodaro first came to be excavated, my book revealed that the clues, which eventually led to the knowledge that these represented India's first civilisation, were neither discovered by a single solitary scholar nor were found all at once. Philosopher Thomas Kuhn's 1962 classic, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, and his paper on the historical structure of scientific discovery have demolished the earlier notion of discoveries as unitary occurrences. As he put it, "There is no single moment or day which the historian, however, complete his data, can identify as the point at which the discovery was made. Often, when several individuals are involved, it is even impossible unequivocally to identify any of them as the discoverer." This insight helps us understand Marshall's long suspicion of Harappa's early antiquity.

The suspicion worked as a baton — it was handed over to Daya Ram Sahni, the archaeologist, who actually found the evidence for an early culture at Harappa in a dig he conducted in 1921. It also needs to be appreciated that a similar process unfolded in Mohenjodaro, on which there was neither a slow hunch nor any kind of precognition that

an excavation which began there in December 1922 would yield dramatic evidence. Mohenjodaro's unearthing, unlike the Harappa excavations, had nothing to do with Marshall's planning. For many years, Rakhaldas Banerji, who headed the Western Circle of the ASI, had been keen to excavate it, believing it an important Buddhist site, when he went off to dig it up in the winter of 1922. Naturally, he began concentrating on the stupa site and it was there that his assistant, NS Chikte, made the momentous discovery of two inscribed seals. Banerji realised immediately that these were inscribed with characters similar to those on the Harappa seals. Mohenjodaro, though, was several hundred kilometres to the south-west of Harappa, which meant that this was an entire distinctive culture spread over a considerable region. It was for this reason that Banerji would always be considered an important protagonist in the story of the Indus discovery.

In the world of science, it is fairly commonplace to speak of the initial discovery as more or less synonymous with a chance finding or unexpected occurrence. This is cer-

tainly true of Banerji's discovery at Mohenjodaro. But a lot depends on the discoverer's capacity for following up on an unexpected revelation.

Scientists, for instance, in building experiments, frequently capture unknown and unexpected processes. They then attend to the results, to giving explanations, and to supporting them with analogies of very similar results obtained in other experiments. Then, if unexpected results continue despite changes in methodology, they form new models and theories. If this kind of process is juxtaposed with matters as they unfolded after the discovery of the Mohenjodaro seals, it is evident that Banerji was hesitant to visualise a new framework on the basis of what had emerged. His search for its cultural connections eventually boiled down to finding a place for the seal makers within the early spread of races. This approach was one that was unlikely to lead to a better understanding of the significance of Mohenjodaro.

Lacuna in ASI

Beyond individuals, there was an impor-

tant institutional lacuna in the ASI. The organisation had no space for discussing ongoing research. This differs from the situation that normally prevails among experimental scientists, where laboratory meetings are thought to be extremely common. One of the consequences of this is that it leads from the particular to the general, allowing researchers frequently to persuade each other to consider alternative representations and explanations for data that is being examined or a theory being opposed.

By contrast, the colonial ASI showed no institutional space for brainstorming, no "common room" for archaeologists to discuss their digs and share information about each other's field work. It is unlikely, for instance, that Sahni and Banerji ever visited Harappa and Mohenjodaro together or that they discussed their findings. Mostly, what seems to have been common to them was the intermediary figure of Marshall, to whom they addressed their letters and queries.

As for Marshall himself, even after learning about the discovery of the Mohenjodaro seals in March 1923, he took his time coming to grips with the new evidence. In April that year, he left for England on a long-planned furlough. When he returned to India, he visited neither Mohenjodaro nor Harappa and instead proceeded to Taxila, the city he had excavated for over two decades.

In this, he was following a routine to which he had religiously adhered since he began digging there. Beginning with 1913, he had spent practically every spring and autumn slowly and laboriously uncovering its

magnificent monuments. His finds ranged from coins and pottery to architectural forms — a lot of which he felt was Hellenistic in inspiration. For a man whose training was in classical archaeology, such elements were enormously alluring and worth exploring over a period of time.

At the same time, Marshall knew that, by any standards, the field season of 1923–24 was an unusual one: it was on his instructions that Harappa and Mohenjodaro were being trenched in quick succession. It seems nearly incomprehensible, then, for him not to have broken his practice to get a first-hand glimpse of the digs he had ordered. Perhaps, this has to be seen as being perfectly in character since he tended to be resolutely focused on tasks that needed to be finished, but the fact remains that had he been less rigidly disciplined about his own priorities, the discovery of the Indus Civilisation would have unfolded sooner than the autumn of 1924.

Since Marshall had not seen the sites for himself and his subordinates had no forum for discussions that could have led to a new perspective on the newly discovered evidence, what exactly alerted Marshall to their singularity?

The answer lies in a letter that a junior officer, Madho Sarup Vats, wrote to him: the letter seems to have pushed him to get to grips with the enigma of Mohenjodaro and Harappa. In April 1924, Vats had just completed a four-week season of excavation at Mohenjodaro. In his letter, he pointed out similarities between the two cities. The resemblance in the seals apart, Vats pointed to likenesses in flint scrapers, terracotta figurines, sling balls, earthen bangles, and even the size of bricks.

Upon receiving this letter, Marshall assembled his archaeologists and the excavated material to his head office in Shimla: it was the first formal occasion for those involved in the discoveries to meet, and out of this meeting the article that announced the discovery of the Indus Civilisation was prepared and published on September 20, 1924.

Announcing the Discovery

Marshall opened his account of the discovery with flair and imagination. His words impart a strong sense of occasion: 'Not often has it been given to archaeologists, as it was given to Schliemann at Tiryns and Mycenae, or to Stein in the deserts of Turkestan, to light upon the remains of a long-forgotten civilization. It looks, however, at this moment, as if we were on the threshold of such a discovery in the plains of the Indus.'

The architectural remains were elucidated there from brick buildings to water conduits with sumptuous photographs of the smaller antiquities. More than anything else, these allowed readers to imagine the articles that the ancient people of the Indus used in their everyday lives — various sorts of jars as also one that served as a funerary urn; terracottas with elaborate head-dresses 'recalling the medieval fashions in Europe' and 'similar to some found at Patna, in Bihar'; spectacular steatite and stone seals.

The editors of the *Illustrated London News* explained that, at Marshall's suggestion, they had published all the photographs of seals so 'that there may be a greater chance of any of our expert readers helping to elucidate the script'. That the free flow of ideas and opinions from elsewhere is an imperative in discovery contexts was borne out by what followed Marshall's announcement on the Indus Civilisation.

Several scholarly British readers of the *Illustrated London News* reacted instantaneously. Among these was a linguist, Archibald Henry Sayce, who dashed off a note which appeared in the news magazine on September 27, suggesting that the Indus finds were even more remarkable and startling than Marshall had supposed. Sayce pointed out that seals of the Indus type had been discovered at Susa (in present-day Iran) in a context dated to the third millennium BCE. 'It is evident,' said Sayce, 'that as far back as the third millennium BCE, there was intercourse between Susa and (the) North-West of India.' The discovery, he argued, 'opens up a new historical vista, and is likely to revolutionize our ideas of the age and origin of the Indian civilization.'

The reception of new knowledge in London on Indus materials, having circulated among scholars with experience of ancient scripts and sites in Asia, confirms the importance of making information accessible to all who might add nuance or new dimensions to it. This has an important lesson for our contemporary scenario, where rather than seeking insights from a transnational perspective, research findings are being tailored to suit the narrow political agenda of the state.

Nayanjot Lahiri is Professor of History at Ashoka University. Her book *Finding Forgotten Cities - How the Indus Civilization was Discovered* (2015) has a new afterword in the centenary year. The views expressed here are her own



The discovery helped us imagine the lives of the ancient people and their wares, from terracotta jars to elaborate head-dresses

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND

RANJIT LAL Author, environmentalist and bird watcher



OUT OF BREATH

What's happening to the lungs of those bar-headed geese as they fly across the Himalayas?

Winters of Discontent

How pollution is affecting the lives of insects, plants, reptiles and trees

THERE WAS a time when I used to look forward to the winter in Delhi and to the trips one could make to sanctuaries and national parks during the season. The days would be crisp, bracing and frosty as a fresh salad, then the sun would warm you up nicely, the skies would be a clear, sparkling blue. I have over 1,500 pages of notes covering these trips — probably never to be repeated again. Oh yes, there was fog in those days which made you feel a bit foolish when you reached a bird sanctuary at 6 am, driving blindly through the grey at 20 kmph, to find the massed waterfowl still blissfully sleeping head in wing. But it would clear soon enough, like a transfer being peeled away to reveal a sharp, clear landscape before you, the colours vivid and stunning as the birds would preen their feathers, begin to murmur and get

to cities like Delhi and Agra, must also have 20 packs-per-day lungs. Sure, forest-dwelling creatures may be slightly better off — but the fog and smog is now engulfing all of north India in winter, and then in summer there are the forest fires which crackle across vast tracts producing choking, smothering smoke. We are not only asphyxiating ourselves but every living creature.

What I have noticed with birds — like tree-pies and hoopoes, for example — is that those that you see in relatively unpolluted areas are more richly coloured and look fitter than their compatriots that live in cities like Delhi. The same holds true for trees: city trees are usually dwarfed by their jungle counterparts.

Many of us who can afford to escape the hellholes our cities are becoming, do so. Some start afresh in relatively unspoiled places — and feel much the happier for it. That choice is not available to the vast majority — of either ourselves or the animals that live amongst us.

We seem genetically predisposed to throw our muck out of the window... it's always someone else's problem

themselves some breakfast.

I have, since the last four years, been given marching orders by my doctors to get and stay out of Delhi (and north India) through the winter, which really means leaving from before Diwali and not returning before the end of February. I'm lucky that I have a retreat (in Goa) that I can escape to, but what gobsmsacks me every time I get there is how different I feel the moment I land there. It's like some life-switch being turned on from near zero watts to full power. Like being jump-started after being in a somnolent semi-comatose state.

And when you think, that it is not only our lungs that are being turned from rosy pink to pitch and tar, but those of all living creatures you wonder — really what are we doing and where are we heading? What's happening to the lungs of those bar-headed geese as they fly across the Himalayas, and then through the smog and land on water-bodies all over the country? How is the muck affecting the lives of insects like bees, and even of plants and trees? The birds and animals that live in proximity

they turn back into toxic sludge-filled sewers in which nothing can live. I shudder to think of the muck that migratory birds ingest when they fly down to these water-bodies for rest and recreation during winter or what the fish are dining on.

Last year, climate change arrived on our doorstep, when the Yamuna flooded and was lapping at our gates. What will happen when this becomes a necessity for survival, for every other living creature — human, animal, reptile, and insect? Given the direction we're heading that seems a distinct, not-too-distant possibility.

Other mega-industrial cities have cleaned up their act — but we here seem to revel in muck. Cooling down and cleaning up big time is not a priority with any of our venerable leaders. We seem genetically predisposed to throw our muck out of the window, and it doesn't matter if we are in an already filthy city, or a relatively pristine location. It's always someone else's problem. Well, it will be until the day you find that you, and your dog, cannot breathe anymore.

Heena Khandelwal

TEN YEARS ago, Ankit Gupta, in partnership with his school friend-turned-business partner Chirag Chhajer, opened Burma Burma in the bustling art district of Kala Ghoda, Mumbai. The roots, however, could be traced back to the Gupta household where their food was a mix of Indian and Burmese plates. Think of a bowl of creamy khao suey, a coconut milk noodle soup served with condiments, or savoury laphet thoke, a fermented tea leaf salad that has mildly sour flavours.

For a young Gupta, it wasn't anything out of the ordinary until he realised that the delicious dishes from his tiffin or family gatherings weren't available anywhere else.

"I just assumed what I ate at home must be easy to find outside but it wasn't. That's when it registered that what we have is something special," recalls Gupta, now 34. This realisation nudged him to take a deeper interest in his mother's cooking. "I began connecting with my mother's Burmese roots."

Gupta's mother Urmila was born and raised in Prome (now Pyay), a bustling trading town in southern Burma (now Myanmar). Originally from Fatehpur, Rajasthan, her grandfather moved to Burma in the early 1900s for business. She grew up savouring the flavours of Burma. "Near our school, there were carts selling raw mango salad, laphet thoke, khao suey and other dishes. While my mother only cooked Indian food at home, I was allowed to eat Burmese dishes — but only vegetarian," remembers the 70-year-old, who eventually mastered these recipes. In the early 1970s, Urmila em-



igrated to India with her family and soon married a hotelier in Mumbai. "I missed Burmese food, so I cooked it at home. My *devrani* and *jethani* (sisters-in-law) loved it," she smiles. "I always dreamed of opening a Burmese restaurant."

Coming from a family deeply entrenched in hospitality — his grandfather had licensed

BOWLED OVER
(Above) Burma Burma's Anniversary menu; Ankit Gupta (left) and Chirag Chhajer

several tea stall-cum-snack shops across Mumbai's railway stations before transitioning to hotel management, a legacy continued by his father — Gupta's interest in exploring Burma's culinary heritage seemed like a natural progression.

"Initially, I thought I'd open a pan-Asian restaurant; Burmese cuisine wasn't my pri-

All Roads Lead to Rome

Lily Collins, who plays the titular protagonist in Netflix's *Emily in Paris*, on her character, learning to live in the moment and harnessing her voice as an actor-producer

Alaka Sahani

THE LATEST season of OTT's favourite Parisian fantasy-adventure — *Emily in Paris*, created by Darren Star and featuring Lily Collins as its titular protagonist — returned with its signature high-fashion and *joie de vivre* moments. After showcasing complicated romantic dynamics and some shake-ups at work, the action shifts to another charming European city, Rome. In Collins's words, this season is "bigger and bold".

Now that Emily, who moved from Chicago to France in the first season that dropped in 2020, has embraced Paris as her home and is no longer struggling to fit in, her challenges are more about navigating her professional and personal life in Paris. "Emily has become grounded as she is more used to the city, her life there and her friends. There is more physical comedy in this season and I love doing that for Emily. She always makes bold fashion choices. She is more French and sophisticated now," says Collins, who is a co-producer of the show.

Along with the evolution of her character, Collins has also grown as an actor-producer. "I've learnt so much about owning and harnessing my voice as an actor and producer. I pushed myself out of my comfort zone. While filming, I leaned into the unknown a bit more," says Collins, in a video interview.

After the dramatic events of Camille and Gabriel's wedding in the Season 3 finale, Emily is dealing with strong feelings for two men. Even though she gets involved with Gabriel, things are complicated as he is expecting a baby with his ex. Amidst all the complication, Emily feels drawn to a potential new love interest — Italian fashion scion Marcello (Eugenio Franceschini) — and finds herself in Rome.

One of the changes that was evident in the first part of Season 4 was Emily's evolu-



GROWING UP

This season sees Lily Collins as Emily evolve from a hardworking American professional to someone who knows the French way of living it up

tion from a hardworking American professional to someone who knows the French way of living it up. The *Rules Don't Apply* (2016) actor says, "There is a real love of life and love of taking time for oneself in France. Being oneself is enough. They believe in enjoying the moment. I'm trying to embrace that," says the actor.

What's one of the tell-tale signs of Emily's new-found maturity? "She puts her phone down quite a bit, which for Emily, says a lot. She doesn't live her life through her screen. She lives her life in the now, which I think is very important, and some would say mature.

Emily is definitely maturing in her workspace, in her life in Paris, and maybe you could say in romance, as well — leaning into new experiences like she always has, but with a new mindset," says the actor-producer.

The makers have tried to wow the viewers by choosing some stunning locations this season. The show's creator, Star, says they have filmed in Megève in the French Alps, Rome and the Italian countryside. "We're in the French Alps, we're in Italy, it's a big story. And to me, the characters are maturing. The show goes off in unexpected directions in Season 4," he says.

After Season 4 ended with a 'romantic cliffhanger', when Emily moves into an Italian apartment to open a Rome office for Agence Grateau and goes on a scooter ride with her Italian beau, the series has been renewed for a fifth season. What's likely to make the matter complicated is Emily's neighbour and on-and-off-again boyfriend Gabriel (Lucas Bravo) deciding to win her back. Sending Emily to Italy, says Star, was born out of the desire to "stay ahead of the audience and take them to unexpected places," and prove "the show has the ability to have a bigger footprint".

Cut from the Same Cloth

Actor-politician Kamal Haasan's House of Khaddar, styled by costume designer Amritha Ram, gives his father's love for khadi a contemporary edge

Rinku Ghosh

THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED New York Fashion Week this time had an unusual sight. The clacking of a wooden loom built up a foot-tapping beat in the atrium. Models sashayed down in multi-textured khadi with a "grunge meets classic clean" vibe, edgy but stopping short of the cliff. Some of them even wore the miniaturised spindle as a hair piece as weavers joined them in the end. That a hand-spun Gandhian fabric could sit so easy with contemporary cool and capture the giant screens on Times Square was proof enough that simplicity was indeed the best luxury.

And the label that made its coming-of-age statement quietly was none other than actor-politician Kamal Haasan's House of Khaddar.

As critics appreciated the earth-toned khaddar outfits meshed with denim pique knits, patches of vegan leather and muslin weaves, designer Amritha Ram, who has been Haasan's stylist for years, has a story to tell. "Very few know why Kamal sir underplays his foray into fashion. That's because it is not just an enterprise but a tribute to his freedom fighter-father. He told me how his father, a lawyer, only wore coats made out of khadi in court, his own way of rebelling against the British Raj. Such was his loyalty



ALL ABOUT COMFORT

(Left) Amritha Ram; one of her designs at the New York Fashion Week

that the day Kamal sir got him a silk dhoti and uttariya (drape) from his earnings, his father refused them, saying nothing could replace khadi," she says. In fact, this one act of civil disobedience of sorts inspired the tagline of the design house, "Fashion is civil but disobedient."

However, an entire khadi-based fashion line was never on either Haasan's or Ram's mind and happened quite by chance. "We were once stuck at a shoot for the Tamil edition of *Big Boss*. For some reason, his outfits weren't ready. I had ordered khadi for a film; it was ombre-coloured. So I cut a suit out of it. He liked its comfort so much that he wanted more. A couple of episodes later, we conceived the fashion label," says Ram, who is a graduate of the New York-based Fashion Institute of Technology and descendant of one of the legacy weaver families of Kanjivaram.

Growing up with lush zari and silks, she took to costume designing for Tamil and Telugu films as a natural progression. They allowed Ram to play with textures, adding luminosity, colour and sheen to fabrics. "So I deconstructed khadi, broke its plebeian origins and made it look different," she says.

Using Western silhouettes, she added splashes of colour with vegan leather patches. "We used tomato, apple and banana skins. We used natural colours for hand-dyeing. The New York collection had a palette of dirty sand, blue, brown, beige and slate grey. In some pieces, we blended 70 per cent khadi and 30 per cent denim, the other fabric of workwear," says Ram, who is now looking to reinvent other Indian fabrics.

Burma on Their Plate

From following family recipes to travelling through Myanmar, the founders of Burma Burma look back on their ten-year journey



DAKSH CHINDALIA

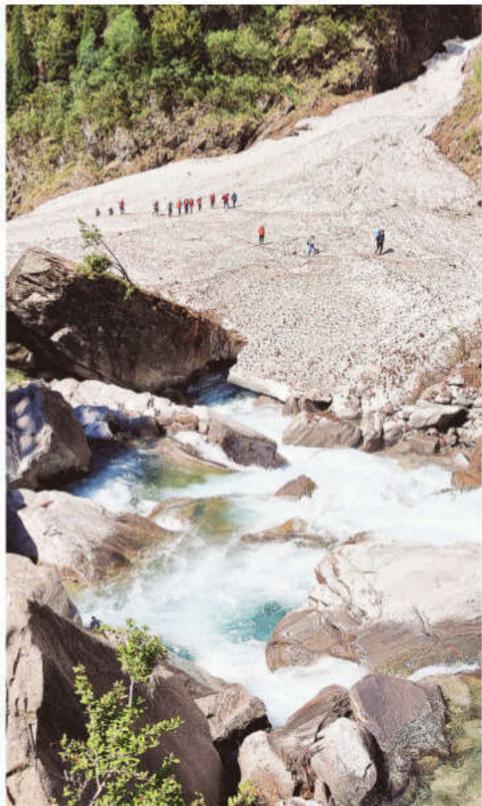
Mandalay, Yangon and Sagaing, eating at friends' homes, exploring street food, and visiting local markets.

Around this time, he reconnected with his school friend Chhajer. "Chirag had an office in China, which is also the best place for sourcing kitchen equipment. We took a trip together. That's when our friendship rekindled," says Gupta. "It was also when I started thinking about stepping away from my family business to do something on my own," adds Chhajer.

To test the waters, they hosted pop-ups in Mumbai and Goa. They began working closely with Burmese chefs, borrowing recipes from Urmila, and assembling a team. Burma Burma, India's first vegetarian Burmese restaurant, opened its doors in May 2014 in Kala Ghoda — a bold choice for a neighbourhood that traditionally emptied out by 6 pm as the office-goers departed.

Designed by Minnie Bhatt, the restaurant and tea bar showcases earthy wooden interiors. The menu, curated under Urmila's guidance, included family favourites like the Oh No Khowsuey and Tea Leaf Salad. "From day one, the response was overwhelming," Gupta says. "There was a month-long wait to get a table." His mother chimes in, "Even my friends would call, asking for a table!"

Hunger Pangs Pvt Ltd, the parent company founded by Gupta and Chhajer, now runs 13 outlets across eight cities. Last month, they raised \$2 million in equity investment, following a successful \$2 million seed round in November 2022. And they are now eyeing 12 new restaurants over the next 24-36 months, including at Mumbai's Palladium Mall and Delhi's DLF Promenade.



ROHAN BANERJEE

Going Places, at Home

The modern landscape of communications has blanded the mystique associated with travel.

With images of every corner of the planet a click away, travel no longer offers the thrill of discovery

Rohan Banerjee

TRAVEL WAS once an essential endeavour if you wanted to discover a world beyond your own. The beauty of a faraway region could be appreciated only after long days of voyaging. The minutiae of life in a new city — local customs, provincial cuisine — had to be experienced first-hand. Books and travel magazines may have painted broad brushstrokes of your destination but the canvas remained inchoate until you journeyed to see it with your own eyes.

Today, the world can be viewed in the palm of one's hand. In *How To Travel Without Seeing*, writer and poet Andrés Neuman, remarked: "These days we go places without moving. Sedentary nomads, we can learn about a place and travel there in an instant. Nevertheless, or perhaps consequently, we stay at home, rooted in front of the screen... Wherever we go, we remain within the same landscape: the landscape of communications."

This modern landscape of communications has blanded the mystique associated with travel. There is little room for surprise when daily itineraries and listicles of 'hidden gems' clinically dissect every conceivable locale. With images of every corner of the planet a few clicks away, travel no longer offers the thrill of discovery. Instead, it lures you with a different promise: an escape from monotony.

When you travel, you get a chance to lay aside your assigned roles and duties, and play out an alternate existence. It affords a brief respite from the humdrum of home. No matter your travel philosophy — whether it's must-see-top-sights or slow, deliberative exploration — there is a desire to leave behind the quotidian life, to shape your vacation days as counterpoints to your routines. For some, an annual visit to a favourite city can be enough to scratch this itch for change; for oth-



ers, a whirlwind trip of a new country is an adequate taste of the exotic. And then there are those, whose love for unusual travel can manifest in more ominous ways.

If you belong to this last category, you are sure to exhibit the characteristics of this itinerant species. When someone makes you walk for miles in the wilderness, you are able to successfully quell your desire to bash their head in with a rock. You think nothing of getting drenched in the rain and being crisped by the sun. Bent under the weight of your pack and plodding uphill on weary legs, you can suppress the longing to leap off the cliff just to end your suffering. Most crucially, you can dip into your deepest well of fortitude, plumb the depths of your forbearance, to endure a breakfast of oats porridge.

Later, when you return to civilisation with tales of your (mis)adventures and people look at you with a mix of pity, and alarm, you likely assuage them by saying that no holiday can feel as enlivening as one spent hiking. You're quite right, of course. In 1923, an editorial in *The Guardian* touted the benefits of 'rambling' in the mountains and moorlands, thus: "...

COUNTRY ROADS

For centuries, the high-altitude view has enamoured poets and philosophers alike. There is something surreal about observing the world from a height

every time one spends a long day among the heather or the peat; a coating of the almost inevitably — incipient parasitism that comes of living always in a crowd falls from you; you "breathe deep and are yourself"...". Over a century later, these words ring truer than ever.

To city-dwellers, having the run of an alpine meadow can feel liberating. While the traffic gridlock at busy intersections triggered rage, waiting for mountain goats to cross a trail prompts a smile. On a steep ridgeline, the din of urban spaces can be traded for silence broken only by the whip of the wind. Every year, thousands of hikers make a beeline for the mountains — venturing into wild expanses untamed by humanity — hoping to earn a measure of this solitude.

For centuries, the high-altitude view has enamoured poets and philosophers alike. There is something surreal about observing the world from a height — to see the hills rolling into the horizon, streams thinning into ribbons, and lakes sparkling like freshly-minted coins. As Robert Macfarlane so eloquently wrote in *Mountains of the Mind*, when you're on top of a mountain: "... the only lim-

its to how far you can see are the mechanical limits of your vision. Otherwise, you are panoptic, satellitic, an all-seeing... And that is an unforgettable sensation."

This sensation can also acquire a dark edge. The history of mountaineering is littered with stories of climbers whose obsession with summits claimed their lives. But for the amateur hiker, this 'inverted gravity of mountain-going', as Macfarlane calls it, need not be only about conquering peaks. There is much else mountain travel has to offer and every foray into the highlands can feel different.

At Beas Kund, you are greeted by a phalanx of snow-capped sentinels as the headwaters of the river thread through the sparse valley. During a night march to Pangarchulla, the clear skies and starlight turn the mountain-side into a moonscape. In the Rupin Valley, you can camp at the foot of a thundering waterfall. On the rope lines leading up to Friendship Peak, a bout of vertigo can assail you when you peer into a crevasse. In the forests above Rimick, where the hills of North Bengal crest into Sikkim, rhododendrons abound, and further north-west, the trail to Kuari Pass leads you into an icy wasteland.

These sights, though awe-inspiring, are rarely unforeseen. In the course of your research, you inevitably trawl through trekking websites and galleries highlighting the many photogenic vistas at the hiking route. When you stand on a ledge after hours of climbing and look at the chevron of jagged peaks on the horizon, you are robbed of the feeling of newness, of having discovered this view.

But this is of little consequence. You will keep returning to the mountains because it is not discovery that you're after. It is the opportunity to flee the ordered life you've built in the plains, to collect memories that will sustain you through months of monotony until you can travel again.

The writer is a Mumbai-based lawyer

A Day in the Life of Yala

Sri Lanka's second-largest national park has been the cornerstone of the island nation's wildlife



GENTLE GIANTS

Elephants cool off in a pool at Yala National Park

Arefa Tehsin

THE SKY yawns, and the sun rises from a recurring dream. Yala doesn't have to wake up. It never sleeps. The calls of langurs, junglefowls and other emissaries of day fill up the morning. There is the Indian Ocean on one side, and on the other is the dominion of *Panthera pardus kotiya*: a thousand square kilometres of deciduous forests, shrubs, marshes, grassy plains, huge rock formations, silver lagoons and sandy beaches. The fingers of sea pull at the sand and waves dance like dervishes.

This second-largest national park of Sri Lanka with the highest concentration of leopards in the world was saved because it was a hunting reserve, as most national parks in India once were. The Ceylon Game Protection Society (The Wildlife and Nature Protection Society now), formed by 26 hunters, was instrumental in establishing it. The park has been the cornerstone of the island nation's wildlife. Gates open. Jeeps drive in. A dancing peacock doesn't give us right of passage. Instead, he throws frantic colours in the morning air. Our camouflage jackets are not fooling him. But there are crucial things in hand like wooing his girl. A sloth bear tends to a wound on our mud-blown path. He doesn't give a hoot to human hips jutting out of jeeps to catch a glimpse of his scrubby mane.

Other than the rock pools, streams and the two rivers, the 'tanks' made by the kings of yore provide water for the elephants. You can picture Adam naming the variety of wildlife here — bee-eaters, jackals, elephants, crocodiles, mongooses, water buffaloes, sambar, wild boars... Seven endemic and several migratory birds swim and soar in Yala National Park. Here the migrants are not refugees. They claim it as their own, and the forest greets their yearly visits with endless conversations and banquets.

Afternoon. We come across a colony of the endemic grey hornbills by a lake. Couples take off in flight and plant kisses on beaks, tentatively, and then in a rush of emotion... telling each other that no one loves you like I do.

A herd of elephants walks swaying their tiny tails to a water hole. After the fun, the mothers try to get the babies out, but one keeps running back into its bubble bath.

Later, a lady elephant in heat catches the side-handle of our jeep, her one angry eye looking into my partner Aditya's two inches away. The driver gives her a poke. She moves ahead, giving us a look that she understands her own brute force as well as the limitations of the divine.

Evening falls. Lucas, the alpha leopard, makes jeeps jostle and jam as he comes out to have an evening drink. The jeeps wait, till the last moment they can push their luck. And then speed towards the closing park gates.

Dusk. We loosen our bones after a day-long adventure. The sky catches the sun and puts the shiny coin in her pocket of countless suns. In the ink-night, the sea, loved by the moon, rises in a tide. I imagine I hear a whale song. Suddenly, sitting by the moon-washed mangroves, I feel the urge to get down on my knees and pray to the trees. To save themselves from us. "Don't die," I whisper. As if believing enough would make it happen.

Arefa Tehsin is a Colombo-based writer and environmentalist

All Creatures Great and Small

How back-to-back safaris zigzagging through central India's Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and Pench National Park promise immersive wildlife experiences

Sona Bahadur

THERE IS no scintillating big-cat action on day one of my safari at Maharashtra's Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. Nor do I bump into leopards, sloth bears, wild dogs. The bamboo forest is dry and stark, its stillness broken only by the piercing lament of a peacock.

But I'm not complaining. The jungle's remoteness is rejuvenating. Drifting along the dry-deciduous forest, I learn to distinguish between the mating and alarm calls of spotted deer, admire white-trunked kullu trees, take in a lesson on butterfly puddling from our naturalist Shaheen Shaikh and get enthralled by a paradise flycatcher's aerial dance.

As we stagger back to the hotel in the forenoon, Shaheen regales me with stories of Tadoba's star felines. It's been over a year since Maya, Tadoba's tigress documented in National Geographic's film *Tiger Queen of Taru*, was last sighted. "The current favourite, Choti Tara, is past her prime, but remains a dotting mother to her cubs," says Shaheen.

Waghoba Eco Lodge, a property of

Pugdundee Safaris, sits in the middle of a copse of trees. Located in drought-prone Vidarbha, it's heartening that the team here is so passionate about sustainability. "Two years ago, this was a barren piece of land," Harish Arya, the lodge manager, tells me over a Nagpuri meal of fiery saoji chicken. Persistent rewilding efforts have resulted in pops of greenery that attract a plethora of wildlife to the area.

I spend the day pottering around the scrubland and take in some avian action from the 'hide' — a professionally designed bunker for photography. The next morning, I am woken up early to reach the park's Khutwanda Gate. An overnight spell of rain has transformed the parched terrain into a tropical rainforest. Driving around, we photograph troops of langurs, a party of sharp-tusked wild boars and a crested-hawk eagle. "Mercifully, it has stopped raining," I say. No sooner are the words uttered that dark thunderclouds billow above, followed by a swoosh of rain. The open jeep offers little protection and our ponchos don't help. We are about to leave but on the park guide's advice, head to Pandharpauni lake.



BURNING BRIGHT

A tigress crossing a road in Tadoba, Maharashtra

It's a good decision. As the skies pour down their magic, we spot Choti Tara under a mahua tree. Moments later, the matriarch delights everyone by doing a 'road show', two skittish cubs in tow.

Post lunch, I zip off to Pench, located in the districts of Seoni and Chhindwada in Madhya Pradesh. In sharp contrast to arid Waghoba, this densely wooded 40-acre haven gives the feeling of being alone in the jungle. "Anything can walk in here — tigers, buffaloes, leopards," says Ghanshyam Singh, the manager.

The ride to Pench National Park passes through the picturesque Sarrahi village. The stunning 758 sq km deciduous forest, with its magnificent teak trees, glimmering lakes and rocky boulders, was the inspiration behind Rudyard Kipling's 1894 classic, *The Jungle Book*. Just a few hundred metres into the core zone, we encounter a leopard lying on a rocky outcrop. Though the known to be shy, this one

preens for photographs, before sauntering to a nearby stream. There is more skin-tingling excitement ahead. As we stop to shoot an orange-and-black rock agama performing push-ups to attract a mate, a langur calls. A tigress suddenly comes out from a lantana thicket. "It's Lakshmi. She's very shy. We are lucky to sight her," whispers Deepa Rakshana, the lodge naturalist. The feline sniffs a tree, then sprays urine to mark her scent.

Weaving through the forest, we find Lakshmi's mate Swastik lolling in a pond. Ten minutes later, he emerges and walks toward the road to cross, but the avalanche of jeeps blocks his path. The beast emits a snarl of displeasure. I feel a pang of guilt, but my mood lifts as we see another leopard. He has his head out from a rocky alcove. "It's prime real estate, sort of like the Malabar Hill of Pench," says Deepa. The last day brings wildlife immersion sans the big cats. My favourite is a herd of gaurs

or Indian bison roaming across the emerald green plains. A female has just delivered, and the mother fawns over her newborn as it struggles, quite literally, to find its feet.

On my last evening, I ponder the key takeaways from my visit. The vast web of life in the wilderness unveils the ultimate survival lessons — about competitions and collaborations, nurturing and hunting, conquering territory and securing bloodlines. At dinner, when Ghanshyam asks me about my favourite sightings, I rave with equal enthusiasm about the felines as the mating acrobatics of colourful lizards. Deepa looks pleased. "When you're interested in every living being, not just tigers, that's when you truly enjoy the jungle," she says.

Sona Bahadur is an independent food journalist and author based in Mumbai. She is former editor, BBC Good Food Magazine India

Where ageing is not a disease but a privilege

At the AIIMS geriatric centre, patients get holistic care. Can the Ayushman Bharat health coverage for the 70-plus help?

Anonna Dutt

WOULD YOU take a train to keep your doctor's appointment? Every three months, 72-year-old Pawan Kumar from Bihar's Muzaffarpur does just that, helped by his son or daughter. Although he has to use his bladder bag, he doesn't miss his appointment at the AIIMS National Centre for Ageing, where doctors not only listen to all his woes, they screen his parameters without asking and prescribe a routine that makes him feel "normal." And that magic word is all the elderly need to keep going. They fear a disease as that would mean using up their resources in the absence of a medical insurance.

That's why the government's recent decision to expand the Ayushman Bharat health coverage to include everyone over the age of 70 years will go a long way towards keeping the elderly healthy. The Rs 5-lakh cover may be too little for some battling multiple health conditions but it can still lower their medical bills and out-of-pocket spends. Simultaneously, a greying population also indicates a need to invest in holistic care facilities that can provide a safety net.

Kumar has been dealing with recurrent infections for years because of the bladder bag he has to use — a cancer survivor, his urinary bladder was removed 10 years ago for cancer treatment. "I have to take antibiotics for infections but they have side-effects. I feel nauseous, my mouth dries up and my lips shrivel up. Most of the time I do not have any appetite. And eating less also affects my diabetes. I come here every three months to get my medicines adjusted and to make sure that all my parameters are normal," he says while waiting outside the physiotherapist's clinic for his mobility exercises.

WHAT'S GERIATRIC CARE?

Every day, 350 people over the age of 65 years visit various clinics, all conveniently lo-

cated on the ground floor, at the National Centre for Ageing, which promises holistic care under one roof. There are 100 beds in the in-patient wing. Geriatric care needs a multidisciplinary approach of managing the person's age-related disorders, chronic illnesses, emotional and functional well-being. "For example, an elderly man is likely to have multiple morbidities, say diabetes, knee pain, forgetfulness or an enlarged prostate. If they go to different specialists for each complaint, their bills go up and they will have a problem of taking too many pills prescribed by each," says Dr Prashun Chatterjee, professor in the department of geriatric medicine at AIIMS. The role of the geriatrician is to integrate the therapy protocol unless a problem is too big and the patient has to be referred to a specialist, say an endocrinologist or orthopaedician.

In fact, the National Centre for Ageing has certain speciality clinics like orthopaedics, oncology and general surgery. "If an elderly person is diagnosed with cancer, the oncologist will check with the geriatrician on the patient's capacity to tolerate chemotherapy or surgery. If the patient is vulnerable, then the two can work on alternative options," says Dr Chatterjee.

AN AFFORDABLE SAFE SPACE

Given his long treatment protocol at AIIMS, Kumar knows the ins and outs of processes like getting a bed, seeking a surgery date and completing treatment. "While you have to queue up, this is also the best care one can receive at the most affordable cost. With the new cover, I may be able to get sizeable relief," says Kumar, who was treated for a pancreatic cyst in 2009 and then bladder cancer in 2011.

He pays for his travel and treatment since he does not have health insurance. He had a small store of readymade garments earlier but had to give that up as he needed frequent bathroom breaks after his bladder surgery. Now, his daughters run a cosmetics store. "Most patients are from poorer families, do not have insurance policies and end up selling



ILLUSTRATION: SUVAJIT DEY

LIFE POSITIVE



ALL-IN-ONE

Patients over 70 get tested for cognition, memory, depression, nutrition, muscle loss, vision, hearing

their assets for treatment," says Dr Chatterjee. A government hospital, therefore, seems an affordable option.

SCREENING FOR AGE-RELATED DISTRESS

Seventy-eight-year-old Rama Devi complains of restlessness, sweating and a sharp back and leg pain at night. While diagnosing what led to her condition, the doctor asks her if she has memory problems too. "Yes, I do tend to forget things, find it difficult to remember where I had kept certain household items or who I was looking for," she says.

As part of preparations for healthy ageing, all patients over the age of 70 years get screened and tested for cognition, memory, depression, nutrition, mobility, muscle loss, vision and hearing issues. A red stamp on the

prescription — which lists both present or absent symptoms — can be encircled by the assessor to provide relevant information quickly to the treating doctor.

"This screening can help us pick up conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's early on, when the patients can be given medicines to slow the cognitive decline," says Dr Chatterjee. The screening module also helps zero in on the patient's mobility and risk of falls. "It is very common for the elderly to restrict their movement once they have had a fall. But this is counter-intuitive because movement is the key to keeping our bones and muscles healthy. So we figure out the reason for the fall and tackle that. It could be muscle loss for which they can undergo physiotherapy, it could be a problem of vision that



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What is geriatric care?

COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL MANAGEMENT: It involves diagnosing and treating multiple, often chronic, health conditions common in older adults, such as heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, and cognitive decline

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH: A team of healthcare providers addresses the diverse needs of elderly patients

FUNCTIONAL AND COGNITIVE SUPPORT: It emphasises improving physical function and cognitive health, aiming to enhance quality of life

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT: Monitoring and adjusting medications due to the person's increased sensitivity to drug interactions and side effects

HOLISTIC CARE: This includes addressing mental health, social support, end-of-life care and coordination of long-term care

we can try and correct, it could be because of a hearing problem," says Dr Chatterjee.

SUPPORTIVE CARE

Equally important as doctors are the personnel providing supportive care. When 67-year-old Shyam Kumar — who already has advanced dementia — complains of leg pain, loss of balance and a lack of appetite, the attendant arranges slots to meet the physiotherapist, who can help him with the pain, the optometrist, who can check his vision, the cognitive therapist, who can teach him some memory exercises, and the nutritionist, who can help him with the diet.

"The elders need supportive care and the aim of the centre is to provide them every kind of therapy so that they do not need to go to different centres," says Dr Chatterjee, who believes that quality care is all about sensitivity. (*Name changed to protect privacy*)

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The Ultimate Guide to Adventure Licenses: Dive, Fly, and Explore

Think a scuba license is exciting? Wait until you see what else can take your adventures to the next level!

I spent the last weekend planning a trip to Bali later this year, and one thing that will definitely be on my packing checklist is my PADI Scuba Diving license. Whether it's diving into crystal-clear waters or exploring the vibrant coral reefs, having that license opens up a whole new world of experiences. But it got me thinking what other licenses do I need to truly fulfill my travel goals? So, why not dive into some of the most exciting licenses that every adventurer should have on their bucket list? Let's explore the thrilling certifications that not only take you deeper, but higher, further, and beyond.

Scuba Diving License

Scuba diving was my first venture into the world of adventure licenses, and it's been nothing short of transformative. I earned my open water scuba diving certification in the Andaman Islands, a place that feels like a diver's paradise. If you have never been to the Andamans, imagine white sandy beaches, crystal-clear waters, and an underwater world bursting with life. From ship-wrecks and manta rays to colourful coral gardens, it was the perfect destination to get certified.

Learning to dive was challenging but incredibly rewarding. The Open Water Diver license lets you explore depths of up to 18 meters (60 feet), and while the training may seem daunting at first — learning underwater breathing, buoyancy control, and emergency protocols — it's all worth it once you make that first plunge into the ocean. And here's a fun fact: Did you know that divers burn up to 600 calories per hour underwater? It's one of the few adventure sports that combines serenity with a bit of a workout.

Since earning my PADI scuba certification, I have been diving all over, from coral reefs to shipwrecks. In fact, I recently sat down for a Travel Explore Celebrate Life podcast episode with Sushant Joshi, founder of Scuba Reels, a company that films underwater exploration. We did an episode together on scuba diving tips, and it's packed with

advice for beginners and seasoned divers alike. You can check out the full episode by scanning the QR code below:



Skydiving License

Next on my adventure bucket list—Skydiving. I have yet to even do a tandem skydive, but there's something about getting my skydiving license that calls to me. The idea of jumping solo from a plane at 14,000 feet is both terrifying and exhilarating.

One of the fastest and most popular ways to get your skydiving certification is through the Accelerated Free Fall (AFF) program. Unlike tandem skydiving, where you are attached to an instructor, AFF is designed to get you freefalling solo in as few as 8 jumps. The process starts with ground training, where you will learn essential skills like body positioning, deploying your parachute, and handling emergency scenarios. Then, during your first jump, you will be accompanied by two instructors who will help you maintain stability in the air until you deploy your parachute.

As you progress through the program, you will need to demonstrate stable freefall, turns, and safe landings — all while gradually gaining more independence. By your 7th or 8th jump, you will be exiting the plane entirely on your own, with the freedom to control every aspect of the dive. Once you have completed the required jumps and passed the practical assessments, you will earn your AFF license, qualifying you to



skydive solo anywhere in the world. Just imagine stepping out of that plane door at 14,000 feet, knowing it's just you and the sky, with no instructor tethered to your back!

Drone License in India

If there's one thing that adds an entirely new perspective to travel, it's a drone. For a long time, I have wanted to get my drone license in India, especially as drones become a vital tool for capturing travel photography and videography. Whether you are hiking in the Himalayas or exploring the backwaters of Kerala, a drone allows you to film breathtaking shots that ground-level cameras simply can't. And what prompted me to include this license in this write-up is that Veena World's Tour Manager, Amol Salgar, recently got his license, and when I heard him talk about it, I seriously had big FOMO (fear of missing out). So, yup, it's now on the list.

Flying drones in India requires some legal know-how. If your drone weighs more than 250 grams, you will need to get a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) License. The process includes passing a ground training exam, registering your drone, and adhering to Indian regulations, which limit where and how high you can fly.

India is one of the few countries that categorises drones into five types, from tiny Nano Drones (weighing



less than 250 grams) to Large Drones (over 150 kilograms). Each category has specific rules, including the requirement to fly within visual line of sight and below 120 meters.

The possibilities are endless once you are licensed. Imagine flying a drone over the terraced tea fields of Assam or capturing the sunset from aboveavelock Island's iconic beaches. With the right certification, you can film your entire travel adventure from a bird's-eye view.

Paragliding License

Now, for those who prefer to soar a little closer to the earth, there's paragliding. If you have ever watched people gliding gracefully through the sky, suspended beneath a colorful wing, and thought, "I would love to try that," you are not alone. Paragliding is one of the most accessible and thrilling ways to experience flight, and getting a paragliding license opens up the skies around the world for exploration.

The first time I tried paragliding, it was a tandem flight, with a professional handling all the technical stuff while I sat back and took in the incredible views. But after that first taste, I was hooked — I wanted to be the one in control, steering my own flight. The process of getting a paragliding license involves ground school to learn about weather conditions, flight mechanics, and safety, as well as a series of training flights



where you practice launching, controlling, and landing your glider.

Once you have completed the necessary training — usually about 10-15 days depending on your location and skill level — you will be licensed to fly solo in designated paragliding zones all around the world. Imagine launching from the hills of Switzerland's Interlaken, catching thermals to glide high above the snow-capped peaks, or soaring over the rolling landscapes of Spain's Andalusia! One of the best parts about paragliding is the sense of connection with nature. Unlike powered flight, paragliding is a silent, peaceful experience. You are riding the air currents just like birds do, moving with the wind, not against it.

Now, let's take a moment to acknowledge something important — you don't need these licenses to travel the world or have an epic adventure. You can absolutely enjoy a tandem skydive, explore the underwater world with a guide, or hire a licensed drone operator to capture your perfect aerial shots without needing to invest the time, effort, and money into getting certified yourself.

Many adventure companies and tour operators offer guided experiences that allow you to sample these activities without any prior experience or licensing. Then you may ask, why spend weeks training for a scuba diving or paragliding license when I

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could just show up and enjoy the experience under someone else's watchful eye? The answer is simple: freedom and mastery. When you hold one of these adventure licenses, it's like having a golden key that opens up a whole new level of autonomy, exploration, and confidence. Freedom is, hands down, the biggest reason why I want to start pursuing adventure licenses.

The second reason is mastery. I think there is something deeply satisfying about gaining a skill that allows you to connect with nature in a more immersive way. Mastery brings a sense of confidence and self-reliance. When you are certified to skydive solo, you don't just participate in an adventure — you command it. You know how to handle yourself in different environments, read the conditions, and navigate challenges. It's the difference between watching the action from the sidelines and stepping into the lead role of your own adventure story.

That's why, while these licenses aren't mandatory, they are incredibly fulfilling for those of us who want to dive deeper into our adventures. They are about pushing boundaries, gaining independence, and adding new dimensions to the way we travel.

In the end, it all comes down to what you are looking for in your travels. So, have I convinced you to add a new license to your travel list? Or did I miss out on any other such unique licenses from around the world? I would love to know your thoughts, so write to me at neil@veenaworld.com. Until next time, adventure is waiting, so take the leap and **Celebrate Life!**

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