

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

By UNNY



**THE WORLD**

**274 KILLED IN WAVE OF ISRAELI STRIKES ON LEBANON**  
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**LAAPATAA LADIES IS INDIA'S ENTRY FOR OSCARS**  
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**Info on EY employee's death sought, report in 10 days: Minister**

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE CENTRE is looking into the recent incident involving the death of a young employee of Ernst & Young (EY) India, Anna Sebastian Perayil, and has sought information from state authorities, Union Minister of Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya said Monday. The report is expected to be submitted in the next 7-10 days, following which the government will take action, he said.

"We will have to study the results of the report. We have already sought information from the state officers. We'll be able to tell more about it when the report comes," Mandaviya told reporters.

When asked about last week's statement by Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shobha

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**SETS ASIDE MADRAS HC ORDER**

## Viewing child porn punishable under POCSO, IT laws, says SC

Possession also punishable even if no dissemination: Bench headed by CJI

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

IN A ruling that sets a new benchmark for action in pornography cases, the Supreme Court Monday held that viewing, possessing and not reporting possession of any child pornographic material will constitute offences under the stringent Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Information Technology (IT) Act even if this is not disseminated further.

"We are of the considered view that wherever a person indulges in any activity such as viewing, distributing or displaying etc. pertaining to any child pornographic material without actually possessing or storing it in any device or in any form or manner, such act would still be tantamount to 'possession' in

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Not mere storage

THE SC ruling is a strict interpretation of Section 15 of the POCSO Act which punishes storage of child pornography. Viewing child porn online without storing is also considered possession. When a link is sent to a person, watching it for a long time would be considered "constructive possession", the SC said.

**EXPLAINED, PAGE 12**

terms of Section 15 of the POCSO Act, if he exercised... variable degree of control over such material..." the ruling said.

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Delhi Chief Minister Atishi leaves her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal's chair empty, underlining that it "belongs to him and would remain... waiting for him", on Monday. *Praveen Khanna*

## Sita, Hanuman, Bharat, vacant chair: For AAP, Ram the refrain

**GAYATHRI MANI**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

TAKING CHARGE as the Delhi Chief Minister on Monday, Atishi placed a chair next to hers as she likened her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal to Lord Ram. She said she would run the government for four months, just like Bharat did by placing Lord Ram's sandals on the throne for 14 years.

This was the latest in a series of instances when the Aam Aadmi Party invoked Lord Ram and Ramayana to draw parallels with its leaders and government.

"Today I have taken over as the Chief Minister of Delhi... I have the same pain in my heart as Bharat had when Lord Shri Ram went to exile from Ayodhya for 14 years and Bharat had to take over the governance of Ayodhya. Just as Bharat ruled Ayodhya by keeping Lord Shri Ram's 'khadaun' for 14 years, in the same way I will run the Delhi government for the next 4 months," Atishi said in a video address after taking charge.

While the Delhi Assembly polls are expected in less than five months, the AAP's repeated references to the Ramayana

started earlier this year.

The Delhi government's Budget was called the Ram Raja Budget. The AAP and its MLAs organised a series of "Sundarkand" and "Hanuman Chalisa" recital programmes every Tuesday ahead of the Ayodhya Ram Temple inauguration.

On Sunday, during Kejriwal's Janta ki Adalat gathering at Jantar Mantar, his 6-month stay in Tihar Jail was likened to Ram vanvas.

Even last week, when he announced his resignation as Chief Minister, Kejriwal had referred

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**SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE**

## Humanity's success lies in our collective strength, not in the battlefield, says PM

Says reforms in global institutions are essential for peace and development

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

UNDERLINING THAT the "success of humanity lies in our collective strength, not in the battlefield", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said reforms in global institutions are essential for global peace and development.

Addressing the Summit of the Future at the United Nations in New York, Modi flagged "cyber, maritime and space" emerging as "new theatres of conflict", apart from terrorism. He pitched for "global digital governance" to ensure that national sovereignty and integrity are upheld.

"On behalf of India, the world's largest democracy, and 1.4 billion Indians, greetings to all of you. In the largest election in human history, held recently in June, the people of India have given me the opportunity to serve them for the third consecutive term, and today, I bring the voice of this 1/6 of humanity to you," he said.

"When we are discussing the global future, we must accord the highest priority to a human-centric approach," he said.

"While prioritising sustainable development, we must also ensure human welfare, food and health security. By lifting 250 million people out of poverty in



PM Narendra Modi with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in New York on Sunday. *PTI*

**INSIDE**

**MODI MEETS ABBAS: 'DEEP CONCERN' ON GAZA SITUATION**

**PM PITCHES INDIA GROWTH AT MEETING WITH TECH CEOs**  
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India, we have demonstrated that sustainable development can be successful," he said. "We are ready to share this experience of our success with the entire Global South," he said.

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**DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY: MAHARASHTRA, TAMIL NADU & UTTAR PRADESH**

## Thane minors' sexual assault: Accused killed in encounter with cops

**VIJAY KUMAR YADAV**  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

A 23-YEAR-OLD janitor, who was arrested last month for allegedly sexually assaulting two four-year-old girls at a school in Badlapur (Thane district), was killed in "retaliatory firing" when he snatched a police officer's service weapon and opened fire on Monday, police said.

Police said the accused was being taken in a vehicle when he snatched Assistant Police Inspector Nilesh More's pistol and fired at the team escorting him, in a bid to escape from custody. According to police, the ac-

cused fired three rounds, injuring More and two others.

The incident reportedly occurred near the Mumbra Bypass, in Thane district. The accused was being taken to Thane by a Crime Branch SIT set up to investigate a sexual assault case filed by his former wife in 2021, a senior police officer told *The Indian Express*.

Police said the accused left Talaja Central Jail, where he was lodged, at around 5.30 pm. The incident occurred "between 6-6.15 pm", a police statement said.

Police said API More sustained a bullet injury on his left thigh and was rushed to a hospital in Kalwa along with two other

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



At the encounter site in Unnao on Monday. *PTI*

**ACCUSED IN ROBBERY CASE KILLED IN U.P.**

THE UTTAR Pradesh Special Task Force gunned down a second accused, identified as Anuj Pratap Singh, in the Sultanpur jewellery store robbery case on Monday. Earlier this month, another accused, Mangesh Yadav, was killed in a police encounter, triggering a political row.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## In TN, gangster killed day after arrest, police say he 'opened fire'

**ARUN JANARDHANAN**  
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 23

'SEIZING' RAJA, a history-sheeter named in over 30 criminal cases, was shot dead in a police encounter early Monday morning on Chennai's East Coast Road. Police said that Raja, arrested the previous day from a hideout in Andhra Pradesh, was killed in self-defence when he "opened fire" at police personnel.

Raja had long been on the police's radar, with cases of murder, attempted murder, and extortion stacking up against him across Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Police have also investi-



'Seizing' Raja, named in murder, extortion cases

gated him in connection with the murder in July of BSP's Tamil Nadu president K Armstrong, but clarified on Monday that they had no evidence linking him to the case.

Starting out as a vehicle repossession agent, which gave N Raja the moniker 'Seizing' Raja, he became a key figure in Chennai's underworld and one of the most

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Nearly half of all posts in pollution boards vacant, some for decades

Over 60% vacancies in 11 states, 100% in Sikkim: CPCB to NGT

**AJOY SINHA KARPURAM**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

NEARLY HALF the sanctioned posts in the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees in Union Territories (PCCs) across the country are lying vacant. While 11 states have over 60% vacancies, Sikkim tops the list with all posts yet to be filled.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) submitted these details in an affidavit to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on September 6.

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STATES	SANCTIONED	VACANCIES
Sikkim	11	11 (100.00%)
Jharkhand	271	198 (73.06%)
Andhra Pradesh	291	204 (70.10%)
Madhya Pradesh	1,228	783 (63.76%)
Manipur	119	75 (63.02%)
Chhattisgarh	328	204 (62.19%)
Uttarakhand	130	79 (60.76%)
Haryana	450	273 (60.67%)
Gujarat	430	260 (60.46%)
Karnataka	723	437 (60.44%)
Rajasthan	808	488 (60.39%)

## Citing 'drug traffickers', Delhi Police seeks to raze 'illegal' structures

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

IN THE name of a crackdown on drug trafficking, the Delhi Police has employed a new strategy: it has zoomed in on 102 structures belonging to alleged drug traffickers, identified what it calls violations of building bylaws in these structures and approached the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to demolish them.

This comes even as the Supreme Court earlier this month came down heavily on

the use of bulldozers to demolish property of accused, and said it would lay down pan-India guidelines on the matter.

Sources said the Delhi Police's Crime Branch identified 102 structures across the Capital — each of these belonging to alleged gang leaders and kingpins of drug trafficking — after which police personnel conducted spot visits to identify alleged violations of building bylaws. Police then prepared a report on the alleged violations and asked the MCD to demolish these structures.

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## As V-C inspection of girls' hostel triggers protests, Punjab NLU shut

**DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL**  
LUDHIANA, SEPTEMBER 23

THE RAJIV Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL) in Patiala was shut until further orders on Monday, a day after students began a protest demanding the Vice-Chancellor's resignation for allegedly entering the girls' hostel without prior notice, and making sexist remarks.

Denying the allegations, V-C Jai Shankar Singh said he visited the girls' hostel to inspect and "identify students who smoke and drink alcohol after midnight" as he had received complaints.

The protests erupted Sunday evening — a couple of hours after



Students protest outside the V-C's residence. *Express*

Singh's surprise inspection around 3.30 pm — with the students staging a dhama outside the V-C's residence on the campus.

In a representation to the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, the ex-offi-

cio Chancellor of RGNUL, the students alleged that during the inspection, Singh entered the rooms of some girls despite the rule that no man is allowed inside, even if accompanied by

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# Amid cadaver shortage, why a campaign by PGIMER holds out hope

**PARUL & ANKITA UPADHYAY**  
CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

JUST OUTSIDE the anatomy department of PGIMER, Chandigarh, a wall is lined with photographs of people who donated their bodies for medical research. Among them is Ajmer Singh, a former Olympian, and Rama Bhanot, the mother of Neerja Bhanot, the air hostess who saved passengers from hijackers on a Pan Am flight in

1986 and was shot dead. Doctors call it a "memory lane" to honour everyday people who decided to forego funerary rites so that doctors could use their cadavers, train better and save more lives.

Seeing this, last year, on his 77th birthday, Professor Dina Nath Jauhar, former Vice-Chancellor of Agra-based Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar University, his wife, brother and friend pledged their bodies for research. "It is the best gift I could give myself, give back to society," Prof Jauhar says.

Thanks to the PGIMER's awareness campaign, linking cadavers to organ donations as a noble cause, 4,700 people from Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula, have pledged their bodies for research, a positive step in meeting the cadaver shortage at teaching hospitals in the country.

Over the last two weeks, two donor families chose donation over cremation. Amteshwar Sandhu and Ayesha Sandhu donated the body of their father, 72-year-old Major Adesh Pal Singh Sandhu, as did the children

**DECODING THE DONATION PROCESS**

**How to register for body donation**

- Fill up a form at any government hospital
- Submit ID proofs
- Get two witnesses

**What about legalities?**

- Inform your next of kin about your pledge, or make a will. Relatives can prevent donation without concrete

**steps from the donor.**

**The process**

- A donor card is issued to the applicant.
- After the donor's death, relatives have to contact the hospital within three hours.
- The body is embalmed for preservation.
- After four months, it is ready for use by students.

of 82-year-old Bhagwant Virk. Cadaver donation has been in focus ever since CPI(M) veteran Sitaram Yechury's body was donated to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, for medical research.

Since cadavers are needed for precise surgical and anatomical training, a shortage means students now make do with synthetic dummies instead. Even at AIIMS, it is mostly former doctors who donate their bodies.

Yet, as Prof Kamran Farooque, Jai Prakash Narayan Trauma Centre Chief, AIIMS, argues, ca-

davers are needed more than ever before, given the evolving nature of surgical technologies which need to be tested before use on a patient. "The cadaver is closest to human anatomy. It gives a surgeon/doctor the near actual experience before he or she finally operates on the patient," he says.

Although there's no national registry on the total number of bodies donated, *The Indian Express* reached out to medical colleges in Delhi and Chandigarh for data on such donations.

PGIMER, Chandigarh, re-

ceives around 25 to 30 cadaver donations annually. At the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, Dr Rima Dada, professor, department of anatomy, says 70 bodies were donated in the last two years. In comparison, Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital and its affiliate Vardhman Mahavir Medical College (VMMC) received 24 donor cadavers in five years. The Ram Manohar Hospital and the associated Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMS) in Delhi received 18

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● Punjab NLU shut over protests

women faculty members or guards. They alleged that the V-C questioned the dressing sense of some girls, violating their privacy. They accused the V-C of making sexist remarks in the past as well and demanded his resignation.

As the protests escalated Monday, Registrar Anand Pawar constituted a nine-member committee to "examine the grievances" and called representatives of the students for an "amicable discussion". Later, saying that no student turned up, the RGNUL administration ordered the closure of the institute — Punjab's only National Law University (NLU) — and asked the "students to proceed" to their homes.

The protesting students, however, told *The Indian Express* that they "won't budge or go home until the V-C resigns".

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Singh justified his surprise hostel inspection. "Girls who do not drink and smoke were constantly complaining that some others bring such things to the hostel. They do such things after midnight. They get such things from outside on the pretext of ordering food. How do we stop them? Such students affect other students. We had to identify such students," he said. "I went inside with female wardens and several other girl students, not alone. Well-behaved girls were themselves showing their rooms to me."

He claimed there were "only a handful of students" who are creating an issue. "I did not make a single remark on any woman's clothes. It is a false allegation by a handful of students," he said.

In their representation, the students said, "Due to the increasingly frequent and outrageous actions of the Hon'ble VC..., the RGNUL student community finds it imperative to demand the resignation of the Hon'ble VC." Listing past remarks, the representation quoted the V-C as saying once:

"*Agar aukaat nahi thi toh itne high-level university mein admission kyu liya. Tum jaise nalayak bacche apne parivar ki aarthik sthiti jaan ke bhi itne high-level course mein admission lene aa jate ho* (If you do not have the financial capability, why have you taken admission in such a reputed university? You incompetent children take admission in such a high-level course even after being aware of the financial situation of your family)."

The students also alleged in their representation that he once told some girl students: "*Ladki ho, domestic violence ya marriage jaisa Act ughao aur aaram se ghar par course karo. Kyu itna complicated aur naya topic leti ho* (You are a girl, pick a topic like domestic violence or marriage and stay back at home and pursue the course)." In another instance, he was quoted as allegedly saying: "*Tumhare maa baap tumhe paisa dete hai aise kapde pehenne ke liye* (Do your parents give you money to buy such clothes)?"

The students alleged in their representation that on Sunday the V-C did not give them or the hostel warden any notification about the inspection as a result of which "he was not accompanied by any female faculty or guards, until at a later stage". "The Hon'ble V-C entered the rooms of female students, who, being unaware of such a visit, were faced with an uncomfortable situation. For instance, one student was questioned by the V-C immediately upon returning from the shower, not giving her sufficient time to dress appropriately."

"Another student questioned him about the reason for his visit and the lack of notification, to which he said that the girls were like his daughters... Additionally, he made inappropriate and insensitive remarks... ranging from comments on their manner of clothing to their personal activities," the representation said.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM  
Viewing child porn punishable, says SC

Section 15 of the POCSO Act penalises storage of child pornography with an "intention to share or transmit" it.

The Court interpreted "possession" to also mean "constructive possession", which is beyond physical control to situations "where an individual has the power and intention to control the contraband, even if it is not in their immediate physical possession". While "viewing the images on the screen, did the person have the ability to print them, save them, forward them or delete them. If he did, then he can be said to have knowingly exercised custody or control over those images," the Court said.

In its 200-page ruling, a two-judge bench, of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala, held that "mens rea or the intention required under this provision is to be gathered from the actus reus itself, i.e., it must be determined from the manner in which such material is stored or possessed and the circumstances in which the same was not deleted, destroyed or reported."

The Court was hearing appeals against a Madras High Court ruling which said that "mere possession" and downloading or viewing of child pornographic content without an intent to further share it would not constitute an offence. On January 11, the HC had

quashed criminal proceedings against a 28-year-old man charged with downloading pornographic content involving children on his mobile phone.

The top court termed the HC verdict "egregious" on the issue and set it aside. The accused will now face trial in the court of Sessions Judge, Mahila Neethi Mandram (Fast Track Court), Tiruvallur District.

The SC verdict emphasises that failure to report child pornographic content even when it is received unknowingly is an offence. This failure "to delete or destroy or report" carries a fine under Section 15 (1) of the POCSO Act.

"For instance, say, 'A' is sent an unknown link by 'B', which upon clicking opened a child pornographic video on the phone of 'A'. Now if 'A' immediately closes the link, although once the link is closed 'A' is no longer in constructive possession of the child pornography, this by itself does not mean that 'A' has destroyed or deleted the said material by merely closing the link. 'A' will only be absolved of any liability if he after closing the link further reports the same to the specified authorities," the SC said. The ruling also states that an accused can be booked under the provision even if such "storage" or "possession" does not exist at the time of registration of an FIR or any criminal

proceeding. Essentially, simply deleting the material later on will not absolve the offender.

"The provision of Section 15 is not fixated on any particularly fine-tuned frame," the SC said. "We say so because, any other view aside from the above, in our opinion would lead to a chilling effect with drastic consequences, whereby the provisions of the POCSO may be defeated by a devious person. If, for instance, a person immediately after storing and watching child pornography in his mobile phone deletes the same before an FIR could be registered, could it be said that the said person is not liable under Section 15."

The ruling cautioned courts "to refrain from showing any form of leniency or leeway in" this, "particularly to schools/educational institutions, special homes, children's homes, shelter homes, hostels, remand homes, jails, etc. who failed to discharge their obligation of reporting to the commission or the apprehension of commission of any offence or instance of child abuse or exploitation under the POCSO". The court said it has been brought to its notice that social media intermediaries do not report such cases of child abuse and exploitation to the local authorities specified under POCSO Act and warned that they cannot claim exemption from the liability under Section 79 of the IT

Act which says they "shall not be liable for any third party information, data, or communication link made hosted by him... unless due diligence is conducted by it and compliance is made...". The bench added: "Such due diligence includes not only removal of child pornographic content but also making an immediate report of such content to the concerned police units in the manner specified under the POCSO Act and the Rules thereunder".

The SC verdict also called upon Parliament to "seriously consider" an amendment to the POCSO Act to substitute the term "child pornography" with "child sexual exploitative and abuse material" (CSEAM) to "reflect more accurately on the reality of such offences". The Centre, it added, may "consider to bring about the suggested amendment to the POCSO by way of an ordinance". The ruling also directed courts to not use "child pornography" in any judicial order or judgment, and asked them to use CSEAM instead. The bench said the term CSEAM more accurately reflects the reality that these images and videos are "not merely pornographic but are records of incidents, where a child has either been sexually exploited and abused or where any abuse of children has been portrayed through any self-generated visual depiction".

● Probe into EY employee's death

Karandlaje, where she had mentioned beginning a probe into the incident, Mandaviya said, "Investigation has started... whatever action has to be taken, we will take." The government is waiting for the submission of a comprehensive report. "Post-mortem report will come, police will give a report. We will speak with the company also. Report will come in 7-10 days. Any action will be taken based on the findings of the report. I do not prefer to jump to conclusions," Mandaviya said.

Separately, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also referred to the probe by the Labour Ministry while responding to a post on X by Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi where she had termed the former's remarks about the need for stress management lessons by colleges and universities to help increase the students' inner strength as "victim shaming". Sitharaman said she had specifically mentioned that after clearing a demanding and rigorous examination such as CA,

the stress on her (Perayil) was unbearable. No names were taken, neither of the lady nor of the firm, Sitharaman said using her personal handle on X. "...The Union Labour Ministry has already assured a thorough investigation into the allegations of an exploitative work environment related to the tragic demise," she added.

The probe comes amid demands from the Opposition about ensuring norms for better working conditions. On Saturday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi spoke to the parents of 26-year-old Perayil, who died allegedly due to "work pressure", and assured them that he would "personally fight for this cause".

In a LinkedIn post last Thursday, EY India's Chairman Rajiv Memani expressed regret over not attending Perayil's funeral and said he is "committed to nurturing a harmonious workplace". Memani's post came hours after Karandlaje said an investigation into alleged toxic workplace environment has been launched.

● For AAP, Ram the refrain

to Sita's agnipariksha. "*Inhone mere upar aarop lagaya hai. Jab Bhagwan Ram vanvas se aaye the, Sita Maiya ko agnipariksha deni padi. Aaj mai agnipariksha dene ja raha hoon*" They made allegations against me. When Lord Ram returned from exile, Sita had to undergo a trial by fire. Today, I am doing the same," he said.

On Sunday, former deputy CM and senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia, speaking at the Janta ki Adalat gathering, drew parallels between Lakshman and himself. Accusing the BJP of trying to break him in jail and separate him from Kejriwal, he said, "They tried incessantly to break me from within and separate me from the party... When BJP knew that I would never betray my 26 years of friendship with Kejriwal, they kept me away from him for 18 months in jail... Kejriwal will continue to fight this battle against the dictatorial Ravan, the same way Lord Ram did, and I will follow him like Lakshman did... No dictatorship in the world

can break me."

In March this year, Atishi, who held the finance portfolio, had mentioned Ram or Ram Rajya at least 40 times in her 90-minute speech as she tabled the Budget document. The AAP also ran a social media campaign "Kejriwal ka Ram Rajya" with hashtags and highlights of the 2024-25 Budget.

Also in March, when asked about the AAP's Ram Rajya pitch, which was a theme of the party's 2019 Lok Sabha campaign, Kejriwal had said, "We believe in Ram Rajya... We have mentioned the concept in several Budget presentations... even during (former finance minister Manish Sisodia's) time."

Months before the 2022 MCD polls, during Diwali in 2021, the AAP-led Delhi Government built a 30-foot replica of the Ayodhya Ram Temple at Thyagraj Stadium. In the same year, the government added Ayodhya to the list of its Teerth Yatra programme, which was launched ahead of the 2020 Assembly elections.

● Nearly half of all posts in pollution boards vacant, some for decades

According to the affidavit, of the total 11,562 sanctioned posts in all SPCBs and PCCs, 5,671 (49.04%) posts have been left unfilled. While some of these posts have been vacant for a month or so, others have been vacant for decades — at least one post in the Punjab SPCB has been vacant for over 35 years (423 months). Only Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh have no vacancies, with all 17 and 27 sanctioned posts respectively being filled.

The states with the most vacancies are Sikkim (100%), Jharkhand (73.06%), Andhra Pradesh (70.10%), Madhya Pradesh (63.76%) and Manipur (63.02%). In an affidavit to the NGT, the Sikkim government said the recruitment process has been kept "on hold" as the state has been "unable" to allocate funds.

Sikkim has the smallest SPCB with only 11 sanctioned posts, while the Madhya Pradesh SPCB has the largest sanctioned strength with 1,228 posts, of which 783 are vacant "due to

court proceedings".

The CPCB and SPCBs were established under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Under this Act, the responsibilities of SPCBs included conducting investigations and research regarding water pollution, advising the state government on matters concerning water pollution, and monitoring compliance with the law. Besides administrative staff, the boards include posts for technical members like scientists and engineers. In the decades since, the responsibilities of CPCB and SPCBs have been expanded. These boards are now tasked with taking on similar duties regarding air pollution, environmental protection, waste management (including hazardous, biomedical and solid waste) and noise pollution among other issues.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, environmental lawyer and activist Akash Vashishtha said: "Pollution control boards are very important scientific bodies. They have in-

creasingly assumed the position of a scientific institution and require upgraded and advanced infrastructure for testing and sampling to tackle the current pollution scenario."

"Unfortunately, these boards are struggling with resources in terms of manpower. In the current legal framework, these boards are required to conduct quarterly and even monthly sampling exercises in the case of some important water bodies. When you don't have the scientists and engineers, how will you be able to collect samples, much less conduct the necessary testing. In rural areas, they rely on important water bodies for both drinking and irrigation purposes. Without sampling and testing, how will you be able to ensure these resources are free of pollution and safe for consumption."

Setting a deadline, the NGT, on September 11, directed all states and UTs to fill the vacancies by April 30 next year. This, however, does not include Punjab, Delhi and states with areas in the NCR —

Haryana, UP and Rajasthan.

Vacancies in SPCBs in these states and PCC in Delhi are already the subject of an ongoing case in the Supreme Court. According to the latest data, over half the sanctioned posts (53.68%) at the SPCBs and PCC in the NCR are lying vacant — 1,253 of the 2,334 sanctioned posts. In Rajasthan and Haryana, the vacancies go up to over 60%.

When the NCR situation was flagged in the SC by Senior Advocate Aparajita Singh on April 22, 56.15% of the sanctioned posts were lying vacant. The court then directed the four NCR states and Punjab to file affidavits specifying the number of vacant posts and the steps taken to fill them.

On August 27, a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said: "Today, the situation is that due to a large number of vacant posts in the State Pollution Control Boards, the said boards have become ineffective for all purposes". The next hearing is on September 27.

● PM addresses Summit of the Future

"Success of humanity lies in our collective strength, not in the battlefield, and for global peace and development, reforms in global institutions are essential," he said, alluding to India's aspirations to become a permanent member of the UNSC.

"Reform is the key to relevance," he said, and referred to the inclusion of the African Union in the G20 under India's presidency last year as an example. "Permanent membership of the G20 to the African Union at the New Delhi summit was an important step in this direction," he said.

"While, on the one hand, terrorism continues to be a serious threat to global peace and security, on the other hand, areas such as cyber, maritime and space are emerging as new theatres of conflict. On all these issues, I will stress that global action must match global ambition," he said.

"There is a need for balanced regulation at a global level, for the safe and responsible use of technology, we need global digital governance which ensures that national sovereignty and integrity are upheld. Digital public infrastructure should be a bridge, not

a barrier, for global good," he said. "India is ready to share its digital public infrastructure with the entire world," he said.

For India, he said, "One Earth, One family, One future, is a commitment." "This commitment is also reflected in our initiatives such as One Earth, One Health and One Sun, One World, One Grid. India will continue to work in thought, words and deeds to protect the rights of all humanity and for global prosperity," he said.

The Summit of the Future (SoTF) is taking place on September 22-23, prior to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The theme of the Summit is "multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow".

UN Secretary General António Guterres has called the Summit a "once-in-a-generation UN Summit". It is being projected as an important milestone in the history of the UN as it enters the 80th year of its establishment in 2025.

A Pact for the Future — with two additional documents on Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations — will be the outcome document of the Summit.

● Gangster killed in Tamil Nadu

wanted men in the region.

There has been an intensive manhunt for Raja in recent weeks — with posters bearing images of his face and criminal record plastered in several areas around Chennai. A senior officer said he had 10 warrants pending against him and that he had skipped court appearances several times.

On Sunday evening, a special task force arrested Raja from between the cities of Kadappa and Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh. He was then brought to Chennai for questioning. The following morning, police took him to Alkara, a quiet residential area, to allegedly recover a cache of weapons used in a string of crimes. Police claimed that at the recovery site, Raja tried to escape, drawing a country-made revolver and firing at the officers.

"He opened fire, and the police had no choice but to shoot back," a senior officer said. An injured Raja was taken to Royapettah Government Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

This encounter marks the third high-profile killing of a his-

tory-sheeter in Chennai since July. Earlier this month, 'Kakkathoppu' Balaji, labelled by the police as another "A-plus category rowdy", was killed in a similar encounter near Perambur, days after police gunned down Thiruvengadam, a suspect in the Armstrong murder case. In the last two months, police have conducted operations that led to the arrest of around 375 gangsters. Police have classified gangsters into various categories based on severity of their crimes, with Raja and Balaji falling in the "A-plus category" — for those involved in two or more murders. Raja was involved in more than 30 cases, including six of murder and six of attempted murder.

Detailing Raja's rise in the crime world, a senior officer said, "His criminal history began as a repositioning agent for a private bank, seizing vehicles from defaulters, an occupation that earned him the moniker 'Seizing' Raja. But soon, he turned to more lucrative pursuits, involving himself in Chennai's real estate business, settling disputes through extrajudicial methods."

● Thane sexual assault accused killed

injured police personnel. The accused was also taken to the same hospital, where he was declared dead, police said. His body has been sent to Sir JJ Hospital for post-mortem. "His former wife had filed a sexual assault case against him. The police were taking him for investigation in that regard, when (the accused)... opened fire on API Nilesh More, who has been injured. As per the preliminary information, the police fired in self-defence," CM Ekanth Shinde said, adding that further details would be revealed after a thorough investigation.

In a similar statement, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis said: "The estranged wife had lodged a sexual assault complaint against him. Accordingly, he was being taken for a probe. He snatched a gun from the police and fired at the police personnel while trying to escape from custody. The police fired in self-defence."

Meanwhile, the parents of the accused questioned the police's version, and asked how he could have fired at them when his hands were tied and face covered. They said they would not take his body, and demanded action against the school management officials who have been named in the case.

Maharashtra's Leader of Opposition Vijay Wadetiwar de-

manded a judicial probe. "At a time when school trustees who are linked to the BJP remain absconding, the main accused gets killed by the police. Is it an attempt to destroy evidence? How did he manage to get hold of a pistol when his hands were tied? We have always doubted the role of police in this case. This case must undergo a judicial probe," he said.

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar said, "The accused should have been hanged to death through the legal route. The negligence shown by the Home department while transferring the accused raises serious doubts." Former Home Minister and NCP (SP) leader Anil Deshmukh said the accused could not have snatched a pistol with both his hands tied. "The fake narrative of the encounter is being set to safeguard the BJP office-bearers linked to the school," he said.

The accused was arrested on August 17, for allegedly sexually assaulting two four-year-old girls in the washroom of a private school in Badlapur earlier that month. The incident triggered massive protests in the state over the alleged deed in filing the FIR and poor safety measures for children in educational institutions. Last week, the SIT filed two chargesheets before a special court in Kalyan.

● Why a campaign by PGIMER holds out hope

cadavers since the inception of its MBBS course in 2019. Of the 18, 10 were of patients who were either admitted at the hospital or passed away while on their way to RML Hospital.

A part of the reason why PGIMER's campaign is more successful is because it focuses on sessions with common people. "While many people pledge their bodies, often their families and relatives say or claim they do not know about it. Some are uncomfortable about the process and often, they delay contacting the institute. A body has to be retrieved and handed over to the department of anatomy within three to five hours. So, we encourage donors to make a will and take their family into confidence. And if our medical college or any other teaching institution is far away, we tell them to preserve the body in any mortuary on ice slabs," says a consultant in the anatomy department, PGIMER.

Since hospitals only accept

bodies of people who have died from natural causes, chronic diseases, age or trauma — and not infectious viral diseases — the COVID years saw a slump in cadaver donation. Says Dr Bidya Rani, anatomy professor at AB-VIMS, "No donation happened in the Covid years of 2020 and 2021 because of the possibility of infection spreading."

Although nurses and doctors have donated family members' bodies and signed consent forms to donate their own, they realise a lot more awareness is needed among patients and their families. "There is an interest at least. A government officer recently signed up to donate his body and I expect more people to come forward slowly," says Dr Bidya.

Dr Vandana Mehta, head of anatomy at VMCC and Safdarjung Hospital, concurs that regular awareness campaigns about organ donations have helped break the barrier. "Some donors are from the middle and

upper middle classes," she adds. But the numbers are a trickle compared to the requirement of medical colleges, which now use existing cadavers selectively.

Cadavers are not only used by medical students and resident doctors but also by doctors pursuing MCh degrees and scientists.

Professor Vijay Devagourou of the Cardio Thoracic Vascular Surgery department at AIIMS says cadavers are used to teach residents how to take organs out and put them back, which becomes a practical lesson for heart and lung transplants. "We teach students how to make a minimal incision and harvest blood vessels, like using the mammary artery for bypass surgery. These delicate procedures need practice and can't be done directly on the table."

Dr K B Shankar, head of the neurosurgery department at Safdarjung Hospital and VMCC College, says cadavers are a must for deep-seated precision surgeries.

● Delhi Police seeks to raze 'illegal' structures

A senior police officer said most of these buildings, spread across Northeast Delhi, Outer Delhi, North Delhi and West Delhi, belonged to people "who were arrested twice or thrice in the past and released on bail".

"Most of these structures were identified after we arrested people on charges of drug peddling. Many of them ran their operations from their property," the officer said.

The officer said the information was shared at a recent meeting of Delhi's narco-coordination building bylaws and made requests for action to be taken against them," the officer added. Sources said the MCD representative informed the NCORD meeting that action had been taken against five structures and that the remaining were "under progress". However, they said, senior officials in the meeting expressed their dissatisfaction with the MCD and termed their action as "cosmetic".

The MCD also said some of these structures were in the do-

main of the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

An officer said that at the meeting, the MCD and other agencies were told to "demolish the property completely rather than demolishing a window or small parts of the house. They have also been told to expedite the process of demolition... The MCD has been told to share its action taken report with the Delhi Police," the officer said, adding that the Delhi Police was also asked to explore provisions, if any, in the newly implemented Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS), which allows for such stringent action against drug traffickers.

On September 2, a Supreme Court bench of Justice B R Gavai and K V Vishwanathan had pointed to concerns over bulldozers being used in some states to demolish the houses of people accused in criminal cases.

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## Man arrested for making extortion calls in gangster Neeraj Bawana's name

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

A 38-YEAR-OLD man was arrested for allegedly attempting to extort money from a businessman in the name of gangster Neeraj Bawana, police said Monday. They also recovered the mobile phone and SIM cards used for extortion attempts from his residence.

Accused Nitin Manchanda, a resident of Rohtak's Meham, was arrested after businessman Nitesh Gupta's complaint about multiple extortion calls. The first call came on September 11 demanding Rs 5 lakh. The caller claimed to be associated with gangster Bawana and threatened to harm Gupta and his family if the demand was not met. Similar calls were allegedly received on September 17 and 18, after which he filed a complaint.

The Crime Branch identified the caller as Manchanda. He used a Haryanvi accent during the extortion calls in a bid to convince his victim that he was a gangster.

He was arrested near Majilis Park Metro Station. Manchanda told the police that he had allegedly made similar extortion calls to Aman Bhalla, the owner of Aman Makeover in Adarsh Nagar, who had already filed a complaint with the police.

Manchanda holds a diploma in computer hardware and once owned a mobile shop. He was influenced after news articles about gangsters extorting money, said DCP (Crime Branch) Satish Kumar.

## VARSITY, TEACHERS TRADE CHARGES In-house PhD entrance at JNU? Proposal in limbo

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

A PROPOSAL to potentially shift back to in-house PhD entrance exams at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has hit a roadblock as university officials claim that no feedback has been received from school deans two months after the consideration was announced, while faculty members say they submitted written opinions over a month ago.

The idea was floated in the wake of the cancellation of the UGC National Eligibility Test (NET) -- crucial for entry-level teaching jobs and PhD admissions at universities -- on June 19 following inputs from the Ministry of Home Affairs that "the integrity of the examination may have been compromised". In July, JNU said it would take eight weeks to reach a final decision on going back to in-house exams for PhD courses.

With no response from any of the Schools and Special Centres, officials said it is highly unlikely a conclusion can be arrived at.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, a senior official at JNU, on the condition of anonymity, said, "Deans have not come back so far with a plan. None of the 14 schools and 10 special centres have come (back) with a way to go about (it). Each school has to decide on all aspects as they will conduct (the exam)... (the) administration will



The idea of returning to in-house PhD entrance exams was floated after the abrupt cancellation of the June 2024 NET. File

to have been favourable to considering the traditional in-house examination."

"If a deadline was set by the administration, how is it possible that not even a single school or special centre in the entire university has responded?" Basu asked.

An official from the SIS, on condition of anonymity, stated that "all 13 centres deliberated right after this decision was taken by the varsity and all of this has been communicated to our Board of Studies... If this has not reached the administration's notice, we will check and take the required measures. But in terms of academic substantiveness, we have deliberated with all our centres and most of them were in favour of the in-house exam."

coordinate. It has to be submitted in writing and no one has done anything so far... teachers need to shoulder the responsibility."

In response, JNU Teachers Association president Moushumi Basu, also an Associate Professor at the School of International Studies (SIS), said, "As directed by the Vice-Chancellor, we have met the Deans of most schools before the deadline -- August 5 -- to submit our views as stakeholders for the varsity to resume conducting the in-house examination. At least big schools like the School of International Studies, School of Social Sciences, and School of Languages have given their views in writing on this move well before the deadline... most of whom we have spoken

For the past three years, the National Testing Agency (NTA) had conducted computer-based tests for PhD admissions, a practice that faced increasing criticism from the university community.

This year, JNU announced a change in its selection process for admission to its PhD programmes. From the current academic year, JNU said it accepts NET scores instead of conducting its own entrance test, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. But the abrupt cancellation of the June 2024 NET has prompted a reevaluation of this approach. On July 3, JNU V-Committee D Pandit initiated discussions about reviving the university's own entrance exam system.

## UPSC aspirant missing for 10 days found dead in Mukherjee Nagar, suicide suspected

HIMANSHU HARSH  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

DEEPAK KUMAR Meena arrived in Delhi in July this year to prepare for the UPSC mains exams. On September 20, the day the exams began, the body of the 22-year-old UPSC aspirant was found hanging from a tree in a forest area near a coaching institute library in Northwest Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar.

Deepak had gone missing

on September 11.

"His body was found in a wooded area near Dussehra Ground on Friday (September 20)," said Jitendra Kumar Meena, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest).

Hailing from Dausa in Rajasthan, Deepak had cleared the UPSC prelims exam and was preparing for the mains exam at a private coaching institute in Mukherjee Nagar.

A security guard at the institute had allegedly seen the de-

ceased leaving from one of the libraries the day he went missing. "He left at 9:48 am on September 10... Only when his father came searching for him a few days later, we got to know of his absence... Other students said he was a serious student," claimed Suraj Maurya, the guard.

According to police, CCTV footage from the day he went missing showed Deepak holding his bag and walking alone towards the area where his

body was found later.

"Prima facie, it looks like a case of suicide. A probe is underway," DCP Meena said.

However, no note has been found yet, police said.

The body of the deceased was taken to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital for post-mortem, said the police.

The private coaching institute where he was studying refused to comment on the matter, citing the police investigation.

## After 14 days, 26-yr-old mpox patient discharged from Lok Nayak Hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

A 26-YEAR-OLD man, who was admitted to the Delhi government-run Lok Nayak Hospital earlier this month with mpox, has been discharged after 14 days, hospital officials said Monday.

The patient from Hisar in Haryana with suspected symptoms was admitted to the special disaster ward dedicated to mpox cases on September 8. A day later, doctors confirmed the mpox diagnosis. "He is the only mpox patient admitted this year and was discharged on September 22," said an official at the hospital.

The hospital has 20 isolation rooms of which 10 are for suspected mpox cases and the remaining for confirmed cases.

Guru Teg Bahadur and Baba Saheb Ambedkar hospitals have



The hospital has 20 isolation rooms for mpox cases. File

set aside five rooms each for suspected and confirmed cases.

An infectious viral disease, mpox symptoms include rash and formation of blisters, accompanied by fever. The World Health Organisation last month had declared mpox a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern' for the second time in

view of its prevalence and spread across many parts of Africa.

In 2022, many countries, including India, reported a number of cases. Since then, around 99,176 cases and 208 deaths have been reported across 116 countries. India recorded 30 mpox cases between 2022 and March this year.

## Coaching centre deaths: Rau's CEO, coordinator get interim bail

NIRBHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

A DELHI court Monday granted interim bail to Rau's IAS Study Circle CEO Abhishek Gupta and coaching coordinator Deshpal Singh till December 7. They were arrested after three UPSC aspirants drowned in the flooded basement of the centre in Old Rajinder Nagar on July 27.

Granting them bail, Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna of Rouse Avenue Court said: "It's no doubt true the basement of the premises was being used in contravention to rules, however, the failure of civic authorities can't be ignored." The court directed Gupta to deposit Rs 2.5 crore with the Red Cross Society by November end.



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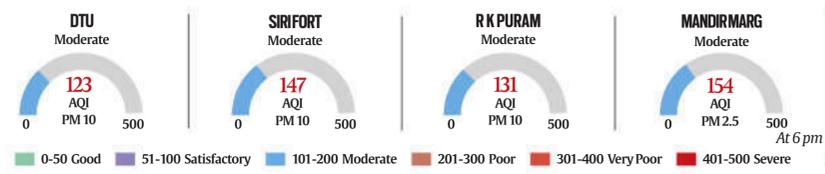
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### BRIEFLY

**DMRC to get first 'Make in India' driverless metro trainset**

New Delhi: The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Monday got the first metropolis metro trainset integrated with driverless technology, as part of its maiden project outsourced to an original equipment manufacturer (OEM), an official statement said. DMRC Managing Director Vikas Kumar said, "Today is a historic occasion for the Delhi Metro family as we take another major step towards operationalising Phase 4 corridors." "The first set of trains for this new phase of expansion is being dispatched from AP's Sri City," he added. **PTI**

### Delhi BJP launches 3-day drive

New Delhi: The Delhi BJP Monday launched a three-day 'Janta ka Mudda Assembly Mein' campaign at Connaught Place for residents of the Capital to highlight their grievances. The campaign, launched by Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, will begin Wednesday. For three days during the ongoing mega membership drive, the party will distribute the 'Janta ka Mudda Assembly Mein' forms wherein people can highlight the governance issues. "LOP Vijender Gupta will then shortlist the issues to be raised in the Delhi Assembly," Sachdeva said. Gupta also criticised the AAP-Delhi government for not allowing the Opposition to raise various issues of citizens during Question Hour. **ENS**

### Man jumps in front of Metro train, dies

New Delhi: A man died after jumping in front of an oncoming Metro at Lok Kalyan Marg Metro station Monday, said police. The man, Devendra Kumar (28) from Rajasthan's Alwar, left no suicide note behind, said police. On inspecting CCTV footage of the station, police found Kumar jumped onto the tracks at 5.47 pm. He was rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital but was declared dead on arrival by doctors. His identity was confirmed through an ID card found on him and his uncle, Deepak Saini, was informed. According to police, Kumar's body has been preserved at the RML hospital mortuary and inquest proceedings under BNS section 194 are on to investigate the circumstances surrounding his death. **ENS**

### BJP, CONGRESS SLAM MOVE, CALL IT SYCOPHANCY

# Empty chair in office awaits Kejriwal's return: CM Atishi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

WITH A "symbolic" empty chair alongside hers, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi assumed office Monday.

Underlining her status as a caretaker CM, she said in her first media address from the Chief Minister's office that the chair belongs to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal. "I am confident that in the elections to be held in February after four months, the people of Delhi will again make Arvind Kejriwal the Chief Minister of Delhi with their love and trust. Till then, this chair (the chair next to hers) will remain in this room, waiting for Arvind Kejriwal," she said.

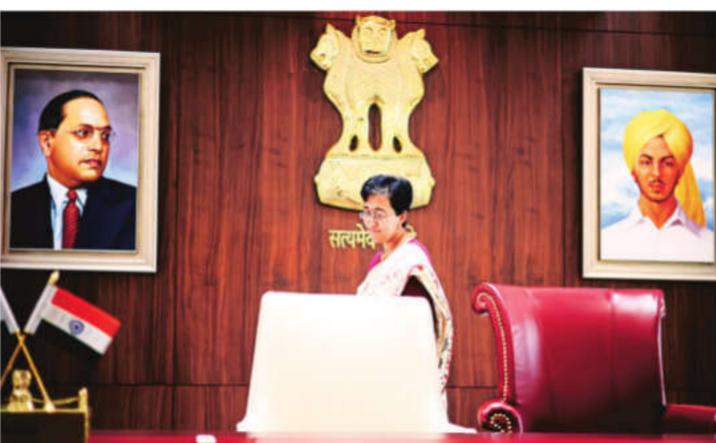
Both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress criticised the move, calling it unconstitutional and regressive.

Atishi, meanwhile, added that she would run the government for four months, just like Bharat from Ramayana did by placing Lord Ram's sandals in front of the throne for 14 years while he was exiled.

Atishi was chosen as CM last week after Kejriwal stepped down from the post after being granted bail by the Supreme Court in the Delhi excise policy matter.

She was sworn in on Saturday and took charge on Monday.

"Today, I have taken over as the Chief Minister of Delhi. I have the same pain in my heart as



CM Atishi assumed office Monday with a 'symbolic' empty chair alongside hers. Praveen Khanna

Bharat had when Lord Shri Rama was exiled from Ayodhya for 14 years and Bharat had to take over the government. Just as Bharat ruled Ayodhya by keeping Lord Shri Ram's 'khadaun' for 14 years, in the same way, I will run the Delhi government for the next four months," she said.

Drawing another parallel between Lord Ram and Kejriwal, she said, "Lord Shri Rama lived in exile for 14 years to fulfil a promise made by his father, which is why he is called Maryada Purushottam. His life is an example of dignity and morality for all of us. In the same way, Kejriwal has set an example of dignity and morality in the politics of this country (by re-

signing)," she said.

Calling her a "dummy CM", Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) president Devender Yadav said, "Chief Minister Atishi equating Kejriwal, who spent over five months in jail without getting bail on corruption charges in connection with the liquor scam before the Supreme Court granted him bail with stringent conditions, to Lord Ram is the depth of sycophancy. Her primary concern seems to be to whitewash the corruption of the former CM, and not the welfare of the people."

He also called Atishi's priorities as a CM "lopsided". "Atishi will have to wait end-

lessly for his return to the CM chair... This gives a clear indication that she was just a dummy Chief Minister, with Kejriwal still controlling the reins," Yadav said.

The BJP, meanwhile, said Atishi's actions were an insult to the Constitution. "Placing two chairs at the table of the Chief Minister is an insult to the Constitution, rules, and the post of the Chief Minister... This is sycophancy. By doing this, Atishi has hurt the dignity of the post of Chief Minister of Delhi as well as the sentiments of the people of Delhi. Kejriwal, you should answer - will you run the Delhi government with this kind of remote control?"

# Principal secy to PM chairs meet on Delhi & NCR air pollution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY to the Prime Minister, P K Mishra, Monday chaired a high-level task force meeting at the Prime Minister's Office to assess readiness to tackle air pollution in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) ahead of the winter season. A review and evaluation of efforts to tackle pollution from paddy stubble burning, vehicular emissions, construction and road dust, solid waste and diesel generators were taken up, according to a government statement.

"Dr Mishra instructed Chief Secretaries of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh to rigorously monitor and implement action plans aimed at eliminating stubble burning as committed in their action plans. He stressed the need for full utilisation of CRM (crop residue management) machines, strengthening the supply chain for ex-situ management, and supporting small industries in briquetting and pelleting operations to enhance the economic use of paddy straw," said a statement issued by the Union Environment Ministry.

During the meeting, Rajesh Verma, Chairman, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), presented details on the estimated paddy straw stubble generation in Punjab and Haryana. While an estimated 19.52 million tonnes of paddy straw will be generated in Punjab, in Haryana, it is estimated to be 8.10 million tonnes. "Punjab plans to manage 11.5 million tonnes of its paddy straw through in-situ crop residue management and



Stubble burning is among the contributors to air pollution. Archive

the rest via ex-situ methods. Haryana will similarly manage 3.3 million tonnes in-situ and use ex-situ methods for the remainder. Over 1.50 lakh CRM machines will be available in Punjab, supported by 24,736 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs). Haryana has 90,945 CRM machines supported by 6,794 CHCs," said the environment ministry's statement.

In addition, 2 million tonnes of paddy straw will be co-fired in 11 thermal power plants across the NCR. Principal Secretary Mishra also requested chief secretaries of NCR states to augment their e-Bus services in the region. The PM eBus Sewa Scheme aims to increase e-Buses in the country by 10,000.

The meeting was attended by Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan, Delhi Police chief and officials from Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Power, Petroleum, Road Transport, Housing and Urban Affairs, and Animal Husbandry, and representatives from the Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Boards. Also in attendance were chief secretaries and their representatives from Punjab, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan, and Delhi.

# L-G calls for 'dust-free Delhi' drive; AAP hits out, says 'tactics to claim credit'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

L-G V K Saxena asked authorities to take up a 'dust-free Delhi' drive in 7-10 days, in a meeting held Friday to review air pollution.

Authorities including the MCD, PWD, New Delhi Municipal Council, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, and Delhi Jal Board have been asked to take steps well in advance of the winter season.

According to a statement by the L-G's office Monday, pollution caused by road dust is one of the major contributors to air pollution. With a halt in rain, dried-up mud or silt on roads is also causing air pollution. Saxena advised road-owning agencies, mainly MCD and PWD, to clean dust from roads, avoid letting it settle, and transport it to designated dumping sites. MCD, IFCD and DJB are required to coordinate and move out silt or mud for disposal.

The AAP, however, called the L-G's actions "tactics to claim credit". In a statement, the party said Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bhadraj had called an all-departmental meeting but it couldn't be held because of the non-availability of the Chief Secretary.

# ECI team reviews election prep in Haryana districts

Gurgaon: An Election Commission of India (ECI) team Monday held a meeting to monitor and review action taken by authorities on the directions of the ECI in connection with the election process, during its visit to Haryana on August 12-13. Assembly polls in the state are slated for October 5.

Officials from Faridabad, Nuh, Palwal, Gurgaon, Mahendragarh, Rewari, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Jhajjar, Rohtak, and Sonapat districts were at the meeting. The commission led by Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner, in August had reviewed administrative, logistics, law and order, and election-related arrangements.

At the meeting, Deputy Election Commissioner Hridesh Kumar reviewed marking of electoral rolls, time plan for preparing ASD (absentee, shifted, duplicate or dead) lists, distribution of voter slips etc. Immediate action for surveillance of border areas in coordination with neighbouring states' police was also ordered. **ENS**

# 'Digital arrest' scam: 2 arrested for duping man of Rs 4.95 lakh

PRAGYNESH NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

TWO MEN were arrested for allegedly duping a man of Rs 4.95 lakh by posing as Mumbai Crime Branch officials. The accused, who were already in judicial custody in Tihar jail in a 2023 cyber fraud case, were arrested by the Delhi Police on September 17.

"The complainant was cheated... on the pretext of digital arrest by fake crime branch officials," said a police officer.

The accused are Ghazipur resident Rakesh Singh, 26, and Sachin Sangwan (25) from Patparganj. "They have been transferred to police custody in South West Cyber police station. The duo were being tracked for a long time for digital arrest," a police officer aware of the matter said.

The arrest was based on a complaint filed by Saurabh Pillay (45), a Vasant Kunj resident. He allegedly received a call on March 28, 2023 and a man, claiming to be a FedEx agent, said a package had been received in Pillay's name for delivery in Toronto. "The caller claimed the package contained a SIM card, ATM card and a passport. When the complainant denied sending any such package, the caller asked him to file a complaint at Colaba police station and

transferred his call to another number," said a police officer.

"The callers on the other number allegedly claimed to be Crime Branch officials," the officer added. The 'Crime Branch officials' allegedly told Pillay he was in trouble and an arrest warrant had been issued against him.

"Later, the alleged persons connected him to a lawyer who asked him to transfer Rs 2 lakh and Rs 2.95 lakh to a Yes Bank account for priority investigation, stay on the arrest warrant, anticipatory bail, to avoid freezing of his bank account and assets, and an 'innocence certificate,'" the officer said.

After Pillay transferred the said amount, the lawyer stopped picking his call. Police said the money trail showed the bank account was of a Mumbai resident. "The money was then transferred to another account which was found to be handled by Rakesh Singh," an officer said.

Sangwan, a BTech graduate, used accounts registered in names of different companies to move the scammed amount, police said. "Sangwan used to take the money from Rakesh's account in cash, using a cheque. He then deposited it in another account, and used P2P transactions on the Binance, by converting it to USDT, thus breaking the money trail," another officer said.

# IIMC Awards 2024: 10 alumni felicitated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE INDIAN Institute of Mass Communication Alumni Association presented the IIMCAA Awards 2024 to 10 of its alumni. Eleven were felicitated under the 'Jury Special Mention' category.

Anup Pandey won the 'Journalist of the Year' award with a cash prize of Rs 1.50 lakh. Shagun Kapil was honoured with the Agriculture Reporter of the Year award with prize money of Rs 1 lakh. Other winners received Rs 50,000.

Other winners were Rajat Mishra in the 'Publishing Reporting' category; Abhinav Goel in 'Broadcast Reporting'; Surabhi Singh in 'Producer'; Muhammad Sabith U M in 'Publishing Reporting' in Indian Languages; Shatarupa Samantaraya in 'Broadcast Reporting in Indian Languages'; Saransh Jain in 'Advertising'; Shillpi A Singh in 'PR'; Ofactor in 'Ad Agency'; and Kaizzen in 'PR Agency'.

The 'Jury Special Mention' category awardees included Abhishek Angad; Ritvika Mitra; Ashutosh Mishra; Manish Mishra; and Nidhi Tiwari in 'Journalist of the Year' category. Diwash Gahatraj in Agriculture Reporting; Parimal Kumar and Vishnukant Tiwari in Broadcast Reporting, and Rohan Kathpalia were awarded in the 'Producer of the Year' category, and Supriya Sundriyal and Nikhil Swami in the 'PR' category.

# Over 4,000 safai karamcharis in Noida protest, demand end to contract work

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NOIDA, SEPTEMBER 23

WARNING OF an indefinite strike, over 4,000 sanitation workers of three industrial development authorities in Noida region staged a protest Monday demanding an end to contractual employment.

Chanting 'Baba Sahab Amar Rahe' and 'Valmiki Samaj Zindabad', workers employed with the Noida Authority, Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority and Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority gathered at Mayawati Park in Gautam Budh Nagar. "The contract



At the protest in GB Nagar.

system undermines our life... We put our lives at stake without security," said Amit Kumar, a safai karamchari with Noida Authority.

Contract-based employment leaves workers vulnerable, said Bablu Parcha, state president of

# HC upholds relief for student heading to Oxford; was denied scholarship for wrong document

SOHINI GHOSH NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

A DIVISION bench of the Delhi High Court Monday upheld a single judge's ruling that a student cannot be denied a government scholarship to study abroad on "hyper-technical grounds".

Mohit Kukadia, 28, who secured an opportunity to pursue a public policy programme at the University of Oxford, was denied the Central Sector Scholarship Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) for Scheduled

Caste (SC) candidates by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. This was after he had mistakenly uploaded the income tax return (ITR) acceptance instead of the ITR while filling the form. While providing him relief, the single-judge bench had directed the ministry to process Kukadia's application for scholarship under the NOS scheme for the academic year 2024-25 and grant the scholarship in two weeks.

The Union government appealed against the verdict before a division bench. Arguing before the court of Acting Chief Justice

Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela Monday, the Centre's counsel said there were four scholarships available under landless labourers and artisans from notified tribes category, and all four scholarships had been allotted. Kukadia's counsel, Vijay Dahiya, countered that a merit list was drawn and the government could simply follow it. He said, "The whole list is on merit. I was above all four. So it is clear the fourth (will) have to go."

Addressing the government counsel, ACJ Manmohan orally remarked there was a mistake at the

government's end initially with vaguely stipulated conditions in the list of required documents.

The division bench, upholding the single-judge bench's order, noted, "This court is of the view that the term ITRA is of no legal import and has no legal sanctity attached to it. Either the appellant should have asked for an ITR acknowledgement document or for the order accepting the return filed by the applicant..."

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Dahiya said Kukadia was due to leave for UK on September 26 and was yet to receive the scholarship.

### CO-FOUNDED ST+ART INDIA IN 2013

# Hanif Kureshi, who popularised street art in neighbourhoods, passes away

VANDANA KALRA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

IN 2013, when artist Hanif Kureshi co-founded St+art India with an endeavour to paint streets across the country, little did he imagine that the initiative would not just achieve its purpose but also become an inspiration for several others.

"Our aim is to make art more accessible. When you are working in an art gallery, your concerns are different, but this is art on the streets, for everyone," stated Kureshi in an interview with *The Indian Express* in 2022. Credited for taking art to the masses, to the very streets they

walk, Kureshi passed away on Sunday. He was 41 and had been battling cancer.

"He played an extremely significant role in popularising street art in India and was a role model to many," says art curator Rahul Bhattacharya. His batchmate at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in Vadodra, Bhattacharya adds, "Right from the beginning, he was not a conventional artist. He was constantly exploring new avenues."

It was his interest in signboard painting and hand-lettering that also led Kureshi to first explore the bylanes of India in search of street sign painters whom he began commissioning to paint alphabets in their

unique styles and fonts. Realising how patronage for the art form was dwindling, he began digitising typefaces and brought them under the banner of HandpaintedType.

St+art India was visualised as a not-for-profit organisation that works on art projects in public spaces.

It was his search for neighbourhoods that would lend themselves to street art that led Kureshi to Delhi's Lodhi Colony in 2013, on the recommendation of a friend. With its high walls and pedestrian-friendly lanes, the murals painted in the locality attracted immediate attention. This was not graffiti, associated with protest art, but an attempt



to introduce India to street art, and boasted imagery in varied hues and messaging. Gond artist Bhajju Shyam,



Rangoli for Holi alongside a wall Hanif Kureshi (above) and others had painted in Delhi's Lodhi Colony. St+art India/Instagram

who completed a work in Lodhi Colony in 2019, describes Kureshi as modest and courteous.

"I have known him since around 2017-18. He was extremely patient and sincere. We had long discussions during the creation of the work - he would listen and offer constructive advice," says Shyam.

Years later, Lodhi district is now often cited as India's first art district. St+art India now organises and collaborates on art festivals across India, and has since painted murals in neighbourhoods in several cities, including Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai. Inviting artists from abroad

as well as across India to paint, Kureshi also often wielded the brush. If Lodhi Colony has the words 'Yaha' and 'Must' in a work that is a collaboration between Australian artist Georgia Hill and Kureshi, his 2017 installation for the Sassoon Dock Art Project in Mumbai "played with the idea of typography, smell and memory".

Having exhibited his works around the world at prestigious venues and events, including the London Design Biennale, Venice Biennale and Centre Pompidou Paris, among others, the multidisciplinary artist's solo exhibition was held in June, this year, at Wildstyle Gallery in Sweden.

# Beijing slams Quad: US uses it to contain China, perpetuate hegemony

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 23

CHINA ON Monday termed Quad as a tool used by the US to contain Beijing, asserting that interference by any external force will not shake its determination to uphold its "sovereignty and maritime rights" in the disputed South and East China Seas. "Quad is identified as the premier regional grouping that plays a leading role in the US's Indo-Pacific strategy. It is a tool the US uses to contain China and perpetuate US hegemony," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a press meet, fielding a spate of questions on the summit. Hosted by President Joe Biden, the Quad Summit took place on Saturday in his hometown Wilmington, Delaware. The summit was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan. Lin accused the US of attempting to "patch up forces" to exclude and contain China by peddling the "China threat" narrative. "The Quad tries to muster military and security cooperation under the pretext of mar-

itime issues — same intention, same tactics," he said. Though the US claims that it does not target China, the first topic of the summit is about China and China was made an issue throughout the event, he said, in a veiled reference to informal comments by Biden to fellow Quad leaders. Biden was caught on a hot mic telling leaders of the Quad nations that China was testing them, thus reflecting upon the American seriousness of the emerging Chinese threat. "We believe Xi Jinping is looking to focus on domestic economic challenges and minimise the turbulence in China," Biden told the leaders at the Summit. The US is lying through its teeth and even the US media does not believe it, Lin said, replying to a question about Biden's comments. Ever since the Quad started taking shape in 2007, China has been saying that the four-member grouping will be bound to fail. But much to the chagrin of Beijing, it picked up pace in the recent years emerging as a premier strategic group especially challenging China's assertiveness in the disputed South China Sea. In 2018, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi termed the Quad as a headline-grabbing idea.

Commenting on the steady evolution of Quad and the outcome of the Delaware summit, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post said, "By any measure, the Quad summit culminates a remarkable transformation for the framework of four nations over the course of its 17-year history". About the Quad Summit expressing grave concern over the situation in the South China Sea and East China Sea, Lin said that external interference will not shake China's resolve to uphold its sovereignty and territorial integrity. "Let me stress that no interference from any force will weaken China's determination in defending its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights... We will lodge serious protests over any act that undermines China's sovereignty and security," he said. He also parried questions over the Quad announcing its first joint Coast Guard Mission at Sea and strengthening cooperation in the Indian Ocean region by giving primacy to India. Lin said cooperation between countries should be conducive to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region, rather than focusing on forming exclusive groupings that undermine trust and cooperation among regional countries.

# LAYS STONE FOR NEW BOMBAY HC COMPLEX CJI: Judges work independently but stand with govt on court infra issues

OMKAR GOKHALE MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

CHIEF JUSTICE of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud Monday said that the judges across the Supreme Court and High Courts exercise their functions with "fiercest sense of independence" on the judicial side but the judiciary stands together with the government for issues related to court infrastructure and budgeting as such projects are created for citizens. CJI Chandrachud, who had served as Bombay HC judge for nearly 13 years, was addressing an event at Taj Lands End in Bandra (West), after he participated in the "ground-breaking" ceremony for Bombay High Court's new building complex in Bandra (East). Emphasising the "priority to expedite construction" of the new court complex, CJI Chandrachud said that the ceremony, also attended by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and

Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar celebrated "spirit of cooperation". "...on the judicial side, judges across the HCs and SCs exercise their functions with fiercest sense of independence. But when it comes to administrative (issues) such as infrastructure, budgeting, we stand together with the government because our mission is one and the same... These are projects created for our citizens," CJI Chandrachud said. He added, "Therefore, let there be no doubt at all, and I have no doubt in my mind that the sense of collaboration between the state and judiciary is in the interest of providing modern infrastructure for our citizens... reflects strength and maturity of our nation." Justices Bhushan R Gavai, Abhay S Oka, Dipankar Datta, Ujjal Bhuyan, Prasanna B Valde of the SC, along with HC Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya were also present at the ceremony.

# Govt to curb Greenwashing, surrogate ads

New Delhi: The Centre will soon release guidelines on prohibition of "greenwashing/ misleading environmental claims" and surrogate advertisements by several tobacco and liquor companies, Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said Monday. ENS

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED (A Govt. of India Undertaking) A-11, Sector-24, Noida (UP)-201301 Phone No. 0120-2412294, Extn. 3411 NOTICE INVITING TENDER (OPEN E-TENDER) Ref. No. GEM/2024B/5375434, B/5425915 & B/5426032 Dated: 24.09.2024 Bids are invited for appointment of CFS agents for handling work of imported bulk P & K fertilizers at MUNDRA/TUNA/KRISHNAPATNAM PORTS. For details, please visit website www.nationalfertilizers.com and https://gem.gov.in/ Last date for bid submission is 03.10.2024 (1400 Hrs. IST). Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, shall be published only on NFL's website. DGM-I/c (II & IP)

भारत सरकार कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस), आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंज़िल, प्लॉट P-6,7,8, से-5, आई.एम.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव, हरियाणा-122050. Email: roc.pace@mca.gov.in Government of India Ministry of Corporate Affairs Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) IICA Building, 7th Floor, Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050. Email: roc.pace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK-6 PUBLIC NOTICE [Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2024-25/859 Date: -03/09/2024 Reference:

(1) In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (58) companies in the state of DELHI under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

SL NO	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AA9900980	U74999DL2018PTC332038	SAACHI INDIA MARKETING PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AA9817860	U80904DL2018PTC336389	NARENDRA DEV COACHING CLASSES PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AA9680416	U74899DL1989PTC036140	SPECTRUM VOYAGES PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AA9771655	U72900DL2020PTC370638	SNAPVISION TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AA9915361	U56102DL2023PTC412117	KOZMO FRESH PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AA10025958	U46305DL2023PTC417949	TEMPEROS MAASALAY PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AA9931433	U25209DL2019PTC353241	SAANVI POLYFLAKES PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AA9808709	U15130DL2019PTC354060	KHATEMA BEVERAGES PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AA9384684	U46308DL2023PTC424127	YANAM BEVERAGES PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AA9664728	U74909DL2023PTC420999	TARITECH SOFTWARE PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AA9741755	U26931DL2022PTC404177	BRICKBUDS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AA9483492	U72900DL2022PTC404252	AESTARMART ELECTRO GAMING SOLUTIONS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AA9605829	U28243DL2023PTC414949	CAEC MACHINERY (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AA9545843	U74999DL2022PTC408593	ADFFIX MARKETING PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AA9699989	U72200DL2022PTC403877	AGM INNOVATE PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AA9559397	U72200DL2022PTC401117	SKYY HIGH DIMENSION PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AA9879127	U65999DL2022PTC392077	SAINA BHATIA HOLDING PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AA9694861	U74999DL2021PTC387854	POPPING MINDS HR SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AA9656833	U63030DL2021PTC381828	TRAVNEX HOLIDAYS PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AA9495537	U51100DL2017PTC312813	AAPSOJ PHARMA PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AA9922084	U31909DL2020PTC369122	ENGINEUM CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AA9844819	U28999DL2020PTC373633	VAALVE FAUCETS PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AA9794777	U92490DL2020PTC366857	PITCHSIDE SPORT PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AA9456394	U15499DL2019PTC359181	DASHO GOSHAYE PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AA9778750	U51100DL2019PTC351497	HOPE OBEDIENT PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AA9394916	U85195DL2019PTC356435	TRUECURE HEALTHCARE PRIVATE LIMITED
27	AA9383119	U18209DL2019OPC354182	CAEZAR APPAREL (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
28	AA9541022	U65900DL2018PTC342602	JSC TRAVEL FOREX PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AA9404856	U74999DL2018PTC341129	GP SHAKTHI INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AA9975434	U63000DL2013PTC257317	ORBITNOTE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
31	AA9870417	U74999DL2015PTC287807	XYZ INFRA & SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
32	AA9702498	U74140DL2014PTC227879	ARKA CONFEDGE PRIVATE LIMITED
33	AA9891035	U74900DL2011PTC227508	DIFFERENTIAL CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
34	AA9650901	U74899DL1979PTC010014	TRIDENT ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED
35	AA9884550	U74900DL2011PTC229118	EASYTECH SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
36	AA9793029	U74899DL1994PTC059834	MULTIPLY MANAGEMENT SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
37	AA9848741	U32204DL1996PTC078151	POLY-QUAL (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
38	AA9604303	U24114DL1999PTC100078	SHAIVI FASHION PRIVATE LIMITED
39	AA9736361	U29309DL1999PTC101519	LANCER HOME APPLIANCES PRIVATE LIMITED
40	AA9286210	U85110DL2002PTC115223	RIA HEALTHCARE PRIVATE LIMITED
41	AA9736115	U74140DL2005PTC140623	MULTILINKS HUMAN RESOURCE CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED
42	AA9912344	U51909DL2013PTC248230	ILE BUSINESS SOLUTION PRIVATE LIMITED
43	AA9830010	U80903DL2013PTC247664	OASIS PMT IIT COACHING INSTITUTE PRIVATE LIMITED
44	AA9814855	U70109DL2012PTC237695	RIKITA INFRASTRUCTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
45	AA9640303	U50402DL2009PTC193393	PRJ ENVIROTECH PRIVATE LIMITED
46	AA9552587	U65991DL2009PTC194502	PREMIUM BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
47	AA9568476	U74999DL2017PTC319970	APODIS IT SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
48	AA9239140	U47221DL1984PLC019171	UNIQUE GREENFIELD LIMITED
49	AA9683033	U27310DL2008PTC179995	ADR CONSULTANCY SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
50	AA9812647	U51226DL2008PLC183982	CHEMSTAR POLYMERS LIMITED
51	AA9980568	U46900DL2009PTC188202	VVS ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED
52	AA10040161	U74999DL2022PTC398882	TAALAMEL CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
53	AA9953353	U65191DL2009PTC194990	SETH BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
54	AA9475569	U31900DL2009PTC189433	ACTIVENT ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED
55	AA9728923	U47211DL202404PC427247	PACTFUSE (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
56	AA9656580	U85100DL2019PTC350238	MIBO WELLCARE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
57	AA9936359	U74900DL2012PTC233367	GCG INFOTECH PRIVATE LIMITED
58	AA9730116	U51909DL2020PTC374819	DELICC COMMERCE PRIVATE LIMITED

(2). Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies. (3) Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies. (4) Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irkan Tirkey Assistant Registrar Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit CBC 07123/11/0410/2425

# Israeli envoy praises India's role in 'fight for freedom'

New Delhi: Israel's ambassador to India Reuven Azar on Monday praised "India's role in fight for freedom, not just for itself but also for other nations, including Israel". Speaking at an event to commemorate the contribution of Indian soldiers who fought in the Battle of Haifa during World War I, Azar acknowledged that the unwavering ties between India and Israel, along with the resolute belief of the Israeli people, strengthens their national existence. The event, organised by the Delhi chapter of Forum for Awareness of National Security and the New Delhi Municipal Council, was held at Teen Murti Haifa Chowk, which was renamed in 2018 to reflect the Israeli city's name. Speaking at the event, Indresh Kumar, a member of the national executive of the RSS, and a patron of Forum for Awareness of National Security, said India and Israel face similar challenges — terrorism and hostile actions of their neighbouring countries. He said the friendship between the two nations has evolved as a "powerful force for peace". ENS

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Panipat-132106, (Haryana) NOTICE INVITING TENDER Bids are invited on GeM Portal in Two Part Bid System for following item:- 1. GeM Bid No.: GEM/2024B/5241683, Dated 23.09.2024 2. Description of Items: BOPP laminated PP Bags 3. On Line Bid submission Last date & Time: 10.10.2024 upto 11.00AM For further details, visit our website: http://www.nationalfertilizers.com The tenders will be submitted only online on GeM portal https://gem.gov.in. Any future amendment/modifications/corrigendum to the GeM Bid will be displayed only on GeM Portal. Chief Manager (Materials)

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD No. - 654 Dated :- 23/09/2024 Notice Inviting Bid Bid for Construction of EWS-43 Nos. & LIG-12 Nos. Total - 55 Nos. Houses Zone-I to Rs. 411.10 Lakh, Construction of EWS-40 Nos. & LIG-32 Nos. Total - 72 Nos. Houses Zone-II to Rs. 580.39 Lakh, Construction of EWS-48 Nos. & LIG-37 Nos. Total - 85 Nos. Houses Zone-III at Devalli Housing Scheme, Ph-I, Udaipur, Div-Udaipur to Rs. 683.16 Lakh, Construction of MIG-B-50 Nos. Houses for Board Employee at P.D.N. Suwana, Div-Bhilwara to Rs. 310.27 Lakh, Construction of HIG-19 Nos. & MIG-A-05 Nos. Total - 24 Nos. Houses for Board Employee at P.D.N. Suwana, Div-Bhilwara to Rs. 201.69 Lakh, General Maintenance of Rental Houses at RHB Colony Udaipur to Rs. 16.19 Lakh & Construction of Park Boundry at Salumber Housing Scheme, Salumber to Rs. 14.45 Lakh of subject matter (s) of (Procurement) are invited from interested bidders item no 01 to 05 from 25.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 (upto 6:00 PM) & Item no- 06 to 08 from 25.09.2024 to 04.10.2024 (upto 6:00 PM) & Repair of House No. 1/154 at Pratapgarh for Compliance of Court Case No.- 50/2013 & R.P.2764/2023 to Rs. 0.97 Lakh (Offline Opened on 04.10.2024) Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the state and Rajasthan Housing Board Department https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and https://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rhb websites. UBN No. RHB2425WS080182 TO RHB2425WS080190 Raj.Samwad/C/24/5576 Dy. HC Circle, Udaipur

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER Tender Notice No.- PR 342/2024 Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites e-tenders under two bid systems from the reputed Service Providers/ Firms /Companies/Agencies/ Societies for "Providing Service of Barcode (Fictitious Roll) Printing on 3 Parts of OMR Cover of Used Answer Booklet, Tearing of Flying Slips, Packing of Flying Slips and Answer Books for Intermediate & Secondary Examination, 2025 (Annual/ Compartmental) at District HOs of Bihar." Detailed tender document containing eligibility criteria, other terms and conditions are available on the website https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in and https://biharboardonline.bihar.gov.in Tender Schedule Date and Time for Activity Date/Time: Duration Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents From: 25.09.2024 (11:00 Hrs.) to 17.10.2024 (14:00 Hrs.) (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in) Pre-Bid Meeting 05.10.2024 at 12:30 Hrs. (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017) Last Date/ Time for Submission / uploading of Online Bid 17.10.2024 up to 14:00 Hrs. (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in) Last Date and Time for submission of EMD in Hard Copy/ Original (Only in case of BG) 18.10.2024 up to 14:00 Hrs. Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid 18.10.2024 at 15:00 Hrs (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid Date to be announced later by competent authority. Cost of the Tender Document ₹5,900/- (Five Thousand Nine Hundred Rupees Only) (Non-Refundable) Tender Processing Fee ₹3,540/- (Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty Rupees Only) (Non-Refundable) Earnest Money ₹2,00,000/- (Two Lakh Rupees only) (Refundable) Contact Details: Sh. Vinod Kumar Singh, Nodal Officer, Mobile No.: +91 62999 23095, E-Mail ID: eproc-bseb-bih@gov.in, eproc.bseb@gmail.com Note: Bihar School Examination Board reserves the right to accept/ cancel/ reschedule tenders without assigning any reasons. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in. Corrigendum/ Amendments etc., if any, will be notified on this portal only and no separate advertisement will be made. Secretary

GOVT. OF BIHAR BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD I.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14. UNDER GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (UGMAC)-2024 for MBBS/ BDS/ B.V.Sc. & A.H. in Govt. Medical / Dental / Bihar Veterinary Colleges and Private Medical / Dental Colleges of Bihar Adv. No.- BCECEB(UGMAC)-2024/10 Dated : 23.09.2024 Website : bceceboard.bihar.gov.in UGMAC-2024 से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना मनीषी सर्वोच्च न्यायालय, नई दिल्ली द्वारा विहित अपील संख्या- 18802/2017, डॉ. भीम राव अम्बेडकर विचार मंच, बिहार बनाम राज्य सरकार एवं अन्य के मामले में दिनांक 15.07.2024 को जारी (तस्मा) जाति को SC कोटि से EBC कोटि में सम्मिलित करने का आदेश तदनुसार बिहार सरकार के पत्र संख्या-11/आ-न्याय-73/2024-12679(स.प्र.) पत्र सं. 764 दिनांक 12.08.2024 द्वारा जारी (तस्मा) जाति को पान / स्वासी से हटा कर EBC कोटि में पुनर्समिाहित करने सम्बन्धित आदेश को आलोक में विधान संख्या BCECEB(UGMAC)-2024/08 दिनांक 15.09.2024 द्वारा UGMAC-2024 को जारी (तस्मा) जाति को अपने Online Application Form में SC कोटि अर्जित करने के, उन्हें Edit करने का मौका देते हुए SC से EBC कोटि में परिवर्तन करने का निर्देश दिया गया था। उसमें आलोक में SC के कुल 30 अर्थवर्गों द्वारा EBC कोटि में परिवर्तन किया गया जिसके कारण UGMAC-2024 के विधान संख्या BCECEB(UGMAC)-2024/03 दिनांक 21.08.2024 को प्रकाशित मेधावृत्तों में परिवर्तन हो गया। उक्त को आलोक में UGMAC-2024 से सम्बन्धित सभी अर्थवर्गों, विकल्प संस्थानों एवं सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि जारी (तस्मा) जाति को अर्थवर्गों द्वारा Online Application Form में दिनांक 17.09.2024 से दिनांक 18.09.2024 तक को अर्थवर्ग में अपना आरक्षण कोटि को SC से EBC में सुधार करने के कारण अर्थवर्गों का कोटि/वर्ग मेधावृत्तों में परिवर्तन हुआ है, जिसके फलस्वरूप UGMAC-2024 को पूर्व प्रकाशित मेधावृत्तों को संशोधित किया गया। संशोधित मेधावृत्तों पर वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध करा दिया गया है। सम्बन्धित अर्थवर्गों पर वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध Link "Revised Rank Card of UGMAC-2024" पर click कर अपना UGMAC ID एवं अन्य विधि डाउन कर Revised Rank Card download कर लें। 2. पूर्व प्रकाशित मेधावृत्तों में परिवर्तन होने के कारण Round-1 Counselling को रद्द किया जाता है। जिसके फलस्वरूप Round-1 Counselling द्वारा आवेदित सभी अर्थवर्गों का नामांकन भी रद्द हो गया है। 3. संशोधित मेधावृत्तों के आधार पर Round-1 एवं Round-2 Counselling को प्रक्रिया पुनः निम्नवत् कार्यक्रम अनुसार आयोजित की जायेगी। 4. वेसे अर्थवर्ग जो Round-1 Counselling हेतु Choice filling किये थे एवं वे अगर अपने द्वारा भेजे गये Choices में किसी तरह का संशोधन करना चाहते हैं तो वे दिनांक 24.09.2024 (12.00 P.M.) से 25.09.2024 (12.00 P.M.) तक को अर्थवर्ग में अपने Choices को Unlock कर Edit कर सकते हैं। 5. Round-1 Counselling हेतु Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result का प्रकाशन दिनांक 27.09.2024 को की जायेगी। अर्थवर्गों Online Counselling Portal of UGMAC-2024 के माध्यम से अपने Account में login कर अपना Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result देखें और अगर उन्हें सौत आवंटन हुआ है एवं वे अपने आवेदित सौत से संतुष्ट हैं तो वे Round-2 Counselling हेतु अपना upgradation "NO" अवक संतुष्ट नहीं हैं तो Round-2 Counselling हेतु अपना upgradation "YES" देते हुए Revised Provisional Seat Allotment Order download कर प्राप्त कर लेते तथा Revised Provisional Seat Allotment Order पर ऑनलाइन Reporting Centre / Nodal Centre पर जा कर अपना Document Verification / Admission को प्रक्रिया को पूरी करेंगे। 6. वेसे अर्थवर्ग जो पूर्व में आवेदित Round-1 Counselling द्वारा किसी संस्थान में नामांकित हैं वा Upgraded हैं उनका Round-1 Provisional Seat Allotment Result में College / Course में परिवर्तन हुआ है अथवा पूर्व के संस्थान में ही पुनः सौत आवंटन हुआ है तो वेसे सभी अर्थवर्ग अपने पूर्व के आवेदित / नामांकित संस्थान से जा कर अपना सभी मूल अपिलेख (पदि संस्थान में गया है) प्राप्त कर लेते तथा Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result द्वारा आवेदित संस्थान में जा कर निर्धारित अर्थवर्ग में Document Verification / Admission को प्रक्रिया को पूरी करेंगे। 7. वेसे अर्थवर्ग जिसका Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result के द्वारा सौत आवंटन हुआ है और पूर्व के Round-1 Counselling द्वारा Free Exit ले चुके हैं, अगर वे Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result द्वारा आवेदित सौत से संतुष्ट हैं तो वे अपने मूल अपिलेखों के तहत Revised Provisional Seat Allotment Order पर ऑनलाइन Reporting Centre पर जा कर Document Verification / Admission को प्रक्रिया को पूरी करेंगे अन्यथा उनका Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result द्वारा आवेदित सौत रद्द हो जायेगा। 8. वेसे अर्थवर्ग जिसका Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result द्वारा सौत आवंटन हुआ है परन्तु किसी कारणवश वे अपने आवेदित संस्थान में जाकर Document Verification / Admission नहीं करते हैं (पदि उनका Upgradation का विकल्प "YES" नहीं है), तो वेसे सभी अर्थवर्गों को स्वतः Free Exit मान लिया जायेगा और इनका पूर्व का पत्र हुआ Choices "Null & Void" हो जायेगा एवं अगर वे Round-2 Counselling में Participate करना चाहेंगे तो उन्हें पुनः Fresh Choices भेजना अनिवार्य होगा अन्यथा वे Round-2 Counselling हेतु पात्र-पात्र (Eligible) नहीं होंगे। 9. Important dates for UGMAC-2024 Revised Round-1 Counselling : (i) Editing of Choices (Round-1) : 24.09.2024 (12.00 P.M.) to 25.09.2024 (12.00 P.M.) (ii) Publication of Revised Provisional Seat Allotment Result for Round-1 : 27.09.2024 (iii) Downloading of Revised Allotment Order (Round-1) : 27.09.2024 to 30.09.2024 (iv) Round-1 Document Verification / Admission Date : 28.09.2024 to 30.09.2024 10. Round-2 Counselling से सम्बन्धित कार्यक्रम की सूचना चतुस्रमय अलग से दी जायेगी। 11. पूर्व प्रकाशित विकल्पों को अन्य तर्ज / नियम / प्रक्रिया पथान्वर रहेंगे। श्रीका निर्वचक

# Bharatpur assault: Justice Dash to begin probe within a week

Bhubaneswar: The Justice Chitta Ranjan Dash commission, formed Sunday to investigate the alleged incident at the Bharatpur police station on September 15 — in which an Army officer and his fiancée alleged assault by policemen who in turn accused the two of the same — will begin its probe in a week. "The judiciary is always blamed for delaying things. But if all the parties and stakeholders cooperate, we will submit the report within 60 days," Justice Dash, who retired as judge of the Calcutta HC in May, told reporters in Cuttack on Monday. Describing the 60-day deadline fixed by the state government as enough, he said he will start the probe into the incident "within a week". The gazette notification issued by the Odisha government said: "The commission will... probe into the role, conduct and accountability of the individuals, groups and authorities and also suggest measures to be taken to avoid the recurrence of such events..." ENS

WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION SOFT UPGRADATION / IMPROVEMENT Tender Notice No. DRM/RJT/E-Tender/2024-2025/17 (EL) Dt: 19-09-2024. Tender No. DRM/RJT/EL/2024-2025/17 (i) Name of Work: Soft Upgradation / Improvement Amrit Station Scheme. (ii) Approx. Cost: ₹ 3.52,22,287/- (iii) EMD Cost: ₹ 3,26,100/- (iv) Date and time for on line apply: on 21-10-2024 up to 15:00 hours. (v) Address of the Office: Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot-360 001. Web site particulars: www.ireps.gov.in

# 6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## TRAVEL BUG

AFTER RECEIVING and clearing nearly two dozen applications in the last two months, Delhi L-G V K Saxena is learnt to have asked the Intelligence Bureau to "keep an eye" on personal leaves for foreign trips being availed by Delhi Police officers from IPS and DANICS cadres. What has prompted the L-G Secretariat to issue the instruction is the justification given by the officers on how the travel expenses will be met, which, sources said, are "far from convincing". In the last two months, Raj Niwas has cleared 16 such applications from IPS and seven from DANICS officers, the sources said.

## TWO FOR THE MONKEYS

THE UNION Public Service Commission (UPSC) is in the process of conducting a different kind of recruitment. Located at Dholpur House on Shahjahan Road, the UPSC premises, like other government offices in Lutyens' Delhi, is frequented by monkeys. The commission is looking to hire two "monkey handlers" to drive away the simians from the complex, it is learnt. The monkey handlers will have to comply with the norms of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. The two handlers, working in shifts, will be responsible for keeping the building and its terrace free of monkeys.

## BREAKFAST PE CHARCHA

DGP, CHANDIGARH, S S Yadav has devised a unique way to understand the ground situation in the police department. He has started inviting constables from different police stations to his home for "breakfast". The DGP has prepared a list of all the constables and is sending invitations to four at a time from different police stations/units for breakfast interactions. He talks to them about their problems and also takes their suggestions for the likely resolution of the issues.

# TN Gov: Secularism is not Bharatiya concept, added to Constitution by one insecure PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 23

SECULARISM IS A European concept evolved after a conflict between the church and the king whereas Bharatiya is a dharmic-centric nation and therefore, it was not part of the Constitution, but added during the Emergency by "one insecure prime minister", TN Governor RN Ravi has said.

A lot of frauds have been committed on the people of the country, and one of them was a wrong interpretation of secularism, he said addressing an event in Kanyakumari district Sunday.

"What does secularism mean? Secularism is a European concept, secularism is not a Bharatiya concept," he said.

Decades later, during Emergency (1975-77), "one insecure Prime Minister" introduced secularism in the Constitution in order to appease some sections of people, the Governor alleged. Indira Gandhi was the PM during Emergency.

At the time of Independence, when the Constitution was being drafted, a discussion came up on secularism and the Constituent Assembly rejected

## Sack him: Cong

New Delhi: The Congress slammed as "outrageous" TN Governor RN Ravi's remarks, with party leader Jairam Ramesh calling him "only a trial balloon floater" who echoes what PM Modi wants to get done. "This man, who has taken an oath on Constitution... should be sacked forthwith. He is a disgrace," Ramesh said. PTI

it observing that Bharat is a dharmic-centric country and there has been no conflict, similar to what was witnessed in Europe, Ravi claimed.

Citing the Constituent Assembly discussions, he said it was deliberated there that Bharat is a country of dharmic. "How can there be a conflict with dharmic? How can Bharat be away from dharmic? it cannot be!" he said.

Hence, they said secularism was a European concept and let it be there, Ravi added. In India, there was no need for secularism, they said and hence, it was not included in the Constitution, the Governor asserted.

## DAYS AFTER INDIA ABSTAINED AT UNGA

# PM Modi meets Abbas: 'Deep concern' on Gaza

PM also holds bilateral meetings with Nepal's Oli and Kuwait Crown Prince

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in New York and expressed "deep concern" at the humanitarian situation in Gaza, reaffirming India's support for the early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

The meeting on Sunday, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, came days after India abstained at the UNGA on a resolution that demanded that Israel bring to an end, "without delay", its "unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" within 12 months.

The 193-member General Assembly adopted the resolution, with 124 nations voting in favour, 14 against, and 43 abstentions. Besides India, the other countries which abstained included Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Nepal, Ukraine

and the United Kingdom. "Met President Mahmoud Abbas in New York. Reiterated India's support for early restoration of peace and stability in the region. Exchanged views of further strengthening long-standing friendship with the people of Palestine," Modi said in a post on X.

"PM @narendramodi met H.E. Mahmoud Abbas, President of Palestine, on the sidelines of UNGA today," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. Modi "expressed deep concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and reaffirmed India's continued support to the people of Palestine," he said.

India has underscored its commitment towards a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the Israel-Palestine issue and reiterated that only a two-state solution achieved through direct and meaningful negotiations between both sides will lead to enduring peace.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds a bilateral meeting with Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, in New York on Sunday. ANI

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), citing Ministry of Health in Gaza estimates, has said that between October 7, 2023 and September 16 this year, at least 41,226 Palestinians have been killed and 95,413 injured.

According to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than

1,542 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in this period, the majority on October 7, when the Hamas attacked Israel.

Modi had spoken to Abbas in October last year, when he conveyed condolences at the loss of civilian lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, and reiterated India's "long-standing principled position on the Israel-Palestine

issue".

That phone call had come days after Modi spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, when he described the October 7 attacks as "terror attacks" and said India stands firmly in solidarity with Israel.

Later, in its first official statement on the Israel-Hamas war, India sought to balance its position. The phone call to Abbas was

also seen as a balancing act, with the phrase "universal obligation to observe international humanitarian law" being aimed at Israel which is conducting aerial strikes in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Modi also held talks with Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli. "Had a very good meeting with Prime Minister K P Oli in New York. The India-Nepal friendship is very robust and we look forward to adding even more momentum to our ties. Our talks focused on issues such as energy, technology and trade," he said in a post on X.

"The two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest to strengthen cooperation in all areas of age-old, multi-faceted and expanding partnership," the MEA said. Modi also accepted Oli's invitation to visit Nepal.

Since taking charge in July, this is Oli's first foreign trip, breaking the tradition of visiting a neighbouring country first.

Modi also met Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Sabah and discussed ways to deepen "historical linkages" and "people-to-people contacts".

# Outsiders taking decisions, we'll restore J&K's statehood: Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, SEPT 23

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi on Monday said that the BJP snatched the "democratic rights" from the people of J&K and appointed "people from outside" to take decisions for the locals.

He reiterated his party's resolve to work for restoring the statehood of J&K as he addressed two rallies, one in Jammu and another in Valley, on the last day of campaigning for the second phase of polling on July 25. It was his third visit to Kashmir since the Assembly polls were announced.

"They (BJP) did not just snatch your democratic rights but all decisions, about development, education or health, that were earlier taken by you by electing your MLAs are now being taken by outsiders," he said at a well-attended rally at Zainakote in Srinagar.

Zainakote is a part of the Central Shalteng seat from where Pradesh Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra is the NC-Congress alliance candidate.



Rahul Gandhi with party leaders Tariq Hameed Karra and Ghulam Ahmad Mir at Zainakote in Srinagar, Monday. ANI

"A raja (king) has been placed here. The LG is a raja, he is from outside and not from J&K. He cannot provide what the people of J&K want," he said. "We want that the people of J&K should choose their government once again... we want to restore your statehood to you," Rahul said.

At Surankote in Jammu, he accused the BJP and the RSS of spreading hatred round the clock. "The ensuing Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir is a fight against hatred," he said.

"In J&K, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur... wherever they go, they (BJP and RSS) incite brother against brother... It is their only job... spreading hatred," Rahul said, adding that love is the only answer to tackle hatred.

"Today, we have broken the psychology of Narendra Modi... whatever we want, we get it done," he said, referring to the changed scenario after INDIA bloc's good show in the Lok Sabha polls. "They bring laws in Parliament... We stand up and they withdraw them," he added.

# 17% candidates in J&K poll fray have pending criminal cases: ADR report

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 23

AS MANY AS 152 or 17% of the total candidates in the three phases of J&K Assembly elections this year have police cases registered against them, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) released Monday.

While this is much lower than the national average of candidates with pending criminal cases — 46% in 2024 Lok Sabha elections — it has gone up from 6% (49 of total 831 analysed by ADR) recorded in the last Assembly elections in J&K in 2014.

The ADR analysed affidavits of 872 candidates out of the total 873 in fray in the ongoing J&K elections. The complete affidavit of one candidate, Sarjan Ahmad Wagay, was not available on the EC site, the ADR said.

In the first phase of elections held on September 18, as many as 36 of the 219 candidates in the fray had criminal records. Twenty-five of them have cases of serious nature against them, ranging from attempt to murder to crimes against woman, including rape. One of them has been named in an FIR under the provisions of POCSO Act, 2012.

Of the 49 candidates with criminal cases in the second

phase, 37 have been booked for serious offences. Similarly, of the 67 such candidates contesting elections in the third phase, 52 have criminal cases of serious nature against them.

In view of the presence of such a large number of candidates with pending criminal cases, 8 of the 26 constituencies going to polls in the second phase have been declared "red alert" seats.

Likewise, of the 40 constituencies going to polls in the third phase, 11 have been declared "red alert" seats as they have at least three or more candidates with declared criminal cases against them.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses an election rally at Tohana in Fatehabad, Haryana, on Monday. ANI

# Citing Tanwar, Selja, Shah says Congress an 'anti-Dalit party'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

CITING ASHOK Tanwar and Kumari Selja as examples, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Monday launched a scathing attack on the Congress accusing it of being an 'anti-Dalit' party.

"The Congress party has always insulted Dalit leaders, be it Ashok Tanwar or sister Kumari Selja," said Shah, who addressed two rallies in Haryana — Tohana and Yamunanagar.

In Tohana, Shah said, "The Congress party is an anti-Dalit party. I want to remind (Bhupinder Singh) Hooda ji and Rahul baba about the 2005 Gohana incident. Who was responsible for this? It was the Congress."

The Home Minister also referred to the 2010 Mirchpur incident in which several Dalit families were forced to migrate after people from upper caste set their homes on fire. In this incident, a teenage girl and her father were charred to death. In Gohana too, a few homes of Dalits were set on fire after a Dalit in the village was suspected of being involved in a murder of an upper caste man.

Shah also recalled how it was

the BJP that awarded Bharat Ratna to Dr B R Ambedkar while the Congress party did not acknowledge his achievements till the day they remained in power.

Shah slammed Rahul Gandhi for his remarks concerning the Sikh community. "The entire country feels proud of the Sikh Gurus. The 10th Sikh Guru (Gobind Singh) is respected in every home. In every home, school, there is a picture of the 10th Sikh Guru and Guru Nanak Dev. And Rahul baba says, Sikhs don't have the freedom to wear turban, 'kara' in India. He says Sikhs don't have permission to visit gurdwaras in the country. Rahul baba, in which India do you live?" Shah said.

In Yamunanagar, Shah referred to the Congress party's infighting. "Hooda father and son are fighting between themselves. They are also fighting over ticket distribution. In BJP, Manohar Lal Khattar himself left his seat for young leader Nayab Singh Saini."

Shah also spoke of how it was the BJP government that implemented "One Rank, One Pension" scheme and how the BJP government in Haryana is the one that is purchasing all 24 crops at MSP, which is the highest in the entire country.

# In 4th Cabinet rejig, Punjab CM Mann inducts five first-timers

KANCHAN VASDEV  
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Bhagwant Mann Monday shed three key portfolios and allocated departments to five new ministers, minutes after they were administered oath of secrecy and office by Governor Gulab Chand Kataria at Raj Bhawan.

This is the fourth cabinet reshuffle of the 30-month-old AAP government in the state.

Those sworn in as ministers are all first-time MLAs and include Hardeep Singh Mundian, Barinder Kumar Goyal, Tarunpreet Singh Sond, Dr Ravjot Singh and Mohinder Bhagat. With their induction, the strength of the Cabinet, including CM Mann, reached 16.

There can be a maximum of 18 ministers in the Punjab Cabinet.

Among the new ministers are two Dalits — Bhagat and Ravjot Singh — taking the members of the SC community in the Cabinet to five.

The fresh induction comes a day after Chetan Singh Jouramajra (public relations, defence services and horticulture), Anmol Gagan Maan (tourism and investment promotion) Balkar Singh (local government and parliamentary affairs) and Bram Shanker Jimpa (revenue) resigned from the Cabinet on being asked by Mann.

On Monday, Mann shed the portfolios of jail, industry and commerce, and housing and urban development.

He handed over the jails to Laljit Singh Bhullar but divested the minister of key departments of rural development and panchayats and handed it over to Sond.

The shift is significant and comes ahead of the panchayat polls scheduled for October 20.

# Rocky Maharashtra elections ahead, BJP in two minds over Devendra Fadnavis

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

AS THE Maharashtra Assembly elections loom as soon as the current round is over, the BJP is grappling with one urgent question: what next for Devendra Fadnavis?

Few dispute that he is the most popular BJP face in the state. He also has youth on his side, is seen as a leader who delivers, is believed to enjoy the confidence of the RSS, and is seen favourably by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. What has muddied the waters for Fadnavis is the series of missteps blamed on him since the BJP failed to get a majority in the 2019 Assembly polls, leading up to the party's collapse in the recent Lok Sabha elections, to nine seats in Maharashtra, from

23 in 2019. His supporters say it is the central BJP that is behind the position Fadnavis finds himself in, refusing him a CM post and relegating him to Deputy CM even as the Mahayuti alliance has itself become unwieldy with the addition of Shiv Sena and NCP factions after their splits.

Now, talk has begun again that Fadnavis should be brought to the Centre by the BJP, with a few suggesting his name for party president, a post that has long been waiting for a new name. Sources said that these voices, coming largely from the RSS camp, are keen on this as they expect that Fadnavis may again be deprived of CM post should the Mahayuti win the Assembly polls. According to a source, Shiv

Sena leader and CM Eknath Shinde has been assured that he would retain the post even if his party wins just over 40 seats in the state Assembly out of total 288.

But those on the other side argue that moving Fadnavis would give a wrong signal ahead of the Maharashtra polls given his acceptability across the state. His detractors go further and see a game plan to insulate Fadnavis from any backlash if the BJP does badly in the Maharashtra polls.

Incidentally, RSS sah sarkaryawah Atul Limaye, appointed by the Sangh as the coordinator for the Maharashtra elections, has been advising the state unit to project "a collective leadership" in the Assembly elections instead of one face. There are those who feel Fadnavis should face the heat for



Devendra Fadnavis with Amit Shah in July. File

the Lok Sabha poll performance, saying he played a key role in the party's candidate selection and election strategy. Hence, he should not be seen as being "rewarded" at the national level so soon, say these leaders. This group also accuses Fadnavis of sidelining state BJP

## EXPLAINED Weighing options

THERE'S TALK Fadnavis may be moved to the Centre, with a few suggesting his name for BJP president, a post long waiting for a new name. Sources said these voices are coming largely from the RSS camp. But those on the other side argue moving Fadnavis will send a wrong signal ahead of the Assembly polls.

leaders, at the cost of the party. While Eknath Khadse left the BJP to join the NCP, Pankaja Munde voiced her displeasure many times

openly at being "sidelined", while ex-MP Poonam Mahajan could not manage a Lok Sabha ticket.

Sources said that Fadnavis, a Brahmin, was to blame for adding fuel to the Maratha quota protests as well, due to the police firing on the protesters. The Home portfolio is held by Fadnavis. His counterparts in the government, Sena chief and CM Eknath Shinde and NCP chief and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, in contrast, are both Marathas and have largely been spared the community's anger.

A party source said: "At a time when the state is going for polls, appointing him at the helm of affairs of the BJP would send a wrong message to the Maratha community."

Then there is the question of finding Fadnavis's replacement

in Maharashtra if he is moved to the Centre. Sources admitted that the BJP would struggle to find anyone with "the acceptance and credibility" across the state like him. One distant possibility is BJP national general secretary Vinod Tawde — also seen as having been sidelined by Fadnavis, but later promoted by the central BJP — who is a prominent OBC leader. However, the quota agitation finds Marathas rallied against the OBCs, who fear a dilution of their share.

Leaders close to Fadnavis say he is himself not keen to shift base from Maharashtra. "Once shifted to the Centre, he would not be able to come back to the state, where he is more comfortable. His dream of occupying the CM's chair again will remain unfulfilled," said a state BJP leader.

About the poor Lok Sabha poll performance, leaders in his camp said that a bigger share of the responsibility should fall to the BJP's new allies. They point out that the Shinde-led Sena won only five seats, and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP just one.

Meanwhile, the first glimpses of Fadnavis's campaign are here and they depict him as "Aadhunik Abhimanyu" (modern-day Abhimanyu). In the Mahabharata, Abhimanyu enters the enemy's impregnable defence, but dies fighting as he doesn't know the way out. Fadnavis's campaign hints that he is surrounded by enemies, with his own people not standing by him.

Next up, said sources, will be the burnishing of Fadnavis's image as an endearing "motha bhai (big brother)".

# 7 EXPRESS NETWORK

**BRIEFLY**

**CHHATTISGARH**  
3 Maoists killed in encounter

**Raipur:** Three Maoists were killed by security forces in an encounter in the forests of Abujmad in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district near Maharashtra border on Monday. An AK-47 rifle, which was earlier stolen by Maoists from security forces, was recovered after the encounter. A joint operation was undertaken by the Special Task Force and District Reserve Guard acting on a tip-off on the presence of Maoists in forests. **ENS**

**MANIPUR**  
4 bank staff held for loot

**Imphal:** Four staff of Bank of Baroda were arrested by the Manipur Police in connection with the looting of gold worth around Rs 4 crore. The arrested include the branch manager of the bank which is located inside the Manipur University campus. A SIT led by an SDPO was formed which rounded up three bank staff for questioning followed by the branch manager. They were later arrested. **ENS**

**RAJASTHAN**  
Gehlot's ex-OSD summoned

**Jaipur:** The Crime Branch of Delhi Police has once again summoned former Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot's former OSD, Lokesh Sharma, for questioning in connection with the phone tapping case registered by Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. Importantly, this will be the first time Sharma is being summoned after he had publicly shared his phone conversations with the former chief minister. **ENS**

## 40,000 km in 8 months: 2 women Navy officers to set sail around the globe in Oct

**AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

ON OCTOBER 2, two women officers of the Indian Navy will embark on a gruelling sailing expedition around the globe that will see them navigating around 21,600 nautical miles (approximately 40,000 km) over eight months, braving high seas, extreme weather conditions and three great capes.

If successful, Lt Cdr Roopa A from Puducherry and Lt Cdr Dilna K from Calicut, who will circumnavigate the globe under the Navika Sagar Parikrama II onboard INSV (Indian Naval Sailing Vessel) Tarini, will be the first from India to accomplish the feat in double-handed mode.

The expedition was first conceived by the Navy with the inaugural edition of the Navika Sagar

Parikrama, the first Indian circumnavigation of the globe by all-women crew of six officers in 2017. For the last three years, the two Naval officers, both in their 30s and from military families, have been preparing for this sailing expedition, which will be flagged off from Naval Ocean Sailing Node, INS Mandovi, at Goa.

At a curtain-raiser on the expedition on Monday, Lt Cdr Roopa said it would be an exceptional journey of eight months. Saying that they have been training for nearly three years, she expressed confidence in their preparations.

Sharing the likely challenges, Lt Cdr Dilna said they would have to sail at least 21,600 nautical miles without any external assistance, relying solely on wind power, while highlighting that the voyage route would include going around Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and the



Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A at an event on Monday. PPT

Cape of Good Hope.

As part of their preparations, the two officers participated in a trans-oceanic expedition from Goa to Rio de Janeiro via Cape Town and back, as part of a six-member crew, last year. They also undertook a sailing expedition from Goa to Sri Vijaya Puram

(earlier Port Blair) and back, and a sortie from Goa to Port Louis, Mauritius, early this year.

Vice Chief of the Navy, Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, described it as a journey of empowerment, innovation and commitment to India's maritime heritage that will chart new paths. He

said the event would highlight the perseverance and courage of the officers, who will be pushed to the limits of human endurance.

Captain Dilip Donde (ret'd) was the first Indian to circumnavigate the globe in 2009-10. Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Ret'd) was the first Asian skipper to participate in two circumnavigations and completed the Golden Globe Race in 2022. He has been closely associated with the training of the two Naval officers as the official mentor.

As per the Navy, the expedition is being conducted under the aegis of the Indian Naval Sailing Association based at Naval Headquarters, and the Ocean Sailing Node, Goa, under the Southern Naval Command. Both the nodal centres will coordinate the voyage, in liaison with international maritime agencies and authorities.

## Man's sacred thread cut in TN, FIR lodged

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
TIRUNELVELI, SEPTEMBER 23

A 24-YEAR-OLD man's sacred thread was cut and thrown away in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, by three bike-borne men, who mocked him for wearing it following which a case was registered, police said on Monday.

The incident took place in Palayamkottai on September 21 evening, while Akilesh was walking towards the local Astika Samaj, run by Brahmins, to take part in a bhajan, police added.

While Akilesh was on his way to the event, without a shirt and wearing a dhoti, the three men on the bike stopped him, and cut and threw away his *janeu* (called *poonool* in Tamil) and after mocking at him, told him to not sport the sacred thread again.

Astika Samaj functionaries along with Hindu Munnani — an RSS-affiliated outfit — office-bearers lodged a complaint with

the Perumalpuram Police (Palayamkottai) on September 21 night. An FIR was registered and an investigation is underway to nab the unidentified accused, officers said, adding CCTV recordings in the vicinity of the incident are being screened.

Condemning the incident, Union Minister L Murugan asked the DMK government if "this was the Dravidian model of governance". The BJP leader, who is on a visit to Tirunelveli, wrote in a post on X that he met the victim at his house and added that "it was an offence to insult religious signs/symbols of anyone".

In the name of 'Dravidian' ideology, a fringe group has been carrying on propaganda against religious belief and Hindus, Murugan alleged, without naming anyone and demanded that the state government act immediately and book the culprits at the earliest. Also, Hindu Munnani office-bearers visited the victim, to express solidarity.

## Tirupati temple: Using different ghee now, purification done

**SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 23

CALLING ON devotees to set aside apprehensions about the laddoo *prasadam* served at the Sri Venkateswara temple in Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati district, officials of the board that manages the temple have said that they are now using ghee supplied by the Karnataka Milk Federation to prepare the laddoos.

Moreover, purification rituals were performed in and around the temple "to ward off ill effects and restore the sanctity of laddoo *prasadam*", the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) said. This comes after allegations emerged that the ghee that was being used to make the laddoos had been adulterated with animal fat. A R Dairy Food Private Limited, the Tamil Nadu-based company that had been supplying the ghee, had denied allegations that their ghee was adulterated.

On Monday, rituals were performed at the tanks used to store ghee, and the storage area where other ingredients that go into preparing the laddoos and other offerings to the deity are stored, as well as the kitchen, and the trays used to carry the offerings.

A TTD official said: "We are now using mainly Nandini brand ghee, which has restored the quality, taste, and aroma of the offerings." Officials said that seven tankers, each carrying



A priest performs the ritual of purification, Monday. PPT

nearly 13,000 litres of Nandini brand ghee, have arrived at Tirumala since August 25.

In recent days, the TTD has witnessed an increase in sale of laddoos as the number of pilgrims have started to increase due to various festivals, and the nine-day *Brahmotsavam* from October 4 to 12. On September 22, devotees visiting were 82,646, up from 73,104 on September 20.

The temple's chief priests Monday conducted the purification ritual from 6 am to 10 am. "To ward off the ill-effects and restore the sanctity of laddoo *prasadam* and other *naivedyam*s, along with the well-being of the devotees, the purification ritual, Shanti Homam, was observed as per the tenets of Vaikhanasa Agama in the *yagshala* of Tirumala temple on Monday morning," the TTD said.

After this, TTD executive officer J Syamala Rao said: "The devotees can put aside their apprehensions and misconceptions about the quality of laddoo *prasadam* and *naivedyam*s."

## FSSAI show cause notice to company supplying ghee

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE FOOD Safety and Standards Authority of India has sent a show cause notice to A R Dairy, which was one of the suppliers of ghee to the Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati, asking why its licence should not be suspended as its product allegedly did not meet the standards set for ghee.

The country's apex food safety regulator said that the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which manages the Tirupati temple, sent the samples to Gujarat's Centre for Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food for testing.

"After analysis, the sample from your firm... has failed to meet the parameters and your firm has been blacklisted. In view of all the above stated... show cause as to why your central licence shall not be suspended for contravention," the notice said. Out of the four ghee samples sent for analysis, one failed the tests, according to persons in the know.

The company has been asked to file a reply by Monday, "failing which action will be initiated as per the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006". It holds a central licence valid till June 2029.

## HC judge's home loan dispute: Consumers panel rejects bank's plea for more time

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE NATIONAL Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) on Monday declined to give State Bank of India (SBI) more time to make submissions on its plea seeking transfer outside Tamil Nadu of a consumer complaint filed against it by Madras HC Judge Justice Nisha Banu over a home loan repayment dispute.

Commission chief Justice A P Sahi, presiding over the bench

which included Member Inderjit Singh, said they will pass a detailed order. Justice Sahi orally told Justice Banu's counsel, who urged NCDRC to "impose some heavy costs", "you better leave that. You know, again media, again SC. They are not going to stay here. You have to be careful. But we will do everything what is possible."

As the bench took up the matter on Monday, a counsel for the bank urged the Commission, which had issued notice on the SBI plea on August 2, to adjourn the matter as Advocate Jitendra

Kumar, who was due to appear on the bank's behalf, was unwell. It, however, said two more advocates had signed the *vakalatnama* and "they" too "are not present in court nor is there any indication about their status as to whether they are well/unwell". It said in its order: "...this is a mere excuse undertaken to seek adjournment. We rejected the same... We will pass a detailed order..." it said.

After rejecting the SBI's prayer, Justice Sahi told the counsel, "you shouldn't do things lightly when it is a sitting HC judge".

## Woman's body in fridge: Key suspect identified, says Bengaluru top cop

**KIRAN PARASHAR**  
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 23

TWO DAYS after a 29-year-old woman's dismembered body was found inside a refrigerator at her rented house, Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda said on Monday that they have identified the prime suspect and are making an effort to nab him.

Speaking to reporters, he said, "I cannot reveal more details of the investigation. He is an outsider (not from Karnataka)." Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said the police have already collected the details of the crime. "We are confident of nabbing the accused soon. We need to see if there was one person or two persons involved in the incident. We don't know about it as we speak," he said.

The police discovered the body of Mahalakshmi, who worked as a team leader with a costume outlet in Malleshwaram, at her rented house in Vinayaka Nagar in Vyalikaval on Saturday. The police filed the case based on the complaint lodged by Mahalakshmi's mother Meena Rana.

A police officer, who is part of the investigation, said Mahalakshmi's body was handed over to the family after the post-mortem examination. "During the course of the investigation, we

also found that Mahalakshmi had separated from her husband Hemant Das because of domestic disputes," said the officer.

A police officer from Nelamangala police station said Mahalakshmi filed a complaint against Hemant Das in February claiming that he had assaulted her. Meanwhile, Das also filed a complaint against her, saying she was having an affair with another man. The police had taken a Non-Cognisable Report (NCR) and their family members had tried to defuse the fight between the couple.

On Sunday, Das said he married Mahalakshmi six years ago and had a daughter. He alleged that Mahalakshmi was in a relationship with a man from Uttarakhand. "They had an extramarital affair which led to the problem and I discovered it somewhere in April-May last year. For the last nine months, we were separated and I do not know whether she was in contact with the man. For the first four months, my daughter stayed with her (Mahalakshmi) and later she lived with me in Nelamangala," he said.

Das also said Mahalakshmi visited Nelamangala a month ago and met her daughter. "She was calm and did not talk much about her life," he said.

One of Mahalakshmi's brothers said she became incommunicado on September 4.

## Sultanpur robbery case: Another accused shot dead in encounter

**ANUJ SINGH KILLED IN RETALIATORY FIRING: STF**

**MANISH SAHU**  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 23

THE UTTAR Pradesh Police's Special Task Force (STF) shot dead one more accused in the August 28 Sultanpur jewellery shop robbery incident in an encounter in Unnao district early Monday morning, officials said.

Anuj Pratap Singh of Amethi had been on the run since his alleged involvement in the robbery incident that took place last month. He carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh on his head. Singh's death came amid a controversy surrounding the death of 28-year-old Mangesh Yadav, another accused who was killed in a police encounter on September 5.

Two country-made pistols, cartridges, a bag containing silver jewellery, and a motorcycle were recovered from Singh's possession, the STF said. Unnao SP Deepak Bhuker said Singh was first taken to a primary health centre where doctors referred him to the district hospital.

The STF said in a statement that it received a tip-off on Sunday that Singh had come to the Ganga Katari area of Unnao with an as-

sociate armed with deadly weapons and the two would leave for Rae Bareilly on a motorcycle at night with the looted jewellery.

Acting on the information, the STF team from Lucknow reached the Koluahagada-Achalganj underpass on the Rae Bareilly-Unnao highway. A motorcycle was seen coming from Koluahagada at a very high speed. The informer told the STF team that it was Singh and his associate.

"An attempt was made to stop the motorcycle, but the motorcyclist tried to turn the vehicle towards the unpaved road and slipped and fell due to grass and mud," the STF said.

When the STF team asked the accused to surrender, Singh and his associate opened fire at the police personnel "with the intention to kill", it said.

"DSP Pramesh Kumar Shukla had a narrow escape and head constable Ravi Verma was hit by a bullet but survived because he was wearing a bulletproof jacket," the STF said.

In the retaliatory firing, Singh sustained a bullet injury and fell on the roadside. He was taken to hospital where doctors declared him dead, the agency said.

## V Venu appointed chairperson of Kochi Biennale Foundation

**VANDANA KALRA**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

FORMER CHIEF Secretary to the Government of Kerala and former Director General of the National Museum in Delhi, Venu Vasudevan has been appointed chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Kochi Biennale Foundation.

"He has been associated with the biennale since the very beginning and we are extremely happy that he will now be a part of the organisation. Aware of the achievements of the biennale, he is most capable of taking it forward from here," stated Bose Krishnamachari, president of Kochi Biennale Foundation (KBF).

India's first biennale of international contemporary art, the event that had its inaugural edition in December 2012 has been grappling with challenges in recent years. Postponed a day before it was to open its fifth edition in 2022, the curator for the next edition — which was to tentatively open in December 2024 — has still not been announced. According to sources, it is unlikely that a full-



Kochi Biennale Foundation chairperson V Venu. File

## Laapataa Ladies is India's entry to Oscars

**ALAKA SAHANI**  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

ENDING speculation over India's official entry for the best foreign film category at the 97th Academy Awards, the Film Federation of India (FFI) in Chennai selected Kiran Rao-directed *Laapataa Ladies* for submission.

Expressing her gratitude to the selection committee and to everyone who believed in the film", Rao in her social media post wrote: "It is indeed a great privilege to be selected from among such amazing Indian films this year — who are equally worthy contenders for this honour."

Set in the heartland, *Laapataa Ladies* tells the coming-of-age story of two newlywed brides, who are mistakenly exchanged during a train ride to their in-law's homes. The film produced



*Laapataa Ladies* was picked over Cannes winner *All We Imagine As Light*. Screenshot

by Aamir Khan Productions emerged as the top choice for India's Oscar entry out of 29 movies which were under consideration. Khan in his media statement said he was "proud of Kiran and her entire team" and hoped that the film would be "able to win the hearts of the members of the Academy".

The announcement by FFI, which is entrusted to make the selection, was lauded by many while others expressed their surprise over Payal Kapadia-directed *All We Imagine As Light*, the winner of Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, being overlooked. After its Cannes premiere, *All We Imagine As Light* has been making waves in major international film festivals, including the ones held in San Sebastian, Toronto and New York.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Saturday, following the release of *All We Imagine As Light* in Kerala, Kapadia when asked about the possibility of her debut feature being selected as India's Oscar entry said, "All We Imagine As Light is an Indian film. It would be great to represent India." Actor Rana Dagubatti, whose *Spirit* is the distributing film, spoke about his plan to release the film phase-wise in different parts of India.

In her post, Rao thanked her team and said, "I hope that this film will resonate with audiences across the world, just as it has in India."

Among the movies under consideration by the 13-member jury, headed by filmmaker Jahnu Barua, were *Kalki 2898 AD: Animal*; *Chandu Champion*; *Sam Bahadur*; *Aattam*; *Aadujeevitham*; *Maidaan*; *Joram* and *Kottukali*.

## NGT stays construction of road in Assam sanctuary

**NIKHIL GHANEKAR**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE NATIONAL Green Tribunal's (NGT) eastern bench in Kolkata has ordered a stay on the construction of a road inside Assam's Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary until the project got the Centre's approval.

The order was passed by judicial member Justice B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Arun Kumar Verma last Friday after one Pradeep Singh Shekhawat alleged illegal construction of a road leading to Bhuban Hill, a religious site, inside the sanctuary in Cachar. Shekhawat's plea alleged that Assam Special Secretary (Forests) M K Yadava cleared the diversion of forests without due permissions required under Van

(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. It was another allegation against Yadava, whose decision to allow a commando battalion camp on 11 hectares of forest land in Hailakandi district was held in violation by the Union Environment Ministry earlier this year. The NGT's principal bench is examining the Hailakandi issue.

"Considering the allegations made, by way of interim measure, we provide that unless and until there is sanction from the Centre as required under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, no construction shall be permitted within Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary during the pendency of the present original application," the order said. It also issued notice to Yadava, Assam government and the Environment Ministry, seeking their counter-affidavits.

**INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)**  
24 September, 2024  
ITBP salutes its braveheart **Constable Jaswant Singh** of 4th Battalion, who laid down his life in the line of duty on this day in Arunachal Pradesh in 2020.  
**Resident of :** Vill.- Bikhhi, Dist.- Mansa (Punjab)

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE**  
24 September 2020  
The brave personnel of CRPF remain ever vigilant in Jammu and Kashmir, where even routine duties are fraught with peril. The incident of 24th September 2020 stands as proof. Troops of 117 Battalion were providing security to the tunnel area of Srinagar Airport when terrorists launched an indiscriminate attack. Leading his section, ASI/GD Naresh Umrao Badole swiftly retaliated, delivering overwhelming fire that forced the terrorists to flee. Despite sustaining grievous injuries, he fought valiantly and was evacuated to the Army Base Hospital, where he later succumbed to his wounds. His supreme sacrifice will forever be honored by the nation.

**18 September 2012**  
On September 18, 2012, troops of 203 CoBRA Battalion launched an operation against Maoists in Juri-Rabda village, PS-Pratapour, Chattr district. After navigating through dense jungle overnight, the troops reached their target before dawn and began the search. As a team led by Dy. Comdt. Sh. P. R. Mishra approached a hut, Maoists inside opened indiscriminate fire, sparking a close-range gun battle. Fire soon came from an adjacent maize field, but the troops pressed on, neutralizing a Maoist. Shaheed Constable Mukesh Kumar Bunkar, at the forefront of the fight, sustained severe injuries yet continued firing to prevent the Maoists' escape. He later succumbed to his injuries on September 24th. For his extraordinary valour, he was posthumously awarded the Police Medal for Gallantry.

**24 September 1997**  
The 133 Battalion of CRPF was deployed in Manipur for anti-insurgency operations. On September 24, 1997, while returning from an operation in Imphal, the troops were ambushed by insurgents who opened indiscriminate fire. The troops swiftly retaliated, but with no cover available, they were at a disadvantage. Recognizing that advancing was their only option, they pressed forward under heavy fire. Both sides sustained injuries, but the bravery of the troopers ultimately forced the insurgents to flee. In this fierce encounter, Shaheed Asst. Comdt. Rajender Kumar Pamma, Shaheed L/Nk Dharam pal Singh, Shaheed Ct/Dvr Mohd. Zoobar, Shaheed Constable Mohd. Latif, Shaheed Constable Lakheshwar Bania, and Shaheed Constable Dilip Khangia made the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation.

The CHAKRA Family fondly remembers and cherishes the valiant contribution of these brave men of 8 GRENADEERS who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation in 1965 Indo Pak War. Their courage and valour would continue to inspire generations to come. They continue to abide in our hearts and the nation would remain forever in debted to them.  
**CAPT RC SHARMA, LT KS CHILLAR, HAV RATI RAM, L/NK DAYA NAND, GDR RADHE SHYAM, GDR ANAND SINGH and GDR KISHORE SINGH**

The 133 Battalion of CRPF was deployed in Manipur for anti-insurgency operations. On September 24, 1997, while returning from an operation in Imphal, the troops were ambushed by insurgents who opened indiscriminate fire. The troops swiftly retaliated, but with no cover available, they were at a disadvantage. Recognizing that advancing was their only option, they pressed forward under heavy fire. Both sides sustained injuries, but the bravery of the troopers ultimately forced the insurgents to flee. In this fierce encounter, Shaheed Asst. Comdt. Rajender Kumar Pamma, Shaheed L/Nk Dharam pal Singh, Shaheed Ct/Dvr Mohd. Zoobar, Shaheed Constable Mohd. Latif, Shaheed Constable Lakheshwar Bania, and Shaheed Constable Dilip Khangia made the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation.

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**varthana Varthana Finance Private Limited**  
Registered Office at : No. 58C-10, Varasidhi, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website [www.varthana.com](http://www.varthana.com), Email: care@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office: 1162 & 1163, Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Spaze 1 Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram 122018.

**POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8(1)] (For Immovable property)**  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd. (Formerly Known as M/s. Thriveni Finance Private Ltd.) Gurugram, Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFESI 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 dated: 26-06-2024, calling upon the Applicants/Co-Applicants/Mortgagees, in Loan Account No. S23GUR026041, M/s. N B Public School, Represented by its Authorised Signatory, Kailash Nagar, Palwal, Faridabad, Haryana - 121102, 2. M/s. Nav Bharat Shiksha Samiti, Palwal, Represented by its Authorised Signatory, Kailash Nagar, Palwal, Faridabad, Haryana - 121102, 3. Mr. Dhan Singh, S/o. Vijay Singh, D8-1019, Kailash Nagar, Palwal, Faridabad, Haryana - 121102, 4. Mr. Vishnu Tomar, S/o. Lokendra, H. No. D8, 1021, Ward No. 02, Kailash Nagar, Palwal, Faridabad, Haryana - 121102, 5. Mrs. Sheetal, W/o. Dhan Singh, D8-1019, Kailash Nagar, Palwal, Faridabad, Haryana - 121102. To repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being a sum of Rs.23,53,202/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Only) as on 26-06-2024, to repay agreed contractual rate of interest together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges etc, as detailed mentioned in the Demand Notice, till the date of payment, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

**BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD**  
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)  
EOI Notice No. - PR 341/2024  
Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Modernizing BSEB Record Room for Technological Readiness, Building Renovation and Work Area Improvements. Detailed EOI document containing eligibility criteria, other terms and conditions are available on the website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> and <https://biharboardonline.bihar.gov.in>

The bidders are expected to examine all instructions, forms terms, and other information in the EOI document. Failure to furnish all information required as mentioned in the EOI documents or submission of a proposal not substantially responsive to the EOI documents in every respect will be at the Bidder's risk and may result in rejection of the proposal.  
**Note -** The Secretary, Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB) reserves the right to reject, reschedule or cancel this Expression of Interest (EOI) and Terms of Reference (TOR) at any stage.  
**Secretary**

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, DS Circle Patiala, 66 KV Grid Colony, Patiala-147001 (Punjab), Tel: 0175-2910992, 96461-01201  
E-mail: circlepatiala@pspcil.com  
Reg. Office: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala (Punjab)  
Tender Enquiry No. 10/Dy. CE/DS Circle, Patiala-2024-25 | Dated: 23.09.2024  
Dy. Chief Engineer/DS Circle, PSPCL, Patiala invites e-tender for Outsourcing of Labour Part for Erection, Testing & Commissioning of New 11 KV LT/HT Lines on Rail/PCP Poles, Distribution T/Fs, Augmentation/Sagging of ACSR/HITL Lines, Cables, Layings, Grounding, Stay Set for Various Works such as De-bonding of Overloaded T/Fs, Earthing of D/Fs/Lines or any Development Works for the year 2024-25 under "Walled City Project Patiala" under DS Circle, PSPCL, Patiala. For detailed NIT and Tender Specifications please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 23.09.2024, 5:00 PM onwards.  
NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
No. 3760/24 C-731/24

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.**  
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.  
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010DSGC033813:  
Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in) (Contact No. 96461-22185)  
Tender Enquiry No. 323/SS(D)-II (under RDSS) | Dated: 20.09.2024  
Dy. CE/Substation Design/ TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 1163 nos. SCADA-Compatible 11kV Vacuum Circuit Breakers (VCBs) of various types. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to <https://gem.gov.in> from 21.09.2024 (09:00AM onwards), having GeM Bid Number as "GEM/2024/B/5421424".  
Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at <https://gem.gov.in/>  
No.: 37941/PB C726/24

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR20011SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)  
Letter No: 850 TENDER NOTICE Date: 23/09/2024  
The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhal Stage-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below:  
Tender No: NIT-21/EE (M)/MB-II/2024-25  
Name of Work/Supply/Services: Level monitoring work of Surge Tank at Dharasu Power House (MB-II)  
Estimated cost: Rs. 16,96,369/- Only (Taxes extra)  
Date of availability of bid document on website: - 26.09.2024  
Last date for submission of tender: - 18.10.2024 up to 11:00 hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "[www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)"  
Executive Engineer (Maintenance)  
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice  
Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)  
NIT No. 6-SEFile-240002Tender  
Name of Work and its location: Tender for "Provision for Integrated Annual Maintenance contract and Operation & maintenance services for IT infrastructure at Rail Coach Navetan/Karankhanna Sonipat for 07 year as per scope of work."  
Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 28,76,840/- including GST (Rs. Twenty Eight Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty only)  
Earnest Money: Rs. 57500.00/-  
Completion period of work: 12 months of date of execution of work  
Cost of Tender document on cash/by post: NIL  
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 13:00 hrs on 15.10.2024 Opening of Tender at 13:00 hrs.  
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
No. 6-SEFile-240002Tender Dated: 23.09.2024 2962/2024  
Serving Customers With A Smile

Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs  
Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Shivaji Stadium, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001  
17th E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ENEMY PROPERTIES  
(Under Notification issued vide G.S.R. 258(E) dated 21st March, 2018 as amended)  
Notice for E Auction is hereby given to the public for open mentioned immovable enemy properties vested in Custodian of Enemy Property for India, for sale through "Online Electronic Bidding" on MSTC India Ltd portal on "As is where is", and "As is what is", and "Whatever there is its basis."  
S.No. Description of property Gata No. Area (In Hect) Start Price (In Rs.) Latitude/Longitude  
1. Dhundwa, Mehroodabad, Sitapur 87 3.428 8025508 27.437558, 81.603522  
2. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 110 Kha 0.3034 51000 25.530670, 81.522283  
3. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 111 Kha 0.6013 19500 25.530918, 81.522666  
4. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 189 0.6027 40500 25.531568, 81.530477  
5. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 191 0.6173 20500 25.530494, 81.531791  
6. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 444 0.1100 21000 25.529192, 81.532363  
7. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 651 0.5044 48000 25.5287, 81.5330  
8. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 613 0.6199 283500 25.5345, 81.5464  
9. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 914 0.6394 591000 25.533964, 81.549763  
10. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 916 0.6329 432500 25.53336, 81.5446  
11. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 991 0.6027 40500 25.5287, 81.54877  
12. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 906 0.6021 31500 25.528368, 81.542723  
13. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 1000 Ka 0.2026 384000 25.5264, 81.5292  
14. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 1005 Ka 0.092 30000 25.523787, 81.532955  
15. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 1005 Kha 0.0609 103500 25.523787, 81.532955  
16. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 1006 Kha 0.6075 112500 25.523787, 81.532955  
17. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 1019 Ka 0.2348 27300 25.5217, 81.5323  
18. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 1029 Ka 0.2056 384000 25.5217, 81.5323  
19. Adhaya, Khaga, Fatehpur 1030 0.6237 305500 25.5218, 81.5323  
20. Jangraipal, Sander, Pilibhit 54 Mi 0.685 2094000 28.379177, 79.810222  
21. Jangraipal, Sander, Pilibhit 59 Mi 0.318 174000 28.368928, 79.801877  
22. Harharpur Hazan, Ananya, Pilibhit 136 0.972 369350 28.70832, 78.688873  
23. Harharpur Hazan, Ananya, Pilibhit 150 0.061 23100 28.705972, 79.848811  
24. Harharpur Hazan, Ananya, Pilibhit 158 0.186 709800 28.702456, 79.851164  
25. Saranain Tirukanya, Ananya, Pilibhit 297 1.837 600800 28.702456, 79.851164  
26. Saranain Tirukanya, Ananya, Pilibhit 352 Mi/Kha/No 003001 1.299 482320 28.688002, 79.832021  
27. Saranain Tirukanya, Ananya, Pilibhit 352 Mi/Kha/No 002481 1.299 482320 28.688002, 79.832021  
28. Sapat, Sander, Etah 264 0.064 13000 27.712258, 79.638177  
The Online bidding will take place through the website <https://www.mstccommerce.com> on 04/10/2024. The EMD amount for participation in auction is 5% of the Start Price. Please go through the Terms and Conditions on MSTC website for strict compliance. Helpline Nos. & Email :  
E-auction Agency : 1. 9727700986, 2. 7878055855 | Email [ncro8@mtscindia.in](mailto:ncro8@mtscindia.in)  
O/o CEPI, Lucknow : 1. 8127189431, 2. 9639527026 | Email [cepi@mh.gov.in](mailto:cepi@mh.gov.in)

**SECURITY GUARDS BOARD FOR BRIHAN MUMBAI & THANE DISTRICT**  
(Constituted by the Government of Maharashtra)  
Central Office : D-301/E-301, Sanpada Railway Station Complex, Sanpada, Navi Mumbai - 400 705. Tel. No.: 022-33252346/347/348/349/350  
E-mail : [sgb\\_sanpada@yahoo.co.in](mailto:sgb_sanpada@yahoo.co.in)  
NOTICE FOR E-TENDER  
Tender Notice No. SGB/SEC/8558 Date: 24.09.2024  
The Security Guards Board for Brihan Mumbai & Thane District invites Tenders on-line, from reputed and experienced Companies or Authorised Dealers, Authorised Dealers, on the Website <https://sgb.etenders.in>. The Tenders are as under:

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Subject	Last Date & Time For Submission Of Tender	Opening Date & Time Of Tender
1.	SGB/2023-24/61	Purchase of Uniform Cloths for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	07.10.2024 at 17.00 hrs	08.10.2024 From 11.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
2.	SGB/2023-24/62	Purchase & Supply of Leather Shoes for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	07.10.2024 at 17.00 hrs	08.10.2024 From 11.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
3.	SGB/2023-24/63	Purchase & Supply of Nylon Socks for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	07.10.2024 at 17.00 hrs	08.10.2024 From 11.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
4.	SGB/2023-24/64	Purchase & Supply of Rainy Wear & Gumbot for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	07.10.2024 at 17.00 hrs	08.10.2024 From 11.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
5.	SGB/2023-24/65	Purchase & Supply of Woolen Sweater for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	07.10.2024 at 17.00 hrs	08.10.2024 From 11.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
6.	SGB/2023-24/66	Purchase & Supply of Uniform Accessories for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	07.10.2024 at 17.00 hrs	08.10.2024 From 11.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
7.	SGB/2023-24/67	Stitching of Uniforms Caps for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	07.10.2024 at 17.00 hrs	08.10.2024 From 11.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
8.	SGB/2023-24/68	Stitching of Uniforms for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	07.10.2024 at 17.00 hrs	08.10.2024 From 11.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)

For detailed information, Tender Documents, Specification and etc. please visit the E- procurement portal <https://sgb.etenders.in>. For any queries please contact on Mob. No. mention in Website.  
Sd/-  
(Gauravkumar R. Nalinde)  
Secretary  
Security Guards Board For Brihan Mumbai & Thane District.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
CORRIGENDUM  
Ref: i) Tender Notice No. 46/2024-25 dated 29.08.2024 S.No. 02  
ii) Tender No. 08245211 due on 01.10.2024  
In reference to above tender, the (due date has been Postponed from 01.10.2024 to 09.10.2024) (Conditions has been revised). All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). 2956/2024

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-3C-T-R1-24-25-E3 Electrical work in connection with (i) Repairing and CAMC of VRF AC system installed at cafeteria, Gallery National Rail Museum Chankyapuri, New Delhi. (ii) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance of 2x35 TR air conditioning plant installed at NRM, New Delhi.  
Approx cost of the works in : Rs. 20.69 lacs  
Address of the office : Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.  
Earnest Money : Rs. 41,400.00  
Date & time of submission of tender : 21.10.2024, 12.00 Hrs.  
Opening of tender : 21.10.2024, 12.00 Hrs.  
Website & notice board : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. 2959/2024  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**Noida Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.**  
(A Joint Venture of the Govt. of India and Govt. of Uttar Pradesh)  
Block-III, 3rd Floor, Ganga Shopping Complex, Sector-29 Noida-201301, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Ph: 0120-2210631  
Open E-tender Invitation Notice  
TENDER No.: NMRC/PB/Kiosks/300 (R)/318R/1/339/2024  
Tender for setting up, operating and maintaining mixed convenience store in the form of 5 nos. KIOSKS through licensing of commercial base spaces at Ground Floor at ALPHA - I Metro Station of Noida - Greater Noida corridor of Noida Metro Rail Corporation Ltd

Tender for Work related to the below mentioned scope is invited from competent bidders:  
1. The license period is for 5 years + 3 years extendable with mutual consent of parties and NMRC  
2. The tender is for the license of 5 nos. of kiosk (102 sqm) at ground floor of Alpha-1 metro station.  
3. The minimum reserve price for this tender is Rs. 1200 per sqm per month.  
4. The minimum per month estimate of license fee for tender is Rs. 1,22,400 and Minimum 1st year estimate of license fee for tender is Rs. 14,68,800/-  
5. The bidder should have average annual turnover of at least Rs. 32,10,000/- over the last three financial years (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23).  
6. EMD for this tender is Rs. 1,62,500 and bid processing fee is Rs. 5,900.  
7. Bidder can refer the E-portal <http://etender.up.nic.in/> and NMRC Website [www.nmrcnoida.com/](http://www.nmrcnoida.com/) for term and condition of tender.  
The Tender/RFP is available on the E-portal <http://etender.up.nic.in/> and NMRC Website [www.nmrcnoida.com/](http://www.nmrcnoida.com/) from 24.08.2024. If there is any amendment/change in the tender, it will be made available on these websites. Last date of submission of tender on E-portal is hereby extended till 04.10.2024, 15:00 hrs.  
Executive Director, NMRC Ltd.

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)  
E-TENDER NOTICE  
E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official websites: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

S.No	Job no/Work name	Amount (Rs. in Lacs.)
1.	11/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, D/o Park (SH: Open Gym) with five year Maintenance Sector-70 A Block Noida	33.96
2.	13/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, M/o park (R/O boundary wall in A, B, C, D and F block sector-56.	33.67
3.	19/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2024-25, M/o RSP, Two year maintenance of DSC Road Central verge & Both Side	68.20

Which can be uploaded by date 30/09/2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date 01/10/2024 at 11.00 AM.

S.No	Job no/Work name	Amount (Rs. in Lacs.)
1.	55/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2024-25, M/o RSP and Green Belt along with Express Highway 10.00 Km to 15.00 Km (LHS) Service road with Two year maintenance.	94.78
2.	53/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2024-25, M/o Green Belt (R/O Boundary wall and other civil maintenance work in green belt sector-88). Noida	66.15
3.	52/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2024-25, M/o Parks (R/O Footpath, Boundary wall, Grill and other civil maintenance work in different parks in sector-88). Noida	94.36
4.	46/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, M/o Green Belt and RSP sector-105 for two year maintenance. Noida	94.77
5.	47/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2024-25, M/o RSP and Central Verge 45 mtr wide road Express Highway 0.00 Km to 10.00 Km (RHS) with Two year maintenance.	66.89

Which can be uploaded by date 07/10/2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date 08/10/2024 at 11.00 AM.

Office Sector-39 Director (Hort.) Noida  
**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

**TAMILNADU TEXTBOOK AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CORPORATION**  
"E.V.K. Sampath Maaligal", No.68, College Road, Chennai - 600 006.  
Phone : 044-28275852, Fax No: 044-28224493, E-mail : [jdntvbesc@gmail.com](mailto:jdntvbesc@gmail.com)

RC.No.5253/PUR-1/2024 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date : 23.09.2024

Sl. No.	Description of work	Supply and delivery of	Opening Date & Time
1	Description of four separate E-Tenders	(i) Shoes (ii) Socks (iii) School Bag (iv) Footwear (Velcro Sandal) for the students studying in Govt. and Govt. Aided Schools in Tamilnadu for the year 2025-2026.	1) Shoes 08.10.2024 11.30 a.m. 2) Socks 08.10.2024 12.30 p.m. 3) School Bag 08.10.2024 03.00 p.m. 4) Footwear (Velcro Sandal) 08.10.2024 04.00 p.m.
3	Last Date and Time for Submission of E-Tenders (Shoes, Socks, School Bag & Footwear (Velcro Sandal))		24.10.2024 at 05.00 p.m.
4	E-Tenders Opening Date & Time. Place: Tamilnadu Textbook & Educational Services Corporation, Chennai-6		1) Shoes 25.10.2024 11.30 a.m. 2) Socks 25.10.2024 12.30 p.m. 3) School Bag 25.10.2024 03.00 p.m. 4) Footwear (Velcro Sandal) 25.10.2024 04.00 p.m.
5	Tender Document and other details are available in the Websites and can be downloaded free of cost		a) <a href="http://www.textbookcorp.tn.gov.in">http://www.textbookcorp.tn.gov.in</a> b) <a href="http://Tntenders.gov.in">http://Tntenders.gov.in</a>

Sd/- Managing Director Tender Inviting Authority Tamilnadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation, Chennai-6.  
DIPR/3833/TENDER/2024

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION KOTA SOUTH (RAJ.)**  
Add :- C.A.D. Circle, Dushhehra Ground, kota  
E-mail :- [mnkota@gmail.com](mailto:mnkota@gmail.com)  
No. : NNK-S/Electrical/2024/464-470 Date :20-09-2024  
Notice Inviting Bid  
Bid for ARC of Supply, Erection and Fixing poles with AB Cable and LED lights at Various wards in Municipal Corporation kota south with 2 years O & M are invited from interested bidders upto 24.09.2024 to 15.10.2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>. <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.nic.in> of the state and [urban.rajasthan.gov.in/nknks](http://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/nknks) department website.  
NIB - DLB2425A2740  
UBN - DLB2425WSRC08502  
Raj.Sanmad/2/24/5550  
Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Kota-South  
size 4xh8

**ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL DHAULA KUAN**  
RIDGE ROAD DHAULA KUAN-110010 | [www.apsdk.com](http://www.apsdk.com)  
TENDER NOTICE  
Sealed tenders are invited from leading firms with professional expertise for providing School Canteen Services to Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan. Firms with past experience in providing required services and having Registration No, EPF Code, ESI Code, GST Code etc may contact school office between 9:00 a.m to 15:00 p.m. on any working day for collection of tender forms costing Rs 500/- between 24 Sep 2024 to 03 Oct 2024. Last date for submission of tender form is 07 Oct 24 by 1100 hrs. For any queries contact Adm Officer on 9592398107.  
Principal, APS, Dhaula Kuan

**BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD**  
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)  
EOI Notice No. - PR 340/2024  
Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Supply of Packing Materials i.e., Envelope, Corrugated Box with Variable Printed Adhesive Stickers, Printed Plastic Bag and Poly Bag (LDPE) for Intermediate & Secondary Examination, 2025 (Annual / Compartmental) and other Examinations. Detailed EOI document containing eligibility criteria, other terms and conditions are available on the website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> and <https://biharboardonline.bihar.gov.in>

Information	Details
Website for submission of proposal	<a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a>
EOI Fee (Non-Refundable)	₹ 1,180/- (One Thousand One Hundred Eighty Rupees)
Tending Processing Fee (Non-Refundable)	₹590/- (Five Hundred Ninety Rupees)
Proposal Submission Start Date and Time	24.09.2024 from 02:00 PM
Pre-Bid Meeting	28.09.2024 at 02:30 PM Bihar School Examination Board (Main Building), Sinha Library Road, Patna- 800017
Proposal Submission End Date and Time	03.10.2024 till 05:00 PM
Proposal/ Samples Submission offline Date and Time	04.10.2024 till 02:00 PM



FROM THE GROUND

## Not Art 370 or statehood, Jamaat faces are talking women empowerment, jobs

Jamaat divisions hurt campaign; larger issues for leadership, says candidate

**BASHAARAT MASOOD**  
ARIPANTHAN (BEERWAH),  
SEPTEMBER 23

IN A black car tailed by security, Farooq Ahmad Ganaie navigates the roads of Aripanthan to reach Sikanderpora, a village in Beerwah. As he reaches the village, he is informed all the men are out in the fields.

"You should have told us in advance. We had no information about your arrival," a villager says, asking Ganaie to wait.

Ganaie is an Independent candidate backed by a Jamaat-Islami faction that is talking with the Centre and has decided to contest the Assembly elections. The Jamaat is backing 10 candidates. Ganaie is the only one whose seat is voting in the second phase of J&K polls on September 25.

The last MLA from the seat was National Conference vice-president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah. Among the 12 candidates this time is jailed separatist leader Sarjan Barkati.

Amid allegations levelled against the Jamaat by its opponents of being a BJP "proxy", Ganaie steers clear of political issues altogether, including Article

370, release of prisoners, or a demand for lifting the Jamaat ban. In fact, from South Kashmir to North, Jamaat-backed candidates have shied away from talking about the Kashmir dispute, which once formed the core of the Jamaat's ideology. Their campaign has revolved around women empowerment, unemployment, drug menace and other issues.

Shamim Ahmad Thoker, Chief Election In-Charge of the Jamaat panel, says there is nothing surprising about that. "All our candidates are raising the immediate issues of their seats," he says. "The Kashmir problem, Article 370 or the release of (political) prisoners are policy decisions, and only a party can talk about them."

Thoker adds Ghulam Qadir Wani, the Jamaat panel chief, has indeed been talking about these issues. Ganaie repeats the same argument. "I can't talk about (these issues). Only the leadership can... As a candidate, I have to raise local issues. As a preacher, people come to me with their problems, women empowerment is one of them... There are government schemes, but their benefits don't reach the poor. There is a leadership vacuum."

Ganaie's manifesto makes no



Farooq Ahmad Ganaie campaigns in the Beerwah seat's Sikanderpora village on Monday. Shuaib Masoodi

mention of the scrapping of special status or the Kashmir issue. It does raise issues of identity and equal rights, which lie at the core of the Kashmir dispute for many. Ganaie says that though the candidates decide the local issues they want to highlight, the Jamaat panel guides them if advice is sought. "If we are silent (on some issues)," Ganaie smiles, "silence also means something."

The only cadre-based party in the Valley after the National Conference, the Jamaat was banned five years ago by the Centre under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). With the ban still in place, despite its appeal to the government, the

first task for it after it decided to contest the elections was reviving its network of workers.

That this has been difficult is clear from Ganaie's campaign, with the empty Sikanderpora village being just one example. On Sunday, a Ganaie rally at Magam failed to attract many people.

More than rallies, Ganaie relies on door-to-door campaigns. His campaign vehicle - a small car with no publicity material - has no music or loudspeakers.

Barring Kulgam, where Jamaat-backed Sayar Ahmad Reshi is seen as giving a stiff competition to CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami, this is the story, in fact, of all Jamaat candidates.

VOTE SHARE (%) IN BEERWAH SEAT

Party	2014
NC	34.18
Congress	32.86
PDP	25.3
PC	4.47
BJP	1.65

Source: Election Commission

Ahmad, who is also a former MLA, having represented Beerwah in 2008 as a PDP legislator.

In the recent Lok Sabha polls, the Baramulla seat under which Beerwah falls was won by Engineer Rashid, defeating Omar as well as People's Conference leader Sajad Lone. In the Beerwah Assembly segment, Rashid led Omar by 5,000 votes.

It has been 16 years since Ganaie got associated with Jamaat. He formally joined the organisation in 2012, at the age of 22. Now 34, he says: "The Jamaat I know is a peaceful organisation, democratic and reformist."

A resident of Sozeith on the outskirts of Srinagar, Ganaie has been leading Friday prayers in the area's mosque for six years. He says, it is what he saw and heard there that motivated him to join politics. "As a preacher, if I tell someone to stand up for the people and their rights, it is better that I stand up myself."

Ganaie doesn't see a contradiction in the Jamaat, which once advocated boycotting elections, changing its mind now.

Says Ganaie: "The Jamaat stayed away from elections because of certain grievances. (But) 2024 parliamentary elections have given us hope that there will be no rigging, and that is why we are here. We want to work within the system and highlight issues."

The NC has fielded Dr Shafi

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KEY SEATS  
IN PAHALGAM CAMPAIGN, APNI PARTY FACE BETS ON DEVELOPMENT

## 'Sulking' Selja meets Kharge, will return to Congress Haryana campaign

**VARINDER BHATIA**  
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

AICC GENERAL secretary and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja is set to join the Congress campaign in Haryana from September 26. The MP, who has been sulking over being sidelined by the Bhupinder Singh Hooda camp, met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi Sunday.

Party sources said Selja, who has been absent from the state's campaign since September 12, raised issues with Kharge, including how she and other senior leaders were "ignored" while formulating the party's manifesto and in its candidate selection.

Kharge, who was supposed to address his first public meeting in Haryana's Ambala and Gannaur on Monday, cancelled his visit at the last minute, with the Congress citing "ill health". The rallies were addressed by Hooda instead.

Confirming she met Kharge, Selja said: "Several issues were raised by me. But, it would not be correct for me to speak on those issues publicly." Sources said Kharge assured her that her grievances would be redressed.

On when she would be campaigning in Haryana, Selja said: "Very soon, I shall be there." Selja is expected to join a public meeting in Narwana on September 26.

On Monday, Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Singh Surjewala also said on social media he would be attending the Narwana rally. Surjewala has also been unhappy with Hooda calling the shots in the Haryana Congress.

Selja rejected claims by BJP leaders that she may switch sides.



Selja said she still wants to be CM, won't quit party. X

"There is no question of leaving the Congress. The party is in my blood. Till his last breath, my father was a Congressman and he was wrapped in the Congress's flag when he left us all. Selja will also be wrapped in the same Congress party's flag," she said.

Selja, who has not hidden her ambitions to be Chief Minister should the Congress win, had pushed for a ticket from the Uklana (SC) Assembly seat. However, with Selja having just won from Sirsa in the Lok Sabha polls, the Congress high command was not keen on her vacating the seat.

After September 12, when the party released its last list of candidates, Selja had virtually not been seen or heard in Haryana.

Selja said she very much remained "an aspirant for the CM's post" if the Congress wins.

"It is due to my long political standing and the wishes of my supporters that I have reached here. There should be adequate and equal representation of all sections of society," she said.

## Key right-wing face in, will help BJP in J&K third phase

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 23

IN A BOOST for the BJP in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, Ankur Sharma, the national president of the Hindu right-wing Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal, has joined the party and announced his outfit's merger with the BJP.

BJP national president J P Nadda called Sharma a "nationalist" dedicated to the cause of J&K.

The Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal had earlier announced three candidates for the polls - its state president Manoj Padha, Meenakshi Kalra and Srikant Rathore, who contested in the first phase on September 18 as Independents from Bhaderwah, Doda-West and Paddar Nagseeni Assembly seats, respectively.

Sharma's decision to cross over now may prove crucial for the BJP ahead of voting in 24 Assembly seats, spread over Udhampur, Jammu, Samba and Kathua, scheduled for the third phase on October 1. The BJP's hopes in J&K rest on this area, with the party having picked up 18 of its 25 seats here in the 2014 polls.

In the recent Lok Sabha polls though, the Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal failed to make an impact, with Sharma and party col-



Ankur Sharma (right) with BJP president J P Nadda. Express

league Padha getting less than 12,000 votes in the Jammu and Udhampur seats.

There are many reasons Sharma is a good fit for the BJP's politics. Sharma is a practising lawyer and founder of the Ikkjutt Jammu. The outfit has advocated for the creation of a separate Jammu state and the division of Kashmir Valley into two Union Territories, including one for Kashmiri Pandits. He said the migration of Pandits should be recognised as "genocide".

Sharma has opposed settlement of nomadic Gujjars and Bakerwals (who are largely Muslim) in the forests of Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts as "land jihad".

In 2014, Sharma approached the J&K High Court seeking a probe into an alleged scam relating to the transfer of government land to "illegal occupants" under the Roshni Act, meant to change the demography of the Hindu-majority Jammu province.

In 2016, Sharma filed a PIL in the Supreme Court challenging the extension of minority status to Muslims in J&K, where they are in a majority.

In 2018, he approached the Supreme Court seeking a CBI investigation into the rape and murder of a minor Bakerwal girl in Kathua. Ikkjutt had claimed the Hindu youths arrested in the case were falsely implicated. Sharma later represented one of the accused during the trial.

In 2018, Sharma also shared a "secret classified document" on the minutes of a meeting chaired by then Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, in which she was stated to have asked district police chiefs that any case against tribal community members (Gujjars and Bakerwals) be taken up only after clearance from the Tribal Affairs Department. The tensions over the Kathua sexual assault and the above leak contributed to the split between the PDP and BJP, causing their government to collapse.

IMAGE OF THE DAY



LAST LAP BEFORE SECOND PHASE: Peoples Conference's Zadibal candidate Abid Hussain Ansari during a 'shikara' rally on the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Monday, PTI

I HEREBY DECLARE

ABDUL RAHIM RATHER, 80, NC's Chrar-i-Sharief candidate	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>₹11.25 CR</b>
Movable assets	₹57.5 lakh
Immovable assets	₹10.67 cr
Liabilities	None
Education	MA, Kashmir University
Pending criminal cases	None

GHULAM NABILONE, 70, PDP's Chrar-i-Sharief candidate	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>₹2.33 CR</b>
Movable assets	₹10.77 lakh
Immovable assets	₹2.22 cr
Liabilities	₹33.81 lakh
Education	LLB, Kashmir University
Pending criminal cases	None

KEY PLAYERS

## 'Bhaavi CM': On Hooda turf, supporters rally behind veteran leader

Cong has not projected a CM face, but that has not stopped Hooda's aides who are "99% sure" he will be back as CM

**LALMANI VERMA**  
SONIPAT, JHAJJAR  
(HARYANA), SEPTEMBER 23

WHEN SENIOR Congress leader and former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda arrived at a meeting in the Badli Assembly constituency of Jhajjar district on Saturday, he was welcomed with chants of "Bhaavi mukhyamantri (future CM)".

In his speech, Kuldeep Vats, the sitting Badli MLA and the Congress candidate from the constituency for the October 5 polls, referred to Hooda as the CM and "future of Haryana".

In his speech, Hooda, the Leader of the Opposition also dropped a similar signal.

"Tum isnu (Kuldeep Vats) MLA bana do, main thari sarkar bana deunga (You elect Kuldeep Vats as an MLA, I will form your government)," Hooda said and added that "every vote given to Vats will go into his account".

Though the Congress central leadership has not projected a CM face in Haryana, by dint of his influence Hooda has been able to establish himself as one across the Jat-dominated Sonipat, Jhajjar, and Jind districts that are considered his stronghold. Several posters have come up in the area referring to Hooda as the "CM-to-be".

Deepak Babaria, AICC general secretary in-charge of Haryana, refused to comment on the issue. Other senior leaders of the

party said that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's statement at a press conference in New Delhi on September 18 was the party's official line.

"The Congress has a practice. The elected MLAs decide who will become the CM. We do the same everywhere. This is not a new system," Kharge said when asked if Hooda was the party's CM face in Haryana.

In the recent past, the Congress has declared a CM face ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections in 2017, naming Captain Amarinder Singh.

Hooda's hold

If one thing is apparent from the Haryana election campaign, it is Hooda's hold on the state unit.



Posters in Jhajjar district declaring Hooda as CM face. Express

Despite many senior leaders in the Haryana Congress jostling for influence, Hooda, a prominent Jat leader and two-time CM, has managed to stand his ground. This was clearly visible in ticket distribution, with 72 of the party's 90 candidates said to be Hooda's choice, according to Congress insiders.

In the Scheduled Caste-reserved Jhajjar constituency, where the Congress has fielded sitting MLA Geeta Bhukkal, a giant poster outside the party's election office reads: "Abki baar Hooda sarkar (This time around, it is Hooda's rule)." At a rally on September 20 in the Baroda constituency in Sonipat, a Congress leader declared "Chaudhry Bhupinder Singh Hooda" would be the CM.

In separate public meetings in Gohana and Safidon the same day, the Congress's Sonipat MP Satpal Brahmachari called Hooda a "for-

mer and future CM". Asked about the projection of Hooda as CM, the Congress's Jhajjar election in-charge Manoj Kumar said, "If the Congress wins, we are 99% sure that Bhupinder Singh Hooda will be the CM."

On the chances of Sirsa MP Kumari Selja or other party leaders becoming the CM, a Congress leader in Sonipat said, "Selja is the number three leader in the state after Bhupinder Hooda and (his son) Deepender Hooda. Hooda has influence over a larger area and is more popular."

Selja's absence from key Congress events since September 12 raised questions about her position in the party. She met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge late on Sunday and is said to have raised how she and several other senior leaders and workers were allegedly ignored during the formulation of the

party's manifesto and candidate selection and kept out of other party platforms. After receiving reassurances from the leadership, Selja is set to resume campaigning in Narwana in Jind district on September 26.

Some voters, however, said the party should change its CM face. "Congress leaders are appealing for a change of guard in the state. The Congress should also consider changing its CM face in Haryana. There are other prominent leaders like Selja and Randeep Singh Surjewala who should be given a chance. Why always Hooda?" said Dharmendra Saini in Jhajjar city.

Rocky Yadav from the Riwsa town in Mahendragarh said Hooda "only has a base among Jats". "Yadavs, Dalits, Rajputs and Sainis also vote for the Congress. These castes should also be provided equal opportunities like Jats," he said.



**WORDLY WISE**  
I ALWAYS LOVED COMPLEXITY. WITH CHESS,  
ONE CREATES BEAUTIFUL PROBLEMS.  
— MARCEL DUCHAMP

## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
**RAMNATH GOENKA**

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Maldives model in Lanka

Result of recent polls in Sri Lanka is another reason for India to draw up a South Asia policy



SHYAM SARAN

## THE NEW COLOMBO

Anura Kumara Dissanayake's election is a rejection of politics as usual in Sri Lanka. Delhi must continue to build on ties

FOR THE FIRST time in its recent history, Sri Lanka has elected an "outsider" — from a Marxist-Leninist party that once led violent insurrections — as its president. Over the years, however, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) has become more mainstream, with a social-democratic agenda. The newly elected 55-year-old president, Anura Kumara Dissanayake, has played a significant part in this transformation. Dissanayake was also a key figure in the popular "Aragalaya" uprising against inflation, price rise, and economic mismanagement, which led to the ouster of the Rajapaksas. That Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe lost to a political player till recently seen as fringe can be read as a sign of how much the people of Sri Lanka are tired of politics as usual. Given some of the new president's positions — ideological and on policy matters — there is an apprehension that his government will be "pro-China" and detrimental to India's interests. But it is important that, as it deals with Sri Lanka's new political establishment, Delhi not pay heed to such binaries.

The victory of the National People's Power (NPP) coalition — of which the JVP is the major constituent — did not take India by surprise. Dissanayake visited India in February and met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. Clearly, Delhi had a sense of the anti-incumbency mood in Sri Lanka. A major political change like the one in Colombo will, however, still present challenges. The JVP's opposition to the 13th Amendment of Sri Lanka's constitution — which provides for devolution of power to the Tamil minority — as well as talk on the campaign trail of cancelling the Adani Group's wind power project could be issues of contention between the two countries. At the same time, Dissanayake has hinted at continuing close ties with Delhi. India did not feature prominently in the election campaign — unlike, say, in the Maldives where President Mohamed Muizzu led an "India Out" campaign — and Delhi enjoys some goodwill for the assistance it provided during Sri Lanka's economic crisis. It is important, then, for Delhi to continue to build on the bilateral engagement — Dissanayake has responded warmly to congratulatory messages from PM Modi. India has the advantage of a shared history and geographic proximity with the island nation and the two countries have much to gain by deepening bilateral ties. It is important to deal with unfolding political changes as they occur, and not over-emphasise the China factor.

President Dissanayake has his task cut out for him. His anti-corruption, pro-welfare plank has certainly found resonance. At the same time, Sri Lanka's economy remains the greatest challenge facing the country. The bailout provided by the IMF in 2023 has helped bring some stability. Dissanayake has promised to pay back the debt and also said that he will seek amendments to the taxation targets under the deal. Given that the NPP does not have a legislative majority yet, passing a budget that engages in such a fine balancing act is one of the difficult tasks ahead.

## THE MEDAL SWEEP

India's performance at the Olympiad underlines it: The future of chess is increasingly looking Indian

AT THE BUDAPEST Chess Olympiad, the Indian teams have reiterated what the rest of the world has seen coming for a while now: A golden generation of chess has come of age in the country where the sport originated. Not only did the Indian chess team win golds in the open section and the women's event, there were also four individual gold medals for Gukesh D, Arjun Erigaisi, Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal. While the women's team came back from a defeat and a draw in the middle, the Indian team in the open section was so dominant that in the 44 games they played over the course of the tournament, they lost just once. Both teams were fuelled by a heady combination of battle-hardened veterans like Harikrishna and Harika Dronavalli and players deemed to be future of chess.

There was always abundant talent in Indian chess. But a multitude of factors has contributed towards this sweep of medals. One of the critical reasons behind this chess boom is the tech revolution, with chess engines, software and access to good coaching becoming more accessible for anyone, even those sitting in tier II and tier III cities. This is the reason why players like Divya Deshmukh (Nagpur) and Arjun Erigaisi (Warangal) got quality coaching early on. Technology is how a player like Praggnanandhaa can work under Russian maestro Peter Svidler or a Gukesh can train with Poland's Grzegorz Gajewski without needing to fly abroad every few months. Another factor aiding the meteoric rise of the current generation is the expertise that the likes of Gukesh, Pragg, Arjun and Vaishali got from the previous generation of grandmasters like RB Ramesh, Sandipan Chanda, Srinath Narayanan and Abhijit Kunte when they were very young. Add to this, the support the country's chess stars are getting from every quarter: Parents are more willing to let their kids play chess, private sponsors are pouring in money and even schools and colleges are more liberal when it comes to youngsters pursuing chess as a primary vocation. Not to mention the growing government support for chess players.

The success stories at Olympiad come in a year that has already seen unprecedented achievements for India, be it at elite events like the Candidates, where 17-year-old Gukesh became the world's youngest player to qualify for the world championship and Norway Chess or on the world rankings list where Arjun Erigaisi now owns real estate in the world's top 5 spots. And the year can get even better if Gukesh can win the world championship at the age of 18. Whether or not that happens, the future of chess is increasingly looking Indian.

## THE COMMON TOUCH

Hanif Kureshi had the incredible ability to use his art to create a bridge between the street and the people

A FONT PULLED a city out of bankruptcy in the 1970s, when American graphic designer Milton Glaser fashioned the "I <3 NY" logo. It was a back-of-the-envelope design, inspired by hearts carved on tree trunks. The logo went on to become a pop-culture phenomenon that features as a coffee cup merch and a signpost for a city, all at once. Like Glaser, Gujarat-born, multidisciplinary urban artist Hanif Kureshi, who died on Sunday, was someone who used typography to bring India to the world. That design is about being personal, was Kureshi's calling card.

"Typefaces are like people," he said, "You knew them by the clothes they wore. You could take Helvetica to a party and it would fit it, while the single font, red box of *The Economist* is so distinct." Kureshi had an incredible ability to not just bring people to the streets, as he did in Mumbai's Sassoon Dock Art Project and Delhi's Lodhi Art District through his St+art India initiative, but he also brought the street to the people. His Handpainted Type project came from the streets, seen on shop boards of juice sellers and *paanwalas* — thick, unabashedly bold and vibrant in tone and lettering. He democratised art, taking the edge off the white cube, blunting its stuffiness and unreal price tag.

Kureshi inspired an underground graffiti movement. While he elevated the streets with murals, he also reminded people at traffic signals to "Stop Shopping", "Stop Gossiping", "Stop Posting". It was not an attempt to find his voice, but to lose it in experiments with paints and fonts, stickers and shipping containers, walls and boxes. Not just a provocateur, he valued collaborations with artists, musicians, designers, creating works that traveled to festivals abroad, where they dined with kings but never lost the common touch.

THE YEAR 2024 HAS witnessed several setbacks to India's Neighbourhood First Policy. The recent election results in Sri Lanka may be the latest among them. Pakistan has reverted to escalating cross-border terrorism against India. Nepal has had yet another change of government and K P Oli, who had presided over an unprecedented worsening of bilateral relations, is Prime Minister again. A students' movement in Bangladesh morphed into a much wider anti-government revolt against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. She had to flee from her country and seek refuge in India. India has been seen as complicit in her anti-people and corrupt policies, and there is widespread popular anger and resentment against it. More worrying is the resurfacing of radical Islamic elements of the Jamaat and a revival of Pakistani influence in the country. There is a serious security situation looming large in India's sensitive Northeast, where a dangerous inter-ethnic conflict in Manipur, a violent civil war in Myanmar and now an unstable and hostile situation in Bangladesh, could become intertwined and make India's eastern flank both unstable and volatile.

Another zone of unpredictability is emerging in India's southern maritime domain. This may multiply security threats over a wide swathe of India's periphery. A hostile regime in the Maldives has already tested our diplomatic mettle. There is a real possibility that Sri Lanka's recent presidential elections could become another inflection point. Anura Kumara Dissanayake has been elected President at the head of the National People's Party (NPP), of which the chief constituent is his left-wing radical Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP). This is the first time that none of Sri Lanka's mainstream political parties will be ruling the country. A pervasive sense of resentment and frustration with successive governments, which mismanaged the economy and were guilty of widespread corruption, opened the doors to an outsider who skillfully exploited the popular angst against the ruling elites.

The JVP has reinvented itself politically, shedding its historical baggage as a violent left-wing and ultra-nationalist movement, which was involved in two bloody insurrections, one in 1971 and the other in 1987. Its

ultranationalism was, of course, directed against India, as is the case with most of our neighbours. While in its present incarnation, the JVP may have foresworn its violent tactics, it continues to harbour a radical wing. It is likely to serve up populist policies, which will inevitably derail the fragile economic recovery of the past two years. Dissanayake has declared his intention to renegotiate the terms on which Sri Lanka has received IMF support, which the latter is unlikely to accept. There is likely to be greater state intervention in the economy and a review of several major private sector projects. Dissanayake has threatened to undercut the solar power project being undertaken by India's Adani group in northern Sri Lanka. The group is also undertaking a very large container port project in Colombo with \$553 million in financial support from the US International Development Finance Corporation. Would that be in jeopardy as well?

India cannot afford prolonged political turmoil and economic disruption in its southern periphery. Could the responsibility of office bring about a more sober and realistic approach from the new government in Colombo?

Things may not be entirely clear until the current parliament is dissolved, and a new Prime Minister is appointed after parliamentary elections. This may take place sooner than later. The NPP would want to profit from the political momentum it currently enjoys and hope to win a majority, but elections are always uncertain. It may be better to let the new politics play itself out before passing judgement over what one may expect from the new government in Colombo. In the case of the Maldives, there was a sober and mature handling of an overtly hostile regime, allowing the reality of a dense economic interdependence to bring about a shift in attitudes in Male. In the case of India and Sri Lanka, too, there is a strong economic interdependence. The economic viability of Colombo port depends upon transhipment traffic from India. Added to that is the significant support that India extended to Sri Lanka during the height of its economic crisis in 2020. This included a currency swap, supplies of fuel, rice and medicines and a large fi-

nancial package. These are estimated to be around \$4 billion.

Such economic interdependence may serve to smoothen the jagged edges that politics may serve up. The Maldives template is a good one to follow for Sri Lanka.

The Modi government has been charged with putting all its eggs in the Sheikh Hasina basket in Bangladesh and not reaching out and engaging with political constituencies other than the ruling Awami League. Some lines of communication were maintained with the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, but not with the anti-Indian Jamaat. In the case of Sri Lanka, it was apparent several months before the elections that Dissanayake and his NPP may win the elections. He was invited as a guest of the Indian government in February 2024 and held talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. This was a good move.

Dissanayake has recognised the importance of India for Sri Lanka's security and economic development. He has not given any indication of prioritising relations with China over India. One should expect that he will seek to maintain a careful balance in Sri Lanka's relations with India and China. Balance is preferable to leaning towards China.

There is a tendency to consider our policies towards each of our neighbours as independent variables. To some extent, the specificity of each neighbourly relationship must be kept in mind. But there is an urgent necessity to draw up a comprehensive neighbourhood strategy. This should identify what are the assets and what are the liabilities in engaging with each of our neighbours but also locate these bilateral relations in a larger pursuit of regional economic integration. This would seek to leverage the role that India could play as the engine of growth for all its neighbours, as the node for a regional transport and communications network and, increasingly, as the leader in helping the region tackle, collaboratively, for example, the urgent challenge of climate change. Leading the Global South must begin with our own subcontinental neighbours.

The writer is a former foreign secretary

## THE DISCONNECTED CITIZEN

Recent communal tensions in Himachal Pradesh point to a deeper predicament



M RAJIVLOCHAN

IN HIMACHAL PRADESH, the recent flare-up in popular anger against the illegal construction of a mosque in Sanjauli was not a Hindu-Muslim issue at all. It was merely a manifestation of the anger against the absence of governance. In its absence, communities — angry about the hundreds of pinpricks that mark their daily lives — start fighting with each other in the name of religion, caste, etc., latching on to long-standing fault lines. Few today recall that these are the same people who, for the past 10 years — during which period they were governed by both the BJP and Congress — refused to allow sundry "gau rakshaks" the freedom to operate in Himachal Pradesh, unlike in neighbouring states.

The issue here is not so much the political or communal dissonances that characterise India. Nor is it about municipal administration being partial or inefficient. It is about the governance of a locality being completely disconnected from the concerns of those who live there. There is no "citizen" in India; only *labharthis*, people who have to be given some *labh*, some privileges, some benefits, by superior beings who run the government from a remote location. That could be an MLA or an MP or even an IAS officer. All people can do is plead before them to shower some *manna*.

The simple fact is that good governance is based on the principle of subsidiarity — de-

isions should be made at the level closest to the people. This means that if roads are not being cleaned, street lights don't work, illegal civil works keep coming up in a locality, and shops and buildings are used for purposes that upset the civic balance, it is the locality's people who are best placed to keep an eye and escalate the matter to authorities empowered to take corrective actions. This subsidiarity simply does not exist in India.

Civic bodies have existed in India since the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments made local self-government bodies mandatory in the states. However, these amendments failed to allocate any subjects to local self-government. State governments, which were enjoined by the Constitution to devolve power to local bodies, refused to do so. Instead, newer ways were found to emasculate the latter; their ability for action further eroded. No wonder the actual concerns of the people in their localities remain routinely unaddressed. Worse, the comprehensive monopoly of action that the government exercises substantively prohibits the people of a locality from taking any action to resolve their local issues.

Big issues, ones that have been created by political bigwigs — akin to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan — get some official response but not so much the smaller problems that impact the normal life of citizens — like actually getting roads and gullies cleaned daily.

Or, ensuring that the random parking of buses, trucks, cars, scooters, etc., does not block roads.

Simple matters of public law and order, providing clean drinking water, collecting property tax, building and maintaining roads, religious places and/or community health and schools — all legitimate concerns of the local body — get decided upon and controlled by remotely located administrators. Local bodies have neither the money nor the administrative wherewithal to adequately manage any of them.

State governments routinely control what should be a local matter. Whether it is policemen, doctors, teachers or municipal clerks, local bodies have no powers. This makes the administration of a locality entirely disconnected from the concerns of the local population. Good governance becomes *manna* that is showered on the locality at the whims and fancies of remote beings.

In India, we have created a system in which citizens have been taken out of governance. Every once in a while, they push back, seeking some say in how a locality is governed. In the absence of formal powers to govern, they create conditions of chaos, increase mutual acrimony, and find new ways of hurting each other.

The writer teaches history at Panjab University, Chandigarh

## SEPTEMBER 24, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

### PRESIDENT JOINS TALKS

PRESIDENT ZAIL SINGH'S emissary, who did not want to be identified, held talks with three of the five Sikh high priests and some functionaries of the SGPC as part of the President's "direct efforts" to reach an amicable settlement with the Akalis who have threatened a "massive march" to the Golden Temple on October 1. The emissary said that a final settlement could be possible in two to three days if everything went well.

### RESTORE POPULAR RULE

THE MOVE TO restore popular rule in Punjab

has been revived. Top central leaders are believed to have told some state Congress (I) leaders that the Centre is considering re-installing the party's government in the state. This has given a fillip to the activities in the state Congress (I) Legislature Party. Punjab was placed under President's rule on October 6, last year following the massacre of six bus passengers by terrorists.

### 34 PILGRIMS KILLED

THIRTY-FOUR PILGRIMS BELONGING to Haitpur in Maharashtra were killed and 11 others injured when their bus returning from Badrinath met with an accident near

Maletha village, about eight km from Srinagar in Tehri Garhwal district. Those killed included the driver of the bus, 12 women and one child. The injured were taken to Srinagar hospital.

### PROTEST AGAINST IMF

FACED WITH OPPOSITION from the US and its supporters, the interim committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which sets policy for the Fund, refused to allocate any more special drawing rights (SDRs) for the present. It also reduced access rights over the opposition of the Third World, but in doing that the US accepted a compromise.



# One nation, one fantasy

At the deepest level, One Nation One Election is a desire to cut down the clutter of democratic politics. It originates in the middle-class fantasy to save the republic from the public



DESHKAAL  
BY YOGENDRA YADAV

THE WORLD IS full of clever answers in search of a genuine question. When talk of One Nation One Election (ONOE) began, it looked like a grand policy solution in search of a real problem. Either a remedy in search of a disease, or a medicine worse than the disease. It looked like a sequel to demonetisation, another brainchild of a modern-day Tughlaq's penchant for something grand sans a vision or a blueprint.

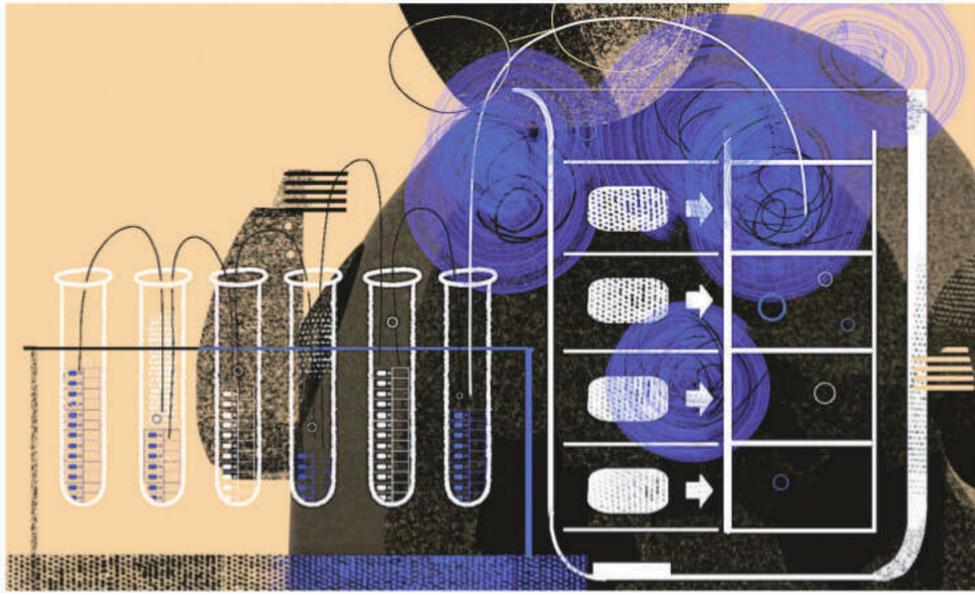
Noting the alacrity with which the present regime has gone about pushing this scheme and reading the Report on Simultaneous Elections in India of the High Level Committee (HLC), I am now convinced that One Nation One Election is not just a quixotic yet harmless fantasy. It fits into a larger political design that has been in the works for long. Originating in the middle-class fantasy to save the republic from the public and the bureaucratic quest to evacuate democracy of its popular content, this design has now fused with the rulers' desire to tame and defang democracy.

The 281-page report (18,345 pages with annexures) is a made-to-order document whose conclusions were written into its terms of reference. Just as the RBI was asked to invent virtues of demonetisation, the HLC was designed to discover the rationale for ONOE. Packed with pro-regime cheer-leaders of ONOE, the HLC has obediently filled in the details of the legal-constitutional formalities and administrative logistics required to roll it out.

The compulsion to discover a rationale makes for strange reading. The report claims that constant elections account for a loss of "about 300 days in an average year" in some states like Maharashtra (p.167). The ONOE would offer "equitable opportunity to political workers" (p.155) since the same leader won't contest for MLA and MP. Not just that, ONOE would lead to "reduction in instances of hate speeches" (p.156). It would solve the problem of "voter fatigue" (pp.153-4) — a problem I never heard about in two decades of doing research on Indian elections.

Here is a nugget of constitutional wisdom coming from the "Constitutional Expert" member of the HLC: India is "a combination of Presidential and Parliamentary forms of government" (p.109)! Consider this piece of reasoning: "The synchronised conduct of elections fosters a sense of civic cohesion and national unity, as citizens across the country participate in the festival of democracy collectively, reinforcing the bonds of citizenship and fraternity." (P.145) This reminded me of school children expounding on the countless benefits of their latest "invention" for a science project.

Shorn of such verbiage, or a dubious polling exercise, the core argument is that simultaneous elections would improve the quality of governance: Cutting down on the diversion of government machinery, saving in state expenditure and reduction in the time window of policy freeze due to the operation of the Model Code of Conduct. These are valid arguments whose weight needs to be assessed carefully. How disruptive is the diversion of government machinery (typically



CR Sasikumar

three disruptions in five years that ONOE would reduce to two, not one) for elections? How does this compare to other disruptions caused by visits by big leaders or large religious congregations, for example? What proportion of the government's budget is spent on elections? How does it compare with the money spent by candidates and parties? As for the much touted argument about "policy paralysis", for each state government this amounts to a period of just four months in five years. The idea that the central government is hamstrung by state assembly elections is belied by the big-ticket announcements on health and agriculture (not to mention the cabinet approval of ONOE itself) made by the Modi government in the last fortnight when the MCC is in operation.

Besides, this rationale for ONOE must contend with an alternative solution. The Election Commission has the powers to club all the assembly elections falling within six months of one another (which it chose not to exercise in the case of Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi); this can be extended to 12 months. The EC that is willing to club all the Lok Sabha and assembly elections in one go can surely be asked to reduce the duration of the election to a fortnight and no more than three phases. And the Model Code of Conduct can be amended to provide for continuity of regular governance during the election period. When ordinary pills can do, why go for a surgery?

Even if you grant all the benefits of ONOE, these need to be weighed against the serious damage this scheme would do to our constitutional democratic structure. As many as 15 recognised political parties, mostly from the INDIA bloc, have opposed ONOE. The undeniable fact is that ONOE is not the simple administrative change in the electoral calendar that it is made out to be. It would upset the basic principle of accountability of the executive to the legislature inherent in our parliamentary system of governance. The HLC suggests a solution to this problem by creating another problem of holding elections for the remaining part of the tenure even if it is for just one year. The proposal to align the tenure of state assemblies as well as municipal and panchayat bodies with Lok Sabha is a violation of the federal principle of governance. In this

The Election Commission has the powers to club all the assembly elections falling within six months of one another (which it chose not to exercise in the case of Maharashtra and Jharkhand); this can be extended to 12 months. The EC that is willing to club all the Lok Sabha and assembly elections in one go can surely be asked to reduce the duration of the election to a fortnight and no more than three phases. And the Model Code of Conduct can be amended to provide for continuity of regular governance during the election period. When ordinary pills can do, why go for a surgery?

sense, ONOE seems to be in violation of the "basic structure" of our Constitution.

More than the administrative, legal and constitutional issues, the deepest problem with the ONOE is the political design inherent in it. Clearly, holding the national and state elections together would give an edge, a small to moderate vote swing, in favour of a national party and against regional parties. My hunch is that the BJP may not have won a clear majority in the Odisha assembly but for simultaneous elections in 2024. The political vision underlying ONOE assumes that nation-wide political players are the only trustworthy custodians of national interest.

At the deepest level, ONOE is a desire to cut down the clutter of democratic politics. It is no coincidence that the HLC Report devotes maximum attention and space to discussing the political economy of simultaneous elections. Through an elaborate econometric modeling — elegant in its math but dubious in its assumptions and conclusions — it argues that ONOE would lead to political stability, faster economic growth, predictable policy environment and lower populist pressures. This is very much in line with a long strand in our public life that I had once identified as "middle class fantasies" of electoral reforms.

Those who dominate the social and economic life of this country are increasingly impatient with its messy politics and have been coming up with one solution after another to "clean" the world of politics — reduction in the number of candidates, minimum threshold of votes for regional parties, law against "freebies" and so on. Certain sections of the political class — led by, but not confined to, the BJP — are in sympathy with this reasoning and would like to cut down on the headache of elections, of constantly being on tenterhooks, of the sword of accountability.

They can't do away with elections altogether, but the next best thing is to limit this mess to just once in five years. So that the business of governance can be carried out undisturbed by the people for four years and nine months. In its essence, ONOE is antithetical to democracy.

The writer is member, Swaraj India and National Convener of Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"For BNP to really stop its errant members and to credibly support the present campaign of reforms, it must first demonstrate its ability to reform itself. The changes it envisions for the state must start within its own rank and file."

— THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

# It isn't broken, don't fix it

Going back on inflation targeting or making substantial changes to the framework would erode central bank's credibility, damage economy.



RAJESWARI SENGUPTA

SHOULD INDIA MODIFY its inflation targeting (IT) framework, or even abandon it? Several commentators have raised this question recently, ahead of an official review of the monetary policy framework. Periodic policy reviews are important — that's why they are mandated in the IT law. It's also true that policies can always be improved. But the big picture needs to be kept in mind, which in this case is that IT has succeeded beyond expectations, making it one of the most important reforms of the last decade. Going back on it or making substantial changes to "loosen" the framework would erode the credibility of the central bank, damage the economy, and backfire in a political sense.

It is important to recognise what the review entails. According to the amended RBI Act, "the Central government shall, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, determine the inflation target in terms of the Consumer Price Index, once in every five years". Strictly speaking, this refers to the numerical target of 4 per cent with a band of plus/minus 2 percentage points. However, this can be interpreted more broadly. If some of the changes proposed are adopted — in particular, the suggestion that only a subset of CPI be targeted, perhaps excluding food prices — they would have an enormous impact.

Three points are worth noting. First, it is important to remember why IT was implemented in the first place. During 2009-2012, the UPA government let inflation go out of control. CPI inflation reached 15 per cent in March 2010. And yet no one was held responsible because the RBI was following a "multiple objectives" approach, under which it wasn't firmly committed to any particular target. The resulting public outcry was so strong that UPA was voted out of office (for this and other reasons) and a new government was voted in, which pledged it would not allow such an episode on its watch. To make this promise concrete, it enshrined IT into law.

Second, the reform has proved successful, far more so than many people anticipated at the time IT was adopted. RBI has generally kept inflation within the 4-6 per cent band; even when inflation has breached the upper limit, the deviations have been modest. Inflation has never gone back to double digits, despite serious food, oil, and pandemic shocks in recent years.

Third, this success has brought economic and political benefits. Price stability has helped fuel growth because it has allowed businesses to plan without worrying too much that surging their projections will be upset by surging costs. It has also reduced interest rates because it has improved central bank credibility, meaning that the RBI no longer needs to raise interest rates by as much as it did in the 2010s to convince people that it is serious about tackling inflation. Research by Vaishali Garga, Aemitt

Lakdawala and this writer shows that market participants view RBI's commitment to IT as credible. And price stability has paid political dividends, or at least allowed the NDA to avoid the political costs of high inflation suffered by the UPA.

But what about the argument that the RBI should narrow its target, to exclude food prices which it cannot control? The problem is — this is a theoretical argument. And in the end, the theoretical points are not relevant. After all, the purpose of a government is to provide services that the public needs and desires. And the Indian public has made it clear that it desires price stability. Not for a subset but for its entire consumption basket, especially including food. Put another way, there's a reason why all major central banks target inflation. And there's a reason why they all include food in their target indices. Because it is what the public wants, indeed demands.

That said, there are indeed theoretical factors that the RBI cannot ignore. Central banks worry about rising food prices because of what is referred to as "second-round effects" such as the spillover of food inflation to non-food inflation through a wage-price spiral. Workers faced with higher food prices demand higher wages to compensate for their rising cost of living and this, in turn, pushes inflation up even more. Some have argued this consideration does not apply in India, noting that recent food price increases have not had any spillover. That may be true, but again is irrelevant, as it confuses the particular for the general.

In recent months, declining core (non-food, non-fuel) inflation implies that the second-round effect is weaker right now. This is because there is pervasive unemployment. When there is surplus labour or a lack of adequate jobs, as is the case now, workers are not in a good position to demand. They have less bargaining power to demand higher wages when food prices go up. In such a situation, the wage-price spiral may not get triggered and hence we are not seeing steep increases in non-food inflation. But in the mid-2000s when the economy was booming and the labour market was tight, high food prices set off a wage-price spiral. This situation could easily recur if the economy grows rapidly over the medium-term, in which case changing the framework to tell RBI to ignore signals from rising food prices could prove disastrous.

What is instead required is for the RBI to strengthen its analytical framework, given that its inflation and growth forecasts have frequently been subject to large errors. This, in turn, requires improving the underlying data which are outdated and have methodological issues. It also requires a better understanding of agriculture, to assess whether food inflation is temporary or a reflection of some deeper, structural issues.

Implementing reforms in a messy democracy requires years of work. Even after a decade, the IT framework is in its nascent stages and is being put to test by various shocks. It's important to let it mature, making incremental rather than major changes that would endanger the overarching goal of price stability. As they say: if it isn't broken, don't fix it.

The writer is associate professor of Economics, IGIDR

# Social justice must include her

Hema Committee report shows why its ambit must be widened



PULPAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

THE GUILLOTINE HAS fallen again in Kerala. The first time it fell was on landlordism in 1956, when the government of EMS Namboodiripad legislated land reforms that ended centuries-old feudalism. In a single stroke, agricultural labourers were free to sell their labour power to whom they pleased. That this did not lead to a dynamic agricultural sector does not take away from its potential to have ushered in a social revolution. Social distance between labourer and landlord, a prominent aspect of Kerala society, was ended once and for all. And, the labour movement received an impetus. However, while the economic and social power exerted by way of class declined, the asymmetry of power — whereby men rule over women in almost all spheres of social life — remained untouched. Left politics in Kerala remained fixated on economic inequality and Western imperialism. In the meanwhile, unexpectedly, religion assumed a far greater role in social life, cementing the hold of patriarchy. But now, in a completely unexpected turn, patriarchy is under the scanner. It may have taken a while to come, but it could lead to that much-needed second social revolution in Kerala and serve as an example of what can be achieved elsewhere in a country where women endure toxicity in the workplace.

The particular development in Kerala has

taken the form of a group of women in the film industry coming together under the banner of Women's Collective in Cinema (WCC). Their first act was to call out the misogynistic dialogues in Malayalam films, spoken by some of the biggest stars of the industry. While it is difficult to gauge its impact, the WCC's second intervention was more powerful. Following the case of a young woman actor being sexually assaulted, WCC pressured the government to set up a committee to investigate the working conditions for women in the film industry. The Hema Committee was the first instance in Kerala when a group of women were able to pressure a government to such a degree. But the results took a long time to come. A government reluctant to publish the findings of the Committee had to be directed to do so following a ruling of the Right to Information appellate body. The Hema Committee report has been redacted but its main message, national news since, is that women in the Malayalam film industry are subjected to discrimination and sexual exploitation. The storm that broke out has led to resignations in both the state film body, Kerala Chalachitra Academy, and the actors' union, Association of Malayalam Movie Actors (AMMA). AMMA, led exclusively by men, has come across as wedded to patriarchy. The Kerala government has set up a

Special Investigating Team, comprising senior women of the IPS to investigate the recent allegations.

This uprising in Kerala has lessons for the movement to bring about gender justice in the country. First, do not expect even an elected government to take the initiative to address patriarchy, even when it comes down to something as simple as ensuring a safe workplace for women. When politicians speak of "social justice" they appear to not have women in mind. But a government can be pressured to take action, which brings hope to the project. Second, women will have to take the lead in ensuring that their demands are acceded to by employers, without waiting for social attitudes to change. WCC have shown that a move towards this can be made, but the struggle is unlikely to ease up. It took a small group of mostly young and articulate women seven years to bring things to this stage in Kerala. If the question of women's safety in the workplace becomes a movement, easier now that WCC has brought nation-wide awareness to the matter, much can be achieved, and sooner, without individuals having to place their careers on the line.

For years, economists have wrung their hands over the low female worker participation in the labour force, which is one factor keeping India at a low level of income.

World Bank data reveals that this statistic is lower in India than in even Saudi Arabia, reflexively thought of as a more conservative socially. The answer to the question of low presence of women in India's workforce is easier to comprehend after the revelations in Kerala. In the aftermath of the Abhaya case in Kolkata, with the national media reporting on the state of the infrastructure in India's government hospitals, it is possible to see how little needs to be done to move the needle on women's safety — basic infrastructure such as separate, functioning toilets and safe resting areas, especially when they are on long work shifts. Merely the absence of a secure place to sleep stood between the young doctor in Kolkata and her life.

India's labour laws had once disallowed night shifts for women in factories and decreed that spittoons be provided in the workplace. They are in severe need of revision. In India, women constitute neither a class nor a caste. They are not financially independent and have lower health and education endowments within every caste group. After recent events in Bengal and Kerala, it cannot be business as usual for India's talkative political class. They will have to widen their definition of "social justice".

The writer is an economist

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A CULTURE PROBLEM

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Nirmala calls for lessons to tackle stress' (IE, September 23). The fact that our young face immense stress and strain in our competitive education system is now well known. The death of a young professional in Pune, unable to bear the heavy burden of work assigned to her, adds another terrifying dimension to the situation. Surprisingly, the finance minister has called upon only higher educational institutions to teach students stress management skills to prepare them for the future. She did not spare a word against the growing toxic corporate culture that tries to extract the most out of its employees. The loss of a budding life should propel the government to enact appropriate rules to protect employees from such exploitation.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

### A NEW DAWN

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Marxist Dissanayake wins Lanka presidential election' (IE, September 23). The people of Sri Lanka have mandated a big change in the latest presidential election by voting Anura Kumara Disanayake of the National People's Power (NPP) to power. It is to Dissanayake's credit that despite having only 3 seats in 225-seat parliament, he managed to bring together a

broad coalition called NPP, comprising activists, student leaders and women's rights activists. AKD is expected to be closer to China, Lanka's largest investor and creditor, whose debt clutch on Sri Lanka has encouraged it to make frequent naval strikes into Sri Lankan seas threatening India's regional security. It remains to be seen how the new president will translate his words into actions. Dissanayake, who assumes charge in a not-so-congenial atmosphere, needs support and cooperation from every section of Sri Lankan society.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

### QUAD & THE WORLD

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Quad's light touch' (IE, September 23). From its earlier ignominious demise in 2007 to its revival in 2017, Quad has gained significant stature. Quad members do realise the growing assertiveness of Chinese power in the Indo-Pacific region but they make sure that their actions are not directly seen as anti-China. The Quad has successfully transformed from a budding security dialogue into a multifaceted partnership with far-reaching goals. More one-on-one meetings between Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping can foster warmer ties between the countries.

Bal Govind, Noida

**EXPLAINED LAW**

# How SC strengthened child pornography law

The Supreme Court expanded the definition of what constitutes 'possession' of child pornography to include viewing or displaying such content as well

**AJOY SINHA KARPURAM**  
 NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

TIGHTENING THE law on child pornography, the Supreme Court on Monday said that even viewing, possessing, and not reporting such content is punishable under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act regardless of whether it is shared or transmitted further.

In doing so, the SC set aside a Madras High Court decision from earlier this year where a single-judge Bench had quashed criminal proceedings against a 28-year-old man who had downloaded two pornographic videos involving children on his phone.

In a 200-page judgement, a Bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala outlined a strict interpretation of what constitutes an offence of "storage of child pornography".

**What is the law in question?**

The Bench expanded the interpretation of Section 15 of the POCSO Act, which deals with the "punishment for storage of pornographic material involving child". Originally, the provision was restricted to cases where a person stored child pornographic material "for commercial purposes". In 2019, the

POCSO Act was amended to introduce three connected offences under Sections 15(1), (2) and (3) with increasing grades of punishment — from fines to a three to five year jail sentence. These punish

■ Any person, who stores or possesses pornographic material in any form involving a child, but fails to delete or destroy or report the same to the designated authority, as may be prescribed, with an intention to share or transmit child pornography;

■ Any person, who stores or possesses pornographic material in any form involving a child for transmitting or propagating or displaying or distributing in any manner at any time except for the purpose of reporting, as may be prescribed, or for use as evidence in court; and

■ Any person, who stores or possesses pornographic material in any form involving a child for commercial purpose.

The court's verdict, authored by Justice Pardiwala, refers to these as "inchoate" offences — offences that are in anticipation or preparation for committing a further criminal act. The court said that Section 15 was not limited to punishing the sharing or transmitting of child pornographic material, and could even be used to punish the "intent" to commit such an act.

The law in these cases, the court held,

punishes "overt steps" taken towards committing a crime and not "the mere thought of committing an offence". For instance, the court held that a failure to "delete or destroy or report" child pornography would allow the court to "indirectly" infer that the concerned individual intended to share or distribute it under Section 15(1).

**What was the case before the SC?**

On January 11, the Madras HC quashed the criminal proceedings against a man charged with downloading and possessing child pornography on his mobile phone. The FIR filed against the accused only mentioned Section 14 of the POCSO Act which punishes using children for "pornographic purposes", and the offences under Section 15 were added in subsequent chargesheets.

However, the High Court confined its ruling to Section 14 alone and held that "mere possession" child pornography would not violate the provision "since he has not used a child or children for pornographic purposes".

The court also held that the offences under the POCSO Act could only be made out if the accused had transmitted or published the material, and there was no evidence to suggest that this took place.

**What did the SC rule?**

The Supreme Court expanded the definition of "possession" in child pornography cases to include cases where the individual may not have physical possession of child pornographic material, but they have "the power to control the material in question and the knowledge of exercise of such control". The court termed this "constructive possession" and held that "viewing, distributing or displaying" such material would still amount to it being in the accused's "possession" under Section 15.

Justice Pardiwala provided some illustrations of such possession. On viewing child pornography, he said:

"Say for instance, 'A' routinely watches child pornography over the internet, but

never downloads or stores the same in his mobile. Here 'A' would still be said to be in possession of such material, as while watching he exercises a considerable degree of control over such material including but not limited to sharing, deleting, enlarging such material, changing the volume etc. Furthermore, since he himself on his own volition is viewing such material, he is said to have knowledge of having control over such material."

Another illustration dealt the responsibility of an individual who receives child pornography unwittingly from an external source:

"For instance, say, 'A' is sent an unknown link by 'B', which upon clicking opens a child pornographic video on the phone of 'A'. Now if 'A' immediately closes the link, although once the link is closed 'A' is no longer in constructive possession of the child pornography, this by itself does not mean that 'A' has destroyed or deleted the said material by merely closing the link. 'A' will only be absolved of any liability if he after closing the link further reports the same to the specified authorities".

This puts emphasis on reporting of child pornographic content. The penalty for not reporting is a fine "not less than five thousand rupees and in the event of second or subsequent offence, with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees."

The court also held that the offence under Section 15 will apply even if the accused does not have physical possession of child pornography at the time when the FIR is filed. Charges can be made if it is established that the accused possessed child pornographic material "at any point". The court said that if a person "immediately after storing and watching child pornography in his mobile phone deletes the same before an FIR could be registered" could still be found liable under Section 15.

**How will such cases be registered?**

The court held that the intention of an accused can be determined based on the "manner in which such material is stored or possessed and the circumstances in which the same was not deleted, destroyed or reported". From these actions and circumstances, the court will determine the *mens rea* or the intention of the accused.

The court also cautioned the police and courts from limiting their inquiry to one of the sub-sections under Section 15. Even if an offence under one sub-section is not made out, the court held that the police and courts must not "jump to the conclusion" that there is no offence at all. Instead, the police must see if an offence has been out in one of the other sub-sections.

# Travel may slow down premature ageing: Study

TRAVEL MAY be the most effective weapon to slow down the process of ageing, a new study published in the *Journal of Travel Research* in August found.

**'Entropy increase' & health**

The study is the first to look at the principle of "entropy increase" as a theoretical basis for assessing the link between travel and ageing.

Entropy is a concept in thermodynamics that measures the degree of disorder or chaos within a system. Simply put, higher the entropy, more the disorder and vice versa. First proposed by German physicist Rudolf Clausius in 1865, the concept today sees use in a wide range of fields including economics, biology, sociology, and information theory.

According to the second law of thermodynamics, as time passes, the entropy of an isolated system can increase, but not decrease. This is the idea of "entropy increase". This is what the study's authors use to describe the decline in human health, specifically the process of ageing. A healthy and functioning human body can be said to have low entropy. As one ages, one's body witnesses an entropy increase. Humans, however, combat this with a combination of medicine and healthy lifestyle choices.

**Travel & ageing**

Researchers found that the link between

tween tourism and human health is multifaceted. Positive travel experiences can lead to improved physical and mental health "through exposure to novel environments, physical activities, and social interactions." This can slow down ageing.

"Ageing, as a process, is irreversible. While it can't be stopped, it can be slowed down," Fangli Hu, the lead author of the study, told *Science Daily*. "Put simply, the [human body's] self-defence system becomes more resilient. Hormones conducive to tissue repair and regeneration may be released and promote the self-healing system's functioning," she said.

Additionally, physical activities like hiking, climbing and cycling can boost metabolism and energy spent, aiding the body to maintain its self-healing system. Further research could explore how travel therapy could benefit different groups of people.

However, negative travel experiences may increase ageing and lead to further entropy increase.

"Conversely, tourism can involve negative experiences that potentially lead to health problems, paralleling the process of promoting entropy increase," Hu said. Contracting infectious diseases, accidents, injuries, violence, water and food safety issues, and concerns related to inappropriate tourism engagement, can all contribute to faster ageing.

ANAGHA JAYAKUMAR



**ANONNA DUTT**  
 NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

AS CITIES across India report a surge in dengue cases, a record number of cases have been reported around the world this year with Brazil and other South American countries worst affected. Data from the World Health Organization (WHO) show that the number of dengue cases have been increasing year-on-year (see Graphic).

**What is dengue?**

Dengue is a viral infection which is transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Most people with the infection report mild symptoms, but the disease is known to cause fever, severe headache, muscle and joint pains, nausea and vomiting, pain behind the eyes, and rashes. In severe cases, however, the infection can lead to internal bleeding, and if not managed properly, even death.

Over the past two decades, there has been a "tenfold increase in reported cases" an editorial by *The Lancet* said, adding that "even this figure is likely an underestimate". This makes dengue the "only infectious disease for which annual mortality is rising".

**How many people have been infected this year?**

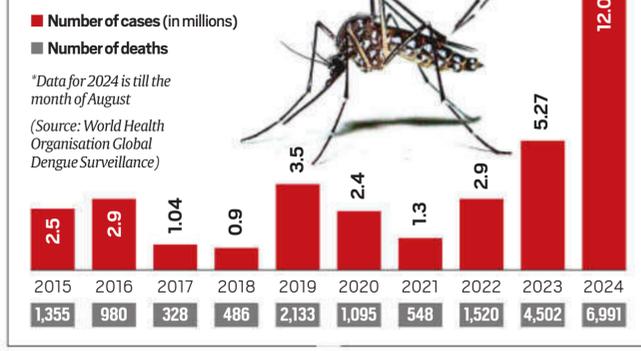
More than 12 million cases and 6,991 deaths have been recorded globally till August this year, according to data from the WHO's global dengue surveillance. This is more than double the 5.27 million cases recorded in all of last year, which itself was a record. Prior to last year, over the past decade, around two to three million annual cases of dengue had been reported at best.

Experts say that even 2024's record numbers are likely to be an undercount. This is because not all countries — including India — report their data to the global surveillance network. Even among countries which report the data, not every dengue patient might have been tested and reported to the health authorities.

**What is the situation in India?**

Several cities have reported a surge in

**RISE IN DENGUE CASES**



dengue cases over the past two months. More than 32,000 cases and 32 deaths attributable to dengue were reported till June end, according to the latest available data from the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

This number is likely to have shot up in the last two months. Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra, in early August, had said that India had seen an almost 50% rise in the number of dengue cases reported this year, as compared to the same period in 2023.

Notably, India is also witnessing an increase in the geography of the infection. The disease spread from only eight states and Union Territories in 2001 to every single state and UT in 2022, with Ladakh reporting the first two cases that year.

**What is behind the surge in dengue cases?**

*The Lancet* editorial identifies "the triad of urbanisation, climate change, and the movement of people and goods" as facilitating the spread of dengue, and its mosquito vector.

**URBANISATION:** The disease can spread more quickly in urban areas with a dense population. This is because urban spaces provide ample breeding grounds to the *Aedes*

*aegypti* mosquito which breeds in clean, stagnant water. An increase in cases is generally reported during and just after the monsoon.

"If you just look at Delhi, we have been experiencing rains with warm spells in between, which are the best conditions for the mosquito to proliferate," said Dr Sujatha Sunil from the Vector Borne Diseases Group in New Delhi's International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** An increase in temperatures allows mosquitoes to breed in places where they previously could not — in higher altitudes for instance. "Global warming has definitely led to an increase in the prevalence of the vector in geographies it might previously not have found," Sunil said.

Moreover, climate change has also led to the virus becoming more robust and transmitting better. On the current outbreak, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said: "Higher temperatures can expand the range of the mosquitoes that spread dengue, as well as affect other factors that facilitate virus transmission like faster viral amplification in the mosquito, increased vector survival, and changes in reproduction and biting rates."

**MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE:** The global

movement of people and goods has, in general, led to a greater spread of infections that these people carry with them. However, better testing and reporting might also add to the "increase", Sunil said.

Apart from dengue, other infections such as chikungunya and zika, which are also transmitted by the same vector, have also been on the rise. Zika was first reported in India in 2016 but there have been several outbreaks since then.

"There is a need to study whether getting one of the infections reduces the immunity of the vector mosquitoes and makes them more susceptible to get the other two. If this were to be the case, there could be an increase in the transmission of all three infections," Sunil said.

**How can dengue be prevented?**

First, individuals have to ensure that mosquitoes do not breed at their homes, or in their neighbourhoods. Collection of water in pots, planters, bird baths, etc. need to be prevented.

Second, people need to protect themselves against mosquito bites. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes bite during the day — wearing clothes which cover the entire body, especially during the monsoons, can prevent bites.

Third, public health systems have to focus on surveillance, and prediction of outbreaks. This will ultimately help reduce the number of cases, and consequently deaths due to the infection.

**Are there any vaccines against dengue?**

Yes. The WHO recommends two vaccines: Sanofi's Dengvaxia and Takeda's QDenga. However, these have not received approval in India.

That said, India is also working on several vaccines of its own, some in collaboration with foreign institutes. The two at the most advanced stages are Serum Institute of India's vaccine candidate developed using a genetically engineered weakened virus from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the United States. Another candidate using the same virus is being developed by Panacea Biotech.

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# Drought, deforestation, climate change: Why South America is burning

**ALIND CHAUHAN**  
 NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

SOUTH AMERICA is witnessing its worst forest fire season in nearly two decades, breaking a previous record for the number of blazes seen in a year (till September 11).

Satellite data analysed by Brazil's space research agency INPE has spotted 346,112 fire hotspots so far this year in all 13 countries of South America, surpassing the previous record of 345,322 hotspots in 2007, *Reuters* reported.

**How bad is the situation?**

Since the beginning of this year, fires have ravaged the Amazon rainforest, engulfing parts of Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, and other countries. Millions of acres of forest are currently burning across South America.

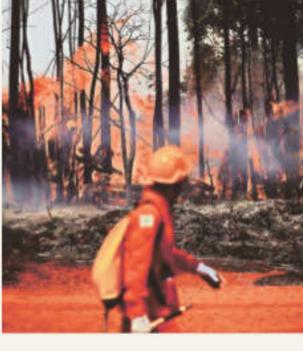
The worst hit is Brazil, the largest country in the continent and home to 60% of all

the currently burning fires in the region. Data from Mapbiomas, a Brazilian NGO, show that fires have burned more than 11 million hectares of land between January and August this year, an area roughly twice the size of Uttarakhand. Three of the six vast ecosystems — the Amazon, the Cerrado (the world's most biodiverse savanna), and the Pantanal wetlands — have been severely affected, according to a report by *Grist* magazine.

After Brazil, Bolivia witnessed the highest number of fires this month, according to INPE data. More than 3.8 million hectares of the country's forests and grasslands have been damaged as of September 13. Bolivia is followed by Peru, Argentina, and Paraguay.

Smoke billowing from these wildfires has filled the skies over multiple countries, with toxic clouds spanning 10 million square kilometres — an area larger than the entire United States, according to a report by *Live Science*.

Natalia Gil, an atmospheric science ex-



A firefighter in front of a wildfire in Brasilia, Brazil earlier this month. *Reuters*

pert and member of the Air Quality and Emissions Department at the Technological Laboratory of Uruguay, told *Live Science* that "there has been a progressive decline in air

quality in cities across southern Brazil, northern Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and northeastern Uruguay."

Residents in cities such as Montevideo, Uruguay's capital, experienced poor visibility for several days due to the dense smoke cloud and black rain — precipitation that turns dark because of the mixture of ash and soot, the report said. At least 11 provinces of Argentina reported something similar talking place.

Karla Longo, an air quality researcher at INPE, told *Reuters* that "exposure to the smoke will drive up the number of people seeking hospital treatment for respiratory issues and may cause thousands of premature deaths". Inhaling wildfire smoke contributes to an average of 12,000 early deaths a year in South America, according to a 2023 study.

**Why is this happening?**

Every year, South America witnesses a high number of blazes between August and October, which is the continent's wildfire season. During this time, farmers intention-

ally burn their lands to cultivate them and most often, fires escape into the forests. However, this year's season has been particularly bad due to several reasons.

For instance, the continent is currently experiencing one of its worst droughts on record with Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia being worst affected. In Brazil, about 59% of the country is facing drought conditions and Amazon basin rivers are flowing at historic lows, according to *Grist*. These extreme dry conditions fueled by the El Niño event (it ended earlier this year) have propelled fires to spread across the region.

High levels of deforestation, especially in the Amazon, have also played a role in exacerbating wildfires — clearing the land creates more opportunities for blazes to spread. "Evidence suggests that deforestation itself is responsible for regional changes in weather patterns that have resulted in larger and more severe droughts that make forests more susceptible to fire," according to a report by the World Resources Institute.

The crisis has been made worse by global warming. A recent study by World

Weather Attribution, an international group of scientists, showed that climate change is the main culprit behind the ongoing drought in South America. It said rising temperatures made the drought 30 times more likely, drove extreme high temperatures, and contributed to lower rainfall.

**What happens next?**

It remains unclear if the number of wildfires in South America will further rise this year. Typically, rainfall comes in the region during October but there is no certainty. Ane Alencar, director of science at the Amazon Environmental Research Institute, told *Grist*: "We don't know if rain is going to come."

Notably, the ongoing intense wildfires in the continent are not a surprise to climate scientists, who say this is exactly what climate models have been predicting for 20 years or more. Extreme weather events such as drought, wildfires, and floods are expected to get much worse in the following years as global temperatures continue to rise.

# 13 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 84,928.61 ▲ 384.30 (0.45%) NIFTY: 25,790.95 ▲ 375.15 (1.48%) NIKKEI: 37,723.91 ▲ 568.58 HANG SENG: 18,258.57 ▲ 245.41 FTSE: 8,241.78 ▼ 86.94 DAX: 18,810.79 ▼ 191.59

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>USD RATE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹76,950	₹83.54	\$74.58	₹90,000

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of September 20

International market data till 1900 IST

ORGANISED BY MIT SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

## PM attends 'fruitful roundtable' with tech CEOs, highlights the India 'growth story'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi urged CEOs of US majors to take advantage of India's growth story as the country is making all efforts to become the third largest economy of the world in his third term.

Addressing CEOs of the large US tech firms on Sunday, Modi said India will make every effort to become the third largest economy in the world in his third term (2024-29).

Companies should take advantage of India's growth story for collaboration and innovation by co-producing, co-designing, and co-producing in India for the world, harnessing the opportunities from the country's economic and technological growth, he said.

Assuring the business leaders of India's deep commitment to the protection of intellectual property and to fostering tech innovation, Modi highlighted the economic transformation happening in the country, particularly in electronics and information technology manufacturing and semiconductors.

Modi asserted that his government was committed to making India a "global hub of semiconductor manufacturing".

The meeting saw the participation of CEOs of 15 major US-based firms working on cutting-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a roundtable meeting with CEOs of large US tech firms organised by the MIT School of Engineering, in New York on Sunday. PTI

edge technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing and semiconductors.

"Had a fruitful roundtable with tech CEOs in New York, discussing aspects relating to technology, innovation and more. Also highlighted the strides made by India in this field. I am glad to see immense optimism towards India," Modi said in a post on X.

During the conference, Modi said technology collaboration and efforts such as the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICET) lie at the core of the India-US

Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, according to a Ministry of External Affairs statement.

Organised by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) School of Engineering, the CEOs of top US tech firms, including Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen, Accenture CEO Julie Sweet and NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang attended the meeting.

Others who participated in the roundtable included AMD CEO Lisa Su, HP Inc. CEO Enrique Lores, IBM CEO Arvind Krishna,

Dr Nourab Afeyan, Chairman of Moderna, and Verizon CEO Hans Vestberg.

Modi also talked about India's BIO E3 (biotechnology for environment, economy and employment) policy to develop the country into a biotech powerhouse and on the topic of AI, noted that India's policy is to promote AI for all, underpinned by its ethical and responsible use.

Others who attended the conference included Biogen Inc CEO Chris Viehbach, CEO of Bristol Myers Squibb, Chris Boerner, Eli Lilly and Company CEO David A Ricks, LAM

### Google, Nvidia to enhance AI focus, investments

New York: Google and Nvidia will enhance their engagement in India, top officials of the companies said on Monday after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Artificial Intelligence is also a new industry, a new manufacturing industry. I'm looking forward to partnering with India in a very deep way to make that possible," Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang said. "We are robustly investing in AI in India, and we look forward to doing more," Google CEO Sundar Pichai said. PTI

Research CEO Tim Archer, GlobalFoundries CEO Thomas Caulfield, and the CEO of Kyndryl, Martin Schroeter.

"Further cementing technology and business connect. PM @narendramodi interacted with the top tech leaders and CEOs of USA, in a Roundtable hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Engineering, in New York today. PM emphasised India's growth prospects and discussed initiatives to foster collaborations and innovation across diverse sectors," the official account of the MEA said in a post on X.

### EPFO adds nearly 20 lakh net members in July, highest since 2018

New Delhi: Retirement fund body EPFO recorded a net addition of 19.94 lakh members in July this year, the Labour Ministry said on Monday.

Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said at a press conference that 10.52 lakh new or first-time workers subscribed to social security schemes run by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). The minister said almost 20 lakh net new members addition (19.94 lakh) was recorded in July this year. He also informed that 8.77 lakh members added in July are in the age group of 18-25 years. Nearly 6.25 lakh members aged between 18-25 years are first-time workers or new joiners, according to the latest data.

He also informed that 4.41 lakh female members were added by EPFO in July which includes 3.05 lakh new joiners. About 59.4 per cent of new joiners fall in the 18-25 age bracket. The data shows that employment of young people has increased.

The EPFO added 10.52 lakh new members in July 2024, representing a 2.66 per cent increase over June 2024 and a 2.43 per cent rise compared to July 2023. This marks the largest increase for this demographic since records began and reflects the continued trend of young people, mostly first-time job seekers, entering the organised workforce. From April 2018, EPFO has been releasing payroll data covering the period September 2017 onwards. PTI

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA STUDY

## Nearly 93% of individual traders incurred losses in F&O between FY22-24

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

CLOSE TO 93 per cent, or 9 out of 10 individual traders, in the equity futures and options (F&O) segment incurred losses, with aggregate loss exceeding Rs 1.8 lakh crore between FY22 and FY24, a Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) study showed.

While individuals made losses in F&O, the FPIs (foreign portfolio investors) and proprietary traders earned profits. "During FY22-FY24, 1.13 crore unique individual traders (in F&O segment) incurred a combined net loss (i.e. trading loss inclusive of transaction costs) of Rs 1.81 lakh crore in F&O," the SEBI study said. In FY24 alone, individuals incurred about Rs 75,000 crore in net losses.

More than 1 crore loss-making traders (92.8 per cent of individual traders) lost, on an average, about Rs 2 lakh per person in the F&O over the period of three years. Top 3.5 per cent of loss-makers, or approximately 4 lakh traders, faced an average loss of Rs 28 lakh per person in the three years, inclusive of transaction costs.

The study showed that just 72 per cent of individual F&O traders made a profit over the period of three years, and only one per cent managed to earn profits over Rs 1 lakh, after adjusting for transaction costs.

F&O are derivative instruments where traders buy an underlying asset (share) at a predetermined price. Trading in F&O has been a concern as many retail investors have lost their hard-

### EXPLAINED The futures & options concern

FUTURES AND options (F&O) are derivative instruments where traders buy an underlying asset (share) at a predetermined price. Trading in F&O has been a concern as many retail investors have lost their hard-earned money. Sebi, in a consultation paper in July had proposed some short-term measures to curb speculative trading in index derivatives.

In July this year, Sebi, in a consultation paper, proposed a series of short-term measures to curb speculative trading in index derivatives, including restricting multiple option contract expires, raising the size of options contracts and intraday monitoring of position limits.

Sebi's recent study said that almost half of all the F&O traders in FY24 (42 lakh traders) were "New Traders" (i.e. traders who traded for the first time in three years in the equity F&O segment). Around 92.1 per cent of these "New Traders" experienced losses and on an average. They incurred a net loss of about Rs 46,000 per person in FY24. Despite consecutive years of losses, more than 75 per cent of loss-making traders continued trading in F&O.

As per the findings of the

study, the proprietary traders earned about Rs 33,000 crore of gross profits (i.e. trading profits before accounting for transaction costs) in F&O segment in FY24, followed by FPIs who earned about Rs 28,000 crore in gross profits.

Against this, individuals and others incurred a loss of over Rs 61,000 crore in FY24 (before accounting for transaction costs).

"Majority of profits for FPIs and proprietary traders were made by 'Algo entities'. Close to 97 per cent profits of FPIs and 96 per cent profits of proprietary traders came from Algo entities in FY24," the study showed.

Algo entities are considered as those entities, who have done at least one trade in a year using algorithmic order.

The proportion of young traders (having age less than 30 years) trading in F&O has increased significantly from 31 per cent in FY23 to 43 per cent in FY24.

Close to 93 per cent of these young traders incurred losses in F&O in FY24, higher than the average loss makers of 91.1 per cent in FY24. Over 75 per cent of individual F&O traders (65.4 lakh traders) in FY24 had declared annual income of less than Rs 5 lakh.

The study showed that the proportion of 'female' traders participating in F&O has decreased from 14.9 per cent in FY22 to 13.7 per cent in FY24. Compared to 'male' traders, less proportion of 'female' traders incurred losses.

While 91.9 per cent 'male' traders made losses in F&O in FY24, 86.3 per cent percentage of 'female' traders made losses in F&O.

## Unemployment rate unchanged at 3.2% in July 2023 to June 2024

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE for persons aged 15 years and above has remained unchanged at 3.2 per cent in July 2023 to June 2024, according to the labour force survey annual report released on Monday. The unemployment rate (UR) is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

The report stated that while the UR for male has shown a marginal decline from 3.3 per cent during July 2022 - June 2023 to 3.2 per cent during July 2023 - June 2024, among female it has increased from 2.9 per cent to 3.2 per cent during the same time span.

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in usual status for persons of age 15 years and above was 60.1 per cent during July 2023 - June 2024 higher than 57.9 per cent in the previous year.

The same for male and female was 78.8 per cent and 41.7 per cent, respectively. LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population. LFPR for female of age 15 years above in usual status has increased from 37.0 per cent during July 2022 - June 2023 to 41.7 per cent during July 2023 - June 2024.

For male of the same age

### DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MALE

■ Unemployment rate for male has shown a marginal decline from 3.3% during July 2022 - June 2023 to 3.2% during July 2023 - June 2024, and among female it has increased from 2.9% to 3.2% during the same time

group LFPR in usual status increased from 78.5 per cent to 78.8 per cent during the same time span. Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in usual status was 58.2 per cent during July 2023 - June 2024 up from 56.0 per cent in the year ago. The same for male and female was 76.3 per cent and 40.3 per cent respectively.

The WPR in usual status among female of age 15 years and above has shown an increase from 35.9 per cent during July 2022 - June 2023 to 40.3 per cent during July 2023 - June 2024.

WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population. Considering the importance of availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals, National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) launched Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017.

## 'Home loans, credit cards see slowdown in origination volumes'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

GROWTH IN retail loans witnessed moderation across all products, particularly on small ticket loans, in the quarter ended June 2024, TransUnion CIBIL said in a report.

Among the consumer credit products, origination (new account opened) volumes in credit card and home loan categories witnessed a negative growth of 9 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively in the first quarter of FY25.

"India's retail credit growth moderated in the quarter ending June 2024 as financial institutions tightened the supply of credit, particularly on consumption-led products like credit cards, consumer durable loans and personal loans," according to TransUnion CIBIL Credit Market Indicator (CMI) report for June 2024 quarter.

The CMI - a comprehensive measure of retail lending health trends - for June 2024 stood at 101, same as in June last year. The indicator has remained consistently above 100 since June 2022, highlighting healthy retail lending trends in the country.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

### BRIEFLY India's biggest oil, gas bid round gets 4 bidders

New Delhi: India's biggest oil and gas bid round attracted four bidders that included state-owned ONGC and OIL and private sector Vedanta Ltd, with most blocks getting just two bids, according to Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH). In the OALP-X bid round, 28 blocks or areas spread over 1.36 lakh square kilometre were offered for finding and producing oil and gas. PTI

### FOSSEE IIT Bombay organises ANIMATE 2024

New Delhi: ANIMATE 2024, a 2D animation hackathon organised by FOSSEE, IIT Bombay, in partnership with Whistling Woods International, concluded recently with an award ceremony at the Whistling Woods campus. The FOSSEE Project is part of the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Ministry of Education. ENS

### Sebi imposes ₹1 crore fine on Anmol Ambani

New Delhi: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Monday imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Anmol Ambani, son of Anil Ambani, for his failure to exercise due diligence while approving general-purpose corporate loans in Reliance Home Finance matter. PTI

### Biz activity growth in Sept slowest in 2024

New Delhi: Growth in India's business activity rose at the slowest rate in 2024 in September as both output and new orders weakened, according to a survey by HSBC Holdings Plc. HSBC's flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by S&P Global, slipped to 59.3 in September from August's final reading of 60.7. PTI

## Use urban solid waste for sustainable highways: Roads Ministry to states

DHEERAJ MISHRA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

IN ORDER to promote sustainable construction of highways, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) Monday issued policy guidelines to promote use of urban solid waste or inert materials in the construction of National Highways (NH).

The construction of highways require huge amount of soil, which at times is required to be procured from soil excavated from agriculture fields. While taking this fact into account and need for ways which have minimum impact on environment and ecology in procurement of materials, the ministry, in its letter to the chief secretaries & secretaries of the states and its own concerned departments, said that disposal of solid waste generated on daily basis is a major environmental challenge being faced in urban areas across the country and using of inert material in highways can be a big step to solve this.

In its direction, the ministry relied on the successful utilisation of inert material in construction of embankment in its two pilot projects - DND Sohna spur of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and Ahmedabad-Dholera Expressway.

"As per rough assessment, around 10,000 hectare land is locked in dump sites. Due to limited land availability, these land-fill sites are on verge to attain maximum capacity and pose serious environmental and Health Hazards... Under Swachh Bharat



Mission Urban 2.0 (SBM 2.0), solid waste sites and availability of material has been mapped and as per their assessment about 1,700 lakh ton waste is accumulated across 2304 dump sites in the country. The inert material available from these processing sites can be potentially utilised in construction of embankment for NHs and state roads," said the ministry in its circular to the states.

It further said that the major component of solid waste is inert soil, which is generated by bio-remediation and bio-mining of this legacy waste. "Study has been conducted by MoRTH through CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) and it is established that the generated inert soil can be utilised in embankment of highway," reads the circular.

While laying out methodology for use of inert material, the ministry said that such material will be subjected to sampling and testing as per MoRTH specifications and required tests should be conducted to ascertain its suitability for the usage.

"For the project under DPR stage, the consultant would examine availability of land-fill site on Gati Shakti portal. In case, any site is located in the vicinity of top 25 dumpsites of the country or in the vicinity of 100 km of any dumpsite, concerned Regional Office/Project Implementation Unit (RO/PIU) shall inform the Municipal Corporation/other department regarding upcoming express/highway project and the amount of inert material potentially usable in the project," said the ministry.

It further said that for the project, which are under bidding stage and construction stage, the contractor or concessionaire appointed shall explore the availability of land-fill site in the vicinity of project stretch and inform the municipal corporation for providing inert material.

"In cases where local bodies have not set up facilities for bio-remediation and bio-mining, Highway contractors may set up such facilities in consultation with Urban Localised Body (ULB). The machines purchased for this purpose would also be considered for mobilisation advance within overall ceiling of mobilisation advance under respective contract documents," said MoRTH.

### TO MEET POWER DEMAND

## Will push thermal till 2035, then reverse for net zero: Khattar

AGGAM WALIA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

INDIA'S PEAK power demand is projected to reach 458 GW by 2032, which requires thermal plants to fill the gap left by insufficient renewable energy supply, Union Minister of Power Manohar Lal Khattar said Monday. While thermal capacity addition has seen negligible growth in recent years, the power ministry has already awarded 12.8 GW of greenfield coal-based capacity in the first 100 days of the new government, Khattar said at a media briefing.

At the inauguration of the



power ministry's new Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT-Power) facility, Khattar also emphasised the need to safeguard India's power infrastructure from internal and external cyber security threats aimed at "weakening the country".

He added that the ministry will soon release the National Electricity Plan 2023-32 for transmission infrastructure, which will require an expenditure of roughly 9 lakh crore and includes a roadmap to double high-voltage direct current (HVDC) lines, key for renewable energy transmission.

"The speed at which the demand is increasing, the supply of RE (renewable energy) is not enough, hence it is necessary to include thermal plants. When we talk of carbon emissions and achieving net zero, we will have to increase RE capacity and slowly reduce thermal capacity. We will push (thermal) projects till 2035 and after that we will reverse the

process," Khattar said.

India plans to add 80 GW of thermal capacity by 2032, with 28 GW under construction and 12.8 GW bid out. Of the capacity under construction, 14 GW is likely to be commissioned within the ongoing financial year.

Due to the variability of solar and wind generation, renewable energy is not able to supply adequate power during peak hours, which in turn increases reliance on base load capacities like thermal. India's coal-fired thermal capacity grew to 218 GW in FY24 from 205 GW in FY20, a modest 6 per cent growth. At the same time, generation by coal-fired thermal plants grew by 34 per cent from

960 billion units (BU) to 1,290 BU. Slowdown in capacity addition and increasing burden on existing capacities can put significant stress on the grid, potentially leading to load shedding and temporary system failures. The urgency of strengthening base load capacities is further highlighted by the expected surge in peak power demand, from 250 GW this year to 458 GW in 2032, an 83 per cent increase.

To address this, energy storage technologies such as pumped hydro and battery energy storage systems are gaining traction globally, including in India.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# 14 THE WORLD

## RAISES QUESTIONS AS TO HOW BEHEMOTHS ARRIVED IN REGION REMAINS OF ICE AGE MASTODONS FOUND IN PERU

The fossilized remains of three mastodons from the Ice Age have been uncovered in the Peruvian Andes — one of them nearly complete — raising questions as to how the behemoths arrived in the area. Excavations starting in 2019 uncovered the behemoths, believed to be between 11,000 and 12,000 years old, in the valley of the town of Chambara, about 300 km east of Lima. **REUTERS**

### TOP OF THE WORLD

#### UNITED STATES Biden proposes ban on Chinese technology in 'connected cars'

**Washington:** The U.S. Commerce Department on Monday proposed prohibiting key Chinese software and hardware in connected vehicles on American roads due to national security concerns, a move that would effectively bar Chinese cars and trucks from the U.S. market. The planned regulation, first reported by Reuters, would also force American and other major automakers in years ahead to remove key Chinese software and hardware from vehicles in the United States. President Joe Biden's administration has raised concerns about data collection by connected Chinese vehicles on US roads by Chinese automakers and extend to vehicle software and hardware produced by Russia and could be extended to other US adversaries. **REUTERS**

#### UNITED NATIONS 30,000 'mpox cases' in Africa this year: WHO

**United Nations:** Nearly 30,000 suspected mpox cases have been reported in Africa so far this year, most of them in Democratic Republic of Congo where tests have run out, the World Health Organization said on Monday. More than 800 people died of suspected mpox across the continent in that time, the U.N. health body said in its report. Congo's central African neighbour Burundi has also been hit by a growing outbreak, it added. **REUTERS**

#### UNITED STATES Trump killing bid suspect appears in Florida court

**West Palm Beach:** The man accused of hiding out with a gun near Donald Trump's Florida golf course in an apparent bid to kill the former president wrote a letter months earlier describing an "assassination attempt" and offering a bounty on Trump's life, U.S. prosecutors said on Monday. Ryan Routh, 58, has been charged with two gun crimes after he allegedly pointed a rifle while the Republican candidate Trump was playing golf at his course in West Palm Beach. He has not yet entered a plea. **REUTERS**

## PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR, SAYS BEIRUT AS PEOPLE RECEIVE CALLS TO MOVE AWAY FROM 'HEZBOLLAH POSTS'

# 274 killed in wave of Israeli strikes on Lebanon

Israel says senior Hezbollah leader targeted; militia claims attack on IDF

**REUTERS**  
JERUSALEM, BEIRUT, SEPT 23

ISRAEL SAID it had launched airstrikes against hundreds of Hezbollah targets on Monday, killing 274 people in Lebanon's deadliest day in decades according to authorities, as it ramped up a nearly year-long conflict with its Iran-backed enemy. After some of the heaviest cross-border exchanges of fire since the hostilities flared last October, Israel warned people in Lebanon to evacuate areas where it said the armed movement was storing weapons. Tens of thousands are fleeing southern Lebanon 'due to Israeli atrocities', the Lebanese minister coordinating the crisis response, Nasser Yassin, told Reuters. He said 89 temporary shelters in schools had been activated, with capacity for more than 26,000 people so far. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent a short video statement addressed to Lebanese people. "Israel's war is not with you, it's with

Hezbollah. For too long Hezbollah has been using you as human shields," he said. After almost a year of war against Hamas in Gaza on its southern border, Israel is shifting its focus to the northern frontier, where Hezbollah has been firing rockets into Israel in support of Hamas, also backed by Iran. Israel's military said it had struck Hezbollah in Lebanon's south, east and north. Lebanon's health minister said 274 people had been killed, including 21 children and 39 women, and 1,024 wounded. One Lebanese official said it was Lebanon's highest daily death toll from violence since the 1975-1990 civil war. Netanyahu said Israel faced "complicated days" as it stepped up attacks in southern Lebanon, and urged Israelis to stay united. "I promised that we would change the security balance, the balance of power in the north - that is exactly what we are doing," he said. On Monday evening an Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs targeted senior Hezbollah



Emergency workers at the site of Friday's Israeli strike near Beirut, on Monday. AP

leader Ali Karaki, the head of the southern front, but his fate was unclear, a source told Reuters. Earlier, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said the campaign would continue until "we achieve our goal to return the northern residents safely to their homes". Hezbollah for its part has vowed to fight on until there is a ceasefire in Gaza.

The Israeli military said it had struck about 800 targets connected to Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa valley. "Among the targets struck were buildings where Hezbollah hid rockets, missiles, launchers, UAVs and additional terrorist infrastructure," it said in a statement. In response to the strikes, Hezbollah said it had launched

dozens of missiles at a military base in northern Israel. Meanwhile, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Israel wants to drag the Middle East into a full-blown war. "We do not wish to be the cause of instability in the Middle East as its consequences would be irreversible," he said after his arrival in New York to attend the UN General Assembly.

## Officials: Iran Guards ban communication devices after Lebanon pager blasts

**REUTERS**  
SEPTEMBER 23

IRAN'S ELITE Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) has ordered all members to stop using any type of communication devices after thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies used by its Hezbollah allies in Lebanon blew up in deadly attacks last week, two senior Iranian security officials told Reuters. One of the security officials said a large-scale operation is underway by the IRGC to inspect all devices, not just communication equipment. He said most of these devices were either homemade or imported from China and Russia. Iran was concerned about infiltration by Israeli agents, including Iranians on Israel's payroll and a thorough investigation of personnel has already begun, targeting mid and high-

ranking members of the IRGC, added the official, who declined to be identified. "This includes scrutiny of their bank accounts both in Iran and abroad, as well as their travel history and that of their families," the security official said. Iran's Foreign, Defence and Interior Ministries were not immediately available to respond to the comments made by the security officials to Reuters. In a coordinated attack, the pager devices detonated on Tuesday across Hezbollah's strongholds. On Wednesday, hundreds of Hezbollah walkie-talkies exploded. The attacks killed 39 people and injured more than 3,000 people. Lebanon and Hezbollah say Israel was behind the attacks. The security official declined to give details on how the IRGC force are communicating. "For now, we are using end-to-end encryption in messaging systems," he said.

### 'THIS FALL WILL DETERMINE FUTURE OF WAR'



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant in Pennsylvania on Sunday. Reuters

## Zelenskyy lands in US with eye on White House policy ahead of elections

Will study Ukrainian President's 'victory plan' if released, says Kremlin

**REUTERS**  
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 23

UKRAINE PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived in the United States on Sunday to attend sessions at the U.N. General Assembly and urged his partners to help achieve "a shared victory for a truly just peace." "This fall will determine the future of this war," he said in a post on X alongside his nightly video address, delivered from his plane. Zelenskyy made an unannounced stop in President Joe Biden's hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania to visit a munitions plant which he said was ramping up manufacture of crucial 155-millimeter artillery shells to help the Ukraine war effort. "It is in places like this where you can truly feel that the democratic world can prevail," Zelenskyy said in a post on X,

alongside photographs of him thanking plant workers. Zelenskyy flew on to New York, where he was expected to meet heads of U.S. companies to discuss his country's energy needs as well as leaders of states and international organizations. Zelenskyy said he would present a "victory plan" in the war against Russia first to President Joe Biden. He is also expected to discuss the plan with Vice President Kamala Harris in a separate meeting Thursday. Zelenskyy also hopes to meet Republican candidate Donald Trump, who has called US aid to Ukraine a waste of money and has declined to say he wants Ukraine to win. The Kremlin said on Monday it would study what Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has billed as his "victory plan" to end the war with Russia as and when official information on it was released.

## People have called for new political culture: Dissanayake takes oath as Lanka President

**REUTERS**  
COLOMBO, SEPTEMBER 23

SRI LANKA'S leftist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake took office as president on Monday, promising change in the island nation long led by powerful political families which is emerging from its worst economic crisis in more than seven decades. Millions of Sri Lankans had voted for the opposition parliamentarian, putting faith in his graft-fighting pledge and vow to bolster a fragile economic recovery. "I pledge ... to demonstrate dedication to protecting and upholding democracy," Dissanayake, 55, said in inauguration remarks at the president's office, saying he was taking office at a challenging time in the Indian Ocean nation. "Our politics needs to be cleaner, and the people have called for a different political culture," he added. "I am ready to commit to that change." Dissanayake ran as the candidate for the National People's Power (NPP) alliance, which includes his Janatha Vimukthi



Sri Lanka's newly elected President Anura Kumara Dissanayake after taking his oath of office at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo on Monday. Reuters

Peremuna (JVP) party that traditionally championed Marxist economic policies centred on protectionism and state intervention. Outside, dozens of supporters held up posters carrying his image, with some waving the Sri Lankan flag and chanting "AKD",

the initials of the new president. "I'm very happy," said one of them, beautician Iroma Nilanthi Liyanage, adding that Dissanayake inspired supporters with hope. "We worked very hard for this victory. For the first time the poor people have some-

one who stands for them." Tasks he now faces include setting up a new cabinet and wooing parliament, where his party has just three of 225 seats, to pass a budget under the terms of thw \$2.9 billion bailout from the IMF. This was Sri Lanka's first elec-

**EXPLAINED**  
**Balancing India, China ties vital**  
BALANCED TIES with India and China — leading creditors and investors — will be crucial in deciding the future of Sri Lanka's economic reforms. Dissanayake has expressed his intention to continue working with them and foster economic ties to boost growth.

tion since its economy buckled in 2022 under a severe foreign exchange shortage, leaving it unable to pay for imports of essentials including fuel, medicine and cooking gas. Protests forced then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee and later resign. Before Monday's swearing-in, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena resigned to make way for a new prime minister and cabinet. Gunawardena, 75, took over as the PM in July 2022 after Rajapaksa fled and resigned amid protests unleashed by the crisis.

## That will be it: Trump says he won't run again if he loses in Nov



Donald Trump at a campaign in Wilmington on Saturday. Reuters

**REUTERS**  
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 23

REPUBLICAN DONALD Trump said that he will not make a fourth consecutive run for the U.S. presidency if he loses the November 5 election, saying "that will be it" in an interview released on Sunday. Asked if he saw himself running again in four years if he is not successful in his third consecutive bid for the White House,

the 78-year-old former president told Sharyl Attkisson's *Full Measure* program: "No I don't. I think that will be — that will be it. I don't see that at all. Hopefully, we will be successful." Trump faces a tight race against Democratic US Vice President Kamala Harris, with polls showing the two neck-and-neck in key battleground states that are likely to be decisive in determining the winner. Asked whether the four year break helped him regroup and figure out who he could trust, Trump said: "It would have been easier if I did it... contiguous... the benefit is more than anything else, it shows how bad they were."

## Lt Gen Malik named new chief of Pak's ISI

**Islamabad:** Lt Gen Muhammad Asim Malik has been appointed as the new Director General of Pakistan's spy agency - Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), state-run TV announced on Monday.



Lt Gen Muhammad Asim Malik

Lt Gen Malik, currently serving as an adjutant general at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, will assume his new role on September 30, replacing the current DG Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum. The ISI chief is appointed by the prime minister but in consultation with the army chief. The post of ISI chief is considered one of the most important in the Pakistan Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its 77-plus years of exist-

tence and has hitherto wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy. Lt Gen Malik previously commanded the Infantry Division in Balochistan and the Infantry Brigade in Waziristan. He has also received a Sword of Honour in his course and served as the chief instructor at National Defence University (NDU), as well as an instructor at Command and Staff College Quetta. **PTI**

## AUSTRALIA'S COMPETITION REGULATOR RELEASED REPORT ON ALLEGED MANIPULATION OF PRICES FOR HUNDREDS OF ITEMS

# Price hikes, fake discounts: Australian supermarket giants sued for 'deceiving' consumers

**DAMIEN CAVE**  
SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER 23

THE OREO family pack on sale at one of Australia's largest grocery store chains seemed to be a pretty good deal, with a discount of 50 Australian cents. Trouble was, the new price was still a full Australian dollar more than what the cookies cost a month earlier. And on Monday, in a rare case of legal action tied to rising prices, the Australian government sued over what regulators described as a pattern of deception used by Woolworths and Coles, the coun-

try's duopoly of grocery store giants, between 2021 and 2023. Gina Cass-Gottlieb, chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, issued a blistering report on alleged price and discount manipulation for hundreds of items, from butter to menstrual products and pet food to nicotine patches, all of which had their prices raised for a few days or weeks before going on sale and being part of marketing promotions. Her complaint also cited the Oreo cookies, and Australia's beloved chocolate Tim Tams. With all these items, she accused the two companies — ubiq-

uitous behemoths that control 65 percent of the Australian market — of breaking consumer protection laws by "making misleading claims about discounts, when the discounts were, in fact, illusory." Even worse, she added: "The false or misleading representations concerned the price of household staples at a time of increasing cost-of-living pressures." Woolworths, the largest supermarket chain in Australia, said in a statement that it would closely review the government's claims. Coles sounded more defensive, arguing in a statement that "the allegations relate to a



Woolworths and Coles, the country's grocery store giants, control 65 per cent of the Australian market. NYT

period of significant cost inflation when Coles was receiving a large number of cost increases from our suppliers." The back and forth, with Australia seeking to make the companies pay penalties and contribute to charities to deliver food to needy families, points to just how politically radioactive inflation has become. As is true for the Biden administration in the US, nothing has caused more consternation and criticism for Australia's prime minister, Anthony Albanese, than the steady surge of prices for household goods and housing.

And in a country with less grocery store competition where the government has a habit of responding to public outrage, supermarkets have become a target for overhaul. "Businesses need to do the right thing by Australians — and the Albanese government is committed to improving the food and grocery sector so it works for families and farmers," said Andrew Leigh, the assistant minister for competition, charities, treasury and employment. In addition to the lawsuits, the government has provided funding to conduct quarterly price monitoring, effectively keeping a

close eye on prices for possible future lawsuits. Albanese has also proposed a new mandatory code of conduct for the largest food retailers that would ensure that farmers receive fair payments in good-faith negotiations and subject the big chains to multimillion-dollar penalties for violations. "We see an Australian economy that is more concentrated and less dynamic than it was in the past," said Leigh, a former professor of economics at the Australian National University. "That's the context in which we've set about doing a lot of competition reform." **NYT**

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA GATI SHAKTI VISHWAVIDYALAYA (A Central University under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India) Lalbaug, Vadodara, Gujarat 390004 AIRBUS CHAIR PROFESSOR IN AVIATION

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER Tender No. ADEEG-RewiringQtr-24-2R, dtd. 21.09.2024. For and on behalf of the President of India, the Assistant Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach invites e-Tender for the following work before 15:00 hrs. on 15.10.2024.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr. PC) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Traore John M r/o 3rd floor LHS, Flat RZF-5, Nanda Block, Mahavir Enclave, South West Delhi has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. RC 220 E 2023 E0018, CBI, EO-II, New Delhi U/s- 8 r/w Sec. 23(c) & 29 of NDPS Act and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Traore John M could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Traore John M has absconded (or are concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused persons Traore John M is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on 04.11.2024.

Indian Bank Zonal Office, Gaya(e-AB), South Bihar Talab Road, Gaya, Bihar-823001 (Rule-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) Where as The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization 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 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the account as mentioned hereinafter calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioning in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

AXIS FINANCE LIMITED (CIN U65921MH1995PLC212675) Axis House, C-2, Wadia International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 025 CORRIGENDUM NOTICE DATE: 19.09.2024 Ref: Demand Notice under Section 13 (2) of SARFAESI dated 27.06.2024 bearing reference No. AFL/CO/2024-25/Legal/June/103.

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA-134151 (www.hssc.gov.in) ANNOUNCEMENT Shortlisting of candidates for various Posts in Group 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 49A, 53, 54 as advertised vide Advt. No 09/2024. Vide Announcement dated 21.09.2024, list of candidates shortlisted three times the number of advertised posts in various categories of Group 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 49A, 53, 54 was published. Now, the consolidated list of four times the number of candidates (including the remaining one time the number of candidate) after addressing the grievances is published on official website in various categories of Group 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 49A, 53. This list shall supercede the earlier list of candidates three times to the total number of posts which was published vide announcement dated 21.09.2024. Accordingly, the earlier list published on 21.09.2024 would become infructuous.

Bank of India Asset Recovery Department, Gaya Zone STAR MEGA E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002 E Auction sale notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the securitization and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest act 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Notice is hereby given to public in general & in particular to following Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) that the below mentioned Immovable properties mortgaged/hypothecated to bank of India (Secured Creditor), the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of India will be sold on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS', 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS' for recovery of respective dues as detailed hereunder against the secured assets Hypothecated/Mortgaged to Bank of India from the respective borrower(s)/Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit is shown there against each secured assets. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided hereunder.

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (ADMINISTRATION BRANCH) 7TH FLOOR, MSO BUILDING I.P. ESTATE, New DELHI-110002

No. F10(574)/2023/Admn./DSW/Estt. / CD No.070747353/ Dated: ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE Applications are invited from willing and eligible candidates working under the Central/State Government/Union Territories for filling up post of Welfare Officer/Probation Officer/Prison Welfare Officer on deputation basis in Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of NCT of Delhi as per following details: -

Table with 2 columns: Name of the Post, Classification of post, Number of Vacancies, Pay Scale. Welfare Officer/Probation Officer/ Prison Welfare Officer, GCS Group B, Non-Gazetted, Non-Ministerial, Total 15(Fifteen), Rs.9300-34800 + (Grade Pay Rs. 4200/-) (Pre-revised)

Advertisement Notice for the post along with application form and other eligibility conditions are available at our website https://socialwelfare.delhi.gov.in/. The application should reach this office within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

Indian Bank Zonal Office, Gaya(e-AB), South Bihar Talab Road, Gaya, Bihar-823001 (Rule-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) Where as The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization 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 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the account as mentioned hereinafter calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioning in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Indian Bank Zonal Office, Gaya(e-AB), South Bihar Talab Road, Gaya, Bihar-823001 (Rule-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) Where as The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization 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 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the account as mentioned hereinafter calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioning in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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EXPRESS CAREERS Vacancies Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) for Producer Companies IRMA invites applications for the positions of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the SAAR Handloom Producer Company Limited and the SAAR Eri Silk Producer Company Limited. Job Location: Assam For detailed job descriptions : scan QR code or please visit: https://www.irma.ac.in/careers/careers.php.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, MANGESH LATA W/O Balwant Singh R/O 5273/7, S/F, Gali No.7, Krishan Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to MANGESH. 0040750833-2

I, Jyoti W/o Ankur Chamoli R/O Flat No.-330,6th Floor, Platinum Heights, Sector-18 B, Dwarka Delhi-110078, have changed my name to Jyoti Raturi. 0040750844-3

I, Gajale Balaso Rangrao R/O WZ A-100, First Floor, Om Vihar, Phase-II, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 have changed my minor daughter's name from Gayatri to Gajale Gayatri Balaso, for all purposes. 0040750803-1

I, Gagandeep Singh Banga, S/O Arvinder Singh, R/O: WZ-43, Street No-3, Shiv Nagar, New Delhi-110058 Have Changed My Name to Gagandeep Singh for all Purposes. 0070925627-1

I, GAGANDEEP CHAWLA, S/O KEWAL KRISHAN CHAWLA, R/O M1-901, GPL EDEN HEIGHTS, SECTOR-70, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001, have changed my minor daughter's name from ADYA aged 4 years to AADYA CHAWLA forever. 0070925569-1

I, FARAH KHAN, W/o Mohd Alam Khan, R/O Flat No.111, Charms Solitaire, Ahinsa Khand-II, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014 has changed my name to FARAH KHANAM. 0070925532-1

I, Darshan Kumar S/O Durga Dass R/O DL-7, L-Block, Second-Floor, Anand-Vihar, Hari-Nagar, New Delhi-110064, have changed my name to Darshan Kumar Arora. 0040750848-3

I, Virender Kumar, R/O 454/8, Gali No. 8, Krishna Colony, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my Minor Son name from Bhavay to Bhavay Mehta. 0040750844-7

I am Shivam Dixit, residing at, 17B/3, Roy Bahadur Road, Behala, Kolkata - 700034, West Bengal. My Class-X certificate shows 20.08.1999 as my DOB. The correct DOB is 28.08.1999. This is confirmed by Affidavit. No.GOK202411708(GRN .No.121279933). Please consider the correct DOB for all purposes. 0040750842-8

I, Shilpa Mana D/O Biswaranjan Mana W/O SOURAV Das R/O Ward No-10 Nabinagar (Mirzapur, Dist Midnapore ( Paschim) West Bengal, Pin-721101 Presently Address H/No. A-535 Gali No- 13, 25 fooda Road Mukundpur Part-2 Delhi-110042 have changed my name to SHILPA MANA DAS FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0070925628-1

I, Saheed S/O Mammad Khan R/O Shani Dev Mandir, Adarsh-Nagar, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-121004, have changed my name to Mohammad Shahid Abbasi. 0040750843-3

I, SAMEER S/O KABEER, R/O HOUSE NO-218-P-4 BLOCK, SULTAN PURI, DELHI-110086 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SAMEER TO MD SAMEER. 0070925601-1

I, SALMA KHATOON W/O MOHD SHAMSHAD, R/O HOUSE NO-1, P-4 BLOCK, SULTAN PURI, DELHI-110086 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SALMA KHATOON TO SALMA. 0070925629-1

I, Rasna Gupta W/O Rajiv Kumar Vijayvardhan R/O Plot no-220 & 221, third floor, Gali no-38, Vipin Garden Extension Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059 declare that my name is Wrongly mentioned in the School records of my son Girish Vijayvardhan as Rashmi Vijayvardhan. Please use my actual name Rasna Gupta for all future purposes. 0070925583-1

I, Babita Rani W/o Sanjay Singla R/O D-16/58, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name Mahak Singla for all purposes. 0040750844-5

I, PRADEEP KUMAR S/O RISHI RAJ R/O D. 10377 B AMBEDKAR COLONY, CHATTARPUR PAHARI NEW DELHI-110029, declare that name of mine PRADEEP KUMAR has been wrongly written as PRADEEP in my Minor Son Yash, aged about 15 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is PRADEEP KUMAR. 0070925632-1

I, Naresh Kumar S/O. Khairati Lal born on 02.01.1972, Address: 684 DDA Janta flats, pul pehlapur, New Delhi 110044 has changed my Name to Naresh Kumar Sood vide Affidavit Number IN- DL73702108618670W dated 15.04.2024 before Notary by Ashok Kumar. 0070925565-1

I, MOHAMMAD S/O MUMTAJ ALI R/O Shani Dev Mandir, Adarsh Nagar, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-121004, have changed my name TO MAMMAN KHAN. 0040750843-2

I, NEHA TYAGI W/O SAURABH TYAGI R/O 16/333, BLOCK-B, VASUNDHRA, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201012 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as RANJENDRA TYAGI in my PANCARD No. AQPT8270C AND BIJENDRA TYAGI IN MY 10TH CLASS MARKSHEET AND CERTIFICATE. The actual name of my father is VIRENDER KUMAR TYAGI. 0070925623-1

I, Kunal Pateriya S/o Laxmi Narayan Pateriya R/O 63312, Mahindra Park, Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034 declare that the name of mine, my father & my mother has been wrongly written as Kunal Sharma & Laxmi Narayan Sharma & Pooja Sharma in my CBSE Class 10th And 12th Marksheets. Actual name of mine is Kunal Pateriya, My father Laxmi Narayan Pateriya, and my mother Abhishala Pateriya for all future purposes. 0070925570-1

I, K Ravi S/O Kanth Raja R/O 26, Anand Reddy Lot Oyt, Govindashetty Pallya, Bangalore South, Electronics City, Bangalore, Karnataka-560100, have changed my name to Ravi K. 0070925584-1

I, Hoshiar Singh Mudgal S/o Late Hari Singh Mudgal R/O H.No.42, Tagore Marg, Kewal Park, Azadpur, Delhi-110033 is also known as Hoshiar Singh. Both names are of one and the same person. 0040750777-1

I, Harpreet Singh Saigal S/O Gurvinder Singh Saigal R/O Flat no-1603, Tower-A1, Casa Greens 1, Sec16-B, Gr Noida West, UP-201301 have changed my name to Harpreet Singh for all future purposes. 0070925603-1

I, HASEENA W/O KABEER, R/O HOUSE NO-218, P-4 BLOCK, SULTAN PURI, DELHI-110086 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM HASEENA TO HASINA KHATOON. 0070925626-1

I, Govind S/O Nagendra Thakur R/O E-379 Shakurpur Delhi-110034 have changed my name from Govind to Gobind Kishore permanently. 0040750782-1

I, Deepak S/O Suresh Chand R/O H.No 256/2, Harijan Basti, Tunda Nagar, Johripur Tukhmir Pur, Delhi-110094 have changed the name of my minor son from Pheel Singh Alias Aarav Gautam to Aarav Gautam for all purposes. 0070925625-1

I, Ashvani Kumar S/O Mr. Surjan Singh R/O H229, Sector 22, Noida Gautam Budh Nagar, UP(201301) State That My Name Ashvani Thakur Is Mentioned In My Son's School Document Which Is Incorrect. My Real Name Is Ashvani Kumar Which Is Correct for all purposes. 0070925579-1

I, Apoorva Singhal W/o Shivam Jain R/O A-53 First Floor, Lok Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 has changed my name from Apoorva Singhal to Apoorva Jain permanently. 0040750795-2

I, Anamika W/o Gobind Kishore R/O E-379 Shakurpur Delhi-110034 have changed my name from Anamika to Moni Kumari permanently. 0040750782-2

I, AJAY KUMAR BANSAL S/O KAPOOR CHAND BANSAL, R/O-429 DEEPLA ENCLAVE PITAMPURA DELHI-110034 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AJAY BANSAL. 0040750853-5

I, Rohit S/O Jai Singh R/O Budaniya, Jhunjhunun, Budania, Rajasthan-333025, have changed my name to Rohit Tanania. 0070925624-1

I, I, Seema D/o Heera Bahadur R/O Block-F-66 VIP Colony Rama Vihar Karala Delhi-110081 have changed my name to Seema Bahadur. 0040750841-6

I, Sachian Kumar Sharma, S/O Lav Kush Sharma, H.N-201/2B, Krishna Gali, NO-11, Adarsh Mohalla, MAJU PUR, North East, Delhi-110053, changed my name to Sachin Sharma, for all future purposes. 0040750833-9

I, SHUNAM RAM S/O GHISA RANA, R/O 50 NANGAL SODA NARNAUL MAHENDRA GARH, HARYANA, PIN-123023, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNA RAM. 0040750833-4

I, SHAKUNTLA DEVI, M/O TEJSWINEE, R/O-B-73, Gali No-2, Gazipur Village-Gazipur, East, Delhi-110096, declare that My daughter's Father's name has, been wrongly-written as TEJVI SINGH in School Records. His correct name is TEJVEER SINGH. 0040750853-1

I, SATYAM SINGH DHYANPAL SINGH, S/O-DHYANPAL SINGH, R/O FLAT-4-5, PLOT, NO-106 INDIRAPURAM G.Z.B.U.P.-2010114, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SATYAM SINGH. 0040750842-4

I, SANJAY KUMAR S/O DHARAM PAL SINGH R/O PLOT NO.-40-41, IST FLOOR, POKKET-8, SECTOR-24, ROHINI DELHI-110085 have changed my name to SANJAY MALIK. 0040750841-3

I, Ruchi Chawla W/O Bhawani Bhushan Srivastava R/O.226 Sharon Gaur Saundaryam Greater-Noida West UP, Have Changed My Name To Ruchi Bhushan Srivastava. 0040750838-1

I, Ritu Khanna W/o Ravendra Pratap Singh, R/O flat No.74-B, Pocket-B, Mayur-Vihar, Phase-2, have changed my name to Ritu Singh, for all future purposes. 0040750848-2

I, Rashmi Rani W/o Rahul Dayal, R/O 794 DDA Flats, Pocket-5, Mayur Vihar-1, Delhi-110091 Have Changed My Name To Rashmi For Future. 0040750853-2

I, Rashmi Mohan W/o Hemant Kumar, R/O 199-200, Third Floor, Pocket-2, Sector-25, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name Rashim. 0040750844-6

I, Rakesh Kumar Chauhan, S/O, Ashok Kumar Chauhan, R/O-4 Gali No-1, Ashok-Vihar Phase-2, Gurgaon-122001, Have changed my minor sons Name (DOB-22/12/2008) from Tanishk to TANISHK CHAUHAN, Permanently. 0040750842-7

I, Gurbax Kaur W/o Satnam Singh R/O H.No-297, Sector-11, Block-D, Faridabad, Haryana-121001, have changed my name Gurbax for all purposes. 0040750848-1

I, Bharat Singh Patwal S/o Anand Singh Patwal R/O Y-301B, Sector-12, Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Bharat Singh for all purposes. 0040750798-1

I, Suresh Tyagi S/o Brahm Dutt Tyagi R/O L-501, Lotus Tower, 5th Floor, Nipun Saffron Valley Main Gt Road, Near Shaheed Nagar Metro Station, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201006 have changed my name from Suresh Tyagi to Suresh Chand Tyagi permanently. 0040750853-6

I, I, Suresh Tyagi S/o Brahm Dutt Tyagi R/O L-501, Lotus Tower, 5th Floor, Nipun Saffron Valley Main Gt Road, Near Shaheed Nagar Metro Station, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201006 have changed my name from Suresh Tyagi to Suresh Chand Tyagi permanently. 0040750795-1

It is for general information that I, Bhushan Chaddha, S/O-Ved Prakash Chaddha, R/O-H.No.H-11, Street.No.7, Old Govind Pura-Extn., Krishna-Nagar, Delhi-110051, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Bhushan Chaddha in my minor daughter Grisha Chaddha aged-13Years School Record. The actual name of mine is Bhushan Chaddha, which may be amended accordingly. 0040750853-8

It is for general information that I, Pappu Baitha S/O Raj Dev Baitha R/O H.No-A-106, Himachal Bhawan, Sarai Pipal Thala, Adarsh Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110033 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Pappu and Kiran in my minor daughter Priya Kumari aged 14 years in her School Records. The actual name of mine and my wife are Pappu Baitha and Kiran Devi. 0040750838-4

I, pooja Sharma, W/o Madan kaushik, R/O M-144, gali no.9 Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052, have changed my name to pooja kaushik for all future purposes. 0040750843-5

I, mohd zaid D/o Abdul khaliq, R/O B-104 street no-5 chand bagh delhi 110094 have changed my name mohammad zaid. 0040750844-1

I, Virender Kumar R/o 454/8, Gali No.-8, Krishna Colony, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my Minor Son name from Jeevansh to Jeevansh Mehta. 0040750844-8

I, Tarsem Rani W/o Rakesh Kumar Angrish R/O B-152 Janta Flats Sector-1, Rohini North West Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Seema Angrish. 0040750841-2

I, Surender Bansal s/o Anant Ram Bansal R/O F-166 Prashant Vihar Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Surinder Bansal Permanently. 0040750841-4

I, Subhash Chander, S/o Baljeet Singh, H.No.1/1, 2nd Floor, Indira Vikas Colony, Dr. Mukharjee-Nagar, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Subhash Chander Kaushik. 0040750844-9

I, Tarsem Rani W/o Rakesh Kumar Angrish R/O B-152 Janta Flats Sector-1, Rohini North West Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Seema Angrish. 0040750841-2

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I, Tarsem Rani W/o Rakesh Kumar Angrish R/O B-152 Janta Flats Sector-1, Rohini North West Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Seema Angrish. 0040750841-2

I, RAVINDER KUMAR S/O LALA RAM R/O H-1/18, SECOND FLOOR BUDH VIHAR PHASE-1 DELHI-110086, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAVINDER BHARTI. 0040750842-2

I, RAJESH SINGH S/O MAMAN RAM R/O H.NO-956, SEC-9 VTC BAHADURGARH JHAJJAR HARYANA-124507, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJESH YADAV. 0040750833-8

I, RAHUL S/O KANTI PRASAD R/O E-384 VIVEK ANAND MAGG CHHAJJUPUR BABARPUR SHAHDARA DELHI-110032, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAHUL KUMAR. 0040750842-1

I, Pawan Chandna, S/o-Nanak Chand, R/o-flat no.903, 9th-floor, Majestic Tower-13, omaxe Heights, sector-8, sonipat have changed my minor Daughter name, from Samayra, to Samayra Chandna, for all purposes. 0040750845-2

I, Pasricha Manvinderjeetsingh Harbhajansingh S/O Harbhajan Singh R/O N-2/B-3 Dilshad Garden Delhi-110095 Have Changed My Name To Manvinder Singh. 0040750853-3

I, PREETI BURMAN, W/O VINAY KUMAR BURMAN residing at, A-68 UPPAR-GROUND PANDAV NAGAR, DELHI-110092, have changed my name to PRITI BURMAN, for all, future purpose. 0040750842-6

I, PEEYUSH JAIN S/O SUSHIL JAIN, R/O B-33/10, STREET NO-1, ARJUN MOHALLA MAJUPUR, NORTH EAST DELHI-110053, INDIA HAVE CHANGED NAME PIYUSH JAIN. 0040750843-1

I, Neha @Neha Thakral W/o Virender Kumar, R/O 454/8, Gali No.-8, Krishna Colony, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Neha Mehta. 0040750844-9

I, NEELAM KUMARI DHYANPAL SINGH, W/O DHYANPAL SINGH, R/O FLAT-4-5 PLOT NO-106 INDIRAPURAM, G.Z.B.U.P.-201014, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEELAM KUMARI. 0070925617-1

I, Nazia Arfeen/ Nazia Shoab W/o Mohd Shoab R/O 3910, Top Floor, Gali Jagat Cinema Wali, Jama Masjid, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Nazia. 0040750794-1

I, Inderjeet Singh S/O Jagjit Singh R/O-94 FF-ES-C-Block, Fateh Nagar, West Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Inderjit Singh for all Purposes. 0040750833-1

I, Manoj Kumar S/O Radhey Shyam, House no-351A Gali no-6, Sangam vihar New Delhi-110062, Have changed my Name to MANOJ SHARMA Permanently. 0040750841-1

I, Mann singh swali, s/o Joginder singh, R/O A-1428-29, Jahangir puri, Delhi-110033, Have changed my name to mann singh, for all Future Purposes. 0040750833-5

I, MOHAMMAD-HUMZA, S/O SHAFIQ AHMED, R/O-913 GALI CHAH SHREEN FARASH KHANA LAL KHAN DELHI-6, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHAMMAD HAMZA. 0040750843-4

I, Kumari Arti, W/o-Hari Govind Singh, R/O B-8, Gali No.10, Nangli Vihar, Nangli Dairy Dc Nangli Sakravati, South West Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Arti. 0040750844-2

I, Km. Bhavana Bhandari D/O Hira Singh Bhandari R/O Flat-403, Diamond-3, Vihana Heritage, Sector-1, Greater Noida-201306, have changed my name to Bhavana Bhandari for all purposes. 0040750798-2

I, Km Deepika D/O PRAMOD KUMAR R/O PADHIN DARBAJA 15, AURAIYA, Auraiya, 206122, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA have changed my name to Deepika yadav. 0040750841-7

I, Kiran Bala W/O Jainder Singh, R/O H.No.-523 Ground Floor Sector-10, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to kiran. 0040750844-11

I, KAVITHA SURESH, W/O, SURESH KUMAR GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI, R/O-HOUSE NAME- ARJUNAM, VILLAGE+POST- MUHAMMAM, PO, ALAPUZHA, KERALA, PIN-CODE- 688525 have changed my name to KAVITHA SARASAMMA, for all, future purposes. 0040750833-10

I, KAVITA PASRICHA W/O KUNAL ARIORA R/O 342, RAM NAGAR KRIAHNA NAGAR SHAHDARA DELHI-110051, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KASHISH ARORA. 0040750842-3

I, Rajesh Kathuria S/O Brij Lal R/O B-352 Sector-14, Prashant Vihar Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Rajesh. 0040750841-5

I, Jitender Choudhary, S/o Sh. Gyanender Singh, R/O H.No.85-A, Khizrabad, New Delhi-110025, have changed my minor son's name, from Vansh aged 14-years to Vansh Choudhary, for all future purposes. 0040750838-3

I, Hirdesh kumar Vats, S/O-Gopal krishan Vats, R/O-312, Housing board colony Sonipat, have changed my name to Hirdesh Vats, for all purposes. 0040750845-1

I, Harjeet kaur swali w/o mann singh, R/O A-1428-29, Jahangir puri, Delhi-110033, Have changed my name to Harjeet kaur, for all Future Purposes. 0040750833-6

I, BRAM SINGH, S/O-Dhram Singh, H.No.M-40, Street.No.14 lInd, Brahmajpur, Delhi, North-East, Delhi-110053, have changed my minor daughter's name jasmeeet kaur, for all, future purpose. 0040750833-7

I, Dhiraj S/O Raj Kishor Tiwari R/O H.No. 147, Block-C, Pocket-8, Sector-5, Rohini North West Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Dheeraj Tiwari. 0040750844-10

I, Gita Rani Grover, W/o Mr. Rajender Grover, R/O House No.834, Sector-40, Gurugram, Haryana, have changed my name from Gita Rani Grover to Geeta Grover for all, future purposes. 0040750853-4

I, BALWANT SAGAR S/O Mohan Lal R/O 5273/7, S/F, Gali No.7, Krishan Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to BALWANT SINGH. 0040750833-3

I, Asif Ahmad S/O Jameel Ahmad R/O B-291-292, Dakshinpur, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi-110062 Have Changed My Name to Asif Ahmed. 0040750838-2

I, Saroj w/o Kamlesh R/O H.No.234, G/F, Ashoka Park Extn., PO Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, have changed my minor son's name from Nannu to Krishna, for all purposes. 0040750820-1

I, Ronaq Kapoor S/O Anil Kapoor R/O, Flat-No-H-302, Tower-H, BPTP Park-Elite Premium, Society, Sector-84, Kheri-Kalan, Faridabad, Haryana-121006, have changed my name to RAUNAK KAPOOR. 0040750848-4

I, Rajesh Kumar S/O Rajpal Singh R/O 1/5465, First Floor Gali No-15, Rishiraj Chowk, Balbir Nagar Extension, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 inform you that Rajesh Kumar and Rajesh Kumar Tomar both are the same and one Person and shall hereafter be Known as Rajesh Kumar. 0040750797-1

I, REETIKA D/O JIWAN KUMAR, R/O 740/26 Gali No.14 NEAR SHEETLA VIDYA PEETH SCHOOL BALDEV NAGAR GURGAON-122001 HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO REETIKA DHIMAN. 0070925617-1

I, Nazia Arfeen/ Nazia Shoab W/o Mohd Shoab R/O 3910, Top Floor, Gali Jagat Cinema Wali, Jama Masjid, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Nazia. 0040750794-1

I, Inderjeet Singh S/O Jagjit Singh R/O-94 FF-ES-C-Block, Fateh Nagar, West Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Inderjit Singh for all Purposes. 0040750833-1

I, Munni Devi W/O Late Ravi Kant R/O F-288, Lado Sarai, Delhi 110030 have changed my name whereas now my given name is Munni and surname is Devi. 0070925606-1

I, Manoj Kumar S/O Radhey Shyam, House no-351A Gali no-6, Sangam vihar New Delhi-110062, Have changed my Name to MANOJ SHARMA Permanently. 0040750841-1

I, Mann singh swali, s/o Joginder singh, R/O A-1428-29, Jahangir puri, Delhi-110033, Have changed my name to mann singh, for all Future Purposes. 0040750833-5

I, MOHAMMAD-HUMZA, S/O SHAFIQ AHMED, R/O-913 GALI CHAH SHREEN FARASH KHANA LAL KHAN DELHI-6, HAVE CH

### Rural Works Department CORRIGENDUM-I

Eol-cum-RFQ no.-BRRDA(HQ)-PMGSY-107/2024-2396 [PR No.-007643(RWD) 2024-25].

S. no.	Item	Original Date	Revised Date
01	Date of publishing of Eol-cum-RFQ	05/09/2024	05/09/2024
02	Document download date	13/09/2024 from 10:00 AM	13/09/2024 from 10:00 AM
03	Pre Bid Meeting and submission of query	18/09/2024 at 12:00 in the Conference Hall Vishwariya Bhawan, Patna-800001	25/09/2024 at 04:00 PM in the Conference Hall Vishwariya Bhawan, Patna-800001
04	Bid Submission Start Date/Sale start date	24/09/2024 from 03:00 PM	30/09/2024 from 03:00 PM
05	Bid Submission closing Date	03/10/2024 up to 03:00 PM	08/10/2024 up to 03:00 PM
06	Date and Time of Bid opening (Technical)	03/10/2024 at 03:30 PM	08/10/2024 at 03:30 PM
07	Date and Time of Bid opening (Financial)	To be informed after technical evaluation	To be informed after technical evaluation

2. Financial Proposal should be inclusive of all taxes in SCHEDULE "H".  
3. All other terms & conditions will remain same as per NIT.

**Engineer-in-Chief-cum-Additional Commissioner-cum-Special Secretary, RWD, Bihar, Patna**

PR-008700 ( RWD ) 2024-25

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

### Road Construction Department

Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Division, Chapra

#### SBD BASED NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(through e-procurement mode only- www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

**NIT No.-01 / 2024-25 , R.C.D., Road Division, Chapra**

- Designation and Address of the Advertiser : Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Chapra
- Date of Issue of Notice Inviting Tender : 20.09.2024
- Period for download of Tender Document : From 04.10.2024 to 15.10.2024 upto 15.00 hours (From Website : www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- Date, Time & Place of Pre-Bid meeting : Date 08.10.2024 at 11.00 hours at the Office of the Chief Engineer North, RCD, Bihar, Patna.
- Last Date & time for uploading tender documents by bidder : Date 16.10.2024 till time 15.00 Hours on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
- Date, time & Place of opening of Technical Bid: Date 17.10.2024, Time- 15.30 hours or next working day of Last date of uploading of Tender. Place: On Website -www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

7. Details of works:-

S.No.	Name of work	Estimated/BOQ Cost (Rs in .Lakh).	Amount of Earnest money (Rs in .Lakh).	Cost of B.O.Q (to be paid through online) (non-refundable) in Rs.	Bid Processing Fee (to be paid through online) (non-refundable) in Rs.	Time of completion of work (in month) Including non-working period.
1.	Strengthening work of Runway Strip and Taxiway of Chapra Airport for the year 2024-25	476.57	9.535	10000.00	5900.00	02 (Two) Months

8. Date, time & place of opening of Financial Bid: To be announced later, after approval of technical bid.

(On Website - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

9. Project scope & Work  
To undertake the Strengthening Work of Runway & Road which mainly include the related and specific work of Runway & Road Including miscellaneous works.

10. Bid Validity: 120 Days.

11. Detailed NIT can be seen on web site - www.prd.bihar.nic.in or www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in or on the notice board of the office of the Undersigned.

For further details please visit website [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

**PR-008797 ( R C D ) 2024-25** **Executive Engineer Road Division, Chapra**

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

### बिहार सरकार

#### योजना एवं विकास विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय  
स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन - कार्य प्रमंडल-2, बगहा

पुरवित्तिये आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 05(SBD)/2024-25 ई-टेंडर (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अन्तर्गत वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

बिहार के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम/अन्य राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम या राष्ट्रीय या अंतरराष्ट्रीय ख्याति के किसी भी एजेंसी में समुचित श्रेणी में निविदा खोलने के प्रस्तावित दर निविदा दो बीड प्रणाली (एनबीबीई एवं वित्तीय) अन्तर्गत आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। यदि संवेदक बिहार राज्य के किसी कार्य विभाग/निगम में पूर्व से निविदा नहीं है, तब एकरचना का पूर्व निम्नलिखित कार्य का स्वीकार पत्र (लेटर ऑफ एक्स्प्रेस) प्राप्त होने के बाद बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम (जिसमें निवेदन की प्रक्रिया लागू हो) में निवेदन करना अनिवार्य होगा।

1. कार्य का विवरण:-

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	अवधि की राशि (रु. में) (ऑनलाइन अथवा ऑफलाइन मोड में मुगलत)	बीड कागजात का मूल्य (अवधि/प्रमाण) (रु. में) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में मुगलत)	BELTRON को Online पर बीड प्रोसेसिंग फीस (रु. में) (अवधि/प्रमाण) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में मुगलत)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	कन्टीन्यू रूफिंग, शोध एवं गुण नियंत्रण, पटना विश्वविद्यालय विभिन्न कार्यालयों हेतु उपकरण/इन्स्ट्रुमेंट (डेस्कटॉप, लैपटॉप, यूजीपीएचओ, A3/A4 प्रिंटर, प्लॉटर आदि) का ख़र्च/अधिप्राप्त।	65,500/-	5000/-	590/-	तीन माह

2. विज्ञापन आमंत्रित करने की तिथि :- 19.09.2024

3. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- दिनांक 28.09.2024 से 01.10.2024 समय 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

4. प्री बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान :- दिनांक 30.09.2024 को अधीक्षण अभियंता, शोध एवं प्रशिक्षण प्रमंडल, खगौल, पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में 11:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न।

5. टेक्निकल बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 01.10.2024 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न (वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

6. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी। (वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर

8. निविदा की वैधता की अंतिम तिथि :- 120 दिन।

9. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, शोध एवं प्रशिक्षण प्रमंडल-2, खगौल, पटना।

नियम एवं शर्त :-

09. ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने हेतु संवेदकों को पंजीकृत होना होगा, जिससे कि उन्हें उपयोगकर्ता का नाम User ID पासवर्ड (Password) एवं अंकीय हस्ताक्षर (Digital Signature) प्राप्त होगा। यह उन्हें वेबसाइट [eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://eproc2.bihar.gov.in) से डाउनलोड करने/ई-टेंडरिंग की प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने की योग्यता प्रदान करेगा।

10. ई-कोटेज मात्र वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड किया जा सकता है। इसे विस्तृत रूप में वेबसाइट [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) & [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

**कार्यपालक अभियंता**  
**शोध एवं प्रशिक्षण प्रमंडल-2, खगौल, पटना**

**PR. No. 008714 (WRD) 2024-25**

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

### बिहार सरकार

#### योजना एवं विकास विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय  
स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन - कार्य प्रमंडल-2, बगहा

पुरवित्तिये आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 05(SBD)/2024-25 ई-टेंडर (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अन्तर्गत वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

बिहार के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम/अन्य राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम या राष्ट्रीय या अंतरराष्ट्रीय ख्याति के किसी भी एजेंसी में समुचित श्रेणी में निविदा खोलने के प्रस्तावित दर निविदा दो बीड प्रणाली (एनबीबीई एवं वित्तीय) अन्तर्गत आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। यदि संवेदक बिहार राज्य के किसी कार्य विभाग/निगम में पूर्व से निविदा नहीं है, तब एकरचना का पूर्व निम्नलिखित कार्य का स्वीकार पत्र (लेटर ऑफ एक्स्प्रेस) प्राप्त होने के बाद बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम (जिसमें निवेदन की प्रक्रिया लागू हो) में निवेदन करना अनिवार्य होगा।

1. कार्य का विवरण:-

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	अवधि की राशि (रु. में) (ऑनलाइन अथवा ऑफलाइन मोड में मुगलत)	बीड कागजात का मूल्य (अवधि/प्रमाण) (रु. में) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में मुगलत)	BELTRON को Online पर बीड प्रोसेसिंग फीस (रु. में) (अवधि/प्रमाण) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में मुगलत)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
01	पश्चिम चम्पारण जिला अंतर्गत रामनगर प्रखंड के सपही पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	321.64000	6.43280	10000	5900
02	पश्चिम चम्पारण जिला अंतर्गत मितहा प्रखंड के सेमरवारी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन निर्माण।	319.31360	6.38700	10000	5900
03	पश्चिम चम्पारण जिला अंतर्गत बगहा-2 प्रखंड के बेलहवा मदनपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	326.02246	6.52100	10000	5900
04	पश्चिम चम्पारण जिला अंतर्गत बगहा-01 प्रखंड के मेहुड़ा में पंचायत सरकार भवन निर्माण।	319.95748	6.40000	10000	5900
05	पश्चिम चम्पारण जिला अंतर्गत बगहा-01 प्रखंड के सिरवा बंस्तपुर में पंचायत सरकार भवन निर्माण।	316.40877	6.32900	10000	5900
06	पश्चिम चम्पारण जिला अंतर्गत गौनाहा प्रखंड के मंडारिया पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन निर्माण।	319.29507	6.38600	10000	5900
07	पश्चिम चम्पारण जिला अंतर्गत मितहा प्रखंड के चिलवनिया पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन निर्माण।	317.61887	6.35300	10000	5900
08	पश्चिम चम्पारण जिला अंतर्गत मितहा प्रखंड के चिलवनिया पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन निर्माण।	318.07043	6.36200	10000	5900

2. विज्ञापन निर्यात करने की तिथि :- दिनांक - 18.09.2024

3. निविदा कागजात अपलोड करने की प्रारम्भिक तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 05.10.2024 को 10.00 बजे पूर्वाह्न से। (वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

4. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि :- दिनांक 04.10.2024 समय 11.30 बजे, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, विधेयवरेखा भवन, चतुर्थ तल, कमरा नं-423, बेली रोड, पटना-800015

5. निविदा अपलोड की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 15.10.2024 समय 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 16.10.2024 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न से। (वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)। (वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

7. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी। (वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

8. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर

9. निविदा की वैधता अवधि :- 120 दिन। (निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि के बाद)

10. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमंडल-2, बगहा

**कार्यपालक अभियंता**  
**स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-2, बगहा**

**PR. No. 008754 (Planning) 2024-25**

विस्तृत जानकारी [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

### DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 1st Floor, B Block, Extension Bhawan, Main Secretariat, Patna 800015  
Phone - 0612-2217045; E-mail - dir-tourism-bih@nic.in

#### Tender Notice

Request for Proposal for Selection of agency for fabrication of Bihar Tourism Pavilion in TTF Patna

Authority Name	Tourism Directorate, Department of Tourism, Government of Bihar
Name of work	Request for Proposal for Selection of agency for fabrication of Bihar Tourism Pavilion in TTF Patna
Tender Currency Settings	Indian rupees (INR)
Bid Document Fee	Rs. 2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) Non-refundable, payable vide Bank Demand Draft with the Bid.
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 75,000/- (Rupees Seventy Five Thousand only) - Refundable, payable vide Bank Demand Draft with the Bid.
Bid Document Fee/EMD in favour of	Director, Tourism, payable at Patna
Portal for Downloading Tender	<a href="https://tourism.bihar.gov.in">https://tourism.bihar.gov.in</a>
Date & Place of Pre-Bid Meeting	01-10-2024 at 3:00 PM Directorate of Tourism, 1st Floor, B Block, Extension Bhawan, Main Secretariat, Patna-800015
Last Date & Time for Receipt (Submission) of Bids	07-10-2024 (02:30 PM)
Date and Time of Opening Technical Bid	07-10-2024 (03:00 PM)
Submission of Bids	Directorate of Tourism, 1st Floor, B Block, Extension Bhawan, Main Secretariat, Patna-800015
Phone	0612-2217045
Officer Inviting Bids	Director Tourism, Directorate of Tourism, 1st Floor, B Block, Extension Bhawan, Main Secretariat, Patna-800015

**PR. No. 008868 (Tourism) 2024-25** **Director Tourism**

This information is available on website [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) also

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

### बिहार सरकार

#### जल संसाधन विभाग

शोध एवं प्रशिक्षण प्रमंडल-2, शोध भवन, खगौल, पटना

अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं- 13 / 2024-25 (आईएम रेट टेण्डर)  
राज्य/राष्ट्रीय स्पर्धा हेतु

1. कार्य का विवरण:-

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	अवधि की राशि (रु. में) (ऑनलाइन अथवा ऑफलाइन मोड में मुगलत)	बीड कागजात का मूल्य (अवधि/प्रमाण) (रु. में) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में मुगलत)	BELTRON को Online पर बीड प्रोसेसिंग फीस (रु. में) (अवधि/प्रमाण) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में मुगलत)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	कन्टीन्यू रूफिंग, शोध एवं गुण नियंत्रण, पटना विश्वविद्यालय विभिन्न कार्यालयों हेतु उपकरण/इन्स्ट्रुमेंट (डेस्कटॉप, लैपटॉप, यूजीपीएचओ, A3/A4 प्रिंटर, प्लॉटर आदि) का ख़र्च/अधिप्राप्त।	65,500/-	5000/-	590/-	तीन माह

2. विज्ञापन आमंत्रित करने की तिथि :- 19.09.2024

3. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- दिनांक 28.09.2024 से 01.10.2024 समय 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

4. प्री बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान :- दिनांक 30.09.2024 को अधीक्षण अभियंता, शोध एवं प्रशिक्षण प्रमंडल, खगौल, पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में 11:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न।

5. टेक्निकल बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 01.10.2024 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न (वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

6. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी। (वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर

8. निविदा की वैधता की अंतिम तिथि :- 120 दिन।

9. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, शोध एवं प्रशिक्षण प्रमंडल-2, खगौल, पटना।

नियम एवं शर्त :-

09. ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने हेतु संवेदकों को पंजीकृत होना होगा, जिससे कि उन्हें उपयोगकर्ता का नाम User ID पासवर्ड (Password) एवं अंकीय हस्ताक्षर (Digital Signature) प्राप्त होगा। यह उन्हें वेबसाइट [eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://eproc2.bihar.gov.in) से डाउनलोड करने/ई-टेंडरिंग की प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने की योग्यता प्रदान करेगा।

10. ई-कोटेज मात्र वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड किया जा सकता है। इसे विस्तृत रूप में वेबसाइट [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) & [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

**कार्यपालक अभियंता**  
**शोध एवं प्रशिक्षण प्रमंडल-2, खगौल, पटना**

**PR. No. 008714 (WRD) 2024-25**

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

### Govt. of Bihar

#### RURAL WORKS DEPARTMENT

#### Short Tender Inviting Notice (No.-RWD/Tharhat/E-Tender/02/2024-25)

Executive Engineer, Rural Works Department, Works Division, Narkatiaganj invites on behalf of Governor of Bihar Percentage rate tenders based on SBD (Through e-procurement system) from bonafide, approved and eligible Contractors registered with RWD/RCD/CPWD/MES/RAILWAYS/Other State/Central Government departments for the following Tharhat Development Work/roads.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Length (km)	Total Cost (Lakh)	EMD (Lakh)	Cost of BOQ (Rs.)	Time of Completion of works (In month)	Amount Payable to
1	प्रखंड गौनाहा के पंचायत महुई के ग्राम तुलसीविया से फुलकोल पूज तक जाने वाली चरक का पीओसीसी रोड का निर्माण कार्य	0.880	78.350	1.57000	10,000	9 Months	E.E., R.W.D. Works Division Narkatiaganj & Payable at -Bettiah
2	प्रखंड गौनाहा अंतर्गत मंगला पानी डोरी से पूरुव मंगला गावाज जाने के रास्ते का एक पुरिया के साथ पीओसीसी निर्माण	0.750	79.128	1.59000	10,000	9 Months	
3	प्रखंड गौनाहा के पंचायत पनीजी के ग्राम पडकोल के साथ महली के घर से प्रभद पंचायत के वेता होते हुए पडकोल ब्रह्मचान तक पीओसीसी रोड का निर्माण कार्य	0.700	77.033	1.54100	10,000	6 Months	
4	प्रखंड गौनाहा पंचायत पनीजी के ग्राम मुजुला से एमएलएससी केम की ओर जाने वाली राइक में पीओसीसी रोड का निर्माण कार्य	0.900	52.93	1.06000	10,000	6 Months	
5	प्रखंड गौनाहा पंचायत विठो के ग्राम मुडिकर उग्रिया टोला से एमएलएससी केम तक पीओसीसी रोड का निर्माण कार्य	1.300	144.856	2.90000	10,000	9 Months	
6	प्रखंड गौनाहा के पंचायत मटियरिया के ग्राम विठियरिया में सेरवा मरिचुववा मुख्य पथ कमी पथ का पक्कीकरण कार्य	1.210	155.520	3.11500	10,000	9 Months	
7	प्रखंड गौनाहा के पंचायत टोला के ग्राम वेतहिया कदम चौक से मनेरा बाज के घर तक पीओसीसी निर्माण	0.700	74.166	1.49000	10,000	6 Months	

1. Designation and Address of the Advertiser : Executive Engineer, Rural Works Department, Work Division, Narkatiaganj

2. Date of Issue of Notice Inviting Tender : 28.09.2024

3. Period for downloading of Tender documents : From 28.09.2024 (9:00) to 07.10.2024 up to 15:00 hrs. Date 01.10.2024 till time 15:00 hrs.

4. Date, Time & Place of Pre- Bid Meeting : Place Office of the Superintending Engineer, RWD, (W) Circle, Bettiah

5. Last Date & Time for uploading tender : Date 07.10.2024 up to: 15:00 hrs. Document by bidder : <http://pmsystendersbih.gov.in>

6. Date, time for online opening of Technical bid : Date 07.10.2024 up toTime: 15:30 hrs.

Tender documents consisting of plans, specifications, the schedule of quantities of the various classes of work to be done and the set of terms & conditions of contract to be complied with by the contractor whose tender may be accepted and other necessary documents can be seen in the office of the Executive Engineer, Superintending Engineer, Chief Engineer, Engineer-in-Chief-cum-Additional Commissioner-cum-Special Secretary, Rural Works Department between hours of 11.00 A.M. & 3.00 P.M. from 28.09.2024 to 07.10.2024 every day except on Sunday and Public Holidays. All these documents can be downloaded from the website: <http://pmsystendersbih.gov.in> Directly.

For further details please visit website [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

**PR-008777 ( R W D ) 2024-25** **Executive Engineer R.W.D. (Works Division) Narkatiaganj**

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

### Public Health Engineering Department

Public Health Engineering Division, Jehanabad

#### SHORT TIME RETENDER NIT No - 06/SBD/PRD/O&M/PHED/JBAD/2024-25(R1)

#### National Competitive Bidding

(Through e-procurement mode on [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))

1	Designation and Address of Advertiser	Executive Engineer, P.H.Division, Jehanabad
2	Date of issue of Tender Notice	20.09.2024
3	Period of sale (downloading) of tender Bid Document	28.09.24 to 05.10.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. through <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a>
4	Date, time & place of pre-bid meeting	30.09.24 at 11.30 hrs. hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer of P. H. Division, Jehanabad
5	Last date and time of receipt (uploading) of tender	06.10.2024 up to 17:00 Hrs on <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a>
6	Date and time of opening of technical bid	07.10.2024 at 16:00Hrs on <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a>
7	Date and time of opening of financial bid	To be informed later after the approval of technical bid.

9. Details of Work:-

Sl. No.	Gr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Lakhs)	Amount of Earnest Money (in Lakhs)	Cost of Tender Documents (NonRefundable in Rs.)	BSEDC BidProceen fee (in Rs.)	Completi on periods (in Months)
1	PRD (O&M)-02	Comprehensive operation and maintenance of ward level Piped water Supply Schemes constructed by "Panchayat Raj Department" and handed over to "PHED", excluding the cost of energy charges and operator wages. (P.H.Sub Division, Shakurbad)	1006.70	20.14	10000.00	As Applicable	48 Months

For further details please visit : [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

**Executive Engineer P.H. Division, Jehanabad**

PR-008752 ( PHED ) 2024-25

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

### कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

#### ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, पाकुड़

#### ई- अति अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई0-अतिअल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा सूचना :- 05/RI/ 2024-25/RWD/EE/ PAKUR दिनांक-23.09.2024 कार्य का विवरण- मुख्यमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना अन्तर्गत कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, पाकुड़ द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.सं.	फ़िकेशन संख्या/ पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि/अवधि	टेंडर कॉल
			अंक में	अक्षर में		
1	RWD/PAKUR/ 19/ 2024-25	आसनबनी से बड़ा खम्भो चुरुका पहाड़ होते हुए तालझारी तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लं0-3.150 कि०मी०, प्रखंड-लिट्टीगाड़ा)	3,24,51,200.00		तीन करोड़ चौबीस लाख एकान हजार दो सौ मात्र	द्वितीय

1. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि : 27.09.2024  
2. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 05.10.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे।  
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय: 07.10.2024 अपराह्न 3:30 बजे।  
4. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, पाकुड़।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट [jarkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jarkhandtenders.gov.in) में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता  
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, पाकुड़

PR 336639 (Rural Work Department) 24-25 (D)

### Regional Office : Krishna Honda Building, Akharahat Road, Muzaffarpur-842001

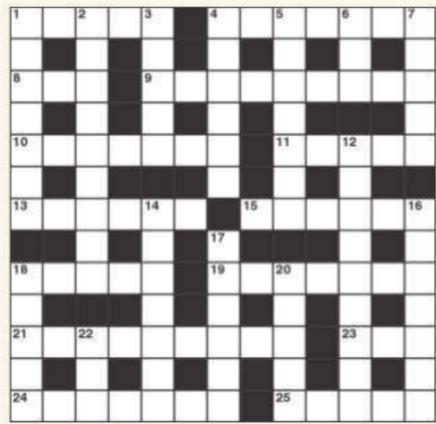
### बैंक ऑफ़ बरौदा Bank of Baroda

#### POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the BANK OF BARODA 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 calling upon the borrower(s)/Guarantor to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act with rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for the amount and further interest there of the contractual rate plus, charge and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch/ Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Outstanding Amount
Bank of Baroda Bettiah Branch	All that part and parcel of the property Consisting of Plot situated at Mauza- Saraiyaman PO Jhawaliya, PS Bairyia, Dist. West Champaran, bearing Tauzi No. 951, Thana No. 146, Khata No. 99, Khesra No- 499. Property 1.- As per Sale Deed No. 2874 dated 07/02/2013, J.B. No. 1498(p), Area:- 01 Kath		

## CROSSWORD 5477



- ACROSS**  
1 Girl's quip (5)  
4 Horse that's old and imperfect (7)  
8 Lettuce obtained at reduced cost (3)  
9 Shame! Don't believe it (9)  
10 Is in no hurry and waddles around (7)  
11 Deduce it's a finer arrangement (5)  
13 Walk having a street directory (6)  
15 Severe internal gastric trouble (6)  
18 A step in the design of costume jewellery (5)  
19 Lands in Eastern America (7)  
21 Submit to pressure and return to the base camp? (5,4)  
23 One politician in difficult issue (3)  
24 In error a young man became Muslim warrior (7)  
25 Still time for what has to happen (5)
- DOWN**  
1 Withdraws a direction on grants (7)  
2 They are utterly conclusive (4,5)  
3 A far cry from Doyle (5)  
4 Abandonment of issued order (6)  
5 Soccer teams in the market for a left-winger (7)  
6 Fly to travel for pleasure (3)  
7 Put off Ted's rise with hesitation (5)  
12 A ruling that's not very clear (5,4)  
14 His rise is postponed (3-4)  
16 One drunkard turns to espy another (7)  
17 One with leading part in drug production (6)  
18 Opts for sound movies (5)  
20 Get in fresh colour (5)  
22 I will shortly be sick (3)

Solutions Crossword 5476 Across: 1 Grapefruit, 8 Dunk, 9 Sallent, 10 Sultana, 11 Outre, 12 Obssess, 14 Reared, 17 Niche, 19 Aladdin, 21 Comport, 22 Lucra, 23 On the shelf. Down: 2 Roubles, 3 Pukka, 4 Festal, 5 Unloose, 6 Treat, 7 Attendance, 8 Disconnect, 13 Stepout, 15 Radical, 16 Maitre, 18 Cameo, 20 Allah

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLER WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. Time is the only critic without \_\_\_ - John Steinbeck (8)

ARTAO                      ADENNT  
 DGTII                      EEMRBM

SOLUTION: AORTA, DIGIT, TANNED, MEMBER. Answer: Time is the only critic without ambition - John Steinbeck

## SUDOKU 5723

Difficulty Level 2s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



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

## SOLUTION SUDOKU 5723



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
Friends and associates are about to be flabbergasted by your down-to-earth approach to financial matters. You may now sense a prosperous period ahead, even though nothing will happen without team-work. Co-operation is necessary.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
Honesty is vital in all financial deals, especially as far as joint arrangements are concerned. Only when agreement is reached will you be able to determine what your next major move should be. And that might require dealing with urgent personal and family matters.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
It is time to make a choice and stop worrying about others' feelings or opinions. Judge your own behaviour by absolute standards of right and wrong, not according to what friends or family might expect. Define your limits and other people will respect them.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
If you're grappling with complex personal issues, continue to review the situation on a daily basis. You may be enjoying acclaim for your financial skill, adding to a general feeling of well-being. But that doesn't excuse you from caring about partners' feelings.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
Behind the day-to-day fluctuations of the planets lie longer-term trends of which you are often only half aware. A powerfully creative time is now coming to an end and it is up to you to inwardly digest all that has happened over the last four months.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
You now realise that someone must be forced to settle a debt of honour, perhaps one that was incurred months or even years ago. How satisfying it must be to know that you were in the right. It is necessary to prepare for the unexpected.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
The underlying message of current planetary patterns, especially those emanating from Jupiter and Neptune, is that you are expected to hold on to what is sound, worthwhile, personally meaningful and spiritually rewarding. That has to be sound advice, don't you think?
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
News from an unexpected source is on its way, and should give you the last piece of a complicated jigsaw. Once it arrives, you will be able to start planning your future with confidence and self-assurance. This means that partners must begin to respect your ideals.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
The good news is that celestial configurations are still lively and, if you are alert and on-the-ball, you ought to be able to turn even adverse developments to your own advantage. This is no time to procrastinate. It's better to know where you stand to start with, and you'll know what changes are needed.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
You need to get into peak condition in readiness for a hectic period. You are now aware of the number of improvements that are required in your domestic situation and family relationships. You will also be paying attention to your spiritual needs over the coming days.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
Your remarkable analytical faculties often serve you well and prevent you from making potentially disastrous blunders. After what has been a relatively impulsive period you will once again be settling into a practical, efficient, cool and competent routine.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
In spite of your fears, you are unlikely to be financially embarrassed. In most spheres your affairs are now on a practical path, which must be welcome news to all who are dependent on you. You don't usually like responsibility, but you're carrying it well.

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Padma Sharma, W/o: Sh. Yash Pal Sharma, R/o: H.No.-122, Bhagwan Nagar Ashram, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Court Case No. 4675/2017 U/s 138 NI Act, P.S.: Swaroop Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Padma Sharma** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Padma Sharma** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Padma Sharma** accused of **Court Case No. 4675/2017 U/s 138 NI Act, P.S.: Swaroop Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **18.11.2024**.  
By Order  
**Ms. Niharika Kumar Sharma**  
A.C.J.M. (North)  
Room No. 117, Rohini Court, Delhi  
DP/12738/ON/2024  
(Court Matter)

## 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 **Amit S/o Nanak Chand R/o D-11, H.No. 406, Village Saboli Bagh, Part-II, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 09/2011 U/s 392/411/34 IPC, P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Amit** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Amit** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Amit** of case **FIR No. 09/2011 U/s 392/411/34 IPC, P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.11.2024**.  
By Order  
**Sh. Pankaj Rai**  
Metropolitan Magistrate  
Room No. 73, North East District  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi  
DP/11227/NE/2024(Court Matter)

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 (2) (ii) CrPC  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Namely: Shiv Kumar, S/o. Ghispawan R/o: 2095/21, Gali No. 21, Prem Nagar, Near Nepali Mandir, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No.428/2018 U/S 7/10/55 EC ACT** registered at **P.S Patel Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Shiv Kumar** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Shiv Kumar** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shiv Kumar** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **08.11.2024**.  
By Order  
**Upasana Satija**  
LD. ACJM West, Room No.145,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi  
DP/12785/CD/2024

## Government of Odisha, e-Procurement Notice

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.Dk.(R&B) 06/2024-25  
B-337  
Email Id-sedklpww@gmail.com  
Letter No. 1924 /Dt. 20.09.24  
The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Government of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road works as detailed below:  
1. Name of the work : Road works  
2. No of works : 06 (Six) Nos  
3. Estimated Cost : Rs. 1.33 Crore to 6.28 Crore (as given in column No. 03 of table)  
4. Cost of tender paper : Rs. 10,000.00  
5. Class of contractor : 'B', 'A' & 'Special' Class (as given in column No. 07 of table)  
6. Period of Completion of work : 05 (five) to 09 (Nine) Months (as given in column No. 08 of table)  
7. Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website : From Dt. 04.10.2024 to 05.00 P.M. of Dt. 18.10.2024  
8. Date of opening of bid : Dt. 19.10.2024 at 11.30 A.M.  
The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in). Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.  
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer,  
Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal  
OIPR-34132/11/0013/2425

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sunder Lal, S/o: Ramnath, R/o: H.No. A-11, Street No. 8, South Gamri Extn., Gamri, New Delhi-110053**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **CC No. 7341/18, U/s: 138 NI Act, Police Station, Vijay Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Sunder Lal**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sunder Lal**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sunder Lal**, of **CC No. 7341/18, U/s: 138 NI Act, Police Station, Vijay Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **06.12.2024**.  
By Order  
**Ms. Divya Arora**  
MM, Room No.112  
Rohini Court, New Delhi  
DP/12654/RD/2024

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person **Ms. Arunima Tiwari, Director Authorized Signatories of VPG stores Pvt. Ltd, 608, 6th Floor DLF Tower-A, Jasola District Centre, Jasola Vihar, New Delhi-110025** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 13399/2017 U/S 138 NI Act, P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person **Arunima Tiwari**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Arunima Tiwari** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that **Arunima Tiwari** in **FIR No.13399/2017 U/S 138 NI Act, P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.12.2024**.  
By order  
**Mr. Rupinder Singh Dhiman**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class  
Tis Hazari Court, New Delhi  
DP/12591/CD/2024

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rahul, S/o: Sh. Raja Ram, R/o: H. No. 259, Balmiki Basti, All Kalan, Distt. - Kairana, Uttar Pradesh** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 74/24, U/s 363/376(2) (n) IPC & 6 PCOSO Act, P.S.: Roop Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rahul** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rahul** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rahul** accused of case **FIR No. 74/24, U/s 363/376(2) (n) IPC & 6 PCOSO Act, P.S.: Roop Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.10.2024**.  
By Order  
**Sh. Munesh Garg**  
Additional Sessions Judge - 01 (PCOSO)  
Room No. 116, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi  
DP/12690/N/2024  
(Court Matter)

## NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE

Applications are invited under scheme of 'One Station One Product' for setting up:  
**A. Total Two (02) Stall at:** Ghaziabad & Delhi Shahdara stations. **B. Total Twenty Two (23) Trolley at:** Palam, Badli, Jakhhal, Jind, Mansa, Narwana, Tapri, Tohana, Julana, Anand Vihar Terminal, Delhi Kishanganj, Sampla, Delhi Safdarjung, Shivaji Bridge, Tilak Bridge, Muradnagar, Deoband, Deoband, Sharni, Khatauli, Sakoti Tanda, Noli & Modinagar stations.  
• The period for setting up of stall at Ghaziabad station per spell will be 90 days.  
• The period for setting up of Trolley at stations mentioned in (B) above will be 30 days per spell.  
• Registration fee for NSG 1, 2, 3 & 4 stations will be charged @ rate of Rs. 2000 for each spell of thirty days and for NSG 5 (Tapri, Jakhhal, Narwana, Julana, Tohana, Badli, Jind, Mansa, Sharni, Sampla, Delhi Kishanganj, Khatauli, Shivaji Bridge, Tilak Bridge, Muradnagar, Deoband & Delhi Safdarjung) & NSG 6 (Partapur & Sakoti Tanda) registration fee will be charged @ rate of Rs. 1000 for each spell of thirty days.  
• The following are the eligibility criteria for participant viz.  
a) Holder of Artisans/Weaver ID card issued by Development Commissioner Handicraft, Development Commissioner Handloom, or by the requisite state/Central Government Authority. b) Individual artisans/weavers/ craftsmen enrolled/registered with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)/National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)/Khadi/ Village Industries Commission (KVIC) associated with Social Organizations, State Govt. bodies and associated with registered micro enterprises on the Udyam Portal of the Ministry of MSME and NGOs etc. c) Self Help Groups registered with PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme). d) Marginalized or weaker sections of society. e) No separate logo shall be allowed.  
• The applicant will have to submit an undertaking to the Station Superintendent indicating that no activity would be undertaken to adversely affect the train operations, passenger safety and image of the Railways.  
• Applications should be addressed and can be submitted to Station Superintendent at station by the applicant till **15:00 hrs of 30.09.2024**, which will be opened on same day.  
• Station Superintendent will make priority roster of all approved participants and priority will be established through a draw of lots conducted at the station in the presence of all approved applicants by the Station Manager/Sectional CMI and nominated Finance representative.  
• The 'One Station One Product' scheme shall be governed by Railway Board's Commercial Circular No. 12 of 2022 and 09 of 2023 respectively available at website: [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) and URL: [https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic\\_comm/Comm\\_Cir\\_2022/OSOP%20Policy.pdf](https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic_comm/Comm_Cir_2022/OSOP%20Policy.pdf) & [https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic\\_comm/Comm\\_Cir\\_2023/CCI%202009%20of%202023.pdf](https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic_comm/Comm_Cir_2023/CCI%202009%20of%202023.pdf)  
• For any queries applicant may contact Station Superintendent or CMI of the respective stations. 2960/24

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 (2) (ii) CrPC  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Namely: Vinay Kumar, S/o: Gopal Singh, R/o: H.No. E-3/152, Sultanpuri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No.46/11 U/S 382/411/34 IPC** registered at **P.S Nangloi, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Vinay Kumar** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Vinay Kumar** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Vinay Kumar** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **07.11.2024**.  
By Order  
**Charu Asiwaj**  
JMFC-05, West  
Room No.336A (3rd Floor),  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi  
DP/12660/OD/2024

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ratan S/o Chunni Lal R/o Khasra No. 11/11, near Pole No. JFPT 383, Village Khaira, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Ct. Case No. 424914/2016 U/s 135 of the Indian Electricity Act, P.S. Najafgarh, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ratan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ratan** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ratan** of **Ct. Case No. 424914/2016 U/s 135 of the Indian Electricity Act, P.S. Najafgarh, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **23.10.2024**.  
By Order  
**Sh. Vinod Kumar Meena**  
Addl. District & Session Judge, (South West),  
Special Court (Electricity) Court No. 609,  
Dwarka District Courts,  
New Delhi  
DP/12643/DW/2024(Court Matter)

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **namely Usman@Punta S/o Habib, R/O: 9/90, Trilok Puri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 63/2019, U/s 356/379/34 IPC** registered at **P.S.: Kalyanpuri, Delhi** and the warrant has been returned writing upon it that the said accused **Usman@Punta** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Usman@Punta** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Usman@Punta** accused **FIR No. 63/2019, U/s 356/379/34 IPC** registered at **P.S.: Kalyanpuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **25.10.2025**.  
By Order  
**Ms. Preeti Agarwala**  
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate  
East Court No. 29,  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi  
DP/12683/ED/2024  
(Court Matter)

This was basically a dream... Especially since what happened last time, we were so close as the team to win gold. This time I thought no matter what I'm going to do, whatever it takes to win...

D GUKESH, AFTER WINNING THE CHESS OLYMPIAD



## KINGS & QUEENS

India chess legend Viswanathan Anand with India's Open and Women's teams after they won the gold medal at the Olympiad on Sunday. FIDE

# The boy who was calmed by chess

Arjun Erigaisi's mother says he had 'aggressive' personality but also was someone every teacher loved

AMIT KAMATH  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

ARJUN ERIGAISSI was around three years old when his pre-kindergarten teacher first advised his parents that chess would be a good fit for him. The story goes that the young Arjun could recite multiplication tables in reverse and remembered the capitals of around 70 countries along with their currencies.

It was only four years later — at the age of seven — when Arjun was finally introduced to the sport in which he's currently the world's fourth ranked player.

"This incident was back when we were living in Tirupathi. That teacher, Vidhya ma'am, told us that he has great grasping power and he can play chess really well. But in those days there were not too many options to learn chess in Tirupathi," Arjun's mother Jyothi tells *The Indian Express* a few hours after her son has confirmed his individual gold medal on the third board at the Chess Olympiad which also helped the Indian team win a gold medal in the open section and the overall gold.

His mother paints a portrait of a young Arjun as a boy who was an 'aggressive' personality, but also someone every teacher loved. In a sense, as a child, Arjun was exactly like the mythological Pandava prince he was named after: focussed on excellence and always wanting to be the best.

"When he was small, we put him in multiple summer camps: skating, swimming, music, dance. Whatever he took up, he took up very seriously. He'd work with full passion. His seriousness has been there since childhood. Just like any other kid, he used to be a naughty child when he was small. Arjun was an aggressive personality. When they used to go out, we would be a little afraid of what he would do out there.



Arjun Erigaisi won the individual gold medal apart from the team gold. AP

"But when he was introduced to chess, everything else was sidelined in his life. He was so focused on chess, that all of his aggression and the seriousness was channelised into chess. He suddenly became very calm," recounts Jyothi.

### Intense focus

That intense focus saw Arjun become a grandmaster at the age of 14 years and 11 months, just seven years after he first started learning the sport.

On the chess board, Arjun's play creates a tempest of chaos, the reason why Magnus Carlsen admirably called him a 'mad man on the chess board'. He plays an aggressive brand of chess, chasing nothing else but victory, even if he has to grind it out for hours

on the board and take risks that can make jaws drop. That drive to succeed comes from a desire to prove himself and be the best, a trait he had even as a kid when there was not too much on the line, except praise from teachers.

"When he was in school, especially in Tirupathi, the teachers loved him. Whatever homework assignment was given to kids, he used to try and complete it quickly. Teachers were very fond of him. He also used to narrate tales about Ramayana and Eklavya early on. He would not mingle much with the rest of the kids. In fact, he would complain to the teachers that are making a ruckus and distracting him and preventing him from doing his work," chuckles Jyothi.

His parents noticed Arjun's competitive streak very early on.

"He's always been a hard worker. Very competitive right from his childhood. In his school they would support art and extra-curricular activities. Everyday he would make a new piece of paper art, which he would ensure was good enough to get displayed for the others to see. The norm was that the best pieces of art would get displayed. He was always so competitive that he wanted only his art to be displayed. Back in those days, on the badminton courts in our building you would have all ages playing together. He would want to be better than the rest, no matter the age gap," says Jyothi.

Another trait that the young Arjun showed from very early on was that he was earnest to a fault.

One of Jyothi's favourite tales from Arjun's childhood is how in the Warangal days, Arjun's school started a drive to help an old-age home and dispatched kids to collect donations. Arjun and his sister Keerthana were so moved by that cause that they went above and beyond. Soon they had enlisted outsiders — complete strangers — to collect money on their behalf as well for the old-age home. They ended up collecting the highest amount in the whole school.

His mother recounts with a chuckle how Arjun was the reason why the tiffin rules at his school were changed. The story she tells is that because he would happily take healthy items like fruits and home-cooked food everyday as compared to others who would bring junk food, the teachers had to implement a rule that kids could only bring wafers and biscuits once a week.

"Look at Arjun," became a common refrain in his school days, says Jyothi.

These days, not just his school, the rest of the world is saying that phrase aloud.

## Harika: All bad memories from past Olympiads vanished with this gold

AMIT KAMATH  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

HARIKA DRONAVALLI, sitting at Doha Airport in between two flights that finally bring her home, is taking a trip down memory lane recounting the multiple Olympiads that she's been to and experienced only heartbeat.

Her tryst with the Olympiads started early at the picturesque city of Calvià on the Spanish island of Mallorca. She's just 13 years old at this stage, a prodigy in the truest sense of the word. But she's scared. That was 20 years ago. Harika has been to every Olympiad since then. In these two decades, she's seen the country become a chess powerhouse, but never make it to the top of the podium. Until Sunday.

In an interview with *The Indian Express*, she recounts her Olympiad memories. Excerpts:

**How strange was it for you that you started playing at Olympiads 20 years ago, when some of your teammates were not even born. But now you're sharing a gold together?**

I've seen generations change. I'm one of those women players who have been playing for so many years, at all these Olympiads without fail. Earlier before us, they had a certain level then it got better. And it kept increasing. But we were still not making it on the podiums. Then last year, we had a podium finish at last with bronze. Then this year we have gold. We have a generation now of kids who have started their Olympiad career with a gold. Now the challenge is to stay there. Definitely glad that I have seen this shift. I'm extremely happy that one of my dreams to be on top of the podium with the women's team was fulfilled. I always believed that the Indian women's team could do it and I never understood why we could not make it.

**Can you contrast this Olympiad with the first Olympiad you went to?**

I was really scared and worried. It was the first time I had gone to a tournament alone as a 13-year-old. I was under so much pressure. The captain and teammates back then were really nice and they made plenty of efforts to make me feel comfortable. I remember I made nine draws back then because the captain was telling me that just manage and be safe on your board, it's fine. That's how my Olympiad experience started. Back then it used to be 14 rounds long, and we used to play really well for 10 rounds and then 11th round onwards it would just change, maybe because of the duration of the tournament and so on. Then I have seen India missing out by small margins in almost all the tournaments. At some point, you have to command! You can't just be underdogs and play well! At these tournaments, you need to get up after one set back. At the last two Olympiads we started as the top seeds. It makes a huge difference, you are more confident. As a nation in chess, we have grown.

**You have said you felt a slight guilt coming into the last round because you had never lost three games in a team event before this.**

Even though I had three losses, I also had



Harika Dronavalli, who was a part of the Chess Olympiad winning team, made her India debut aged 13 in 2004. FIDE

three wins. It's not a place I would be. In general I'm very solid, there will be draws and maybe one game here and there goes wrong. It was hard on me as I'm not used to this situation. This has never happened in the last 20 years. The reason was that for the past month I have been going crazy with things on the family front like planning my daughter's birthday. So I couldn't prepare. Somewhere I wasn't completely confident coming into the tournament. The pressure took a toll on me. But then I figured out how to tackle it. In tough times, I was getting messages from close friends who were telling me that without me the team cannot get it done. They were telling me that I will be there when the crucial time comes. And I'm glad I was there in the last round.

**Your daughter was delivered very close to the Olympiad in 2022, right? You could not even play during the final round because the doctors had warned you?**

Last time, I would have played in the last game (against USA). But without me the team had won the penultimate round 3-1. Meanwhile, the doctors had told me very strongly that I have to deliver in Chennai itself if I don't go home. The worry was, in case I sit on the board and something happens, I have to give up my point and it could change the balance of the match. That's why we decided that I will not be on the board. Now because things did not work in the final round (league leaders India lost 1-3 to the 7th seeded team, USA, to end with bronze) there has always been that thought that maybe we should have tried it. All of us felt that we could have taken a chance. But all of those memories have vanished with this one gold.

**Where would you rank this gold?**

It's definitely one of the most important for me because individually I have performed in all events like world championships. But in team events, I never understood why the Indian women's team could not make it to the top. At every event I go thinking we can make it. This event for me is emotional because we succeeded in what I believe.

## SRI LANKAN HERITAGE

# Lack of S Asian representation in English football due to lack of ambition

SANDIP G  
SEPTEMBER 23

IN THE Manchester United shellacking of Barnsley in the Carabao Cup, a willowy 18-year-old with distinct South Asian musculature and features stood out. He, Vimal Yoganathan, was no match for the United double pivot of Manuel Ugarte and Casemiro, but in bursts he revealed the intelligence and poise that foretold a promising career at bigger clubs. Yoganathan though has already etched a rare legacy, as the representative of allegedly one of the world's most oppressed ethnic minorities in the world, the Sri Lankan Tamil community.

He was just three years old when Jaffna was besieged. His parents had fled the country long ago and settled in the quaint Welsh town of Trelawnyd. He could have only heard and not experienced the atrocities his parents and relatives might have endured. More than a poignant conflict zone narrative, he has transformed into something bigger, a community's path-breaker. But his surge also reflects on another theme, the sparse presence of South Asians in British football.

In a recent *Sky Sports* survey, it came to light

that only 22 of the 3,700 professionals in several divisions of English football have South Asian backgrounds. The two familiar names of recent vintage could be Leicester City's Hamza Choudhury of Bangladeshi-Grenadian heritage and Michael Chopra, the journeyman striker with an Indian father and English mother, who wore the shirts of a dozen clubs including Newcastle United and Cardiff City. Or if you dig back, you stumble on Zesh Rehman, a Fulham defender in the early aughts.

The numbers are starkly different in other sports. Around five percent of professional cricketers have South Asian heritage. It is a low figure, but it is still better than .25 percent. Look elsewhere: among politicians (leader of opposition Rishi Sunak himself), businessmen and dignitaries, South Asians have firmly struck their poles. But not in football.

Piles of research papers and several reams of newspaper have delved into the near-invisibility of a four-million strong representation. The conclusions have ranged from genetics and diet, to cricket and hockey, to racism, and academic pressure imposed by parents. But Yoganathan argues that it could be because they might not be actually interested in playing the sport, as much as they love to watch it.

"I had a friend and we played in the same



Vimal Yoganathan plays as a midfielder for English club Barnsley. X/Barnsley FC

Sunday League team, but other than that I can't remember coming up against any South Asian background players," he told *The Guardian*.

He was not alone in this opinion. Netan Sansara, who featured in the England U-18

**South Asian parents are South Asian parents everywhere. They cannot be fully blamed though as sports other than cricket are still not considered career options. In a developing economy, livelihood pressure gets amplified**

side before relocating to the United States, once said: "I feel like Asian communities do not do enough to show there are Asian professional footballers out in Britain." Perhaps, they never wanted to integrate themselves into the game for a myriad of reasons, but primarily because they might not feel connected to the sport. The cultural barriers associated with lack of parental consent make it difficult as well. Yoganathan, for instance, stuck to football because he says he had the unconditional support of his parents. Perhaps, all they require is a talismanic figure, the first South Asian superstar to break the barrier.

### Lack of endeavour

But the pattern clearly shows that South Asian representation in football is low because they really don't aspire to be footballers. The sport is vastly consumed but played largely recreationally, despite highly streamlined and systematic pathway projects to ensure that no talent slips through the nets. In the context, this should serve as a message for football officials and footballers who constantly crib about lack of infrastructure and facilities as reasons for India's stasis in the sport.

Certainly, infrastructure, training and coaching are prerequisites, but in the end, it requires unblemished commitment. Access to state-of-the-art facilities alone can't produce footballers. Rather it is a cultural thing, where the ambitions plateau at a certain level.

The early years of Rehman and Chaudhary are excellent case studies on how desire can beat the odds. Rehman played football with friends in parking lots, failed trials at several clubs, didn't enrol at any grassroots academy but got a chance to play for a Sunday league team, from where Fulham spotted him. Rehman, while admitting of racist taunts, had once told *The*

*Guardian* that, "We're living in a multicultural society but maybe, for some, there has been a fear factor in the past about how they would be received at football matches and whether they would be out of their comfort zone. Traditionally, the parents don't support them."

South Asian parents are South Asian parents everywhere. They cannot be fully blamed though as sports other than cricket are still not considered career options. In a developing economy, livelihood pressure gets amplified. Yoganathan touched upon this too.

"There's obviously a lot of contributing factors but I think there's also that risk and uncertainty about the industry because you can devote your life to it growing up for 15 to 18 years and still might not get a career out of it." The same rings true in the Indian context.

For the ingrained perceptions and myths to change, a global star from South Asia has to rise. The surge of cricket after the 1983 World Cup triumph is an example. Then the sport shrewdly and diligently consolidated and capitalised on the willow boom. But before such a moment arrives, constantly blaming the infrastructure is just barking up the wrong tree.

BRIEFLY

Somdev takes tennis association to court

New Delhi: Accusing the All India Tennis Association (AITA) of being a 'serial offender' in violating the Sports Code, former India No. 1 singles player Somdev Devvarman and ex-doubles specialist Purav Raja have dragged the national governing body to the court days before its elections on September 28. In a petition filed in the Delhi High Court on Monday, the two players have alleged that the AITA has violated several provisions of the Sports Code, including the 'lack of any seats for athletes in the Central Council / General Assembly of AITA, lack of any mechanism for athletes to elect eminent sportspersons of outstanding merit to represent them in the Central Council / General Assembly, lack of reservation of seats for athletes in the Executive Committee and lack of any mechanism whereby athletes are elected from the Central Council / General Assembly to the Executive Committee.'

Nadal added to Davis Cup Final Eight squad

Madrid: Former world number one Rafa Nadal has been added to Spain's Davis Cup Final Eight squad, organisers said on Monday. The Spanish squad will also include world number three Carlos Alcaraz, Roberto Bautista Agut, Pablo Carreno Busta, and Marcel Granollers. The 38-year-old Nadal last played at the Paris Olympics, where he lost to Novak Djokovic in the second round. He then withdrew from the U.S. Open and last weekend's Laver Cup due to fitness concerns. Spain play the Netherlands in the quarter-finals, starting on Nov. 19.

Parakh leads India U19 to 9-wicket win

Puducherry: Opener Sahil Parakh made an aggressive unbeaten hundred as India Under-19 brushed aside Australia by nine wickets here on Monday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match youth ODIs. Parakh's hundred (109 not out, 75b, 14x4, 5x6) helped India achieve the target of 177 in just 22 overs. India had beaten Australia in the first match by seven wickets on Saturday. After the early departure of Rudra Patel (10), Parakh, a 19-year from Mumbai, stitched a fine partnership of 153 with Abhigyan Kundu (53 not out, 50b, 9x4) to take their side home easily. **Brief scores: Australia U19:** 176 all out in 49.3 overs (Addison Sheriff 39, Christian Howe 28; Samarth Nagaraj 2/34, Mohammed Enaan 2/30, Kiran Chormale 2/29) lost to **India U19:** 177/1 in 22 overs (Sahil Parakh 109 not out, Abhigyan Kundu 53 not out) by 9 wickets.

Knight fined over 2012 blackface photo

London: England women's captain Heather Knight has been reprimanded and issued a suspended 1,000 pounds (\$1,334) fine after she admitted to a charge over a 2012 social media post, England's Cricket Regulator said on Monday. Knight was pictured in blackface in a social media post in 2012 when she attended a fancy dress party at a cricket club in Kent. The photo was deemed offensive and in breach of ECB directive 3.3, about "acts or omission prejudicial to the interests of cricket or which may bring cricket/cricketers into disrepute". The report by the Cricket Discipline Commission (CDC), however, stated that Knight had "no racist or discriminatory intent".

# Is Gill ready for throne of game?

India's flamboyant No 3 batsmen is beginning to repay the faith with more consistency and flair

VENKATA KRISHNA B  
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE SHOWMAN'S bow from Shubman Gill on reaching a hundred is a sight that Indian cricket is beginning to get used to. When he bows, one can't help but appreciate the aesthetic exhibition he has put on. Last February, though, all that had gone missing.

Having taken up the No 3 slot voluntarily since the tour of West Indies in 2023, Gill had gone 10 consecutive innings without even touching 40. Issues had cropped up: A semi-frozen front-foot had led to problems against nipbackers from pacers and curiously, some issues had popped up against spin too. A certain lack of trust in his defense.

For a batsman, who never went through three straight innings in age-group cricket without a big score, the failures were only putting additional pressure. Not even a century would get rid of FOMO. "I felt disconnected with the sport at one point. Even when I was doing well, I wasn't feeling great. I would feel I had missed out on the last three-four games, that I had to do well in the next four games. And the joy in doing well in that one game was missing. I wasn't enjoying the good thing," Gill had told *The Indian Express* back in May.

Despite scoring a coming-of-age century in the second innings at Vizag against England this year, the showman's bow was nowhere to be seen. But weeks later it was back in Dharamshala. And last week, it was on display again in Chennai against Bangladesh. After being caught down the leg-side in the first innings, Gill's century in the second innings was by far his most fluent one in recent times. The bowling hardly challenged him. Such occasions can lead to boredom among batsmen. But No 3s, the engine of the batting units, usually don't have that luxury.

There is every reason to believe more hundreds are lined up, but more importantly India's No 3 is beginning to repay the faith. There were enough indications that Gill has put work behind the scenes, especially to improve his game against the spinners as well his troubles against the in-swingers. In his brief career, spinners have troubled both his edges, especially the outside one.

Despite having a long reach to smother the turn, Gill's tentativeness and lack of trust in his own defense has seen him make repeated mistakes.

Since that innings in Vizag, Gill has been a different batsman. He is assured in defence and when he wants to attack the spinners, he is prepared to use his feet and keep the ball on ground and hit in the air. "Yeah, actually it's something that I started practicing when I was very young," Gill said about using his feet against spinners.



Shubman Gill's century in the second innings was by far his most fluent one in recent times.

GREAT RELATIONSHIP OFF THE FIELD HELPS: PANT ON GILL

The great bonhomie that they share off the field is reflected when they are battling it out on the 22 yards, India's star keeper Rishabh Pant revealed the secret of his successful partnership with Shubman Gill during team's second innings in the opening Test against Bangladesh. After both Pant and Gill failed to make an impact in the first innings, they conjured a 167-run stand during the second innings. "When you have a great relationship outside the field, it helps to bat with that guy. We were having fun, having chats, talking about the game, and staying relaxed. At

the end of the day, we both knew what we wanted to do," Pant, who smashed a ton on Test comeback, said in a BCCI video posted on social media. "The understanding of the game for me is that cricket should improve wherever you play. So, I was trying to help the team that you can set a fielder here, and it was amazing. I enjoyed it." The century was special for the 26-year-old, who was making his return to the longest format after nearly two years when a horrific car accident kept him out of the sport for nearly 16 months.

Because I was always a tall guy, it was easier for me to use my feet and play along the ground. Playing in the air and hitting sixes actually came a bit later when I got a little bit more power in my body. Initially when I used to practice, especially against spinners, it used to be a lot more me stepping down trying to rotate. Because it's then hard for bowlers to settle on a wicket like this where

the odd one is turning but not all balls," Gill said after scoring his century here.

And more than his game against the spinners, it is his aggressive intent that had made the previous team management under head coach Rahul Dravid back Gill for the No 3 role. Especially on away tours, India's think-tank had seen a pattern, where they were getting stuck on challenging decks and wanted stroke-making No 3 as they moved on from

Cheteshwar Pujara.

With a unique technique, which didn't necessarily fit into the textbook, there were reasons to back Gill's methods. Having been brought up playing cricket on cement decks, Gill has a strong back-foot game as well as horizontal bat shots. And more importantly, with a unique bat swing, his slices on either side had the ability to neutralise deliveries that most others would be content seeing off. It is no surprise that India saw a run-machine in Gill. And Gill saw the opportunity to be one. After all, as a teenager, he was used to logging onto the Cricket Archive website to check what scores Virat Kohli used to make at his age. He was never short of ambition; but perhaps the desire to get there soon had boiled over a bit too much to affect his own appreciation of the game until he made course corrections.

As Gill has grown into his new role, he has another 8 more innings at home before the big test awaits in Australia. In his maiden tour Down Under in 2020/21, Gill had announced his arrival in a grand manner, with his 91 during the chase at Gabba setting up a famous win. Since then Gill has only grown from strength-to-strength, and is touted as the Prince, who is waiting for the coronation. This season will give a definite answer as to how soon Gill sits on the throne.

## Jayasuriya spins Lanka to win over Kiwis

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
GALLE, SEPTEMBER 23

LEFT-ARM spinner Prabath Jayasuriya delivered a stellar five-wicket haul in the second innings and nine wickets overall, to lead Sri Lanka to a 63-run victory over New Zealand in the first Test on Monday.

New Zealand resumed play on the final day needing 68 more runs to reach a victory target of 275. However, they managed to add just four runs before Sri Lanka wrapped up the game in only 3.4 overs. Overnight batsman Rachin Ravindra, who had kept New Zealand's hopes alive with a valiant 91 on Sunday, could only add one more run to his total before being trapped leg before wicket by Jayasuriya. The promising left-hander's resistance ended as he misjudged a delivery trying to defend on the back foot.

In Jayasuriya's next over, he bowled last man William O'Rourke for a duck, sealing Sri Lanka's victory in a tightly contested match and the 32-year-old spinner's eighth five-

wicket haul in tests.

Although Ravindra narrowly missed out on a well-deserved century, his score of 92 is now the highest by a New Zealand batter in Galle, surpassing Ross Taylor's 86. Notably, no Black Cap has scored a century in Galle, where they have now lost all five matches played. Sri Lanka's win moved them up to third place in the World Test Championship standings, behind India and Australia. Meanwhile, New Zealand dropped to fourth after starting the series in third position.

Playing their first test since March, several Black Cap players put in strong performances, especially pacer O'Rourke who took eight wickets in his first test in Asia and just his third match overall.

On the back of O'Rourke's 5-55 the Kiwis managed to secure a first-innings lead, a significant thing on a Galle pitch that becomes increasingly difficult to bat on as the game

progresses. However, New Zealand's failure to break the crucial 147-run third-wicket partnership between Dinesh Chandimal and Dimuth Karunaratne in Sri Lanka's second innings proved decisive.

Both experienced batters scored half-centuries, with Angelo Mathews also contributing a vital 50, helping Sri Lanka set a challenging target of 275. On a deteriorating pitch, that total proved too much for the visitors. The teams will remain in Galle for the second Test, which begins on Thursday.

Sri Lanka will be hoping to win its first Test series against New Zealand since 2009. Since then, the sides have met in six series, with New Zealand winning four and two ending in draws.

**Brief scores:** SL 305 (Kamindu 114, O'Rourke 5-55, Phillips 2-52) and 309 (Karunaratne 83, Ajaz 6-90, O'Rourke 3-49) beat NZ 340 (Latham 70, Jayasuriya 4-136, Ramesh 3-101) and 211 (Ravindra 92, Jayasuriya 5-68, Ramesh 3-83) by 63 runs



## Shardul, Rahane and Iyer to play Irani Trophy for Mumbai

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
SEPTEMBER 23

MUMBAI'S ALL-ROUNDER Shardul Thakur, Shreyas Iyer and Ajinkya Rahane will feature in Irani Cup for Mumbai team which is scheduled to take on the Rest of India (ROI) side in Lucknow starting from October 1.

The *Indian Express* understands that Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) will request the Indian cricket board to release Sarfaraz Khan, who is part of the Indian team against Bangladesh. The second Test kicks off on September 27.

It is learnt that if Khan doesn't play the Test, the selection committee will release Mumbai's middle-order batsman on the third day of the game. The MCA selection committee will be picking its squad on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Thakur will be playing his first domestic game after recovering from a foot surgery. He had undergone the treatment in London this June.

## Sindhu brings in Sridhar as coach for European stint

SHIVANI NAIK  
SEPTEMBER 23

PV SINDHU intends to target a medal at the next Asian Games, and non injury-permitting, continue even further to next Olympics, her father PV Ramana, informed. "She's back in practice at the Gachibowli stadium in Hyderabad, and will start with the Arctic Open (October 8-13) in Finland, he said. Sindhu is unlikely to continue



training in Bangalore, but the future is fluid, the parent informed. "Since no camps have started, we have begun training at Hyderabad," he added. Sindhu, who won Olympic silver in 2016 and bronze in 2021, returned from her first Games without a medal, going out to eventual silver medallist He Bingjiao in pre-quarters at Paris.

Former Olympian, and fellow tall player, Anup Sridhar, who had a promising albeit short stint coaching Lakshya Sen, will accompany Sindhu to the European swing - Arctic Open followed by Denmark Open (October 15-20) - on a trial-basis.

"We are looking for a new coach with Agus's contract ending. We are keen to see how a partnership with Anup Sridhar works out, and are looking at 4-5 names going forward. Anup will travel to Finland and will train her in Hyderabad in coming days," Ramana said.

Names like Korean Park Tae-sang were also in consideration. "It's not like they parted ways after a fight. It's just that both me and Sindhu felt the partnership wasn't working out and yielding results," he said.

Sindhu is currently undergoing fitness work at the 'Track' facility, and has secured the Gachibowli stadium for further training slots. Most of the next two months though will involve travelling for tournaments, as the European swing will be followed by Korea, Kumamoto and China Masters (from November 5 to 24). "I believe she can continue for long, if there are no injuries," Ramana said.

India's search for the future of women's singles continues, and there have been encouraging signs with Anmol Kharb winning smaller titles in back to back weeks, and Malvika Bansod making China Open quarters. "Sindhu has nothing left to prove, but she still thinks she can aim at the Asian Games," Ramana said.

## Thakur will be playing his first domestic game after recovering from a foot surgery. He had undergone the treatment in London this June

His injury resurfaced during India's tour of South Africa earlier this year.

Despite the injury, Shardul continued to feature in professional cricket - playing a prominent role in Mumbai's Ranji triumph. Scoring his maiden first class century, Shardul inspired Mumbai to a staggering 42nd Ranji Trophy title. The senior national selection committee is likely to pick the Rest of India (ROI) squad for Irani Cup on Tuesday which is expected to comprise of fringe players and those who did well in the recently concluded Duleep Trophy.

ENTER THE DRAGON

# Indian paddlers to have a national training camp in China

ANIL DIAS  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

AT THE last World Table Tennis (WTT) Smash event which was held in Saudi in May, out of the 12 Indians that participated, only a couple of them - Manika Batra and Sharath Kamal - waited till the first day of the main draw. Those who lost during the qualification rounds of international TT's high-profile circuit events had to pack their bags and leave the following day.

If the upcoming China Smash is a precursor, Indian players may end up waiting back at major events, irrespective of winning or losing. To have more national camps, the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) is trying to work around the exhaustive WTT calendar by having national camps at major international events.

With all WTT events being in a knock-out format, players sometimes travel halfway around the world and if they lose their opening qualification match, they have no option but to return home or travel to their next destination.

The China Smash begins on September 26 and runs till October 6 while the Asian

Championships begin on October 7 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Though Indians aren't expected to go deep into the Beijing tournament - India's best showing is a quarter-final in men's and women's singles - it would be a logistical headache to get the players back for a national camp to India and then fly out again to Astana.

So the TTFI and coach Massimo Costantini decided to have a training camp at the venue of the China Smash itself. It also helps that a direct flight from Beijing to Astana is just under six hours as opposed to the 11 hours it would take from Bengaluru (where national camps are held) to Astana.

It's also something that Costantini is looking at doing on a long-term basis, especially at major WTT events where most of the Indian team will be participating anyway.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Costantini said it's going to be a unique experience for the Indian players.

"It will be unusual championships, where they are not only training for the ongoing tournament but also preparing for the next tournament. I don't think it's happened before. But this is the WTT calendar, and we have to adjust and adapt in the best way. Normally players take rest after their



Top paddlers like Manika Batra will train in China before flying to Astana, Kazakhstan for the Asian Championships.

matches, but maybe - depending on their physical condition - there won't be much time to rest," he said.

Sparring potential

Waiting back also gives them an opportunity to study their opponents better and maybe even spar with them.

"The thought is very simple. With the Asian Championships coming up we had no other options but to mix our preparation with the Smash. That's why we will have the full contingent there, the support staff and everyone," said Costantini, revealing that contingent size will be about 18 people.

If a player loses at a WTT event, he has to check out of the hotel the following day and isn't allowed to train at the practice tables at the arena either. Instead of booking a separate training arena in Beijing, the TTFI has agreed to pay WTT a fee in order to allow the players to continue using the privileges.

"Most of the countries who are playing at the Asian Championships will be there in China and they too I suppose will be doing something similar," says Costantini. "The idea of staying at the WTT arena is to maintain a competitive environment. You also get to spar with some of the best play-

ers in the world, so that's an added incentive," he says.

When asked if the TTFI asks for foreign players as sparring partners, Costantini interestingly, said it's sometimes the other way around.

"Generally, we just play with whoever is at the practice tables. The players know each other as they constantly meet on the circuit. Of late, it's more of other people coming to us and asking if they can play with us. So yes, I don't think sparring partners will be a problem. Even if there aren't other international players, our players can practice against each other and that's good enough," Costantini said.

New doubles pairings

One of the many things Massimo hopes to hit the ground running with is the new mixed doubles pairing - Manika with Manav Thakkar and G Sathiyaa with Sreeja Akula.

While Sathiyaa and Sreeja have played together before, it will be the first time Manika and Manav will be partnering, and a lot is expected of their partnership since they're expected to be India's top pairing in this Olympic cycle.