

THE WORLD



**BLINKEN HEADS TO WEST ASIA AS U.S. LOOKS TO START CEASEFIRE TALKS**

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**NEXT STEPS FOR RESOLUTION OF BORDER AREA ISSUES TO FOLLOW, SAYS DELHI**

## India, China reach agreement on patrolling along LAC, stage set for Modi and Xi meeting at BRICS Summit

Have arrived at arrangement leading to disengagement, says Foreign Secy; creates basis for pre-2020: Jaishankar

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

MORE THAN four years after Chinese incursions in eastern Ladakh triggered a military standoff along the Line of Actual Control and sent bilateral ties south, India and China have reached an agreement on patrolling arrangements in the border areas, leading to disengagement in areas where 50,000 to 60,000 troops are stationed on

either side. The announcement on the agreement was made Monday by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in New Delhi, setting the stage for a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the two-day BRICS Summit starting Tuesday in Kazan, capital of Tatarstan in Russia's southwest.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, during an interaction **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



At the venue of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia on Monday. The two-day summit starts Tuesday. Reuters PAGE 7

Patrol rights in Depsang Plains, Demchok to be restored, will be closely coordinated

**AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

MAKING SIGNIFICANT headway in efforts to resolve the military standoff along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, India and China have agreed to restore patrolling rights to each in the Depsang Plains and Demchok region — these are areas where the problems are called legacy issues, predating the 2020 Chinese incursions.



Sources said the two sides have agreed that patrolling in these two areas — the Depsang Plains in the north of Ladakh and Demchok in the south — will be **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Rekindling hope

THE pact has rekindled hopes of early restoration of diplomatic and bilateral political ties. These can happen if the two sides are able to implement the next steps towards de-escalation and de-militarisation.

## Moving to get 26/11 accused Rana before year-end, India holds talks with US officials

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

INDICATING THAT the extradition of Canadian-Pakistani citizen Tahawwur Rana, who played a role in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, could be imminent, the Indian government has started making preparations for him to be handed over by the United States, *The Indian Express* has learnt. According to sources, Rana could be extradited latest by the second half of December.

Sources said officials — including those from Central investigative agencies and legal departments of both countries — recently held a meeting in this regard at the US Embassy in Delhi. "In the meeting, which lasted around three hours, Rana's extradition was a key point of discussion. The talks focused on what preparations and logistics need to be in place by the Indian government to facilitate the extradition, as well as Rana's jail arrangements once he arrives," a source said.

The meeting follows the denial of Rana's request on September 23 by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for rehearing of his extradition case. Just the previous month, on August 15, the



Tahawwur Rana lost plea for rehearing of extradition

Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in California had affirmed the District Court's denial of Rana's habeas corpus petition. It said India provided sufficient competent evidence to support the magistrate judge's finding of probable cause that Rana committed the charged crimes.

Now, Rana has a 45 days window to appeal against the extradition ruling before the top court. After that, the extradition may at best get delayed by another 45 days, till the Supreme Court waives off his last ditch appeal.

But this is rare, said the source. According to the US government's courts website on procedures, the Supreme Court accepts only 100-150 of the more than 7,000 cases it is asked to review each year, i.e., approximately only 2 per cent of the cases are accepted.

Requests for comments sent to the US embassy in New Delhi did not elicit a response.

Rana, 63, was a childhood friend of David Headley, a US citizen who was born to an American mother and an American father. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



At the funeral of Dr Shah Nawaz Dar, who was among the seven persons killed in the terror attack in J&K's Ganderbal district Sunday. He was laid to rest at his ancestral village in Budgam district on Monday. Shuaib Masoodi

## J&K attack: Targeted men were working on key link to Ladakh

2 gunmen came wearing shawls hiding weapons: Survivors

**BASHAARAT MASOOD**  
GAGANGIR (SONAMARG), OCTOBER 21

AT FIRST, it sounded like firecrackers from a wedding. Within minutes, though, it became clear that an unprecedented terror attack was unfolding at the campsite of a major construction project in Kashmir's Gagangir.

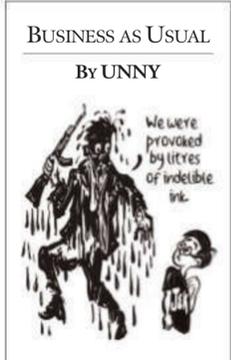
A day after Sunday's terror at-

tack, which left six men from outside Kashmir as well as a local doctor dead, security forces on Monday cut off all roads leading to the camp as top investigative agencies descended on the scene to start a probe.

The campsite, where the employees were staying, is just below an approach road to the tunnel, and is surrounded by barren mountains on one side and the Srinagar-Leh national highway on

the other. Across the highway is a village situated on the foothills of a mountain with dense forests.

The victims were employees of infrastructure company APCO Infriatech, which is constructing the Z-Morh tunnel on the Srinagar-Sonamarg highway. Not only is this the first militant attack on a key infrastructure project in J&K, it also comes in an area that has been relatively terror-free. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



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## After Naidu, Stalin talks of larger families, links it to delimitation

**ARUN JANARDHANAN**  
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 21

A REMARK made by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin in jest over couples and children, on the heels of his Andhra Pradesh counterpart N Chandrababu Naidu advising people to have more offspring, has renewed the debate over delimitation and its impact on southern states with their lower population indices. Speaking at a mass wedding ceremony organised by the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department in Chennai Monday, Stalin mentioned how blessings for newlyweds had changed over time, and went on to refer to an old Tamil saying from the book Manamakkalukku that



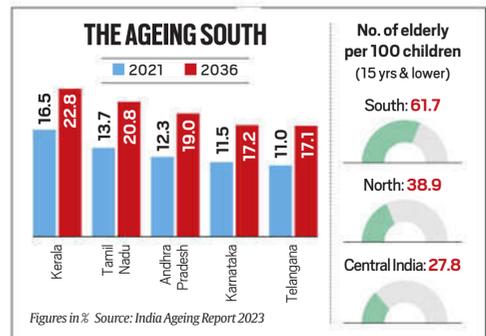
Why not aim for 16 children, the Tamil Nadu CM joked

enumerated 16 forms of wealth — ranging from cows and land to children and education.

Referring next to a potential reduction of South India's share in parliamentary seats due to lower population growth rates, Stalin joked: "Why not aim for 16 children?"

On Saturday, Naidu warned **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Elderly up, fertility down: Why Andhra, TN are talking of kids



**NIKHILA HENRY**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

EXPRESSING CONCERN over the ageing population in the southern states, Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu said last week that people in the state should have more children, and said his government was planning to bring in legislation to incentivise this. On Monday, Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin quoted an

old blessing, wishing people 16 children, while pointing out that the South's lower fertility rates could translate to diminished political power after delimitation.

As fertility rates fall, India as a country is ageing — with one in every five persons expected to be above 60 years of age by 2050. But the effect will be even more pronounced in the southern states, explaining the concerns of Naidu and Stalin. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Mumbai top club removes Jemimah over her father's 'religious activity'

**DEVENDRA PANDEY**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

KHAR GYMKHANA, one of Mumbai's oldest clubs, has cancelled the membership of Indian women cricket team's leading batter Jemimah Rodrigues.

According to gymkhana officials, the action was taken after some members objected to her father Ivan using the club premises for "religious activities" and



A 2023 photo of Jemimah (L) accepting Khar Gymkhana membership

alleged that events were organised to "convert" the "vulnerable".

The decision to cancel her membership was taken at Sunday's annual general body meeting here. Text messages and phone calls Monday to Jemimah and her father for comments remained unanswered.

Confirming the action, Khar Gymkhana president Vivek Devnani told *The Indian Express*: "The honorary three-year **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Stubble burning: Haryana arrests 18 farmers, bars over 400 from mandis

**SUKHBIR SIWACH**  
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 21

DAYS AFTER the Supreme Court pulled up the governments of Haryana and Punjab for failing to prosecute farmers who burn stubble, contributing to air pollution in the Delhi National Capital Region, police in Haryana's Kaithal district said Monday they had arrested 18 farmers in the last two days for

burning crop residue. Kaithal SP Rajesh Kalia said the farmers were later released on bail.

District administrations across the state have also black-listed more than 400 farmers for allegedly burning stubble since the season started September 15, barring them from selling their crops at mandis for two years. Congress leaders and farmer organisations have criticised the government, labelling its actions as "Tughlaqi firman".

Data of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare show 327 farmers have received challans, FIRs have been registered against 93, and a total of Rs 8.32 lakh has been collected in fines. While 689 incidents of stubble burning were recorded after the harvest last year, 655 incidents have been registered this year until Monday.

"Red entry has been put in the farm records of these farmers. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

## Three months into protests at RG Kar, patient count down by half

**ATRI MITRA & SWEETY KUMARI**  
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 21

IN THE nearly three months that junior doctors at RG Kar Hospital in Kolkata struck work to protest against the August 9 rape and murder of their colleague, services at the premier state-run hospital were severely paralysed, with patient footfall down by half and major surgeries down 91%, shows patient data between July and October.

On August 9, the body of the junior doctor, who was raped and

murdered allegedly by a civic volunteer with Kolkata Police, was found in a seminar hall on the fourth-floor of the hospital. What followed were protests by junior doctors seeking a law for the safety of their fraternity and the removal of top police and health department officials. While the government gave in to some of these demands, the faceoff continued with some of them starting a hunger strike.

On Monday, after a meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the junior doctors announced a withdrawal of their strike but said the "movement

will go on". Over the last three months, as the faceoff between the doctors and the government continued, patient care at RG Kar, the epicentre of the protests, took a big hit.

Data accessed by *The Indian Express* shows that while RG Kar saw a daily average of 5,106 patients in the out-patient department and 256 in the in-patient department in July, the numbers for October fell to 2,362 (down 53%) and 122 (down 52%), respectively. Since July, the lowest footfall in the OPD was in August, when merely 2,044 patients



A team of junior doctors reach Nabanna to meet CM Mamata Banerjee for talks Monday. Partha Paul REPORT, PAGE 8

walked into the OPD.

According to hospital authorities, in the week between August 1 and 8, a total of 23,000 patients — a daily average of 2,875 — visited the hospital's OPDs. However, the patient count in the OPD fell to nearly 100 after the August 9 rape and murder, and fell to zero on the morning after August 14-15, when a mob attacked the protesters and vandalised the hospital.

From August 22 — when the new principal Dr Manas Bhandopadhyay took over — until the end of that month, approximately 900 patients visited the

hospital daily.

Dr Bhandopadhyay told *The Indian Express*, "Patient visits have gradually picked up. As of October 18, the daily footfall has reached 3,995 patients. Following the deployment of CISF security from August last week and the hospital's announcement of enhanced safety measures, patient visits have gradually resumed."

A senior official in the Health Department, however, admitted that the hospital has a long way to go before patient confidence is fully restored. "If you go through the numbers for IPD and major surgeries, you will see that

even after the junior doctors returned to work (on October 5) and despite all this security, the confidence of the patients is still low. The crime of August 9 and the vandalism of August 14 have definitely affected the hospital."

Like in most hospitals, the 700-odd junior doctors at RG Kar form the backbone of the hospital. Emergency Medical Officer Tapas Pramanick said, "Junior doctors play a crucial role in OPDs and IPDs, including emergency and planned surgeries. They are very crucial to the running of these patient services." **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

# Punjab law univ students reach compromise with V-C, call off protest after Student Bar Council created

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 21

THE MONTH-LONG protest at Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Patiala has come to an end after the students reached a compromise with the administration and the institute cleared the constitution of the Student Bar Council (SBC).

The constitution, drafted by an interim committee, was sanctioned and approved by Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Professor Jai Shankar Singh Sunday, the move coming 10 days after the students signed an agreement with the university administration to end their hunger strike and resume online classes.

The students, who had launched a protest on September 22 seeking the V-C's ouster while accusing him of "inappropriate and sexist behaviour" and "infringing on privacy of the girl students," had also been demanding their own constitutionally elected body.

Meanwhile, after signing another agreement with the administration, students "decided to call off the protest completely" and resumed physical classes, as asked

by a mediation committee, headed by Prof Faizan Mustafa, V-C, Chanakya National Law University, Patna.

"On October 9, we ended the hunger strike and resumed online classes but our protest seeking the resignation of the V-C and an inquiry into his misconduct was still on. Later, university issued a notice stating that online classes had been discontinued, so we resume physical classes (on October 18). On October 20, we signed another agreement with the administration and the Constitution of our new student body was approved by the V-C. The mediation panel did not pursue our demand of an inquiry against the V-C, but our other demands have mostly been met. So, we decided to completely call off the protest," said a student representative.

On the student's demand of the V-C's resignation, Prof Mustafa said, "I tried to persuade them (students) that he (V-C) is a good man coming from a traditional university with the best of intentions. (He) is taking time to adjust to the new environment of an NLU where students are far more assertive, yet much more well-behaved."

## Stalin talks of larger families

against the effects on Andhra of an ageing population. Addressing a public gathering, he said his government was contemplating legislation to incentivise families to have more children, reversing earlier policies aimed at population control. The CM cautioned that a rise in the proportion of the elderly could strain the South's economy, a phenomenon being experienced in many of the developed countries. He cited the examples of Japan, China, and parts of Europe, where ageing populations outnumber younger generations.

"In many villages, only elderly people remain as the young have migrated to cities or overseas," Naidu said, citing that the fertility rate in southern states was well below the national av-

erage at 1.6. He promised legislation under which the government would provide benefits to families with more children.

Where Naidu will strike a chord with his Southern counterparts is the threat implicit in his remarks regarding a fall in population numbers affecting the states' political influence. If population is the criterion for deciding constituency boundaries, the delimitation process, scheduled to occur after the new Census, would reduce the number of Lok Sabha seats in states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

The DMK has also raised the unfairness of population numbers determining devolution of Central funds in Parliament, saying it "penalises" southern states for meeting population goals.

# FROM PAGE ONE India, China reach agreement on patrolling

FULL REPORTS ON  
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at the NDTV World Summit, called it a "positive and good" development. "I think it creates a basis... peace and tranquility, which should be there in the border areas, which was there before 2020, we will be able to come back to that," he said.

Briefing reporters, Foreign Secretary Misra said, "Over the last several weeks, Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military negotiators have been in close contact with each other in a variety of forums. As a result of these discussions, agreement has been arrived on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas, leading to disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020. We will be taking the next steps on this."

Jaishankar, referring to the Foreign Secretary's statement, said, "What Foreign Secretary has said is what I can also say:

That we have reached an agreement on patrolling, and with that we have gone back to where the situation was in 2020. We can say that the disengagement process with China has been completed... There are areas where, for various reasons after 2020, because they had blocked us, so we had blocked them. So what has happened is we have reached an understanding which will allow the patrolling."

"I think the understanding, to my knowledge, is that we will be able to do the patrolling which we were doing in 2020. I think it's a good development. It's a positive development and I would say it's a product of very patient and very persevering diplomacy. We have been negotiating since September 2020 when I met my counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow at that time," he said.

After the last meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on

India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) in August, the Ministry of External Affairs said: "In line with the guidance provided by two Foreign Ministers' meetings in Astana and Vientiane in July 2024 to accelerate their discussion, and building on the WMCC meeting held last month, the two sides had a frank, constructive and forward-looking exchange of views on the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to narrow down the differences and find early resolution of the outstanding issues. For this, they further agreed for intensified contact through diplomatic and military channels."

Last month, the Chinese Defence Ministry said China and India were able to "reduce differences" and build "some consensus" on disengaging troops from friction points to end the stand-off in eastern Ladakh and agreed to maintain dialogue to reach a resolution acceptable to both

sides at an "early date".

Li Jinsong, Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, had met Pradeep Kumar Rawat, Indian Ambassador to China.

That same day — September 26 — *The Indian Express* had reported that India and China had made "significant progress" in narrowing the gaps on pending issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh. This included exploring the contours of a possible solution that factored in their respective pre-April 2020 positions while agreeing to address existing issues in Arunachal Pradesh.

Friction points such as Galwan Valley, north and south banks of Pangong Tso, Gogra-Hot Springs area had seen some resolution with the creation of buffer zones. But the legacy issues of Depsang Plains and Demchok had remained — Indian troops on the Depsang Plains were blocked from accessing patrol points.

## Stubble burning: 18 farmers held, over 400 barred from mandis in Haryana

This means they will not be able to sell their crops in the mandis for two years," a senior officer of the agriculture department told *The Indian Express*.

In a statement, Haryana Additional Deputy Commissioner C Jayashardha said the district administration registered 11 FIRs against farmers following complaints from the agriculture department. "An awareness campaign has been launched for the management of crop residue."

Referring to the directions of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), the agriculture department on October 17 ordered the Deputy Commissioners of all districts that FIRs should be registered against farmers for burning paddy crop residue during the ongoing season. The department also asked officers to label the records of such farmers on the Meri Fasal-Mera Byora

website with a "red entry" to restrict them from selling crops at mandis through the government's e-kharid website for the next two seasons.

"This entry is mandatory and must be completed promptly for all agricultural fires," read the order, which came a day after the Supreme Court questioned the "inaction" by Punjab and Haryana on implementing the CAQM's directions and their "failure" to prosecute farmers who burn stubble.

Last Friday, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini denied that such action was being taken against farmers. Multiple sources in the government have now told *The Indian Express* that authorities have started acting as per the October 17 order. "If officials, including from the police department, fail to comply with the directions on stubble burning, they will face suspension," a senior of-

ficer said.

With the Opposition targeting the government over the arrests and the blacklisting of farmers, Saini Monday accused the BJP's rivals of spreading disinformation.

"We did good work on stubble management earlier too and the honourable Supreme Court appreciated that while telling the AAP government (in Punjab), 'You should learn stubble management from Haryana,'" he said.

Appealing to farmers not to burn stubble, Saini said Rs 1,000 per acre was being paid to get farmers to opt for crop residue management, apart from subsidy for purchasing instruments and machines required to process crop residue.

Targeting the government, former CM and Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda said, "Farmers take such steps under compulsion. Instead of imposing

fines on farmers, filing FIRs against them and red-listing them, the government should work on a solution to this. At present, the machines that the government is talking about providing for the disposal of stubble are not proving to be effective. The number of machines is also very low. Especially small farmers are unable to use them."

His Congress colleague Randeep Singh Surjewala called the new directions "Tughlaqi firman" and asked if it was a conspiracy to end MSP.

In Punjab, police have registered FIRs in 874 cases of stubble-burning in the past few days, Special Director General of Police (Law & Order) Arpit Shukla said on Monday. Penalties worth Rs 10.55 lakh were imposed in 397 cases and "red entries" were made in the revenue records of 394 farmers, he said.

## Elderly up, fertility down: Why Andhra, Tamil Nadu are talking of children

As per the India Ageing Report 2023 prepared by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), the elderly population in Andhra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana is not only already high as compared to states in the North such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, but will also increase at a much higher rate between 2021 and 2036.

In Kerala, the share of the elderly in the population is set to increase from 16.5% in 2021 to 22.8% in 2036, or a rise of little above 6%. Tamil Nadu will see an even higher increase from 13.7% to 20.8%. Andhra will see a similar rise from 12.3% to 19%, the Karnataka elderly will surge from 11.5% of the population to 17.2% and Telangana's from 11% to 17.1%.

In contrast, Bihar will see its elderly population go up from 7.7% of the population to 11% (a rise of 3.3%). UP will see an increase from 8.1% of the population to 11.9%. Jharkhand's rise will be from 8.4% to 12.2%, Rajasthan's from 8.5% to 12.8%, and MP's the same, from 8.5% to 12.8%.

Roughly, while the proportion of the elderly in the population will increase in the 15-year period under consideration by 6-7% in the South, this will be about 3-4% in the North.

As per the same report, the

'ageing index measure' — the number of elderly (above 60 years) per 100 children (below 15 years) — will be higher in the South and West compared to the Central and Northeast regions.

While the southern states collectively will have 61.7 elderly per 100 children by 2036, the number for Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan together would be 38.9 elderly per 100 children.

In the Central India states of UP, Chhattisgarh and MP, the figure will be even lower — 27.8 elderly for 100 children. 'Old age dependency ratio' or the number of elderly persons compared to 100 people in the working age group of 15 to 59 years will correspondingly be higher in the South, at 19.4, compared to 15.2 in the North and 13.3 in Central India by 2036.

Srinivas Goli, associate professor in demographics at the IIPS, Mumbai, said that the concerns regarding an ageing population are real. "In India, the discourse has been mostly anti-natalist, that is veering towards birth control, because that is required in states such as (high-population) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and so on. But India is also a diverse country, where most South Indian states have reached the fertility levels of developed countries in the world."

Goli, a foremost voice in India's demographic research, says as per the Sample Registration System conducted as part of the Census, the fertility rate or the number of children per adult female in Andhra Pradesh is 1.5, Karnataka 1.6, Kerala 1.5, Tamil Nadu 1.5 and Telangana 1.5. India's national average for fertility rate is two.

What adds to the proportion of the elderly in the population in the South is the higher life expectancy rate in the region, compared to the national average of 68.2 years. As per the latest data, collected for 2016-19 by the Registrar General of India, the life expectancy in Andhra was 69.1 years, Kerala 71.9 and Tamil Nadu 71.4 years. Only Karnataka's life expectancy rate was lower than the national average, at 67.9.

Goli adds that the problem is exacerbated by the fact that India has reduced its fertility rates pretty quickly. "The same amount of fertility transition — that is to come down from six children to 2.1 children per female adult — France took 285 years, England took 225 years, whereas India took just 45 years. The only country which took less time to reach this fertility transition is China, due to its very rigorous one-child policy," Goli says, adding that this has left South Indian states "becoming older before getting richer", unlike the European countries mentioned above, for exam-

ple. Goli says that in order to reap demographic dividend — that is a higher working age population and lower dependent population — the dependency ratio should be below 15. "In Andhra Pradesh alone, the dependency ratio is 18 (as per 2021 figures)," Goli says, pointing out that this will lead to more problems in the future due to little support for the older population in the country.

There is also the aspect of delimitation, which is due after the next Census. Currently, the constituency boundaries and numbers are decided as per population. If the birth rates stay steady, the number of Parliament seats in Andhra Pradesh is expected to fall from 25 to 20, in Karnataka, from 28 to 26, in Kerala from 20 to 14, in Tamil Nadu from 39 to 30, and in Telangana, from 17 to 15. Correspondingly, the North states given their higher populations will see their constituency numbers rise, giving them a larger voice in Parliament.

At the same time, experts say that trying to stop ageing by incentivising more children, as Naidu has proposed, is unlikely to work. "Andhra will only be one among the many governments which have attempted to incentivise birth. And it has worked nowhere in the world," says Irudiva Rajan of the International Institute of Migration and Development.

## Patrol rights to be restored

carried out up to the old patrolling points along the LAC. This means that Indian troops can patrol up to patrolling point (PP) 10 to 13 in the Depsang Plains, and in Charding Nullah of Demchok.

Sources said certain mutual agreements have also been made for the eastern theatre, especially in the sensitive sectors of Arunachal Pradesh. Other sectors in the east will come up in discussions later between the two sides.

While there was agreement on patrolling rights in Depsang Plains and Demchok, sources said the situation at the other friction points — in Galwan Valley and Pangong Tso — where disengagement of troops was achieved two years ago with creation of buffer zones would remain the same.

"Patrolling will be carried out along our own LAC, as perceived prior to 2020, at a frequency of twice a month," a source told *The Indian Express*.

While the normal strength of a patrol is about 13 to 18, at least 14-15 troops will be there in a patrol to avert any clash, sources said. Patrol programmes of both sides will be exchanged and in case of any clashing date or time, it will be mutually modified, sources said.

Patrolling, the sources said, will be well-coordinated between the two sides and they will keep each other informed.

Overall deployment of troops along the LAC will also be thinned down. This was, in any case, part of the Army's winter plan in Ladakh.

Sources said the two sides will continue with confidence building measures to reduce the trust

deficit. "This will include CO/Commander level meetings on a monthly basis as well as on a case-to-case basis," a source said.

The agreement on Depsang Plains and Charding Nullah in Demchok assumes significance since the Chinese side, until a year ago, showed reluctance to even discuss them while it agreed on disengagement at other friction points. There are seven friction points in eastern Ladakh where Indian and Chinese troops have had confrontations since May 2020. These include PP 14 (Galwan), PP 15 (Hot Springs), PP 17A (Gogra), north and south banks of Pangong Tso, Depsang Plains (the Chinese had cut off Indian access to the PPs there) and Charding Nullah.

The Depsang Plains is significant not just because it is 30 km southeast of the strategically important Daulat Beg Oldie post near the Karakoram Pass in the north, but also because in the midst of mountainous terrain, it offers a flat surface which can be used by either of the two countries to launch a military offensive, similar to the Spanggur Gap in the Chushul sub-sector.

Bottleneck, a rocky outcrop that provides connectivity across the Depsang Plains, is about 7 km east of Burtse where the Indian Army has a base. Burtse lies on the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road. The track going east from Burtse forks into two at Bottleneck, the reason why it is also called the Y-Junction. The track north, following the Raki Nala, goes towards PP10, while the track southeast goes towards PP-13 along Jiwan Nala.

## Terror attack in Kashmir

The tunnel is crucial because it would give all-weather connectivity to Sonamarg and, eventually, Ladakh.

The men were identified as Faheem Nasir, Mohd Hanif and Kaleem from Bihar; Anil Shukhla from Madhya Pradesh; Dr Shah Nawaz from Budgam in Kashmir; Sashi Abrol from Jammu; and Gurmeet Singh from Punjab.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, a man who runs a provisional store right across the camp said, "It had grown dark and we heard incessant gunshots. We thought these were firecrackers. There was a wedding ceremony going on just 100 metres away, and they (workers at the Z-Morh tunnel) also detonate explosives sometimes."

"But suddenly, we saw (private) security personnel rushing out of the camp, towards the road. They were frightened and told us there had been an attack on the campsite. We shut our shops immediately and rushed back home," he said.

The construction firm had employed their own private security, sources said, adding that the nearest CRPF camp is around 300 metres away.

According to sources, the survivors informed them that two militants had opened indiscriminate fire at the camp around the time the employees were having dinner.

"There were two men wearing chadar (woolen shawl). They arrived at the camp, removed the shawl and opened fire," a police officer said, quoting the survivors. "They targeted the campsite at three places, including the mess."

On power supply to the camp being cut at the time, the officer said, "There are conflicting reports about it. While one group of workers said militants

snapped the electricity, the other group said some of the workers themselves switched off the electricity to prevent militants from finding targets."

According to officials, the 6.4 km tunnel is almost complete and the inauguration was delayed because of the Model Code of Conduct being imposed during the recent assembly polls.

A villager from Gagangir who drives a dumper truck for the construction company said a majority of employees working at the tunnel had already left some time ago.

A private security guard working for the construction company recalled hearing gunshots in the evening. "I was posted at the periphery. When I heard the gunshots, I called my colleagues. They informed me the camp was under attack and three sites had been targeted," he said.

On Monday, senior security officials, including the Additional Director General of CRPF, visited the campsite.

A team of the National Investigation Agency also arrived at Gagangir to begin a probe and to conduct forensic analysis. A senior official said the central agency is likely to take over the probe.

The security forces and the police are yet to make a public statement on the attack. J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha meanwhile visited the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences in Srinagar to enquire about the well being of the injured workers.

Sinha announced a compensation of Rs 6 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 2 lakh to those injured. He also asked the firm to provide immediate compensation of Rs 15 lakh to the families of those killed.

## Jemimah

membership given to Ms Jemimah Rodrigues was revoked pursuant to a resolution passed by the members who attended the general meeting held on October 20, 2024."

Managing committee member Shiv Malhotra spelled out the reasons. "We came to know that Jemimah's father was attached to an organisation called Brother Manuel Ministries. They booked the presidential hall for almost a year and a half and held 35 events. We all know what was happening there," he said. "We hear about conversions all over the country, but it's happening right under our nose. There was dancing, expensive music equipment, big screens. As per Khar Gymkhana's bye-laws Rule 4A of the constitution, Gymkhana does not permit any religious activity."

Former club president Nitin Gadekar said a staff member alerted him about the "religious activity". "Me, Malhotra and other members went to see it. We saw the room was dark, trance music was playing and a lady was saying 'He is coming to save us'. ... We protested and it was decided to cancel her membership," he said.

## India moves to get 26/11 accused Rana before year-end

Pakistani father, was arrested in October 2009 by US authorities and sentenced to 35 years in prison for his involvement in the Mumbai attacks.

Rana studied at the Hasan Abdal Cadet School in Pakistan, which Headley too attended for five years. After a stint as a doctor in the Pakistan Army, Rana moved to Canada and was eventually granted Canadian citizenship. He later established a consultancy

firm called First World Immigration Services in Chicago. It was a branch of this business in Mumbai that provided Headley with the perfect cover to identify and surveil potential targets for the Pakistani terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

In the 26/11 attacks, on November 26, 2008, 10 LeT terrorists stormed into Mumbai and for three consecutive days, the city was in the grip of terror. The vio-

lence claimed the lives of 166 people, including six Americans. Pakistani nationals who carried out the attacks reached India via boats, it was later found.

Rana was arrested by US police soon after Headley's arrest at Chicago's O'Hare airport in October 2009. He was convicted in Chicago in 2011 of providing material support to the LeT for the India attack and for supporting the never-carried-out plot to attack a

Danish newspaper named Jyllands-Posten, which printed cartoons of the Prophet in 2005. However, jurors in the US cleared Rana of a more serious charge of providing support for the attacks in Mumbai.

Headley told prosecutors that in July 2006, he had travelled to Chicago to meet Rana and told him of the mission that the LeT had assigned him. Rana approved Headley's plan to establish a First World Immigration Services centre in Mumbai and helped him

obtain a five-year business visa. However, while deposing via video link at the Bombay City Civil and Sessions Court in February 2016, Headley claimed that he had informed Rana of his activities only a few months before the attacks in November 2008.

In 2011, the NIA filed a chargesheet against nine persons, including Rana, for planning and executing the attack. In 2014, a Delhi court issued fresh warrants against the men, whom the NIA had listed as absconders.

## Three months into protests at R G Kar, patient count down by half, surgeries take hit

Though senior doctors pitched in by working overtime, the lower patient count in the OPD and IPD had a domino effect on laboratory services and major surgeries, which too fell drastically in this period.

While R G Kar's labs registered a daily average of 2,467 tests in July, that fell to 928 in August and further dropped to 518 in September and to the lowest — 417 — in October so far. Major surgeries, another indicator of patient confidence, too took a hit in the weeks since August 9 — from a daily average of 48 in July to a low

of 7 in October so far.

While the patient count is still far from pre-August levels, the Emergency building and OPD continue to be overwhelmed with a constant influx of patients. R G Kar Hospital, one of the oldest and biggest referral hospitals in the city, caters to patients from Kolkata and districts in South Bengal.

Since the August 9 incident and the protests, there has been a substantial police presence at the entrance, though entry into the hospital remains unrestricted. The CISF is in charge of security at

key areas such as the trauma ward, the Emergency administrative building, and other critical departments.

Authorities said the hospital was gradually getting back on track. A senior official at R G Kar Medical College said, "Except the crime scene and the room opposite it, which was demolished, we have got permission from both the CBI and the police for renovation and restoration work. We have already installed 95% of CCTV cameras and started work on constructing wash rooms and rest rooms as per the guidelines of the

Supreme Court. However, work on the Emergency building that was vandalised on August 14 is still pending because it was planned that damages will be collected from those who are accused of this incident. So, we are estimating the total cost of the renovation. Once we get a go-ahead from the court, we will start necessary work to renovate the Emergency building. Until then, Emergency services are being held in adjacent departments."

Her leg plastered, Anjura Bibi, in her mid-thirties, struggles to get into an autorickshaw as she

heads home to Rajarhat, around 10 km away, after a post-surgery consultation.

Anjura had met with an accident on August 2 and was scheduled to undergo an operation on her leg on August 11. But the events of the last few months meant that she was finally operated upon only in the first week of October. "We are poor and can't afford treatment in private hospitals. On August 16, my husband brought me here but things looked so bad here we decided to go home. Finally, I had an operation in the first week of October."

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 (M): 9212665841, 9212008155

### 3 arrested for posing as DDA officials, selling plots

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THREE MEMBERS of a land-grabbing gang have been arrested for allegedly forging documents for Delhi Development Authority (DDA) land plots and selling the same to unsuspecting buyers, police said.

The three men — Madan Mohan Sharma (61), Deepak (40), and Anil Kumar (46) — were arrested on October 18. They were involved in creating forged perpetual leases, e-stamp certificates, DDA forms, sale deeds, and counterfeit stamps of DDA officials, said police.

On July 15, 2023, the sub-registrar's office had approached the police alleging that a man named Sanjay Mathur had filed a complaint with it in regard to a forged conveyance deed for a plot executed in his favor. Mathur had alleged that the three men, posing as DDA employees, had lured him into purchasing a DDA plot for Rs 85 lakh. When Mathur attempted to register the plot at the sub-registrar's office, the documents were found to be fake.

"During interrogation, Anil Kumar disclosed that they used to conduct recce of abandoned DDA land and after selecting one, prepared forged documents for the same," said South West DCP Surendra Choudhary.

"They would then introduce themselves as DDA officials to prospective buyers and convince them to buy the plot. To gain their trust, they also used to hand over perpetual leases, a copy of an e-stamp certificate, DDA form, and other documents to the buyer and took a huge sum of money from the buyer," he added.

The police have recovered several incriminating materials, including forged DDA documents, stamps, and sale deeds from the accused. Efforts are underway to arrest the remaining accomplice, Pradeep, said an officer.

# At 310 AQI, Delhi most polluted city in country

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

WITH DELHI'S air quality entering the 'very poor' category on Monday with an air quality index (AQI) of 310 — up from Sunday's 277 in the 'poor' category — 11-point action plan as per Stage II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has kicked in.

The action plan will be in force in addition to the Stage I GRAP, which has already been implemented. GRAP, a set of emergency measures to curb air pollution, is invoked by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas.



The campaign was launched from ITO. *Abhinav Saha*

Light On-Gaadi Off" campaign from ITO, urging drivers to reduce pollution by turning off their vehicles' engines when the traffic light turned red. Stating that the main causes of increasing pollution in the Capital are biomass burning, dust and vehicular emissions, a statement by the office of the minister said the campaign aims to address these issues.

The Delhi Metro, meanwhile, will run additional services during the implementation of GRAP Stage II and III to accommodate additional passengers, the DMRC said. While 40 additional services will be run on weekdays during Stage II, Stage III will see 60 extra trips.

According to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Capital reported the worst 24-hour average AQI at 310 in the entire country, on Monday. Meanwhile, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday launched the 'Red

## Animal rights body moves HC against transfer of captive elephant to Delhi

SOHINIGHOSH  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE DELHI High Court will on October 24 hear the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO) challenging the transfer of captive elephant Ranjitha from Jorhat in Assam to a temple at Sainik Farms in Delhi.

The *Indian Express* had reported on October 17 that a temple atop a four-storey residential apartment in south Delhi's Greater Kailash could soon be the owner of an elephant that it proposes to get from Assam. The Maa Baglamukhi Temple has "earmarked" 1.5 acres in the Sainik Farm to keep the elephant.

Referring to *The Indian Express* report, which was also annexed in the application, FIAPO submitted on Monday that the transfer "rings alarm bells and highlights that the current rules, through their silence and lack of clarity on what constitutes religious or any other purpose, potentially permits largescale transfer of elephants across the country by disregarding the best interest of the elephant".

The petitioner also highlighted an *The Indian Express* report from October 3 on the declining elephant population.

Further, FIAPO said that Sainik Farms is an area that suffers from acute water shortage. "...the declining air quality and the drastic dif-



The October 17 report

ferences with the elephant's natural habitat would pose serious challenges to the well being of the elephant," it added.

While allowing an application moved on Monday by FIAPO seeking early hearing, the court added the chief wildlife warden of New Delhi as a party to the case. Further, FIAPO filed a plea seeking a stay on the transfer of the elephant.

A division bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela directed the authorities to produce the original file pertaining to Ranjitha's transfer. The Union of India was also directed to obtain instructions on the current location of the elephant.

The pleas were moved in an existing petition filed by the FIAPO where it has challenged the constitutionality of Section 43 (2) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which permits the transfer or transport of captive elephants for "religious or any other purpose" by a person having a valid certificate of ownership, subject to terms and conditions. The petition also challenged the Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024.



STAGE II GRAP KICKS OFF: 11-POINT ACTION PLAN

- Mechanical or vacuum sweeping and water sprinkling of identified roads daily.
- Water sprinkling and use of dust suppressants every alternate day during non-peak hours on roads, along with proper disposal of dust collected in designated sites/landfills.
- Intensify inspections for strict enforcement of dust control measures.
- Targeted action for abatement of air pollution in all hotspots. Intensify remedial measures for predominant sectors contributing to adverse air quality in each hotspot.
- Ensure uninterrupted power supply to discourage use of DG sets, etc.
- Implement schedule for regulated operations of DG sets across all sectors, including industrial, commercial, residential and offices.
- Synchronise traffic movements and deploy adequate personnel for smooth flow of traffic.
- Alert in newspapers, TV, radio to advise people about air pollution levels and implement do's and don'ts to minimise polluting activities.
- Enhance parking fees to discourage private transport.
- Augment CNG, electric bus and Metro services by inducting additional fleet, increasing frequency.
- Resident welfare associations to provide electric heaters to security staff to avoid open bio-mass and municipal solid waste burning during winter.

## REMARKS ABOUT PM'S DEGREES Defamation case: SC rejects Kejriwal plea over summons

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE SUPREME Court on Monday dismissed AAP leader and Delhi former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea challenging the summons issued to him in a criminal defamation case filed over his "sarcastic" and "derogatory" remarks about the educational degrees of PM Narendra Modi.

A court pointed out that it had already rejected a similar plea by AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh,

who is also a co-accused in the case, on April 8, 2024.

"...Bearing in mind the said decision... in the related matter of a person facing the same proceeding, we are disinclined to entertain this matter. The special leave petition is accordingly dismissed," the court said. The bench, however, clarified, "We have not pronounced on the merit of the contention of either side and all contentions are left open."

The case was filed by Gujarat University against the two AAP leaders.

## Spl courts for people with disabilities: CM

New Delhi: The Delhi government has approved a proposal to set up special courts for people with disabilities to ensure that they receive fair and swift justice, Chief Minister Atishi said Monday.

The courts will be designed to

accommodate the specific needs of individuals with disabilities.

"...We are taking a crucial step towards reforming the judicial system to better serve the interests of people with disabilities," Atishi said. **ENS**

**ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH**  
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Online Applications, to be filled up at the Careers Portal of the University <https://careers.amuonline.ac.in>, are invited from Indian Nationals (including Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholders under Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955) for recruitment to various Teaching Posts. Last date for receipt of Online Application Forms is 19.11.2024 up to 11:59 P.M. and the last date for submission of the Hard Copy of the Online filled Application Forms is 29.11.2024 up to 05:00 P.M. The Hard Copies will not be received after 29.11.2024 (05:00 P.M.). The University will not be responsible for the Postal delay. Detailed Instructions for filling up the employment application forms have been given on Pages 17, 18 and 19 of the above Advertisement. **REGISTRAR**

Advertisement No. 108/2024  
Government of India  
Public Enterprises Selection Board  
invites applications for the post of  
**Chairman & Managing Director**  
in  
**Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)**  
Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15:00 hours on **15th November, 2024**  
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 15:00 hours on **25th November, 2024**.  
For details login to website <https://pesb.gov.in>

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**e-Tender notice**  
e-Tender number : 1. IRCON/3018/DFCCIL-CTP-12/e-Tender/Solar Water Heater/08-496 Dated 22.10.2024  
Tenders in Two Stage bid System are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirement for the work in ref to above tender no. as under:  
1. "Supply of WDFC approved Waasol make Solar Water Heater including Installation, Commissioning, Transportation, Loading & Unloading for Stations building, Service building IMD building and Staff quarters at DFCCIL-CTP-12 Project in b/w Vaitarana - Sachin of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, Phase-II".  
All the above materials procurement is for WDFC project CTP-12 between Sachin to Vaitarana.  
Estimated Cost for e-tender no. 1 (including all taxes & GST): Rs. 21,63,600/-  
Last date & Time of Bid Submission: for sl. 1, 12.11.2024 up to 15:00 Hours.  
For Further details, Visit website at <https://www.etenders.gov.in/procure/app>. Comtgendum if any would be hosted only on the web site.  
For any clarification Contact the office of Undersigned on following address:  
General Manager, IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED, Plot no. 1/7/2, Vashnav Nagar, Nr. Ayazpura Temple, Alai, Patna Road, Patna, Distt. Vaishali, Gujarat, 396007, Email: [shachish.sinha@ircon.org](mailto:shachish.sinha@ircon.org), [ircon.3018@ircon.org](mailto:ircon.3018@ircon.org)

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE TAX**  
UPPER NATHANPUR, RING ROAD, NEAR PULIA NO-6, DEHRADUN

**VACANCY NOTICE**

1. Applications are invited to fill the vacancy for Technical Member (State) of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) in the State Bench to be located at Dehradun.

2. The details of the vacancy is below as:

Post	Bench	No. of Post
Technical Member (State)	State Bench (Dehradun)	1

3. Interested candidates shall apply online on <https://gstn.org.in/gst-state-application/#home> in the prescribed form along with necessary documents.

4. The start date for submitting Application is 21st October, 2024 and the last date for the same is 5:00 PM on 20th November, 2024.

5. Detailed Advertisement and prescribed application form can be downloaded from the website of State Tax Department of Uttarakhand (<https://gst.uk.gov.in>) **Commissioner State Tax, Uttarakhand**

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Phone: 011-23411411, CIN: L74899DL1998PLC093073  
Email: [investors@petronetlng.in](mailto:investors@petronetlng.in), Company's website: [www.petronetlng.in](http://www.petronetlng.in)  
PAN: AAACP8148D GST: 07AAACP8148D1Z1

**NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT**

Notice is hereby given that the Company is seeking approval of its Members for the appointment of a Director as detailed in the Notice of Postal Ballot.

Detailed Postal Ballot Notice, together with Explanatory statement and instructions for e-voting are available on the Company's website [www.petronetlng.in](http://www.petronetlng.in), websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited at <https://www.bseindia.com> and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at <https://www.nseindia.com> respectively and on the website of e-voting agency i.e. National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).

The Postal Ballot is conducted in accordance with Section 110 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 ('Act'), read with the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, ('Rules') and Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs, through General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021, 20/2021 dated December 8, 2021, 3/2022 dated May 5, 2022, 11/2022 dated December 28, 2022, 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023, 09/2024 dated September 19, 2024 and other relevant circulars and notifications issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the MCA Circulars"), has permitted companies to conduct the postal ballot by sending the notice in electronic form only.

The Company had already intimated of the opportunity being given to its Members and mechanism available to them to register their email addresses, so that various communication(s) can be sent to them through email.

Members who have not registered their e-mail address are requested to get their e-mail registered with the concerned Depository, in case of shares held in dematerialized mode or with Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company ("RTA"), Bigshare Services Private Limited in case of shares held in physical mode. Post successful registration of the e-mail, Members may request to get postal ballot notice and the procedure for e-voting to enable voting for this Postal Ballot by sending an email to [investor@bigshareonline.com](mailto:investor@bigshareonline.com).

The postal ballot notice and the e-voting instructions along with the user ID and password has been sent by email to those Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/ RTA/ concerned Depository Participants and whose names appear in the Register of Members' List of Beneficial Owners as on Friday, October 18, 2024 (the "Cut-off date"). The email process has been completed on Monday, October 21, 2024.

The Company has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to provide remote e-voting facility to its Members. The remote e-voting period shall commence from 9:00 a.m. (IST) on Friday, October 25, 2024 and shall end at 5:00 p.m. (IST) on Saturday, November 23, 2024. The e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL thereafter. Voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to the shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on cut-off date i.e. Friday, October 18, 2024. Communication of assent or dissent of the Members would take place only through the remote e-voting system. Only those Members whose names are recorded in the Register of Members of the Company or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the cut-off date will be entitled to cast their votes by remote e-voting. Once the vote is cast by the Member, he/she shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.

All grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Senior Manager, NSDL at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) or call on 022-4886 7000.

The Board of Directors of the Company has appointed M/s Agarwal S. & Associates, Practising Company Secretaries, Delhi (Firm Reg. No.: P2003DE049100) as the Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot process.

The resolutions, if passed with requisite majority by the members through Postal Ballot, shall be deemed to be passed on the last date of the voting period i.e. on November 23, 2024.

The result of the voting by Postal Ballot will be announced on or before Tuesday, November 26, 2024 and shall be available on the Company's website at [www.petronetlng.in](http://www.petronetlng.in), on the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited at <https://www.bseindia.com/> and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at <https://www.nseindia.com/> and on the website of NSDL at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).

**General appeal to Members**

- We solicit your valuable cooperation and support in our endeavour to contribute our bit to the environment. We appeal to members to register/update their email addresses with their Depository Participant (DP) (if shares are held in electronic mode) or RTA/Company (if shares are held in physical mode) for receiving communications from the Company.
- It is requested that members should avail the National Automated Clearing House (NACH) facility i.e. direct credit of dividend amount in their bank account by updating bank details with their Depository Participant (DP) (if shares are held in electronic mode) or RTA/Company (if shares are held in physical mode).
- Pursuant to various SEBI circulars, the listed companies shall henceforth issue the securities in dematerialized form only while processing service requests for issue of duplicate securities certificate, claim from Unclaimed Suspense Account, renewal / exchange of securities certificate, endorsement, sub-division/ splitting of securities certificate, consolidation of securities certificates/folios, transmission and transposition purposes. Accordingly, Members holding shares in physical form are requested to get their holdings converted into dematerialised mode.
- Members holding shares in physical mode are requested to note that Securities and Exchange Board of India vide circular no. SEBI/HO/MIRSD/MIRSD\_RTAMB/P/CIR/2021/655 dated November 3, 2021 has mandated to update PAN, KYC details containing address, mobile number, e-mail address, bank account details and nomination details with the Company/ RTA. Members holding shares in physical mode, who have not registered their above particulars, are requested to register the same with the Company/ RTA at the earliest.

By order of the Board  
For Petronet LNG Limited  
Sd/-  
(Rajan Kapur)  
Company Secretary

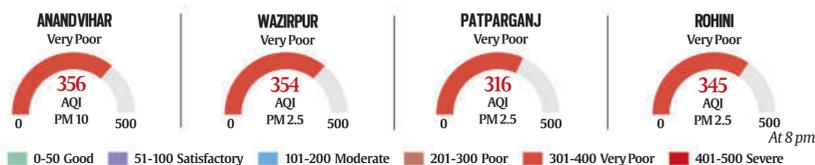
Place : New Delhi  
Date : 21.10.2024

**DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI)  
5<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI 110006  
[www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in](http://www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Quality of air can be improved if we all work together!  
\*Actions which we can do as per Air Quality Index (AQI)

STAGE	AQI	CITIZEN CHARTER	HEALTH ADVISORY
STAGE I	POOR AQI between 201-300		
STAGE II	VERY POOR AQI between 301-400		
STAGE III	SEVERE AQI between 401-450		
STAGE IV	SEVERE+ AQI >450		

AQI can be seen at CPCB WEBSITE/SAMEER APP  
\* As per citizen charter of Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas.  
\* For vulnerable population – Children under 5 year age, old age groups, pregnant women, predisposed health conditions ie illness of respiratory, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular systems, outdoor working people  
Health advisory of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI is available at <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Enclosure-Air-Pollution-Health-Advisory-Oct-2023.pdf>  
DPCC pollution Member Secretary



**S K Y W A T C H**  
 October 22  
 Mainly clear sky  
**MAX: 35**  
 2.4°C above normal  
**MIN: 20**  
 1.6°C above normal

# Police: Search on for 3-4 suspects present at Rohini blast site



NIA and Delhi Police officers at the blast site on Monday. PTI

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THREE OR four persons are under scanner for the bomb blast that took place outside the CRPF School in Prashant Vihar in Rohini's Sector 14 on Sunday, the Delhi Police said on Monday.

"The CCTV footage of the last 72 hours revealed the continuous presence of three to four suspects at the blast site. We are looking for them. As of now, no links with any organisation have been found," an officer said.

The police further said that they are probing the alleged involvement of pro-Khalistan groups in the blast after they found that one such channel on Telegram shared CCTV footage of the incident.

Sources said the police had written to Telegram, seeking information about the group on which the footage along with a message "warning" India was

posted. "It's difficult to say anything at this stage... investigation is underway," said Amit Goel, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Rohini.

While as of now, local police and Special Cell are investigating the matter, the case would likely be taken over by NIA, an officer said.

At 7.47 am on Sunday, a loud explosion was heard near the CRPF School in Rohini's Sector 14, prompting the police and a bomb squad to rush to the spot, along with the fire brigade. The explosive, believed to be a crude bomb, damaged the wall of the school and shattered the windows of a car parked nearby. Traces of potassium chlorate, hydrogen peroxide and some electrical wires were found at the site.

"Forensic experts and technical experts are being consulted to verify the quality of the detonator that was used for the blast. As of now, the detonator hasn't been found," an officer said.

## DEFACEMENT OF PROPERTY BY CANDIDATES

# Unless place is cleaned up, won't give counting direction: HC on DUSU polls

## SOHINIGHOSH NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE DELHI High Court on Monday reiterated that it will not direct the counting of votes of Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections till defacement of public and private properties by the poll candidates is removed.

The court also made 15 of the contesting candidates parties to the case and directed them to appear before it on October 28.

The Delhi University (DU), in a status report dated October 19 filed by Professor Satyapal Singh - chief election officer of DUSU elections - submitted to the court that "it has been found that more than 90% of the colleges, departments, institutions, centres have made their campus free from any defacement".

However, the petitioner in the case, advocate Prashant Manchanda who appeared as party-in-person, as well as counsels of Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), disputed the same.

Notably, DU's status report noted that it has "issued a notice/advisory to the prospective/contesting candidates to advise them to remove the defacement made to public and private properties".

In a communication from the office of the chief election officer of DUSU elections on September 30, it was stated that 26 candidates "shall have to bear the liability to compensate the loss to the civic



DU status report said it has "issued a notice/advisory" to remove defacement from properties. File

authorities/government department and DMRC according to the Lyngdoh Committee recommendations". Manchanda, meanwhile, submitted a note before the bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, highlighting the extent of defacement.

The note stated, "Campaign materials, including posters and graffiti, were plastered across entire city roads/walls, college campus, protected green spaces, and even reached the offices of the director general of Home Guard, office of assistant commissioner of police, police stations as well as the walls in front of embassies of the Republic of Iraq and Chad."

Going through the note as well as photographs and videos submitted by Manchanda - in which candidates are also seen obstructing national highways -- CJ Manmohan orally remarked to the Delhi Police, "What is Delhi Police doing... there are all these

unnumbered cars plying? Take some action."

Addressing DU, CJ Manmohan added, "...in youth, a lot of people commit mistakes, but the major candidates (who have defaced majorly) will have to be brought here, then we will issue notice to them... candidates are obstructing a national highway, how can they do this?..."

"Problem is with DU... you cannot let down the whole society, someone will have to bear the responsibility for this... bring it to the notice of V-C, else we will pass a speaking order... we are being candid, until and unless the place is cleaned up, we will not direct for counting... if they are going to be led by people who are doing what they are doing... the major candidates should come, and they will have to spend money. If they can bring a Rolls Royce for campaigning, they can bring a tractor and JCB and clean it," he added.

## Making efforts to clean DU campus, say candidates

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

AFTER THE Delhi High Court said on Monday that it will not direct the counting of the votes of Delhi University's Student Union (DUSU) elections till the defacement of public and private properties by the candidates is removed, the candidates said they have been making efforts to clean the university everyday.

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad's presidential candidate Rishabh Chaudhary, said, "We are in full agreement with the court and we have been cleaning the campus on a daily basis. The university is almost clean... We believe in judiciary... they are thinking about the bright future of the students and setting an example."

"...My name will not be found painted on any wall. We have mostly only pasted posters... and a few have been removed," he added. Chaudhary was added as a party to the HC litigation on Monday and has to appear before the court on October 28.

National Student Union of India's presidential candidate Ronak Khatri disagreed with the

court decision. "When Lok Sabha and Assembly elections take place, the entire city is filled with posters and walls are defaced, no one then talks about postponing counting of votes... Why is this being done now? Instead, the student union could be formed... the ones responsible for the defacement should be identified and they should carry out cleaning work."

Khatri, too, has been added as a respondent in the litigation and has to appear before HC on October 28.

Voting for the DUSU election had taken place on September 27 but the HC had stayed the counting of votes, which was scheduled for September 28.

The Delhi University (DU) said the electronic voting machines (EVM) are safe in police custody in the strong rooms.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Satyapal Singh, Chief Election Officer for DUSU polls, said: "The university is awaiting the court's order. As soon as we receive it, we will take the necessary steps. Until then, the EVMs are in police custody and safe in strong rooms and will remain so until counting is allowed."

## Namo Bharat completes a yr in service, Khattar hails 'flight-like' experience

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GHAZIABAD, OCTOBER 21

UNION MINISTER Manohar Lal Khattar compared the Namo Bharat train to air travel Monday as he took the train from Anand Vihar RRTS station to Sahibabad station in Ghaziabad and visited key stations along the corridor.

"The experience of traveling in the Namo Bharat trains is no less than flying in an aircraft," said Khattar during his maiden journey on the train. The Namo Bharat train operations on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor completed a year of service on Sunday. He also interacted with several passengers and female train operators during his journey.

The government is also progressing with the implementation of the next two corridors - Delhi-Gurgaon-SNB and Delhi-Panipat corridor, which will be extended up to Karnal - among the three priority corridors, Khattar said.

The Namo Bharat train was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 20 last year. In its first phase, the train operated between Sahibabad and Duha Depot covering a distance of 17 km.

Currently, Namo Bharat operates at nine stations including Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duha, Duha Depot, Muradnagar, Modinagar South, Modinagar North and Meerut South.

On October 5, the train began its trail run on a 12-km stretch from Sahibabad to New Ashok Nagar, marking its Delhi entry.



Commemoration Day Parade held by Delhi Police on Monday. Amit Mehra

## Police honour personnel who died on duty

New Delhi: The Delhi Police held a Commemoration Day Parade at the New Police Lines Ground to honour police personnel who had sacrificed their lives in the line of duty between September 1, 2023, and August 31, 2024. Special CP (Operations) Vivek Gogia honoured 216 personnel, including five from Delhi Police - Dinesh Kumar, Ranbir Singh, Ganga Sharan, Dinesh Dutt Sharma and Jai Om Sharma. **ENS**

## Three arrested for trafficking, four women rescued

New Delhi: Three people, including two brokers and a woman handler, were arrested for alleged human trafficking and four women were rescued from a unisex salon in Southwest Delhi's Vasant Kunj, police said Monday. The accused used to run illegal activities at the salon, said DCP Surendra Chowdhary. **ENS**

# Over 75% healthcare workers threatened on duty: Survey by Safdarjung, AIIMS doctors

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

MORE THAN half of the healthcare workforce in India feel unsafe at their workplace, while nearly three-fourth have been threatened on duty, revealed a joint nationwide survey conducted by doctors of Safdarjung Hospital and AIIMS.

Male healthcare professionals surveyed had higher odds of feeling unsafe at the workplace, it was found. Further, there is a striking gap in security satisfaction between private and public medical colleges, with state government-run institutions showing the highest dissatisfaction.

Nearly half of the healthcare professionals lacked a dedicated duty room even as the existing ones were grossly inadequate in terms of providing the basic amenities and lacked regular cleaning, pest control, ventilation, room space, and air-conditioning, it further revealed.

The results will be submitted to the committee formed by the Supreme Court looking into workplace safety of doctors.

Published in *Epidemiology International*, a journal supported by Indian Association of Epidemiology, the survey was conducted among consultants, resident doctors, undergraduates, medical officers, interns and nursing staff.

The study concluded that there are significant gaps in the security infrastructure within Indian healthcare settings. "A comprehensive, need-based approach with legislative support is necessary to enhance workplace security, which may improve doctor-patient relationships, workforce well-being, and overall healthcare quality," it stated.

## KEY FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY

- 58.2% Healthcare workers feel unsafe at workplace
- 78.4% Threatened on duty
- 62.6% Male professionals felt unsafe vs 54.6% female counterparts
- >63% Respondents of state-run medical colleges were unhappy with the number of security personnel
- >70% Criticised poor emergency alarms, access control and security in high-risk areas

## SURVEYED 1,566 healthcare professionals



At a protest organised at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi in support of doctors. Amit Mehra

## WHAT HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS WANT

- Better lighting, CCTV and transport options at night
- Increase the number of security personnel
- Effective emergency response system
- Clear violence-handling protocols
- Improved duty rooms
- with essential amenities
- Accessible emergency contacts
- Confidential reporting system
- Regular security training, drills, campaigns and audits
- Unified legal framework

According to Dr Jugal Kishore, the chief author of the survey, the findings paint a dire picture of insufficient security in critical healthcare settings, putting both workers and patients at significant risk, added the professor of the

Community Medicine Department at Safdarjung Hospital. "Over 70 per cent felt security personnel were ineffective, and 62 per cent reported the emergency alarm system to be inadequate," he said.

## Dengue cases on rise, drones to spray anti-larva medicine in waterlogged areas

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE MUNICIPAL Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Monday launched a campaign under which it used drones to spray anti-larva medicine on 15 hectare of waterlogged area at Narela's Rani Khera ward.

While inaugurating the initiative, Mayor Shelly Oberoi said, "For the first time in Delhi, anti-mosquito medicine is being sprayed through drones... Due to lack of drainage of rainwater, the risk of

vector-borne diseases increases in this area."

Drones will be used across Delhi in areas where it is not possible for the MCD to spray medicines. "There is also a danger of poisonous creatures like snakes and scorpions being present in waterlogged areas. It will be easier to spray medicine in such areas through drones," a civic official said. According to the MCD data released on October 19, Delhi has reported 3,082 cases of dengue so far - the highest in the last five years, except in 2023 when it had reported 4,404 cases during this

period. While it had reported 1,397 cases in 2022, the figure was 659 in 2021 and 359 in 2020. Three dengue-related deaths have also been recorded.

Meanwhile, with 643 malaria cases have been recorded so far - also the highest in five years. In 2023, while 289 cases were reported during this period, 140 cases were reported in 2022, 103 in 2021 and 156 in 2020.

Chikungunya cases have also seen a spike with 102 cases being reported so far. Only 16 cases were reported in 2023, 13 in 2022, 40 in 2021 and 39 in 2020.

## Complainant against Vikash Yadav was also accused of abduction in 2013: Police

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

A CAFE owner from West Delhi, whose complaint led to the arrest of former Indian official Vikash Yadav by the Delhi Police on charges of abduction and assault in December 2023, was also accused in a kidnapping case in Shalimar Bagh in 2013, a police officer said.

A Delhi court acquitted the café owner and his aides due to "lack of evidence" in April this year, said police.

According to officers, a businessman and two of his friends were allegedly abducted in December 2013 by a group of four men posing as cops. The businessman was taken to a location

where he was allegedly beaten up by his abductors and was asked to pay a ransom of Rs 2 crore, the police added. The victim's two friends were allegedly involved in the plot. "The victim was dropped on a road later," a police officer said. On Saturday, *The Indian Express* reported the Delhi Police Special Cell arrested Vikash Yadav on December 18, 2023, after an FIR was filed against him by a Rohini resident, accusing him of extortion and kidnapping and linking him to gangster Lawrence Bishnoi.

Yadav's arrest came less than three weeks after he was mentioned by US Department of Justice documents as "CC-1" (co-conspirator) in November 2023, accused of plotting to kill pro-Khalistan separatist Gurbatwant

Singh Pannun.

The Rohini resident stated in his complaint: "On December 11, he called and informed me there was something serious that he wanted to discuss and it is related to my life. We decided to meet at... Lodhi Road".

According to the complainant, Yadav and his accomplice came in a vehicle, and they forcibly took him to a flat near Defence Colony. He said Yadav told him there was a "supari" (contract) given by Lawrence to eliminate him at the behest of a Dubai-based person. He claimed he was hit on his head by Yadav's accomplice, and forced to give away his gold jewellery. He also claimed Yadav and his aide took cash from a café he ran.

The police picked up Yadav and his associate the next day.

## Five held for theft of Rs 2 crore from retd scientist's house, son's former employee among them: Police

## HIMANSHU HARSH NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

FIVE MEN have been arrested in two different operations for alleged theft worth over Rs 2 crore in cash and jewellery at a retired DRDO scientist's home in Rohini's Prashant Vihar, police said Monday. While a sixth accused is on the run, around Rs 1.22 crore in cash and other items were recovered from those arrested.

The local police arrested the key conspirator Gaurav Kawatra (36) and Jasmeen Singh aka Gifty (42) Sunday, a day after the alleged theft took place around 12:50 pm. Two teams of the Crime Branch nabbed three others - Kamal aka Amandeep (22), Ashish aka Ashu

(22) and Pawan Singh (22) - in two separate operations. Efforts are on to arrest Krishan, the sixth accused, police said.

According to Crime Branch Additional CP Sanjay Bhatia, Kawatra was employed at Harsh's security appliances business before he was sacked a year ago. However, he remained in touch with other employees and got the information that a huge amount of cash was kept at Harsh's house.

Kawatra conducted reconnaissance of the house on October 15 and hatched the plan.

On October 18, one of the accused, posing as a delivery agent, approached Sibbu Singh Verma, the retired DRDO scientist, at the latter's home in F Block, Bhatia said. The accused then allegedly

pushed Verma inside his home covering his mouth and four other accused barged into the house as Kawatra waited outside the house, police said.

The accused then allegedly ransacked the house as they held Verma, his wife Nirmala and their younger son, Harsh Verma, at gunpoint, besides brandishing a knife. Soon, they decamped with 260 grams of gold and around Rs 2 crore cash kept in cartons.

"While Pawan and Ashish kept the victims at gunpoint and knife-point, Kamal, Krishan and Jasmeen searched the house and took out all the cash and jewellery items," Bhatia said. After a police complaint, officers combed through various CCTV footage and managed to identify the suspects

and the motorcycle, the registration plate of which was concealed during the alleged theft, police said. Subsequently, police zeroed in on Kawatra whose arrest led them to Jasmeen, who was nabbed from Karol Bagh Sunday. "Rs 14.42 lakh, a part of the stolen amount... was recovered from him," Rohini DCP Amit Goel said.

Simultaneously, police received a tip-off regarding the movement of two suspects on GT Road. A trap was laid leading to the arrests of Amandeep and Ashu. Two bags containing Rs 76 lakh and the bike used in the crime were recovered from them, officers said. Another Crime Branch team arrested Pawan and recovered Rs 34 lakh. The accused have confessed to the crime, police said.

## NOIDA

# Man tries to jump off balcony, neighbours pull him back

## NEETIKA JHA NOIDA, OCTOBER 21

FOR FLATMATES Adityam Tyagi and Nitish Tandon, Monday was supposed to be a relaxing day, as they were on leave from work.

Both employed by private companies in Noida, they had just woken up when they heard a commotion outside their 10th floor rented accommodation at Noida's Sector 74. While Nitish did not pay much heed to the noise and went to brush his teeth, Adityam peeped outside their balcony to find out what was happening.

What he saw chilled him to the bones. He saw their neighbour hanging from the balcony



A videograb of the suicide bid. X/@PANKAJPARASHAR

of the 12th floor common passage, about to jump. What Adityam did next saved the man's life.

As he called for Nitish, his

flatmate - with a brush in his mouth - followed Adityam up the two floors. On reaching the spot from where the man was hanging, Adityam pulled him back with both hands while Nitish pulled him up by his legs, taking the man to safety.

Nitish (29), who works with an insurance company based in the UK, said, "Moments after we rescued him, he started crying in our arms." Adityam and Nitish share their 3 BHK flat with three other men, all in the 25 to 29 age group.

Adityam (26), an app developer with Accenture, said, "We woke up around 10 am and were chatting... Suddenly, we heard people screaming... I went to the balcony and saw a lot of people

standing on the ground and a few taking videos. When I looked up, all I saw was two legs hanging in the air... I screamed for Nitish and he followed me."

"He was our age and heavily built... I initially thought of grabbing him all by myself but realised that it won't be easy and he could slip. I asked Nitish to hold his legs and we pulled him up," he added.

Hours later, the man's family reached the society and took him home. "His parents could not stop thanking us. They kept calling us his saviors," said Nitish.

Their phones have not been ringing since morning. "We are being called the 'red T-shirt guy' and the 'guy with the toothbrush,'" said Adityam.



उत्तराखण्ड शासन



# DISCOVER NEW EXPERIENCES AND A SENSE OF BELONGING IN *Uttarakhand*



**EXPERIENCE THE AMAZING  
CONFLUENCE OF DEVOTION,  
CULTURE AND ADVENTURE**

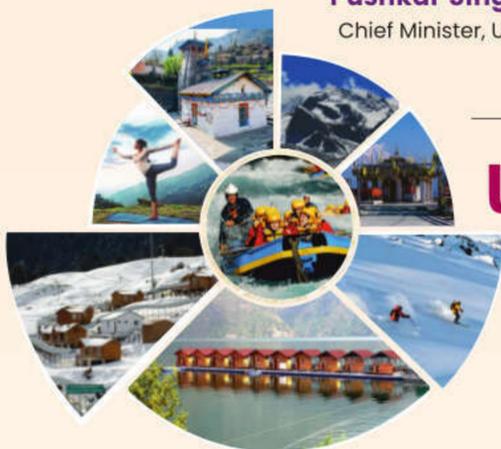
**Pushkar Singh Dhama**  
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

“Uttarakhand is the land of gods. The way this state is moving on the path of development by keeping law and order at the forefront is praiseworthy. This effort is also necessary to maintain the identity of Devbhoomi. Therefore, I believe that in the near future, Devbhoomi Uttarakhand will become the centre of attraction for the spiritual consciousness of the entire world and we have to develop Uttarakhand according to this potential.”

**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

## Uttarakhand Tourism Sector

Provides best incentives  
for investment.



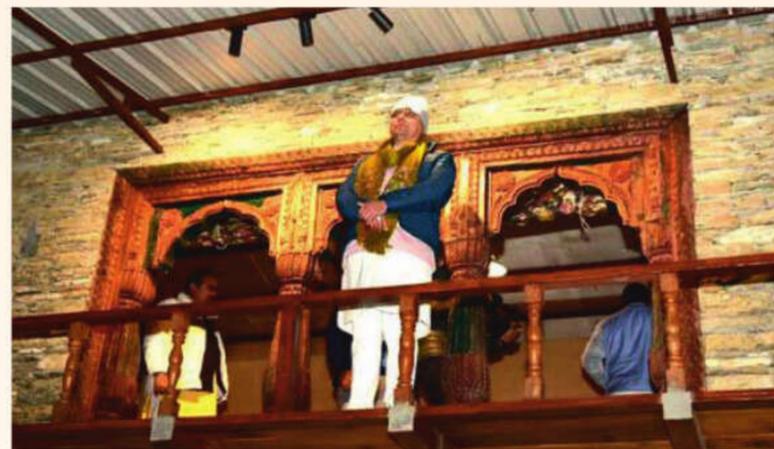
## For weddings, it has become a New Destination.

Uttarakhand is called the 'land of gods'. The state not only boasts of breathtaking natural beauty, but also offers travelers a unique opportunity to experience the local culture and traditions through homestays. In such a situation, the homestay running under 'Deendayal Upadhyay Grih Awaz Yojana' has not only provided self-employment to the local people, but it is also making a significant contribution to the economy of the state. The homestay system has gained momentum under the 'Deendayal Upadhyay Grih Awaz Yojana' started by the Uttarakhand government. The objective of this scheme is to uplift the economic condition of the local people by providing them a sustainable source of income. Under the scheme, local people get the opportunity to host domestic and foreign tourists at their own homes. In this way tourists get an opportunity to understand the indigenous cuisine, local culture, historical heritage, traditional hill lifestyle and art of Uttarakhand. Through this they are reaching places about which they had not heard before.

Ranging from cozy cottages to traditional wooden houses that reflect the architecture of the region, each homestay offers tourists a comfortable and welcoming environment, allowing them to connect with the local community.

The development of homestays in Uttarakhand has had a positive impact on the economy of the state. These accommodations provide tourists with not only unique and presently with Uttarakhand Tourism Department there are around 5000 registered homestays listed. Nestled in the lap of Himalayas in these homestays provide comfortable cottages to traditional wooden houses that reflect the region's architectural style, each homestay offers

tourists a welcoming and comfortable environment, allowing them to connect with the local community. The development of homestays in Uttarakhand has had a positive impact on the state's economy. These accommodations provide tourists with not only a unique and personalized experiences but also promote local businesses by creating employment opportunities. As a result, their contribution is strengthening the local economy. Homestay owners often collaborate with local artisans, farmers, and service providers. This promotes local supply chains and sustainable development. Homestays have played a crucial role in curbing migration from the state. Homestays have played a significant role in preventing migration



In 2024, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, awarded the title of Best Tourism Village to four villages in Uttarakhand: Jakhoul village and Harsil village in Uttarkashi district, Gunji village in the border area of Pithoragarh district, and Supi village in Bageshwar district.

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated that rural areas are becoming centers of tourism. Additionally, every tourist destination can develop its own revenue model. To boost the rural economy, we need to promote businesses like homestays and small hotels.**

from the state. It must be said that this initiative has not only increased income but also provided a solid foundation for local people to stay, promote, and develop their communities. It has helped preserve the state's cultural heritage and traditions, ensuring that future generations remain connected to their roots. The popularity of homestays in Uttarakhand is in itself proof that this initiative is touching the hearts of travelers. Tourists are not just seeking comfortable accommodation; they also enjoy strengthening connections with new destinations and people. The homestay initiative is connecting tourists with the local way of life and presenting a fresh image of the state in their minds. They are leaving with happy memories after staying here.

## A State of Pilgrimage and Tourism, Something Special for Every Age

You must visit these charming places:

These picturesque places situated in the lap of nature will touch your heart.

There are many such places in the charming natural wealth of Uttarakhand, which are no less than a treasure. If you come to Devbhoomi then definitely visit these places. Away from the hustle and bustle of tourists, these lesser-known destinations make your trip more exciting. You are able to connect directly with nature. From the picturesque Kartikeya Swamy Temple to the tranquil village of Peora, the breathtaking views of Khirsu and the untouched beauty of Mandal, places like this have a unique charm. Don't forget to enjoy birdwatching among the birds in the lush green delightful Pangot of Chaukori. The peaceful atmosphere of Gwaldamakh Abbott Mount, Shitalkhet and Nagathat are places that provide coolness to the mind. These hidden treasures of Uttarakhand are inviting you to go on a unique journey. Surely you will be impressed by the peace and natural beauty of this place. Believe it, you will be able to reach such a place, which



you haven't even imagined before. A visit to these places will give you an experience to be remembered throughout your life. Sachin Kurve, CEO of Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, says that these lesser-known destinations of Uttarakhand offer a glimpse of the rich cultural heritage of the state. For example, Kartikeya Swami Temple is situated in the beautiful landscape of Uttarakhand. It reflects traditional architecture and spiritual significance. We are promoting offbeat destinations in every nook and corner of the state and our aim is to provide unique experiences to tourists and promote sustainable tourism development.

## A UNIQUE CONFLUENCE OF UNSEEN ADVENTURES

Uttarakhand provides a unique  
experience to adventure  
sports lovers around the world.

When it comes to adventure tourism in the country, Uttarakhand has become a favorite destination for adventure lovers due to its diverse landscapes. There is no dearth of exciting activities here. You get to play many exciting sports here and that is why this state provides an extraordinary experience for adventure lovers around the world. Many tourists come to Uttarakhand only to participate in these activities. For adventure lovers, there are many exciting sports and activities available here including river rafting, trekking, hiking and bungee jumping.

**TREKKING AND HIKING**  
You can travel to remote places of Uttarakhand through trekking and hiking. Here one can enjoy trekking on the traditional Ropkund track amidst lush green forests and grasslands or

passing through the valley of flowers can give a pleasant feeling. For long walkers, Kedarkantha and Gaumukh Tapovan tracks provide a memorable experience of a lifetime.

**BUNGEE JUMPING**  
Also known as the Yoga Capital of the World, Rishikesh is also known for its high-intensity adventures as it is the site of the highest bungee jumping in the entire country. Thrill lovers who want to defy gravity come here to go bungee jumping amidst the spectacular Himalayan hills.

**SKIING**  
Auli, located in Chamoli district, is known as the center of skiing lovers. Adventure lovers visit Auli to find their way through its winter wonderland with snow-capped mountain slopes. This spectacular venue is also famous

for hosting the National Winter Games, where athletes get the perfect opportunity to showcase their prowess.

### RIVER RAFTING

The rivers of Uttarakhand not only enhance the beauty of the state but also excite the lovers of white water rafting who come here for the thrill. When tourists conquer the rapids through white water rafting or boat on the water during a serene canoeing or kayaking in the Ganges, Tons and Alaknanda rivers, they definitely get to experience different thrills.



### PARAGLIDING

Thrill lovers can also take a trip to the sky here and enjoy the grandeur of Uttarakhand by paragliding. They can also take a sky flight from the scenic spots of Nainital, Mukteshwar, or Pithoragarh and view the magnificent Himalayan regions. Apart from adventure, the tourism sector of Uttarakhand has also brought prosperity to the local residents and created employment opportunities. This has also encouraged the development of adventure tourism infrastructure.



#ExploreUttarakhand

# 6 DECISION 2024

MAHARASHTRA • JHARKHAND



## Haryana, Marathas and Pawar Sr: The factors at play

The Haryana results boost BJP in Maharashtra, but Pawar Sr has ability to combine sympathy, realpolitik into a win



**THE NEERAJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN**

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

“YOU NEVER know, the BJP could make it in Maharashtra also,” said the director of a Mumbai-based finance company. “After all, the Congress was all set to win in Haryana, but you can never tell what will happen with the Congress at the last minute.”

An activist who works in the villages of Satara district in Western Maharashtra spoke similarly. “The Ladki Bahin Yojana has made a difference, with money reaching women... It is true that the Maha Vikas Aghadi's impact

has been hit, but it's not as if the whole situation has changed.” Both the persons I have quoted were making the same point — that the poll scenario in Maharashtra is too close to call.

There was a sympathy factor at work for the MVA in the Lok Sabha polls (after the way the BJP had split the Shiv Sena and NCP). It took the MVA tally to 30 out of 48 seats in Maharashtra, coming as a shock to the BJP. Will the sympathy for the MVA continue unabated in the Assembly polls? That question remains.

Haryana became instrumental in giving new heart to an demoralised BJP, which had lost steam after the Lok Sabha polls. It broke the momentum of the Congress's 99-member Lok Sabha victory, which had enabled the grand old party to act as if it had won the game. But if

the MVA wrests Maharashtra from the BJP-led Mahayuti, Haryana would be forgotten.

No two states are the same, and Assembly elections are fought essentially on local issues, yet the “H” factor will influence the poll strategy of both sides in Maharashtra. It has already enthused a down and out BJP cadre.

Even the body language of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to his colleagues, has become visibly different after the “H” victory. It has toughened the BJP's bargaining power vis-a-vis its two allies, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Ajit Pawar-headed NCP.

At one of the seat-sharing meetings held with Shinde, Ajit Pawar, and the BJP's Devendra Fadnis, Home Minister Amit Shah was reported to have told Shinde words to the effect, “We



In campaigns, Pawar is hailed as the “84-year old young man”.

have sacrificed a lot to make you Chief Minister. Now you too should sacrifice (to leave more seats for the BJP).”

The BJP will also push for a greater consolidation of the OBCs (Malis, Dhangaris, Vanjaris) in its favour — as it did in Haryana, with the Jat versus non-Jat polarisation taking the party to an unex-

pected victory. In Maharashtra, the Maratha-OBC divide has sharpened after the Maratha agitation for reservations, and the MVA calculates this divide will benefit the alliance. The BJP also hopes that both its allies Shinde and Ajit Pawar, who are Marathas, will pull in some Maratha votes. Incidentally the

two leaders have not really been attacked by Manoj Jarange Patil, who is spearheading the agitation for reservation for the Marathas. He has concentrated his fire instead against Fadnis (a Brahmin) for obstructing Maratha reservation and asked Marathas to vote for one of their own but not for the BJP.

Eknath Shinde has firmed up his leadership after the Lok Sabha polls; he had a better strike rate than the others. He has been on a sop-announcing spree, and projected himself as the author of the popular Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana (giving Rs 1,500 per month to women between 18-60) — expected to be the game changer for the Mahayuti, as it was for the BJP in Madhya Pradesh.

The BJP may also play the ‘Independents’ card in Maharashtra, as it did in Haryana and in J&K. There were 17 seats where the Congress lost because of Independents (some of them

were Congress rebels) in Haryana.

Come now to the MVA. What lessons has the Congress learnt from its defeat in Haryana? Not to put all its eggs in one basket, and project one leader as it did in Haryana (backing Bhupinder Singh Hooda)? In Maharashtra, it has decided to rely on its satraps, strong in their respective regions in the state.

Even as it garners a sizeable chunk of the Maratha vote, the challenge for the MVA is also to keep the Dalits by its side and not have them drift back to the BJP (as happened in Haryana). The Maratha-Muslim-Mahar and Buddhist combination was a winner in the just held Lok Sabha elections.

But many eyes are on the 84-year-old Sharad Pawar as the tallest and most experienced leader in the MVA — and in Maharashtra — with his extensive knowledge of every constituency, its caste matrix, and familiarity with its leaders.

His word is taken seriously by Uddhav Thackeray and Rahul Gandhi, and not ignored by other Congress leaders. This enabled him to get the better of his nephew Ajit Pawar in the Lok Sabha elections. Could this goodwill and sympathy and the hard nosed political strategy for which he is known make him an X factor in this election?

In the Lok Sabha polls, it was Uddhav Thackeray who had generated greater sympathy. This time round, it is Pawar who is being hailed as the “84 year old young man... who won't stop until he puts Maharashtra on the right path”.

Many wait to see if he will come up with a trump card, as the campaign gets underway, to turn the tables in the MVA's favour?

Neeraja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, The Indian Express, has covered the last 11 Lok Sabha polls. She is the author of ‘How Prime Ministers Decide’

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- KEY BATTLES
- IN JHARKHAND, BJP TAKES THE BATTLE TO INDIA BLOC: ‘INFILTRATION’ PLANK TO TRIBAL BASE TO WELFARE

### IMAGE OF THE DAY



ON HER MARKS: Kalpana Soren, who emerged as a leader during her husband and CM Hemant Soren's time in jail, at a campaign event in the Giridih district on Monday ahead of the Jharkhand Assembly polls next month.

## ‘Haryana polls saw factionalism... All on board in Jharkhand now’

GHULAM AHMAD MIR was one of the only six Congress leaders who won in the recent Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, with his victory margin of nearly 30,000 votes from Dooru the largest in the Valley. Elected CLP leader after the results, Mir now has another task on his hands — seeing the Congress through the tough Jharkhand elections. In an interview with MANOJ C G, Mir dismisses seat-sharing issues in Jharkhand as teething troubles. Excerpts:

The JMM and Congress have decided to contest 70 of the 81 seats in Jharkhand. But there is still confusion over the final seat-sharing pact.

We have said that the Congress and JMM have reached an agreement on 70 seats, 41 to the JMM and 29 to the Congress. Of the remaining 11 seats, the RJD will contest five-six and the CPI (ML) three-four. One seat each from the 11 will be added to the JMM and Congress now... So the Congress will contest in 30 seats and the JMM in 42.

But the RJD is believed to be unhappy.

Seat-sharing leaves no one happy. But ultimately, if we have to fight a contest together... everybody has to make sacrifices and suffer some losses... We have to look at the larger picture and the larger goal, which is to defeat the BJP.

The RJD is demanding 12-13 seats, and is saying it may contest alone. So there could be friendly fights?

That will not be good for the alliance. Chief Minister Hemant Soren is talking to them. There is no question of ego here... The RJD contested seven seats last time... they should also forgo one seat. Their winning percentage last time was 16% of the seven seats, they won only one. The JMM had a winning ratio of 74% while the Congress strike rate was 55%.



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW WITH GHULAM AHMAD MIR, JHARKHAND CONGRESS IN-CHARGE

Is it a given that your sitting MLAs will be repeated?

A majority of the MLAs are good people. There may be anti-incumbency against MLAs but that is the case with all MLAs. Woh Chief Minister ko bhi hogi (the CM faces the same). It is the same against MLAs from the other side too... So I cannot say all the sitting MLAs will be renominated. In some seats, we have put forth two or three names...

Will the alliance come out with a common manifesto or common agenda?

I have made his suggestion... (on) some important guarantees, some important promises, some issues... on which there is a consensus. But we are yet to discuss that... Once seat-sharing is done, we can get it done. There should be a common agenda for the alliance for campaigning.

The JMM-Congress alliance is also battling anti-incumbency. How are you countering that?

In Jharkhand, there is pro-incumbency. Of the five years, Covid disrupted two years but still Jharkhand worked. The government provided help to its

labourers wherever they were. There were attempts to create political instability, attempts were made to break the government. This coalition completed its term... All the promises made in our manifestos were implemented. And we did more, Maiya Yojana for instance, debt waiver is another scheme...

But the factor remains that no less than former chief minister Champai Soren left the JMM and joined the BJP.

That can be because of a personal reason. I am told he is not happy there. When the BJP realised that the incarceration of Hemant Soren was not helping it, the ED and CBI cases too were neither helping it nor making a political impact, they thought of inducting Champai Soren along with leaders and workers. In that, they failed.

What are the issues which the Congress and the alliance would highlight?

Unemployment is a pan-Indian problem created by the BJP and Jharkhand is also facing the brunt. The Sama (religion) code is an issue. The JMM-Congress government had passed a resolution in the Assembly calling for a separate Sama dharma code for tribals, but the Centre is sitting on the resolution.

What lessons has the Congress learnt from the Haryana and J&K poll results?

In Jammu, we committed some mistakes — internal, organisational. In Haryana also, there were issues. We are cautious and alert now. There was factionalism there... Here, everyone is on board while discussing seats and candidates. Of the 30 that we are contesting, 18 are our sitting seats, we lost about half-a-dozen by small margins, and in half-a-dozen seats, we need to work hard... We are doing all that, we have put in place a mechanism, assigned senior observers to almost every seat.

## Is AIMIM indeed the vote-cutter its rivals make it out to be

ZEESHAN SHAIKH MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

PRIMARILY FOCUSED on representing Muslim interests, the AIMIM plays a notable role in Maharashtra's electoral landscape but is often accused by other Opposition parties of ‘cutting votes’ to end up helping the BJP.

However, voting data suggests the party's impact on the prospects of non-BJP parties may not be as significant as public perception indicates.

In the 2019 Assembly elections, the AIMIM contested 44 seats, winning two and securing 1.34% of the total votes, a notable improvement from 2014, when it contested 22 seats, won two, and got 0.93% of the total votes. Despite AIMIM's efforts to project itself as a disruptor of the electoral hold of so-called secular parties on the Muslim community, its overall influence re-

mains relatively limited. In 2019, the AIMIM won Malegaon and Dhule, and finished second in Aurangabad Central, Aurangabad East, Byculla, and Solapur City Central. The party's influence was felt in 13 more seats, where it received more votes than the margin of victory. The BJP and its allies won seven of these 13 seats and six went to the Congress-NCP combine.

The AIMIM made a notable entrance into Maharashtra's political arena in 2014 with unexpected victories in Aurangabad Central and Byculla. Journalist-turned-politician Imtiaz Jaleel's subsequent triumph in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, which made him the first Muslim to represent Aurangabad in 39 years, marked the AIMIM's peak in the state. However, the party has since faced significant challenges, including the failure to retain Aurangabad Central and Byculla in the 2019 Assembly

SEATS WITH AIMIM PRESENCE IN 2019			
	Votes drawn by AIMIM	Winning party	Runner up
Malegaon Central	1,17,242	AIMIM	Cong
Dhule City	46,567	AIMIM	IND
Aurangabad Central	68,072	Shiv Sena	AIMIM
Aurangabad East	80,036	BJP	AIMIM
Byculla	31,157	Shiv Sena	AIMIM
Solapur City Central	38,721	Cong	AIMIM

Source: Election Commission

elections. While AIMIM did win in Malegaon Central and clinched Dhule in a close race, the party has struggled to build on these initial successes.

Jaleel's recent loss in the Aurangabad Lok Sabha seat this year raises critical questions about the party's appeal among Muslim voters. It appears the Muslim electorate has shifted its support to-

ward parties more capable of effectively opposing the BJP.

To find its footing ahead of the Assembly elections, the AIMIM has been actively implementing a series of organisational changes and tweaking its political strategy. The party has proposed an alliance with the Congress and the NCP, suggesting collaboration in 28 seats.

However, the Congress seems reluctant to accept this offer, with its social media wing recently amplifying accusations against Jaleel that he had dealings with the BJP.

Complicating matters, Jaleel has announced his intention not only to contest the Assembly elections but also to run in the Nanded Lok Sabha bypoll, necessitated by the death of Congress MP Vasant Rao Chavan.

The Nanded Lok Sabha seat has a 14% Muslim population, which increases to 24% in Nanded city.

The AIMIM made its initial electoral foray outside Hyderabad in Nanded and has established a substantial following there. However, Jaleel's insistence on contesting an election in a constituency 300 km from his base in Aurangabad, rather than promoting local leaders, has raised eyebrows about the party's political trajectory.

### REGIONS OF MAHARASHTRA

## It's a Sena vs Sena battle in the Konkan belt

Housing, poverty key poll issues in urban areas; lack of basic infrastructure, jobs in rural stretch

VALLABH OZARKAR MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

THE SERENE coastal belt of Konkan is all set to witness a fierce political battle in the forthcoming Maharashtra Assembly polls. The battle between the ruling Mahayuti and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) here hinges on the two Senas.

The fight for the 75 seats here will be between the two Shiv Senas — led by Uddhav Thackeray and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde — after the split in the Shiv Sena in June 2022.

The Konkan belt — spread over the districts of Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan, Palghar, Raigad and Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg — was considered a bastion of the unified

Shiv Sena. Despite having a mixed demography, the region, even the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), has always been a bastion of the Sena, thanks to the support from the people of Konkan who are settled in Mumbai.

In the eighties, Konkan used to be a citadel of the Congress. But Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray's aggressive stance for the rights of ‘Bhumi Putra’ and ‘Marathi Manos’, which included people from Konkan, changed the scenario.

The party remained a dominant force in the region in spite of the rebellion of senior leaders like Narayan Rane, who split from the party in 2005. While the Shiv Sena survived Rane's exit and managed to retain a decent hold in the region, the re-

cent rebellion of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will force the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena to prove its mettle and find out if it still has the same groundswell of support, which it had in the 2019 Assembly polls.

In the 2019 Assembly polls, a unified Sena had won 29 seats and its then ally BJP won 27 seats, which summed up to 56.

The BJP-Sena alliance had then kept the Congress and NCP below the 15-seat mark and proved its dominance over the region. However, with the splits in the Sena and NCP post-June 2022, the dynamics of the region have changed.

In the recently held Lok Sabha polls, the Shinde-led Sena, BJP and Ajit Pawar-led NCP won seven seats in the Konkan region.

While the BJP won the Palghar, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg and Mumbai North seat, NCP retained Raigad. The Shinde-led Sena won Thane, Kalyan and Mumbai North West. The MVA won three and the Congress and NCP (SP) got one each.

But a closer look at the Lok Sabha polls, Assembly segment-wise, shows a lead for Mahayuti in 48 Assembly seats. MVA led in 27 Assembly seats.

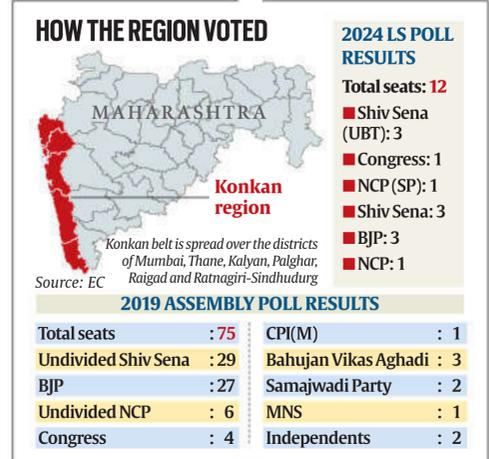
It will now be a do-or-die situation for the Sena (UBT) as after the split, several stalwart leaders, including two out of four former MPs and over 20 out of the 29 sitting MLAs from Konkan, switched to the Shinde-led Sena, leaving a vacuum in the Sena (UBT)'s leadership.

The Konkan belt is divided into two major parts — the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), and the rural districts of Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg.

While the MMR is the most urbanised part in the state and is growing rapidly, the other part is over 90% rural and lacking basic facilities like water, electricity and transport. Youth unemployment is also a major issue.

Another issue that is finding resonance is the proposed Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (RRPCL) project, which is touted as the world's largest single-location refinery complex in the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg seat.

While the BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP government is keen on ensuring



the project takes shape, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena has stood on the side of those opposing the project.

The region will see an intense

battle between the two Sena factions to woo their old voter bases. Amidst this, the BJP is trying to make inroads in the region. In the coming polls, former Union min-

ister Narayan Rane, who won the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Lok Sabha seat, is set to play a crucial role for the BJP with his son Nitesh, an MLA, attempting to retain his seat. Rane's other son Nitesh is also aspiring to contest.

Shiv Sena leader and Industries Minister Uday Samant and his elder brother Bhaiyya Samant will contest in Ratnagiri.

The other seats where the Sena feud will be visible are Thane City, which has Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Kopri-Pachpakhadi seat, and Worli where Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aadiya Thackeray is contesting.

While the ruling alliance will rely on its twin planks of Hindutva and development, besides a slew of schemes, the Opposition has already flagged alleged corruption, scams and irregularities. The Sena (UBT) would also target the BJP, accusing it of breaking the Shiv Sena and Shinde of stealing the Shiv Sena to garner sympathy.

# 7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## POWER PLAY

HARYANA CHIEF Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the man of the moment for the BJP following the party's stunning return to power in the recently concluded Assembly elections, has taken the charge of both home and finance portfolios, along with 10 other departments in the state. Saini's elevation to the CM's post months before the Assembly elections in Haryana had surprised many. His predecessor Manohar Lal Khattar, who too was a surprise CM choice of the BJP in 2014, had taken the charge of the Home Ministry, but the powerful finance portfolio was given to Captain Abhimanyu. In 2019, Khattar took charge of the finance ministry but the home portfolio went to Anil Vij. Party leaders say Saini's portfolios are an indication that he would be the real power centre in Haryana in the coming days.

## FAMILY GET-TOGETHER

THE NOMINATION of Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav's nephew and former MP Tej Pratap Singh Yadav for the Karhal bypoll became a high-profile event on Monday. Many of the party's top leaders and members of the Yadav family, including Akhilesh, Dimple Yadav, Ram Gopal Yadav, Shivpal Yadav and Dharmendra Yadav accompanied Tej Pratap to the collatorate where he submitted his nomination papers. Fearing that the other SP candidates in the fray may feel neglected, the party instructed several of its leaders to stop party workers from flocking to Karhal and ensure enough support for the candidates of the party when they file their nominations.

## REPORT AWAITED

MONTHS AFTER the Lok Sabha poll results were announced on June 4, the Election Commission is yet to release the statistical report of the exercise. The report, which usually covers detailed results up to the Assembly constituency-level, performance of national and state parties and number of candidates who lost their deposits, is being compiled and could be released soon, it is learnt. The reports from districts and state-level officials come to the EC and are verified before compiling the final report.

## Flight bomb threats: Minister says plan to tweak law for stringent action

SUKALP SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21



Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu

WITH NEARLY 100 flights hit by bomb hoaxes over the past week, the government is planning to take legislative action to make the punishment for such pranks harsher. Among the moves in the works are changes to the Aircraft Security Rules — which would allow culprits to be banned from flying — and amendments to the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation (SUASCA) Act, 1982, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said Monday.

The bomb threats, mostly from anonymous and unverified social media accounts, have sent the airlines, airports and security agencies into a tizzy, and have forced flight diversions and delays, and strict post-landing security checks and screenings in a number of cases.

"There has to be some kind of deterrent. That deterrent, we feel, through this legislative action we can bring through," Naidu told reporters. On being asked if the investigations into these bomb hoaxes point to any conspiracy, he said it would not be appropriate to comment until the investigations are over.

The first measure — changes to the Aircraft Security Rules — would enable inclusion of those behind hoax bomb threats to the no-fly list, which essentially would ban them from flying on Indian carriers' flights. Currently, the no-fly list is maintained only for unruly passengers, including anyone making a bomb threat on board. However, it does not cover those sending bomb threats from outside through calls, social media and emails among others.

According to Naidu, the SUASCA Act currently applies mostly to acts of violence or intent to cause violence while the aircraft is operating. The Civil Aviation Ministry wants the law's ambit to be expanded in order to deal with bomb threats

even when an aircraft is on ground and not operating a flight, and make it a cognizable offence under the Act.

Naidu said inter-ministerial consultations would be underway soon as his ministry wants the amendments to take effect at the earliest. Apart from a jail term, the offence is likely to attract a hefty fine, Naidu said, adding that the details would be subject to the inter-ministerial discussions.

Currently, such hoax bomb threats are dealt with in accordance with the country's criminal laws, as there are no legal provisions dealing specifically with bomb threats to aircraft. Although most bomb threats turn out to be fake, airlines as well as aviation authorities globally take them with utmost seriousness. The security checks, which often take a few hours, result in disruptions like delays and even rescheduling of the remainder of the flight in some cases, which hit the airlines financially.

The relevant government ministries, including the Civil Aviation Ministry and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) — and agencies have gone into a huddle in view of these recent bomb threats. Naidu said that his ministry, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, and the MHA and its agencies are working in close coordination to deal with the spate of threats.

According to Naidu, security has been enhanced at airports in view of the threats, with the number of security checks at various checkpoints being increased by 10 per cent. CCTV coverage has also been enhanced at airports, wherever the need was felt. This is being done to be doubly sure that no suspected articles are carried on board the aircraft. **FULL REPORT** [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## BRICS Summit begins in Kazan today, first since grouping's expansion in Jan

DIVYAA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

AS THE BRICS Summit begins in Kazan on Tuesday, all eyes are on a possible meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping there. This is the first summit that will be taking place after the first-ever expansion of BRICS in January this year.

While the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has not confirmed the meeting yet, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday said the Prime Minister is expected to have "a few bilaterals during his visit, which are presently being worked out". Modi and Xi had previously met briefly in South Africa in August 2023, on the sidelines of the last BRICS Summit.

Chinese Foreign Ministry

spokesman Lin Jian on Monday said, "We will keep you posted if anything comes up." China had last week announced Xi's attendance at the BRICS Summit, saying "he will work with other parties to open a new era for the Global South to seek strength through solidarity".

Besides Russian President Vladimir Putin, PM Modi and President Xi, participating heads of state include Turkey President Recep Erdogan and Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, among others. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will skip the summit in Kazan, owing to medical advice, but will join the conference via video link. The leaders are expected to discuss key global issues including the Ukraine war and West Asia crisis.

Briefing reporters ahead of PM Modi's two-day visit to Russia for the summit, Misri said, "The

leaders are also expected to adopt the Kazan Declaration which will lay the path forward for BRICS. This document is currently being negotiated in Kazan." While the summit ends on October 24, PM Modi will return on October 23 after the sessions owing to commitments back home.

There is also a Modi-Putin meeting on Tuesday, their second in recent months. Modi had visited Russia in July.

This is a major multilateral summit for the Russian President after two-and-a-half years of war with Ukraine, and he is projecting it as a power moment for the Kremlin despite Western sanctions. Misri asserted that India views BRICS as a key expression of global multipolarity. "India's role at the summit is as an important voice in a growing debate on multipolarity global governance reforms

(such as UN Security Council and IMF) and reform in trade architecture such as WTO," he said.

The alliance, which aims to counterbalance the Western-led world order, started to rapidly expand this year. On January 1 this year, BRICS admitted four new members: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Meanwhile, Türkiye, Azerbaijan and Malaysia have formally applied, and a number of others expressed a desire to be members.

Ahead of the summit, President Putin said that the BRICS group will generate most of the global economic growth in the coming years. He also called for BRICS nations to explore a SWIFT-like cross-border payments system immune to Western sanctions as well as use national digital currencies in financing investment projects to end US dollar dominance.

## At standstill with allies in Maharashtra, Cong may skip bypolls in UP

ASAD REHMAN  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

AS SEAT-SHARING negotiations hit a bumpy road with Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) partners in Maharashtra, the Congress may now stay away from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly bypolls as it does not want to contest the two seats that its INDIA bloc ally Samajwadi Party is offering, citing "unfavourable caste equations".

The Congress has alleged the SP unilaterally announced candidates for seven of the nine seats where bypolls will be held on November 13. Congress insiders claimed the party might refuse to contest Khair and Ghaziabad. "Why will we contest seats where the caste equations do not favour us? We know it will be an uphill task for any party to defeat BJP in these two seats. We would rather not contest," a Congress leader said.

The SP has accused the Congress of "overreaching" by demanding seats such as Meerapur and Phulpur and reminded its ally of its "overconfidence" in Haryana. "They did not leave a single seat for us in Haryana, where they had a chance of forming the government. SP is principal Opposition in UP and Congress will have to work accordingly," a senior SP leader said. **FULL REPORT** [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



PM Narendra Modi with Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

## Haryana election strengthened expression of stability, says PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi asserted on Monday that the Haryana poll result has reinforced people's message of stability that was visible in his government's return to power for the third straight term at the Centre, comments which came as he prepares to spearhead the BJP's campaign in the Maharashtra and Jharkhand assembly polls.

Speaking at the NDTV World Summit, Modi said his government in its third term is working at an unprecedented speed and scale and that India has become a source of hope for the world

plagued by numerous upheavals, including ongoing conflicts.

He said the world sees in India a friend in times of crisis as he cited the country's decision to send vaccines to scores of nations during the Covid pandemic. India's progress does not trigger envy but the world rejoices in its growth, he said.

"India does not believe in 'taken for granted' relations. Its relations are built on trust and reliability. When India moves forward there is no jealousy but world feels happy about it as its progress benefits the world," he said.

Noting that India is one of the youngest countries in the world, he said the young population's potential can take it to the

heights of the sky.

"The current times of 21st century are the most important in human history. There is a need for stability, sustainability and solutions. They are most important for a better future for humanity and India is striving for them," Modi said.

"For the first time in six decades, people have given mandate to a government for three consecutive terms. This is a message of stability. In the recent Haryana election also, people reinforced this expression of stability," he said.

The BJP recently secured a victory in 48 out of 90 seats in the Haryana polls, proving all exit polls wrong.

## Congress election panel discusses 63 seats in Maharashtra; MVA likely to seal deal today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, OCT 21

THE CONGRESS Central Election Committee (CEC) met at the AICC headquarters here on Monday and discussed candidates for the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

AICC in-charge of Maharashtra Ramesh Chennithala said the CEC discussed a total of 63 seats in Maharashtra.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, CPP leader Sonia Gandhi and LoP Rahul Gandhi,

Congress general secretary (in-charge, organisation) K C Venugopal, Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole and Chennithala, among others, attended the meeting.

Chennithala said the Maha Vikas Aghadi constituents will meet on Tuesday in Mumbai and a final seat-sharing deal for the Maharashtra Assembly polls would be sealed. A press conference of the allies is expected in Mumbai, where the details of the seat-sharing will be announced.

On Sunday, the deadlock over seat-sharing between Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT), two of the three MVA constituents, continued even as Sharad Pawar, leader of the third MVA party NCP (S-P), appeared to be playing mediator.

On Monday, both Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) claimed there were no major differences between them over the sharing of seats for Assembly elections. The two parties said the differences were limited to a handful of seats in

Vidarbha and would be ironed out in a day or two.

Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut expressed hope that the way the Sena UBT had shown "large-heartedness" by giving up its three seats — Kolhapur, Amravati, and Ramtek — to Congress during Lok Sabha polls, the latter would reciprocate the gesture in Vidarbha for the Assembly polls.

Discarding any possibility of the Congress snapping ties with Shiv Sena (UBT), Leader of the Opposition Vijay Wadettiwar on Monday termed the alliance as strong as "Fevicol".

## Day after naming 66 candidates, BJP faces a trail of resignations

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, OCTOBER 21

BARELY 48 hours after the BJP announced a list of 66 candidates for Jharkhand polls, more than a dozen party leaders, including MLAs, quit the party, some of them joining the rival JMM and others planning to contest as independents.

Those who resigned from the party include former BJP MLAs Kedar Hazara from Jamua, Louis Marandi from Dumka, Satyanand Jha Batul from Jamtara, Mistry Soren from Maheshpur; and party leaders Sandeep Verma and Ganesh Mahli.

Party workers alleged that

the leadership is catering to the whims and fancies of 'power centres' in the state, citing some of the candidates, including Puruma Das Sahu (daughter-in-law of Odisha Governor Raghubar Das) from Jamshepur East; Meera Munda (wife of former Union minister Arjun Munda) from Potka; Babulal Soren (son of former Jharkhand CM Champai Soren) from Ghatshila; and Satrugan Mahato (brother of BJP MP Dhullu Mahato) from Baghmara.

BJP is set to contest 66 Assembly seats, while 10 seats have gone to ally JSU Party, two to JDU and one to IJP. "My protest against the party's decision is symbolic of the pain of those workers who had expectations from their top leadership in return for their hard work. I am just the voice of those victims," BJP member Sandeep Verma wrote on X.

When pointed out that Ranchi candidate CP Singh, 68, has been an MLA six times in a row, Verma said: "In the last election he won by 5,000 votes only, the lowest ever, so naturally there is an anti-incumbency against him."

A BJP source in defence of the ticket allotment said 'winnability' was the criteria.

## CPM, Cong raise the BJP bogey as Palakkad bypoll triggers upheavals

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 21

EVEN AS the high-profile Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, vacated by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, is set for bypolls, the Palakkad Assembly seat continues to hog the limelight, with the Congress and CPI(M) accusing each other of "striking a deal" with BJP.

Facing Opposition onslaught over the Thiruvananthapuram festival row, that was followed by the BJP winning its first ever Lok Sabha seat in Kerala, the CPI(M) has now claimed that shifting sitting Congress MLA Shafi Parambil,

## GOVT-AIDED MADRASAS SC stays NCPCR move to close madrasas over RTE violations

Halts consequent directions by Centre, UP, Tripura: 'Shall not be acted upon'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday stayed the operation of the communications issued by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) recommending the closure of government-aided madrasas not compliant with the Right to Education (RTE) Act. It also ordered that the consequent directions by the Centre, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura, too, "shall not be acted upon".

The interim order was passed by a three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud hearing a plea by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, which contended that the NCPCR recommendations — issued on June 7 and June 25 this year — affected the rights of religious minorities under Article 30. Article 30 of the Constitution guarantees minorities the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

The Jamiat told the court that "not only does the pervasive State action violate the fundamental rights of the minorities running such madrasas, there is absolutely no authority in law to conduct such a blanket exercise as well, neither with the State nor the Union and certainly not with the NCPCR."

"The present hounding of the madrasas by NCPCR, sourcing its authority from the RTE Act, and supported by the Union Ministry of Education, absolutely disregards the constitutional protections as upheld by this Hon'ble Court and seeks to arbitrarily interfere with the administration of madrasas in the country," it said.

Section 1(5) of the RTE Act reads: "Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to Madrasas, Vedic Pathshalas and educational institutions primarily imparting religious instruction."

In its June 7, 2024 letter, the NCPCR had asked the UP government to conduct a detailed in-

'U.P. MADRASA ACT CLASHES WITH UGC'

New Delhi: The SC Monday said that the provisions of the UP Board of Madarsa Education Act, in so far as they authorise the Board to confer degrees, may be in conflict with the UGC Act.

A three-judge bench presided by CJI D Y Chandrachud was hearing an appeal against an Allahabad HC judgment holding the 2004 Act unconstitutional. The hearing will continue Tuesday. **ENS**

vestigation of all government-aided/recognised madrasas in the state which admit non-muslim children so that such children can be admitted to schools for formal education.

The panel's June 25 letter asked the Secretary, Department of Education & Literacy, Union Ministry of Education, to direct all states and UTs to conduct inspections of the existing madrasas and to withdraw recognition of those not complying with the RTE Act.

Subsequently, on June 26, the UP Chief Secretary asked district magistrates to follow the directions in the June 7 NCPCR letter. The Tripura government issued similar instructions on August 28.

Following the NCPCR communications, the Centre, too, wrote to states and UTs on July 10, 2024, asking them to take suitable follow-up action.

The bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, allowed the request of Jamiat's counsel, Senior Advocate Indira Jaising, to implement all the states and UTs as respondents in the petition.

In UP alone, there are 16,513 recognised madrasas catering to around 27 lakh students. Of these, 558 are fully funded by the state and the rest are government-aided private madrasas.

## Secularism core feature of Constitution, says SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday underlined that secularism is a "core feature" of the Constitution which has been held to be a part of the basic structure.

The remarks came as the bench, also comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar, was hearing petitions by former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy, Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay and Balram Singh challenging the inclusion of the words secularism and socialism in the Constitution Preamble by way of the 42nd Amendment in 1976.

Justice Khanna said that "as far

as secularism is concerned, when the Constitution was adopted and discussion was going on, we only had the French model. The way we have evolved, it is something different. The rights we have given...we have balanced it out".

Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain appearing for petitioner Balram Singh said his contention is not that India is not secular, but was only challenging the Amendment. He referred to B R Ambedkar's words that the inclusion of the word "socialism" would curtail personal liberty.

Justice Khanna said both words have different interpretations today and courts have declared them as part of basic structure of the Constitution.



Assembly bypoll on Nov 13 as Cong's Shafi Parambil won LS seat

whose Lok Sabha victory necessitated the November 13 Palakkad bypoll, to Vadakara was part of the Congress' "deal with the BJP".

"Sitting Vadakara MP K Muraleedharan was shifted to Thiruvananthapuram as part of the deal with the BJP, which then emerged as the runner-up in 2021. Now, the Congress wants to ensure a BJP victory there," CPI(M) state secretary M V

Govindan has said.

The CPI(M) has also latched on to the statement by Congress rebel P Sarin, who also said last week that Congress and BJP had struck a deal for the Vadakara Lok Sabha seat and now the Palakkad bypoll. Sarin knew "inner secrets of the Congress", the CPI(M) has said.

Lashing out, Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly V D Satheesan has, in turn, questioned the Left's decision to back Sarin as an Independent candidate from Palakkad, after he rebelled against the Congress over denial of the bypoll ticket to him. **FULL REPORT** [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

Junior doctors call off hunger strike, but say their movement will continue

ATRI MITRA KOLKATA, OCTOBER 21

THE JUNIOR doctors agitating over the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case on Monday called off their hunger strike (fast unto death) after holding a two-hour meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the state secretariat Nabanna.

Also, it was announced to withdraw the proposed complete strike by all doctors, including the senior medical practitioners, scheduled on Tuesday. The protesting doctors, however, maintained after their general body meeting that their "movement" over the issue will continue. "We will not flee from the battleground. We will continue our fight for justice as well as safety at medical colleges and hospitals," Asfaquilla Naiya, a representative of junior doctors, said.

U.S. EXTRADITED 11 FUGITIVES TO INDIA BETWEEN 2002 AND 2018

Nearly 60 pending pleas; Headley, Anderson among rejected requests

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

A KEY accused in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, Tahawwur Hussain Rana, is likely to be extradited to India by the end of this year. Rana's extradition, said to be in the last stages, is taking place on the basis of the India-US Extradition Treaty signed in 1997 between the two countries.

According to data provided by the Ministry of External Affairs to Parliament, the treaty has facilitated extradition of just 11 Indian fugitives from the US between 2002 and 2018. Sources said close to 60 requests of extradition are still pending with the US government.

Of the 11 fugitives that the US extradited to India between 2002 and 2018, two were facing charges of terrorism, one of sexual abuse of children, one of attempt to murder, while the rest were booked for financial fraud and cheating.

In the past, the US has also rejected many requests from India, including the extradition of Rana's associate and 26/11 attacks accused David Coleman Headley. The Lashkar-e-Taiba operative who conducted reconnaissance for the attacks in Mumbai had been arrested by US authorities in October 2009. He was tried and sentenced by a US court for the killing of six Americans in the Mumbai attacks after he pleaded guilty to the charges.

India's request to extradite Headley was rejected on the ground that it would lead to double jeopardy (being punished for the same crime twice).

The US had, similarly, rejected India's request to extradite 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy accused Warren Anderson, the then CEO of Union Carbide. Anderson had visited Bhopal after the tragedy and was arrested by police. However, he was soon granted bail and allowed to leave the country. Almost 20 years later, in May 2003, India sent an extra-

dition request against Anderson to the US, which declined it on the ground that India did not have enough evidence.

Under the India-US extradition treaty, the offence is extraditable if it is punishable by imprisonment for more than one year under the laws of both the countries. This applies whether or not the laws in the two countries place the offence within the same category of offences or describe the offence by the same terminology.

The treaty bars extradition for a political offence. It gives a list of offences that would not be construed as political offences, including murder or other willful crime against a Head of State or Head of Government or a member of their family; aircraft hijacking offences; aviation sabotage; crimes against internationally protected persons including diplomats; hostage taking; offences related to illegal drugs; or any other offences for which both countries have the obligation to extradite the person pursuant to a multilateral international agreement.

J&K TERROR ATTACK AT TUNNEL CAMP SITE

Among dead, doctor back from daughter's wedding, employee awaiting Diwali break

BASHAARAT MASOOD, ARUN SHARMA, SANTOSH SINGH & KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR OCTOBER 21

A WEEK ago, Dr Shah Nawaz Ahmad Dar was home for his daughter's wedding. As he was returning back to work at the tunnel construction site in the Gagangul area of J&K's Ganderbal district, he promised his family that he would return on Tuesday for a key post-wedding ritual.

On Sunday, Shah Nawaz was among seven employees of the construction company to be killed in a terror attack on a camp that housed workers of the firm.

He was laid to rest at his native village of Naidgam in Budgam district Monday, with a big crowd gathering to pay their respects to the popular doctor.

Shah Nawaz worked as a contractual doctor in J&K's Health Department before leaving the job five years ago and joining APCO Infratech as a medical officer tending to its employees at the construction site.

Last week was his daughter's wedding, after which he returned to work, promising his family he would be back Tuesday



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha meets a victim's family Monday. PTT

when the bride comes to her parents' home for the first time since the wedding — a key part of Kashmiri wedding rituals.

Shah Nawaz was in his 50s and a father of three. Son Mohsin said: "He wanted me to also become a doctor... But I wanted to become a civil servant. All our dreams are shattered now."

Another victim of the terror attack was Shashi Abrol, 45. He had called his wife, Ruchi, just 45 minutes before he was killed. She told him she would call him back after sighting the Moon to break her Karva Chauth fast. But before she could call back, he was shot dead.

Mohammed Kalim and Mohammed Haneef, both from Bihar's Madhepura, were also among those killed. Both moved to Kashmir seven months ago to work as painters. According to their families, both were settling in well in Kashmir and had been sending money home.

"We were always apprehensive about my husband going to a disturbed place. But he was assured of good earnings there. As there was hardly any work in Bihar, he decided to go to Kashmir," said Haneef's wife, Shabnam. Haneef, from Laho village, had even booked tickets to be back home ahead of his daughter's wedding next year.

Kalim was from Hanuman Nagar Chaura village.

Another man who lost his life in the attack was Gurmeet Singh from Punjab. From Sakholva village in Gurdaspur district, the 38-year-old construction worker is survived by his parents, wife, daughter, and son. His father, Dharam Singh, has served as a soldier in the Army.

"He was speaking to his wife over a mobile phone when this incident took place... He told his wife that he had been hit by a bullet," said Dharam Singh was quoted by PTT as saying.

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड निम्नलिखित ई-निविदाएं अधिकृत एवं अनुभव की कार्यदायी संस्थाओं/फर्मों से, जो जी.एस.टी. में पंजीकृत हों, ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। विस्तृत विवरण प्रतिष्ठित समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन के उपरान्त ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in एवं विभाग की वेबसाइट www.upptcl.org पर उपलब्ध रहेगा। 01 ई-निविदा संख्या टी-54/वि.पा.म. (आ.)/2024-25 विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड फिरोजाबाद के अन्तर्गत 20 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र दुग्दला पर क्षमतावृद्धि हेतु 40 एम.वी.ए. परिवर्तक की स्थापना एवं 132 के.वी. एवं 33 के.वी. "बे" का निर्माण कार्य। 02 ई-निविदा संख्या टी-55/ वि.पा.म. (आ.) / 2024-25 विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड फिरोजाबाद के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र नसरोपुर पर क्षमतावृद्धि हेतु 40 एम.वी.ए. परिवर्तक की स्थापना एवं "बे" का निर्माण कार्य। "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये" अधीक्षण अभियान, विद्युत परीक्षण मजदूर, आगरा पत्रांक : 3579 विपाम (आ.)/ ई निविदा संख्या-टी-54 एवं टी-55/24-25 दिनांक 21/10/2024

Karnataka HC denies bail to Prajwal in rape, sexual harassment cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, OCTOBER 21

THE KARNATAKA High Court on Monday dismissed one bail plea and two anticipatory bail pleas filed by former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, 33, who is in jail in connection with two rape cases and one case of sexual harassment filed against him.

"Prima facie, the alleged acts of the petitioner depict wanton lust, depravity of senses and has a chilling effect down the spine of the society," the HC observed while rejecting an anticipatory bail plea by Prajwal in a case filed by a former domestic help at his home.

"It is made clear that the observations made in the course of order are only for the purpose of consideration of the case of the petitioner for grant of anticipatory bail and the same will not bind or influence any other pending proceeding," the HC stated.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT),

which is probing the cases against Prajwal, filed a chargesheet against him on September 9, accusing him of raping the domestic worker at his farm while "being in a position of control or dominance" over the woman. The middle-aged victim was rescued on May 5 from a farmhouse near Mysuru where she was allegedly kept in confinement by the ex-MP's family after being identified in videos of sexual assaults allegedly recorded by Prajwal on his mobile phone.

While rejecting the three pleas by the former Hassan MP, the High Court bench headed by Justice M Nagarasanna took into account some of the evidence placed before it by the SIT, including analysis of video footage of the crime which was allegedly recorded by the accused.

"...What did the petitioner speak is as quoted hereinabove. The audio transcript is also analysed by FSL which confirms the voice of the petitioner. This would clearly indicate prima facie commission of the offence by the petitioner," the HC noted.

Fight against infiltration, terror will continue: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Monday said the fight against terrorism, infiltration and conspiracy to create religious tension will continue although there has been relative peace in Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast and Maoist-affected areas.

"Emerging threats like narcotics trade, cybercrime, attempts to spread unrest through Artificial Intelligence, conspiracies to incite religious sentiments, infiltration, smuggling of illegal weapons and



terrorism are the challenges we are facing today, but no matter how big the threats and challenges are, they cannot stand in the face of the unwavering resolve of our soldiers," Shah said on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day. He said the police forces safeguard the borders from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Kutch to Kibithu, India's first village.

Kashmir will not become Pakistan, says Farooq

NAVEED IQBAL SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 21

CONDEMNING THE attack that killed seven employees of a construction company in J&K's Ganderbal district, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said "Kashmir will not become Pakistan".

Abdullah said: "Poor labourers who work hard to earn a living, and one of our doctors, have lost their lives in this attack. What will these terrorists achieve by doing this? Do they think they can create Pakistan

here through this?" All Parties Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also condemned the attack. "Islam, like all religions, deplores such inhuman behaviour," he said Monday. He described the loss of life "in this manner" as extremely painful, and emphasised that this is "another grim reminder of the unending cycle of violence and uncertainty we are suffering for decades. Pray to Allah for the speedy recovery of the injured and grant sabr (patience) to the families of those killed."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Akram S/o Irfan R/o Jhuggi No. 366-367, C.D. Park, Jahangir Puri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case FIR No. 534/16 u/s 380/457/34 IPC at P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Akram cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Akram has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said Akram accused of FIR No. 534/16 u/s 380/457/34 IPC at P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on 03.12.2024. By Order: Ms. Niharika Kumar Sharma, Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (North), Room No. 117, Rohini Courts, Delhi DP/14066/NW/2024

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice Tender No : 50/SE/PHC/ TSR/2024-25 Jal Jeevan Mission-Augmentation of CWSS to Nattika Firka-PHASE-II-Providing Distribution Network and FHTC to Vadannappally Panchayath. EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/, Tender fee : Rs. 17,700/-, Last Date for submitting Tender : 08-11-2024 03:00pm, Phone : 0487 - 2423230, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in Superintending Engineer PH Circle Thrissur KWA-JB-GL-6-737-2024-25

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING) NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERING Tender reference No. 3/2024-25/BLB Name of concerned office : Sr Xen. O&M Division, BBMB, Ballabgarh, Faridabad (Haryana)-121004. Name of work : Replacement of roof of 2 no.s AE residences and other allied works at 220 KV Substation, BBMB, Ballabgarh. Estimated cost 10.73 Lacs Tender fee 2000/- + GST @18% Earnest Money ₹10730/- Last date of receipt of tender 20.11.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs. Date of opening a tender 22.11.2024 from 11:00 Hrs. onwards The detailed tender may be downloaded from website : www.bbmb.gov.in or www.etenders.gov.in. 1568-PR TS-4 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2024-25-17. The details are as under: 1. Name of work 'Supply & Maintenance of indoor well developed ornamental pooled, height 3 to 5 feet on hire basis for a period of 24 months at Electric Loco Shed Ghaziabad. 2. Approx. cost of work Rs. 14,26,824.00 3. Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 28,500.00 4. Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender 16.11.2024 (11:00 Hrs.) 5. Date & Time of opening of tender document 16.11.2024 (After 11:00 Hrs.) 6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen www.ireps.gov.in Note : (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of Tender document and Earnest Money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 230-TRS-GZB-2024-25-17, Dated: 18.10.2024 3256/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GUJARAT MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of Gujarat Undertaking) Regd. Office: Block No. 14/1, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector-10, Gandhinagar 079-23250767, 23250766, 23257698 TENDER NOTICE NO:GMSCL/ D-11/2024-25 Tenders are invited online from reputed Manufacturers/formulators/ Direct importers for Emergency Purchase of Injection Items on Rate contract basis and details of specification, quantity is available on, https://gmscl.gujarat.gov.in All tender documents can be downloaded free on the website: https://tender.nprocure.com Interested bidders are requested to submit the tender through e-tender process. Duration of downloading of tender document (online):- 19/10/2024 to 28/10/2024 up to 18.00 Hrs Last date for Submission (online): 28/10/2024 up to 18-00 HRS Last date for submission of EMD/Tender Fee (Physical) : 29/10/2024 upto 13:00 HRS Opening of Technical Bid Date (online): 29/10/2024 At 15-00 HRS. INF-1372-2024-25 MANAGING DIRECTOR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Rakesh Billa S/o Bhagwan Dass Billa R/o H. No. 63A, B3, B-Block, Janakpuri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 263/2017 u/s 420/468/471 IPC at P.S. Janakpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Rakesh Billa cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Rakesh Billa has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said Rakesh Billa accused of FIR No. 263/2017 u/s 420/468/471 IPC at P.S. Janakpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on 03.12.2024. By Order: Sh. Harjot Singh Aujla, Judicial Magistrate First Class-11, (South-West), Room No. 05, Dwarka Courts, Delhi DP/13936/WD/2024

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION BAYS NO.67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA-134151 (www.hssc.gov.in)

CORRIGENDUM Updated department allocation for Category-380 Clerk (Head Office/ Field Office), Clerk cum typist, Counter-Clerk (Coupn Clerk Store Keeper & Cashier) Vide Announcement dated 19.10.2024, updated result for Group C posts notified vide Advt. No. 4/2024, Advt. No. 6/2024, Advt. No. 9/2024, Advt. No. 11/2024 was published. Accordingly, the list of candidates whose allocated department and post for Category-380 - Clerk (Head Office/Field Office), Clerk cum typist, Counter-Clerk (Coupn Clerk Store Keeper & Cashier) has been updated is published on official website of the Commission in the ascending order of Roll No's. Therefore, the candidates advised to check the complete result on the official website of the Commission i.e. www.hssc.gov.in Sd/- Deputy Secretary Haryana Staff Selection Commission, No. 29694/HRY Dated: 19.10.2024

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001 Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in/Contact No. 96461-22185 Tender Enquiry No. 339/SS-II(D) Dated: 18.10.24 Dy.CE/Substation Design/ TS Organization, C-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 1000 nos. SCADA- Compatible 11kV Vacuum Circuit Breakers (11kV VCBs). For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 18.10.24 onwards. Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in No. - 38463/PB C-795/24

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WELFARE HOUSING ORGANISATION (An autonomous body of GOI under the aegis of M/o Housing & Urban Affairs) 9th Floor, 'B' Wing, Janpath Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001. Ph-23717249/23355408; E-mail: cgewho@nic.in, Website: www.cgewho.in

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) Pre-qualification of Civil and MEP Works Agency for Residential Project

Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation (CGEWHO) has been engaged as 'Project Manager' by Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) for construction of 152 Dwelling Units for the proposed Group Housing Project at Plot No.28, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP.

CGEWHO, on behalf of HUDCO, invites online offers in two bid systems from eligible, reputed and experienced Civil Work Agencies (meeting Pre-qualification Criteria) through CGEWHO's e-Procurement Portal (www.tenderwizard.com/CGEWHO) to indicate their Expression of Interest for Building Works Contract.

Detailed scope of work, technical drawings, preambles and other bid solicitation documents will be made available only to the pre-qualified agencies on the basis of technical and financial competencies.

Application Form along with details minimum prequalification criteria, for this EOI can be downloaded from www.tenderwizard.com/CGEWHO or www.cgewho.in or www.eprocure.gov.in from 20.10.2024 onwards. Last date for submission of EOI is within the 30 days of release of advertisement. A non-refundable fee of Rs 10000/- + GST @ 18% towards cost of EOI documents through Demand Draft in favour of CEO, CGEWHO payable at New Delhi should be submitted physically to H.O. as mentioned in the prequalification documents. No off line submission of tender will be accepted and summarily rejected.

Any proposal received not conforming to EOI guidelines will be considered as technically non-compliant and is liable to be rejected. The procedure for selection of agency will be made available with the Application Forms.

CGEWHO reserves its right to pre-qualify or disqualify any or all applications, without assigning any reason thereof. No correspondence in this regard shall be entertained.

Chief Executive Officer CGEWHO CBC-20105/12/0005/2425

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Mahender @ Ganja @ Topi S/o Satpal R/o D-1/128, Sultanpuri, Delhi also at: Village Anupshahr Mohalla, Dist. Darwaza, New Bulandshahr, U.P. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case E-FIR No. 012341/2018, PS Ghazipur, East Distt., Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Mahender @ Ganja @ Topi can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Mahender @ Ganja @ Topi has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Mahender @ Ganja @ Topi of case E-FIR No. 012341/2018, PS Ghazipur, East Distt., Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 22.11.2024 at 10:00 AM. By Order Ms. Himanshi Gyagi Metropolitan Magistrate (East Distt.), Room No. 16 Karkardooma Courts, Delhi DP/13932/ED/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(s) Imran S/o Ikrar R/o H-3/1738, Jahangirpuri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No./CC No. 235/2014, U/s 147/148/149 IPC, PS Mahinder Park, Distt. North-West, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Imran can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Imran has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Imran of FIR No./CC No. 235/2014, U/s 147/148/149 IPC, PS Mahinder Park, Distt. North-West, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 25.11.2024 at 10:00 AM. By Order Ms. Niharika Kumar Sharma Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate Room No. 117, 1st Floor Rohini Courts, Delhi DP/13804/WD/2024 (Court Matter)

**BRIEFLY**

**JHARKHAND**  
ECI reinstates Ajay Kumar Singh as DGP

Ranchi: The ECI Monday reinstated senior most IPS officer Ajay Kumar Singh of 1989 batch as the Director General of Police (DGP) in the poll-bound Jharkhand, three days after the panel removed Anurag Gupta as the acting DGP. The EC had directed the state to remove Gupta from the post due to his history of election-related "misconduct in previous elections". **ENS**

**NEW DELHI**  
Climate activist Wangchuk breaks fast

New Delhi: After a 16 days, Sonam Wangchuk and accompanying activists ended their hunger strike on Monday at Ladakh Bhawan. The fast, undertaken to push for Ladakh's inclusion under the Sixth Schedule, ended after the Home Ministry scheduled a high-level meeting to address their key demands. **ENS**

**MAHARASHTRA**  
Disruption at Yogendra Yadav's rally

Pune: On Monday a public rally organised by Bharat Jodo Abhiyan and Maharashtra Democratic Forum was disrupted with speakers Yogendra Yadav and Ulka Mahajan being escorted out to safety by the Akola police. Yogendra Yadav was scheduled to address a rally in Akola on Monday as part of his three days Vidharbha tour. **ENS**

**'Stockpile of evidence': Police urge SC to refuse Siddique pre-arrest bail**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

URGING IT not to give precedence to his liberty over "the threat of disrupted investigation", the Kerala Police has asked the Supreme Court to cancel the anticipatory bail plea of rape-accused Malayalam actor Siddique. It said there was "a stockpile of evidence" against the veteran actor and his custodial interrogation was necessary.

The SC granted Siddique interim protection from arrest on September 29. He moved the top court after the Kerala HC rejected his plea for anticipatory bail on September 23. The veteran actor has twice appeared before an SIT formed after several women actors raised sexual assault complaints following the release of the Justice Hema Commission report.

In its report filed in the top court, the Kerala Police contended that Siddique, booked for allegedly raping an actress, was an "extremely influential person" and could "obstruct the course of justice and scuttle the investigative machinery". It expressed apprehension that the

"witnesses who have boldly come forward after the Justice Hema Commission report will step back" if his interim protection was indefinitely prolonged.

"Even though the investigation (is) at the initial stage, there is a stockpile of evidence against him. Considering the influence and clout of the accused, some of the evidence will be tampered with and witnesses will be threatened," the police report said. In the report, filed in SC on October 19, the police said Siddique did not cooperate with them and gave "evasive, contradictory and tutored" answers, "citing forgetfulness, knowing fully well that he is under the interim protection of the Supreme Court".

Stressing the need for his custodial interrogation, it said the probe so far had revealed his "ill intent" as he had attempted to destroy his mobile phones.

Urging the top court to dismiss his plea "as the brutality of the accused crossed all limits", the police said: "It is essential to expose his lie of righteousness before he goes down in history as a hero and gets venerated by subsequent generations as worthy of emulation."



**FOURTH EXPRESSO EVENT IN MUMBAI**

(From left) Vandita Mishra, National Opinion Editor, *The Indian Express*; actors Kriti Sanon and Kajol; Shubhra Gupta, Film Critic, *The Indian Express*, at the fourth edition of Expresso event in Mumbai on Monday. *Pradip Das*

**Jaipur woman kills self as husband arrives late on Karva Chauth, he dies by suicide**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 21

A WOMAN died by suicide following which her husband hanged himself to death in shock after the couple had an argument over him coming home late on

the night for Karva Chauth in Jaipur, police said Monday.

The incident took place on Sunday. Ghanshyam Bunkar (38) came home late leading to a verbal spat with his wife Monika (35), police said. Monika left home in anger around 12.30 am with Ghanshyam following her.

Following this, Monika jumped in front of a moving train and died. The husband returned home and hanged himself while their two children were sleeping.

Before killing himself, Ghanshyam sent a message to his brother on WhatsApp informing him about his wife's suicide.

**'100% evacuation', says Odisha govt as cyclone Dana nears**

**SUJIT BISOYI**  
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 21

WITH CYCLONIC storm 'Dana' expected to reach the Odisha-West Bengal coast, between Puri and Sagar Island, on the intervening night of October 24 and 25, the Odisha government Monday said it would focus on "100 per cent evacuations" from areas likely to be affected.

The storm is likely to bring wind speeds of 100-120 kmph. The IMD on Monday predicted the cyclonic storm as 'severe'.

The government has urged tourists and pilgrims from other states to leave Puri by Wednesday morning. Odisha Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari urged people not to visit Puri on October 24 and 25, considering the IMD forecast. President Droupadi Murmu's visit to Odisha, scheduled between October 23 and 25, has also been postponed.

Even though IMD is yet to forecast the exact location where the cyclone will make landfall, multiple models suggest it could be in northern Odisha.

The storm is expected to trigger heavy to very heavy rainfall in coastal and northern parts of the state. Heavy to very heavy rainfall (7-20 cm), with isolated extremely heavy rainfall (>20 cm), is also likely in the districts of Mayurbhanj, Cuttack, Jajpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, and Jagatsinghpur, IMD sources said, warning that this could cause flash floods.

Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi Monday chaired a review meeting to take stock of the preparedness by the state administration and by coastal districts.

"The government is fully prepared to face the situation. I appeal to the people not to panic. Our aim is to ensure zero casualties... All vulnerable areas will be identified and we will ensure 100 per cent evacuation from there," Majhi said after the meeting.

Union Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan chaired a meeting of National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to review preparedness for the cyclone in the Bay of Bengal, which was attended by chief secretaries of Odisha and West Bengal.

**Probe justifies 2021 Assam eviction drive, but says police should have 'exercised restraint'**

**SUKRITA BARUAH**  
GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 21

THREE YEARS after an eviction drive in Assam's Darrang district turned violent, left two people dead and many wounded, an inquiry commission has found that while the eviction was justified, it was done at a short notice. The report also says that the police should have exercised restraint.

According to sources, the commission headed by retired Gauhati High Court judge BD

Agarwal submitted its report to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Monday.

The commission was set up through a government notification on October 1, 2021 - days after an eviction drive to free up government land for the Assam government's Gorukhuti agriculture project in Dholpur led to clashes between police and protestors. While policemen were among those wounded in the clashes on September 23, 2021, a 12-year-old was among the civilians killed.

Hours after the incident, the Assam CM announced an inquiry into the deaths. The findings have yet to be made public.

However, the report found that the government had "every right to conduct evictions" in the area, a source said. The report also makes 16 key recommendations.

"It lays out that no one has the right to occupy public land, be it forest land, grazing land or tribal land since it is public property, everyone has equal right to it and occupying it denies others of their right to it... it also points

to the criminality of the act of land grabbing," said the source.

The eviction drive saw approximately 1,300 families, most of them Bengali Muslim, evicted from around 10,000 bighas of the land. Soon afterwards, work on the multi-crore Gorukhuti agriculture project began.

According to the Assam government's data, 10,620 families have been evicted from government land since 2016, of which 5,854 had been evicted since May 20, 2022. Four people had been killed in these evictions.

**THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)**  
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

**NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR MOVABLE ITEMS**

Pursuant to attachment of movable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the movables attached through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'. The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

**Short Description of the Movable items**

Sl. No.	Description of Vehicle	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	Variant: Fortuner 3.0 OL 4 WD MT Manufacturer: Toyota Kirloskar Ltd. Vehicle No: KA 22 P 6378 Year Of Mfg: 2010	2,99,250/-	15,000/-	2,000/-
2.	Variant: Aviator Manufacturer: Honda Motorcycle Ltd. Vehicle No: KA 22 EJ 9730 Year Of Mfg: 2012	8,550/-	500/-	50/-
3.	Variant: Pleasure Manufacturer: Hero Limited Vehicle No: KA 22 ED 9459 Year Of Mfg: 2010	8,550/-	500/-	50/-
4.	Variant: Pleasure Manufacturer: Hero Limited Vehicle No: KA 22 ER 0148 Year Of Mfg: 2014	10,700/-	600/-	100/-
5.	Variant: Pleasure Manufacturer: Hero Limited Vehicle No: KA 22 EG 2759 Year Of Mfg: 2011	7,700/-	500/-	50/-
6.	Variant: Aviator Manufacturer: Honda Motorcycle Ltd. Vehicle No: KA 22 EJ 8534 Year Of Mfg: 2012	6,850/-	500/-	50/-
7.	Variant: Mahindra Rodeo Manufacturer: Mahindra & Mahindra Vehicle No: KA 22 ED 3175 Year Of Mfg: 2010	6,450/-	500/-	50/-
8.	Variant: Aviator Manufacturer: Honda Motorcycle Ltd. Vehicle No: KA 22 EF 9343 Year Of Mfg: 2011	10,300/-	600/-	100/-
9.	Datsun- Go Car- with petrol as fuel, silver grey Colour with Registration No. MH-09-DA-4853 with Engine No. 742963A and Chassis No. MDHZBAAOE3003871, Model 2014	1,38,600/-	7000/-	700/-

**Computers and Peripherals**

10.	Block Colour Cannon Printer-2	15,400/-	800/-	100/-
	ORTIS CPU- Black Colour -4			
	LG CPU-Black Colour -1			
	INTEX CPU- Black Colour -1			
	AOC Monitor- Black Colour -4			
	BENQ Monitor - Black Colour			
Micro Spike Connector Black Colour-1				
Computer/Printer Cable Wires Black Colour-13				

Date of Pre bid Meeting & time : 16th of November 2024, 3 pm to 4 pm.  
Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01  
Date of Inspection & Time: 19th of November 2024, 11 am to 2 pm.  
Place of Inspection: SI. No. 1 to 8- Women's Police Station near Police Quarters, Belagavi Taluk & District, SI. No. 9 & 10 = Rayabaugh Police Station, Belagavi District.  
Last date of Submission of Bid Documents & EMD Submission: 21st of November 2024, till 5pm.  
Date & time of E-Auction: 22nd of November 2024, 11 am to 1 pm.  
For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: [splocaeauction@gmail.com](mailto:splocaeauction@gmail.com) or Contact Mob. No 6364403715.

Place: Bengaluru  
Date: 19-10-2024  
Sd/-  
The Special Officer & Competent Authority (Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam)  
Bengaluru.  
DIPR/CP/2656/Zen/2024-25

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
L.	THE PANPAT CO-OP SUGAR MILLS LIMITED	PURCHASE OF ANTHRACITE + 24 OTHERS	18.10.2024 26.10.2024	468 LACS	<a href="https://tenders.hry.nic.in">https://tenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9416281313 panipatsugarmills@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in) or [www.tenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.tenders.hry.nic.in) No. 29671/HRV

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WELFARE HOUSING ORGANISATION**  
(Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) 9th Floor, 'B' Wing, Janpath Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi- 110 001

**RECRUITMENT**

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates having experience in housing/real estate sector for the following posts purely on contractual basis. The last date for receipt of application is 22.11.2024.

Sl No	Name of the Post	No of Post	Place of posting	Total Salary **	Qualification & Experience	Age limit
1	General Manager *	01	Greater Noida	Rs.1,31,000/-p.m.	B.E./B.Tech (Civil) with 22 years	55
2	Project Engineer (Civil)	01	Visakhapatnam	Rs.76000/- p.m.	B.E./B.Tech (Civil) with 05 years	35
3	Technical Supervisor (Civil)	01	Visakhapatnam	Rs.40,000/- p.m.	Diploma (Civil) with 02 years	30
4	Technical Supervisor (Electrical)	02	Visakhapatnam - 1 SAS Nagar Mohali - 1	Rs.40,000/- p.m.	Diploma (Electrical) with 02 years	30

\* GM (Projects) shall be entitled for official car for official work.  
\*\* Employer contribution towards Provident Fund will be deposited by CGEWHO on basic pay.  
For Application Format and further details, please visit CGEWHO website: [www.cgewho.in](http://www.cgewho.in).

Chief Executive Officer  
CGEWHO  
CBC-20105/12/0004/2425

**पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank**  
"SASTRA DIVISION" Line Bazar, 2nd Floor, Opposite Sadar Hospital, Purnea-854301  
Email: [cs8261@pnb.co.in](mailto:cs8261@pnb.co.in), Mob: 9304758933

**POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrowers to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s) / date of receipt of the said notice(s).

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred to him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against account. The borrowers/ guarantor/ mortgagor/legal heirs in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section 8 of section 13 of the act, in the respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name of the Branch Name & Address of the Borrower/ Guarantors	Location & details of the property	Date of Notice u/s 13(2)	Date of Notice u/s 13(4) Physical Possession
1.	M/s. Puja Rice Mill, Prop. Smt. Pramila Devi W/o Sri Karan Lal Ganesh, Add - Ward No.-10, Thana -Bahadurganj, Block-Tulsia, Dist-Kishanganj, Kishanganj, Bihar- 855101 Bo: Kishanganj (069610)	Equitable mortgage land and building standing in the Name of Smt. Pramila Devi W/o Sri Karan Lal Ganesh, Property is situated at- Mauza - Tulsia, Village - Kudhelli, P.O- Tulsia, P.S- Bahadurganj, Anchal- Dighal Bank, Near Rice Mill, Distt. -Kishanganj, Thana No. 116, Taunz No. 1230, Khata No. 588, Plot No. 3637 (P) & 3647 (P), Land Area - 30 Deci.e. 13066.8 Sft, Deed No. 6851 dt. 25.08.2010. Boundary of Plot No. 3637 :- North: Road, South: Jadulal Sah, East: Shashikala Devi, West: Karan Lal Ganesh. Boundary of Plot No. 3647 :- North: Road, South: Shashikala Devi, East: Shashikala Devi, West: Shashikala Devi.	01.08.2024 Rs : 2716575.77 as on 31.07.2024 with further interest costs and others charges and expenses thereon.	17.10.2024 Rs : 2716575.77 as on 31.07.2024 with further interest costs and others charges and expenses thereon.

Authorized Officer  
Sastra Head, Purnea

**Office: Government College Sidhrawali-District Gurugram**

**Tender Notice**

For Service Level Agreement on Contract Basis (For Cleaning of Premises, Housekeeping, Chowkidar services etc.) Sealed tender is hereby invited for Service Level Agreement on Contract Basis (for Cleaning of Premises, Housekeeping, Chowkidar services etc.) Services in Government Sidhrawali from interested and eligible service agencies (approved by Government of Haryana) having at least three years experience in similar services in prescribed form. Interested service agencies can collect tender forms from the Office of Principal, Government College Sidhrawali on any working day between 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM by paying Rs. 500/- (Payable through demand draft/ Banker cheque of any nationalized bank drawn in favor of Principal Government College Sidhrawali. All terms and conditions will be attached with the form.  
Last dated of receipt of sealed tender document: 04/11/2024.  
Date of Opening of tender: 05/11/2024.  
No. 29687/2024-2024/HRV Principal

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.in](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.in)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.in](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.in) & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

**A) Fresh-Tender Work:-**

S. N.	Jobs No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1	07/DGM/SM(WC-4)/ET/2024-25	Development and M/o Village (C/o Damaged Boundary wall and drains etc. in VDS Market Village Chhajars), Noida.	80.31
2	06/DGM/SM(WC-4)/ET/2024-25	M/o Road (Improvement of Parking C-96 and C-98 in C-Block Sector-63), Noida.	82.71
3	11/DGM/Dy. GM(WC-2)/2024-25	M/o Building (M/o Staff Houses and office Building in Work Circle-2 area) Noida	42.25
4	13/DGM/Dy. GM(WC-2)/2024-25	M/o Road (P/L Bituminous Concrete, C.C roads and repair of drain and fixing of SFRC cover in E&F Block Sector-27) Noida.	79.45
5	15/DGM/Dy. GM(WC-2)/2024-25	Annual Repair of roads (Regular Maintenance & Minor work in Work Circle-2 area) Noida.	41.77
6	35/DGM/SM(WC-8)/ET/2023-24	M/o Village (M/o road and drain, Refixing of jaal from main gali Transformer towards Rishi Tyagi Colony in Village Salarpur), Noida.	55.58

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 05.11.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 06.11.2024 at 11.00 AM.

**B) Re-Tender Work:-**

S. N.	Jobs No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
7	13/DGM/SM(WC-10)/ET/2024-25	Repair of M.S Jaal, C.C. road, Drain and drain cover in Internal Galis of Village-Samastipur, Noida.	55.55
8	19/SM(WC-4)/ET/2023-24	M/o Road (Repair of Cuts, Potholes and patches on 30.00 mtr. wide road from Rajat Vihar to Road No.-06) Noida	30.14
9	82/DGM/Dy.GM(WC-2)/2023-24	D/o Village & Maintenance (C/o Culvert in different location in Village Nithari) Noida.	67.59
10	06/SM(WC-8)/ET/2023-24	M/o Village (M/o Community Centre Bhangel in sector-110), Noida.	32.25

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 28.10.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 29.10.2024 at 11.00 AM.  
Dy. General Manager (Civil)  
Sector-6, NOIDA  
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA



## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Berlin-Delhi reconnection

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's visit has potential  
for India to strengthen ties with Europe



RAJA MANDALA

BY C RAJA MOHAN

## A FRAGILE PEACE

Terror attack in Kashmir is a reminder that Centre and UT's  
new government cannot afford to lower their guard

THE TERROR ATTACK on Sunday, barely five days after Jammu and Kashmir's first elected government in nine years assumed office, is a reminder of the fragility of the peace in the region. Seven employees of a construction company, six of them migrants, were gunned down when they had gathered for dinner. The signals sent by the perpetrators of the inhuman act should not be lost on the governments in New Delhi and Srinagar. The Z-Morh tunnel project at Sonamarg on the Srinagar-Leh highway, which the victims were engaged in, is part of a larger initiative to create all-weather and all-year connectivity between J&K's capital and Ladakh. Its strategic and economic significance cannot be overstated. The road project is significant for both security and tourism. Militants had so far kept away from major infrastructure projects in the Valley. The new direction in their activity is worrying. It should also be a matter of grave concern that the attack took place in an area that has seen very little terrorist activity in the past three decades.

The strengthening of a counter-terrorism grid in the Valley and stringent security clampdown has led to a significant reduction in militant activity in the last five years. But terrorist activity has also followed an unmistakable pattern of late. Insurgents have not been averse to shifting to areas where their imprint had almost faded in the past two decades. The attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi in June was a terrible jolt after the stirrings of hope and optimism that followed a high voter turnout in the Lok Sabha elections. The gruesome ambush from a forested area also indicated a new modus operandi. Sunday's attack similarly indicates that the terror system has been at work, even as J&K begins a new chapter in its tryst with democracy. Like in the Reasi attack, the militants seem to have exploited a difficult terrain to strike at the workers' camp. And, the Sonamarg killings aren't too different from the Reasi ambush in their timing — the June attack took place the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his new council of ministers were being sworn in.

At the SCO summit last week, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif desisted from his recent tendency to rake up the Kashmir issue at every international meet. India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, too, was measured in asking Islamabad to reflect on how its encouragement of terrorism had hurt neighbourly ties. However, the Sonamarg attack, barely two days after the signs of a thaw in the relations between the two countries, seems to be another demonstration of Pakistan's intransigence on the use of terrorism as an element of its foreign policy. The killings are a reminder that the Centre, the security forces, the UT's new government and everyone with a stake in democracy in J&K cannot afford to let their guards down.

## WHEN TOMORROW COMES

Andhra CM's population anxiety is myopic. States need to  
empower women to make better choices

HAVING MORE CHILDREN is also your responsibility. You are not doing it for yourself, it is also for the benefit of the nation" — Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's proposal to bring in legislation to incentivise those who have more than two children to reverse the trend of the ageing population in the southern states strikes a moral and alarmist note to the state's declining fertility rates. Highlighting that the state's demographic advantage will last till 2047, the Naidu said that his government will bring a law that makes only those with more than two children eligible for local body elections. According to the 2011 census, the median age of states in the South — Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana — is higher than several northern states. The median age of Andhra Pradesh in 2011 was 27.6. By 2047, the average age of Andhra's population would be 40.

There is an obvious political subtext to Naidu's comments, that have since been echoed by Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin — the delimitation exercise that may end up reducing political representation of the southern states in Parliament after 2026. But, as with several other things, an unwitting casualty of enthusiastic promulgations about population control is women's rights. Last April, a UN Population Fund report revealed that governments prone to "population anxieties" are "increasingly adopting policies aimed at raising, lowering or maintaining fertility rates." China's one-child policy between 1979 and 2015 is an example of women's bodies being held hostage to population targets. In contrast, India has, barring a brief regress into forced sterilisation during the Emergency, relied on education and empowerment to drive home the importance of family planning. Its results have been borne out by National Family Health Surveys. SBI's "Precursor to Census 2024: The Fine Prints of a Rapidly Changing Nation" report, released in September, pegs the average annual exponential population growth at 1.2 per cent in 2024, down from 1.63 per cent in 2011. India's total fertility rate (TFR) — number of children per woman — in 2024 is projected to be 2.122 births per woman, a 0.79 per cent decline from 2023. A TFR of 2.1 is essential for population stability.

Instead of adopting a coercive playbook, there are lessons in all this to address Naidu's concerns. It involves sex education in schools, disseminating information on reproductive rights and family planning, access to healthcare and the luxury of choice, especially because childcare is expensive and labour-intensive. It requires offering a conducive ecosystem for women to join the labour force. All this would help them make informed choices about their lives and their wombs.

## MORE RICE, PLEASE

Starchy foods are not just a key component of human health  
and happiness — they're also essential to the evolution story

DON'T HOLD THE *aloo* — boiled, fried or roasted. And feel free to spoon a little more rice onto your plate. A macronutrient that has, in recent years, been projected as the main accused in the ballooning global lifestyle crisis, it turns out that carbohydrates are not just a necessary part of the human diet. They are also a key part of the story of human evolution. The evidence for this — a spike in the presence of the enzyme amylase — has been in the human body far longer than the agricultural revolution itself, as found by two recent studies, one published in *Nature* last month and the other in *Science* last week.

According to the studies, the presence of multiple copies of the amylase gene — which helps in breaking down starchy plant foods — can be traced back to two waves. The first, which occurred several hundred thousand years ago, likely coincided with the discovery of fire, and the second, which happened about 12,000 years ago, was when humans learnt to grow their own food. The presence of extra amylase in saliva meant that humans had access to a larger range of dietary options, including wheat and rice, thus giving them a better shot at surviving.

Besides the implications that these findings have for the field of medicine (such as finding amylase-based treatments for diseases like diabetes), they also give the lie to the myth — widely propagated by the cults of keto, paleo and other extreme diets — that carbs are the ultimate enemy. They bring back to centrestage the wisdom of balance, including in dietary matters. And then there's the fact that carbs, as anyone who has ever been on an extreme diet would attest, are a key component of happiness and satiety. What, after all, is chicken curry without rice, or fish without chips?

IN THE SEASON of global summitry, it's easy to underestimate the importance of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's visit to India this week. Leadership meetings with German chancellors lack the glamour of summits with the US, the trust that binds Delhi and Moscow, the "grand ideas" that mark the French encounters, and the structural tension that animates India's engagement with China. Yet, the Indo-German summit could be consequential for the bilateral strategic partnership, as well as India's relations with collective Europe.

In a week marked by simultaneous sessions of the Commonwealth in Samoa, South Pacific, and the expanded BRICS forum in Kazan, Russia, Scholz's visit might seem a dull affair. The Commonwealth underlines the enduring links between India and the former British Empire. It also holds the possibility that India, now the largest economy in the 54-nation Commonwealth, will help elevate it to its rightful place in the constellation of international organisations. If the Commonwealth is rooted in the past, the BRICS has long been conceived as the future. It might be struggling to overcome internal contradictions, but it's viewed as the harbinger of the post-Western global order. No wonder it is attracting larger international interest in joining the forum.

Unlike the Russians and the Chinese, the Germans might not be good at selling dreams of a new global order, but they bring solid capabilities that India needs in transforming itself at home and accelerating its global rise. Delhi and Berlin have had a special bond before and after India's Independence; they have had a formal strategic partnership in place since 2000. But it has not been easy to translate intent into outcomes.

Scholz promises to break from this poor record. The idea that Germany, the most important power in Europe, is ready to reset the Indian relationship amid arguments over Ukraine seems counter-intuitive. After all, India's reluctance to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine angered many in Europe. India's purchase of large volumes of discounted oil added to their frustrations.

Yet, as the war has dragged on, there is no doubt that Ukraine has added to the urgency of rethinking German and European relations

with India. Meanwhile, in Delhi, Europe has stopped being a step-child in India's world-view over the last decade. Relations with old powers like Britain, France, Italy as well as powers like Poland are on the upswing. The Nordic, Baltic, Central European, Slavkov, Balkan, and the Euro-Med regions are now among the expanding geographic lexicon of India. If there was a missing link, it was Germany.

Scholz's visit comes amidst a new German reality — the growing imperatives on Berlin to shed its post World War II geopolitical diffidence. Russian expansionism in Europe, Chinese assertiveness in Asia, the *de facto* alliance between Moscow and Beijing, and the growing volatility in US policies have together mounted pressures on Berlin to rethink many of its traditional assumptions about Eurasia and the world, and debate the need to take larger regional and global responsibilities.

In a rare, country-specific paper published last week, the German Foreign Office outlined a new strategic approach to India days before Scholz arrives in Delhi. Four ideas stand out.

One, Berlin recognises the growing international salience of India, the "world's most populous nation and a stable democracy" in the economic and geopolitical domains. Germany wants to "benefit from India's diverse expertise as a central player in international politics with a prominent position among the countries of the so-called Global South."

Two, Germany notes the divergence with India on Russia's war in Ukraine, but recognises the need to build bridges through "dialogue in a spirit of trust and identify joint initiatives, particularly in fields where direct security interests are affected." Berlin also "welcomes the Indian government's repeatedly expressed willingness to work to bring about a peaceful end to the war. India can make an important contribution here."

Three, it underlines the importance of deeper economic ties with India in the increasingly turbulent Indo-Pacific. This is a major break from the tradition of putting "China First" in its Asian economic policy. Reversing four decades of deep commercial engagement with China is not on the cards. But Berlin is determined to diversify its economic relationship away from China, and India is on top of

the list of likely partners.

Chancellor Scholz is arriving with a large business delegation and is hopeful that Delhi will make it easier for German companies to expand their investments in India. For Delhi, there could be no better partner in reviving India's manufacturing sector.

Four, Germany wants to be a strong security partner for India. The full range of defence diplomacy is now on the table when Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Chancellor Scholz on Thursday. These include consultations between the civilian defence establishments, more military exchanges, reciprocal access arrangements between Indian armed forces and their German counterparts, who are now eager to raise their profile in the Indo-Pacific.

From the Indian perspective, the most important new element is the German promise to help India make weapons at home. Berlin offers to "expand its arms cooperation with India, continue to improve the reliability and predictability of arms export control procedures, and promote and support cooperation between German and Indian arms companies." The negotiations on the acquisition of submarines from Germany could provide proof of the German commitment to help modernise India's defence industrial base.

Progress in implementing these ideas is bound to lend geopolitical heft to the Indo-German relationship. In the early 20th century, Indian nationalists turned to a willing Germany to overthrow the British yoke. That did not go very far, as the Anglo-American allies prevailed over Berlin.

Independent India drifted away from the Anglo-Americans during the Cold War. As China's rise challenges India's interests, Delhi has moved closer to the US. But there is big room for Europe in India's calculus. Facing a troublesome China, weakened Russia, and meddlesome America, India could do with a strong European partnership. France is already a valued strategic partner; a new geopolitical connection to Germany will lend balance and stability to India's great power relations.

The writer is a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

Unlike the Russians and the Chinese, the Germans might not be good at selling dreams of a new global order; but they bring solid capabilities that India needs in transforming itself at home and accelerating its global rise. Delhi and Berlin have had a special bond before and after India's independence; they have had a formal strategic partnership in place since 2000. But it has not been easy to translate intent into outcomes. Scholz promises to break from this poor record.

## THE US CUSTOMS WALL

Why Indian exporters need to be cued into strictures on Chinese companies



ANAND P KRISHNAN

IN AUGUST, REPORTS emerged that the US Customs and Border Protection agency (CBP) had detained nearly \$43 million worth of shipments of solar panels from India since October 2023. These actions are in line with the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act (UFLPA), enacted by the Biden Administration, to prohibit imports of goods manufactured "wholly or in part" with forced labour in China, especially in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). In this case, CBP worked on the assumption that polycrystalline silicon, the raw material for batteries/cells for solar photovoltaic (PV) modules (also for manufacturing integrated circuits and other semiconductor devices) had come from XUAR.

Over the last decade, China has dominated the global solar PV supply chain, with its share in all the manufacturing stages of solar panels exceeding 80 per cent. But the increased scrutiny of Chinese companies in the US has been seen as an opportunity by India's solar industry, to pitch the country as an alternative to China. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha, claimed that India had achieved self-sufficiency in solar module production, with panels worth \$1.03 billion exported from India in 2022-23. However, in the same response, it also admitted that the country was yet to reach substantial capacity in solar cell production.

Indian companies are not plugged into dynamics of Chinese domestic politics. Their inability to keep track of locations within China from where raw materials and components are sourced illustrate the need for more in-depth assessments of China by India Inc. Its reliance on consultancies, especially foreign, rather than home-grown research on China is creating a new set of longer-term problems.

CBP's action shows the extent of enforcement of UFLPA — even components of final products are subject to scrutiny. Given their dominance in critical components to various products in some of the earmarked manufacturing sectors, the spotlight falls on how Chinese companies are linked to India's manufacturing ambitions. As per the think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative's data, with reference to solar panels in fiscal year 2024, imports of assembled PV cells amounted to US \$2.9 billion (65.5 per cent of such imports), while non-assembled cells imports were worth US \$1 billion (55.9 per cent).

The Centre had accelerated efforts towards achieving self-sufficiency in the renewable energy sector after supply chain disruptions during the Covid-19 pandemic. Taking on from the Production Linked Incentive scheme for large-sector electronics manufacturing in 2020, a similar scheme was introduced for high-efficiency solar PV modules in 2021, to achieve a manufacturing capacity of GW scale with an outlay of Rs 24,000 crore — the scheme being implemented in two tranches of Rs 4,500 crore and Rs 19,500 crore, with 13 companies successfully winning bids; many of them indigenous. However, most of them have listed Chinese vendors as suppliers. Union Budget 2024-25 has allocated Rs 250 crore for the National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage un-

der the Ministry of Heavy Industries. There is no specific allocation for a PLI scheme for solar PV modules under the MNRE.

Efforts to reduce dependence on China by scaling up and incentivising domestic production might be a good strategy. However, in the short-term, it's inevitable for firms, constrained by economic realities and lack of alternatives, to "plug into China's supply chain", as the Economic Survey points out. India may think of working out sector-wise exemptions from UFLPA with the US, taking cues from the 123 Nuclear Agreement.

Another crucial takeaway is that Indian companies are not plugged into the dynamics of Chinese domestic politics. Their inability to keep track of locations within China from where raw materials and components are sourced illustrates the need for more in-depth assessments by India Inc. Its reliance on consultancies, especially foreign rather than home-grown research on China is creating a new set of longer-term problems. The increased emphasis on export-led manufacturing coupled with the geopolitical headwinds requires companies to be more aware of the happenings in China and tread appropriately.

The writer is fellow, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR, and adjunct fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi

## OCTOBER 22, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

### NO FOREIGN FUNDS

THE PRESIDENT PROMULGATED an ordinance amending the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, thus imposing a total ban on all political parties or their office-bearers from receiving foreign contributions directly or indirectly. The government also acquired additional powers to audit the accounts of organisations receiving such contributions. For the first time, judges are also covered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act. Judges have been debarred from accepting foreign contributions and foreign hospitality from now on. The prohibition on political parties and their office-

bearers from accepting foreign contributions is "absolute and no exception can be granted to any party".

### LONGOWAL ADAMANT

HARCHAND SINGH LONGOWAL, president, Shiromani Akali Dal (now detained under National Security Act), categorically stated that "there will be no compromise with the government on basic demands. We will come out of jails after securing our rights and demands and not on the basis of any compromise. We, the Sikhs, will live in our country, as equal with others and not as second rate citizens". The text of Longowal's

interview to two Supreme Court advocates was released by the Akali Dal headquarters to the press.

### NEW POLITICAL PARTY

THE FORMATION of a new political party, the Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party, comprising the Lok Dal, the Democratic Socialist Party and the Rashtriya Congress was announced. At a press conference, the presidents of the three parties, Sharan Singh, H N Bahugana and Ratubhai Adani, said the new party would have electoral adjustments with other left and democratic parties including the Bharatiya Janata Party.



# THE IDEAS PAGE

## Neither victim nor villain

India's largest minority comprises diverse communities. The idea of a monolithic bloc is inimical to healthy politics



DESHPKAL  
BY YOGENDRA YADAV

"REPUBLICAN PARTY DOESN'T care for the Blacks as they won't vote for it. Democratic Party doesn't care either, as Blacks must vote for it." This quip about American politics pretty much sums up the plight of the Muslims in contemporary India. While every other social group can choose to vote on *bi-jali, sadak, pani* or on *padhai, dawai, kamai* and what have you, Muslims are condemned to vote for survival, to escape lynching, bulldozers and riots. The party they cannot vote for treats them with antipathy and the party they cannot but vote for treats them with indifference, if not contempt.

This hostage-like situation is not of their own making. The rise of the BJP riding on vicious anti-Muslim vitriol, cannot but push India's largest religious minority into a corner. At the same time, it must be remembered that Muslim political leadership and the politics of "secular" parties contributed in no small measure to this fate. After all, the politics of keeping Muslims insecure and vulnerable, so as to pocket their en bloc votes, did not begin with the rise of the BJP.

This manifests itself in an intellectual trap. Very often, the responses of the "secular" camp on Muslim issues are no more than a mirror image of the "communal" Hindu majoritarian politics it opposes. The RSS-BJP set the agenda, we just invert whatever they say. BJP trolls would like to paint Muslims as one unified community of villains; we present Muslims as a homogenous group of victims. Both sides share the image of Muslims as a unified political bloc. As the BJP moves ahead with its project of reducing every Hindu voter to his or her religious identity, we too collaborate by reducing every Muslim to his or her religion. The RSS-BJP insinuate that secularism is nothing but pro-Muslim posturing; we often confirm their suspicions by failing to distinguish a Muslim and a secular point of view. Secular guilt often leads to a competition to be more Muslim than Muslims.

This makes for weak understanding and poor politics, leaving no coherent agenda or effective agency for Muslims in today's India, barring exceptional moments like the equal citizenship movement against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. They have three options — resentful submission to the logic of their marginality, shamefaced collusion with the regime or angry victimhood that leads to alienation. None of these is a dignified option. None of these offers any agency. As the Shaheen Bagh movement showed, Muslim society has no dearth of leadership, creative ideas and energy. But this has no connect with mainstream politics. Forging a coherent and effective politics for a Muslim is among the most pressing and difficult political projects of our time.

My former colleague at CSDS and a dear friend, Hilal Ahmed, has written consistently, and of late furiously, to address this question. The publication of his latest book *A Brief*



C.R. Sasikumar

*History of the Present: Muslims in New India* (completed before but published after 2024 elections), following his Hindi book *Allah Naam Ki Siyaasat*, is a consolidated and updated statement of the position he has taken in his popular and academic writings, both in Hindi and English, keeping his gaze firmly on the Muslim question, its past, present and future. This book concentrates on Muslims in "New India" since 2014.

Ahmed has carved out a unique location to address this question. I first noticed it in the odd trinity of photographs in his office at the CSDS: The Holy Kaaba, Mahatma Gandhi and Che Guevara. These represent the three radically different ideological perspectives that he seeks to integrate. He is a devout Muslim who says five prayers a day and keeps all the rojas during the Holy Ramzan. At the same time, he is a revolutionary, inspired by Marxism and committed to the ideas of equality and social justice in all realms of life. And if this combination was not enough, he believes in the Gandhian idea of *sarv dharma sambhav* and his brand of non-violent politics of *satyagraha*.

It is not easy to weave these strands and his attempt at this ideological integration is still a work in progress. But this has yielded a distinct view point: "I do not want to give up my identity as a Muslim; yet, at the same time, I do not want to speak only as a Muslim". He invites us to think of a politics of "more than a Muslim", the most compelling perspective on the Muslim question. Incidentally, this may be a good standpoint for secular politics in general — one leg planted inside the community and its traditions and the other firmly placed outside it. Ahmed is deeply concerned about the everyday physical and symbolic assault on Muslims, but he does not allow his anxiety to get the better of his judgement. He is willing to register a nuance without losing sight of the big picture. He does not give in to the dark trope of *shikwa* that dominates writings on and by Indian Muslims that leaves the victim without any responsibility or agency.

At the same time, he leaves us wondering what this "more than Muslim" politics would look like. One thing is clear. The idea

of one unified Muslim political bloc is unachievable, undesirable and counterproductive. A healthy politics of Indian Muslims will be a politics of many Muslim communities, each of which has more than one political option to choose from. In this he follows the pathbreaking work of political sociologist Imtiaz Ahmed. There is no one Muslim community in India, just as there is no one Hindu community. There are innumerable communities that follow Islam, each with distinct ethnicities, languages, sociology-economic locations and, indeed, different religious practices. This goes against the project of a unified nation-wide Muslim political community that Muslim fundamentalists, some Muslim leaders and a section of clerics have worked for. The idea of a homogenous Muslim minority bloc can feed off and in turn contribute to the project of a homogenous Hindu political bloc that the BJP dreams of.

This is not about "dividing" Muslims. This is also about uniting local Muslim communities with non-Muslim communities with whom they share social and economic location. Following Ali Anwar's pioneering work in *Masawat ki Jung*, Ahmed also foregrounds the pasmenda issue, that of backward and Dalit Muslim communities, that the Muslim elite wishes to elide. This connects Muslim politics with Dalit, Adivasi and Bahujan politics. And in the footsteps of Asghar Ali Engineer, he visualises solidarity with other oppressed classes. Muslims are farmers, weavers, artisans, organised-sector workers, unemployed and so on. A principle energy of "more than Muslim" politics has to be on forging unity with others from all these categories, Muslims or non-Muslim.

That still leaves many, bigger, questions that the quest for "more than Muslim" politics faces: Does the hegemonic control of the BJP leave any space for these issues to be foregrounded? Should we expect mainstream non-BJP parties to take up this agenda? If not them, who? Which policy issues must this kind of politics raise first? Ahmed does not offer good answers to these difficult questions. Nor does anyone else.

The writer is member, Swaraj India and national convener of Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The giant pandas have witnessed the improvement of China-US relations. In the future, we hope they will continue to serve as 'ambassadors' of peace, friendship, and cultural exchanges between the two nations."

— GLOBAL TIMES CHINA

## A terror attack, many signals

Proxy war in J&K is far from over. Restricted frequency of violence must in no way lead to complacency



SYED ATA HASNAIN

THE TERROR ATTACK on the employees of the infrastructure company constructing the Z-Morh tunnel is no ordinary event in the run of things associated with J&K. It needs to be seen from two angles: First, the revival of terror in J&K as a whole and two, as part of the unusual run of activities in the last few days which seem to point towards a larger play to send us a message about our vulnerabilities.

After the 2016 Pathankot attack and recent attempts to reactivate the Jammu region, we probably could have anticipated that a peace dividend is the last thing that the Pakistan deep state would want delivered at India's doorstep. This is especially true after the peaceful conduct of the recent polls and the subsequent installation of a democratically elected government in Srinagar. It was around this time that a territorial army soldier was kidnapped and murdered.

However, what the deep state and the sponsors of the proxy war wish is to re-establish their relevance in the narratives around J&K, to be counted as spoilers of the peace and stability that India seeks and for which it has been following a process that has managed to exclude Pakistan. From the deep state's angle, a terrorist-related event of sufficient intensity was perhaps perceived as essential at this stage, such that the dividend of the peaceful election would not translate to further normalisation in J&K.

Not long ago, I had assessed that the violence in the Jammu region, although high in intensity, was essentially diversionary. It was focused there to exploit a void, recover some lost ground and re-establish relevance. However, in the entire ongoing strategic assertion that the Pakistani deep state wishes to make, it is Kashmir which remains the centre of gravity. A Kashmir lost to the Indian narratives of development, transparency and tolerance will ring the death knell of Pakistan's claim, which, it feels, has already been weakened by the abrogation of Article 370.

It was assessed by many that the continued large-scale presence of security forces in and around the urban centres of Kashmir, including Srinagar, Anantnag and Baramulla, would probably ensure the discounting of big terrorist actions at these locations. It is not easy to execute a Pulwama-type action, especially with all the security forces being on high alert. The initiation could best be through a peripheral area in Kashmir where deployment of the forces is low and which is accessible without the perpetrators leaving too many footprints.

The Z-Morh tunnel is a flagship infrastructure project. It requires specialised labour and expertise. The number of personnel involved is very large. While security exists, this area has been traditionally peaceful. I recall the last major operations anywhere close to this area having been conducted in 2009. It is not far from the areas which see the traditional seasonal deployment for the Amarnath Yatra. The location opens an opportunity for a terror group through the Gurez valley or Maskhoh, both challenging routes but with minimal chances of being discovered. Further investigations will confirm the mode of execution by the perpetrators but this places under threat several other infrastructure projects in the outlying areas. There is the Kishanganga project very close to the LoC at the entrance to the Gurez valley and the two projects in the Jhelum Valley, Uri 1 and Uri 2, besides some others, including railway projects in the vicinity of Banihal and Qazigund. It is smart military thinking on the part of the adversaries to divert focus to peripheral areas and several other projects which will take away the attention from the traditional areas of ideological and physical resistance. Is there something more sinister being planned? It offers food for thought to the unified command and the intelligence agencies. Now that they are adept at neutralisation of terror networks, they should preferably concentrate on fighting the revival of overground workers, terror financing and drug mafias.

I had earlier alluded to this event being potentially part of the chain of ongoing unusual events targeting India, to put it on the defensive and dilute its emerging strategic confidence. The bomb hoax threats to aircrafts, strange blasts in unexpected places such as Rohini in Delhi and the seemingly deliberate efforts to turn on the diplomatic pressure over allegations of transnational sponsoring of assassinations, all appear to point towards something larger.

It is good that the Abdullahs have spoken against the Pakistani linkages to the sponsorship of violence in J&K without mincing their words. The pre-poll stance on talks with Pakistan has not been mentioned in their interventions. Politically, if the central and state governments are seen to be on the same page, half the perception battle is won.

It is, as yet, difficult to see what actions can be taken in this "grey zone", but it's not as if Omar Abdullah is inexperienced in terms of security. This early in his tenure, it may be prudent for the central government and its agencies, along with the redoubtable J&K police, to remain responsible for security. In the final count, it's important to note that the proxy war in J&K is far from over. The restricted frequency of violence must in no way lead to complacency.

The writer is former corps commander of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps. Views are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### US-CANADA IMPASSE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Intelligence questions' (IE, October 21). The recent charges by the US against Indian official Vikash Yadav for plotting to assassinate Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, coupled with the FBI lookout notice, could strain Indo-US relations. This comes on the heels of Canada's allegations of India's involvement in Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing. Both the US and Canada have allowed the Khalistan movement and anti-India sentiments to thrive, without heeding India's security concerns. India too needs to get its act right. Effective coordination with foreign intelligence agencies is crucial, particularly with the US.

Vijai Pant, Hampur

### AFTER THE VERDICT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A new accord for Assam' (IE, October 21). In its landmark judgment, the SC not only upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A, but also gave weight to Article 29 by highlighting the "right to conserve" culture. Indeed, it is a major challenge for the government to distinguish between citizens and foreigners. Identifying foreign-born and imposing on them "3Ds" — detention, deletion, and deportation — will not be a piece of cake because there is a significant risk of error. There is a substantial chance that an ordinary citizen may also be harassed because the onus of proof here is upon the individual. The article also highlights the issue of loss of documents in catastrophes. Assam needs a new accord.

Kazi Nasir, Jammu

### A GLOBAL CONCERN

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Water in common' (IE, October 21). That more than 1,000 children lose their lives daily due to lack of access to safe water is a shocking revelation from the Global Commission on the Economics of Water report. The authorities responsible for conserving aquifers and natural water resources the world over have exhibited a callous attitude towards conserving this precious gift of God essential for survival. India is facing external as well as internal challenges. China has obstructed the natural flow of many rivers to India. Within the country, disputes like Kaveri and Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) are proving to be hurdles in water management. It is time to regulate the water resources better and engage with neighbours to resolve conflicts for everyone's sake.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

### FOCUS ON BATTING

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Red-letter day for Black Caps' (IE, October 21). The scale of New Zealand's victory against India in the first Test can be gauged from the fact that it's their first Test victory in the last 36 years on Indian soil. When a team is bowled out for a paltry 46, its back is against the wall. Though Indian batters did score 462 in the second innings, a target of 107 was never big enough for Kiwis to achieve a historic win. The Indian team has bounced back more often than not recently. What should worry Rohit Sharma and Gautam Gambhir is the fact that our batters bowled out for 46 and lost seven wickets for 56 runs in the second innings. They will have to find ways to beat this lacuna in their batting.

Bal Govind, Noida

Gupta is lead product manager at a Fortune 500 company



ADVIKA GUPTA

## Don't discount the sale

Big retailers can assess profit margins for holiday sales that benefit sellers, consumers

FIFTY-SEVEN PER CENT of Indian shoppers expect to find deals before Navratri and Diwali, and yet, when retailers offer up those big savings, the doubts start. How are these real? Maybe your local store told you Amazon's offer is a scam, or maybe your friend told you their discounted order never got delivered. Holiday shopping is crazy enough, let's demystify holiday sales and see how they are possible and if they are as good as they seem.

You might think this is a simple game of volume versus margin. The higher a merchant prices their item, the fewer the sales, and the lower their total revenues. On the other hand, the lower they price their item, the smaller their profit margin per sale. So, they need to find that perfect sweet spot where they can price their item low enough that it drives volumes, but high enough that they get sufficient margins. For the holidays, then, maybe you think they just go for the volumes, pricing their items with tiny margins but knowing that volumes will still drive that revenue, and ultimately, a decent bottom line.

The problem is that this strategy is too elementary or archaic for larger retailers to rely on. In 2023, for instance, Indian retailers saw a 26 per cent increase in online sales during the holidays, but the two days before the end of the sales event saw a higher surge, that of 72 per cent. Factoring these trends into play, retailers must use a much more complex

price-volume-mix strategy to determine the overall impact on revenue. The price-volume-mix strategy evaluates three variables for a retailer, looking at how movement in one variable impacts the other two, and thus can sway the overall revenue.

The pricing variable is what we discussed above, but, of course, they consider it with much more nuance. In fact, larger retailers have entire pricing strategy teams that work within their merchandising organisations to simply finesse how to price items.

The volume variable is about predicted sales quantities. How can sales quantities be impacted independent of price adjustments, you ask? A great example of this is for "limited release" items, like a pair of limited-edition sneakers, or a print run of only 500 copies. Limited quantities tend to increase demand. On the other hand, the reverse is also seen. Reliable products, best sellers, and products with higher reviews have greater sales on e-commerce platforms than those with no user-generated content. In fact, retailers have even created badging systems to call customer attention to these (think: Amazon's "Best Seller" badge and banners like "1,000 sold in the last week").

The mix strategy is simply looking at the variety-to-individual-product counts needed to be able to satisfy customer demand without wasting manufacturing and warehousing resources. For a single retailer (like FabIndia or Home Center), this might be the

number of products they sell. For a marketplace (like Amazon), this is for each vendor determining how many variations of their individual products are worth selling. Given that the Indian consumer begins product discovery 18.3 days before making an actual purchase, the number of products to compare within a single retailer becomes a critical factor to conversion.

However, computing the predictive volume and determining the right pricing strategy requires a large amount of data. A retailer needs historical data about sales trends from the year, quantifying how changes in their pricing strategy have impacted their sales. They also need year-over-year data to understand how seasonality trends like those observed during the holidays impact their top and bottom line. For instance, these historical trends allowed Amazon to reduce their delivery delays by 15 per cent during the 2023 "Great Indian Festival" compared to 2022's event. Of course, most retailers also have a deep-rooted understanding of their customers and have access to data around their demographics, interactions, and purchase patterns. This allows them to provide dynamic pricing and personalised offers, which can lead to bigger baskets and higher average order value. That said, industry trends and market data around competitors can provide helpful benchmarking, especially for predictive modelling.

This is probably why you've noticed the big retailers like Flipkart and Myntra giving out large sales that your local stores are unable to match. Even brand franchises have the corporate office telling them what products to discount and how much. Unfortunately, however, your local kirana and mom-and-pop stores just don't have that kind of data, or that variable mix, or those large quantities to play with, so their pricing strategy while, less complex, often gets outsmarted by the larger e-commerce platforms or retailers. Small retailers suffer competitively on this ground. Not only are the big retailers able to adjust their price-volume-mix strategy in a dynamic way, but they also create enough buzz around it to gather customers.

So, what should you do this holiday season? With Diwali right around the corner, and with all the cleaning and cooking, how much time do you really have to analyse whether that sale looks too good to be true? You're getting a discount — go, shop for your presents, and save the worrying for something else. The discounts are real because the big retailers are able to optimise on various price-volume-mix for hundreds of products at the same time. It's not just about one product. The customer really becomes king and gets the benefit of discounts.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

My wife's name is Kabita Devi in my family records. It is wrongly recorded, whereas her correct name is Kavita Devi. Dharmbir Singh (No. 2698622Y Rank-Havildar) S/o Devi Singh R/o Vill Khajpur Post Managadhi, District Mathura. 0070931036-1

I,Vivek S/o Mahadev Mandal R/o 17a,3rd Floor, Street No-3 Mandawali Fazalpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Vivek Mandal. 0130045961-1

I,Virender Pratap Singh S/O-JC-670044M, Sub Maj Kailash Dan,Village -Charanwas, District Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan) Pin 333001.In my father's service record my name has been wrongly mentioned as Virendra Pratap Singh instead of Virender Pratap Singh as mentioned in education Certificates and Aadhaar card, vide affidavit No IN-RJ64793008949656W dated 12 Sep 2024. 0020483159-1

I,VINOD SETHI,S/O SURESH KUMAR,R/O F-22B FF, SINGLE STOREY VIJAR-NAGAR DELHI-110009,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VINOD KUMAR SETHI, FOR FUTURE. 0040755124-3

I,TUSHAR,S/O BREHAM PRKASH,R/O/RZ-723 PURAN NAGAR,STREET NO-2,PALAM COLONY,NEW DELHI-10045,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TUSHAR KUMAR KARWANA. 0040755124-4

I,Sushila Devi,D/o Kuria Ram,W/o Jagdish,R/o Main Sohna Road,Near SBI-Bank, Badshahpur,Gurgaon, (Haryana)- 122101, have changed my name to Sushila. 0040755101-9

I,Suresh Kumar Jain,S/o Gurtaj Jain R/o 207,Ram Vihar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Suresh Jain. 0040755130-4

I,Shashank,S/o Bijay Partap Pandey,R/o Signature Global The Serenas, Sector-36,VTC Dhunela (82), PO,Sohna, Distt.Gurgaon (Haryana)- 122103,have changed my name to Shashank Pandey. 0040755131-3

I,Santosh Kumari/Santosh Suri,W/O Late Sh.Avinash Chander,R/O,H.No.135,Sector-37,H.L.City,Bahadurgarh-District Jhajjar (Haryana)- 124507, is also known as Santosh Suri. Both names are of the same-person. 0040755101-11

I,SANJEEV KUMAR,S/O-CHAMAN KAPOOR,R/O-G/4-GROUND FLOOR JAC ROAD-INDRAPURAM GHAZIABAD, UP,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME SANJEEV KUMAR TO SANJEEV KAPOOR,ALL FUTURE, PURPOSES. 0040755130-2

I,S S Gangwar,S/o Kanaujli Lal Gangwar R/O C-206, Brij-Vihar, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011,have changed my name to Satyendra Singh Gangwar. 0040755131-1

I,Rajeshree W/o Raje Ram,R/o 12/27,Top Floor, West Patel Nagar,Delhi-110008,have changed my name RAJESHRI permanently. 0040755101-2

I,RINKU W/O ARVIND GUPTA, R/O H-N-83, VINOAPURI, LAJPAT NAGAR-2, DELHI-110024,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RINKU GUPTA, FOR FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040755124-1

I,RAJENDER SINGH,S/O SH.HARI SINGH,R/O HOUSE.NO.B-20, GROUND-FLOOR,RIGHT-HAND SIDE,DAYAL BAGH,FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121009,DECLARE THAT RAJINDER SINGH AND RAJENDER SINGH ALL ARE THE NAME OF ONE AND SAME PERSON. 0040755130-10

I,Preeti D/o Nahar Singh,W/o Manish Godara,R/O/H.No.201, Jatav Mohalla,Sector-26, Barthal Village,Dwarka,New Delhi-110075,have changed my name to Priti Dhanker. 0040755101-8

I,Sangeeta,W/o Anit Kumar Sharma,R/o-48A,Pocket-D, SFS,Flats, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, Delhi-110096,have changed my name to Sangeeta Sharma. 0040755130-5

I,Pravin Kumar,S/o Late Chandra Bhushan Prasad, House.No.15,Lane-4,Gali.No. 20A,Block-B,Kaushik Enclave, Burari, Delhi-110084,have changed my name to Pravin Kumar Sinha,for all future purposes. 0040755047-9

I,Prasun Kumar Bharti,S/o Late Chandra Bhushan Prasad, House.No.15,Lane-4, Gali.No.20A,Block-B,Kaushik Enclave,Burari,Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Prasun Kumar Sinha.For all future purposes. 0040755047-10

I,Pramode Kumar S/o,Gyanendra R/O-T/79-C,Sarai Kale Khan, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi-110013,have changed my name to PRAMOD KUMAR,permanently. 0040755101-3

It is for general information that I,Pushpa Rani,W/o-Bharat Singh,R/o-No-556,Pana Udyan,Narela, Delhi-110040,declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Sonu alias Puspaa Rani in my minor daughter namely Yogita aged-14 year in her 10th-class educational-documents and birth-certificate No.MCDDOLIR-2209-003434908. The actual name of mine is Pushpa Rani which may be amended accordingly. 0040755130-6

I,Parveen Jahan,W/O Shahnewaz Alam,H.No.E-124, E-Block, Gali No-1, 25Futa-Road, Shri Ram-Colony , Delhi-110094,have changed my name to PARVIN KHATUN. Permanently. 0040755124-8

I,Neeta,W/o-Bhupender Kumar,R/o-H.No.996, 23A,Swatantra Nagar,Narela, Delhi-110040,declare that my name has been wrongly written as Neetu in my minor son Raja aged-15 years in his school-record The actual name of mine is Neeta 0040755130-3

I,NAYAB UDDIN,S/O NAJMUDDIN R/O,F-1/8-BLOCK-F JOGA BAI EXTN JAMIA-NAGAR NEW FRIENDS COLONY DELHI-110025,have changed me name to NAYABUDDIN. 0040755047-5

I,Madan Prasad Shri Vastav,S/o Ganesh Parsad,R/o,H.No-665 Computer wali gali-1111 Bulla Colony Kanjhawala,Delhi 110081,Have changed my name to Madan parsad,for all purposes. 0040755047-1

I,MUKESH K GUPTA S/O DWARKA DASS GUPTA R/O B-1/67, JANAKPURI DELHI-110058 Have Changed My Name MUKESH KUMAR GUPTA Permanently. 0040755131-2

I,MITHLESH W/O DHARMVEER SINGH,R/O FLAT NO-24146,TOWER ASPEN MAHAGUN MYWOODS, GREATER NOIDA WEST, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MITHLESH DEVI. 0040755124-2

I,MANOJ KUMAR JAIN,S/O SHANTI SWAROOP GUPTA,R/O 122, Creama, Mahagun Moderne, Sector-78,Noida,Gautam Budhnagar(UP)have changed my name from MANOJ KUMAR JAIN to MANOJ JAIN,for all,future purposes. 0040755101-5

I,Jyoti S/o Raj Kumar,R/o A-43, Gopal Vihar, Vijay-Vihar Phase-2 ,Rohini Sector -7, Po:Delhi-110085, have Changed my Name to Jyoti Ramchandani. 0040755101-7

I,Jagdish Yadav,S/o Laxmi Naryan R/o 136,Main Sohna Road,Near SBI Bank, Badshahpur,Gurgaon (Haryana)-122101,have changed my name to Jagdish. 0040755101-10

I,JAMALUDDIN ANSARI,S/O ABDUL HAFIZ,R/O-B/96,Gali No.-1,Moonga-Nagar,Delhi-110094,declare that name of mine & my father has been wrongly mentioned as JAMALLUDIN ANSARI & ABDUL AFIZ IN Passport No.-N1705392. That the actual name of mine & my father are JAMALUDDIN ANSARI & ABDUL HAFIZ. 0040755101-4

I,INAM ELAHI,S/O SHAMSHAD ELAHI,R/O,H.No-3521, MUSTAFA COLONY, AMBA-VIHAR Muzaffarnagar-(UP)-251002,have changed my name to INAM BARIK. 0040755047-4

I,Bindu W/O. Sharat Thakur,R/O. C-15,DDU Hospital, Hari Nagar, South West Delhi-110064,have changed my name to Bindu Thakur,for all Purposes. 0040755101-1

I,Ekta,D/o Sh.Umesh Kant Sharma,R/o,191/17,Onkar Nagar-B,Tri Nagar,Delhi-110035,have change my name to Ekta Sharma,D/o Sh.Umesh Kant Sharma. 0040755047-3

I,DHARMBIR,S/O LATE NARAIAAN DASS,R/O,47 SECTOR-22 FARIDABAD HARYANA,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DHARMBIR CHHAHRA, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040755047-6

I,CHAMAN LAL,S/O-SOHAN LAL R/O-378,DDA FLATS,NEW RANJIT NAGAR-PATEL NAGAL DELHI,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME CHAMAN LAL TO CHAMAN KAPOOR,ALL FUTURE PURPOSES 0040755130-1

I,BHANARAM S/o Rattan R/o VPO Mandothi, Pana Kaboshya,Teh.Bahadurgarh,di strict Jhajjar,(Haryana)-124506,have changed my Name to BHANA. 0040755124-5

I,Arsheen Ansari W/o Shadab,R/O-B-1093,Avantika, Sector-1,Rohini, Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Arsheen Nafees Ansari. 0040755101-6

I,ZAREENA SAIPI, D/O- GOVIND SINGH, R/O, B-560, UJ/G FJ COLONY HASTSAL ROAD, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI-110059, have changed my name to DEVKI. 0040755047-2

I,YADRANI ALIAS KAVITA GARG D/O GANESH KUMAR W/O SANDEEP GARG R/O J-69, BLOCK-5, NEAR WATER TANK, DAKSHIN PURI, DR. AMBEDKAR NAGAR, PUSHPA BHAWAN,, DELHI-110062 have changed my name to KAVITA GARG FOR ALL PURPOSES 0070931042-1

I,Sushii Sirohi S/o Gajendra Singh R/o B-310, Sigma-1, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh -201310, have changed my name to Sushii Kumar Sirohi for all purposes. 0070931043-1

I, Sneh Lata W/o Shri Krishan Kumar Goel, r/o A-1/95, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Sneh Lata. I declare that both the name Sneh Lata & Sneh Lata Goel are One & the Same Person. 0040755050-1

I,RAJESH KUMAR S/O NET RAM R/O-B-303,KEDAR APARTMENT,SECTOR-9,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJESH. 0040755124-6

I,Jessamma Daniel W/O, Easow Joseph R/O 715, Lig Flats, Hastsal, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Jessy E Joseph. 0040755056-1

I, Saddam Husain s/o Mohammad Gulab r/o F-573, JJ Colony, Bawana, Delhi-110039 have changed my name to SADDAM HUSSAIN. 0040755034-1

I, SUBHASH CHAND S/O SHRI PRABHU DAYAL, R/O B-344, SANGAM PARK, RANA PRATAP BAGH, DELHI-110007, declares that I, SUBHASH CHAND also known as SUBHASH and both names belongs to me. In future I will use my name as SUBHASH CHAND for all purpose. 0040755042-2

I, SHIVAL PURI S/O SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR PURI, R/O 204, VAISHALI PITAM PURA, DELHI-110034, I HAVE CHANGED THE NAME OF MY MINOR SON FROM SHIVANSH TO SHIVAANSH PURI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040755042-1

I, Om Prakash, S/O Lal Singh, House no 3099, Shivganga Apartment, Sector-4B, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201012, have changed my name to Om Prakash Kardam, for all purpose. 0040755091-1

I, Mohan Singh S/o Trilok Singh Sehgal R/o-19/40B, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Mohan Singh Sehgal. 0070931038-1

I, Kiran, wife of Ramesh Rawat, residing at Q-78, Second Floor, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, hereby declare that my full name is Kiran Rawat 0040755049-1

I, Jietnder Bajaj S/O Har Prakash Bajaj, R/O B.A-307, Tagore Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110027, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jitender Bajaj. 0070930996-1

I, Ashwini Shukla, S/O Rajendra Prasad Shukla, R/O Flat 904, Tower 5, Panchsheel Pratishtha Sector 75 Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301 UP, have changed my name to Ashwini Kumar Shukla for all future purposes. 0070930993-1

I, Harbans Lal Kapur S/o Sh.S.D.Kapur, R/O C-2/6, Mangal Appt., Vasundhara Enclave, Dullpur, Delhi-110096.In my wife's death Certificate my name is shortly written Sh. H.L.Kapur. My full correct name is Sh.Harbans Lal Kapur 0040755044-1

I, Aman S/O Mukesh Kumar Grover R/O C5D/98B Janak Puri New Delhi-110058 have changed my name from Aman to Aman Grover for all future purposes—Vide affidavit dt. 21.10.2024 notary by J K Sharma. 0070931033-1

I,Sunana alias Sunaina D/o Subhash Chand W/o Satpal Rathore R/o H.No.9/4546-B, Street No.5,Ajeet Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110031 have changed my name to Sunaina Rathore for all purposes. 0040755033-2

I,Shivam Aggarwal S/o Abhay Kumar Aggarwal R/O 107, Anand Vihar, Pitampura Delhi Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar North West Delhi, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Shivam Aggarwal 0070930998-1

I,Neelam Yadav D/o Sh.Munna Lal and Smt.Shiksha Devi W/o Irfan R/B-202, Udham Singh Park,Wazirpur Industrial Area, Delhi-110052 is also known as Nilophar. Both names are of one and the same person. 0040755033-1

I have Changed My Name From Sanjeev Kumar to Sanjeev Kumar Agrawal Hence forth to be Known as Sanjeev Kumar Agrawal S/o L.T. Krishan Chandra Agrawal, 205-B, Nehru Nagar Apartment, Gandhi Nagar, Agra-282002, (U.P.) 0040755038-1

I,Harjeet Kaur D/o S. Kuldip Singh W/O S. Amrik Singh R/o G-24B, Vishnu Garden, Near Mangal Bazaar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name after marriage to Manjeet Kaur for all purposes. 0040755033-4

I,Dori Shankar S/o Lokesh Sharma R/o Plot No.816, Block-A-1, Jaswant Colony, Phase-2, VTC: Budh Vihar, PO: Budh Vihar, Sub District: Saraswati Vihar, District: North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Ishwar Sharma for all purposes vide Affidavit No. IN-DL73198016547639W dated 18.10.2024 sworn before Notary (A.R.Nasir) Delhi. 0040755033-3

I,UMA SANKAR PRASAD S/O MAHESHWAR PRASAD R/O HNO.128,MAJDOOR CAMP,HAIDERPUR,DELHI-110088.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO UMA SHANKAR PRASAD. 0040755124-7

I, Dharam Gulati W/o KK Gulati R/o 108C GH10 Paschim Vihar New Delhi-110087, have lost original Allotment Letter of Flat number 108C GH 10 New Delhi. If found please contact at above address. 0040755036-1

I,Dhani Ram Gupta, S/o Late Tota Ram Gupta R/o F-1685,Tigri JJ Colony Delhi-110062,I had booked a plot in Punjab,Plot no.344,Area 224 square feet,Parasnath King City Rajpura,Punjab.The receipt of this plot has been mislaid by me.If anybody finds the receipt of the plot sending the receipt of the plot above address Contact-8448747577 0040755036-1

I, Dharam Gulati W/o KK Gulati R/o 108C GH10 Paschim Vihar New Delhi-110087, have lost original Allotment Letter of Flat number 108C GH 10 New Delhi. If found please contact at above address. 0040755036-1

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PUBLIC NOTICE

"PUBLIC NOTICE" regarding lost documents and property for Shri Anu Kapoor Advocate, Chamber No. 257, Chief Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"PUBLIC NOTICE" regarding lost documents and property for Shri Rakesh Kumar Advocate, Enrol. No. D165797, Offc. At-G-11, KARKARDAI COURT, DELHI-110092.

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Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India) Amravati Road, Wadi, Nagpur - 440 023. www.jnarddc.gov.in (07104-220701) e-mail: purchasejnarddcnagpur@gmail.com

CANTONMENT BOARD, MATHURA

INVITATION OF E-TENDERS (DUAL BID SYSTEM)

Electronic Bids are invited by Cantonment Board, Mathura for the under mentioned works Board's decision in this regard will be final.

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No, Name of Work, Estimated Cost (Rs.), Earnest Money 2% in (Rs.), Tender Form Fee. Includes items like repair/renovation of Cantt Fund Buildings, paver block, drains, etc.

The interested contractors/firms shall upload all the documents related to above works on the website https://defproc.gov.in/ w.e.f. starting date 22.10.2024 at 1600 hrs to ending date 12.11.2024 upto 1700 hrs. The terms & conditions for the above mentioned works may look up the ibid website.

NO. CBM/E-Tender/2024-25/282 Dated: 19 Oct, 2024 Chief Executive Officer Cantonment Board, Mathura (Divya R, I.D.E.S.)

TIRWA TRANSMISSION LIMITED

Registered Office: 2nd Floor, NiryatBhawan, Rao Tularam Marg, Vasant Vihar, Opposite Army Hospital Referral, New Delhi-110057

NOTICE

Petition No. 2104 of 2024 (Under sub-section 2(i) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003)

In the matter of Application by Tirwa Transmission Ltd. for Grant of Intra-State Transmission Licence within Uttar Pradesh

Tirwa Transmission Ltd, which is incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, has made an application before the Hon'ble Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC), Lucknow, under Section 14,15 (1), 86 (1) (d) of the Electricity Act, 2003 for grant of Transmission License to establish Intra-State Transmission System, the details of which are given below:

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Scope of the Transmission Scheme, SCOD From Effective Date. Includes construction of substations and LILOs.

Note:

THDC Khurja Power Plant to provide 02 Nos. Bays of 400kV for the construction of LILo of one circuit and shall be handed over to Tirwa Transmission Limited on as is where basis. 2. A copy of the Transmission License application along with its annexures, enclosures and other documents filed before the Hon'ble UPERC is available on the web site, the URL of which being tti.in.net/gallery, for access by any person. The application will also be made available to anybody on demand/request to Tirwa Transmission Limited at S-2, T.I.E., Balanagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500 037 with Mr. M. Raghu Kumar, Director. (info@tti.in.net).

For Tirwa Transmission Limited Mr Mandalaparthi Raghu Kumar Director Place: Delhi Date: 22.10.2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना सं 03 / 2024-25 ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना सं 03 / 2024-25 (PRNo.-338647 Road (24-25)-Dके द्वारा कार्य-पथ प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा अंतर्गत दुमका-मसलिया-कुडहित-नाला पथ के कि०मी० 20.00 से 53.355 कि०मी० तक (कुल लंबाई-33.355 कि०मी०) के IRQP कार्य वर्ष 2024-25 हेतु निकाली गई निविदा अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द की जाती है।



@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

# What is Z-Morh tunnel? Why is it strategically important?

**BASHAARAT MASOOD & MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA**  
SRINAGAR, CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 21

MILITANTS SHOT dead seven people in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Sunday evening. The attackers opened fire at a campsite housing workers of APCO Infratech, a construction firm which is building the strategically vital Z-Morh tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh highway.

## What is the Z-Morh tunnel?

The 6.4 km long tunnel connects the town of Kangan to the tourist spot of Sonmarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The tunnel is being constructed near Gagangir village, which lies roughly 10 km away from Sonmarg. The tunnel's name comes from the Z-shaped stretch of road at the location of its construction. (Map)

## What is the importance of the tunnel?

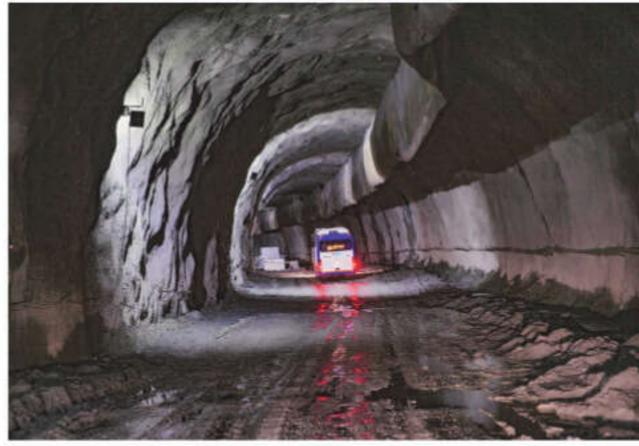
The strategically vital Srinagar-Leh high-

way (National Highway-1) is one of only two roads that connect Ladakh to the rest of India — the other being the Manali-Leh highway (NH-3). The Z-Morh tunnel is a part of the larger Zojila tunnel project which seeks to provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Drass, Kargil, and Leh on NH-1.

Currently, both NH-1 and NH-3 remain shut during winter. The stretch of road, which the Z-Morh tunnel will help by-pass, is located at an altitude of more than 8,500 feet, and is closed for months in the winter due to heavy snowfall and the threat of avalanches. This inconveniences tourists who frequent the resort town of Sonmarg, and hampers the movement of troops and supplies to Ladakh.

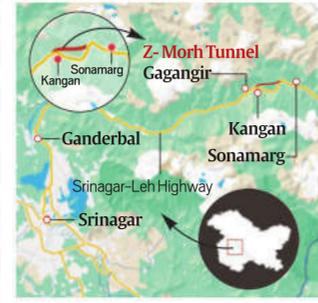
Ladakh is strategically vital for India. Indian forces are deployed against Pakistan in Siachen Glacier and in Turtuk sub sector which abuts Baltistan in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). There is also widespread deployment against China in Eastern Ladakh, more so since the 2020 Galwan clashes.

The Zojila tunnel project — including the



14 km-long under-construction tunnel at Zojila which will connect Sonmarg in the Kashmir valley to Drass in Ladakh — will al-

low the transportation of troops and supply by road all year round. This will make it easier to mobilise forces in times of need, and



A photo of the under construction Z-Morh tunnel from September 2021. The tunnel is now almost complete, and is expected to be inaugurated soon. (AP File)

also cut costs associated with air transportation. Currently, the Army relies on transport aircraft from the Air Force for maintaining its

forward locations along the Line of Control.

## When did the Z-Morh tunnel project begin? When is it likely to be completed?

The tunnel project was originally conceived by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in 2012. The BRO had awarded the construction contract to Tunnelway Ltd.

However, the project was later taken over by the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL). The NHIDCL re-tendered the tunnel project, and the contract was bagged by APCO Infratech.

The project was originally expected to be completed by August 2023, but was delayed for various reasons. The soft opening of the tunnel was carried out in February this year. At the moment, the tunnel project is almost complete. Its inauguration had been delayed by the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in place because of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections.

The Zojila tunnel, being constructed by Megha Engineering, is expected to be completed by December 2026.

## THIS WORD MEANS

### C. ELEGANS

Simple microscopic worms, studying which has won scientists four Nobel Prizes so far

WHILE ACCEPTING the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine this year, molecular biologist Gary Ruvkun spent a few minutes lauding his experimental subject: a tiny worm named *Caenorhabditis elegans*.

This is not this worm's first brush with international stardom nor is it the first time *C. elegans* has been thanked for aiding award-winning work. Ruvkun's award was actually the fourth Nobel Prize resulting from *C. elegans* research, cementing the lowly soil worm's outsized role in scientific discovery.

## Four Nobels

The 1-millimeter nematode has helped scientists understand how healthy cells are instructed to kill themselves and how the process goes awry in AIDS, strokes and degenerative diseases. (That work was the subject of the 2002 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine.) Self-proclaimed "worm people" were recognised by the Nobel committee in 2006 for discovering gene silencing, which became the basis for an entirely new class of drugs. Two years later, the chemistry prize went to scientists who used nematodes to help invent cellular "lanterns" that allowed biologists to see the inner workings of a cell.

For each prize, a laureate made sure to thank the worm for its contributions, though perhaps the most famous nod came from Sydney Brenner, who won the first "worm Nobel." "Without doubt, the fourth winner of the Nobel Prize this year is *Caenorhabditis elegans*," he said in his lecture in Stockholm.

## 'Experimental dream'

One of the *C. elegans*' virtues is its simplicity, which allows scientists to test hypotheses about fundamental biological concepts in a model that is easy to understand. The nematodes have just 959 cells — a remarkably manageable number, compared with our trillions of cells — each of which scientists have named and charted



The worm *C. elegans* with embryos attached to its body. The NYT

from fertilisation to death. The destiny of each cell is easy to map, since the worms become translucent under the light of a microscope and cycle through all developmental stages in about three days.

The nematode was the first animal to have its genome entirely deciphered — in 1998, years before scientists were able to do the same for flies and mice. The worm is inexpensive, easy to store and entirely self-sufficient when it comes to reproduction; female *C. elegans* have functional sperm that allow them to inseminate themselves.

"It's an experimental dream," said Judith Kimble, a nematode researcher at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

## Bonding over worms

Kimble attributes much of the research success to the fact that worm-bonded scientists tend to share their resources and cooperate. Ruvkun, of the Harvard Medical School, and his co-winner, Victor Ambros, a professor of molecular medicine at UMass Chan Medical School, shared their findings with each other, allowing them to piece together the mechanics of microRNA.

The *C. elegans* research community comes together every other year at the International Worm Convention.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

## UDIT MISRA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

ANDHRA PRADESH Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has said his government is working on a law to incentivise residents of the state to have more children. "We are already in deficit. Having less than two children leads to the rapid decline of the young population," he said.

Earlier, when asked by *The Indian Express* about concerns among Southern states that their smaller populations might impact their representation in Parliament after the delimitation of constituencies, Naidu had said: "South India, with a lower fertility rate, is already facing the aging issue, and it will gradually impact North India as well."

On Monday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin joked about the potential reduction of South India's share in parliamentary seats due to lower population growth rates: "Why not aim for 16 children?"

## What do data say on aging and overall population size?

With Census 2021 delayed, the most recent population projections available are in a 2020 report of a technical group within the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

As the chart shows, India's population is projected to age with each passing year. The proportion (percentage) of people in the 60+ age bracket will rise across the board — even though the increase in the Northern states will be smaller than in the South. This is because most Southern states transitioned to a lower fertility rate sooner than the Northern states. For example, Uttar Pradesh is projected to achieve the Replacement Level of Fertility only next year — that is more than two decades after Andhra Pradesh.

Here's what else the report projected: ■ In the 25 years from 2011 and 2036, India's population will increase by 31.1 crore. Almost half — 17 crore — will be added in five states: Bihar, UP, Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh. As much as 19% of the total population increase during 2011-36 is expected to occur in UP.

■ The contribution of the five Southern states — AP, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu — to the total increase in population during 2011-2036 is expected to be only 2.9 crore, or 9%.

■ With declining fertility and increasing

## POPULATION BY PERCENTAGE IN DIFFERENT AGE BRACKETS

INDIA	2011	2036 (PROJECTED)
0-14 years	30.9	20.1
15-59 years	60.7	64.9
60+ years	8.4	14.9

Andhra Pradesh	2011	2036	Uttar Pradesh	2011	2036
0-14 years	25.2	15.7	0-14 years	36	22
15-59 years	64.8	65.3	15-59 years	56.7	66.1
60+ years	10.1	19	60+ years	7.3	11.9

Source: Population Projection by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

life expectancy, the number of older persons in the population is expected to more than double from 10 crore in 2011 to 23 crore in 2036, their share in the population rising from 8.4% to 14.9% during this period.

■ In Kerala, where lower fertility and mortality rates were achieved much sooner than other states, the proportion of persons aged 60 years and older will increase from 13% in 2011 to 23% in 2036 — or almost 1 in 4 individuals. The population of UP, by contrast, is expected to be comparatively younger — the share of 60+ individuals in the state population is expected to increase from 7% in 2011 to 12% in 2036.

## Why is an aging population, and a relatively smaller population, a concern?

An aging population (which Naidu spoke of) and a smaller population (that Stalin referred to) are two separate concerns.

Typically, if two-thirds of the total population is in the working-age bracket it implies a "dividend" — because the dependency ratio (that is, the percentage of population that is not earning and is dependent on others) is less than 50%.

Dependency is of two kinds: those below the age of 15, and those above the age of 60. A high percentage of aging population does imply that the state may have to spend more on taking care of this growing population.

The issue of the total population of a state being lower compared to other states is different. This issue has come into sharp focus in public discussions on electoral delimitation — where fears have been expressed that Southern states could end up getting penalised by way of fewer seats in Lok Sabha

for having made the demographic transition before the North (and especially the so-called "BIMARU" states).

## So, do government policies to boost fertility, as Naidu mentioned, work?

Naidu referred to some countries — such as Japan, China, and countries in Europe — that are also struggling with aging populations. But there is no real evidence that people who have reached a certain level of prosperity and education can be incentivised to have more babies.

Academics such as social demographer Sonalde Desai, Distinguished University Professor Emerita at the University of Maryland, and P M Kulkarni and Deepak Mishra of JNU, are unanimous that pro-natalist policies have had very little success.

"Virtually nowhere in the world — Japan, China, Korea, France etc. — have pro-natalist policies worked. The only place where such policies had some impact to the extent that they did not allow the fertility rate to plummet to very low levels were in Scandinavian countries. Here the policies were more in the shape of family support, childcare support, gender equality, paternity leaves etc.," Desai said.

However, she stressed that even giving financial support doesn't do enough to encourage families to have more babies.

## Why do statements like the ones made by Naidu matter?

These statements demonstrate the stark turnaround on the stand taken by politicians, especially from the Southern states, on the population question.

Roughly five decades ago, the main con-

cern facing India was rapid population growth, fuelled by high levels of fertility (births per woman). The situation was once deemed so grim that many wondered if India would even have enough food to feed its teeming millions.

Over the decades, however, India has been able to arrest the pace of population growth — an achievement that has been led by several Southern states. Andhra Pradesh achieved the Replacement Level of Fertility — that is, an average of 2.1 children per woman — in 2004, making it the fifth Indian state to do so after Kerala (1988), Tamil Nadu (2000), Himachal Pradesh (2002), and West Bengal (2003). Andhra Pradesh used to have a law that barred people from contesting in local polls if they had more than two children; Naidu has repealed it.

However, while individual states are witnessing considerably lower levels of fertility than in the past, India's inherent population momentum has meant that it is now the most populous country on the planet.

## If incentives don't work, what is the way forward to address concerns about population?

"The simplest solution is (internal) migration," Desai said.

There are three contributors to the total population: fertility, mortality, and migration. Both Desai and Kulkarni said migration can even out the imbalance caused by the mismatch in the pace of the demographic transition between North and South India.

Of course, such migration is already underway. "What's more, the Southern states will get people in the working age," Desai said. In other words, destination states don't have to spend on nurturing a young population, their education, etc.; they can straightaway benefit from the working-age migrant population.

This is the model that the United States has employed over the decades — it is immigrants, their economic output and their fertility, that has helped sustain America's economic dominance over the world.

Both Kulkarni and Mishra underscored that rather than having more children, the concern for India should be to boost the economic productivity of its labour force, and to ensure that the benefits of the ongoing demographic dividend are cashed fully.

LONGER VERSION ON [indianexpress.com/explained](http://indianexpress.com/explained)

# What is satellite spectrum, why most countries prefer not to hold auctions

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

UNION COMMUNICATIONS Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia clarified last week that spectrum for satellite communication (satcom) would be allocated "administratively", rather than through an auction of airwaves, which was proposed by Reliance Jio earlier this month.

This was seen as a victory for some of the company's biggest rivals, especially Elon Musk's Starlink. However, the fact is, given the nature of satellite spectrum, it is not feasible for any one country to auction it. Unlike terrestrial spectrum, which is used for mobile communication, satellite spectrum has no national territorial limits. Due to this international character, satellite spectrum is coordinated and managed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN).

Spectrum for satcom is part of the first

schedule of The Telecommunications Act, 2023 ("Assignment of spectrum through administrative process"). Under Section 4(4) of the Act, telecom spectrum shall be assigned through auction "except for entries listed in the First Schedule for which assignment shall be done by administrative process".

"Administrative process" under the Act "means assignment of spectrum without holding an auction", and "auction" means a bid process for assignment of spectrum".

The Department of Telecommunication (DoT) had asked the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) to come up with a methodology to assign the spectrum. As Trai explored pricing models for the service, Jio submitted to the regulator that administrative allocation may not be able to ensure a level playing field between satellite and terrestrial services.

In response, Musk posted on X on October 14 that an auction process "would be unprecedented, as this spectrum was long designated by the ITU as shared spec-

trum for satellites".

## Satcom & its benefits

Satcom services use an array of satellites in orbit to provide connectivity on the ground. They do not require wires to transmit data, and are an alternative to ground-based communication, called terrestrial networks, such as cable, fibre, or digital subscriber line (DSL).

For end-users such as homes and businesses, satellite-based communication and broadband services offer two key benefits: wider coverage, and a more resilient network. Even though the latency of satcom services can at times be higher than terrestrial broadband networks, they can cover vast areas without needing to install much physical equipment.

The use of satellites allows communication networks to reach remote locations that mobile telephony cannot access. It is generally understood that when satcom services become more mainstream, low-

lying and rural areas, and areas prone to natural disasters, will benefit from constant connectivity.

Satellite-based Internet is also believed to be more resilient than terrestrial-based services, since they have comparatively fewer components on the ground. The equipment for satellite communication is, therefore, less likely to sustain damage due to extreme weather events.

## Size of satcom sector

Consulting firm KPMG in India has estimated in a recent report that the country's satcom sector, which currently stands at \$2.3 billion a year, will reach \$20 billion by 2028.

India is ranked fourth in terms of investments in the sector globally. Investment bank Morgan Stanley has estimated roughly 290.4 million households in India are untapped with broadband, which present a strong market opportunity for satellite operators.

## Auction vs allocation

It is important to understand the key difference between spectrum for terrestrial networks and satellite communication, and why the distinction between allocation and auctioning arises in the first place.

For terrestrial mobile services, spectrum is exclusive, and is managed only by a single mobile operator in a given geographical area; therefore, this cannot be shared between or amongst operators.

In the case of satellites, the same spectrum is non-exclusive in nature — and can be used by multiple satellite operators to serve the same geographical area.

The general trend, therefore, is to allocate satellite spectrum administratively.

## Auction experiment

A few countries such as the United States, Brazil, and Saudi Arabia, have held auctions for frequency spectrum in the past. The US and Brazil conducted an auction of satellite spectrum along with orbital slots. Both countries have since reverted to ad-

ministrative assignment after finding the auction process infeasible.

The US last conducted an auction for satellite spectrum in 2004 for three domestic orbital slots for broadcasting services. The annual regulatory fee for VSAT and equivalent C-Band antennas operating in the 12 GHz and 14 GHz frequencies is \$595 per licence or authorisation.

Brazil amended its regulatory framework in 2020 to replace satellite auctions with administrative licensing. Though satellite landing rights are assigned through bidding in the country, the spectrum to be used for satellite services is not auctioned separately.

Saudi Arabia recently conducted a spectrum auction in the S-band, which ranges from 2 GHz to 4 GHz and is used for mobile satellite services (MSS) as well as weather and air traffic control applications. The technical characteristics of the S-band are such that it is assigned on an exclusive basis for MSS; auction can, therefore, be conducted in a manner similar to the spectrum auction for terrestrial mobile services.

# 14 THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Newly elected President Luong Cuong in Hanoi on Monday. AP

### VIETNAM Army General is country's new president

Hanoi: Vietnam elected Luong Cuong, a military general, as its new president on Monday, the fourth official to fill the role in 18 months. Cuong, 67, was elected by the National Assembly to replace To Lam, who remained president even after he was formally appointed as the general secretary of the ruling Communist Party in August. The role of the general secretary is the most powerful position in Vietnam while the presidency is largely ceremonial. AP

### SRI LANKA Petition calls election date unconstitutional

Houston: A petition was filed in Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Monday pleading that the decision to hold the parliamentary election on November 14 be declared unconstitutional. The attorney general, the secretary to the president and members of the independent election commission have been named respondents in the petition filed by a civil society activist. The petition states that the election must be held on a date which is not less than five weeks from the closure of nominations which was October 11. The date must also not exceed seven weeks from the closure of nominations, it said. PTI

### UNITED STATES Chopper crash in Houston leaves 4 dead

Houston: A helicopter crashed Sunday in Houston, killing four people and destroying a radio tower, officials said. The helicopter went down just before 8 pm in Houston's Second Ward, east of the city's downtown, after taking off from Ellington Field, which is about 15 miles (24 km) away, Mayor John Whitmire said at a news conference. He didn't know its destination. The National Transportation Safety Board said in a social media post that it was investigating the crash of the Robinson R44 II helicopter. AP

## U.S. ENVOY HOLDS TALKS IN LEBANON; ISRAEL HITS HEZBOLLAH FINANCES

# Blinken heads to West Asia as US looks to kickstart talks to end war in Gaza

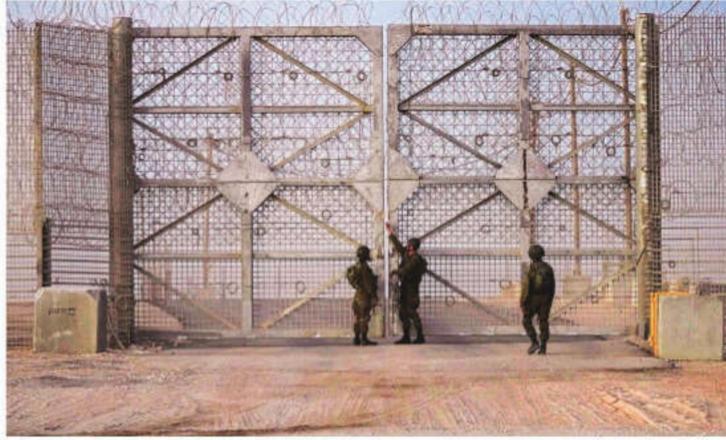
HUMEYRA PAMUK  
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 21

US SECRETARY of State Antony Blinken will make another push for a ceasefire when he heads to the Middle East on Monday, the State Department said, seeking to kickstart negotiations to end the Gaza war and also defuse the spillover conflict in Lebanon. The top US diplomat's latest trip to the region, his eleventh since the October 7, 2023 attack on Israel by Palestinian militant group Hamas that triggered the Gaza war, comes even as Israel has intensified its military campaign in Gaza and in Lebanon against the Iran-aligned Hezbollah militia.

The US is trying to defuse complex interlocked conflicts after Israel raised the stakes by assassinating the leaders of Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza while showing no sign of reining in its ground and aerial offensives.

Killing Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar last week after a year of trying to locate him was a major victory for Israel. But its leaders say the war must go on until the Islamist group is eliminated as a military and security threat to Israel. Iran and its allies Hezbollah and Hamas, meanwhile, have said Sinwar's death in a gun battle last week with Israeli soldiers in southern Gaza will not weaken their resolve.

Blinken will discuss with regional leaders the importance of ending the war in Gaza, ways to



Israeli soldiers close the gate of Erez Crossing near Gaza Strip on Monday. AP

chart a post-conflict plan for the Palestinian enclave, as well as how to reach a diplomatic solution to the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, the State Department said in a statement.

US envoy Amos Hochstein held talks with Lebanese officials in Beirut on Monday on conditions for a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah after Israel struck branches across Lebanon of a financial institution linked to the group. US officials are seeking to broker a truce in Lebanon, where Israel launched a ground campaign over the past month after a year of border clashes touched off by Hezbollah rocket fire into Israel in support of

Hamas in Gaza. Caretaker Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati said there was no alternative to a 2006 UN resolution on security in south Lebanon, but "new understandings" could be reached to implement it, a statement issued by his office said on Monday.

A UN peacekeeping mission was mandated by Security Council Resolution 1701 to help Lebanon's army keep its southern border area with Israel free of weapons or armed personnel other than those of the Lebanese state. But Israel says it was never honoured with Hezbollah continuing to dominate the area. REUTERS

### EXPLAINED What is U.N. resolution 1701

THE 2006 United Nations resolution 1701, which the caretaker Lebanese PM Najib Mikati said should be honoured, seeks a permanent ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel by creating a buffer zone. The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with 15,000 troops would monitor borders, supported Lebanese forces as Israel withdrew in 2006.

## NATO chief: North Korea sending troops to Ukraine would escalate conflict

REUTERS  
BRUSSELS, KYIV, OCTOBER 21

IF NORTH Korea were to send troops to Ukraine to fight on Russia's behalf it would significantly escalate the conflict, NATO Chief Mark Rutte said on social media platform X on Monday.

Rutte, who took office at NATO at the start of the month, said he had a discussion with South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol about the alliance's close partnership with Seoul, focusing on defense industrial cooperation and the interconnected security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last week that North Korea was preparing to send 10,000 sol-



NATO chief Mark Rutte

diers to help Moscow's war effort, and that some North Korean officers were already deployed on Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory.

Meanwhile, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced \$400 million in new arms for Ukraine on Monday during a visit to Kyiv. Austin's trip, his fourth and likely final visit as President Joe Biden's Pentagon chief, was expected to focus on US efforts to help Kyiv shore up its defences as Russian forces gain ground in eastern Ukraine.

## Zardari's nod to limiting Chief Justice's tenure to three years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 21

PAKISTAN ON Monday enacted a law, capping the Chief Justice's tenure to three years and setting up a special commission to appoint the top judge from three senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, amid opposition from the jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party.

President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday gave his assent to the Constitution (26th Amendment) Act, 2024, after it was passed by both Houses of Parliament - the Senate and the National Assembly. With the 26th Constitution Amendment Bill becoming law, the government can now block Justice Masoor Ali Shah from succeeding Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, who is set to retire on October 25.

## Trump cooks fries at McDonald's as political vitriol boils outside

SHAWN MCCREESH  
OCTOBER 21

ON SUNDAY afternoon, former President Donald J. Trump dropped by a McDonald's in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He had cooked up a stunt to troll Vice President Kamala Harris, who has talked about having worked at McDonald's one summer during college. Inside the restaurant, Trump wore an apron and dropped French fries into a vat of gurgling oil. Across the street, something much unhealthier was bubbling up.

A few hundred Trump supporters were lining the shoulder of the road and holding a tailgate party in the parking lot of a strip mall right where Philadelphia ends and the suburbs begin. Another group of locals - maybe 50 people - had turned up to protest Mr. Trump's visit. People on the two sides spent the sunny autumn afternoon screaming into one another's faces while filming the skirmishes on their iPhones.

The parking lot throbbed with hatred, fear and neighbor's suspicion of neighbor. It became a microcosm of this year's election, vicious and absurd. There was shouting about Project 2025 and the Jan. 6 riot. Transgender youth and vaccines. Tariffs and abortion. Fascism and communism. Mr. Trump's supporters wore T-shirts that said "I'm voting for the convicted felon." The other side yelled, "Lock him up." One person wore an orange prison jumpsuit and a mask of Trump's face.



Former US President Donald Trump at McDonald's in Pennsylvania on Sunday. NYT

This is what the mood is like in a swing state, 16 days before an election. Sixteen days before this election. Nearly a decade into the Trump-era of politics, the language is apocalyptic. Social media has supercharged the crude negativity.

Both campaigns are spending wildly here. You can barely turn on the television or scroll on your phone without seeing a nasty advertisement. Many ordinarily nice people seem to have gone a little mad. They're wearing political merchandise to dive bars and posting videos of themselves fighting over yard signs. Every day, Nov. 5 creeps a little closer, and the partisan tinnitus rings a little louder. Michael Mazzoni, a 57-year-old man who said he lives in the neighborhood and works in

pharmaceuticals, held a sign supporting Ms. Harris. It read: "WEIRD. Stop bullies and criminals. Vote for Freedom." He puffed on a cigar and smiled while a few Trump supporters flipped him off. "Just making sure our message gets heard," he said when asked why he had chosen to spend his Sunday in this Trump-adjacent manner. "The Trump message is always louder, crazier," he said. "That doesn't mean it's the majority."

Lynda Mintz, a 77-year-old retiree from Bensalem, Pa., who said she was a volunteer for the Harris campaign, nodded. On her head was a hat that read "DUMP TRUMP." "Do you remember what they used to call the silent majority?" she asked. "I kind of think that's the Democrats now." NYT



Because the stock market was heavily controlled, most of China's most competitive companies were largely unable or unwilling to be listed in their home country. There was little correlation between the market's performance and China's economy. The SSE composite index of companies that trade in Shanghai peaked in 2007, far before China's economic expansion reached its pinnacle. And it lacked China's highly successful start-ups like Alibaba, which went public in New York in 2014, and Tencent, which listed its initial public offering in Hong Kong in 2004.

Instead, people invested in real estate, which makes up about 70 per cent of China's household assets. While their wealth ballooned with rising housing prices, the government, which owns all land in the country, reaped most of the financial benefit. Now that the housing market has crashed, the government is luring people into the stock market.

The investors I interviewed told me they know the risks they are taking in the market, but they feel they have no choice in a country where the government controls the land, the banks and which companies can list on the stock exchanges. NYT

## Fethullah Gulen, 83, accused of 2016 coup attempt in Turkey, dies in Pennsylvania

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SAYLORSBURG, OCTOBER 21

FETHULLAH GULEN, a reclusive US-based Islamic cleric who inspired a global social movement while facing accusations he masterminded a failed 2016 coup in his native Turkey, has died.

Abdullah Bozkurt, the former editor of the Gulen-linked Today's Zaman newspaper, who is now in exile in Sweden, said on Monday that he spoke to Gulen's nephew, Kemal Gulen, who confirmed the death. Fethullah Gulen was in his eighties and had long been in ill health.

The state-run Anadolu Agency quoted Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan as saying the death has been confirmed by Turkish intelligence sources.

Gulen spent the last decades of his life in self-exile, living on a gated compound in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains from where he continued to wield influence among his millions of followers in Turkey and throughout the world.

He espoused a philosophy that blended Sufism - a mystical form of Islam - with staunch advocacy of democracy, education, science and interfaith dialogue.

Gulen began as an ally of Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but became a foe. He called Erdogan an authoritarian bent on accumulating power and crushing dissent. Erdogan cast Gulen as a terrorist, accusing him of orchestrating the attempted military coup on the



Fethullah Gulen spent the last decades of his life in self-exile. Reuters

night of July 15, 2016, when factions within the military used tanks, warplanes and helicopters to try to overthrow Erdogan's government.

Heeding a call from the president, thousands took to the streets to oppose the takeover attempt. The coup-plotters fired at crowds and bombed parliament and other government buildings. A total of 251 people were killed and around 2,200 others were wounded. Around 35 alleged coup plotters were also killed.

Gulen adamantly denied involvement, and his supporters dismissed the charges as ridiculous and politically motivated. Turkey put Gulen on its most-wanted list and demanded his extradition, but the United States showed little inclination to send him back, saying it needed more evidence. Gulen was never charged with a crime in the US, and he consistently denounced terrorism as well as the coup plotters.

In Turkey, Gulen's movement - sometimes known as Hizmet, Turkish for "service" - was subjected to a broad crackdown.

## No documentary proof of Hasina's resignation as PM, says President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DHAKA, OCTOBER 21

BANGLADESH'S PRESIDENT Mohammed Shahabuddin has said that he does not have any documentary evidence of Sheikh Hasina resigning as prime minister before she fled the country.

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, 84, became Bangladesh's interim government's Chief Adviser on August 8 after PM Hasina fled to India on August 5.

President Shahabuddin said he heard that Hasina had resigned as prime minister before she fled Bangladesh, but he does not have documentary evidence, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported on Monday, quoting excerpts from his interview with Bangla daily Manab Zamin. Despite numerous efforts, the president said, he had failed to find any documents. "Perhaps she did not have the time," Shahabuddin said. Narrating the events of August 5, he said that at around 10:30 am, a call came to Bangabhaban from Hasina's residence, informing him that Hasina would meet him.

"Hearing this, preparations began at Bangabhaban. Within an hour, another call came, saying she was not coming," the president said.



Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

"There was news of unrest everywhere...I asked my military secretary, General Adil (Major General Mohammad Adil Choudhury), to look into it. He also had no information. We were waiting and checking the TV scrolls. There was no news anywhere. At one point, I heard that she (Hasina) had left the country without informing me. I am telling you the truth as it is.

"When the army chief, General Waker, came to Bangabhaban, I tried to find out whether the prime minister had resigned. The answer was the same: he heard she had resigned but probably did not get the time to inform us. When everything was under control, one day, the cabinet secretary came to collect a copy of the resignation letter. I told him I was also looking for it," Shahabuddin said.

## PEOPLE SAY PUTTING THEIR SAVINGS INTO A MARKET FULL OF RISKS GIVES THEM A SENSE OF CONTROL

# 200 million accounts: Why Chinese are rushing into a 'casino' stock market

LIYUAN  
OCTOBER 21

THEY CALL China's stock market a "casino," yet they are rushing in. They are betting money that the government really does want to finally crawl out of the hole it has dug. They are speculating, looking for short-term gains, with a great degree of uneasiness.

A flurry of policies by Beijing in recent weeks meant to stimulate the domestic economy has spurred China's middle class to invest more in stocks, prompting the country's biggest rally since 2008.

In recent interviews, investors said that doing something, even putting their savings into a market full of risks, gives them a sense of control when their country seems to be going astray. They worry that the government is doing more to prime the market than to help the economy, but for now they are clinging to a familiar, bubbly feeling in an era of deflation.

"We are all 'garlic chives' to be harvested by our ruler," said Wang, a Beijing resident who said he invested more than \$150,000. He invoked an online meme that says Chinese people are vegetables waiting to be plucked from

the ground. "But if I take the initiative to participate in the market, at least I have some control over my destiny," he said.

Wang was one of 10 Chinese investors interviewed last week, some by video and others by email and text message exchange. All of them are professionals or business owners. They have money to invest but are not super rich.

They all spoke on condition that I use only their surnames for fear of retribution. The government has censored articles and comments critical of its recent measures, which some said is contributing more to the market



Workers on the floor of the Shanghai Stock Exchange in 1992. China re-established stock trading in the early 1990s. NYT

ally than it will to economic revival.

China reinstated stock trading in the early 1990s - part of the country's economic reform experiment. Potential investors lined up for hours and sometimes days to get into the game.

Now there are more than 200 million trading accounts in China's stock market, and virtually all are for individual investors. But less than a quarter of those accounts are actively trading. China's stock exchanges have not turned out to be wealth-generating venues for the Chinese public, who have largely avoided the market because it was so volatile.

'STATE OF THE ECONOMY' ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE RBI'S OCTOBER BULLETIN

India's growth outlook supported by robust domestic engines: RBI bulletin

HITESH VYAS MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

DESPITE GEOPOLITICAL tensions, the country's growth outlook is supported by robust domestic engines, a Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) article said.

The article said as per its economic activity index (EAI), the gross domestic product (GDP) growth is projected at 6.8 per cent in the July-September 2024 quarter, lower than the RBI's projection of 7 per cent for the same period.

The official who was vigilant and "sensible" immediately detected the fraud. Mittal admitted that when he heard the voice recording himself he was "stunned" as "it was perfectly articulated as I would speak".



The innate strength of India's external sector lies in its strong macroeconomic fundamentals, the RBI article said.

Some high frequency indicators have, however, shown a slackening of momentum in the second quarter of 2024-25. This is partly attributable to idiosyncratic factors like unusually heavy rains in August and September, and Pitrū Paksha - goods and services tax (GST) collections; automobile sales; bank credit growth; merchandise exports; and the manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI).

In parallel, there are other high frequency indicators which show steady growth, the article said

shown a deceleration in real gross value added by non-government non-finance companies. Real investments in plants and machinery remained subdued while net fixed assets have slowed down.

Apparently, the crowding in effect of government capex is lagged. Given the moderation in sales growth, corporates appear to be protecting margins by conserving spending on both raw materials and manpower while delaying an aggressive capex push, the article said.

There is a view gaining ground that the time for private investment is now; delay risks loss of competitiveness.

"The stage is set for the private sector to deploy capital and invest in growth, build capacities, create employment and improve efficiencies," the article stated.

It further said that with the financial sector ready to intermediate resources for productive investment, buffered by healthy balance sheets, and the government's continued thrust on capex, the investment outlook appears bright.

"The ongoing strengthening of global trade could provide fillip to

external demand for India's exports although escalation of geopolitical tensions remains a potential threat," the article said.

As per the World Trade Organization (WTO) goods trade barometer (September 2024), global goods trade has continued to recover in the third quarter of 2024 despite headwinds.

The RBI's article said that in terms of aggregate supply, above normal rainfall in the monsoon season augurs well for overall kharif production in the country as well as for reservoir storage, which brightens the Rabi season outlook.

The increased likelihood of La Niña conditions developing during the post-monsoon season of 2024 is beneficial for overall precipitation, although the possibility of excessive rainfall damaging the standing kharif crops remains a risk. It said that the country's external sector is showing resilience despite rising geopolitical tensions.

The innate strength of India's external sector lies in its strong macroeconomic fundamentals, supported by high foreign exchange reserves, the article said.

SEES 3.3X SUBSCRIPTION ON DAY 1

Waaree Energies launches IPO as solar cos make a beeline for primary market

AGGAM WALIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

WAAREE ENERGIES, India's largest solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturer, launched its Rs 4,321 crore initial public offering (IPO) Monday, which was subscribed 3.3 times on the first day itself.

The Mumbai-based company says proceeds from the IPO, which has so far drawn bids for 6.9 crore equity shares against 2.1 crore on offer, will support the company's plans to reduce reliance on Chinese imports and enhance price competitiveness. Shares reserved for non-institutional investors were subscribed 8 times while the retail investor category was booked 3.2 times, as per NSE data.

The IPO, which closes on October 23 and is set to list on the stock exchanges on October 28, comprises over 2.8 crore shares with a price band of Rs 1,427 to Rs 1,503 per equity share. Within an hour of its launch, the grey market premium (GMP) for Waaree stood at Rs 1,480, according to market analyst InvestorGain.

With an installed manufacturing capacity of 13 GW, accounting for roughly 20 per cent of the country's total, Waaree says proceeds will be used for backward integration in the solar module value chain and will help sustain export-led growth as well as cater to the domestic market. Waaree's IPO launch follows Hyderabad-based Premier Energies Ltd's public issue of Rs 2,830 crore in August. Last month, Gurugram-based Vikram Solar Ltd also filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the market regulator for a Rs 1,500 crore offering.

Module Manufacturing & Exports

With 13 GW of module manufacturing capacity, Waaree is India's biggest solar module producer and raked in over Rs 11,000 crore in revenue in FY24. In comparison, two Adani Enterprises Ltd subsidiaries involved in this sector made a little over Rs 8,000 crore together, while Premier Energies and Vikram Solar made around Rs 3,100 crore and Rs 2,500 crore each. Tata Power Ltd's module manufacturer TP Solar Ltd made only Rs 230 crore.

Over the years, revenues and margins for all companies in the sector have increased consider-

EXPLAINED Waaree's revenue in FY24

WITH 13 GW of module manufacturing capacity, Waaree is India's biggest solar module producer and raked in over Rs 11,000 crore in revenue in FY24. In comparison, two Adani Enterprises Ltd subsidiaries involved in this sector made a little over Rs 8,000 crore together, while Premier Energies and Vikram Solar made around Rs 3,100 crore and Rs 2,500 crore each.

ably. Waaree's EBITDA margins in FY24 stood at 15.6 per cent in FY24, compared to 6.9 per cent in FY22, when revenue was just Rs 2,800 crore. Waaree's growth has been driven by strong exports, primarily to the US. In FY24, 58 per cent of its sales were from exports compared to 23 per cent in FY22. Waaree and Adani together account for a large majority of module exports from India. Significantly, 1.6 GW of its 3 GW facility in Texas is set to become operational by the end of FY25, further boosting its presence in the US market.

Reliance on China and PLI push

India's \$8-billion solar module market has grown to nearly 60 GW in domestic module assembly capacity and 8 GW in cell production capacity. Still, most module assemblers continue to rely on imported cells from China, which currently has over 80 per cent of the global market share in the solar module supply chain. In addition to the government's Rs 24,000 crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for integrated module manufacturing, the sector is now turning to public equity investors to expand capacity and secure supply chains for both domestic and export markets, as countries globally face mounting pressure to counter the threat of module dumping by Chinese manufacturers.

Waaree, for instance, plans to use Rs 2,775 crore from its IPO to finance a 6 GW wafer-to-module facility in Odisha. Premier Energies also plans to use its IPO proceeds to partly finance a 4 GW cell-to-module facility in Hyderabad. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

AI needs greater vigilance, guardrails: Sunil Mittal

New Delhi: Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be among the most important drivers of the world economy and geopolitics in times to come, Bharti Group Chairman Sunil Mittal said on Monday but cautioned that the new technology will pose new challenges, including potential for misuse and hence require greater vigilance and guardrails.

Speaking at the NDTV World Summit, the telecom doyen who helms India's second-largest telco Bharti Airtel, cited a personal anecdote on how a senior finance official stationed in Dubai received a fraudulent call that seemed to mimic Mittal's voice and tone and directed a large fund transfer. The official who was vigilant and "sensible" immediately detected the fraud. Mittal admitted that when he heard the voice recording himself he was "stunned" as "it was perfectly articulated as I would speak".

"And anyone who would not have been vigilant may have done something about it," he said and warned that in future misuse of technology will enable fraudsters to go a step ahead and use digital signatures, even faces on zoom calls to perpetrate such acts. PTI

Adar Poonawalla-led Serene to pick 50% stake in Dharma Productions

ALOKANANDA CHAKRABORTY NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

SERUM INSTITUTE of India CEO Adar Poonawalla will acquire a 50 per cent stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and Dharmatic Entertainment for Rs 1,000 crore.

The deal clinched by Poonawalla's Serene Entertainment in his personal capacity values the film and television production and distribution company at Rs 2000 crore. Johar will retain ownership of the remaining 50 per cent. For Serene, this deal offers a foothold in a Rs 20,000-crore (2023: Statista) Indian film industry, while Dharma gets crucial resources amid rising production costs. There were unconfirmed reports earlier that Johar was in talks with Reliance and Saregama.

"The Indian film industry is

moving through a phase wherein it's a winner-takes-all market, as large budget films account for 85-90 per cent of Hindi box office in the post Covid era. We believe this deal is a longer-term equity-led partnership, wherein Dharma will continue to invest in large budget films given the capital raise," says Karan Taurani, an analyst with Elara Capita.

"India has seen exit/scale down by multiple global studios in the past in the film content business. The Serene-Dharma deal might trigger the entry of other large conglomerates with deep pockets in the film industry," said Taurani.

Dharma has had partnerships with studios like Disney and Zee in the past to produce Hindi films. The current investment is aimed at expanding large-scale, multi-lingual productions, building franchises and taking traditional entertainment formats a notch higher, say observers. FE

Banks may have to borrow more as deposit growth slows down: Fitch Ratings

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

THE SHARE of Indian banks' borrowings will continue to rise gradually within their overall funding mix if they struggle to attract sufficient fresh deposits to support loan growth, says a Fitch Ratings report.

At the same time, a sustained capital-market performance could accelerate the shift of retail savings to investments (in the stock markets), the report said.

The recent sharp rise in the loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR) could become a structural issue if low returns on deposits amid inflationary pressures - and evolving depositor preferences - hinder long-term deposit growth, the rating firm said.

"We expect the share of borrowings will continue to rise gradually within the overall funding mix, from its current 10 per cent, if the banks fail to attract sufficient low-cost long-term resources to



finance loan growth," Fitch said.

Bank deposit rates have been slow to respond to the sharp 250 bps increase in policy rates during the financial year ended March 2023 (FY23), with term deposit rates to fully reflect this change as of Q1 of FY25. The return on low-cost deposits remains unchanged, leading to their share in new deposits hitting a two-decade low of 20 per cent in FY24, according to Fitch's estimate.

This could put pressure on funding costs over the medium term. Low-cost deposits' migration to term deposits is usual under high interest rates, but the former's share in fresh deposits fell

to 20 per cent in the financial year ended March 2024 (FY24), a two-decade low, it said.

"Factors such as inflationary pressures, increasing digitalisation, and strong capital-market performance may further drive depositors to shift from bank deposits towards investments," Fitch said. This trend poses a risk to funding costs, and could render asset-liability management more challenging if banks' long-term funding does not plug the gap from any migrating deposits, it said. Fitch does not expect any near-term rating changes due to adequate headroom in Viability Ratings, but significant funding

changes that intensify margin pressure beyond Fitch's base case - or have an impact on banks' growth and liquidity management - may necessitate reassessment of individual key rating factors scores, the rating firm said.

Term deposit rates have risen by only 234 bps since March 2022, while low-cost deposits rates remain unchanged. "There is a risk that the recent sharp rise in the loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR) may persist as a structural issue if future deposit growth is constrained - due to low/negative real return on deposits and evolving depositor preferences amid inflationary pressures, and high loan growth," Fitch said.

Deposit growth matched loan growth at a 9.4 per cent CAGR between FY14-FY24, but LDR has risen by 10 percentage points since FY21. Normalisation of previous liquidity excesses necessitates that banks focus on growing deposits, Fitch said.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Afcons Infra sets price band of ₹440-463 a share for its IPO

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

AFCONS INFRASTRUCTURE Ltd, the infrastructure, engineering and construction company of the Shapoorji Pallonji group, has set the price band for its Rs 5,430 crore initial public offering (IPO) at Rs 440-463 per equity share. The IPO is a mix of fresh issue of up to Rs 1,250 crore and an offer of

The share sale will open for subscription on October 25 and close on October 29

sale up to Rs 4,180 crore.

The proceeds from its fresh issuance will be utilized to the extent of Rs 80 crore for capital expenditure towards purchase of

construction equipment; Rs 320 crore for funding long-term working capital requirements; Rs 600 crore for prepayment or scheduled repayment of a portion of certain outstanding borrowings and acceptances availed by the company; and general corporate purposes. The share sale will open for subscription on October 25 and close on October 29. Last week, Afcons Infrastructure raised Rs 2,967

crore from the company's management, individual and institutional investors in a pre-IPO placement. Investors who participated in the pre-IPO book included GIC Singapore, Enam Holdings (Akash Bhanshali), Synergy Capital, 360 One, M&G Investments, Artian Investment from ArcelorMittal, Madhusudan Kela and White Oak.

The company has delivered a wide range of complex and chal-

lenging engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) projects both domestically and internationally. Its order book stood at Rs 31,747.43 crore, as of June 30, 2024.

The company's revenue from operations increased from Rs 12,637.38 crore in FY2023 to Rs 13,267.50 crore in FY2024. Profit after tax grew Rs 449.74 crore in fiscal 2024 from Rs 410.86 crore in fiscal 2023.

BRIEFLY

Mandaviya launches 'eShram' portal

New Delhi: Union Labour & Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday launched 'eShram - One Stop Solution' portal, which will provide seamless access to different social security schemes to unorganised workers. PTI

FinMin approves increasing CGM posts in PSBs

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday has approved the creation of Chief General Manager post (CGM), below board level, in five more nationalised banks. Besides, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) and Punjab & Sind Bank would now elevate their General Managers (GMs) to CGMs. PTI

India not in favour of facilitator-led process in WTO

New Delhi: India on Monday expressed reservations over the facilitator-led process in the World Trade Organization (WTO) to discuss issues on agriculture, saying that it would potentially undermine ministerial mandates and take negotiations backwards, an official said. PTI

India likely to be world's 3rd-largest economy by 2027: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW YORK, OCTOBER 21

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said India is poised to continue its growth trajectory and is likely to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027. India currently is the fifth largest economy in the world with a GDP of around \$3.9 trillion.

Addressing the Roundtable on 'Investment Opportunities in India' at the New York Stock Exchange, the oldest and the largest stock exchange in the world, the Finance minister said India is poised to continue its sustained growth trajectory and enhance its contribution to global growth significantly. At the current rate, India is likely to be the world's third-largest economy by 2027, Sitharaman said.

As many as 11 Indian companies are listed on the New York



Stock Exchange. The Roundtable was attended by various pension funds and other institutional investors and fund managers across the US, forming one of the largest financial systems in the world in terms of total assets under management, the finance ministry said in a post on X.

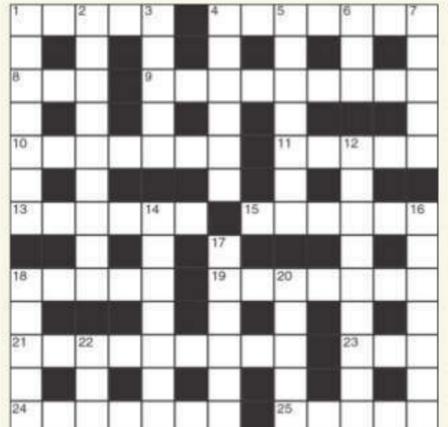
During the meeting, the Finance Minister shared the contours of various policy reforms and initiatives that are shaping India, with a focus on the Government's priorities for facilitating sustained economic growth for sustained long-term investment opportunities.

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LTD. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CSS), Regd. Office: New Power House, Jodhpur- 342003, Phone No: 0291-2742336, Fax No: 0291-2745259, E-mail: scs@jodhpur@gmail.com, Web site: energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvnl, Corporate Identity Number: CIN-U40109RJ2000SGC016483

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT Bid Identification No. CCEKC-19/2024-25 e-mail: ccekeonjharpcircle@gmail.com, sekcpwd\_keonjhar@yahoo.com Letter No. 4797 Dt. 14.10.2024

## CROSSWORD 5501



- ACROSS**
- Evidence treated as unassailable (5)
  - Unwanted gas pipe? (7)
  - Bird seen in the broccoli (3)
  - Blow that's justified to a private captain? (5,4)
  - Give credit? (7)
  - A grain seen only in oak (5)
  - Taken out from the Red Sea (6)
  - Fishes normally put on ice (6)
  - Strips, being about to get some rest (5)
  - Fix the score to suit the players (7)
  - Not a home match (9)
  - Bird smaller than a fowl? (3)
  - One who treats wounds - in the chest? (7)
  - Reckoned trade has become unsteady (5)
- DOWN**
- Golf score can make a good story (7)
  - It's a cello playing swing (9)
  - Pressure exerted on behalf of the church (5)
  - Little creature of high birth (6)
  - Top covering on stand where bowlers may rest (7)
  - Initially supposed to come from outer space (3)
  - A sign to know in Scotland (5)
  - Definitely not in duplicate (3,3,3)
  - Train one-time journalists (7)
  - Taken from cover and shot (7)
  - Rush to find a vocation (6)
  - Horse stepped very softly out (5)
  - Chopper blade going up and down (5)
  - Individual on key (3)

**Solutions Crossword 5500 Across:** 1 Monteverdi, 8 Tithe, 9 Amnesty, 10 Bradawl, 11 Ocean, 12 Resume, 14 Invent, 17 Along, 19 Inroads, 21 Languid, 22 Fates, 23 Report sick  
**Down:** 2 Outlaws, 3 Theta, 4 Viable, 5 Run down, 6 Issue, 7 Hypnotists, 8 Tabernacle, 13 Mugwump, 15 Elastic, 16 Tinder, 18 Owner, 20 Rifts

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

When a thing ceases to be a subject of \_\_\_\_\_, it ceases to be a subject of interest - William Hazlitt (11)

**ORERR**      **AIKCNT**

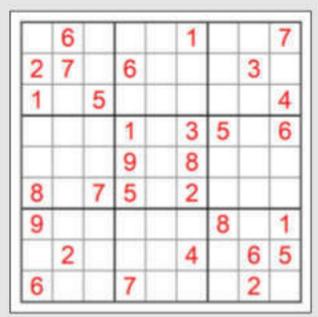
**DWOOS**      **AEGOVY**

**SOLUTION:** WORDS: ERROR, WOODS, CATIN, VOYAGE  
Answer: When a thing ceases to be a subject of **CONTRAST**, it ceases to be a subject of interest - William Hazlitt

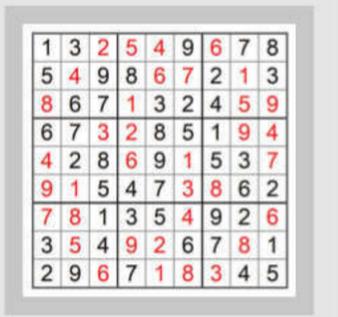
## Difficulty Level 2s

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

SUDOKU 5751



SOLUTION SUDOKU 5750



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

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANDAPUR  
AT/P.O-SALAPADA, DIST-KEONJHAR, PIN-758020  
ODISHA INTEGRATED IRRIGATION PROJECT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE (OIIPCR) (WORLD BANK PROJECT ID: P163533)  
REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB) E Procurement Notice  
NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT FOR SMALL WORKS  
RFB No. OIIPCR-AND/W2-4/2024-25 Date: 17.10.2024

Name of work	1. Modernisation to Distribution System of Phapadia MIP, Raghubela MIP & Baghira MIP under M.I. Division, Anandapur
No. of works	2. 03 Minor Irrigation Tanks.
Estimated cost	3. Varies from Rs. 218.14 to Rs. 362.04 Lakhs Approx. (Total estimated cost of 03 tanks Rs. 895.75)
Cost of Bid Document	4. Free of Cost
Period of completion	5. As per DTCN.
Availability of bid documents	6. From 28.10.2024 from 10.00 Hrs to 27.11.2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. in the e-procurement website (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	7. 05.11.2024 As per Para-7 of DTCN
Last date & time of receipt of bid	8. Up to 27.11.2024, 15.00 Hrs. through online.
Period of receipt of bid security	9. To be paid online along with the bid. Bank Guarantees also acceptable subject to verification.
Date of opening of technical bid	10. On dt: 27.11.2024 at 15.30 Hrs.
Date of opening of financial bid	11. To be intimated online after off-line evaluation of Technical Bid.
Digital signature certificate of Bidder	12. The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC) of Class-II or III.
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website	13. https://dowr.odisha.gov.in, https://odtms.in
Name & Address of the OIT	14. Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Anandapur, AT/P.O-Salapada, Dist-Keonjhar, PIN-758020. E-Mail- mianandapur@yahoo.co.in
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place in	15. https://tendersodisha.gov.in

**OIPR-32108/11/0014/2425**

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer  
M.I. Division, Anandapur

**संचालनालय, आयुर्वेद योग एवं प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा, यूनानी, सिद्ध एवं होम्योपैथी, (आयुष) छत्तीसगढ़**  
ब्लॉक-1, तृतीय तल, इन्द्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर 492002  
फोन नं. (0771) 2221640, फैक्स 2221641, ईमेल - cgayush@gmail.com

कमांक/1/स्वा./महा./ प्रवेश/2024-25/4557 नवा रायपुर, दिनांक 21 OCT 2024

स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम आयुर्वेद वाचस्पति (एम.डी.-आयुर्वेद)/ आयुर्वेद धन्वन्तरि (एम.एस.-आयुर्वेद) में सत्र 2024-25 में राज्य कोटे एवं निजी महाविद्यालय के ऑनल इंडिया कोटे की सीटों पर प्रवेश हेतु ऑनलाइन आवेदन सूचना

राज्य कोटे एवं निजी महाविद्यालय के ऑनल इंडिया कोटे की सीटों पर प्रवेश हेतु ऑनलाइन आवेदन सूचना (एम.एस.-आयुर्वेद/एम.एस.-आयुर्वेद धन्वन्तरि) में प्रवेश के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन शीटें जारी की जा रही हैं। एम.डी. आयुर्वेद/एम.एस.-आयुर्वेद पाठ्यक्रम में प्रवेश हेतु अखिल भारतीय आयुर्वेद संस्थान प्रवेश परीक्षा AIAPGET 2024 में सम्मिलित, पात्र एवं इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी ऑनलाइन पंजीवन कर सकते हैं। ऑनलाइन पंजीवन करने के पूर्व 'छत्तीसगढ़ स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्वेद शिक्षा प्रवेश नियम 2024' एवं सूचना पत्र (Information Bulletin) का पठन अध्ययन कर ही ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रारंभ करें, जो वेबसाइट https://cgayush.admissions.nic.in में उपलब्ध है।

क्र.	विषय	पंजीवन कार्यक्रम	विवरण
1.	एम.डी. आयुर्वेद/एम.एस. आयुर्वेद पाठ्यक्रम के राज्य कोटे एवं निजी महाविद्यालयों के ऑनल इंडिया कोटे की सीटों पर प्रवेश हेतु ऑनलाइन आवेदन की प्रारंभ तिथि	दिनांक 23 अक्टूबर 2024	
2.	एम.डी.-आयुर्वेद/एम.एस. आयुर्वेद पाठ्यक्रम के राज्य कोटे एवं निजी महाविद्यालयों के ऑनल इंडिया कोटे की सीटों पर प्रवेश हेतु ऑनलाइन आवेदन के लिए अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक 31 अक्टूबर 2024, समय रात्रि 11:59 बजे तक	
3.	एम.डी. आयुर्वेद/एम.एस. आयुर्वेद पाठ्यक्रम में प्रवेश हेतु सूचना एवं विषय का चयन	दिनांक 23 अक्टूबर 2024 से 31 अक्टूबर 2024, समय रात्रि 11:59 बजे तक	

विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु वेबसाइट https://cgayush.admissions.nic.in का अवलोकन किया जा सकता है।

हस्ता./-  
(इम्प्टन आग) आई.एस.एस.  
संचालक  
आयुर्वेद, योग एवं प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा, यूनानी, सिद्ध एवं होम्योपैथी (आयुष) छत्तीसगढ़

RO No 242503347-4

**e-Procurement Notice**  
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HP PWD Rampur Division on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering, system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP PWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Improvement of black spot on various roads under Rampur Division (SHE)- Providing and erecting W-beam crash barrier for improvement of black spot on various roads under Rampur Division) Job-1	19,15,439/-	23.10.2024	40,000/-	29.10.2024
2.	Improvement of black spot on various roads under Rampur Division (SHE)- Providing and erecting W-beam crash barrier for improvement of black spot on various roads under Rampur Division) Job-3	9,87,555/-	23.10.2024	20,000/-	29.10.2024

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hpntenders.gov.in](http://www.hpntenders.gov.in).

No. 2828/2024-2025/HP

Executive Engineer,  
Rampur Division (R&R),  
HP PWD, Rampur Buzbari,  
On behalf of  
Governor of Himachal Pradesh

**WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION**  
**OHE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES**  
The Divisional Railway Manager (TRD) Western Railway, Bhavnagar Para invites E-Tender on behalf of President of India for the following work. **Tender No. 01-TRDBVP-2024-25-R2 Name of Work:** Outsourcing of all non-power block OHE maintenance activities in Surendranagar Gare-Pipavav section for 2 years. **Tender amount:** ₹ 92,84,115.40/- **Tender fee:** NIL. **EMD Amount:** ₹ 1,85,700/- **Address:** DRM (Traction) BVP, DRM Office, Bhavnagar Para-364003. The bidders have to apply online through link i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) only. For further details please visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Last date to apply online will be 27-11-2024 up to 15:00 hrs. for above mentioned tenders. BVP-125

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**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
1. Name of work with its location : Modification of OHE due to provision of bond AT and LHS Work in Sonpur Division in different PH. 2. Approx. cost of the works (₹) : ₹48,44,175.5/- 3. Earnest Money to be deposited (₹) : ₹96,900/- 4. Date & time for submission of e-tender and opening of e-tender : Opening of e-tenders: on 11.11.2024 at 12.00 Hrs. in the office of the Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer (TRD), DRM Office, E.C. Railway, Sonpur. 5. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of e-tender can be seen : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). NOTICE BOARD : DRM Office Campus, E.C. Railway, Sonpur.  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/ ECR/Sonpur  
PR/10360/SEE/ETRD/IT/24-25/28

**S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER**  
e-Tenders against Open tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E. Railway, Chakradharpur for & on behalf of the President of India against open tender for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl. No. & Tender Notice No.:** Name of work; Tender value; EMD: (1) CKP-WEST-24-25-30, dated 21.10.2024; Cess repair work under jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Jharsuguda; ₹ 89,59,036.73; ₹ 1,79,200/- (2) CKP-WEST-24-25-31, dated 21.10.2024; Construction of 50 bedded (25 nos. rooms) new Running Room at Sardega; ₹ 4,82,57,803.22; ₹ 3,91,300/- **Cost of Tender Form :** 0.00 for both. **Date of Opening :** 20.11.2024 for sl. no. 1 and 11.11.2024 for sl. no. 2. The tender can be viewed at Web site <http://www.ireps.gov.in> The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. **Note :** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority-Railway Board's letter No. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020) (PR-723)

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**Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Yelahanka Division, Bangalore-560064.  
No: BBMP/EE/YNK.D/E-PMT/09/2024-25 Dated: 21-10-2024

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)**  
(Two Cover system) (Short term-Tender Notification)  
(Through GoK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)

The Executive Engineer Yelahanka Division invites tenders on behalf of the commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below as per standard tender document KW-04.

S.N.	Name of the works
1	Construction of Toilet at GKVK Samudhaya Bhavana In ward No 04. <b>Est. Cost in Lakhs:</b> 10.00. <b>EMD:</b> 0.25 Lakhs. <b>Category:</b> Others.
2	Maintenance of ARO and AEE office Buildings in Chowdeshwari ward No 02. <b>Est. Cost :</b> 10.00 Lakhs. <b>EMD:</b> 0.25 Lakhs. <b>Category:</b> Others.
3	Maintenance of BBMP office building at 3rd Floor Mini-vidhana Soudha in ward no. 04. <b>Est. Cost :</b> 10.00 Lakhs. <b>EMD :</b> 0.125 Lakhs. <b>Category:</b> ST.
4	Maintenance of ARO and AEE office Buildings in Yelahanka Upanagara ward no 04. <b>Est. Cost:</b> 10.00 Lakhs. <b>EMD:</b> 0.25 Lakhs. <b>Category:</b> Others.
5	Improvements to roads and drains at Nagenahalli SC/ST colony in Kempegowda Ward No 01. <b>Est. Cost:</b> 100.00 Lakhs. <b>EMD :</b> 2.00 Lakhs. <b>Category:</b> Others.
6	Improvements to roads and drains Kenchenahalli SC/ST colony in at Kempegowda Ward No 01. <b>Est. Cost:</b> 100.00 Lakhs. <b>EMD :</b> 1.00 Lakhs. <b>Category:</b> SC
7	Improvements to roads and drains at Harohalli SC/ST colony in Kempegowda Ward No 01. <b>Est. Cost:</b> 100.00 Lakhs. <b>EMD :</b> 2.00 Lakhs. <b>Category:</b> Others
8	Construction of Class Rooms at First Floor in Govt School Kenchenahalli in Kempegowda Ward no 01. <b>Est. Cost:</b> 50.00 Lakhs. <b>EMD :</b> 0.50 Lakhs. <b>Category:</b> SC
9	Development to roads and drains in Venkatala SC/ST colony in Kempegowda Ward no 01. <b>Est. Cost:</b> 50.00 Lakhs. <b>EMD :</b> 1.00 Lakhs. <b>Category:</b> Others.
10	Improvements to roads and drains at Ananthapura SC/ST colony in Ward no 03. <b>Est. Cost:</b> 50.00 Lakhs. <b>EMD :</b> 1.00 Lakhs. <b>Category:</b> Others.
11	Improvements to roads and drains at AD colony and AK colony SC/ST areas in ward no 01 & 02. <b>Est. Cost:</b> 50.00 Lakhs. <b>EMD :</b> 0.50 Lakhs. <b>Category:</b> SC.

**Calendar of events:** 1) Date of Pre bid meeting at the office Executive Engineer (Yelahanka Division) on 28-10-2024 at 16.00 hrs. 2) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16.00 hours on 04-11-2024. 3) Date of Opening of Technical bids on 05-11-2024 after 16:00 hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division

## DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
Over the next few weeks, while the Sun remains so strong, you will be deepening your contacts. Some of you may even be developing political associations, in the broadest sense. It's a matter of linking up with like-minded people.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
It's an excellent day to clear the air, not in any particularly deep or profound sense, but in terms of routine organisation and the simple running of your daily affairs. If entertaining is to be done, the best venue should be your home, all things being equal.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Everyone, no matter what their birth sign, should be aware of a change of mood today. At least, that's the theory! You may feel it more deeply than most, and might even decide that your feelings for a particular person were misplaced. But, then, it's better that you find out now.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
There is still a great deal to be said for facing reality at home. For the next two weeks, apparently trivial events will contribute to a major improvement. There is every possibility that you will be receiving positive news soon, though from an unlikely source.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
It really is a time to ask not what others can do for you, but what you can do for them. There is a happy relationship in your chart between work and partnership, one which could see you making considerable progress towards a special goal. About time too.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
The Moon gently adjusts its position today, clearing up a long-standing mystery. Perhaps even a lost item will return to its rightful place, as these things have a habit of doing! One way or another, you should find the big wide world a marginally easier place to handle.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
You may be growing agitated in at least one personal relationship, if not several. It is worth reminding you that this is a peak time for pointless arguments and that you should therefore always think carefully. Don't let others make all the running.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
If you're in a particularly busy phase, as your stars indicate you should be, you will now be realising that there is no point in pressing on by yourself, but that other people must be brought in to help. It's never too late to ask for assistance - so don't be proud.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
You may sort out home and family matters this morning and save time later in the day for simple pleasures. The only responsibilities which look likely to present you with extra demands are those which involve children or younger relations in general.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
There's a clear psychological process in your life at the moment. You may momentarily lose your self-confidence, or face seemingly gigantic material obstacles, but these difficulties motivate you to strive even harder and achieve even greater success.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
Although good fortune is forecast, it's up to you to help yourself. If you dig your feet in, resisting every opportunity to explore your talents and skills, you will miss out, whatever the stars say. Look at the big picture and think about where you'd like to be this time next year.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
Having dealt with questions like, who is responsible for what, and what your rights are in relation to colleagues and employers, you may throw yourself into a new professional or worldly ambition. You may follow your dreams, while you still have time.

**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

**BORDER SECURITY FORCE**  
SH RAVINDER SINGH, AC 16.08.1970 - 22.10.1999  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Anantnag (J&K).

**BORDER SECURITY FORCE**  
CT FAROOQ AHMAD 08.11.1971 - 22.10.1999  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Anantnag (J&K).

**BORDER SECURITY FORCE**  
CT/DVR BABU LAL 15.09.1969 - 22.10.1999  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Anantnag (J&K).

**BORDER SECURITY FORCE**  
CT S S RAYAPPA 01.06.1968 - 22.10.2002  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Tura area (Meghalaya).

**BORDER SECURITY FORCE**  
HC/RO MUKESH LAL MEEENA 01.07.1975 - 22.10.2013  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice in counter part firing in R S Pura area (Jammu).

**BORDER SECURITY FORCE**  
L/NK S MUNO KHEMENGGER 01.07.1954 - 19.10.1993  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Biplab Para area of North Tripura.

**BORDER SECURITY FORCE**  
HC INDER SINGH GULIA 05.06.1964 - 19.10.2002  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Ramban area (J&K).

**BORDER SECURITY FORCE**  
CT PRITPAL SINGH 01.03.1954 - 19.10.1993  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Biplab Para area of North Tripura.

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE**  
22 October 1996  
On 22nd October 1996, a patrol of 38 Battalion of CRPF in Assam was ambushed by insurgents while crossing a jungle. The troops swiftly took cover and retaliated. In the intense exchange, Shaheed HC Ajit Singh, leading from the front with great bravery, sustained severe injuries but continued to fire, forcing the insurgents to retreat. He later succumbed to his injuries, attaining martyrdom.

Shaheed Head Constable Ajit Singh 38-BN 25-04-1951 To 22-10-1996

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	MICADA DIVISION, ROHTAK	REHABILITATION OF WATER COURSE AT OUTLET RD 446-B, NEW KILOI MINOR. - 3 WORKS	18.10.2024 24.10.2024	1.51 CRORE	<a href="https://tenders.haryana.gov.in">https://tenders.haryana.gov.in</a>	9650044885 sureshchakrad@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in) or [www.ctenders.haryana.nic.in](http://www.ctenders.haryana.nic.in) No. 29672/HRY

South African paceman Kagiso Rabada claimed a record-setting 300th Test wicket as Bangladesh were bowled out for 106 in first innings in Mirpur on Monday. South Africa were 140-6 in reply when bad light stopped play.

**BRIEFLY**

**Ruturaj to lead India A for tour of Australia**

**New Delhi:** Ishan Kishan returned to the national reckoning as he was on Monday named in a 15-member India A squad, to be led by Ruturaj Gaikwad, for the upcoming tour of Australia. Fresh from his fine hundred against Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy, Maharashtra's Gaikwad was named captain of the India A team. **Squad:** Ruturaj Gaikwad (capt), Abhimanyu Easwaran (vice-captain), Sai Sudharsan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, Baba Indrajith, Ishan Kishan (WK), Abhishek Porel (WK), Mukesh Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Yash Dayal, Navdeep Saini, Manav Suthar, Tanush Kotian. **PTI**

**Carlsen to headline Tata Chess event**

**Kolkata:** World No. 1 Norwegian Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen will be the star attraction in the sixth edition of Tata Steel Chess India to be held here from November 13 to 17. It will be Carlsen's second appearance in the tournament. He had earlier participated in 2019 and had gone on to clinch the title. A strong Indian contingent, following its golden performance at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest recently, will see the likes of Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa and Vidit Gujrathi among others competing in the prestigious event. Nihal Sarin and S L Narayanan are the other Indian players who will be in action in the 'Open' category. **PTI**

**Deepika bags silver at World Cup Final**

**Tlaxcala:** India's premier recurve archer Deepika Kumari won her fifth silver medal at the World Cup Final after losing the summit clash 0-6 to China's Li Jiaman, here. Returning to the World Cup Final after three years following the birth of her daughter in December 2022, four-time Olympian Deepika was seeded third in the eight-archer field. She had a smooth run through the semifinals but probably the pressure of gold medal match got to her against fourth-seed Li Jiaman, a team silver medalist from the Paris Olympics. It was Deepika's ninth appearance at the World Cup Final where she has also bagged a bronze. **PTI**

**Shakib's fans attacked at protest**

**Dhaka:** A group of fans calling for Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan to play in a farewell test against South Africa were attacked by rival protesters wielding sticks and bamboo on Sunday, police said. Shakib was a member of parliament for the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina, whose 15-year rule as prime minister ended in August with her fleeing to India following deadly protests. Shakib, 37, has not been in the country since the protests began in July but the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had assured him he would not be harassed on his return. He was due to play in his final test match against South Africa in Dhaka starting later on Monday but has not returned home following public anger over his silence during the deadly protests. **REUTERS**

**After going to more than 10 times his base price at HIL auction last week, the 21-year-old Rajinder is set to make his international debut**

**MIHIR VASAVDA**

RAJINDER SINGH shares a video of his mentor Sardar Singh, he's been obsessively watching for the last decade or so. Of a skill so mind-blowing that if, say, a Lionel Messi performed it, that would be trending all over, be the news peg of countless hagiographies and turn the victims into memes.

But hockey isn't football and Sardar Singh isn't Messi.

And so, the six-second clip from India's match against the Netherlands, which the rest of the hockey world including Sardar himself must have forgotten, lives on in the phone — and heart — of a young Sirsa boy.

"He beats a couple of onrushing players while receiving the ball," Rajinder narrates what he sees. "Then, look how in the same motion he dodges the ball at high speed and taps it through another player to drive forward."

There's more that connects the prodigious 21-year-old Rajinder and one of hockey's modern-day greats. Siddharth Pandey, the general manager and team director of Hockey India League franchise Hyderabad Toofans, makes a bold declaration. "Rajinder is Sardar's clone," says Pandey, whose team signed the midfielder.

The coincidences are plenty. Both Rajinder and Sardar are from the same village — Sant Nagar in Haryana's Sirsa. Pandey takes over: "He is a Namdhari, just like Sardar is. Great on the ball, just like Sardar was. Physically really strong, built like a tank. Really low body fat percentage. He can run all day. He can eliminate players with individual actions. He can drive forward with the ball."

Even the man himself has no doubt. "He is a complete player," says Sardar, without hesitation. "We see sometimes that there are players who have speed and skill but height... or one element is missing. Rajinder is a complete package."

Then, he throws in a word of caution saying, "Chalo, he is only 21 years old. Potentially, he can be a very good player who can serve the national team for the next 8-10 years."



Rajinder's career-defining week — being picked in the HIL and getting picked for the national team for the two-match series against Germany in New Delhi starting Wednesday — started with a mistake.

When he was submitting his entry for the Hockey India League (HIL) auctions, Rajinder erroneously chose Rs 2 lakh as the base price instead of Rs 5 lakh. "I wrote them an email but it was too late by then," he says.

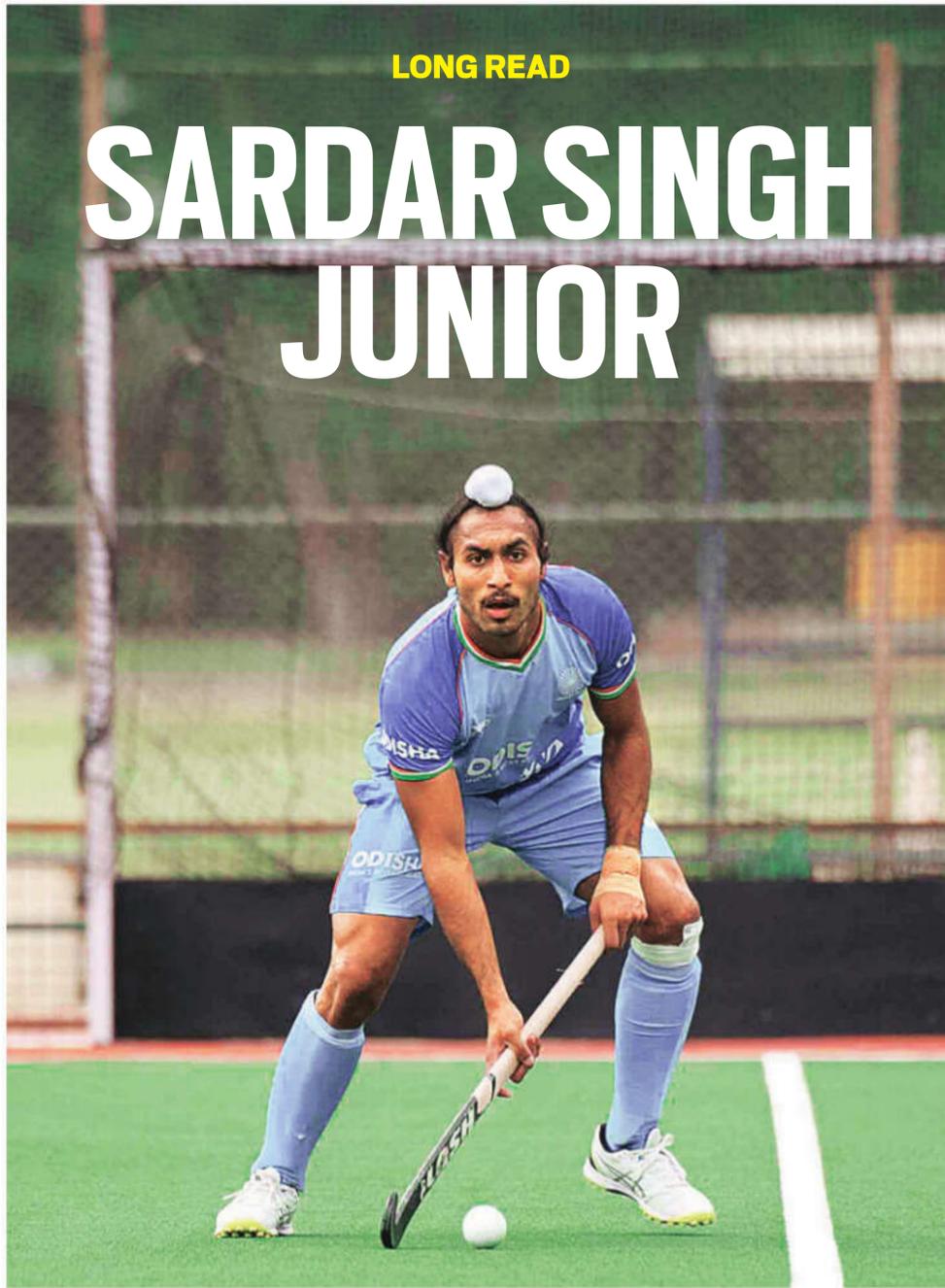
By the time the players with a base price of Rs 5 lakh were picked, Rajinder — who was at the national camp in Bengaluru — feared he'd go unpicked. "I was checking the composition of other teams, just to see how many slots were open for midfielders. Moreover, there were so many players in the 2 lakh bracket that I was concerned that my name would come too late."

His friends and family started calling him. So, Rajinder switched off his phone. He looked at it again directly in the evening, while working out in the gym.

"Then, my name came up. And the bidding began — started with 2 lakh, increased to 5, 8, 10 lakh... I was with Vishnu (Vishnukant Singh, another young India international) and he too got excited," Rajinder says.

It was one of those typical auction moments.

Until that moment, Rajinder was Indian hockey's best-kept secret. A playmaker who



Rajinder Singh is from the same village as Sardar Singh and plays in the same position as the legendary midfielder. *Hockey India*

**LONG READ**

**SARDAR SINGH JUNIOR**

flew under the radar despite being in the junior squad for the last three years and even playing in the 2023 Under-21 World Cup.

In the tightly-knit hockey circles, however, they whispered about Rajinder's meteoric rise, especially in the last 10-12 months. When the time came, there was a scramble to sign him.

By the time the bidding war ended, Rajinder had commanded a sum more than 10 times his base price. The Rs 23 lakh Hyderabad spent on him might be loose change compared to what prodigious talents earn in the Indian Premier League. It might not even be a life-changing amount for the son of a land-owning farmer, whose two siblings live in Australia and Canada. But it was a bid that reaffirmed his rising status.

"You can build a team around him in the years to come," says Pandey, also a pundit who is dubbed as the voice of Indian hockey. "At 21, he is at that level where Sardar was (at that age)."

When Hyderabad celebrated Rajinder's signing as if they'd scored a goal, Sardar, the mentor of the Soorma Hockey Club, sat across the table with some regret. The quirks of player auctions meant the former India captain couldn't go for him.

**He is a Namdhari, just like Sardar is. Great on the ball, just like Sardar was. Physically really strong, built like a tank. Really low body fat percentage. He can run all day. He can eliminate players with individual actions. He can drive forward with the ball."**

**SIDDHARTH PANDEY,**  
HIL HYDERABAD FRANCHISE'S TEAM DIRECTOR

Without Sardar, however, Rajinder might not have even been here.



Sardar influenced Rajinder's hockey dreams much before he even picked up a hockey stick and in ways he didn't even know. Before the former world player of the year mentored his prodigy, Sardar laid the foundations by developing a ground where young players from Sirsa would learn the craft.

"In 2010, after we won the bronze medals

at the Commonwealth and Asian Games, the Hoods government gave us prize money of Rs 52 lakh," Sardar says. "I utilised a lot of that amount to develop the ground in our village and restarted the academy there."

Around four years later, Rajinder joined the Namdhari Academy, where Sardar too had begun his journey. He did so only because he was lured by the prospect of getting a brand-new hockey stick and a ball.

"But on the first day, Gurmej coach Saab, who also trained Sardar paaji, just made me run laps of the ground," Rajinder says. "One lap, two, three... It continued like this for 3-4 days. Maine socha hockey toh de nahi rahe yeh... so I stopped going."

One evening, Gurmej — who lived closely to Rajinder and also coached Sardar — stopped over on his way back to check on his newest recruit.

"He asked why I stopped coming to the ground and I replied curtly, 'Because you aren't giving me a stick'," Rajinder laughs. "I got one the next day and I haven't stopped playing since." Two months later, Rajinder had his first brush with his hero.

Sardar, during a visit home, went to the ground to distribute playing kits to the best performers. Rajinder wasn't on that list. "But

meeting him, listening to his words stoked my interest."

His father tended to the family's farm and his siblings flew abroad. Rajinder, however, chose to emulate his newfound hero and picked a career in hockey.



At first, he played 'everywhere'. One day, he'd be a defender. But that meant being on the bench because there was a 'better player in that position' in the Namdhari team. Another time, he was played as a striker.

And then, his coach at Namdhari, Harwinder Singh, slotted him in the centre of the midfield; a critical position from where a player can dictate the pace, flow and direction of the game.

Sardar, around this time, was at his peak and played at a level that he could walk into the playing 11 of any team in the world. Rajinder, the impressionable teenager, would binge on his videos; more so because he had begun playing in the same position as Sardar.

Watching Sardar, he learnt how to receive the ball under pressure. "I began simulating such situations by asking three players to charge at me when receiving the ball. Under pressure, you have to decide the next move after stopping — whether to pass the ball or dodge the players."

Over the years, he started bookmarking clips of another player — Kevin de Bruyne. The young Indian would watch and learn how the Belgian and Manchester City footballer telegraphed passes to his teammates.

"In hockey, we play overhead passes quite frequently now. And De Bruyne places them perfectly — they are so well calculated, the defenders can't get there but it still gets close to the strikers!"

He'd then try to replicate that on the ground. "I imagine the areas on the field where strikers can be fed balls during a game. So, I place the practice cones there and play passes in that direction. At the academy, I would have 100 or so repetitions daily," Rajinder says.

Rajinder continued making incremental progress in his formative years. It picked pace during the pandemic. And Sardar, who else, had an outsized role.

As the rest of the world retreated indoors and socially distanced themselves, Rajinder's relationship with his idol got closer than ever. Sardar — who returned to his village — would take lessons nearly every evening, passing on all the knowledge he'd acquired during his illustrious career.

And Rajinder lapped it all up. "Everything — receiving the ball, one-on-one dodges... He broke down complex hockey moves, like using the gap between the legs of an opponent to play a pass, or the backhand... Paaji's backhand was perfect; he taught me how to position the lower body, what part of the stick should connect with the ball... I grew a lot during those years!"

On the other side of the pandemic, Rajinder emerged as a player ready to wear the India shirt. He got picked for the junior side but it wasn't until recently that he stormed into the consciousness of the national team coaches.

Of all places, Pandey noticed Rajinder's potential, in Bangladesh this year in March and April, when he was playing in the country's national league for Mariners Hockey Club.

"He was playing against the club I coached, Abahani," says Pandey, "and he single-handedly dictated the game. We kept in touch after Bangladesh and I tracked him since then. He has grown by leaps and bounds. The reports coming out of the national camp point out that consistently, he is one of the best performers on the pitch."

Rajinder is on the selectors' radar and the watchlist of the coaches. On Friday, he appeared for the selection trials for next week's test series against Germany.

He did enough to impress the coach and the selectors to make the cut. And before stepping on the field to show what he's made of, Rajinder watched for inspiration the same Sardar Singh video he'd been watching for the last decade.

**UNDETERRED**

**After losing captaincy, Southee reaffirms his utility with big role in win**

**SANDIP G**  
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 21

THE BALL moved just enough. Sarfaraz Khan, on the charge and on 150, thought he was in control to launch Tim Southee over cover. But the ball landed an inch or two shorter than he had expected, and moved away. Late, devious movement. Small, subtle margins. The batsman mis-cued the ball to mid-off.

Sarfaraz was Southee's second and last wicket of the game, but as with the first, when he castled Rohit Sharma with a three-quarter seam ball, the timeless seam-artist instigated India's collapse.

In the sunset of his career, the 35-year-old remains a grossly underrated cricketer. His name barely sneaks into discourses on the fast-bowling elite of the modern era. He doesn't possess unreal numbers like James Anderson, or the athletic grace of Kagiso Rabada, or the magical unorthodoxy of Jasprit Bumrah's, or the left-handed sorcery of his ex-partner Trent Boult. Southee is just another 130 kph trundler, everyman in craft, numbers and demeanour. Never sledges, doesn't exchange stares or banter,

shies away from the limelight.

His body of work, though, is immense; he is the only bowler who has completed a century of matches in all three formats; he is New Zealand's second highest wicket-taker, has hit more sixes in Tests than Viv Richards and Virender Sehwag, more frequently than Chris Gayle and Brendon McCullum; he has a better average in India (28.86) and Sri Lanka (21.47) than Anderson (30.27 and 33.27). In matches that New Zealand have won, he averages 22.39. Which means that when Southee strikes, sometimes with the bat too as in Bengaluru, New Zealand win.

Perhaps, it's the way he wants himself to be portrayed — in the clutches of anonymity. "I am more of a soldier than a leader. I am not so good at ordering people as doing it myself," he once admitted in a podcast with stuff.co.nz. He does not churn headline-worthy sentences. Surfing his Instagram and X feeds is a futile exercise in searching for anything juicy. His former teammate and coach at Maungakarema Cricket Club, Steve Cunis, agrees: "He was always this shy boy who always kept smiling and bowling. Some of the batsmen, older than him, thought he was too soft.



New Zealand pacer Tim Southee got two wickets in the match, but instigated India's collapse. *Sportzpics*

But he would wind them up with the ball. He was a tough character, who never gave up his dreams."

Southee was put into a cricket club because at home, a sprawling farmhouse in Waitotira, 30-odd miles from Whangarei, he trampled the lawn where his sisters played tennis. Every weekend, his father Murray drove Tim to the cricket club in the morning and picked him up in the evening. "He used to bowl all the time, always working on some delivery or the other. He would say he would be working on his out-swinger, or a slower ball that he had picked when watching a game," he says.

**Always learning**

The quest to learn new tricks has defined his career. He burst forth with the booming out-swinger he bowled at pace. But when he shed pace to conserve his career, he mastered other tricks — like the three-quarter seam ball and the cutters, the latter he uses to devastating effect. He also became more pragmatic as the years rolled by, ever more economical as he strangled batters with unrelenting accuracy.

The out-swinger though is the art that makes him, where his brain becomes as

dangerous as his wrists. It's not just about the strong wrist of a farmer, tilting at release, that coaxes the ball into changing direction when it sniffs the bat — a lot of bowlers do that — but when and where the rerouting happens. It's deceptively late, lands often a few inches shorter than the conventional good length where seamers land the ball in search of swing.

It was this ball that wowed former New Zealand coach John Bracewell to fast-track him into international cricket when he was only 19 and initiate the Southee Project. "For his age to have that control was amazing," Bracewell once told this daily. "But there were other things too. He had a physique perfectly suited for a fast bowler, kind of durable and he was light on the feet, an easy repeatable action that led to fewer injuries." Injuries have been the perennial thorn in the flesh of New Zealand fast bowlers. From Shane Bond to Simon Doull, Dion Nash to Shayne O'Connor, injuries have prevented many promising careers from blossoming.

For the three-quarter seamer, Southee holds the ball with two fingers across an angled seam, on a 40-45 degree angle, and snaps the wrist at release. Batsmen are in-

creasingly familiar with the trick, and success depends on how the bowler sets it up. Southee manipulates the width of the crease. Sometimes he goes wide, sometimes he doesn't. But he first roughens them up with away-goers, inducing the fear on the outside edge. Then the three-quarter seamer kicks in. Rohit would know — Southee gave him a thorough working over in the 2021 World Test Championship final.

Beneath the wistful smile and mild manners, though, is a tough character that keeps bouncing back. Coming to Bengaluru, his spot was under scrutiny. His last 13 innings had produced 10 wickets at an average of 64. He was asked to relinquish captaincy after the Sri Lanka capitulation, which made his place in the eleven uncertain. Had it not rained in Bengaluru, Mitchell Santner could have got the nod ahead of him.

But with his career on the line, Southee produced a vintage new-ball spell and then hammered a throwback smash-and-grab half-century, just enough to stretch a gloriously understated career. But at 35 and in the 16th year of his international shift, it's time he gets the accolades he deserves, despite his own aversion.

**RANJI ROUNDUP**

**ONE-WICKET WIN FOR GUJARAT**

**Ahmedabad:** Gujarat pulled off a thrilling win over Andhra on the final day. Having been made to follow-on by Gujarat, Andhra posted 297 in their second innings to set a target of 144. With the pitch taking good turn, left-arm spinner Lalith Mohan's seven-fer kept Andhra in the game before Gujarat skipper Chintan Gaja and Jaymeet Patel's 58-run partnership for the seventh wicket brought them back. At 131/9 though, Andhra sniffed a victory, but Arzan Nagwaswalla's unbeaten 16 took Gujarat home.

**Brief Scores:** Gujarat 367 & 144/9 (Jaymeet 32; Lalith 7/76) bt Andhra 213 & f/o 297 (Reddy 81, Maheep 55, KS Bharat 47; Nagwaswalla 4/40, Bishnoi 3/92) by 1 wicket.

**PUJARA SURPASSES LARA**

**Rajkot:** Saurashtra, which began the day at 177/2, needed 401 runs on the final day. The task for Chhattisgarh was to take 8 wickets. But Cheteshwar Pujara dropped anchor at one end, scoring 234 off 383 deliveries as Saurashtra managed to put 478/8. Sheldon Jackson and Arpit Vasavada gave good support. Pujara's 66th first-class ton helped him overtake Brian Lara.

**Brief Scores:** Chhattisgarh 578/7d drew with Saurashtra 478/8 (Pujara 234, Vasavada 73, Sheldon Jackson 62; Shashank Singh 3/43)

**TWIN HUNDREDS FOR SAMAD**

**Cuttack:** Abdul Samad, who scored 127 in the first innings, hit an unbeaten 108 in the second against Odisha, but Jammu & Kashmir couldn't close out the game. Having missed out on the first innings lead, J&K set a target of 269. Odisha lost wickets at regular intervals before Sandeep Patnaik's unbeaten 55 helped them see out the overs.

**Brief Scores:** J & K 270 & 270/7d (Samad 108 n.o.; Surykant Pradhan 3/46) drew with Odisha 272 & 112/8 (Patnaik 55 no)

# Mumbai get off the mark

After Mhatre's 176 in first innings, Mumbai drub Maharashtra by nine wickets

**DEVENDRA PANDEY**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

AFTER A disappointing start to the Ranji Trophy title defense where they had lost their first game to Baroda last week, Mumbai came back stronger to register their first win in the championship. The win on Monday has given Mumbai much needed confidence going ahead, after they beat Maharashtra by nine wickets in their second round at MCA-BKC, their home ground on Monday.

When they resumed, Mumbai needed 61 runs more to win and it took them a mere 12.1 overs to achieve the target. Prithvi Shaw scored an unbeaten 39 while Hardik Tamore remained unbeaten on 21 as Mumbai packed up early winning with ease after reaching the target of 74.

The hosts would have wished to get the maximum points possible with a bonus, but opener Ayush Mhatre getting out on 15 meant Mumbai had to be satisfied with six points.

Maharashtra never recovered after their first innings debacle, shot out for 126, as Mumbai posted a mammoth score of 441 to ensure they were in the driver's position. The conditions weren't ideal for bowlers but they managed to restrict Maharashtra in the second innings too.

"(We got) Much needed points on the board, which is very important. Last season, we had started well, but this time, it (Baroda defeat) was a good eye-opener. We played hard but lost that match. And coming over here, we got the six points, so happy with that," Mumbai's left-arm spinner Shams Mulani said after the game.

The hosts were glad to get the visitors all out for 126 and it proved to be a turning point in the game, he added.

Asked whether the team was hurt by missing out on the bonus points, he replied, "It hurts, it's cricket. Sometimes you miss that one point, last game we scored a zero, this game we scored six, we will take that."

**No Tanush, SKY for next game**

Mumbai will be missing out on their star batsman Surya Kumar Yadav for the next Ranji Trophy game against Tripura due to personal reasons. Also not travelling to



In Ayush Mhatre, Mumbai have discovered another promising young opener. *PTI*

Agartala for the Ranji Round 3 match from October 26-29 will be all-rounder Tanush Kotian, who will fly out to Australia to be part of the India A team.

Mumbai could count many gains from the game especially after finding 17-year-old Ayush Mhatre, who scored 176 in first innings. Mulani says the new kid resembles the style of team opener Prithvi Shaw. "This is his fourth or fifth game, he bats like Shaw, he expresses himself and doesn't play in any fear. I think that will take him a long way," Mulani added.

For Maharashtra's skipper Rituraj Gaikwad, his hundred in the second innings will certainly hold him in good stead Down Under. The opener has been named as captain for the India A team that will tour Australia later this year.

**Prithvi dropped**

The Mumbai selection committee has

dropped opener Prithvi Shaw for the next Ranji Trophy game due to poor fitness. Mumbai is scheduled to travel to Agartala to play Tripura from October 26 to 29.

The *Indian Express* understands that Shaw has been asked by selectors to follow two weeks of a fitness programme prepared by Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) trainers. Shaw's four innings in the two Ranji Trophy games so far have yielded 712, 1 and 39 not out respectively.

The team management has informed MCA that Shaw's body contains 35 percent fat and he needs rigorous training before he gets back into the side.

"He has been dropped, and needs to go back to training and shed some body weight to be considered for selection," an MCA official said.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Maharashtra 126 & 388 lost to Mumbai 441 & 75/1 (Prithvi Shaw 39 not out) by nine wickets.

# Saini, Chauhan waste time with theatrics, deny TN win

**PRATYUSH RAJ**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

FADING LIGHTS, Tamil Nadu captain Narayan Jagadeesan asking fielders to throw the ball to the outfield, TN seamer Sonu Yadav bowling off-spin, Delhi No 10 Himanshu Chauhan crying like a baby after he scratched his elbow after diving to reach the crease. And then, there was Navdeep Saini.

Saini's theatrics wasting time as light faded with TN needing just the last wicket, took the cake, as hosts Delhi walked away with a solitary point and denied the visitors back-to-back outright victories in the ongoing Ranji Trophy.

After enforcing the follow-on early in the morning, Tamil Nadu reduced Delhi to 193 for 8 and was on the brink of victory, with Dhruv Kaushik injured and unable to bat, but the visitors had to settle for three points. Two overs were left but umpires called off the day's play due to poor visibility at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium and TN were left stranded with one wicket left.

With six overs more to go and a new ball to be taken, a defeat was certain for Delhi. Kaushik, who didn't bat in the first innings due to split webbing was padded up with eight stitches on his right hand. But it was Himanshu Chauhan, who walked out to bat after Sonu Yadav dismissed Pranshu Vijayran.

This is when Himanshu Chauhan and Navdeep Saini took time-wasting to the next level.

Himanshu started crying in the middle of the pitch after he got a minor scratch on his elbow, after putting in a dive to save his wicket. It took Delhi's physios a good five to seven minutes to get Himanshu ready to face the next ball.

In the next over, Sonu Yadav bowled a bumper as the tailender ducked. It kissed Saini's helmet and went past fine leg with Jagadeesan giving it chase. Navdeep Saini gave the thumbs-up to the umpire to signal he was alright. But he immediately realised there was a chance to waste a few more minutes. The next moment, he was down on the ground like a belly-up turtle, which left the umpires and Tamil Nadu's close-in fielders in splits.

The Tamil Nadu slip cordon of Baba Indrajith, Shahrukh Khan, Sai Sudharsan and Andre Siddarth were pleading with Saini to get up and carry on. Delhi physios rushed to

take a concussion test. Saini again fell on his knees, a move that would make Afghanistan's Gulbadin Naib proud. Only after the intervention of the umpires, he got up, and took his sweet time to face the next ball from Sonu Yadav.

By then the damage was done. One ball later, the umpires checked for the lights and told Jagadeesan that the light was not good enough and only spinners could bowl. Sonu completed his over bowling off-spin.

Himanshu Chauhan survived the next over bowled by Ajith Ram. Jagadeesan threw the ball to Washington Sundar, Tamil Nadu's best bowler to get the job done. Meanwhile, Saini was not done. He completely missed the third ball of the over and it went for four byes but this time he was on the ground holding his hamstring. The physios were again on their way, but were sent back by the umpire. Saini hobbled towards the crease and negotiated the next three balls before umpires stopped play due to bad light.

Saini and Chauhan were off the blocks as Delhi's dressing room was celebrating the performances of the duo, while Jagadeesan and Co took the long walk back to the pavilion with a dejected look written all over their faces.

Tamil Nadu have themselves to blame as well. They batted one hour extra after tea on Day 3. If not for that they could have had ample of time to finish the job on the final day.

Earlier, after resuming on their overnight total of 264 for 8, Delhi were bowled out for 266 with Dhruv Kaushik being absent hurt in their first innings. Washington trapped Vijayran to end Delhi's first innings. Yash Dhull remained unbeaten on 105.

Dhull hit Gurjapneet for another boundary but the bowler had the last laugh as he changed the angle, came around the wicket and cleaned up the opener.

After losing Dhull early, it was 24-year-old Sanat Sangwan, another product of Delhi's famous Sonnet Cricket Club, who absorbed the pressure and played a valiant knock of 83 runs off 235 balls. The southpaw, who took strike with a bat which was gifted to him by his idol Rishabh Pant, showed heart, and unlike his first innings, didn't throw away his start. He did get lucky after he was dropped on 37 but after that he made sure to take the game deep.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Tamil Nadu 674/6d drew with Delhi 266 & 193/8 in 83 overs (Sanat 83; Washington 3/45).

# Shami likely to return for second half of Aus tour

**PRATYUSH RAJ & VENKATA KRISHNA B**  
NEW DELHI, CHENNAI, OCTOBER 21

MOHAMMED SHAMI'S participation in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy starting November 22 hangs in the balance with the pacer expected to play only in the second half of the series in Australia. Shami, who hasn't played any competitive cricket since the 50-over World Cup final last November, is expected to play in a Ranji fixture once he gets clearance from the Centre of Excellence where he is training.

The *Indian Express* understands that Shami, who suffered a setback in his recovery earlier this month, is close to regaining full fitness. After the end of the first Test against New Zealand in Bengaluru on Sunday, Shami was seen bowling to India's assistant coach Abhishek Nayar at the nets with bowling coach Morne Morkel keeping a close watch.

"I felt great yesterday (Sunday) because I had been bowling off half a run-up on and off since I can't put too much stress on my body. Yesterday, we decided that I would bowl properly, and I gave my 100 percent. It felt great, and the results are good. Hopefully, I'll be back on track soon," Shami said at an event in Gurugram on Monday.

"The only thing I want to focus on is how to keep myself fit and get as strong as I can for the (Australia) tour. I know what kind of an attack we want for that Test series, so it's better for me to work on the nuances and spend some more time on the ground before going."

It is understood that Shami's workload will be gradually increased now with the second half of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy being targeted for his comeback. Having resumed bowling off a full run-up, he will now bowl to batsmen at the nets before he is cleared to play in a competitive fixture.

"It is understood that there is still some work to be done with regard to his endurance and ability to bowl at least 20-25 overs a day.

"If I get fit and get a gap of 8-10 days, it's better that I play one or two domestic matches before going to Australia. I don't know when I can play next, but the day I feel comfortable about bowling 20-30 overs and get the nod from the doctors, I'll run to play a match," the pacer said.

**The last mile**

According to those in the know, the next 10 days are crucial for Shami to regain competitive fitness. It is understood that in case his recovery goes to plan, he will play Bengal's fourth round match against Karnataka in Bengaluru. If not, he will be asked to feature in the next round against Madhya Pradesh.

"If he continues his recovery, he can



Mohammed Shami, who suffered a setback in his recovery earlier this month, is close to full fitness. *Sportzpics*

play the match against Karnataka. If he plays that fixture, he can even travel with the Indian team to Australia and play the practice fixture and then slowly integrate back into the squad.

Since he suffered a setback on his comeback, he has to go through the rehab process again which is now in the final stages," sources revealed.

It is understood that the India team management and the selectors have informed Shami that he needs to play at least one, if not two, Ranji fixtures to not just prove his fitness, but also regain his rhythm. Because of his lack of match time, it is understood that the India team management is looking to have him for the second half of the five-Test series.

"There is a considerable break between the first and second Tests so the workload can be managed. But it is thereafter that India have to manage their resources and if Shami is fit for that period, it will be an advantage," sources said.

Since picking up an ankle injury during last year's World Cup, Shami underwent surgery and was in line for a comeback during the home season. However, earlier this month, he suffered another setback through a swollen knee, which delayed his return.

Speaking ahead of the Bengaluru Test, captain Rohit Sharma had stated that he didn't want an undercooked Shami in Australia. "We are keeping our fingers crossed. We want him to be fit; we want him to be 100 percent. More than anything else, we don't want to bring an undercooked Shami to Australia. That is not going to be the right decision for us," Rohit had said.

# Leclerc wins US GP, Verstappen stretches lead

**ALAN BALDWIN**  
AUSTIN, OCTOBER 21

**CHARLES LECLERC** won the U.S. Grand Prix in a Ferrari one-two with Carlos Sainz on Sunday as Max Verstappen dealt Lando Norris a significant setback in the Formula One title battle after a thrilling duel between the two.



Red Bull's triple world champion finished third to stretch his championship lead over his McLaren rival, who ended up fourth after starting on pole position, to 57 points with five rounds remaining.

Norris had passed Verstappen four laps from the end, after hunting his Dutch rival down on fresher tyres, but was handed a five-second penalty for going off the track and gaining an advantage.

The overtake was the major talking point of the race at Austin's Circuit of the Americas.

McLaren's Oscar Piastri was fifth with Mercedes' George Russell sixth and Sergio Perez seventh for Red Bull.

Nico Hulkenberg scored precious points for U.S.-owned Haas in eighth while New Zealander Liam Lawson got off to a great return with Red Bull-owned RB with ninth place despite starting at the back of the grid. Argentine rookie Franco Colapinto also continued his standout form with the final point for Williams.

Leclerc's win, his third of the season after Monaco and Monza, ended Verstappen's run of three successive U.S. Grand Prix wins at Austin's Circuit of the Americas.

"One-two for the team. We couldn't have dreamt for better," he said. "We did a great job. The pace of the car was really good. That's thanks to the engineers. They have been working like crazy to bring upgrades that we had in Singapore and the last few races. It seems to be paying off."

Although Verstappen won the Saturday 100km sprint from pole, collecting the maximum eight points, his losing Sunday streak extended to nine grands prix going back to Spain in June. Norris made a quick getaway, reacting faster than Verstappen, but was then forced wide at the uphill first corner with Verstappen gaining a place while Leclerc overtook both on the inside with Sainz following through in third.

The McLaren driver complained over the team radio about Verstappen's move.

"He clearly pushed me off. He had no intent to make the corner," said the Briton. "Even he went off the track. I had to avoid crashing into him or him into me."

REUTERS

**WHERE NEWSMAKERS DROP IN FOR A CANDID CHAT.**

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