

DOVAL AND WANG TO MEET early for boundary talks | IMPORTANT TO HANDLE differences, disputes: Modi | BOTH A KEY PHASE IN OUR progress... world watching: Xi

Modi-Xi handshake

Peace on border our priority: Modi, Xi after first bilateral in 5 years

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

TAKING THE first step to revive bilateral ties frozen ever since Chinese incursions in eastern Ladakh over four-and-a-half years ago triggered a military standoff along the Line of Actual Control, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping held talks Wednesday and underlined that "maintaining peace on border should be our priority" and "mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual sensitivity should be the basis of our ties".

While both Modi and Xi emphasised the "importance of properly handling differences and disputes", Xi also called for "more communication and co-operation" and said "people in our two countries and the



PM Narendra Modi meets Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan on Wednesday. ANI

We support dialogue & diplomacy, not war... no double standards on terror: PM

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

CALLING FOR "single-minded, firm support of all" to "counter terrorism and terror financing" and making clear that "there is no place for double standards on this serious matter", Prime Minister Narendra Modi told leaders of the BRICS grouping Wednesday that

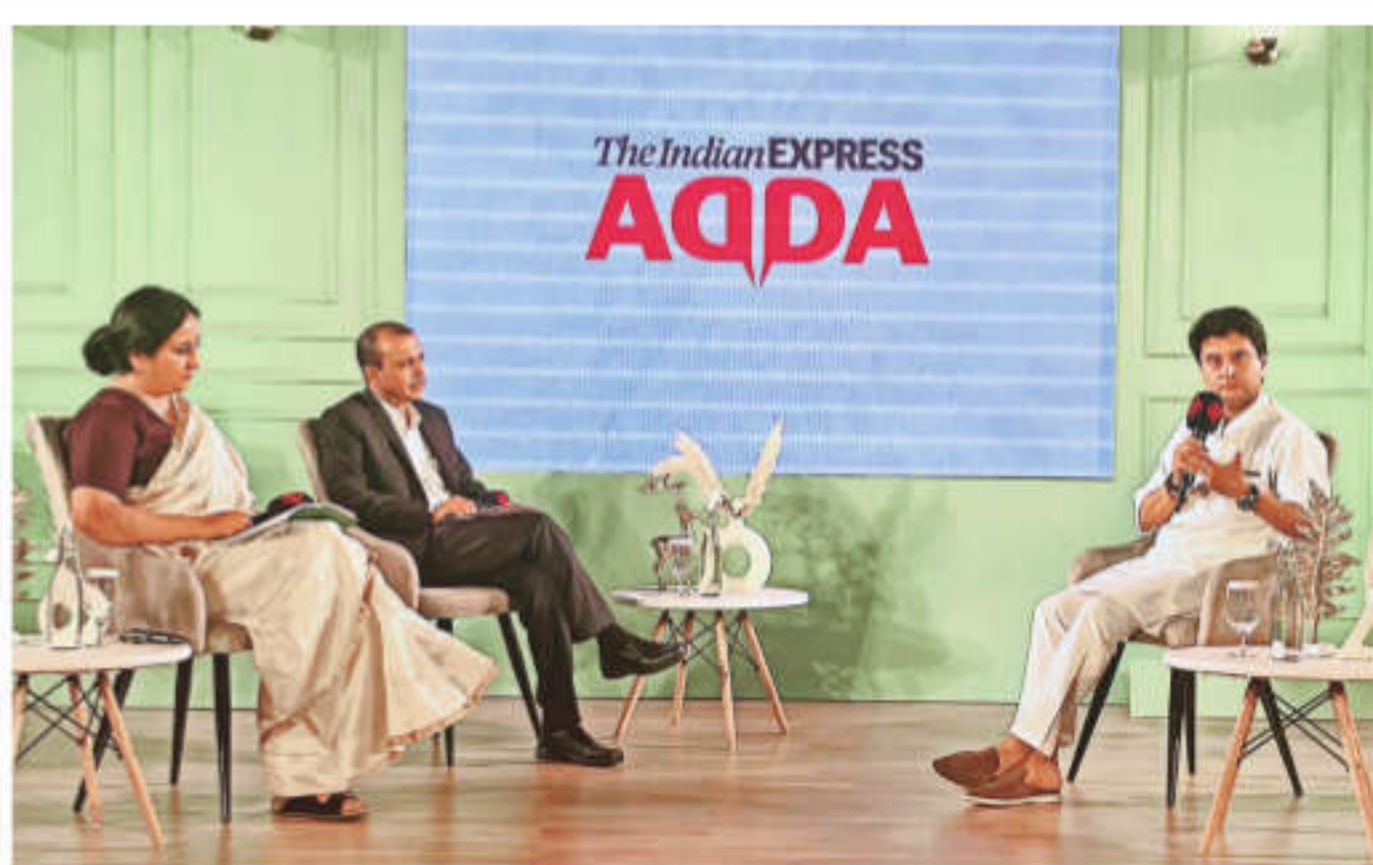
India supports "dialogue and diplomacy, not war".

In his statement at the BRICS leaders' summit in Kazan, Modi framed the challenges of the time: "Our meeting is taking place at a time when the world is facing several pressing challenges such as wars, economic uncertainty, climate change and terrorism. The world is talking about the North-South divide

and the East-West divide. Preventing inflation, ensuring food security, energy security, health security, water security are matters of priority for all countries in the world. And in this era of technology, new challenges have emerged such as cyber deepfake, disinformation."

And, in that context, he said, "At such a time, there are high

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



IN CONVERSATION

Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya Scindia in conversation with Vandita Mishra, National Opinion Editor, *The Indian Express*, and Rishi Raj, Executive Editor, *The Financial Express*, at the Express Adda in New Delhi on Wednesday. Renuka Puri



CCTV FOOTAGE OF VALLEY ATTACK

Militants had M4 carbine, AK-47; at camp for 7 mins

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

CCTV FOOTAGE of the October 20 terror attack on employees of a construction firm in Kashmir's Ganderbal district shows two militants, carrying an American-made M4 carbine assault rifle and an AK-47, spending around seven minutes at the workers' camp



CCTV footage of one of the two militants at the site

Hit by violence, Bagraich village now on edge over bulldozer threat

MANISH SAHU
BAHRAICH, OCTOBER 23

IN THE Bagraich neighbourhood that witnessed communal violence on October 13, the threat of bulldozers looms large.

Days after the violence, 23 residents of Maharajganj village received a demolition notice from the Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department (PWD), asking that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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‘TREES CUT’ TO WIDEN APPROACH ROAD TO CAPFIMS SITE

Not aware court nod needed for tree felling, L-G tells SC

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

Delhi L-G V K Saxena told the Supreme Court he was “not aware, nor made aware, of the fact that further permission” from the court was needed to fell trees for widening the approach road to the under-construction Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences (CAPFIMS) in the Ridge area during his visit to the site on February 3.

Last week, the SC sought an affidavit from Saxena, in his capacity as Delhi Development Authority (DDA) chairperson, on the controversy surrounding the alleged illegal felling of trees.

In an affidavit filed before the top court Tuesday, Saxena said his visit to the CAPFIMS site was to take stock of progress of the project, keeping in mind its significance and necessity as well as resources already invested in it.

“On the date of the visit on 03.02.2024”, he “asked officers/officials at the spot to expedite work... the project being related to medical facilities for paramilitary forces serving the nation and (as) resources to the



Delhi L-G V K Saxena

tune of approximately Rs 2,200 crore already stood invested...” the L-G said in the affidavit.

The L-G said “while coming back from CAPFIMS Hospital”, he “stopped at the site of the road widening.” He added, “No one at the said site... brought to” his “notice... the legal requirement of obtaining permission from” the court “for felling trees”.

The affidavit said, “On enquiring about the progress of work”, the L-G “was informed permission for felling/translocation of trees is awaited from the competent authority” and work has not been initiated.

On this, “the Deponent (L-G) informed that for trees falling under DPTA (Delhi Preservation of Trees Act), 1994, the Forest Department had already taken

approval of the Minister (Environment & Forests) and Hon’ble Chief Minister with my concurring opinion. The Deponent observed that officials concerned should expedite communication of approval in this regard to the DDA.”

The L-G said “in any event”, his “direction... by no stretch of imagination, was to bypass the mandate of law”.

He further said he “was also not aware, nor made aware, of the fact that further permission was required from” the SC.

Saxena said he “was first made aware that the SC’s permission... was required, only on 21.03.2024 when a proposal of the DDA was received for constitution of a Committee of Experts in compliance with directions of the” Court. He added “the fact that the actual act of felling of trees had commenced on or about 16.02.2024” was brought to his notice by the DDA Vice-Chairman’s letter dated June 10, 2024, issued pursuant to the court’s directions.

The affidavit also named officials responsible for the tree felling and said they’ve “been found to have instructed/allowed

tree cutting to take place on their own accord”. It said “perusal of the sequence of events suggests field officials of DDA probably misunderstood approvals received from the Govt. of NCT of Delhi... to be a go-ahead for felling of trees,” and added, “though a mistake, work done by them was bona fide in the interest of public good”.

While hearing a plea on October 16 seeking initiation of contempt of court proceedings against DDA V-C Subhashish Panda, an SC bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud asked Saxena to file a personal affidavit making a full disclosure of what transpired during his visit to the CAPFIMS site.

The L-G’s affidavit said Panda, “during the period 16.02.2024” when tree felling began “to 26.02.2024, was under medical treatment at AIIMS”. He added that Panda “was also not present at the site, under intimation to the undersigned, due to his official preoccupations on 03.02.2024”. He also said there is “no act of omission or commission on the part of the V-C, DDA,” and he may be discharged from contempt proceedings.

1984 anti-Sikh riots: HC dismisses appeals filed by state, points to delays ranging from 27 to 36 years

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE DELHI High Court’s dismissal of three appeals related to 1984 anti-Sikh riots, filed 27 to 36 years after the accused were acquitted by a trial court, sets a precedent for at least 10 other cases.

In 2018, the Supreme Court had set up a two-member committee headed by former Delhi High Court judge S N Dhingra, which had recommended filing of appeals in several cases where it felt that the judges handed acquittals “in a routine manner”.

“In the present case, the delay is 13,420 days i.e., more than 36 years. While this court is conscious of the largescale loss of human lives and property during the 1984 riots, considering the long delay, the delay is not liable to be

condoned and leave is not liable to be granted,” a bench of Justices Prathiba Singh and Amit Sharma said in an order on October 21.

The case stems from an acquittal on April 26, 1995, where Om Parkash, Pushpa, Madhu, and Nand Kishore alias Pappu were acquitted of offences including rioting, murder and unlawful assembly, among others. The FIR in the case was registered at the Seema Puri police station in 1984. In the verdict of July 29, 1995, based on an FIR registered at the Delhi Cantonment police station, Niranjan Kumar, Ram Kumar, and Sharwan Kumar were acquitted of similar charges.

The state had sought the court’s permission to challenge trial court judgments, one from April 26, 1995, another from July 29, 1995, and two others from

August 8 and 11, 1986 — passed by a sessions court in New Delhi — where 17 were acquitted.

In the application moved by the state seeking the court’s condonation of delay against this verdict, the state does not explain why it did not appeal against the acquittal since 1995. Explaining the delay between 2019 and 2024 when the appeal was finally filed, the application notes that the file was stuck at the DCP’s office.

The 1986 verdicts had acquitted 10 accused on charges of rioting, dacoity and destruction of evidence. A prosecution witness in this case, Gurmej Kaur, had deposed that on November 1, 1984, around 2000 people, which included the accused, had come to her house and “caught hold of” her family members and set them ablaze after murdering them.

The state submitted before the

division bench of Justices Prathiba Singh and Amit Sharma that the petition had been delayed “primarily due to the Justice S N Dhingra Committee, which submitted the report on April 15, 2019”.

The committee’s report had castigated the police and the administration over their response to the riots, saying their “whole role... seems to have been to hush up the criminal cases concerning the riots”.

“It is after the report was submitted that internal reviews were conducted and matters were processed for filing this leave petition,” the state submitted.

The bench dismissed the state’s appeal, stating that similar delayed appeals were filed in 2023, the HC had refused to condone the delay, and that such dismissals were upheld by the Supreme Court.

Boy killed in fire, his brothers & parents critical

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

A 16-YEAR-OLD boy died after his house caught fire in Southwest Delhi’s Kishangarh in the early hours of Wednesday, police said, adding that his parents and two brothers are in critical condition.

According to police, a PCR call was received at 3.27 am about a fire breaking out in a two-room flat. It belonged to Laxmi Mandal, 42, who was in the house with his wife Anita Mandal, 40, and their three sons — Sunny, 22, Deepak, 20, and Akash, 16.

Laxmi was a gardener, while Sunny and Deepak worked with Blinkit. The deceased was still in

school, police said. “Laxmi, Anita, and Deepak were rushed to the Safdarjung Hospital’s emergency ward while Sunny and Akash were taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre. The youngest son succumbed to injuries Wednesday morning. The condition of the other four remains serious,” said DCP (Southwest) Surendra Chaudhary.

Two fire tenders and four PCR vans reached the fourth-floor flat in D-3, Kishangarh, and the fire was doused.

According to police, the fire was huge, and most articles in the house were completely burnt. There is a possibility of an LPG cylinder leak causing the fire, but police are yet to ascertain the reason behind the incident.

Man strangled to death with dog leash, set on fire, two friends held

NEETIKA JHA
GREATER NOIDA, OCTOBER 23

TWO MEN were arrested on Wednesday, hours after they allegedly killed a 46-year-old Ghaziabad-based property dealer by strangling him with a dog leash and setting his body on fire inside his SUV near Nagla Nainsukh village in Gautam Buddha Nagar’s Dadri late Tuesday.

The police identified the deceased as Sanjay Yadav, a resident of Nehru Nagar in Ghaziabad, who was allegedly friends with the accused — Vishal Rajput and Jeet Chaudhary, also residents of Ghaziabad.

“We have recovered one dog leash with which the murder was committed. We have also found a bracelet, two rings, one gold-like chain, Rs 6,250 in cash and two cellphones from the accused,” said Ashok Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Greater Noida.

The accused have told the police that as Yadav usually carried a lot of cash and wore gold ornaments, they planned to kill him and then rob him.

“On Tuesday afternoon, Yadav came to the house of the accused and three of them started drinking alcohol,” Kumar said.

He added, “As Yadav got a little drunk, the accused robbed him of the jewellery he was wearing and the cash. Then they strangled him to death with the help of a dog leash.”

“Later at night, they put Yadav’s body on the back seat of his SUV... The two accused drove the car to a deserted spot, put the body on the driver’s seat and poured petrol on it. They then set the car on fire,” an officer said.

The officer added that they found the dog leash near GT Road.

An FIR has been lodged against Rajput and Chaudhary under sections 103(1) (murder), 309(6) (robbery) and 238(5) (giving false information) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Dadri police station.



DIWALI BAZAAR

People shop at Diwali Bazaar of the Blind Relief Association, ahead of the festival, in New Delhi, Wednesday. Amit Mehra

IIT student found dead in hostel room, police say was undergoing psychiatric treatment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

A SECOND-YEAR Master’s student at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, allegedly died by suicide in his hostel room late Tuesday. The student, Kumar Yash, had undergone psychiatric treatment at the campus hospital earlier in the day, said the Delhi Police.

A police officer told The Indian Express that they received a PCR call regarding an alleged suicide by an IIT-Delhi student from Jharkhand at about 11 pm on Tuesday, and a police team reached the spot. “The room was closed from the inside but his friend and IIT staff broke it down. The deceased was... taken to the IIT Hospital where he was declared dead by the doctor on duty. Then he was taken to the Safdarjung Hospital by IIT’s ambulance where he was declared dead on arrival,” said the officer.

The officer said the body has been preserved in the mortuary, and the student’s family members have been informed. The mobile crime team inspected his hostel room, the officer added.

“No suicide note found there. As per the deceased’s medical report card, he was under psychiatric treatment. On October 22, he visited the IIT Hospital where

he was treated, and also fixed his appointment with a psychiatrist for October 29. Statements of his friends have been recorded and no foul play is suspected in this matter. Further proceedings under Section 194 of the BNSS are being carried out,” the officer said.

In a letter to students Wednesday morning, B K Panigrahi, Dean of Student Affairs, said: “With a heavy heart, it is our unfortunate duty to inform you of the tragic and untimely demise of our student, Kumar Yash, a resident of Aravali hostel and a second-year student of MSC Cognitive Science. Kumar was found in his room late last night. The police have taken custody of his mortal remains.”

Panigrahi said Kumar’s family is expected to arrive Wednesday, and that the Registrar would set up a condolence meeting soon. “This challenging time reminds us of the constant need for us to be there for each other. You are also requested to reach out to multiple counselling avenues in our system if you need help to cope with this tragedy,” he added.

In February, a final-year MTech student was found dead in his hostel room. His parents suspected foul play and alleged his guide, co-guide, and a PhD student were responsible for his death and demanded the institute take necessary action.

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Woman bludgeons former live-in partner to death, surrenders to police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

A 28-YEAR-OLD woman allegedly bludgeoned to death her former live-in partner at her home in Mukundpur on Monday, after which she went to the police station to give herself up, police said.

According to police, the woman claimed she hit Shahid, 28, who came to her house in a

drunken state, on the head using a grinding stone and then attacked him with a knife and hammer as he started getting physically abusive with her.

The woman told police she attacked the man as she was concerned about her children’s safety.

“The woman’s husband died in 2018. She has four children — a girl and three boys. She had been in a relationship with Shahid for three years. But she ended it three

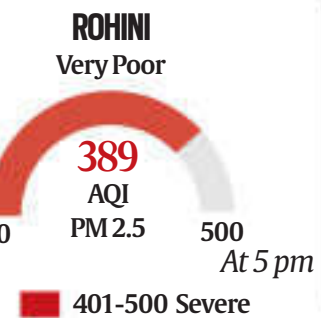
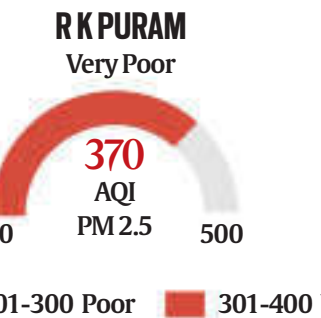
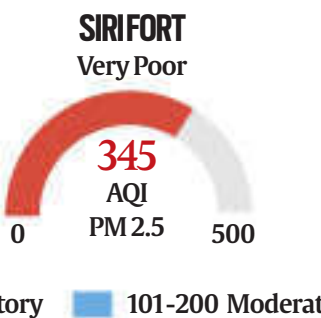
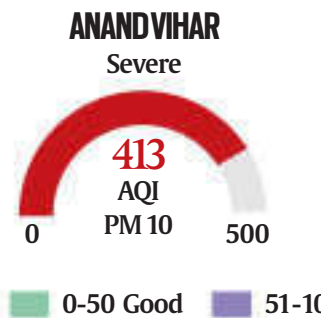
months ago because of his abusive nature,” a police officer said.

Police said after the woman ended the relationship with Shahid, who was married and had a child, he kept visiting her and threatened to kill her children.

Police visited the house and found the body in a room. They also recovered the blood-smeared grinding stone, knife, and hammer. The Bhalswa Dairy police station has registered a murder case.

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Mist in the morning hours.
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MAX: 34
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CAPITAL ‘MOST POLLUTED’ IN COUNTRY; DELHI MINISTER RAISES CLOUD SEEDING DEMAND AGAIN

AQI still ‘very poor’, no respite over next six days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

FOR THE third consecutive day, Delhi’s air quality was in the ‘very poor’ category, making it the most polluted city in the country on Wednesday. The 24-hour average AQI was 364 — up from Tuesday’s AQI of 327.

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) forecast the AQI to be in the ‘very poor’ and ‘severe’ categories for the next six days. “Meteorological conditions are unfavourable for effective dispersion of pollutants as calm winds prevailed during (Tuesday) night,” it added.

Going by data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Wednesday saw 57 cases of stubble burning in Punjab, 15 in Haryana, 68 in Uttar Pradesh and none in Delhi.

Since September 15, 1,638 stubble burning cases have been reported in Punjab and 680 in Haryana, which is the lowest when compared to the same period since 2020, IARI data showed. 808 stubble burning cases were reported in UP and 11 in Delhi — the highest so far since 2020 during this period.

According to the Decision Support System for Air Quality Management in Delhi, 8% of pollutants Tuesday were due to stubble burning. Data on Wednesday showed contribution of road dust and construction was around 3%. The transport sector was the highest contributor at 13.5%.

Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director of Research and Advocacy at the Centre for Science and Environment, said, “Spike in pollution even with low stubble burning shows increasing impact of local and regional sources of pollutants in Delhi-NCR. With this being the festival season, the major cause of pollution is vehicle emissions due to traffic congestion.”

Swagata Dey, policy specialist in the Air Quality team at the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy, said,



The 24-hour average AQI on Wednesday was 364. Gajendra Yadav

“There is a slight dip in evening and night temperatures, which could be hindering dispersion of pollutants. There are also highly localised sources of air pollution, such as heavy traffic and open burning of garbage. Construction activities have also picked up pace, as people feel construction bans might come into place.”

Meanwhile, Environment Minister Gopal Rai called for considering cloud seeding as an emergency measure to induce rain and reduce pollution. In a letter to Bhupendra Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, he wrote, “... Considering air quality in Delhi is likely to turn severe during November, I believe it is imperative to consider the feasibility of this method... Once again request you to immediately convene meetings with all relevant stakeholders.”

The BJP has demanded Rai’s resignation. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, in a post on X, said: “Instead of thinking about health interests of the people of Delhi, Rai thinks about protecting political interests of the Punjab government...”

Need speedy action against old vehicles: Transport dept to police

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

MAINTAINING THAT traffic police officers are “hesitant” in confiscating end of life vehicles (ELV) — petrol and diesel vehicles that have completed 10 and 15 years in service, respectively — the Delhi Transport Commissioner Tuesday wrote to the police chief seeking directions to all officers concerned to strictly enforce guidelines.

With the air quality deteriorating in Delhi, the Transport Department had launched a joint drive with other enforcement agencies against old petrol and diesel vehicles.

In a letter to Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora, Principal Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Transport Department, Prashant Goyal, wrote: “... the transport department has issued guidelines for handling ELVs in public places... Delhi Traffic Police has been declared as one of the enforcement agencies... the agencies have to conduct continuous enforcement drives for phasing out ELVs from the public places...”

“... apparently at field level, there is some lack of clarity and Delhi Traffic Police officers are hesitant in catching ELVs... Given the rapidly deteriorating air quality situation in Delhi, Union government, CAQM and Government of NCT of Delhi would like expeditious targeting of such vehicles...”



A drive against old vehicles has been restarted in the city. PTI

the letter added. He also requested Arora to direct all officers to take strict action against such vehicles.

Goyal also wrote: “It would also help... if some police personnel are deployed to work along with the enforcement team of the transport department.”

In response, Additional CP (Traffic) Dinesh K Gupta said: “Action against end of life vehicles has been prompt. All guidelines have been followed. All vehicles that are older than 10 to 15 years are confiscated as soon as they are found flouting norms. They are directly handed over to scrap dealers.”

The Transport Department had earlier urged the Traffic Police to deploy four teams per MCD zone, in coordination with its enforcement teams, to seize and impound ELVs as well as e-rickshaws that are unregistered and do not have fitness certificate and hand them over to the designated

Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) for action.

“There is manpower shortage in the Transport Department’s enforcement wing. So, we requested police to deploy personnel for the drive,” said an official.

As per data shared by the department, 1,868 vehicles — 50% are e-rickshaws — have been impounded between October 11 and 22 evening. While 554 cars have been impounded, 202 of the impounded vehicles are bikes, 895 are e-rickshaws and 167 are unregistered e-rickshaws.

The department has authorised 12 RVSFs for each MCD zone to work with enforcement agencies. As per rules, while the department can issue permits for release of ELVs impounded for the first time, any ELV impounded for the second time would not be released. The release of impounded vehicles is directly monitored by the department.

Set house in order before blaming others: L-G to CM; AAP hits back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

AMID THE ongoing blame game between the AAP and BJP over Delhi’s pollution crisis, L-G V K Saxena Wednesday wrote to Chief Minister Atishi and said road dust is the largest contributor to air pollution and suggested that it would be appropriate “if we first set our house in order before blaming others or asking for their help”.

Hitting back at the L-G, the AAP said Delhi is the only state where a summer and winter action plan and targeted efforts against pollution are implemented. The party claimed as a result, pollution in Delhi has dropped by over 31%, and this year, Delhi is breathing its cleanest air in the last decade.

In his letter to Atishi, the L-G wrote: “As we proceed into the festive season... we yet again stare at black air pollution, grey skies not due to clouds, and that dreaded choking feeling. AQI in the city is approaching 400 even as I write to you. The pathetic state of pollution in the Yamuna, as we approach the holy Chhath Puja, is doing rounds all over TV channels and social media.”



Archive

AAP said Delhi is the only state where a summer & winter action plan against pollution are implemented

Citing studies and his own experience of visiting several road stretches and localities in the Capital, Saxena claimed about 36% of air pollution in the city is on account of dust that flies on roads and from unprocessed construction and demolition waste.

He also claimed 25% of the air pollution is caused due to vehicular emission, 8% due to solid waste burning, stubble burning in other states accounts for 26%, and 5% due to miscellaneous factors like chulhas, tandoors and generators. “We may have little control over 26% of the causative factors, the remaining 74% is well within our control and could have been addressed effectively... by undertaking

simple steps — had the government intended to,” he said, adding that if needed, he will request neighbouring states to help Delhi. “However, it will only be appropriate we first set our house in order before blaming others or asking for their help,” he said.

Saxena said, “... all it would take to address the situation are simple measures. Regular repair of roads, end-to-end carpeting of pavements, planting small shrubs... Most important in this regard will be repairing roads that are in extraordinarily bad shape, causing tonnes of dust to fly with vehicles running on them.”

Taking aim at former CM Arvind Kejriwal, Saxena wrote, “In several meetings I had with your predecessor Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, I flagged all the issues and tried my best to convince him these are surmountable and should be addressed. But my requests went unheeded.”

In response to his letter, AAP claimed the top three cities with the worst AQI levels today are BJP-ruled Haryana and UP. “This exposes their hypocrisy on pollution. Instead of playing dirty politics, the BJP must work together to find solutions and address issues in neighbouring states...”

After SC rap, Delhi-NCR air monitor gets 2 expert members

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE ENVIRONMENT Ministry has appointed three members — two experts from non-governmental organisations and one stakeholder from the Agriculture sector — to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), the air monitor told the Supreme Court Tuesday.

In an affidavit submitted to the top court, the CAQM also listed monitoring and enforcement actions taken by the Punjab and Haryana governments to control farm fires. This included lodging 920 FIRs; marking red entries in the records of 437 farmers; and imposing fines of Rs 11 lakh on offenders in Punjab from September 15 to October 20. During the same period in Haryana, 653 farm fire incidents were reported, out of which fines

were imposed in 327 cases amounting to around Rs 8 lakh, 93 FIRs were lodged, and red entries were made in revenue records of 379 farmers.

On October 16, the SC had pulled up the Punjab and Haryana governments over non-prosecution of violators found guilty of stubble burning and summoned the state chief secretaries to appear before it on Wednesday for an explanation.

The air quality monitoring body is tasked with better coordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index and related matters in NCR and adjoining areas. According to the CAQM Act, 2021, there needs to be three members from NGOs having experience in combating air pollution and the Commission should also have a stakeholder member from the Agriculture sector.

Due to non-fulfilment of this criteria, on October 3, a three-judge bench headed by Justice Abhay Oka stated, “If there are no true experts in the field of air pollution, this Court will have to exercise powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India to include some experts in the field. Two posts of NGO members are still kept vacant.”

The members were appointed to the Commission through an office order by the Environment Ministry issued Saturday. The NGO members are Arvind Wable, president of the Board of Trustees at the World Wide Fund for Nature India, and Dr Arunabha Ghosh, Founder-CEO at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water. The stakeholder member from the Agriculture sector is Dr PK Sahoo, head and principal scientist in the Agriculture Engineering Division at the ICAR-Indian Agriculture Research Institute.

Water treatment plants hit due to untreated waste in Yamuna from UP, Haryana: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

WATER TREATMENT plants in Delhi have been affected due to high ammonia levels in the Yamuna, Chief Minister Atishi said Wednesday while accusing BJP-ruled Haryana and Uttar Pradesh of discharging untreated industrial waste into the river.

Atishi, addressing the media during a visit to the Wazirabad water treatment plant (WTP), said: “Sharp rise in ammonia levels in Yamuna due to discharge of polluted industrial water from Haryana via DD-2 and DD-8 drains has affected output at Wazirabad, Sonia Vihar, and Bhagirathi WTPs, leading to water shortage in Delhi.”

“The root cause behind rising pollution is BJP’s dirty politics,” Atishi said, adding that ammonia levels in the Yamuna at Wazirabad Barrage surged to 3 PPM Tuesday evening, making the water unsuitable for treatment.

Hitting back, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor called Atishi’s allegations “irresponsible” and “false”. He challenged the CM to accompany state BJP president Virendra Sachdeva to Palla village at the Delhi-Haryana border and see for herself, how clean water enters the city from Haryana but progressively turns into a drain between Wazirabad and Kalindi Kunj.

Man arrested for posing as OSD to Home Minister: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

FROM A job in the ONGC to a seat in the Rajya Sabha, Naveen Kumar Singh claimed he could get one any of these for the right price. The 43-year-old donned various personas. Recently, he claimed to be OSD to the Home Minister and helped a couple of alleged land grabbers in annexing a plot, police said, adding that he has been arrested.

According to police, Naveen was out on bail in a case, where he allegedly duped a man of Rs 2 crore on the pretext of getting him a Rajya Sabha berth, when he met property dealer Taj Mohammad. “Taj approached Naveen 15

days ago and said that he, along with two men named Ravi and Toheed Malik, forged some documents to occupy a land in Brijpuri but was not allowed to do so by police,” said DCP (Northeast) Rakesh Pawaria.

On October 9, SI Ravi at Dayalpur police station received a call, complaining about trespassing on a plot in Brijpuri. A person named Sanjay Kumar claimed Toheed Malik was illegally staking a claim to his property. Malik laid a counterclaim, stating that the plot was indeed his and that he would come with documents to prove it but couldn’t.

Naveen was then offered money to help get the land. “Naveen called SI Ravi and threatened him with dire consequences

if the ownership of the land wasn’t transferred to Toheed. He also visited Dayalpur police station and made the same threats to the SHO, saying he was from the office of the OSD to the Home Minister,” DCP Pawaria said.

However, Naveen had already made a similar call to ACP Gokulpuri Deepak Chandra, issuing threats in lieu of the land, police said. “We inquired into his identity and it was revealed that he was impersonating a government official,” a police officer said.

The number from which Naveen made the call was traced, and on October 22 he was arrested from Noida, police said. “This was the fourth time he was arrested. He has four cases of cheating against him,” the officer said.

Scuffle at Jamia campus: Outside elements involved, tried to disturb peace, says varsity

HIMANSHU HARSH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

A DAY after a scuffle broke out at Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) when a group of students was holding Diwali celebrations on campus, the university said the incident appeared to be “completely sponsored and there seems to be involvement of some outside elements with an attempt to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the university”.

In a statement, the varsity said the administration gave students conditional permission to celebrate Diwali and things were peaceful until 7.30 pm when unidentified persons started sloganeering. “It shows outside el-



Three students detained and released later, say police

ements in the crowd deliberately created disturbance as per a well-thought-out strategy... The administration has filed a formal complaint at the Jamia Nagar police station against unidentified persons in this matter,” it said.

The varsity also said the accused are being identified

through CCTV footage to take appropriate action against them. “It is worth mentioning that Jamia Millia Islamia is an important center of Ganga-Jamuni culture of the country and every year, people of all religions celebrate festivals here happily.”

Meanwhile, on Wednesday evening, 30-40 students tried to march toward Gate No 7 but were stopped by police who also detained three people. “Three students were detained and taken to Kalkaji police station because they wanted to light diyas by the road outside the Jamia gate without prior permission,” said a senior police officer, adding that they were released later.

“We came to celebrate Diwali peacefully but police chased us

away,” claimed Aprajita Thakur, Secretary, DU Students’ Union.

Later at night, around 100 students — belonging to ABVP and university group YUVA — from Jamia, Delhi University, and Jawaharlal Nehru University gathered outside the Centenary Gate to light diyas under police vigil.

During the day, around 100 sanitation staffers were denied entry by police as they gathered outside the Centenary Gate to celebrate Valmiki Jayanti. “They didn’t let us celebrate on campus even though we had prior permission from the administration,” said Rakesh Kumar Valmiki (47), a sanitation staff. However, a senior police officer told *The Indian Express* the workers didn’t have permission to take the idol inside.

CENTRE TO DELHI HIGH COURT

‘Declaring Jama Masjid protected monument will have substantial impact’

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE UNION government Wednesday filed an affidavit before the Delhi High Court stating that “there would be a substantial impact in declaring Jama Masjid a protected monument”. This comes nearly two decades after the Ministry of Culture, under the Manmohan Singh government, decided not to declare Jama Masjid a protected monument.

In an affidavit dated October 21, the Union government, through the Archaeological

Survey of India (ASI), submitted, “... there would be a substantial impact of declaring Jama Masjid a protected monument. The provision of prohibited area will be applicable to Jama Masjid, which is a 100-m zone from a protected monument in which new construction are prohibited. Further, in regulated area (200-m zone beyond prohibited area) all construction-related activities are regulated and require prior permission from the competent authority and National Monuments Authority. Thus, there is (a) substantial impact of central protection on a 300-m



Jama Masjid in New Delhi. Archive

zone around the monument.”

“Further, Jama Masjid is under protection and guardianship of Delhi Waqf Board under the

Waqf Act, 1995... In the event of declaring it as a protected monument, the regulations of prohibited and regulated areas would

come (into) effect,” it added.

Going through the affidavit, Justice Prathiba Singh, orally remarked: “So, in effect the Union of India is saying it (should) not be declared as protected... there’s a hesitation, that much is clear.”

She orally added, “One thing is clear... even if it is not protected, revenue cannot go exclusively to any private person.” The HC suggested that part of the revenue earned can be paid as a fee to Delhi Waqf Board as well as to ASI, even as ASI clarified before the court that it has so far not demanded any fee from the masjid. Despite not being declared a

protected monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, the ASI continues to carry out conservation and restoration work of the monument. According to a statement of expenditure submitted by the ASI in the affidavit, it incurred an expenditure of Rs 61.82 lakh on it from 2007-2008 to 2019-2020.

The ASI, in the affidavit filed through Praveen Singh, superintending archaeologist in ASI Delhi circle, submitted that it has been taking up conservation and preservation work of Jama Masjid

since 1955 “as and when requested by the authority of representative of the Jama Masjid”.

The HC has been dealing with two petitions from 2014, which raised issues regarding Maulana Syed Ahmed Bukhari’s announcement that he would anoint his youngest son as Naib Imam of Jama Masjid at a ceremony on November 22, 2014, after he had proclaimed himself the Shafi Imam of Jama Masjid.

The petitions challenged the legality of this anointment and highlighted the need for the Jama Masjid to be declared a protected monument.

Want meaningful accountability: US on India’s Pannun probe

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 23

THE UNITED States has said it would not be fully satisfied until there is “meaningful accountability” resulting from India’s investigations into the alleged foiled plot to assassinate Sikh separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on American soil.

The Indian government has denied its association with such a plot to kill an American national on United States soil. Following allegations by the US, New Delhi had set up an enquiry committee to investigate the matter.

“We continue to expect and want to see accountability based on the results of that investigation, and certainly the United States won’t be fully satisfied until there is meaningful accountability resulting from that investigation,” State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters at a news conference.

Patel was responding to a question on last week’s visit of an Indian enquiry committee to the US for talks.

“There was valuable engagement with India’s enquiry committee last week, and information was exchanged between our two governments to further our respective investigations,” Patel said.

“We understand that the Indian enquiry committee will continue its investigation, and we expect to see further steps based on last week’s conversations,” he added.

“Beyond that, I’m just not going to address this in further detail given that this is an issue that is active and remains under investigation and ongoing under both of our countries,” he said.

Last week, Vikash Yadav, a former Indian government official, was charged by the US authorities for his alleged role in a foiled plot to assassinate Pannun.

His co-conspirator Nikhil Gupta was arrested in the Czech Republic last year and is languishing in an American jail after extradition.

Patel’s comments came days after State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller had said the US was satisfied with India’s cooperation in the case.

PTI

Scholz reaching Delhi today, German envoy says ‘big basket for discussion’

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

GERMAN CHANCELLOR Olaf Scholz will pay an official visit to India from October 24 to 26 for the 7th Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) in New Delhi.

The IGC, to be co-hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 25, is a biannual exercise and the last one was held in Berlin in May 2022.

Ahead of the Chancellor’s visit, German ambassador Philipp Ackermann said, “I think this biannual exercise will lead to a road map for the next two years

when it comes to the bilateral relations. In the course of the years, these bilateral relations get more and more granular. “I would say, we will have a big basket of things that will be discussed on Friday when the Chancellor and the five ministers will come.”

The delegation will include the ministers for Foreign Affairs; Defence; Labour and Social Affairs; Higher Education; Science and Technology; and Economic Affairs, besides deputy ministers for Finance, Cooperation and Development, and Environment, the envoy said.

Ackermann said he wanted to draw attention to the paper

that the German Cabinet had adopted last Wednesday. This paper, called ‘Focus on India’, is the “first paper ever that the German government has dedicated to the country”. “In the document, all the ministries and departments of the German government have come together and agreed on how to elevate the Indo-German relations to the next level, so to speak.”

It is a document that goes to “all the areas of mutual cooperation,” the envoy added.

On October 16, the German Cabinet adopted the key strategic document which sheds light on the future direction of its bi-

lateral relations with India.

“The German government wants to raise the strategic partnership that has underpinned our relationship with India since 2000 to a new level. The first steps towards implementation are to be agreed at the next Indo-German intergovernmental consultations at the end of the month,” according to the German foreign ministry website.

It said Germany will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its strategic partnership with India next year. It is, therefore, appropriate that Germany comprehensively adapts its cooperation with India to make it fit for the future.

Waqf panel: BJP members seek Kalyan’s suspension

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

BJP MEMBERS of the Joint Committee of Parliament on Waqf (Amendment) Bill wrote to Speaker Om Birla Wednesday, seeking TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee’s suspension from the House proceedings and also urged that an FIR be lodged against him and Banerjee be arrested immediately.

This comes a day after Banerjee was suspended for a day from the JPC after he smashed a glass bottle during a heated discussion with BJP member Abhijit Gangopadhyay.

The letter, written by BJP

member Nishikant Dubey and signed by BJP members Aparajita Sarangi and Abhijit Gangopadhyay, also said that Banerjee “should also be barred from entering the Parliament Estate till the conclusion of the inquiry against him”.

“I along with other Members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, today, witnessed yet another act of goondaism and unpardonable violence by Kalyan Banerjee, who is also one of the Members of this Committee, during the sitting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill held on October 22, 2024,” read the letter.

Govt must take people into confidence on LAC patrolling: Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

DAYS AFTER India and China reached an agreement on patrolling arrangements in the border areas, the Congress Wednesday said “the government must take the people of India into confidence”.

Congress MP and party’s communications in-charge

Jairam Ramesh said that “many questions remain about the Modi government’s announcement that an agreement has been reached with China on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)”.

The agreement had come four years after Chinese incursions in eastern Ladakh triggered a military standoff along the Line of Actual Control and resulted in frosty ties.

“We hope that India’s worst foreign policy setback in decades is being honourably resolved. We expect that the disengagement will restore the status quo ante as it existed in March 2020,” said Ramesh. “This sorry saga is a complete indictment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s gullibility and naiveté regarding China. As CM of Gujarat, Modi was lavishly hosted by China three times.”

He said, “India’s standing hit its lowest point on 19 June 2020 when the PM gave his infamous clean chit to China, saying ‘Na koi hamari seema mein ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai’.”

“This statement was made only four days after the clash in Galwan in which 20 of our brave soldiers made the supreme sacrifice,” he said, adding, “Parliament was denied any opportunity over four years to have a debate and

discussion to reflect our collective resolve to address the border challenge, as had been the convention under previous governments.”

This comes ahead of PM Modi’s first formal meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in five years on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. Posing questions to the government, he asked whether Indian troops would be able to patrol up to “our claim line...as they were able to earlier”.

Ex-BJP leader joins Cong, gets ticket

Bengaluru: Days after resigning as BJP MLC, former Karnataka minister C P Yogeshwar joined Congress Wednesday and was announced the party’s candidate for bypoll to Channarayana constituency. Yogeshwar will file his nomination papers Thursday as the Congress candidate, said Deputy CM and KPCC chief Shivakumar. Later, Yogeshwar also met Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

ENS

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e-Tenders for and on behalf of Central Railway is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of “Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Heavy Duty Stacking at Store Ward and Material Handling Equipment, etc. in connection with setting up of New Electric Loco Shed at Daund, Sholapur Division, Central Railway.”
Estimated Cost of the Work Rs. 80,39,340.00 (Including GST)
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission 13.11.2024 at 15:00 hrs.
For further details, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.
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C-4 District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

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Name of the holder (and JT holder, if any)	Folio No(s)	Face Value	Certificate Numbers Start - End	Distinctive Number Start - End	No of Shares
D R Gupta & Samita Gupta	D005914-1	538038	538038	68224989-68225208	400
	1	588761	588761	741138342-741138741	400
	1	611606	611606	1082020881-1082021280	400

The Public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any way with the above referred share certificate[s].
Any person who has any claim in respect of the said share certificate[s] should lodge such claim with the Company or its Registrar and Transfer Agents **Link Intime India Private Limited 247 Park, C-101, 1st Floor, L. B. S. Marg, Vikhroli (W) Mumbai-400063. TEL: 8108116767** within 15 days of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained and the Company shall proceed to issue with the Duplicate Share Certificate[s].
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Date : 22.10.2024
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Legal Claimant: SAMITA GUPTA

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Tender No.	CON/Ana-ITC/Dash/CAHE/8766/2024
Name of Work	Conservancy & Housekeeping work and Crew Rest Room Management including Plentry services at ICD Dadr, Uttar Pradesh.
Estimated Cost	₹2,16,38,887/- (incl GST) for two (02) years.
Period of Contract	Two (02) years.
Earnest Money Deposit	₹4,32,778/- *through e-payment
Cost of Document	₹1,000/-* Inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) (through e-payment)
Tender Processing Fee	₹3,560/-* Inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) (through e-payment)
Date of Sale (Online)	From 24.10.2024, 15:30 hrs. to 14.11.2024 (upto 15:00 hrs.)
Pre-Bid Meeting	On 05.11.2024 at 15:00 hrs.
Issue of Corrigendum (if any)	On or after 08.11.2024 on www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL only.
Date & Time of submission of tender	18.11.2024 upto 15:00 hrs.
Date & Time of opening of tender	19.11.2024 at 15:30 hrs.
Address for Pre-Bid Meeting	Office of the Senior General Manager, Commercial & Operations, Area-1, 2nd Floor, NSIC Business Park, New MDBP Building, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110020
Opening of Bids and Correspondence	NSIC Business Park, New MDBP Building, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110020

*Exemption for MSE
CONCOR reserved the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. For complete details log on to www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL.
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The General public is hereby informed that M/s. HV Farms Pvt. Ltd, having its office at 10th Floor, Hindustan Times House, KG Marg, Connaught Place, Central Delhi - 110001 has been granted CLU vide letter no CLU/JR-3406A/CTP/9109/2024 dated 13/03/2024 by the Town and Country Planning Department, Haryana to set up warehouse (non-agro) on land measuring 52041.383 Sqm in the Revenue Estate of Village village Amadaiapur, Tehsil & District Jhajjar, Haryana.
Consequently, Environment Clearance has been granted by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Haryana, Bays No. 55-58, Prayatan Bhawan, Sector-2, Panchkula, Haryana vide their letter No.EC24C3805HR5927428N, date 18/10/2024. General Public is further informed that a copy of said Environment Clearance Letter is available in the office of State Pollution Control Board, Panchkula and State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Panchkula, Haryana and our office.
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Tender No.	CON/EPIA-IAM/CMBO BARHI & CPC/2024-25/E-61432
Name of Work	Annual Maintenance Contract for day to day civil works at ICD/Kanpur, ICD Moradabad and MMLP Barhi (2024-25)
Estimated Cost	Rs. 33.69 Lakhs
Completion Period	24 Months from the 15 th day after date of issue of Letter of Acceptance
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1,87,360/- (through e-payment)
Cost of Tender Document	NIL
Tender Processing Fee (Non-refundable)	Rs. 3,000/- plus GST as applicable (through e-payment)
Date of Sale of Tender (online)	24.10.2024 (11:00 hrs.) to 14.11.2024 (upto 17:00 hrs.)
Date & Time of submission of Tender	15.11.2024 (upto 17:00 hrs.)
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	18.11.2024 at 11:30 hrs.

For financial eligibility criteria, experience with respect to similar nature of work, etc., please refer to detailed tender notice available on website www.concorindia.co.in, but the complete tender document can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL only. Further, Corrigendum / Addendum to this tender, if any, will be published on website www.concorindia.co.in, www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL and Central Procurement Portal (CPP) only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same.
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IN SHIV SENA FIRST LIST

Shinde picks 37 of 41 MLAs who chose him

The 45 candidates include all its 6 sitting MLAs in Mumbai; a nominee from Mahim indicates no alliance with MNS

VALLABHOZARKAR
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

Thirty-seven of the 41 MLAs who had sided with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in his 2022 rebellion have found a place in the party's first list of 45 candidates announced late on Tuesday.

The four who do not feature in the list include Vishwanath Bhoir (Kalyan West), Shantaram More (Bhiwandi Rural), Balaji Jenikar (Ambernath) and Shrinivas Vanaga (Palghar), though the chance of them being accommodated in the next list is not ruled out.

While the Mahayuti's final seat distribution has not been declared yet, the Shinde Sena is expected to contest 80-85 seats.

Shinde himself will be contesting again from his stronghold of Kopri-Panchpakhadi Assembly seat in Thane, and is likely to face a fierce contest from the Shiv Sena (UBT), which is yet to declare



Shinde will be contesting again from his stronghold of Kopri-Panchpakhadi . Facebook

HIGHLIGHTS OF SHINDE SENA'S FIRST LIST

45 Total candidates announced

37 Sitting MLAs re-nominated

6 Kin of party leaders nominated

MINISTERS RE-NOMINATED: Eknath Shinde (Kopri-Panchpakhadi), Uday Samant (Ratnagiri), Dipak Kesarkar (Sawantwadi) and Sanjay Rathod (Digras)

ster Uday Samant's brother Kiran will be the party candidate from the Rajapur seat while Abhijit Adsul, the son of former MP Anand Adsul, is the party's pick for Daryapur.

Sons of former MLA Anil Babar and sitting MLA Chimanrao Patil will be in the fray from Khanapur (Suhas Babar) and Erandol (Amo Patil), respectively.

Strongman Arjun Khotkar, who recently hit the headlines for inducting Gauri Lankesh murder accused Shrikant Pangarkar into the party (he was later removed), will contest the Jalna seat while Independents Ashish Jaiswal and Manjulatai Gavit and Narendra Bhonekar will be in the fray from Ramtek, Sakri and Bhandara as the Sena's candidates.

Ministers Uday Samant, Dipak Kesarkar and Sanjay Rathod will try their luck from Ratnagiri, Sawantwadi and Digras, respectively while former minister Abdul Sattar has been nominated from Sillod.

NUMBER SPEAK

VOTERS IN POLL-BOUND STATES

	MAHARASHTRA	JHARKHAND
Total voters	9.65 crore	2.61 crore
First-time voters	20.93 lakh	11.84 lakh
Service voters	1.16 lakh	43,995
Senior citizens (85+)	12.43 lakh	1.14 lakh
Turnout in 2019	60.56%	64.38%

Source: EC

Ajit Pawar keeps his sitting MLAs happy in first list

BJP leaders had objections to Nawab Malik, who has not been named so far



Ajit Pawar will contest from the high-profile Baramati seat. x

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

IN THE first list of 38 candidates released by it, Ajit Pawar has chosen caution, going with most of the sitting MLAs and ministers who picked his NCP faction over uncle Sharad Pawar's. This will quash talk that there is discontent within the faction led by him, and that senior NCP leaders were considering switching to Pawar Senior.

The list also indicates that Ajit Pawar, who has been seen on the backfoot since his party's 1-seat win in the Lok Sabha polls, managed to drive a hard bargain with the BJP.

But, in one major concession to the demand of BJP leaders, the NCP's list did not include the name of former minister Nawab Malik. Sources said that Malik's daughter Sana Malik-Sheikh may now get the ticket instead of him from Anushaktinagar, the seat from where he won in the 2019 Assembly elections.

BJP leaders have been demanding that Malik be kept out given his alleged association with gangster Dawood Ibrahim. BJP Mumbai unit chief Ashish

Shelar had declared that the party would not campaign for Malik if the NCP fielded him.

The other prominent name missing from the NCP list is of Zeeshan Siddique. While he won the 2019 Assembly election from Bandra East as a Congress candidate, Zeeshan was expected to move to the NCP like his father Baba Siddique. But after the murder of Baba Siddique, which happened under the Mahayuti government's watch, Zeeshan is

reportedly being urged by his supporters to remain with the Congress. Other prominent names missing from the NCP's first list are sitting MLAs Sunil Tingre (Vadgaon-Sheri seat in Pune) and Balasaheb Ajbe

(Ashti seat in Beed). Sources said that the two constituencies are set to fall in the BJP's share within the Mahayuti coalition.

One constituency the NCP has been able to gain is Amaravati, which was won by Sulbha Khodke in 2019. Khodke, then in the Congress, joined the NCP Wednesday. The NCP also gets the Pathri seat in Parbhani district, won by the Congress last time. The ticket has gone to NCP MLC Rajesh Vitekar's mother Nirmala.

The other prominent name missing is Baba Siddique's son Zeeshan

In MNS list, Raj Thackeray fields son, sets a target on Uddhav's Sena

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

IN THE Lok Saha polls, the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) declared unconditional support to the ruling Mahayuti alliance and did not name any candidates. In the coming Assembly polls, the MNS is going alone.

The party's first list of 45 candidates features Raj's son Amit Thackeray, who has been fielded from Mahim. This will be 32-year-old Amit's debut election. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT)'s headquarters falls in Mahim, a Sena bastion.

The seat is likely to witness a keen contest between the Sena (UBT) and Amit amid indications that the Mahayuti may obliquely back his candidature.

Mahim is one of the few Assembly seats in the state where the MNS is still considered to have a strong base. In the 2019 polls, Sada Sarvankar of the undivided Sena, which was then aligned with the BJP, emerged victorious with 61,337 votes against MNS candidate Sandeep Deshpande's 42,690 votes.

MNS sources said the party's strategy is to concentrate on seats where it has had a support base. The MNS is hoping "several of its strong candidates get elected", sources said, adding in the seats where its candidates do not stand a chance, the party would play the role of a "spoiler" for the MVA.

Observers say the current Assembly polls hold significance for the MNS on two counts. One, this has marked the launch of the party's youth leadership, such as Raj's son. Secondly, it would help the party ascertain its standing in a crowded political landscape.

Both Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis held talks with Raj before the MNS announced its decision to contest the polls alone.

A senior BJP functionary said, "We were weighing pros and cons of alliances with several parties including MNS. MNS contesting alone suits us as its candidates would cut into Marathi votes of Sena (UBT) in some seats."



Raj Thackeray launched the MNS in 2006. x

MNS IN MAHARASHTRA ASSEMBLY POLLS

Year	Seats won	Seats contested	Vote share
2009	13	143	5.71%
2014	1	219	3.15%
2019	1	101	2.25%

Source: EC

Another interesting contest might be witnessed in the Worli seat held by Sena (UBT) leader and Uddhav's son Aaditya Thackeray, 34, who was the first from the Thackeray family to take a plunge into electoral politics. This time, Aaditya may face a stiff challenge from MNS's Sandeep Deshpande.

The MNS also believes it would be able to give the MVA a tough fight in Hadapsar and Khadakwasla seats in Pune. The party had won the Khadakwasla seat in 2009.

In 2019, the MNS had fielded 101 candidates out of the state's 288 seats. But it could win only Kalyan Rural from where the party has renominated Pramod Patil this time. The party's vote share was then 2.22%.

After leaving the Sena following differences with his cousin Uddhav, Raj founded the MNS in March 2006. It made inroads into Mumbai, Thane, Pune and Nashik, and went on to win 13 Assembly seats in the 2009 polls.

However, since then the MNS has been on a downslide, even though Raj has retained his image as a firebrand leader with an ability to draw huge crowds at his rallies.

IMAGE OF THE DAY



FAMILY MATTERS: Members of the Soren family, including JMM patriarch Shibu Soren, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife Kalpana Soren, at their family home in Ranchi on Wednesday. PTI

I HEREBY DECLARE

MITHILESH KUMAR THAKUR, 58, JMM's sitting Garhwa MLA and Cabinet minister	SATYENDRANATH TIWARI, 58, BJP's Garhwa candidate
	
TOTAL ASSETS ₹13.23 CR (2024)	TOTAL ASSETS ₹3.85 CR (2024)
(2019) ₹10.62 CR	(2019) ₹3.47 CR
Movable assets ₹8.18 cr	Movable assets ₹84.8 lakh
Immovable assets ₹5.05 cr	Immovable assets ₹3 cr
Liabilities ₹1.09 cr	Liabilities ₹19.71 lakh
Education BA, Ranchi University	Education BSc, Ranchi University
Pending criminal cases 2 FIRs	Pending criminal cases 7 FIRs

CANDIDATE STRATEGY

JMM bets on old hands, adds turncoats to the mix

While CM Hemant Soren is contesting Barhait, his wife Kalpana and brother Basant have been fielded from their seats

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, OCTOBER 23

IN ITS three lists of altogether 41 candidates released since Tuesday night for the upcoming Jharkhand Assembly elections, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) led by Chief Minister Hemant Soren has given tickets to 26 sitting MLAs, several new faces and at least six turncoats including three each from the principal Opposition BJP and its ally All Jharkhand Students' Union Party (AJSUP).

According to the seat-sharing agreement reached between the allies of the ruling JMM-led INDIA bloc for the state's 81 seats, the JMM is contesting 41 seats and the Congress 30, with the RJD and the CPI(M). Liberation allotted six and four seats respectively.

As per the JMM's first list of 35 candidates, Hemant Soren will again contest from his Barhait Assembly constituency. In the 2019 polls, Hemant had

defeated the BJP's Simon Malto by 25,740 votes.

The JMM has renominated Hemant's wife Kalpana Soren from the Gandey seat where she registered a resounding win on her debut in the recent bypoll, defeating the BJP's Dilip Verma by over 27,000 votes.

Hemant's younger brother and minister Basant Soren has been fielded from his Dumka Assembly constituency, where he will take on BJP candidate and ex-MP Sunil Soren.

The Ranchi seat is set to witness an interesting contest where the JMM's Rajya Sabha MP Mahua Maji - named in the party's second list - is pitted against veteran BJP leader CP Singh, who has been an MLA since 1996. In the 2019 elections, Maji lost to Singh with a margin of 5,904 votes. The JMM hopes to gain from perceived "anti-incumbency" against Singh this time.

The party leadership has named Umakant Rajak against Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the state Assembly Amar Bauri

in his Chandankyari seat. Rajak had defected to the JMM from the AJSUP.

The JMM has also given tickets to Jagat Manjhi and Alok Soren, sons of senior party leaders Jobha Manjhi and Nali Soren - who have now got elected to the Lok Sabha - from their respective constituencies of Manoharpur and Shikaripara.

MT Raja, who defected to the JMM from the AJSUP earlier this year, has been fielded from the Rajmahal seat.

One of the new JMM candidates is party spokesman Hemlal Murmu, who has replaced incumbent party legislator Dinesh William Marandi in the Littipara constituency. This has not gone down well with Dinesh, who has warned the JMM leadership about his intention to contest as an Independent. "Hemant Soren gave tickets to his brother, wife, but my father Simon Marandi also built the JMM from the scratch, he was the first JMM MLA... Under whose influence



Rajya Sabha MP Mahua Maji is contesting from Ranchi. x

was I denied the ticket... I will fight from the Littipara seat anyway," he said.

The BJP's poll in-charge and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma took a dig at the JMM, saying its list includes "husband, wife, brother" that reflected "dynastic politics".

The JMM has given ticket to its leader Nizamuddin Ansari

from Dhanwar after ally CPI(M-L) Liberation named its candidate Raj Kumar Yadav from the seat held by state BJP chief and ex-CM Babulal Marandi, who is again contesting from there.

Babulal Marandi won the Dhanwar seat in 2019 on the ticket of his then outfit Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajantrik) by 17,550 votes against his nearest rival Lakshman Prasad Singh of the BJP.

In the 2019 elections, Yadav and Ansari had finished at third and sixth places respectively.

A CPI(M-L) insider said: "Hemant Soren himself said that between JMM and Congress the seat distribution would be 71. Now, RJD got six, so CPI(M-L) should get four: Nirsu, Bagodar, Sindri, and Dhanwar. However, now that JMM has fielded a candidate from Dhanwar, where does this leave our alliance."

Earlier, the INDIA bloc faced a brief impasse over seat sharing with regard to the RJD too. After expressing its resentment and calling the deal "unilateral", the

RJD relented later and released the list of its candidates for six Assembly seats.

In the Silli constituency, the JMM's Amit Mahato is locked in a keen contest with the AJSUP's Sudesh Mahato. In Barkatta, the party has given ticket to turncoat Janki Prasad Yadav against the BJP's Amit Kumar Yadav.

The party's third list, released on Wednesday night, names five candidates including three incumbent MLAs and one new face Snehlata Kandulna, who will take on veteran BJP leader and five-time MLA Neelkanth Singh Munda in Khunti.

The JMM has also fielded former Gomia party MLA Yogendra Prasad Mahato from the same seat against the AJSUP's Lambodar Mahato. Yogendra was disqualified after being convicted for three years in a coal theft case in 2018.

The Jharkhand Assembly polls will be held in two phases on November 13 and 20, following which the counting will take place on November 23.



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DECODE POLITICS

WHY SANJAY RAUT'S PRESIDENT'S RULE CLAIM DOES NOT HOLD ANY WATER

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festival, Northern Railway, in association with other zonal railway, has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day		Period
02252	New Delhi	08:25	Patna Jn	20:00	Tri-weekly	Wednesday, Friday, Sunday	30.10.24 to 06.11.24
02251	Patna Jn	07:30	New Delhi	19:00		Thursday, Saturday, Monday	31.10.24 to 07.11.24
02270	Lucknow	14:15	Chhapra	21:30	6 Days a week	Except Tuesday	25.10.24 to 08.11.24
02269	Chhapra	23:00	Lucknow	06:30		Except Tuesday	25.10.24 to 08.11.24
02248	New Delhi	08:25	Patna Jn	20:30	Tri-weekly	Tues, Thurs & Saturday	29.10.24 to 05.11.24
02247	Patna Jn	07:30	New Delhi	19:35		Wed, Fri & Sunday	30.10.24 to 06.11.24
04052	New Delhi	14:20	Jaynagar	15:40	Date Wise	Sat, Tue, Fri, Mon	26, 29.10.24, 01 & 04.11.24
04051	Jaynagar	18:00	New Delhi	18:50		Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue	27, 30.10.24, 02 & 05.11.24
04054	New Delhi	14:20	Barauni Jn	11:00	Date Wise	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue	27, 30.10.24, 02 & 05.11.24
04053	Barauni Jn	12:30	New Delhi	09:10		Mon, Thu, Sun, Wed	28, 31.10.24, 03 & 06.11.24
02250	New Delhi	23:55	Patna Jn	16:40	Weekly	Thursday	24.10.24 & 31.10.24
02249	Patna Jn	17:50	New Delhi	11:00		Friday	25.10.24 & 01.11.24
04075	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:40	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday	Upto 17.11.24
04076	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:20	New Delhi	09:30		Thursday, Monday	Upto 18.11.24
04498	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:30	Ballia	13:30	Weekly	Sunday	Upto 24.11.24
04497	Ballia	18:40	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:25		Monday	Upto 25.11.24
04022	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:40	Sitamari	15:45	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Friday	Upto 29.11.24
04021	Sitamari	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:05		Thursday, Saturday	Upto 30.11.24
04032	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:15	Saharsa Jn	10:30	5 days a week	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun	Upto 30.11.24
04031	Saharsa Jn	13:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:10		Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun	Upto 01.12.24
04624	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:45	Varanasi Jn	23:55	Weekly	Sunday	Upto 17.11.24
04623	Varanasi Jn	05:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:25		Tuesday	Upto 19.11.24
04080	Delhi Jn	19:30	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Tri-Weekly	Monday, Thursday, Saturday	24.10.24 to 16.11.24
04079	Varanasi Jn	18:25	Delhi Jn	08:50		Tuesday, Friday, Sunday	25.10.24 to 17.11.24
04530	Bhatinda Jn	20:50	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Bi-weekly	Monday, Friday	25.10.24 to 15.11.24
04529	Varanasi Jn	20:40	Bhatinda Jn	17:00		Tuesday, Saturday	26.10.24 to 16.11.24
04096	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:00	Ayodhya Cantt	22:00	Tri-Weekly	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Upto 18.11.24
04095	Ayodhya Cantt	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	22:30		Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	Upto 19.11.24
04518	Chandigarh	23:15	Gorakhpur	18:20	Weekly	Thursday	24.10.24 to 14.11.24
04517	Gorakhpur	22:05	Chandigarh	14:10		Friday	25.10.24 to 15.11.24
04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday	25.10.24 to 15.11.24
04059	Jaynagar	17:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:55		Wednesday, Saturday	26.10.24 to 16.11.24
04068	Delhi Jn	19:30	Darbhanga Jn	16:30	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday	25.10.24 to 15.11.24
04067	Darbhanga Jn	18:00	Delhi Jn	16:35		Wednesday, Saturday	26.10.24 to 16.11.24
04044	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Gorakhpur	14:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday	26.10.24 to 26.11.24
04043	Gorakhpur	17:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:40		Sunday, Wednesday	27.10.24 to 27.11.24
04217	Varanasi Jn	06:25	Lucknow Jn	11:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun	Upto 22.11.24
04218	Lucknow Jn	16:30	Varanasi Jn	21:50			Upto 22.11.24
04010	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Weekly	Tuesday	29.10.24 to 12.11.24
04009	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:05		Thursday	31.10.24 to 14.11.24
04678	Firozpur Cantt Jn	13:25	Patna Jn	17:00	Weekly	Wednesday	Upto 13.11.24
04677	Patna Jn	18:45	Firozpur Cantt Jn	22:40		Thursday	Upto 14.11.24
04211	Varanasi Jn	14:50	Chandigarh	07:45	Weekly	Saturday	26.10.24 to 16.11.24
04212	Chandigarh	09:30	Varanasi Jn	01:20		Sunday	27.10.24 to 17.11.24
04553	Saharanpur	04:40	Ambala Cant Jn	06:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun	Upto 30.11.24
04554	Ambala Cant Jn	20:20	Saharanpur	22:30			Upto 30.11.24
04682	Jammu Tawi	23:20	Kolkata	13:00	Weekly	Tuesday	Upto 14.11.24
04681	Kolkata	23:45	Jammu Tawi	12:30		Thursday	Upto 14.11.24
04078	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:55	Patna Jn	16:25	Weekly	Monday	Upto 18.11.24
04077	Patna Jn	17:50	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00		Tuesday	Upto 19.11.24
04646	Jammu Tawi	05:45	Barauni Jn	12:10	Weekly	Thursday	Upto 14.11.24
04645	Barauni Jn	15:15	Jammu Tawi	22:30		Friday	Upto 15.11.24
04038	Delhi Jn	19:10	Azamgarh	11:30	Weekly	Sunday	27.10.24 to 17.11.24
04037	Azamgarh	13:30	Delhi Jn	06:10		Monday	28.10.24 to 18.11.24
04312	Haridwar Jn	12:30	Howrah Jn	17:10	Weekly	Thursday	Upto 14.11.24
04311	Howrah Jn	19:00	Haridwar Jn	23:30		Friday	Upto 15.11.24
04314	Haridwar Jn	12:30	Muzaffarpur Jn	07:30	Weekly	Friday	Upto 15.11.24
04313	Muzaffarpur Jn	09:00	Haridwar Jn	05:30		Saturday	Upto 16.11.24
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Muzaffarpur Jn	21:15	Bi-weekly	Monday, Thursday	24.10.24 to 14.11.24
04057	Muzaffarpur Jn	23:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30		Tuesday, Friday	25.10.24 to 15.11.24
04062	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:00	Barauni Jn	06:30	Weekly	Sunday	Upto 17.11.24
04061	Barauni Jn	08:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:10		Monday	Upto 18.11.24
02246	Hazrat Nizamuddin	23:55	Patna Jn	16:40	Bi-weekly	Monday, Wednesday	Upto 27.11.24
02245	Patna Jn	17:50	Hazrat Nizamuddin	10:50		Tuesday, Thursday	Upto 28.11.24
04526	Sirhind Jn	11:25	Saharsa Jn	17:00	Weekly	Monday	Upto 18.11.24
04525	Saharsa Jn	19:15	Ambala Cantt Jn	22:20		Tuesday	Upto 19.11.24
04006	Delhi Jn	23:05	Jaynagar	23:45	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday	Upto 26.11.24
04005	Jaynagar	01:30	Delhi Jn	01:30		Thursday, Sunday	Upto 28.11.24
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:20	Katihar Jn	15:00	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday	Upto 26.11.24
04047	Katihar Jn	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:50		Wednesday, Saturday	Upto 27.11.24
04070	New Delhi	00:20	Rajgir	21:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday	Upto 30.11.24
04069	Rajgir	22:50	New Delhi	23:10		Sunday, Wednesday	Upto 30.11.24
02262	New Delhi	00:20	Darbhanga Jn	21:15	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday	Upto 27.11.24
02261	Darbhanga Jn	23:20	New Delhi	20:15		Wednesday, Sunday	Upto 27.11.24
04608	Jammu Tawi	20:20	Howrah Jn.	13:20	Date Wise	Wednesday & Monday	30.10.24 & 04.11.24
04607	Howrah Jn.	23:45	Jammu Tawi	15:20		Friday & Wednesday	01.11.24 & 06.11.24
04680	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	18:40	Kamakhy	21:00	Date Wise	Monday & Saturday	28.10.24 & 02.11.24
04679	Kamakhy	06:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:20		Thursday & Tuesday	31.10.24 & 05.11.24
04662	Amritsar Jn.	20:10	Saharsa	05:00	Date Wise	Tuesday & Sunday	29.10.24 & 03.11.24
04661	Saharsa	10:00	Amritsar Jn.	18:20		Thursday & Tuesday	31.10.24 & 05.11.24
04520	Ambala Cant Jn	19:00	Darbhanga Jn	19:00	Date Wise	Friday	25.10.2024
04519	Darbhanga Jn	21:30	Amritsar	06:30		Saturday	26.10.2024

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

03575	Asansol Jn	10:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:05	Weekly	Friday	Upto 29.11.24
03576	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:15	Asansol Jn	10:20		Saturday	Upto 30.11.24
03435	Malda Town	09:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:10	Weekly	Monday	Upto 25.11.24
03436	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:45	Malda Town	23:30		Tuesday	Upto 26.11.24
03255	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Thursday	Upto 14.11.24
03256	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:20	Patna Jn	17:20		Monday, Friday	Upto 15.11.24
02391	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Weekly	Saturday	Upto 15.11.24
02392	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:20	Patna Jn	17:20		Sunday	Upto 10.11.24
03257	Danapur	07:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Weekly	Sunday	Upto 10.11.24
03258	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Danapur	20:45		Monday	Upto 11.11.24
05219	Muzaffarpur Jn	13:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:00	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun	Upto 31.12.24
05220	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	00:45			Upto 01.01.25
05109	Chhapra	17:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:50	Weekly	Wednesday	Upto 27.11.24
05110	Anand Vihar Terminal	12:55	Chhapra	06:45		Thursday	Upto 28.11.24
05023	Gorakhpur	21:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:15	Weekly	Sunday	Upto 24.11.24
05024	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:15	Gorakhpur	04:45		Monday	Upto 25.11.24
05301	Mau Jn	04:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:30	Weekly	Thursday	Upto 28.11.24
05302	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:25	Mau Jn	17:45		Friday	Upto 29.11.24
05005	Gorakhpur	14:40	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Wednesday	Upto 27.11.24
05006	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Gorakhpur	08:50		Thursday	Upto 28.11.24
05049	Chhapra	09:55	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Friday	Upto 29.11.24
05050	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Chhapra	14:00		Saturday	Upto 30.11.24
02525	Kamakhy	22:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	Weekly	Friday	Upto 29.11.24
02526	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:20	Kamakhy	03:40		Sunday	Upto 01.12.24
05671	Guwahati	15:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	Weekly	Wednesday	Upto 27.11.24
05672	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Guwahati	14:15		Friday	Upto 29.11.24
05734	Katihar Jn	11:40	Amritsar Jn	00:10	Weekly	Thursday	Upto 28.11.24
05733	Amritsar Jn	04:25	Katihar Jn	15:00		Saturday	Upto 30.11.24
03413	Malda Town	07:10	New Delhi	07:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Sunday	Upto 28.11.24
03414	New Delhi	10:30	Malda Town	07:55		Friday, Monday	Upto 29.11.24
03483	Bhagalpur	11:00	New Delhi	07:10	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday	Upto 30.11.24
03484	New Delhi	10:30	Bhagalpur	04:10		Sunday, Wednesday	Upto 27.11.24
05565	Saharsa Jn	19:30	Sirhind Jn	00:05	Weekly	Thursday	14.11.24 to 26.12.24
05566	Sirhind Jn	02:00	Saharsa Jn	09:45		Saturday	16.11.24 to 28.12.24

03107	Sealdah	00:10	Lucknow Jn	00:10	Weekly	Saturday	Upto 30.11.24
03108	Lucknow Jn	01:40	Sealdah	23:50		Sunday	Upto 01.12.24
09075	Mumbai Central (Via Bareilly)	11:00	Kathgodam	14:30	Weekly	Wednesday	Upto 25.12.24
09076	Kathgodam (Via Bareilly)	17:30	Mumbai Central	20:55		Thursday	Upto 26.12.24
07363	Hubballi Jn	20:30	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	23:30	Weekly	Monday	Upto 04.11.24
07364	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	06:15	Hubballi Jn	06:30		Thursday	Upto 07.12.24
09657	Daurai (via Barabanki Jn)	15:00	Barhni	13:25	Weekly	Saturday	Upto 16.11.24
09658	Barhni (via Barabanki Jn)	19:15	Daurai	19:20		Sunday	Upto 17.11.24
03423	Bhagalpur	13:55	Haridwar Jn	17:55	Weekly	Monday	Upto 25.11.24
03424	Haridwar Jn	19:55	Bhagalpur	21:20		Tuesday	Upto 26.11.24
05736	Katihar Jn	21:00	Amritsar Jn	09:45	Weekly	Wednesday	Upto 27.11.24
05735	Amritsar Jn	13:25	Katihar Jn	23:45		Friday	Upto 29.11.24
05047	Chhapra	22:00	Ghaziabad	11:45	Weekly	Tuesday	Upto 26.11.24
05048	Ghaziabad	12:35	Banaras	05:35		Wednesday	Upto 27.11.24
02397	Gaya Jn	14:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:10	6 Days a week	Except Saturday	Upto 15.11.24
02398	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:20	Gaya Jn	00:30		Except Sunday	Upto 16.11.24
02393	Patna Jn	20:10	New Delhi	12:10	6 Days a week	Except Thursday	Upto 30.10.24

8 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Vice President Jagdeep Thakkar and Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary in New Delhi on Wednesday. *ANI*

GRACING THE OCCASION

FOR UNION Minister and RLD leader, Jayant Chaudhary, Wednesday evening was a proud moment and his political friends made it memorable too as they, cutting across party lines, turned up to see the performance of his 16-year-old daughter Sahira, who is a budding Kuchipudi dancer. But it was Vice President Jagdeep Thakkar who surprised everyone with his presence. He had special words of appreciation for Sahira who has been a disciple of Padma Bhushan couple Raja and Radha Reddy. Also present were Union Minister Piyush Goyal, BJP leaders Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Manoj Tiwari, Nishikant Dubey, Dushyant Singh and RPN Singh, and Congress leader Rajiv Shukla. Most of them came with their families.

A DIFFERENT DAY

A DAY before witnessing some rancorous scenes during the meeting of the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, panel Chairman Jagdambika Pal had celebrated his 74th birthday with the members. TMC member Kalyan Banerjee allegedly broke a glass bottle on the table and hurt himself during the panel meet on Tuesday. Pal later alleged that Banerjee "threw the broken bottle at him but he was saved because of God's kindness". On Monday, a cake was ordered by the panel members to celebrate Pal's birthday in Parliament. At the centre of the cake-cutting ceremony was Kalyan Banerjee.

JUSTICE CLOCK

CENTRAL DELHI's Bhagwan Das Road, which houses the Supreme Court, has a new landmark — a large digital board that displays statistics on pending cases in the top court. The board, called the 'Justice Clock', designed by the Law Ministry's Department of Justice is already on display in nearly 15 high courts and several district courts. Public display of mounting arrears is viewed as a tool that will incentivise measures to tackle pendency.

Dalit outreach, OTT, Bangladeshi Hindus on agenda for RSS meeting on Oct 25-26

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

REACHING OUT to Dalits, regulation of content on OTT platforms, contemporary issues such as J&K polls and threat to security of Hindus in Bangladesh, and centenary celebrations of the Sangh are some of the issues that will be discussed at the annual Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal Baitthak of the RSS on October 25 and 26 to be held in Mathura.

A total of 393 RSS office bearers will attend the meeting. According to Sangh office bearers, the agenda for the meeting has already been set by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's Vijaydashmi speech earlier this month in Nagpur and the meeting will discuss how to take forward the issues raised by him.

"The meeting will discuss steps to ensure how the society can stay together as a cohesive unit without becoming prey to misleading information. Then he (Bhagwat) had spoken about the adverse impact of the content provided by internet platforms

on children and the need for their regulation. That too will be discussed. The focus of the discussions basically will be on how social harmony can be created... What we have done and what more needs to be done in this direction," RSS publicity in-charge Sunil Ambekar said Wednesday. Ambekar said the meeting will also discuss how the Sangh can take the messages of great personalities such as Dayanand Saraswati, Birs Munda, Ahilyabai Holkar, and Rani Durgawati to the society. These were all personalities that Bhagwat had spoken about in his speech.

The meeting's focus on Dalit outreach and social harmony comes ahead of the crucial Maharashtra and Jharkhand polls, where Congress has once again made caste census a poll pitch.

Apart from these issues, the Karyakari Mandal Baitthak will also discuss Sangh centenary celebration in terms of expansion of RSS work. The meeting will also deliberate on special celebrations of Vijaydashmi festival next year in Nagpur and elsewhere in the country.

There is a growing Muslim view that Waqf Boards operate like mafia, becoming corruption hub, says RSS leader Indresh Kumar

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

DEFENDING THE Waqf Amendment Bill, RSS leader Indresh Kumar has claimed there is a growing perception in the Muslim community that Waqf Boards in the country "operate like a mafia" and have become a "hub of corruption". This has raised questions about their work for the welfare of Muslims, Kumar said in an interview with *The Indian Express*.

A member of the RSS' National Executive, Kumar, who is also the patron of the Sangh-linked Muslim Rashtriya Manch, underlined that the Waqf

Amendment Bill is aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Waqf Boards.

The Bill was tabled by the Narendra Modi-led NDA government in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session amid fierce criticism from the Opposition which termed it "divisive" and an "attack on the Constitution". Several leading Muslim organisations have strongly opposed the Bill, calling it an alleged bid by the government to take over the Muslim Waqf assets across the country.

The Bill, which was sent to a Joint Committee of Parliament for scrutiny, has even caused concerns among BJP's allies like

States can tax, regulate industrial alcohol: SC in 8:1 majority ruling

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

IN A decision that will boost the coffers of States, the Supreme Court, in an 8:1 majority ruling on Wednesday, held that the phrase "intoxicating liquors" in the State list includes industrial alcohol, and States have the power to regulate and tax it.

The majority ruling was delivered by CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices Hrishikesh Roy, Abhay S Oka, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih. Justice B V Nagarathna, however, dissented.

Writing for the bench, the CJI said that analysis of previous judgments on the subject make it "clear" that the "meaning of the phrase 'intoxicating liquor' in Entry 8 of List II (State list) has been expanded beyond the narrow definition of alcoholic beverages that produce an 'intoxicating effect' upon consumption. Liquids which contain alcohol and which can possibly be used (or misused) as intoxicating

liquor have been included within the meaning of the phrase."

"The Constitution uses three distinct expressions relating to alcohol: 'intoxicating liquor', 'alcoholic liquor for human consumption' and 'intoxicating drinks'... The expressions 'alcoholic liquor for human consumption' and 'intoxicating drink' are used in the context of 'consumption'. However, the provision relating to 'intoxicating liquor' is not limited to its consumption. It stretches to 'production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of intoxicating liquors' and beyond. The second difference is the use of the expression 'intoxicating' instead of 'alcoholic' as the adjective to liquor," the majority ruling said.

"It is clear... that the meaning of the phrase 'intoxicating liquor' cannot be restricted to potable alcoholic liquor, that is, alcohol that is sold as a beverage," it said.

In her dissenting verdict, Justice Nagarathna said that states can only tax intoxicating alcohol which can be consumed by direct ingestion. "What matters prima facie... is that the 'intoxica-

tion' effect is a sine qua non for the legislative competence of States on any liquors potentially coming within the scope of Entry 8, List II. In the absence of an 'intoxicating' effect from liquors, a State Legislature cannot legislate on the subject. However, in my view, what is required to be seen is the nature of the product which leads to such an intoxicating effect upon human consumption... Here, the expression consumption must be explained. It is not all kinds of human consumption, direct or indirect, which is the determining factor. It is only direct consumption i.e. as an ingestion by the act of drinking as a beverage or a drink," she said.

"An indirect consumption by use of alcoholic liquors as a raw material for any other product, industrial, medicinal or a toilet item cannot be included as part of Entry 8, List II. Secondly, merely because there can be a potential misuse of 'industrial alcohol', for example, by converting rectified spirit ('industrial alcohol') as a beverage which has an intoxicating effect, Entry 8, List II cannot be stretched to include such 'indus-

trial alcohol'," she said.

"There was no intention on the part of the members of the Constituent Assembly to read within the expression 'intoxicating liquors' non-potable or 'industrial alcohol'," she said.

The SC's majority judgment on Wednesday overturned its 1990 seven-judge judgment in *Synthetics & Chemicals Ltd vs State of Uttar Pradesh*, which held that States cannot tax industrial alcohol. Several state governments, including Uttar Pradesh, had challenged this judgment. The matter was referred to the nine-judge bench in 2010.

The seven-judge bench "did not determine the meaning of the expressions 'intoxicating' or 'liquors' or 'intoxicating liquors' independently," the majority ruling said on Wednesday.

The ruling comes close on the heels of another 8:1 majority decision on July 25, which upheld power of States to levy royalty on extraction of minerals from their land and said they can also tax the lands where mines and quarries are located. Justice Nagarathna had dissented then.

Cong candidate to EC: Odisha Gov campaigning for daughter-in-law

New Delhi: Congress's Jamsheer East candidate Ajoy Kumar wrote to CEC Rajiv Kumar Wednesday alleging that Odisha Governor Raghubar Das was "campaigning for his daughter-in-law Purnima Das who is contesting from Jamsheer East".

"Raguwar Das, Governor of Odisha... has been found campaigning for his daughter-in-law, Purnima Das, who is contesting from 48, Jamsheer East, a seat the Odisha governor himself held five times on a BJP ticket," the letter said.

He said that Das "involving himself in electioneering while holding a gubernatorial post is a clear violation of the Constitution". "This blatant disregard of the constitutional chair and its responsibilities is totally unacceptable in all cases," he said. **ENS**



OMAR MEETS SHAH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in New Delhi, Wednesday. Abdullah discussed issues related to the Union Territory, including early restoration of statehood, during his 30-minute meeting with Shah, officials said. Abdullah is also likely to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. *PTI*

Jagan files plea, claims Sharmila 'illegally' transferred his shares to her, mother's name

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 23

FORMER ANDHRA Pradesh CM and YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has filed a petition before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), accusing his sister and Andhra Pradesh Congress chief Y S Sharmila of illegally transferring shares of Saraswati Power and Industries Pvt Ltd, which were held by him and his wife Bharathi, on her and their mother Vijaya Lakshmi's name.

The petition was filed under Section 59 of the Companies Act, which deals with rectification of the register of members. It also names former directors at Saraswati Power, the Registrar of Companies in Telangana, and the Regional Director of South East Region.

An official from Jagan's office claimed, "These shares are not inherited assets, Jagan chose to give it (to his mother) out of love



Andhra Pradesh ex-CM Jagan Mohan Reddy; state Cong unit chief YS Sharmila

and affection. But the assets are under court attachment and cannot be transferred until cases against him are resolved. Knowing this, she (Sharmila) went ahead with illegally transferring shares to her name. Jagan had no other option left but to bring it to the notice of the court to prove his bona fide."

An official from Sharmila's office however said, "What Jagan has said in the petition is false and misleading. Jagan had already given a gift deed to Vijayamma (his mother Vijaya Lakshmi), transferring all the

shares in her name. Now, suspecting that Vijayamma may give them to his sister Sharmila, he is trying to get them back and deny the gift deed. We will reply to the NCLT notices with proof."

Jagan filed the petition on September 9 before the Hyderabad Bench of NCLT, asking that the transfers of 74,26,294 equity shares from Jagan to his mother; 40,50,000 shares from Bharati to his mother; and 12,00,000 shares from Classic Reality Pvt Ltd to former Saraswati Power directors be nullified.

They also called for the rectification of the company's register, reinstating their names as shareholders, and correcting the shareholding details of other respondents.

Jagan stated in the petition that he and Sharmila entered into an MoU on August 31, 2019 in which he agreed to transfer his and Bharathi's shares in Saraswati Power to Vijaya

Lakshmi at a later date through a gift deed after completing due process. He stated that he wanted to gift her the shares out of "pure love and affection".

It was agreed that the transfer would happen subject to resolution of cases against him being investigated by the central agencies and freeing of properties under attachment, he stated. In his petition, Jagan stated that to his shock, he found on July 19 that the Saraswati Power board had on July 6 transferred the entire shareholding of Jagan and Bharathi to his mother.

"The share transfers were a culmination of a deceitful device of law," the petition states.

The petition states that "being intensely agonised by the turn of events and having realised that there is no love left between the two siblings", Jagan "decided not to proceed with his expression of intent to transfer the shares/properties as envisaged under the MoU and gift deed".



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and party's Wayanad bypoll candidate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Wayanad, Wednesday. *PTI*

'Fighting for truth, justice and equality': Priyanka files papers for Wayanad bypoll

SHAJU PHILIP
KALPETTA (WAYANAD), OCT 23

FLANKED BY party national leaders and family members, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Wednesday filed nomination papers for her maiden electoral contest in Wayanad, a seat vacated by brother Rahul Gandhi.

Priyanka submitted her papers before District Collector and Returning Officer DR Meghashree after a massive road show in district headquarters Kalpetta. The roadshow attended by thousands of Congress-led UDF workers drawn from Wayanad and nearby districts of Malappuram and Kozhikode saw Priyanka share an open vehicle with Rahul and senior UDF leaders from state, including IUML state president Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal.

Towards the end of the roadshow, Priyanka and Rahul were joined by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and several senior leaders of the party.

"This is a new journey for me. You're my guides and my teachers in this journey," she told the crowd. "I'm here to fight for your voice and to fight for your battles. For 37 years, I have been campaigning for many elections. At the age of 17 for my father, later for my mother, my brother and many of my colleagues. But this is the first time I am campaigning for myself. It is my honour to represent you, if you give me a chance."

Her brother had explained the problems that Wayanad faced, she said.

"I want to come to your houses and your areas to understand the issues and see how we can tackle them together," she said. "We are fighting for the values of truth, justice and equality. These are the values that made my brother walk across the country 8,000 km for love and

I HEREBY DECLARE



PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA, Congress Wayanad bypoll candidate

TOTAL ASSETS

₹11.99 CR (2024)

Movable assets ₹ 4.25 cr

Immovable ₹ 7.74 cr

assets

Liabilities ₹ 15.75 lakh

Pending criminal 3 FIRs

cases

EXPLAINED

Landslide relief to be major theme

THE BYPOLL is being held at a time when Wayanad is yet to recover from the devastating landslides that killed 251 people. Relief measures are expected to be one of the major themes of this election, especially since both the UDF and the LDF have both been critical of what they see as the BJP-led Centre's reluctance to declare a package for the affected villages.

unity. He could not have done it without your support."

Rahul said his sister considered the people of Wayanad as her family and added that he was Wayanad's "unofficial MP".

"I need a favour from you," he said, holding up his hand to show a rakhi. "I won't take it off until it breaks. It's a symbol of a brother's protection for her sister. That's why I ask the people of Wayanad to look after my sister and protect her".

With 85 seats each, MVA seals seat deal, no consensus on 33

ALOK DESHPANDE & VALLABH OZARKAR
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

THE MVA Wednesday announced a compromise formula to keep contentious seats aside for now and declared a seat-sharing agreement for 255 of the 288 seats in the state, with each of three coalition partners getting 85 seats. There is still no decision on 33 seats after two days of marathon meetings.

Both Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) have staked a claim to more than 100 seats each. "No consensus has yet been reached. The issue of Vidarbha is still to be sorted out. In addition, Mumbai seats are being renegotiated. No matter has been resolved, irrespective of what people are saying in public," said a senior Congress leader, adding that Sena (UBT) was "creating issues" during negotiations.

A senior Sena leader said while 18 of the 33 seats were meant for smaller allies, the three leading coalition partners would have to take a call on dividing the other 15. "As of now, there is no consensus on the 15 seats and it will be sorted over the next two to three days," said the Sena functionary. Around 10 of these 15 seats are from the



MVA leaders in Mumbai on Wednesday. *Express*

Vidarbha region.

At a joint press conference of Congress, Sharad Pawar's NCP and Sena (UBT) in Mumbai Wednesday, their leaders reiterated that the MVA stood united. "We are going to fight the election as an alliance. We have cleared 270 seats till now and have agreed on a formula of 85-85-85. We will talk to our other allies tomorrow when the rest of the seats will be cleared as well," said Sena's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut.

The "85-85-85 formula" is seen as a major climbdown by Congress. However, a senior Congress leader from Delhi insisted after that the seat distribution was not final yet. "We will contest 105 seats at least at any cost," he said. As Sharad NCP will now contest at least 85 seats, the party will become a serious contender for CM's post if MVA wins.





WORDLY WISE
LIFE IS MADE OF SO MANY PARTINGS
WELDED TOGETHER.
— CHARLES DICKENS

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

An American deadlock



ASHUTOSH VARSHNEY

Gender, race, class, state will together determine who wins the upcoming US elections

PERPETUAL EMERGENCY

NCR's pollution crisis needs year-round action. Policymakers must invest in technology, public transport, nudge change

ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS in the past five years, the Supreme Court has said that the Right to Clean Air is essential to the Right to Life. On Wednesday, the Court referred to this Fundamental Right once again while upbraiding the Centre and the governments of Delhi and its neighbouring states for failing to ensure a pollution-free environment in the Capital and its adjoining areas. NCR residents have been breathing “very poor” quality air for the past four days. The problem, as the SC pointed out, stems from an unfortunate lack of resolve from both the Centre and state governments. The data does show that seasonal stubble burning — one reason for the pollution spike before winter — has come down in some parts of Delhi’s neighbourhood. However, the gravity of the problem is such that incremental changes are insufficient to make an appreciable difference in air quality.

The SC was especially scathing of the Centre and state governments for their failure to effectively implement the more than three-year-old Commission on Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act. The Act had created an eponymous panel, the CAQM, to coordinate between different agencies whose functions have a bearing on the NCR’s air quality. In the past, the problem would get compounded because these agencies would often work in silos, and at cross purposes. Delhi, Haryana and Punjab used to be at loggerheads on the issue of stubble burning. In 2022, after the AAP assumed office in Punjab, there were hopes that the state government would coordinate better with its counterpart in Delhi in resolving the longstanding problem. However, politics continues to have its say on government-level conversations on the issue. After 2022, the needle of the Delhi government’s accusation has pointed towards Haryana and now Uttar Pradesh, even as the data continues to implicate all three states. On Wednesday, the apex court again called out the Punjab and Haryana governments for their failure to check farmers from setting crop residue on fire. The problem also is that the CAQM has failed its mandate of driving change in the post-harvest practices of farmers in Delhi’s neighbourhood. The agency has scarcely taken a meaningful step to bring all parties to the negotiating table. It has, at best, functioned as an emergency resolution body, when the problem at hand requires round-the-year vigilance. Though crop-residue burning is a seasonal phenomenon, nudging farmers to desist from the practice should not be left to the last minute. The limits of enforcing punitive measures, post-harvest, should have been evident from the experience of recent years. Similarly, emergency measures are inadequate to address most other factors that drive NCR’s pollution, including vehicular and industrial pollution.

It’s time policymakers recognise that the biggest elephant in the room is Delhi’s baseline pollution load. Cleaning it will require technological interventions, more investments in public transport as well as nudging people to make behavioural changes. All this cannot be undertaken in an emergency mode.

CRUDE AND IMPROPER

TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee’s actions hurt his party politically and are a disservice to the people he represents

FOUR-TERM MEMBER of Parliament — a lawyer and among the most senior leaders of his party — should not require lessons in either civics or civility. On Tuesday, Kalyan Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress was suspended for a day from the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. The disciplinary action against him came after he smashed a glass bottle during the JCP meeting, reportedly during a heated exchange with former Calcutta High Court judge and BJP MP Abhijit Ganguly. Committee Chair Jagdambika Pal has alleged that Banerjee was attempting to throw the bottle at him — the TMC leader ended up injuring himself. Parliament — including its committees — is a place for dissent, debate and even vociferous argument. It is not — and must not become — an avenue for abuse and violence. Banerjee, unfortunately, seems not to realise this. And at a time when the Opposition is trying to gain ground, and at times, the moral high ground — after a decade in relative political wilderness — his actions are a terrible letdown.

A representative to the Lok Sabha carries the privileges and expectations of the people who voted for him. Unfortunately, the incident this week is not the first time Banerjee has pushed the boundaries of propriety. Last year, when 147 MPs had been suspended and the Opposition was besieged, the TMC MP’s crude mimicry of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar drew unwarranted attention. In fact, throughout Dhankhar’s tumultuous tenure as Governor of West Bengal, Banerjee constantly avoided the high ground — he called Dhankhar a “blood-sucker” and filed cases against him. Earlier this year, during the Lok Sabha campaign, he referred pejoratively to CPM candidate Dipsita Dhar’s complexion, and in 2009, he made off-colour and unsubstantiated remarks about then West Bengal CM’s personal habits.

Banerjee’s conduct at the parliamentary committee meet, then, is no aberration. Given his position and seniority in the TMC, it can also be seen as part of what ails the party. Into its third term in office in West Bengal, and as the fourth-largest party in the Lok Sabha, the TMC is no longer just a party of protest and the street. While its origins were “anti-establishment” in an era of Left dominance, it is now part of the power structure. Its leaders, with their words and actions, cannot be so immature as to resort to abuse and violence. Banerjee’s behaviour is not just politically counterproductive. It also shows an unconscionable disregard for the processes of Parliament and the people he represents.

SO SHORT, FAREWELL

There is more to a New Zealand airport’s attempt to limit goodbye hugs to three minutes than meets the eye

SORRY, AS ELTON John sang, may very well be the hardest word, but a close second is goodbye. Who knows when that night might come when the same two ships pass each other again? It’s no wonder that people tend to linger over their parting, stretching it out into farewell parties and dinners, drawing out those last few moments to postpone, if only for a second or two more, the pangs of parting. It’s an all-too-universal experience, yet New Zealand’s Dunedin Airport is having none of it, going by a sign in its drop-off zone: “Max hug time 3 minutes. For fonder farewells, please use the car park.”

Photographs of the terse sign have been widely shared this week, eliciting outraged questions about how far an airport could go to ensure a smooth flow of traffic, people and their belongings, with its “hug police” and violation of travellers’ “human rights”. Officials have been quick to disclaim any actual measure to time people’s hugs — no uniformed buzzkill will be hanging around the drop-off zones with a stopwatch. The sign is more a suggestion and less an injunction, a reminder to those lingering over their adieus to be mindful of the fact that airports are busy places where the slightest hold-up by one person can end up derailing someone else’s vacation plans.

The real question, however, is how Dunedin Airport arrived at the specific duration of three minutes for a hug. Were travellers interviewed and studies conducted at the airport? In any case, the airport’s CEO pointed to research that shows a 20-second hug is more than sufficient for a hearty dose of the feel-good hormone oxytocin. He also pointed out that the quicker the hugs, the greater the number of people who can experience them. So, far from being the enemy of love that it’s been painted as, the airport just wants to spread the love around a bit more. Can one really complain about this?

NOVEMBER 5 IS America’s election day. It is hard to predict who will win the presidential race: Kamala Harris or Donald Trump. Current polls suggest a very tight contest. Which way it finally turns will depend on a host of factors, some uniquely American, especially the electoral college. The US was famously called by Samuel Huntington “a Tudor Polity”, roughly meaning extreme decentralisation and no national uniformity. States in the US not only have disproportionate power; they also have quite different electoral rules. Unlike India where the Election Commission conducts and certifies electoral results, that power in the US belongs to states. And such power, most of all, is embodied in the concept of an electoral college which is, comparatively speaking, an unusual institution. It has the capacity to undo popular will.

Let us begin with a larger national-level overview, which will allow us to unpack the intricacies of the electoral college later. The US has a population of roughly 335 million, and there are approximately 245 million eligible voters. If the turnout is as high as 66-67 per cent, the level it touched in 2020, among the highest in decades, anywhere between 160-165 million votes will be cast. That will make it the third largest election exercise in 2024, exceeded only by India and Indonesia.

The four largest voting groups by ethnicity/race are the Whites (67 per cent), Latinos/Hispanics (13 per cent), Blacks (12 per cent) and Asians (5 per cent). The political inclinations of the three minorities are easily described. In 2020, these groups voted 65-87 per cent in favour of the Democratic party, with Blacks going as high as 87 per cent. According to the most recent polls, vote for Democrats is down in all three categories, but it is not necessarily going hugely in favour of Trump.

The possible shift among Black men has come to be widely noted, especially after President Obama exhorted them to exercise wisdom and sense, not conventional gender prejudice. Compared to women, 7-8 per cent fewer men are saying they will vote for Harris. According to James Carville, a long-time adviser to Democrats who shot to fame as lead strategist to Bill Clinton in 1992, the

Harris appears to be ahead in national vote, but it is the electoral college that will determine who wins — it is possible to win the national vote but lose the presidential election, which has happened five times in American history, twice recently — in 2000 and 2016. But how would such divergence come about? The electoral college has 538 votes: 435 for the House of Representatives, 100 for the Senate and three for Washington DC. The House is entirely population-based. In the Senate, every state has two seats regardless of its population size. This makes the electoral college not entirely based on national popular will.

reason is that some Black men think the Democratic party has become too feminised. They are unwilling to accept a female president. But this problem may not be confined to Black males. The US has always had a male president. Is it ready to accept a woman as the nation’s highest leader and commander-in-chief? Some believe Hilary Clinton also suffered for this reason.

What can we say about the White vote? Its division appears to be both on racial and class lines, especially if education can be viewed as an indicator of class. The Pew Research Center reports that Republican voters are “overwhelmingly White”, accounting for 79 per cent of the total vote for the party. And “overall, about half of Republican voters (51 per cent) are White adults without a college degree, making them the single largest bloc within the party when looking at race, ethnicity and education together.”

Let us examine these numbers a bit differently. According to the US Census Bureau, only 38 per cent of the US population (age 25 and older) was college educated in 2021, and 42 per cent of White population belonged to this category (as compared to 28 per cent of Black, 21 per cent of Hispanic, and 61 per cent of Asian communities). Nearly two thirds of White support for Trump is non-college educated and only a third college educated. In non-White communities, the education-based class polarisation is not so sharp. Trump is likely to get only 31-32 per cent of non-White, non-college educated vote, with nearly two thirds of non-White non-college vote going to Harris. In sum, most college-educated Whites would vote for Democrats and most non-college-educated Whites for Republicans, whereas for non-White communities, ethnicity and race would trump class.

But, after all is said and done, these country-level disaggregations are not going to be decisive. Harris appears to be ahead in national vote, but it is the electoral college that will determine who wins — it is possible to win the national vote but lose the presidential election, which has happened five times in American history, twice recently — in 2000 and 2016. But how would such divergence come about?

The electoral college has 538 votes: 435 for the House of Representatives, 100 for the Senate and three for Washington DC. The House is entirely population-based. In the Senate, every state has two seats regardless of its population size. This makes the electoral college not entirely based on national popular will. Rather, the popular will gets a coating of small-state bias. Essentially, to win the presidency, a candidate must obtain 270 votes of the electoral college. Some states, such as California and New York, are reliably Democratic, while others, like Texas and Florida, unquestionably Republican. As of now, Harris is sure of 226 votes, and Trump 219. To be president, the former needs 44 more electoral college votes, and the latter 51.

Where will these votes come from? From the so-called battleground or swing states. Currently, there are seven such swing states: Pennsylvania (19 votes), Georgia (16), North Carolina (16), Michigan (15), Arizona (11), Wisconsin (10), Nevada (6). They are deadlocked. Because they can swing an election, these states take up a disproportionate energy of campaigns. Harris and Trump always seem to be campaigning there (over three decades in Massachusetts, nearly always Democratic, I have seen only one candidate campaign. Barack Obama came in 2012, and only once).

A conceptual category can be used to sum up the situation. This election will depend on what scholars call “intersectionality”. An unpredictable combination of gender/race/class/state will determine who wins. But whichever way this mix ultimately settles, it will be, substantially though not wholly, in answer to two fundamental questions.

Is America ready for a Black woman president, or would White supremacy make a comeback via Trump? Will America continue to be engaged in the world, or would it descend into a world of Trumpian tariffs, immigration cuts and isolationism?

The writer is Sol Goldman professor of International Studies and the Social Sciences at Brown University, where he also directs the Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia at the Watson Institute



ABHIJIT SINGH

THE UK’S DECISION to transfer sovereignty of the strategically significant Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius is a watershed moment in international relations and maritime geopolitics. This long-standing issue had simmered for decades until London settled it to the apparent satisfaction of key stakeholders while securing its own strategic interests. The transfer not only addresses the colonial legacies but also reshapes power dynamics in the Indian Ocean, with significant implications for maritime strategy and regional security.

In many ways, this outcome was inevitable, given the mounting pressure on the UK from the International Court of Justice, the UN General Assembly, and several regional states, including India. India has been a vocal advocate of the decolonisation agenda, reinforcing the Mauritian cause and asserting its leadership role in the Global South. With its diplomatic stance under increasing scrutiny, the UK likely saw this as a necessary move to align with the international consensus.

Strategically, the deal holds substantial significance. While it grants Mauritius full sovereignty, it ensures US-UK control of the military base at Diego Garcia for 99 years. For India, the principal security provider in the Eastern Indian Ocean, the implications extend far beyond potential access to Diego Garcia’s military facilities, touching on broader themes of strategic autonomy, regional alliances, and the evolving balance of power in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Given India’s close military ties with the

INDIAN OCEAN CHURN

India must guard its strategic interests after UK’s handover of Chagos to Mauritius

US and UK, Diego Garcia could provide the Indian Navy with a valuable forward base for maritime patrolling, anti-piracy operations, and intelligence gathering. With increasing Chinese naval activity in the IOR, India could leverage closer logistical and military cooperation with the US to counterbalance China’s maritime expansion.

However, India’s proximity to the US military’s prime Indian Ocean facility could complicate its broader calculus. Diego Garcia is not just any American base; it is a hub for US nuclear submarines and a key staging ground for naval operations in the Western Indian Ocean — a theatre where India-US cooperation has traditionally been constrained. Using this facility raises larger questions about India’s strategic autonomy, especially as the Indian Ocean becomes more contested amid rising tensions in the Red Sea and the escalating Iran-Israel conflict.

India has long adhered to a policy of strategic autonomy. Deeper military cooperation with the US could be seen as a shift towards aligning with the West, potentially undermining India’s efforts to remain an independent player capable of engaging with a range of partners, including non-Western actors like Russia, Iran, and other Middle Eastern powers. While Diego Garcia is pivotal to US operations in the Middle East, India knows tensions between Israel and Iran complicate its options. While India leans more toward Tel Aviv, overt cooperation with the US, Israel’s main ally against Iran, could strain India’s ties

with Tehran and other non-Western partners.

Chagos’ handover is exactly the outcome India had long hoped for. Delhi even played a behind-the-scenes role to encourage both sides to reach such an agreement. But, while it sees the continuation of the Diego Garcia base under US control as a positive, it is likely to temper its responses to project a balanced stance, avoiding the perception of excessive alignment with the US-UK axis.

Even so, India’s strategic community will likely view this development through the lens of China’s growing presence in the Indian Ocean. With a naval base in Djibouti and likely future bases in Pakistan, China is positioning itself as a significant Indian Ocean power. Despite having to manage the expectations of other regional states — many of whom have close ties with China — India’s main imperative will be to counterbalance Beijing’s influence in the Western Indian Ocean.

India is also mindful of Mauritius’ security needs. Port Louis will likely seek New Delhi’s assistance in capacity-building, particularly in monitoring its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and safeguarding its maritime assets from illegal fishing and other threats. Given its own concerns over Chinese intrusions, India has a vested interest in strengthening Mauritius’ security capabilities. The key for India would be to protect its interests, maintaining its image as an independent regional power.

The writer is head, Maritime Policy Initiative, ORF, New Delhi



OCTOBER 24, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

HEAD PRIESTS VS GOVT

TWO ROUNDS OF prolonged talks between Sikh head priests and the government representatives failed to sort out the controversy of the Nihang chief of Buddha Dal, Baba Santa Singh’s intention to visit Akal Takht to offer prayers on Diwali. The government representatives, however, reached an agreement with both the parties on maintaining law and order on the occasion.

US BACKS INDIA

AFTER TWO DAYS of talks with the Indian government, the US Assistant Secretary of State,

Richard Murphy, came out with a statement “reiterating” the US conviction that India has no intention of attacking Pakistan. Murphy’s statement was apparently aimed at assuaging Indian anger over the statement by the US Ambassador in Pakistan, Deane R Hinton, portraying India as a potential aggressor.

INDIA-MAURITIUS TALKS

INDIA ASSURED ALL possible assistance to Mauritius in its development activity and agreed to enlarge areas of co-operation such as education, culture, technology, technical know-how and health. India’s keen interest in the overall progress of Mauritius was con-

veyed to the Mauritian Prime Minister, Anerood Jugnauth, when he called on the visiting Indian President, Zail Singh.

JANATA SPLIT

THE JANATA PARTY unit in Bihar split vertically with majority of legislators and MPs owing allegiance to Karpoori Thakur, favouring entry into the newly formed Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party (DMKP), headed by Charan Singh. The resolution adopted at the residence of Thakur authorised him to take a final decision on the evolution of a national alternative in the context of Opposition unity, preservation of democracy and national interest.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Learning & nation-building

The 75th Constitution Day, on November 26, is a moment to reimagine our universities. The focus needs to be on education and research relating to Constitution’s ideals and aspirations



C. RAJ KUMAR

THE CONSTITUTION OF India was adopted on November 26, 1949. While the vision and imagination of the framers of the Constitution was far-sighted, the reality of India at that moment was very different. At Independence, India’s population was around 370 million, and women, on average, had six children. The age structure was very young, and over 80 per cent of the population was illiterate.

India had barely 20 universities and approximately 500 affiliated colleges in 1947. Student enrolment was around 2.5 lakh, and faculty members across all universities and colleges were about 20,000. Higher education was an absolute privilege, available only to the elite. Today, India has over 40 million students enrolled in higher education institutions and more than 1.5 million faculty members.

India has the largest population in the world. Forty-seven per cent of Indians are below the age of 25. Two-thirds have been born after liberalisation. In this stage of India’s demographic transition, universities are influential institutions that must contribute to the transformation of society. A single-minded focus on subjects and courses comprising science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and medicine cannot produce the desired transformation in the value system of our society. Education must not be limited to linking all learning only to job opportunities and instrumentally applying knowledge for monetary gains without appreciating its intrinsic value in shaping the kind of citizens that our republic requires. Schools and universities must provide substantial knowledge about the Constitution in all Indian languages. Achieving this goal must be a top policy priority.

India commemorates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of its Constitution this year. Our higher education ecosystem, comprising more than 1,100 universities and nearly 50,000 colleges, must prioritise the study of the Constitution. The Viksit Bharat Vision for 2047 should focus on educating young India to appreciate the values inherent in the Constitution and why the document is the lodestar for development and social transformation.

I can adduce five compelling reasons why our universities should educate their students about the Constitution’s history, philosophy, and evolution and its importance in recognising and enforcing people’s fundamental rights and freedoms.

One, the Constitution as a site for creating collective consciousness. India is not a classic federation. Some continuing struggles and synergies inform the evolution of the idea of deliberative democracy in the country. Social and economic diversity has contributed to differing economic and human development levels across the states. As we commemorate the 75th anniversary, we must build a more vital collective consciousness of our Constitution that binds us



C R Sasikumar

as people. This consciousness will have a direct and substantive bearing on promoting progressive nation-building ideas while shielding us from the consequences of sectarian perspectives. The framers of our Constitution were conscious of the imperative of creating a collective consciousness of the people of India. They did that by providing flexibility and freedom to pursue a pluralistic idea of nation-building.

Two, the Constitution as a framework for identity creation. The Constitution has helped us to create, nurture and expand an Indian identity. Many of its provisions focus on protecting rights and freedoms and illustrating their inherent purpose for establishing a nation. The pluralistic identity of the people of India is reflected in the values that permeate the Constitution, especially its Preamble. In an influential article titled ‘The rise of state-nations’, Alfred Stepan, Juan J Linz, and Yogendra Yadav observed, “... ‘State-nation’ policies involve creating a sense of belonging (or ‘we-feeling’) with respect to the statewide political community, while simultaneously creating institutional safeguards for respecting and protecting politically salient socio cultural diversities. The ‘we-feeling’ may take the form of defining a tradition, history, and shared culture in an inclusive manner, with all citizens encouraged to feel a sense of attachment to common symbols of the state and some form of ‘constitutional patriotism’.” An Indian identity that promotes values of “constitutional patriotism” should define our aspiration to develop ideas for nation-building. Universities must shape that Indian identity through education and the process of learning.

Three, the Constitution as a reason for celebrating diversity. The Constitution, particularly its provisions on equality and non-discrimination, recognises the value of diversity. Universities are the appropriate institutions for promoting diversity. However, the diversity promoted in universities must be about lived and shared experiences. It is about understanding and appreciating that India is a land of diverse interests and multiple persuasions. The opportunity to study the Constitution and the lived experience of meeting and interact-

The Constitution as the basis for social justice. The theme of social justice runs throughout the Constitution. As India celebrates the 75th anniversary of adopting the Constitution, the aspiration to advance the cause of social justice has never been more critical. Universities are institutions where through transformative education, the societal structure can be challenged and a new generation can become participants in an effort to achieve social justice. The constitutional project of promoting social justice can be realised only when higher education institutions institutionalise these ideas among the youth. India’s young people must embrace the vision of building an egalitarian society.

ing with diverse people can help build an informed and enlightened citizenry.

Four, the Constitution as an instrument of social and political empowerment. By abolishing untouchability in Article 17, the Constitution shook the foundations of the practice of historically evolved caste-based discrimination. But it did not stop there. It also made it an offence to cause any disability arising because of “untouchability”. The vision of the makers of the Constitution was far-sighted enough to recognise that the evil of untouchability cannot be quelled by merely proscribing it. The Constitution sends a powerful message to our nation that its foundations are the values of liberty, equality and fraternity. Universities are places where values are formed, shaped and changed. There is no better place where the study of constitutional values can have a powerful impact.

Five, the Constitution as the basis for social justice. The theme of social justice runs throughout the Constitution. As India celebrates the 75th anniversary of adopting the Constitution, the aspiration to advance the cause of social justice has never been more critical. Universities are institutions where through transformative education, the societal structure can be challenged and a new generation can become participants in an effort to achieve social justice. The constitutional project of promoting social justice can be realised only when higher education institutions institutionalise these ideas among the youth. India’s young people must embrace the vision of building an egalitarian society.

The 75th anniversary of the Constitution should help us reimagine our universities to focus on education and research relating to its ideals and aspirations. It should educate and empower the youth to understand and appreciate the historical struggles that resulted in our freedom and the vision of the framers of the Constitution leading to the building of the Republic of India.

The writer is founding Vice Chancellor of OPJindal Global University and Dean of Jindal Global Law School, JGU is establishing India’s First Constitution Museum at its University Campus in Sonapat, Haryana

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The US policy of denying Israel’s genocide in Gaza is unlikely to change, even if there is a new US administration... We can only hope that nations that still have a conscience would finally come together to condemn Israel’s genocidal acts and ensure that Israel agrees to a ceasefire agreement...” — THE DAILY STAR

With refugees at the centre

SC judgment on Section 6A speaks language of statecraft. Verdict should guide protection of rights of vulnerable



MOHSIN ALAM BHAT

THE SUPREME COURT OF India’s recent decision upholding the legal validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act is the most consequential judgment on the constitutional law of citizenship. Section 6A was enacted following the signing of Assam Accord in 1985 and grants citizenship to migrants from Bangladesh who entered Assam before March 25, 1971. Last week’s ruling, however, has far-reaching consequences that extend well beyond the region of Assam, especially considering the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) of 2019, which remains pending in the courts.

The stakes could not be higher. In terms of politics, the petitioners challenged Section 6A based on the long-standing fears of Assamese groups that uncontrolled immigration from Bangladesh threatens their culture, economy, and political influence. Legally speaking, it touches on vital constitutional principles — particularly the limits of Parliament’s legislative power, the role of judicial review, and how to interpret key constitutional values like fraternity and equality in the context of citizenship.

The first significant aspect of the judgment is its declaration that Parliament’s power to legislate on citizenship is not unlimited. Like any other law, legislation on citizenship must adhere to constitutional limits, including fundamental rights.

This is a noteworthy ruling because it draws a clear line in the sand for the pending CAA case. In the CAA case, the government has argued that laws on citizenship are an expression of sovereignty and should be immune from judicial scrutiny, but this ruling rejects that notion entirely.

Citizenship laws, the Court held, are subject to constitutional limitations and judicial review, providing a clear indication that the CAA will likely face similar scrutiny.

A second critical dimension of the ruling is its discussion on constitutional values, particularly the principle of fraternity. The petitioners argued that the influx of migrants undermined Assamese culture and violated their rights under Article 29 of the Constitution, which protects the cultural and educational rights of minority citizens. They claimed that the presence of these migrants was eroding their cultural identity, a violation of their rights.

The Court, however, took a broader and more progressive view of fraternity, rejecting the argument that demographic change constituted a violation of culture. Fraternity, the judges held, is about fostering “interconnectedness” among citizens, not the right to “choose one’s neighbours.” This rejection of a narrow cultural protectionist view marked a serious blow to Assamese political claims. The judgment emphasised that demographic change does not inherently violate cultural rights — a significant step in the broader debate over how to balance majority cultural concerns with broader democratic principles.

The judgment also delves into the question of equality in citizenship laws. The pe-

tioners argued that Assam was unfairly burdened by Section 6A, which imposed a different cut-off date for citizenship compared to the rest of India. The claim was that Assam was disproportionately carrying the weight of immigration while other border states were not subjected to the same rules. Relevant here was the right to equality under Article 14. The right requires that any divergent treatment — so-called “classification” among groups — must be rational and justified by the purpose of the law.

The Court upheld Section 6A’s constitutionality, acknowledging the historical context of the Assam Accord and Assam’s unique challenges with migration. However, there was a divergence between the justices on how much deference the courts should give to Parliament in this matter. Justice D Y Chandrachud, argued that when core rights and constitutionally significant subjects are at stake, courts must intervene. Justice Surya Kant (for two other judges) took a more deferential stance, which suggests that Parliament’s classification of groups for legal purposes should be respected, provided it aligns with a legitimate public objective.

This divergence on the degree of judicial deference will have serious implications for the CAA case. The CAA’s stated objective is to help persecuted minorities, but it fast-tracks citizenship for only non-Muslims from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. The question now is which level of scrutiny will the Court apply to the CAA’s religious discrimination. Will the Court consider citizenship and the right to life too significant to allow for broad parliamentary discretion, or adopt a more deferential approach?

This debate on judicial deference will also test how seriously the Court treats secularism as a constitutional principle. Will secularism be interpreted as a core value, alongside fraternity, that demands legal protections for all citizens, regardless of their religious identity? Will secularism be interpreted — in fact as an extension of fraternity — as a concept respecting diversity and solidarity?

Despite its progressive framing of fraternity, the judgment is striking for what it leaves out: The voices of the migrants themselves. The Court framed the issue as a balancing act between the government trying to manage the costs of migration and its humanitarian concerns. But absent from this narrative are the refugees, the stateless, and the multigenerational immigrants who are most affected by these laws.

The Court did not fully engage with the rights of those who have fled persecution or whose lives are now mired in uncertainty. It failed to consider whether the state has an obligation to protect the rights of refugees and stateless persons, who remain invisible in the legal framework. The judgment speaks the language of statecraft but it does not fully account for the human rights of the marginalised.

This omission is significant. As India continues to grapple with its citizenship laws, the Court must address the rights of the most vulnerable. The ruling on Section 6A, while progressive in some respects, leaves the fate of these individuals uncertain. With the CAA case on the horizon, the Court once again has an opportunity to centre the rights of refugees and stateless persons in its legal reasoning.

The writer teaches at School of Law, Queen Mary University of London



PRABHSAHAY KAUR

Children must come first

Fear of misuse is no reason to dilute strict laws, action against child sexual abuse

THE SUPREME COURT’S (SC’s) recent judgment on Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM) is the call of the hour and addresses a problem, the enormous proportions of which are lost on most people. The mere possibility of misuse, as argued by an editorial in this newspaper (‘Terms of protection’, IE, September 26) cannot be a reason to put children at risk.

Some facts. The National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (established by the United States Congress) has reported that 46,99,515 videos of CSEAM were uploaded in India, depicting a chilling reality — India is leading the world in uploading CSEAM in the form of photos and videos. Just Rights for Children Alliance, a coalition formed by five NGOs with over 120 NGOs as partners, approached the Supreme Court relying upon the above Report and data published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) that reflected a phenomenal increase in child pornography cases from 44 in 2018 to 1,171 cases in 2022.

To arrest this disturbing trend, the Government of India signed an MoU with NCMEC, US, under which receipt and analysis of Cyber Tip line Reports (CTR) are carried out which detail activities related to CSEAM. These are then shared with the respective states/Union Territories for further action. The MoU and the actions being taken using this technology lead the agencies straight to the culprits.

The Kerala Police’s impressive initiative made the best use of this information. It constituted a specialised unit for preventing online child exploitation and carried out various covert operations. It was found that child pornography groups operating over WhatsApp and Telegram and a number of similar platforms had increased tremendously in recent years. It started identifying persons downloading/uploading CSEAM from the internet by collecting IP addresses, particularly making use of the reports available under the MoU. The Kerala Police was able to seize over 200 devices containing graphic and illegal videos and pictures of children in a compromised state.

It was found that many of these videos and photos in the CSEAM were of local children, ranging in the age group of five to 16 years. The necessary corollary was that local children have been haplessly involved by making covert videos/taking photos through spy cameras, etc. More significantly, the presumption that CSEAM available on the Internet is from other countries or far-off places and that the act itself has not taken place here and is only being viewed here is completely false. This eye-opener is funda-

mental to understanding not only the genesis of the problem but also in comprehending how to tackle it.

A somewhat similar disclosure was made recently by certain One Stop Centres that run in all districts in Delhi to aid survivors of sexual abuse. Cases of teenagers being raped or forced into sexual acts/abuse on the threat of their videos/photos, real as well as morphed, being made public are on the rise.

The SC has made it abundantly clear that while there might be a difference between the act of viewing CSEAM and the act of engaging in sexual abuse, the latter desire is always inherent in the former. Both share the same intent, and it is the intent that makes the crime heinous. This finding is the fulcrum of the judgment. Ergo, viewing CSEAM, even in the confines of one’s home, even one time, constitutes an offence. It has also stated that demand will always incubate the corresponding production of CSEAM. Abusers are motivated to create and distribute the material to satisfy the demand. Killing the demand by prosecuting the viewing of CSEAM would eventually lead to a decrease in its production.

The Kerala Police’s report is rather

poignant. It reflects on the vulnerability of children who might not even know how they have been exploited till it is too late. The SC has also held that the knowledge that their abuse is being watched by countless strangers, sometimes much after the act, for years to come, exacerbates the wounds. The realisation that our children might be walking on the road or eating at a restaurant and strangers identify him/her from CSEAM available freely on the internet, maybe by way of a spy camera installed in a school/public bathroom/changing room, is deeply disturbing.

This affects every one of us. In the words of Justice J B Pardiwala, who authored the judgment with sensitivity and perceptiveness, CSEAM perpetuates a culture in which children are seen as objects to be exploited rather than as individuals with rights and agency.

While prosecution in cases of CSEAM is imperative, in the longer run, what will make the most difference are preventive measures such as sex education and awareness, in schools, children’s homes, etc. Essentially, the prevention of crime is paramount for ensuring a safe space for our children, both online and offline. I can only hope that in implementing this judgment, law enforcement agencies, schools and governments realise that the exploitation of a child anywhere, is exploitation of a child everywhere.

The writer is a litigator practising in the Delhi High Court and Supreme Court

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A BREAKTHROUGH

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Breaking stalemate’ (IE, October 23). It is quite encouraging that both India and China have agreed to revert to the pre-Galwan locations. India has to verify the progress through continuous monitoring. It is imperative to establish peace at the Line of Actual Control before any moves in the economic, communication and other fields. The past trust deficit will be dissolved if there is mutual respect and well-coordinated mutual consultation between the two nations in the de-escalation and disengagement process.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Breaking stalemate’ (IE, October 23). In welcome news, India and China have agreed to resolve their four-year military standoff. Assuming that the patrolling agreement heralds a return to status quo ante, India shouldn’t relent on its past decisions like banning Chinese apps. Similarly, FDI by Chinese firms should be judged on a case-to-case basis. There can’t be a free licence for investment by Chinese firms in India. India’s relations with China can be repaired but at a slow pace. There are no instant solutions in global politics. It can’t suddenly be business as usual with China.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

COVERING GROUND

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Social ill and legal response’ (IE, October 23). The guidelines of the Supreme Court are welcome. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) in cases where minors marry by choice requires a closer look. The resultant destitution of girls due to husbands taking undue advantage of the marriage’s void status to remarry is unjust. This judgment may not succeed in upholding the true essence of absolute justice on these harsh ground realities, but it may shed some light on the misuse of the rule of law.

Shaswat Jena, Ghaziabad

WHERE ONUS LIES

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A nascent but welcome thaw’ (IE, October 21). External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar’s visit to Pakistan to participate in the SCO summit, is significant. Bilateral ties have been in deep freeze since the Pulwama terror attack and the retaliatory Balakot airstrikes in February 2019. While one cannot dispute that both countries must move forward and tap the full potential for bilateral trade, it must be pointed out that the onus lies on Islamabad to create a conducive atmosphere.

Khokan Das, Kolkata



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Geoengineering idea: diamonds in the sky, cooling the Earth

AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

SPRAYING MILLIONS of tonnes of diamond dust in the upper atmosphere could be an effective way of cooling down the Earth and fixing the problem of global warming, a new study has concluded.

It sounds like an absurd idea, but it has been put forward earlier, too. Several other materials, including compounds of sulphur, calcium, aluminium, and silicon, have been suggested previously for this same job. The essential idea is to scatter material that can reflect solar radiation back to space — and not allow it to reach Earth — thereby cooling down the planet.

According to the new study, published in *Geophysical Research Letters* earlier this month, diamonds can be more effective in doing this job compared to any other material considered previously. ('Microphysical Interactions Determine the Effectiveness of Solar Radiation Modification via Stratospheric Solid Particle Injection': S Vattioni, S K Käslin, and others)

Such solutions, called 'geoengineering', or more specifically, solar radiation management (SRM), have been studied for several years now, although no attempt has ever been made to put them into practice. With this same intention, the installation of space-based mirrors has also been assessed.

Hotter and hotter

Measures to slow or halt global warming have been extremely inadequate. Not only have global temperatures continued to rise, even the emissions of greenhouse gases, the main reason for the warming, have not been curbed. Scientists estimate that even if global emissions were to magically drop to zero suddenly, it would still be several decades before temperatures stabilise and begin to come down.

Global temperatures are already about 1.2 degrees Celsius higher than pre-industrial times (1850-1900 period), and 2023 was as much as 1.45 degrees Celsius warmer. There is no way that the world can keep this rise to under 1.5 degrees Celsius, which was one of the targets mentioned in the Paris Agreement. In theory, this is still possible —

but the bare minimum for achieving this target requires the world to cut emissions by at least 43% by 2030 from the 2019 levels. All ongoing and promised actions in this regard are, however, likely to result in a reduction of just 2% by 2030.

As such, scientists have been looking for radical technology solutions that can achieve dramatic results within a short time, even if they are only temporary. This is where geoengineering efforts come in.

Geoengineering

Geoengineering refers to any large-scale attempt to alter the Earth's natural climate system to counter the adverse effects of global warming.

Solar radiation management (SRM), in which certain materials are proposed to be deployed in space to reflect the rays of the Sun and prevent them from reaching Earth, is one of two broad geoengineering options being explored. The other is carbon dioxide removal (CDR) technologies, which includes various carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) methods.

Both SRM and CDR are seen as having the potential to offer quick fixes to either reduce emissions or lower temperatures, but neither option has been proven to be viable yet.

CCS has been tried out in practice, though. Carbon dioxide emitted by industry or power generating plants is sought to be 'captured' at source, and deposited deep below the Earth's surface in suitable geological formations for long-term storage. Since carbon dioxide is not released in the atmosphere, there is a reduction

in overall emissions.

Some solutions involve the use of 'captured' carbon as an input for other industrial processes (carbon capture and utilisation, or CCU); in others, a part of the carbon dioxide is utilised and the rest stored underground (carbon capture, utilisation and storage, or CCUS).

There are also direct air capture (DAC) methods that seek to use large 'artificial trees' to suck carbon dioxide from ambient air and direct it to storage or utilisation sites. Since these methods can potentially eliminate carbon dioxide accumulated over the years, the benefits are larger compared to CCS. Some ex-

perimental projects are trying out these technologies, but the challenges are formidable.

Mimicking volcanoes

SRM is the most ambitious, and potentially most rewarding, form of geoengineering.

It is inspired by volcanic eruptions, in which large amounts of sulphur dioxide combines with water vapour to form sulphate particles that reflect sunlight back to space. The massive eruptions from Mt Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991 are supposed to have brought down the Earth's temperature by 0.5 degrees Celsius that year.

Scientists trying to mimic this process artificially have explored the capabilities of several materials, including sulphur dioxide, calcium carbonate, and sodium chloride.

Diamonds have been talked about, too. The new study compared seven compounds and found diamond to be the most effective. But to achieve a temperature reduction of 1.6 degrees Celsius, about 5 million tonnes of diamond dust would need to be sprayed in the upper atmosphere every year.

Challenges, concerns

SRM options obviously face massive challenges of technology and costs. Also, manipulating natural processes on a large scale can have unintended and unforeseen consequences, including disrupting global and regional weather patterns and rainfall distribution. Altering natural sunlight can impact agriculture, vegetation, and biodiversity.

A study by researchers from Oxford University and Imperial College London last year showed that while it might be technically possible to deploy CCS technologies, it may not be feasible or practical to rely on them to achieve climate objectives.

The study calculated that emission pathways that required the world to put up to 20 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide underground by 2050 could cost at least \$30 trillion more than the pathways in which only about 5 billion tonnes have to be stored. Besides, enough safe underground sites for storing such huge amounts of CO2 may not be available.

That said, CCS options are considered almost unavoidable now. There are no scenarios for the world to achieve the 1.5-degree or 2-degree Celsius targets that do not require contribution from CCS and CDR technologies.

EXPLAINED HEALTH

MCDONALD'S-LINKED OUTBREAK IN UNITED STATES: WHAT IS E.COLI?

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

ONE PERSON has died and 10 have been hospitalised in the US due to an *E.coli* infection after eating McDonald's burgers.

While the source of the infection is not known yet, the fast food giant has stopped serving quarter pound patties and sliced onions in several states. Both ingredients are primarily used in the burger.

Has the outbreak been reported outside the US too?

No. The outbreak is restricted to 10 states in the United States.

However, *E.coli*, which causes gastrointestinal symptoms, is not uncommon in India. It spreads through contaminated food and water. "We usually see cases during the summer and rainy seasons, when there is an increase in gastrointestinal infections in general," said Dr Atul Gogia, senior consultant of internal medicine at Sir Ganga Ram hospital, New Delhi.

Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, senior consultant of internal medicine at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi, said: "Among gastrointestinal and urinary tract infections, *E.coli* is one of the most common pathogens."

How common are E.coli infections?

More than 500 outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases were reported across India in 2023, according to the National Centre for Disease Control.

E.coli is the most common bacteria isolated from patient samples, according to the latest report of ICMR's Antimicrobial Surveillance Network. The pathogen was found in 23.19% of all types of patient samples from tertiary care hos-

pitals across India, where the surveillance is carried out.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is working on creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country that will test food products for 10 pathogens, including *E.coli*, salmonella, and listeria. Tests for microbial contamination were missing from most state food safety laboratories in the country.

What are the infection's symptoms?

The most common symptoms of *E.coli* infection include fever of more than 102 degree F, persistent diarrhoea, bloody diarrhoea, and vomiting. The main problem, however, is dehydration due to the inability of the patient to retain water and fluids.

In very few cases, people may get acute kidney injury.

How is it treated?

E.coli is a bacterial infection for which antibiotics are prescribed. Doctors emphasise that medicines should not be taken without consultation.

Indiscriminate use of antibiotics leads to antimicrobial resistance and further difficulty in treating common infections. For example, *E.coli*'s susceptibility to even strong antibiotics, such as carbapenem, has been on the decline, reducing from 81.4% in 2017 to 62.7% in 2023 to one type of medicine in this category.

When should you go to a doctor?

You must go to a doctor if you have had diarrhoea for more than a couple of days; you have to visit the toilet every half hour to an hour; you have bloody diarrhoea; you vomit frequently; and are unable to retain any water and fluids.

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EXPLAINED LAW

Taxing industrial alcohol

Can industrial alcohol be included under the definition of 'intoxicating liquor'? What happens when the Union and State Lists contain 'overlapping' entries? Here's why SC held that states can tax industrial alcohol

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

A NINE-JUDGE Bench of the Supreme Court held in a 8:1 ruling on Wednesday that states have the power to tax not just alcoholic beverages, but also 'industrial' alcohol.

Excise duty levied on 'drinking' alcohol is a key component of the revenue generated by most states — and the top court's ruling will add to their coffers.

The key interpretative question before the court was whether "intoxicating liquor" can be defined to also include "industrial alcohol". Eight judges — Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud, and Justices Hrishikesh Roy, Abhay S Oka, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma, and Augustine George Masih — ruled in favour of the states.

Justice B V Nagarathna in her dissenting opinion held that the power to regulate industrial alcohol should be with the Centre.

'Overlapping' entries

The core of the dispute arises from two "overlapping" entries in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, which lays down the division of lawmaking powers between the Centre and the states.

Entry 8 of List II (State List) gives states the power to regulate "the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of intoxicating liquors", while Entry 52 of List I (Union List) allows the Centre to regulate industries as a whole to the extent "declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in public interest".

As alcohol and other products of fermentation industries that deal with non-potable (non-drinkable) alcohol are included in the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1961 — a law passed by Parliament — the Centre argued that it "occupied the field" when it comes to industrial alcohol, and that states could not regulate the subject.

States, on the other hand, argued that industrial alcohol can be misused to produce consumable alcohol illegally, which required them to enact legislation.

Upshot of SC decision

THE CASE AND THE BACK STORY

1989: SC in *Synthetics & Chemicals Ltd. v State of Uttar Pradesh* held that states only have the power to regulate "intoxicating liquor" meant for human consumption, and that only the Centre can regulate "industrial alcohol" after a declaration under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1961.

1990: UP imposed a licence fee of 15 paise/ litre on denatured alcohol obtained from distilleries.

2004: Allahabad HC struck down the state's notification, relying on the SC's 1989 decision. The UP government

went in appeal to SC.

2007: SC referred case to a larger Bench to determine if the *Synthetics & Chemicals* decision needed to be reconsidered, since it did not consider relevant past SC decisions including the decision of a 5-judge Constitution Bench in *Ch. Tika Ramji v State of Uttar Pradesh* (1951).

2010: 5-judge Bench referred case to a 9-judge Bench.

2024: 9-judge Bench led by CJI Chandrachud heard the case over six days and reserved judgment in April.

■ The tax levied on alcohol is a key component of a state's revenue, with state governments often adding an additional excise duty on alcohol consumption to further drive up incomes. For example, in 2023, Karnataka raised the Additional Excise Duty (AED) on Indian Made Liquor (IML) by 20%.

■ In addition to the impact on the ability of states to generate revenue from alcohol, the verdict also provides clarity on Centre-state relations when it comes to control over industries. Wednesday's judgment affirms the power of states to pass laws on subjects in the State List, even in the face of the wide powers granted to the Centre regarding the control of 'Industries' as a whole.

■ The ruling also set aside the SC's 1990 judgment in *Synthetics & Chemicals Ltd. v State of Uttar Pradesh*, which held that "intoxicating liquor" refers only to potable alcohol and, therefore, states could not tax industrial alcohol. (*See box*)

Industrial alcohol

Industrial alcohol is essentially impure alcohol that is used as an industrial solvent. Mixing chemicals such as benzene, pyridine, gasoline, etc. in ethanol, which is produced by fermenting grains, fruit, molasses, etc., — a process that is called 'denaturation' — turns

it into industrial alcohol. This makes the alcohol unfit for human consumption, and significantly lowers its price.

Industries use this impure alcohol to manufacture a range of products including pharmaceuticals, perfumes, cosmetics, and cleaning liquids.

However, this same industrial or denatured alcohol is sometimes used to make illicit liquor, cheap and dangerous intoxicants whose consumption poses severe risks, including blindness and death.

'Intoxicating liquor'

CJI Chandrachud held that entries in the Seventh Schedule must be given a "wide meaning", and be deemed to include "incidental" and "ancillary" matters related to the entry in question.

He then applied this rule to the expression "intoxicating liquor" under Entry 8 of List II, holding that the "Entry seeks to regulate everything from the stage of the raw materials to the consumption of 'intoxicating liquor'."

The majority opinion, authored by the CJI, held that "...even liquor which colloquially or traditionally is not considered as alcoholic liquor may be covered by the phrase 'intoxicating liquor' if it produces the effect of intoxication".

The 'federal balance'

Two interpretations are possible when two entries in the Seventh Schedule are 'overlapping': either states can be given the power to regulate intoxicating liquor, or Parliament can be allowed to take complete control of the intoxicating liquor industry by passing a law under Entry 52 of List I.

To address this, the majority held that "When there are two possible interpretations of the entries, the Court must choose the one that maintains the federal balance".

The ruling then held that intoxicating liquor under Entry 8 — which now includes 'denatured' alcohol and the raw material for alcohol production — falls within the exclusive control of states. It held that the Centre cannot regulate matters concerning intoxicating liquor under Entry 52 as this would result in "rendering Entry 8 fully redundant".

While Justice Nagarathna agreed that the Centre and Parliament could not enact laws to regulate "intoxicating liquor", she disagreed on what can be included under this tag. While the majority opinion held that "intoxicating liquor" includes industrial or denatured alcohol, Justice Nagarathna came to the opposite conclusion.

The dissent reasoned that so long as 'Alcohol' and 'Fermentation Industries' remain as industries where the Centre can exercise complete control under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1961, "state legislatures are denuded of their powers to pass a legislation or to take any action" relating to them.

The UN force in Lebanon, its mandate and role, and Israel's aggression

EXPERT EXPLAINS

SANJIV ARORA

ON OCTOBER 20, the UN force in Lebanon said in a statement that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) had used a bulldozer to "deliberately demolish an observation tower and perimeter fence of a UN position in Marwahin".

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) "reminded the IDF and all actors of their obligations to ensure the safety and security of UN personnel and property and to respect the inviolability of UN premises at all times".

It noted that breaching a UN position and damaging UN assets is a "flagrant violation of international law and [UN] Security Council resolution 1701".

Israel has demanded that UNIFIL should vacate its positions along the Blue Line, a 120-

km-long "line of withdrawal" set by the UN in 2000 along Lebanon's southern border.

Why are UN peacekeepers in Lebanon?

UNIFIL was created by the UN in response to Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon. Israel had said it was acting to expel armed Palestinian elements operating from Lebanon.

According to UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426, adopted in March 1978, UNIFIL was established to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, restore peace and security, and to help the Lebanese government in restoring its control and authority over the region.

Southern Lebanon, which shares a border with Israel, has been the site of repeated conflicts between the IDF and Hezbollah. Israel vacated its occupation of southern Lebanon in 2000, but a fresh conflict broke out in July 2006. On August 11 that year, the UNSC unanimously adopted Resolution 1701, which called for Israel and Lebanon to support a permanent ceasefire, and significantly expanded UNIFIL's mandate.

The resolution stated that there would be no ammunition and armaments in southern Lebanon except those possessed

by the Lebanese armed forces. UNIFIL's strength was augmented to 15,000 uniformed personnel, and it was assigned duties to assist the Lebanese forces in monitoring and supervisory roles, along with providing humanitarian aid.

Are Israel's actions against international law?

Attacks on UN peacekeepers are in contravention of international law. However, despite condemnation, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has not backed down, and instead asked UNIFIL to "move out of harm's way". In a way, he is asking them to cease performing responsibilities given to them by the UN Security Council. This is a violation of the sanctity and the mandate of the UN.

UN peacekeepers have come under attack in various parts of the world in the past, but these were by non-state actors. Many of Israel's actions do not behave the dignity, stature, and obligations of a UN member state. Earlier this month, the Israeli government declared UN Secretary General António Guterres *persona non grata* and barred him from entering the country. Last

year, Israel had called for Guterres' resignation. Respect for the office of the Secretary General is part of the UN Charter.

Israel has also repeatedly attacked the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), alleging it has links with anti-Israel militant organisations, and called for it to be disbanded. UNRWA has rejected these allegations. More than 220 UNRWA officials have been killed in Gaza over the past year — the highest death toll in the history of the UN.

Are Indian troops part of UNIFIL?

India is one of the largest contributors of troops to UNIFIL, alongside Indonesia, Italy, and Ghana. As of October 20, 2024, India had 903 personnel in UNIFIL, after Indonesia's 1,230 and Italy's 1,043.

India has had a presence in UNIFIL since 1998. INDBATT, the Indian battalion, is renowned for its utmost professionalism, valour, and local outreach. In 1999, INDBATT built a public park in Ebel el Saqi in southern Lebanon, which has a statue of Gandhi, and is called Mahatma Gandhi Park. It was renovated in 2020. INDBATT also built a sta-

dium named after Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kawkaba village in Lebanon.

In addition, INDBATT has helped local communities with IT equipment, diesel generators, etc. India's medical mission, a component of the Indian battalion, has always been highly sought after in the region.

Israel alleges UNIFIL has not done its job in southern Lebanon, which has forced Israel to go after Hezbollah.

To blame UNIFIL would not be fair. The mandate of UN peacekeeping missions is not to engage in armed action except in self defence. As per UNSC Resolution 1701, it is the Lebanese armed forces who are in control of that area, with assistance from the UNIFIL. Assistance does not mean that UNIFIL will take armed action.

An important part of UNIFIL's mandate is to render humanitarian assistance, which it has been discharging admirably. In the face of Israeli hostilities, UNIFIL has made it clear that it will not vacate its positions.

Hezbollah's reality in Lebanon is multifaceted and multidimensional. It is also a political and cultural force with significant public legitimacy — Hezbollah and its allies

have 62 of the 128 democratically elected seats in Lebanon's parliament. Many average Lebanese probably believe Hezbollah's armed wing is the country's *de facto* defence force. However, this is not at all to say that the Lebanese defence forces have abdicated their responsibilities.

Where is the Lebanese army in all of this? Are they fighting against the IDF?

This is not an Israel-Lebanon war. This is Israel's aggression in Lebanon, and Lebanon is in self-defence mode, repeatedly calling for a ceasefire.

The Lebanese armed forces are highly professional, but given the tempestuous history of the country and the economic troubles it is facing, the army does have a severe resource crunch. It does not have a large budget, and its technology and armaments are meagre compared with the far more powerful and technically advanced Israeli military.

Sanjiv Arora is a former Secretary of the MEA. He was India's Ambassador to Lebanon from 2016 to 2019, and to Qatar from 2012 to 2016. He was head of UN-Political division at the MEA from 2005-08.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Justice Yahya Afridi

EUROPEAN UNION
Pak panel picks top judge, Opp slams move

Islamabad: Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday approved the selection of the next chief justice, who was chosen through a new process that the government's opponents say is designed to undermine judicial independence. Justice Yahya Afridi, the third most senior judge after the outgoing chief justice, was picked by a parliamentary panel following a constitutional amendment, officials said. Afridi will replace the outgoing chief justice, who retires on Friday, for a three-year term, Law Minister Azam Tarrar said. The new process was opposed by Pakistan's main opposition party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, which said it is an attempt to subvert judicial independence. PTI

THE PHILIPPINES
Celebrity pastor denies sexual abuse allegations

Manila: A Philippine preacher accused of sexually abusing his followers spoke out on Wednesday for the first time since being indicted for trafficking and other criminal charges, denying new allegations of wrongdoing on top of existing charges. Apollo Quiboloy, the self-styled "Appointed Son of God" who founded the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) church, faced off with former church members for the first time on Wednesday in a senate hearing that probed his alleged misdeeds. ENS

CANADA
Cabinet backs Trudeau, Liberals to confront him

Toronto: Canada's deputy prime minister said she believes Justin Trudeau has the support of a majority of Liberals in Parliament as some prepare to confront him Wednesday in the hopes of convincing him to step down. Chrystia Freeland and other Cabinet members voiced support for the prime minister on Tuesday ahead of a broader meeting with colleagues. A number of Liberals have signed a letter hoping to persuade Trudeau to step down before the next election. It was unclear how many signed. AP

INDONESIA
Residents deny asylum to 140 Rohingya

Labuhan Haji: About 140 Rohingya, mostly women and children, were on a wooden boat anchored about 1 mile off the coast of Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh on Tuesday, officials said, and local residents refused to allow them onto land. "Our community, the fishing community, refuses to let them land because of what happened in other places. They have caused unrest to local residents," said Muhammad Jabal, the chief of the fishing community in South Aceh. AP

DEFENCE MINISTER POINTS FINGER AT KURDISH MILITANTS

Terror targets Turkey's aerospace firm: At least four killed, 14 injured

Govt says two attackers killed in Ankara, social media blocked

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ANKARA, OCTOBER 23

ATTACKERS SET off explosives and opened fire Wednesday at Turkey's state-run aerospace and defence company TUSAS, killing four people and wounding more than a dozen, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said.

The two attackers — a man and a woman — were also killed, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said. Yerlikaya did not say what organization was behind the attack, as the process of identifying the assailants continued.

But Defence Minister Yasar Guler pointed the finger at the militant Kurdistan Workers' Party or PKK. "We give these PKK scoundrels the punishment they deserve every time. But they never come to their senses," Guler said. "We will pursue them until the last terrorist is eliminated."

The Islamic State group and leftist extremists have also carried out past attacks in Turkey.

"We have four martyrs. We have 14 wounded. I condemn this heinous terrorist attack," Erdogan said during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of a BRICS meeting in Russia.

Putin offered condolences to the victims of the attack.

A US Embassy statement said Washington "strongly condemns today's terrorist attack." NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte condemned the attack and said the military alliance would stand with its ally Turkey.

TUSAS designs, manufactures and assembles civilian and military aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles and other defence industry and space systems.

Its UAVs have been instrumental in Turkey gaining an upper hand in its fight against Kurdish militants both on its territory and across the border in Iraq.

The attack occurred a day after the leader of Turkey's far-right



(Clockwise from top) After the attack on Turkey's aerospace company TUSAS; People gather after the terror attack outside TUSAS; and ambulances wait near TUSAS, at the outskirts of Ankara on Wednesday. Reuters & AP

nationalist party that's allied with Erdogan raised the possibility that the PKK's imprisoned leader could be granted parole if he renounces violence and disbands his organization.

Abdullah Ocalan's group has been fighting for autonomy in southeast Turkey in a conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people since the 1980s. It is considered a terrorist group by Turkey and its Western allies.

The country's pro-Kurdish political party, which also con-

demned the attack, noted that it had occurred at a time when the possibility of a dialogue to end the conflict had emerged.

Turkish media said the assailants arrived Wednesday at an entry to the TUSAS complex in a taxi. The assailants, with assault weapons, detonated an explosive device next to the taxi, causing panic, allowing them to enter. The *Demioren* published footage of a half dozen heavily equipped special forces officers rushing toward the compound.

The Interior Ministry said the attack was carried out by two assailants, and that the situation had been brought under control.

The taxi driver was among the dead, according to Haber Turk television.

Security camera images, aired on television, showed a man in plainclothes carrying a backpack and holding an assault rifle. The interior minister said security teams were dispatched as soon as the attack started at around 3:30 p.m. Multiple gunshots were

heard after security forces entered the site, the DHA news agency reported. Helicopters were seen flying above the premises.

Vice President Cevdet Yilmaz said the target of the attack was Turkey's "success in the defence industry."

Netblocks, a group that tracks internet outages, said that major social media platforms including X, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and TikTok had been restricted in Turkey.

WITH REUTERS & NYT INPUT

ESCALATION WILL HAVE RAMIFICATIONS IN EUROPE, ASIA: US

Austin confirms presence of North Korean troops in Russia

THE NEW YORK TIMES
OCTOBER 23

SECRETARY OF Defense Lloyd Austin confirmed on Wednesday that North Korea had sent troops to Russia to join the fight against Ukraine, a major shift in Moscow's effort to win the war. Austin called the North's presence a "very serious" escalation that would have ramifications in Europe and Asia.

"What exactly are they doing?" Austin told reporters at a military base in Italy. "Left to be seen." He gave no details about the number of troops already there or the number expected to arrive.

His statement came as American intelligence officials said they were preparing to release a trove of intelligence, including satellite photographs, that show troop ships moving from North Korea to training areas in



A TV in Seoul showing soldiers from the North. AP

Vladivostok on Russia's east coast and other Russian territory further to the north. No troops have yet reached Ukraine, the officials said. For two weeks, there have been reports of movements that upward of 12,000 North Koreans were training to fight alongside Russian soldiers.

There was no immediate comment from the Kremlin. Russia has denied earlier reports on North Korea's troop presence.

EXPLAINED
'Desperation,' say experts

EXPERTS SAY that Putin could be reaching out to North Korean forces, desperate not to stir up domestic resentments about the huge casualties Russia has taken. For North Korea, the war in Ukraine has been a pathway out of geopolitical isolation — mobilising its assets that a major power is willing to pay for, for the first time in years.

In comments to reporters on Monday, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine sought to portray North Korea's presence as an attempt by Putin to avoid an unpopular mobilization.



An Israeli strike in south Lebanon's Tyre, Wednesday. Reuters

Israel confirms killing Safieddine, Hezbollah's head after Nasrallah

REUTERS & AP
BEIRUT, OCTOBER 23

ISRAEL SAID Tuesday that one of its airstrikes outside Beirut earlier in the month killed a Hezbollah official widely expected to have replaced the militant group's longtime leader, who was killed by an Israeli airstrike in September.

There was no immediate confirmation from Hezbollah about the fate of Hashem Safieddine, a powerful cleric who was expected to succeed Hassan Nasrallah, one of the group's founders.

Safieddine was killed in early October in a strike that also killed 25 other Hezbollah leaders, according to Israel, whose airstrikes in southern Lebanon in recent months have killed many of Hezbollah's top leaders, leaving the group in disarray. Last week, Israel killed the top leader of Hamas, Yahya Sinwar in Gaza.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said during a trip to Israel that leaders there should "capitalize" on Sinwar's death as an opportunity to end the war in Gaza and secure the release of hostages taken during the deadly Hamas attack that started the war. Blinken also stressed the need for Israel to do more to help increase



Hezbollah leader Hashem Safieddine

the flow of aid to Palestinians.

Meanwhile, heavy Israeli air strikes on a large historic Lebanese port city demonstrated that there was no respite.

Huge clouds of thick smoke billowed above residential buildings in Tyre, a UNESCO-listed port city in south Lebanon, which Israel began bombing roughly three hours after issuing an order online for residents to flee central areas.

Tens of thousands of people have already fled Tyre as Israel steps up its campaign to destroy Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, both close allies of its arch Middle East enemy Iran.

"We are better off dying with dignity than living on the street," said Batoum Zalgout, 25, who fled the latest evacuation zone for another part of the city. Tyre Mayor Hassan Dabouq said the city's historic sites were not hit. Minister of Culture Mohammad al-Murtada said the ministry was in touch with UNESCO to call for the city's people and heritage sites to be protected.

Trump camp accuses UK's Labour Party of election interference

REUTERS
LONDON, OCTOBER 23

DONALD TRUMP'S campaign has accused British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour Party of "blatant foreign interference" in the US presidential election after some volunteers travelled to help campaign for Kamala Harris. The Trump camp has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission, calling for an investigation into what it termed apparently illegal contributions from Labour to the Harris campaign.

British political volunteers have long travelled to the US ahead of elections, with activists of the centre-left Labour Party typically supporting the Democrats, and Conservatives backing the Republicans. British officials told Reuters that some senior Labour advisors travelled to meet



Donald Trump at a rally in North Carolina, Tuesday. AP

Democrats on the back of their landslide victory in July. They discussed how Labour won back almost all the areas that abandoned them in 2019. Starmer said this complaint would not damage ties with Trump.

According to US rules, foreigners can volunteer on election campaigns but cannot make financial contributions. The allegations of interference will hinge on whether Labour covered any activists' costs.



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

FIRST-PERSON SHOOTER GAME FOLLOWS CIA OPERATORS FIGHTING IN US, WEST ASIA

Kuwait bans new Call of Duty video game: Set in Gulf War, features Saddam

JON GAMBRELL
OCTOBER 23

THE TINY Mideast nation of Kuwait has banned the release of the video game "Call of Duty: Black Ops 6," which features the late Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and is set in part in the 1990s Gulf War.

Kuwait has not publicly acknowledged banning the game, which is a tentpole product for the Microsoft-owned developer Activision and is set to be released on Friday worldwide.

However, it comes as Kuwait still wrestles with the aftermath of the invasion and as video game makers more broadly deal with addressing historical and cultural issues in their work.

The video game, a first-person shooter, follows CIA operators fighting at times in the United States and also in the Middle East.

Game-play trailers for the game show burning oilfields, a painful reminder for Kuwaitis who saw Iraqis set fire to the fields, causing vast ecological and economic damage. Iraqi troops dam-



A screenshot from the game-play trailer. AP

aged or set fire to over 700 wells.

There also are images of Saddam and Iraq's old three-star flag in the footage released by developers ahead of the game's launch. The game's multiplayer section, a popular feature of the series, includes what appears to be a desert shootout in Kuwait called Scud after the Soviet missiles Saddam fired in the war. Another is called Babylon, after the ancient city in Iraq.

Activision acknowledged in a statement that the game "has not been approved for release in Kuwait," but did not elaborate.

"All pre-orders in Kuwait will be cancelled and refunded to the original point of purchase," the company said. "We remain hopeful that local authorities will reconsider, and allow players in Kuwait to enjoy this all-new experience in the Black Ops series." Kuwait's Media Ministry did not respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press over the decision.

"Call of Duty," which first began in 2003 as a first-person shooter set in World War II, has expanded into an empire worth billions of dollars now owned by

Microsoft. But it also has been controversial as its gameplay entered the realm of geopolitics. China and Russia both banned chapters in the franchise. In 2009, an entry in the gaming franchise allowed players to take part in a militant attack at a Russian airport, killing civilians.

But there have been other games recently that won praise for their handling of the Mideast. Ubisoft's "Assassin's Creed: Mirage" published last year won praise for its portrayal of Baghdad during the Islamic Golden Age in the 9th century. AP

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
मुख्य कारखाना प्रवेक, कार्यशाला (निष्ठुर अभियान) उत्तर-पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए एच एनसी और एस ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रवर्तित नियमों के अंतर्गत निष्पत्ति प्रपत्रों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या: 05 of 2024-25
कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Repairing and reconditioning of defective 4.5 KW and 25 KW ERRUs at Railway Carriage Workshop, Jodhpur. समय अवधि: 6 माह (Six Months), अनुमानित लागत राशि: Rs. 31,39,254.90, बयान की राशि: Rs. 62,800.00, ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या: 06 of 2024-25, कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Various energy conservation related works at Railway Carriage Workshop, Jodhpur, समय अवधि: 6 माह (Six Months), अनुमानित लागत राशि: Rs. 39,30,638.00, बयान की राशि: Rs. 78,600.00, ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या: 07 of 2024-25, कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Upgradation of existing LHB RMPU Lab for testing of RMPU of ICF Coaches including all civil work at Railway Carriage Workshop, Jodhpur., समय अवधि: 4 माह (Four Months), अनुमानित लागत राशि: Rs. 18,65,285.00, बयान की राशि: Rs. 37,300.00, निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 12.11.2024 को 15.00 बजे तक है। विवेकादृत का विवरण जहां पर ई-निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है। www.irreps.gov.in

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 केनरा बैंक Canara Bank A Government of India Undertaking			
 Eminent Syndicate			
ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH (D.P.- 17415) GROUND FLOOR, LUV KUSH TOWER, EXHIBITION ROAD, PATNA-800001, Mobile No.: 8102916048, Email: cb17415@canarabank.com			
Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties) SALE NOTICE			
Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 in general and in particular to the Borrower (s)/ Guarantor (s)/ Mortgagor (s) that the below described immovable are Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of "where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is". Details are as under: Auction Date 15.11.2024, Auction Time 11.30 AM to 1.30 PM, EMD Date & Time 13.11.2024 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM			
A/c/ Mortgagor	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Properties	Reserve Price EMD Multiplier Amt.
Malti Devi W/o Mahapurush, Maksiapur, Mahabir Sthan,	₹ 42,33,744.58 as on 10.01.2024 together with future interest & charges from 11.01.2024	All that part and parcel of landed property situated at Mauza-Maksiapur, Thana-Kasim Bazar, Munger, Sale Deed No-1627, Dated-22.05.2007, Taazi No- 414, Jamabandi No-295/298, Khesra No-255, Sheet No-2, Holding No-496 (Old) / 534 (New), Area-1.65 Decimal in the Name of Malti Devi. Boundries: North- Aradhna Sinha, South- Shashikala Devi, East- Govt. Toilet, West- 10' Municipal Path	₹ 20.07,000/- 2,00,700/- 10,000/-
Conditions of the Sale, Please refer to the link provided in www.canarabank.com/ or www.ebkray.in			
			Authorized Officer Canara Bank

whereas,

The undersigned being the authorized officer of the **BANK OF INDIA, Patna Zone** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **04.08.2024** as detailed in the table hereunder writing calling upon the below mentioned borrower/s and/or guarantor/s to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned against their names in the table, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s mentioned below having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and/or guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against the respective property.

The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF INDIA, Phulwari Sharif Branch, Patna** for an amount shown in the respective column of the table and interest thereon.

The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

No.	Name of Borrower	i. Branch ii. Date & Amount as per notice u/s 13(2)	Description of the immovable property	Date of Possession of Assets
1.	Smt. Reena Devi	1. Phulwari Sharif Branch, Patna 2. 04.08.2024 & ₹21,56,609.39 + Intt.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Mauza- Saidpura, Pargana-Phulwarisharif, P.S- Danapur, Sub-registry	19.10.2024
office-Danapur, Sadar Registry office and District- Patna, Thana No-51, Tazui No. 5734, Khata No. 0279, Khasra No. 1125(P) Patna, Bihar-801505 having deed no. 31062 dated 29-12-2010 Bounded: On the North by- 15 ft wide road, On the South by- 15 ft wide road, On the East by- 15 ft wide road, On the West by- Plot No. 1125(P) Sri Rajvir Rai.				

Place : Patna
Date : 19.10.2024

Authorized Officer
Bank of India



केनरा बैंक
भारत सरकार का उपकारण



Syndicate

Canara Bank
A Govt. of India Undertaking

Recovery & Legal Section, Regional Office, 4th Floor, Luv Kush Tower, Exhibition Road, Patna-800001
Ph: 0612-2320041, Email- recropat@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Issued u/s 13(2) securitization and Reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with rule 3 (1) of the security interest (Enforcement) rules, 2002. The Caption Notice was Served Upon, M/s. Brj Kishore And Sons, Represented by its Proprietor **Mr. Brj Kishor Singh, S/o Ramavatar Singh (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrowers")** by the undersigned being the authorised officer of Canara Bank in exercise of powers conferred u/s 13(2) read with rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) rules, 2002 to the Borrower(s)/ Mortgageor(s)/Guarantor(s) listed under here calling upon them to repay the amount mention in respective Demand notice(s) within 60 days from the date of respective notice as per the details given below as the accounts have been classified as **"Non performing assets"** as on **28.09.2024** copies of such notice(s) is/ are available with the undersigned on any working day during normal working hours. For due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged/hypothecated with Canara Bank by the Borrower(s) Guarantor(s). If the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) fail to make payment to the bank as aforesaid, the bank shall proceed against the above secured assets under section 13(4) of the said act and the applicable rules entirely at is/are prohibited under the act to transfer the aforesaid assets whether by way of Sale, Lease or otherwise without prior written consent of the bank. Any person who Contravenes the said Act or rules made there under shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act. The notice is issued without prejudice to our rights and remedies at your risk and costs.

Name of Account/ Borrower/s/Guarantor/s and Name of Branch	(A) Date of Demand Notice (B) Total outstanding as on 30.09.2024
Mr. Brj Kishor Singh, S/o Ramavatar Singh, No. 53, Jyoti Nagar Road, Jai Mahavir Colony, Bahadurpur, Patna – 800 006.	(A) 01.10.2024 (B) Rs. 25,27,261.88/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Sixty One and paise Eighty Eight only), together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs
M/s. Brj Kishore And Sons, represented by its Proprietor Mr. Brj Kishor Singh, Holding No 42116 Ward No 47 Circle No 54, Jai Mahavir Colony, Road No 1, Mahendru, Patna – 800 006	
Mrs. Nilam Devi W/o Mr. Brj Kishore Singh M/s Brj Kishore And Sons, Shop No-15/P, Bazar Samiti, Musallahpur Hat, Patna – 800006.	
Also at No. 53, Jyoti Nagar Road, Jai Mahavir Colony, Bahadurpur, Patna – 800 006.	
BRANCH-PATNA AGAM KUAN	

Details of Security assets mortgaged to Bank

All that piece and parcel of Residential building situated at Mauza-Sandaulpur, P.S – Sultangay, District – Patna, Thana no. 11, Tauli no. 40, Khata no. 11, S. Plot no. 285 (Part), Sub Plot no. 111 (Part), Block no. E, Sub Registry Office – Patna City, District Registry Office - Patna, Area – 351 Sq. Ft

Boundary: North – Society plot No. 112, **South –** Self Vendor now purchaser, Smt. Nisha Pandey W/o Upendra Kumar Pandey, **East –** 18 feet wide Samiti Road, **West –** Self Vendor now purchaser Sri Amarnath Prasad Jaiswal S/o Late Hari Lal Jaiswal

Name of title holder- Mrs. Neelam Devi W/o. Mr. Brj Kishore Singh

DATE- 01.10.2024
PLACE – Patna

AUTHORISED OFFICER
CANARA BANK



बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Bank of India



Asset Recovery Department,
Gaya Zone

STAR MEGA E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

E Auction sale notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the securitization and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest act 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Notice is hereby given to public in general & in particular to following Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) that the below mentioned Immovable properties mortgaged/hypothecated to bank of India (Secured Creditor), the **symbolic possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized officer of Bank of India will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"**, **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** for recovery of respective dues as detailed hereunder against the secured assets Hypothecated/Mortgaged to Bank of India from the respective borrower(s)/Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit is shown there against each secured assets. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided hereunder.

DATE & TIME of Action: 09.12.2024 between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM (With auto extensions clause in case of bid in last 10 minutes before closing) (in lakh)

Sr No	Name of the borrower/Guarantor or Owner/Partner/ Mortgagor of the Property	Lot No	Details of Immovable properties to be sold	Details of banks dues	Possession	Minimum Reserve Price in lakhs	EMD in lakhs	Date & Time of E Auction
BANK OF INDIA, BARBIGHA BRANCH, DIST. SHEIKHPURA Authorized Officer: Mr. Dilip Kumar Thakur, Chief Manager, Zonal Office, Gaya, Mobile No. 9430511907								
1	Mr. SHRI HIMANSHU KUMAR	1	Khata no 17, Khesra no 95 (P) Touzi No 239, Thana no 33, Mouza Gangachach, Ward No 16, P.S- Barbigha, Dist-Sheikhpura, area of land 5.25 Decimal, Deed no 2637 of 17.05.2017. (Property owned by Co-borrower Smt Manisha Kumari.	Contractual Dues: Rs. 16.79 lakhs plus uncharged interest and other applicable charges from the date of NPA i.e. 29.07.2023	Symbolic	34.62	3.47	9th Dec 2024 From 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF E Auctions are as under:

1. E Auctioning is being held on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' and 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS' and will be conducted online.

2. For downloading further details, process compliance, terms & Conditions please visit

a) <https://bankofindia.co.in> b) Website address of E Auction service provider is: <https://ebkray.in> Bidder may visit <https://ebkray.in> where guidelines for bidders are available with educational videos. Bidders have to complete following formalities well in advance in order to participate in E Auction.

Step-1: Bidder Registration-Bidder to register on E Auction platform (link given above) using his mobile number and Email ID.

Step-2: KYC Verification-Bidder to upload requisite KYC Documents. KYC documents shall be verified by the E Auction service provider.

Step-3: Transfer of EMD amount to bid Global EMD wallet: On-line/Off-line transfer of fund using NEFT/Transfer using challan generated on E Auction platform.

Step-4: Bidding Process & Auction Results: Interested bidders can bid online on E Auction platform after completing Step 1, 2 & 3. Please note that Step 1 to 3 should be completed by the bidder well in advance, before E Auction date.

3. To the best of knowledge & information of the authorized officer, there is no encumbrance on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrance, title of properties put for E-Auction and claims/rights/dues affecting the property prior to submitting their bid. The E Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to bank. The Authorized Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for third party claims/rights/dues. No claim of whatsoever nature will be entertained after submission of On-line bid regarding properties put for sale. 4. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The bidder inspect the property in consultation with the dealing official as per the details provided. **Date of Inspection of Immovable Properties: 24.10.2024 to 08.12.2024 from 11.00 AM to 4:00 PM** with prior appointment with above mentioned respective branches on the contact numbers given against respective branches. 5. Bids shall be submitted through online procedure only. 6. Bidders shall be deemed to have read & understood the terms & conditions of sale & be bound by them. 7. The bid price to be submitted shall be above the Reserve Price & bidders shall improve their further offers in multiples of Rs.10,000/- (Rs. Ten Thousand only). 8. The Earnest Monet Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and EMD of the unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. 9. The Earnest Monet Deposit (EMD) shall not bear any interest. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price inclusive of EMD already paid, immediately upon same day or next working day as the case may be. The balance of the purchase price shall have to be paid within 15 days of acceptance / confirmation of sale conveyed to them failing which Bank is at liberty to forfeit the amount deposited by the successful bidder. 10. Neither the Authorized Officer/ Bank nor E Auction service provider will be held responsible for any Internet Network Problem/ Power failure any other technical lapses etc. In order to ward off such contingent situation the interested bidders are requested to ensure that they are technically well equipped with adequate power back up etc. for successful participation in E Auction event. 11. Payment of sale consideration by the successful bidder to the bank will be subject to TDS under Section 194-1A of Income Tax Act 1961 and TDS is to be made by the successful bidder only at the time of deposit of remaining 75 % of the bid amount/full deposit of BID amount. The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties, registration charges and other incidental charges and also the statutory and non-statutory dues, taxes, assessments etc. 12. The Authorized Officer/bank has the absolute right & discretion to accept or reject any or all offers or adjourn/postpone/ cancel the E Auction or withdraw any property thereof from the auction proceedings at any stage without assigning any reason therefor. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 13. The sale certificate will be issued in the name of purchaser(s)/applicant(s) only and will not be issued in any other name(s). 14. The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. For further details / enquiries, if any, of the terms and conditions of sale, can be obtained from the respective branches on the contact numbers given. 15. While inspecting the properties, preventive measures such as social distancing, compulsory wearing of mask at places of social gatherings and all other rules prescribed by State & Central administration must be followed to contain the spread of COVID19 pandemic. 16. For the properties where symbolic possession is taken and put for E Auction, actual possession of the properties will be handed over to successful bidders strictly after obtaining permission for physical possession from district magistrate.

SALE NOTICE TO BORROWERS/GUARANTORS

This Notice is also to be treated as Statutory sale notice to borrower and Guarantor (L/Rs) Under Rules 8(2) Security Interest (Enforcement), Rule 2002.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of India is having full powers to issue this notice of sale and exercise all powers of sale under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the Rules framed there under. You have committed default in payment of the outstanding dues and interest with monthly rests, costs and charges etc. in respect of the advances granted by the bank mentioned above. Hence the bank has issued a Demand Notice to all of you under notice 13(2) to pay the above mentioned amount within 60 days. You have failed to pay the amount even after the expiry of 60 days. Therefore the Authorized Officer, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4), took symbolic/physical possession of the secured assets, more particularly described in the schedule mentioned above. Notice is hereby given to you to pay the sum as mentioned above before the date fixed for sale, failing which the immovable properties will be sold and balance due, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost from you. Please note that all expenses pertaining to demand notice, taking possession, valuation and sale etc. shall be first deducted from the sale proceeds, which may be realized by the undersigned and the balance of the sale proceeds will be appropriated towards your liability as aforesaid. You are also at liberty to participate in the sale to be held on the terms and conditions thereof including deposit of earnest money or may bring suitable buyers.

Date- 23.10.2024

**Authorised officer
Bank of India**

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Anusuya Bal W/o Prafulla Kumar Bal R/o Flat No.-2091, Tower-5, Mahagun Mywoods, Gaur City-2, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, U.P.-201318 have changed my name to ANUSUYA NAYAK for all future purposes. 0070931402-1

I, Anil Kumar S/o Jyoti Parshad, R/o-H.No.12,Ward-No.31, New Friends Colony, Panipat, Haryana,have changed my name to Anil Kumar Aggarwal,for all future purposes 0040755398-1

I, Abdul Hannan Ansari S/o Abdul Rehman R/o H.No.22-A/1, G/F, Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi-110013 have changed my name to Abdul Hannan, for all purposes. 0040755411-1

I S KOMALA KUMARI mother of VINOD KIRAN S resident of Kzhakka/Vilakom Chanthavila Thiruvananthapuram-695584,Have changed my name S KOMALA KUMARI to KOMALAKUMARI S vide Affidavit dtd 21 Oct 24 0070931360-1

I Pawan Kumar Chaudhary C/o Baldeo Narayan Choudhary R/o Flat No-P 1002, Jaipuria Sunrise Greens, Ahinsa Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201014. I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME from Pawan Kumar Chaudhary to Pawan Kumar Choudhary, 0040755431-1

I MANOJ KUMAR S/O VEDRAM SINGH R/O A2/203-A PHASE 5 STREET NO 10 AYA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-47 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANJAY KUMAR. 0070931366-1

I Ajay Agrawal /Ajay Agarwal S/o-Late Sh. Ramkaran Lal Agrawal R/o-BH-105-106 (West) Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088 have changed my name to Ajay Kumar Agrawal for all purposes. 0040755406-1

I Poonam Singh W/O, Vijender Kumar Kundu R/o R/o 9/204, Beverly Park, Jaypee Cghs Ltd, Plot No.2 Sector-22, Dwarka, South West Delhi Pin:110077, Delhi, India have changed my name to Poonam Singh Kundu. 0040755415-1

I, Shivali Wason D/o Vinod Kumar R/o H.No.-3, Block-14, Geeta Colony, East Delhi-110031 have changed my name to SHIVALI DHAWAN for all future purposes. 0070931400-1

I, ANAS S/O MOHD YASEEN residing at H No. 1, Gali No. 1,Old Mustafabad Delhi- 110094, have changed my Father's name YASIN MALIK to MOHD YASEEN 0050253006-1

I,hitherto known as Shah Faisal, S/O Mohd Akil, R/O,H.No-343,Kabir Basti,OLS Subzi Mandi, Malka Ganj, Delhi-110007, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Danish Qureshi. 0040755457-8

I,Zahid Husein, S/o Lal Mohd,R/o H.No.-1358,Gali.No.-15,Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Mustafabad, Delhi-110094,have changed my name to Jahid,for all,future purposes. 0040755457-7

I,Usha Toda,W/O Pratap Todd,House,no-B-6 G-3 DLF Dilshad Extension-2, Sahibabad Ghaziabad-201005,Have changed my Name to USHA TODD Permanently 0040755408-4

I,TWINKLE BAUDH,D/O N B GAUTAM,residing at,C5 GAURAV APPARTMENT ,PEXTENSION PATPARGANJ, DELHI-110092,have changed my name to TWINKLE BAUDDH,for all,future purpose. 0040755408-2

I,TUSHAR,S/O BREHAM PRAKASH R/O RZ 723 PURAN NAGAR,STREET NO.2,PALAM COLONY,NEW DELHI-110045 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TUSHAR KUMAR. 0040755124-11

I,Sushil Kumar Tiwari,S/O-Shri Shiv Mohan Tiwari R/O-B-47,Rampuri Post Office, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011,have changed my name to Sushil Tiwari. 0040755506-1

I,Surjeet Kaur W/o-Davinder Singh Sahni,R/o-2157/B-2,S.F.Guru Arjun-Nagar Shadipur Patel-Nagar Delhi-8,changed my name to Surjit Kaur Sahni,permanently. 0040755416-7

I,Suraj Ruhela,S/o-Ramesh Ruhela, H.No-327,main-Road,Krishna colony-20 Feet,Road sehatpur amarnagar Faridabad, Haryana-121003.Changed my name to Suraj. 0040755408-6

I,Sunita Sahni W/o-Gurvinder Singh Sahni,R/o-2157/B-2-S.F. Guru Arjun-Nagar Shadipur Patel-Nagar Delhi-8,changed my name to Sunita Kaur Sahni,permanently. 0040755416-6

I,Shubhank,S/o Rakesh Upadhyaya,R/o WZ 447,Basai Dara Pur,West Delhi-110015, have changed my to Shubhank Upadhyay. 0040755507-4

I, Mohammad Shoyeb Father of Fatima Zainab Khan R/o Flat No.1, Plot No. 193, Sakshi Khand 2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P. 201010 have changed my daughter's name from Zainab Khan to Fatima Zainab Khan for all Future Purposes. 0040755407-1

I,Seema Agarwal,W/O Deepak Gupta R/O,B.301Ashoka park lane New Friends colony,Delhi-110025,Have changed my name to Seema Gupta,for all purposes 0040755416-3

I,SHAMLAL S/O DESH RAM,RESIDENT-237/1,WARD NO-1,DHOBIWARA,JATWARA,SONIPAT,HARYANA,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHYAM LAL. 0040755438-1

I,Rejitha w/o-Deepak Kumar S. Presently, residing at, H.No.37A Marut Camp,Air-Force Station,New Delhi-1,Race courses, New Delhi-110003 have changed my name,from Rejitha to Rejitha Muraaleedharan, vide-affidavit, dated-23-Oct-24. 0040755438-10

I,Reena,W/o-Shashwat Kumar, Address-H-21, DGS Plot.no-6 sector-22 Dwarka, Delhi-110077, changed my name to Reena Girdhar 0040755416-4

I,Rajneesh Gambhir,S/o Hari Chand Gambhir,R/o Flat.No-33, Manocha Apartments-F-Block, Vikaspuri,Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Rajnish Gambhir. 0040755506-3

I,Rajesh Kumar S/o Madan Lal R/o 191A, New Layalpur, Chander Nagar,East Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Rajesh Bhola. 0040755507-7

I,ROHIT KUMAR SINGH S/O-JAGDISH PRASAD SINGH, R/O-1A,OMDA,RAJA LANE,TANGRA KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL-700015,have changed my,wife's from Laxmi pun to Laxmi Singh for all,future purpose. 0040755506-4

I,RAJNEESH KUMAR SINGH, S/O, PAVNENDRA KUMAR RAJPUT,R/O-PLOT NO-401,SF-11,NEAR SWAHN JAYANTI PARK,NITI-KHAND-1, INDIRAPURAM,UTTAR PRADESH-201014,have changed my name to RAJNIISH KUMAR SINGH. 0040755408-9

I,RAJESH,S/O,SHRI RAM RANG, R/O,HOUSE NUMBER-1385- 2nd FLOOR,DR MUKHERJEE-NAGAR,DELHI-110009,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJESH KUMAR (05/05/1969)PERMANENTLY. 0040755457-1

I,Preeti Ahlawat W/o Kartikeya Sharma R/o B-66, Mitra Enclave, P-7, Greater Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Preeti Sharma for all purposes. 0040755410-1

I,Pratap Toda,S/O Peter Paul Todd,House,no-B-6 G-3 DLF Dilshad Extension-2,apSahibabad Ghaziabad-201005,have changed my Name to PRATAP TODD Permanently. 0040755408-3

I,Prasad Akshay Baban,S/o Baban Prasad, R/o, No.502A, Near Balka Chowk, PO:Aya Nagar DIST: South,Delhi-110047,have change my name to Akshay Baban Prasad,for all purpose 0040755507-2

I,Nitu Kumar,W/o-Kamlesh kumar, Add, Flat.no.492,The-Excellence Apartment,Seth-Vijay CGHS LTD,Plot.No.4, Sector-18A,PO Dwarka,District South West Delhi, Delhi-110075.Changed my name to Nitu Maan. 0040755408-7

I,NEHA GEORGE DASS,W/O MANISH DASS,R/O-FLAT, NO-54-E, SECOND-FLOOR BLOCK-LP, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034,have changed my name to NEHA GEORGE. 0040755506-8

I,N SIVA SANKARA REDDY, Presently,residing at, H.No.98/62,Village-Bugga Aghraharn,Mamilla Palli post, Chintakomma Dinne,Distt. Cuddapah,Andhra Pradesh-516003,have changed my minor daughter's name from Nagi Reddy Pravasthi to Nagireddy Pravasthi, vide-affidavit dated, 23-Oct-24. 0040755438-11

I,Mohd Gufran,S/o Mohammad Faruque,R/o A-567, KrishnaBasti, Amar Puri,Pahar Ganj,Delhi-110055,have changed my name to GUFRAN. 0040755506-6

I,Mohd Arif S/o Jahid R/o E-2-1180,Gali No.-18/2,Chand Masjid,Nehru Vihar,Delhi-110094,have changed my name to Arif,for all,future purposes. 0040755457-6

I,Mahaveer S/o Raghuvir Sharma R/o,H.No-1627, Sector-55 Ballabgarh Faridabad-121004,Have Changed My Name To Mahavir Sharma,For Future. 0040755416-1

I,MOHAMMAD SHAIK,S/O SAEED AHMED,residing at,C-1/76,RAJU PARK, KHANPUR,DEVIL-ROD, DELHI-110062,have changed my name to MOHD SHAIK,for all,future purpose. 0040755408-5

I,MEENA DEVI VERMA, W/O, DHARAM DASS VERMA, R/O- PLOT.NO-116,BLOCK-G,SECTOR-41,NOIDA,GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR,UTTAR PRADESH-201303,have changed my name to MEENA VERMA. 0040755408-8

I,MD.Tarique Anwar,S/o MD.Zahir Uddin,R/o-168, Swayam Sidha Colony,West Punjabi Bagh Colony, West,Delhi-110026,have changed my name to MD.Tarique Anwer,for all purposes. 0040755457-5

I,RIZWAN BAIG, S/o JAMAL BAIG, R/o 6196, Kuchaj Shiv Mandir Katra Baryan, Masjid Fateh Puri, Delhi-110006 have changed my minor son's name from TABIL MIRZA to TALIB MIRZA for all future purposes. 0040755409-1

I,Aashna,D/o Satbir Singh,R/o E-12 Second-Floor Jawahar-Park Khanpur Delhi-110080,Have Changed My Name To Aashna Kaur,For Future. 0040755416-2

I,MADHUR KUMAR JAIN,S/O RAKESH JAIN,1/918 FIRST FLOOR-B-1,SECTOR-1 VASUNDHRA,Ghaziabad 201012,Have Changed my name to MADHUR JAIN,for all,future purposes. 00407555400-1

I,Komal Kumari,W/o Arjun Manchanda,h.no-202,Vaishali, Pitampura,Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Komal Kumar Manchanda,for all purpose 0040755438-2

I,Jasbir Singh,S/o Kartar Singh R/o 913, Pana Mojhan, Bawana, Delhi-110039,have changed my Name to Jasbir Singh Sehrawat. 0040755507-5

I,Jahanvi D/o Vipin Kumar Rajpal R/O H.No.914,Sector-7,Extn., Gurgaon(Haryana), have changed my name to Jahanvi Rajpal,for all purposes. 0040755507-3

I,JASWINDER SINGH BVMRAN,S/O PURAN SINGH,R/O A-106,FATEH NAGAR,Delhi-110018,Have Changed My Name JASWINDER SINGH Permanently. 0040755506-2

I,HEMA,W/O,RAJESH,R/O.HOUS E NUMBER-1385,-2nd FLOOR,DR MUKHERJEE-NAGAR,DELHI-110009,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HEMA ARORA (19/7/1974), PERMANENTLY 0040755457-2

I,Gagandeep Kaur Dhanjal, W/o-Ravinder Singh, address- A/7,plot.no-27,Vishnu garden-mangal bazaar road,Delhi 110018,changed my name to Gagandeep Kaur. 0040755457-4

I,Beant Lal S/o Manavrar Chand,R/o 19/20-B,Tilak Nagar,New Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Baint Lal. 0040755457-3

I,Deepak Kumar S, Presently, residing at,H.No.37A Marut Camp,Air-Force Station New-Delhi,Race courses, New Delhi-110003,have changed my daughter's name from Punya to Punya R vide affidavit dated 23 Oct 24. 0040755438-9

I,Davinder Singh,S/o-Balwant Singh Sahni,R/o-2157/B-2-S.F. Guru Arjun-Nagar Shadipur Patel Nagar, Delhi-8,changed my name to Davinder Singh Sahni,permanently. 0040755416-5

I,DIPAK KUMAR,S/O, DHIRENDRA KUMAR R/O- HOUSE NO-80,WARD NO-19, NARAD WALI GALI, NEW DEFENCE COLONY, MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD,UTTAR PRADESH-201206have changed my name to DEEPAK KUMAR. 0040755408-1

I,Anju Anjileena Arora,W/o-Ashok Kumar Duni chand Arora,Address- 109,Nehru-Apartments kalkaji Delhi-110019,changed my name to Anju Arora. 0040755408-10

I,Afsar Salahuddin,S/o,Haji Mohammad Din,R/o,6299,Gali Marwari,Nawab Road,Quresh Nagar,Sadar Bazar,Delhi-110006,have changed my name to SALAHUDDIN. 0040755506-5

I,Aditya Kumar,S/o Amarnath Ojha,R/o,H.No.406,Bali Nagar, Palwal,(Haryana)-121102,have changed my name to Aditya Kumar Ojha. 0040755507-6

I,ANWAR AHMAD,S/O ABDUL KHAIRAT,R/O-Z-21-B,DDA FLAT NEW-RANJEET NAGAR,PATEL NAGAR, DELHI-110008,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANWAR AHMED. 0040755506-7

I,hitherto known as ANITA PANDEY ALIAS SUNEETA W/O SHRIOM PANDEY R/O HOUSE NO-D-145 GALI NO -12 GARDHI EXTENSION, D-BLOCK GARHI MENDU BHAJAN PURA, DELHI-110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANITA PANDEY. 0070931415-1

I, Tarlok Singh Bhatia S/O Jai Singh, R/O Porerty No- 40/52, Chittranjan Park, Kalkaji, South Delhi-110019, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Tarlok Singh. 0070931367-1

I, Sumaiya Ansari W/o Abdul Hannan R/o H.No.22-A/1, G/F, Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi-110013 have changed my name to Sumaiya, for all purposes. 0040755411-2

I, Shailender S/O, Kailash Chandra Tyagi R/O D 2/50, Pandara Road, New Delhi have changed my name to Shailendra Tyagi for all purposes. 0040755414-1

I, Shadma Parveen D/o Syed Nazir Ali R/o F-104/1, Fourth Floor, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110025 have changed my name from Shadma Parveen to Harshita for all future purposes. 0040755405-1

I, Saffina Bano, W/O Manudeen R/O RZ- 605, 2nd Floor, B/S Gali No-21, Tughlakabad Extension, Kalkaji South Delhi, Delhi-110019. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Saffina Begum 0070931369-1

I, SHER SINGH BHORIA S/O RAMJI LAL BHORIA R/O D-31, GALT NO. 48, MAHAVIR ENCLAVE PART-3, DELHI- 110059 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SHER SINGH BHOARDIA in my P.P.O. No. 08/14/B/11808/1989. The actual name of mine is SHER SINGH BHORIA. 0070931419-1

I, Lalit Kumar S/o Late Sh.Madan Lal Wadhwa,R/o-House.No.V32. Second-Floor,Rajouri Garden,Janta-Market,New Delhi-110027,do hereby inform that my actual name is Lalit kumar Lalit Kumar and Lalit kumar Wadhwa one and the same person. 0040755398-3

I, Nishant S/o, Attar Singh R/o M-68, 3rd Floor, Srinivas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Nishant Verma for all purposes. 00407555400-1

I, LAXMI W/o Khem Chand R/O RZ-304, Braham Puri, Pankha Road, Delhi-110046, informs that my name wrongly mentioned as MAYA instead of LAXMI in my mother's Saving Account No. 1159149001. LAXMI and MAYA both are one and the same person. 0040755518-1

I, Jagat Singh S/o Narayan Singh R/o Flat No.16098, Tower-M, 16th Avenue, Gaur City-2, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, U.P.-201318 have changed my name to JAGAT SINGH NEGI for all future purposes. 0070931405-1

I, HARLEEN KAUR W/O SANDIP SINGH TUGGER RESIDENT OF H-306, AJNARA DAFFODIL, SECTOR-137, NOIDA, DISTT-GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, U.P.-201305 have change my name to HARLEEN KAUR WADHWA for all purposes. 0070931448-1

I, Deepak S/o Shri Preetam Singh, R/O G-641-C, Bihari Chowk, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Deepak Singh for all purposes. 0040755399-1

I, Arjun Tiwari S/o Ramapati Mangal Tiwari, R/o-Plot.No.207, Flat-No.201, Rajshri-Apartment Kansai Section Ambarnath East-Thane, Maharashtra-421501,have changed my name to Arjun Ramapati Tiwari, Permanently. 0040755398-2

LOST & FOUND

I Chetan upadhyay have lost my Original Marks Sheet of H5 year (2011) Roll no. 05255065 of matriculation from UP Board. If Found Please Contact : 9871378063 0050252987-1

I Meena Rani Gupta W/O S.V.Gupta lost my original Educational Certificates. Service and Pension records, Allotment and Possession letter of my Property Number CD-110 Ansal East End Tronica City Gaziabad 201103 or the same are destroyed in Flood. 0130046029-1

I,Amit Taneja,S/o J.M Taneja,resident of, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi,have lost SL/C Matriculation Certificate & Marksheet of D.N School, Digwadih, Dhanbad.IN case found kindly contact- 9436641427. 0040755506-10

TRAVELS

HOTEL & RESORTS

Mahableshwar, Panchgani, Beautiful jungle resort,swimming pool, NatureLovers Luxury cottages, complete resort 15/17 people, on rent monthly 1.5Lac/ Daily 15000 with breakfast, Pune Amanorapark, Available 5BHK Bunglow FF With Beautifully Garden, Daily monthly basis The house of Venkateshwara9011222034, 9970179241. 0090360733-2

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Harkesh Sharma has approached ICICI Bank Ltd., Rohini, Delhi (Bank) to avail a loan for purchase of Property No. K-17/7, (150 sq. yds.), DLF Qutab Enclave, Phase-II, Gurugram, Haryana, from Mr. Musthaph Ahmed & Mrs. Saleema Beg who have represented that they are the absolute owners of the said property on the basis of Sale Deed dated 07.05.1996 (Reg. no. 1563). Prior char Original Sale Deed dated 28.03.1996 executed by M/s. Apollo Land & Housing Company Ltd & M/s DLF Universal Ltd in favour of Mr. Kim Cheung Lee (Reg. No. 21298) has been misplaced/lost and FIR bearing LR no.: 2232938/2024 has been lodged with P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi in this regard. If anybody, person, body corporate has any right, lien or claim whatsoever on the said Property on the basis of lost documents or otherwise, then he/she/it may contact the undersigned with documentary proof of claim within 07 days of publication of this notice, otherwise it shall be deemed that either there are no claims or the same have been waived off. No claim or objection shall be entertained thereafter and Bank shall proceed to advance the loan by mortgaging the said property.

Amit Kumar, Advocate GNA & Associates D-28, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014.

Be it known that my clients Smt. Baljeet Kaur W/o Late Harbhajan Singh R/o Ka. No. 9/10, Gali No.5, Sindhi Colony, Swaraspur Nagar, Near Bhardwaj Motor Viala, Delhi-110042, have disowned/debarred and severed all her relations with their sons and daughter in law namely Margaret Singh & his wife Smt. Rasmheet Kaur, Anupreet Singh & his wife Harjinder Kaur, and Parangmeet Singh & his wife Margaret Kaur, declared them from her movable and immovable properties/assets due to misconduct and hostile misbehavior. My client shall not be responsible for any act/deeds in civil and criminal activity of them in future.

D.K. Mishra (Advocate) X-35, Civil Wing, Ta Hazari Courts Delhi.

General public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Gyanesh Kumar Maheshwari S/o Shri Nareesh Kumar Maheshwari R/o 74, old Tejab Mill, Gali No.3, Bholi, Near Nagar, Shalabadi, Delhi-110012 intend to purchase the property No. K-9, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds. out of entire area 160 Sqyds. Khazna No.5616, Village Khazuri, Khazur Nagar, Delhi-110092. Any person or persons having any right, title or interest way way of inheritance or claim against the said property should send their claim in writing to the undersigned alongwith the documentation duly evidence in support of the said claim either within 07 days of publication of the said notice, failing which claims it shall be deemed to have been waived.

Sarbjit Singh, Son of Late Sh. Ganda Ram and his wife Madhubala both R/o 29-B, First Floor, Bhagwan Nagar, Ashram, New Delhi-110014 have severed all relations with their son Gaur Kumar and daughter-in-law Rachna and their son Hridhans Kumar. My clients disowned them from all their movable and immovable property due to their misbehaviour. My clients will not be responsible for any of their actions or transactions in future.

Sd/- Shekhar Jain Advocate Chamber No. 580 Saket Court New Delhi-110017

Enrl. No. D/23/25/2004

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I POOJA BHALLA D/O RAMESH CHANDER BHALLA Ex. Wife of RAVINDER SINGH R/O I-155, ALPHA-2, NEAR GATE NO-8, GREATER NOIDA, RAMPUR JAGIR, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201306 declare that I got divorce from my husband vide Court Decree No. HMA No. 677/2017 dated 24-4-2018 Further I have changed the name of my minor son namely RAKSHANDEEP SINGH alias DISHANT BHALLA aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as RAKSHANDEEP BHALLA.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system.

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1	092241222	BACK STOP (BG.)	3120 NOS	18.11.24
2	092241875	ESTI PROTECTION SWITCH WITH CARTRIDGE	887 NOS	18.11.24
3	07241454	SCREW COUPLING ASSEMBLY	954 NOS	19.11.24
4	07240336	IMPROVED HIGH TENSILE TIGHT LOCK CENTRE BUFFER COUPLER WITH AAR H TYPE	777 NOS	19.11.24
5	77249065	RUNNING CONTRACT FOR DIAMOND & SCISSORS CROSSINGS	275 SET	20.11.24
6	09242220	DISTRIBUTOR VALVE INCLUDING ADAPTOR WITH ISOLATING COCK.	517 NOS	25.11.24
7	15245130	CUSTOMIZED HYDRAULIC RE-RAILING EQUIPMENT	02 SET	25.11.24

Note:1). Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice No. 65/2024-2025 Dated: 23/10/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3286/24

Government of India,

Ministry of Home Affairs

Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India

First Floor, East Wing, Shivaji Stadium, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001

NOTICE FOR DISPOSAL OF ENEMY PROPERTIES

THROUGH E-AUCTION

The office of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI) is a Statutory Authority under the provisions of the Enemy Property Act, 1968. The Head Office is at Delhi with Branch Offices at Mumbai, Kolkata and Lucknow.

21th E-AUCTION

The Office of CEPI is undertaking E-Auction of 43 Enemy Properties located in Lucknow, Barabanki, Districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Details of properties and other conditions/details are available on:-

https://enemyproperty.mha.gov.in

https://www.mstcindia.co.in/TenderEntry/Lot_Item_Details_AucD.asp?ARID=462522

The details can be downloaded/viewed from above websites / by scanning QR Code. The E-Auction notice/inspection period is from 14.10.2024 till 04.11.2024. The E-Auction will take place on 05.11.2024 from 11.00 Hrs to 16.00 Hrs. All interested persons are advised to see Amendments/Changes in the Bid Document, if any, which will be uploaded on the website.

CBIC-19148/11/0003/2425

Date and Time of E-Auction 05.11.2024 11:00 Hrs. to 16:00 Hrs.

05.11.2024 11:00 Hrs. to 16:00 Hrs.

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05.11.2024 11:00 Hrs. to 16:00 Hrs.

epaper.indianexpress.com



INSTA-WORTHY PHOTO OP

Virat Kohli poses for a picture with young cricketers at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium on Wednesday ahead of the second Test against New Zealand. Arul Horizon

The Great Wrecker

Kiwis realise regardless of Pune pitch unfolding as turner or a non-turner, Bumrah looms as biggest nemesis

SANDIP G

PUNE, OCTOBER 23

MIDWAY THROUGH their practice session on Wednesday, some of New Zealand's batsmen gestured their throw-down specialist to fling the ball from a more side-arm angle. "A little lower, a little lower, that side..." one of them instructed. But the burly specialist's faithful attempts to reproduce the whip-crack action of Jasprit Bumrah manifested as wild, wide balls that pitched halfway down the pitch.

The side-arm comedy revealed that even on a potential turner, where India's gang of spinners daunt, New Zealand batsmen are fearful of Bumrah too. Be the Pune strip unfold as a turner, semi-turner, or a non-turner, Bumrah looms and lurks, as inevitably as the cycles of the solar system, his capacity to shape the game's destiny immune to the vagaries of weather, pitch and the reputation of the batsmen. Be it with the new ball, old-ball, semi-old or semi-new ball, Bumrah could scythe through batting line-ups in one inspired burst and bend the game's script to his whim. To bounce back from the Bengaluru slip-up, India would hope their blockbuster seamer is stirred and primed. Inversely, Tom Latham and his batting firm would know that to outlast the spinners, they have to survive Bumrah first.

In Bengaluru, the visiting batsmen feared him more than the spinners. Not because the ball swung under clouds, or because the cracks had not yet evolved into craters, but because Bumrah brought something more indefinable—more heart, more heat and more will. In the entire game, only Ravindra Jadeja bowled more balls than him—just four mere bowls, though. No one intimidated as much as Bumrah did. The prospect of an event lurked every ball. He gives the fans not just hope, but he makes them dream.

On the fifth morning, he lbw-ed Tom Latham off his second ball to sow the seeds of a heist. He revved up hostility, bent the ball both ways, seared in off the eight pace run-up as though he would keep bowling throughout



Despite the nature of the Pune pitch, New Zealand's training sessions have been geared towards facing Jasprit Bumrah. Sportzpics

the session. After eight overs of purgatorial fire, New Zealand could breathe. On a luckier day, he would have found more rewards for his out-put—the margins were that fine. Only one third of his Tests have come on home soil, so that he could be conserved for important overseas assignments where his unearthly skills could transform India to a condition-proof beast. But whenever he had been unleashed at home—in 11 mere Tests—he had overshadowed the spinners and conjured match and series-defining concerts of high-class seam bowling. He has snaffled 47 wickets at an average of 15.97, producing a wicket every 34th ball, often strikes that recast games. Look no further than the England series at the start of the year, when India demystified Bazball.

He was the third highest wicket-taker (19), behind Ravi Ashwin (26) and Tom Hartley (22), but played a Test fewer than either. None took wickets as frequently (every 33rd ball), only James Anderson was thrifter (3.09 and 3.06),

and none had the knack of seizing big moments or construing magical balls as Bumrah did. His reverse-swing-aided spell in Visakhapatnam was not only hall of fame stuff, but was a pendulum-swinging moment of the series. A game down, with the first-Test destroyer Ollie Pope batting fluently, the sun panning down, he created a moment he only could. A sinisterly tailing-in yorker that beat the eyes, hands and responses of Pope, flattening in its 89kph-sting two stumps. It's the art of distorting stumps that fascinated a teenaged Bumrah to aim for the skirting boards at home and try not to wake his sleeping mother. It's the art that he is still devoted to.

Subtler and less spectacular was the entrapping of Joe Root, the England talisman. He tied down Root with four dots and then uncorked the killer blow: angled in, seam beautifully upright, jagged away, forced the prod and the outside edge from Root. You don't destroy world-class batsmen as smoothly as that.

BUMRAH'S TEST RECORD

AT HOME

Matches	11
Wickets	47
Average	15.97
Strike Rate	33.8

AWAY FROM HOME

Matches	27
Wickets	126
Average	21.10
Strike Rate	46.2

In Hyderabad, he nailed him with a nip-backer that struck his pads. It's a duel—between the batting and bowling royalty of our times—Bumrah has dominated. In 32 meetings across formats, the India seamer had consumed him 13 times. In the red-hot spell, he devoured Jonny Bairstow with his wits. He set him up with the inswinging-outswing double-bluff. Bairstow reacted by staying inside the line, worried about the inswinger. But Bumrah surprised him with a wide length ball that he couldn't resist poking, and edging.

That six-wicket feat in Visakhapatnam tells you all you want to know about Bumrah's deception. He finds conventional swing and seam movement with the new ball, reverse swing with the old nut. When he can't coax either, he finds just a hint of shape, mixes the angles, manipulates the width of the crease and deploys his cutters and slower balls. His album of slower-ball wickets has a cult-value in itself.

No Indian seamer has had as profound an influence as Bumrah in home conditions. Indeed the likes of Kapil Dev, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami were impenetrable on their days, but few have lived in the opposition batsmen's head as Bumrah had, so as to ask their throw-down specialist to impersonate the impossible act that Bumrah is.

Should Kiwis include Santner or continue with three-pronged seam attack?

SANDIP G

PUNE, OCTOBER 23

MITCHELL SANTNER wore several guises at the nets on Wednesday. First, he was the footballer with a svelte first touch; then he was the plodding left-arm spinner who tied batsmen with precision; in the end he was the free-wheeling batsman who struck half a dozen one-handed sixes. The Pune pitch is expected to turn and the spin-bowling all-rounder is in the selection fray, which revives an old debate. Should the teams searching for a Test win in India pack an extra spinner or stick to their traditional pace-bowling strengths?

History offers little clarity, rather complicates the scenario. Whilst overseas spinners had orchestrated four of India's last five defeats at home, seamers had played titular roles in the last three series defeats of India at home. In the 2012 series, James Anderson's bursts in Kolkata and Mumbai were instrumental in setting up the series, even though spinners Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar claimed more wickets. In 2004, Australia conquered the final frontier with Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Michael Kasprowicz claiming 43 wickets; in 1999, Shaun Pollock and his pace peers collected 29 of the 40 scalps to fashion an unprecedented series win.

Herein is New Zealand's dilemma. To drop a seamer for an extra spinner. If so, who? The three seamers—Matt Henry, Tim Southee and Will O'Rourke—collected 17 scalps in Bengaluru, where the conditions allied with the seamers. But each seamer dutifully showed their value. Rourke's bounce, high release points and movement either ways tormented India's batsmen. Henry brings slippery pace; Southee a century of Test experience and expertise in seaming the ball even in drier conditions, besides batting utility. Removing even one of them could imbalance the team.

Balance disrupted

Take out O'Rourke, they lose the X factor. If dual-bounce kicks, he could be a deadly proposition. Bench Henry and they will be short on pace. Swap Southee for Santner, they become starved of experience in as immense a game as this. The pace-spin switch disrupts the uncomplicated balance of the team too. In Bengaluru, they had three different types of seamers, a specialist spinner, two part-time spinners, seven specialist batsmen and two lower-order hands.

At the same time, New Zealand needs to bolster their spin resources. Ajaz Patel is their only specialist one, the ten-wicket hero in the last tour. He was largely shoddy in Bengaluru, but the conditions were difficult for even the home spinners to make an impact. Glenn Phillips looked the sharpest, even



Mitchell Santner (L) at practice with Michael Bracewell. Sportzpics

CHASING GREATNESS

What Root needs to do to overhaul Tendulkar's Test run aggregate

LALITH KALIDAS

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

JOE ROOT will have to bear with that inevitable question every time he steps out to bat for a considerable period from now, looking to add to his 12,716 runs.

Can he eclipse Sachin Tendulkar to the pinnacle of Test match batting? Is he the man to nudge 15,922, one more than the Indian batting colossus?

Root's compatriot, Alastair Cook, was the last batter to evoke the question. Running 33, Cook had gathered nearly 12,500 runs before abruptly calling it quits in 2018. Building on Cook's consistency in relishing the chunk of Test matches served to England across Future Tours Program (FTP) timelines, Root has taken the Tendulkar pursuit into unfamiliar territory. Cook believes that this 'generational' talent can surpass 16,000. But is it as realistic as it appears?

At 33 years 298 days, around the same time when Cook chose to hang up his boots, Root is galloping past his contemporaries. Over 3,000 runs divide Root and the next-highest active Test run-scorer, Steve Smith

(9,685). In the last two weeks in Multan, he surpassed Cook's tally to become England's highest run-scorer. Before the close of 2024, Root will likely become the fifth batter to reach the 13,000 mark.

Presently, 3,205 runs separate Root from Tendulkar at the top. In only 12 years since debut, Root has played 270 innings, only 59 fewer than Tendulkar's tally in 24 years between 1989 and 2013. That's an average of nearly 22.5 innings per year compared to Tendulkar's 13.7.

But fans can hold their horses for a little longer.

After the third Test in Pakistan, England are slated to play 25 Tests (12 at home, 13 away) by March 2027, offering Root a maximum of 50 innings. He will be 36 by then, and even if he incredibly turns up for every one of these 25 games on the course, Root could still fall short of Tendulkar.

The deficit sounds achievable quicker than in 59 innings at his present zest—he has been averaging 55.80 since 2020, an acceleration compared to his current career average of 51.27. However, Root will still need to maintain and bat above his current career average, in the upcoming phase to get to Tendulkar at

ROOT AND TENDULKAR AFTER 270 INNINGS



S TENDULKAR
INNS: 270
RUNS: 13,341
AVE: 55.35
100: 46
50: 54



J ROOT
INNS: 270
RUNS: 12,716
AVE: 51.27
100: 35
50: 64

TWO PHASES OF JOE ROOT

Span	Mat	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50
2012-'19	89	164	7359	254	48.41	54.37	17	45
2020-present	59	104	5357	262	55.80	61.47	18	19

the same pace as Tendulkar.

Obstacles ahead

In the potential road ahead, Root could play New Zealand twice (home and away), Pakistan again (home in 2026), face Zimbabwe in a Test for the first time in May 2025, and tour South Africa and Bangladesh in late 2026.

Wedged between these are two hefty

challenges – facing India at home and the Ashes tour in November 2025.

Assembling Root's aggregates from the previous edition of each assignment provides 2283 in 44 innings. Repeating the same scales could still hold him 800-1000 runs behind the Indian maestro by early 2027.

The last cycle included an all-timer five-match home series against India in 2021-22, where he amassed 737 runs in five Tests. Root

could be touted to repeat the feat next year, but a decisive contest awaits against India's seam spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has knocked him over nine times in Tests, five of which have come in England.

The Oz question

Root's biggest roadblock in the Tendulkar quest will appear in Australia, the kryptonite botching his claim for a foolproof Test profile. The Yorkshireman averages over 50 in seven of the nine countries where he has played at least five innings. It dips to 45 in India and plunges further down to 35.68 in Australia across three tours and 27 innings. Root only collected 322 in 10 innings in his last tour Down Under and flipping the scales at 34 next year will take some doing.

The most striking aspect of Root 2.0's rejuvenation since 2020 though has been the marked refinement of his poorer away records to reputable standards.

Root only had two fifties in 11 innings against the Kiwis across three tours before recording a double hundred, an unbeaten 153 and 95 in New Zealand in his last five innings. He was unusually silent on England's last trip to Pakistan in 2022 (125 in five innings) but

switched it earlier this month with his highest Test score (261). Sri Lanka and the West Indies have rung similar Root turnarounds, providing the English No. 4 confidence to turn his middling Australia record around.

England's Bazball psyche is unlikely to deter Root from having a proper crack at the record, at his typical tempo at the crease. Even as England's batting run-rate (4.6) has towered above other teams since June 2022, Root's monk-like presence has been integral to the 20 wins they have secured in the period. With his 1923 runs and seven hundreds in wins coming at an appreciable 71.30 strike rate, Root has subtly modified to keep up with his peers and also score the most vital runs for the side.

Despite it all, Root could appear chasing an illusion even as he draws nearer with each passing minute at the crease.

Numbers will take a backseat when India and Australia come firing with the Dukes and the Kookaburra next year. Failures then can put a heavy toll on an ageing run-machine, potentially even leading to retirement.

Should he sap the Indian and Aussie attacks by a protracted stretch, Root will be subject to a dedicated milestone-watch from 2026.

