

IN POSTINGS, VETO EXERCISED BY COLLEGIUM AS WELL: CJI

## Deals are not cut like this (in meetings with Govt)... please trust Judges: CJI

'I have granted bail from A to Z — Arnab to Zubair... that is my philosophy'



Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud in conversation with National Opinion Editor Vandita Mishra and National Legal Editor Apurva Vishwanath at the Express Adda in New Delhi on Monday. Renuka Puri

### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

DIALOGUE BETWEEN the judiciary and the executive, even if some of these exchanges are in social settings, is a routine imperative of the court's functioning, said Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud Monday, as he urged the public to "trust" judges.

"The fact of the matter is, as I said, deals are never cut like this (during such interactions). So please, trust us, we are not

there to cut deals," Justice Chandrachud said.

The 50th Chief Justice of India was the chief guest at the Express Adda held in New Delhi and was in conversation with National Opinion Editor Vandita Mishra and National Legal Editor Apurva Vishwanath.

He was responding to a question on the political context of photographs of the CJI praying with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 11.

"The Prime Minister visited my home for a purely private

event, it was not a public event. Well, I do feel that, you know, there was absolutely nothing wrong for the simple reason that these are continuing meetings between the Judiciary and the Executive, even at a social level," Justice Chandrachud added.

When asked if, looking back, he would have liked to tweak the frame by having other judges or the Leader of the Opposition, Justice Chandrachud said that would have made it a selection committee.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### EXPRESS NETWORK

SC TO RULE TODAY ON UTTAR PRADESH MADRASA ACT

PAGE 5



## Trump or Harris: US votes today in an election most bitter and close



### RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

STEVE HOLLAND & NANDITA BOSE  
RALEIGH, DETROIT, NOV 4

A PRESIDENTIAL election unlike any other in US history entered its last full day on Monday with Donald Trump, Kamala Harris and their campaigns scrambling to get supporters to the polls in a contest each portrays as an existential moment for America.

Even after the astonishing blur of events over the last few months, the electorate is divided down the middle, both nationally and in the seven battleground states expected to decide



Donald Trump at a rally in Macon, Georgia; Kamala Harris at a rally in East Lansing, Michigan. Reuters

the winner on Tuesday, although the closeness of the contest means it could take days for a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS  
PAGES 12, 14



At Thulasendrapuram in July this year, after Kamala Harris's name was proposed for the US presidential race. Express

## In TN, Harris's village awaits results — but not with bated breath

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 4

TWO DAYS before the United States announces its presidential election results, a quiet Tamil Nadu village is observing the run-up with subdued interest. Thulasendrapuram, known as Kamala Harris's ancestral village, lacks the grandeur seen during her previous campaigns — yet there is a subtle curiosity about her potential win.

Her maternal grandfather, P V Gopalan, briefly lived here before moving to Madras (now Chennai) and later to Zambia,

where he worked as a diplomat for the Indian government. Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, grew up mostly outside the village, eventually pursuing higher studies in the US. Despite the limited physical connection, Harris has maintained a fondness for her heritage, woven through stories and memories of her family's activism and resilience.

On Monday, she said in a post on X: "My mother, Dr Shyamala Gopalan Harris, came to the United States from India at 19. She taught me and my sister, Maya, about courage and determination. It is thanks to her that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CLASHES AT TEMPLE IN BRAMPTON

## Pro-Khalistan men target temple; PM to Canada: Cowardly, uphold the law

Indian officials were present at consular camp held with Hindu Sabha Mandir; violence unacceptable: Trudeau

SHUBHAJIT ROY & MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 4

REFERRING TO clashes that erupted Sunday after pro-Khalistan separatists targeted the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton, Ontario, during a visit by Indian consular officials, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday condemned the "deliberate attack on a Hindu temple" and "cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats". He also asked the Canadian government to "ensure justice and uphold the rule of law".

Amid strained ties with Canada, this is the first time that Modi has spoken out publicly since September last year, when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged "potential" involvement of the Indian government in the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

The PM's comments come days after senior Canadian officials alleged that Home Minister Amit Shah was behind the tar-



At the consular camp in Brampton on Sunday. PTI

getting of Khalistan separatists in Canada. India has lodged a protest "in the strongest terms" through diplomatic channels, calling the allegations "absurd and baseless".

While Khalistan separatists have targeted Indians and Indian officials in the past, this is the first time that Modi has spoken out against the acts of violence — underlining the Indian government's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### EXPLAINED Fresh strain in ties

THE INCIDENT has further buttressed India's allegation that Canada is giving a free run to separatists and extremists. While the Nijjar assassination plot has been the major point of discord, such incidents add to the hostility.

## Stormy start for J&K House: PDP moves resolution on Art 370

BASHAARAT MASOOD  
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 4

THE FIRST session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in six years got off to a stormy start on Monday.

"First day, first show," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah remarked after commotion broke out in the first hour of the Assembly session, during which PDP legislator Waheed Para moved a resolution to oppose the 2019 revocation of J&K's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and the reorganisation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories.



J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during Assembly proceedings. Shuaib Masoodi

"This is the weakest Assembly in the history of Jammu and Kashmir..." Para

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### EXPRESS NETWORK



UTTARAKHAND: 36 KILLED AS BUS FALLS INTO GORGE

PAGE 8

### THE CITY

SC TO DELHI GOVT: FIRECRACKER BAN WAS HARDLY IMPLEMENTED

PAGE 4

LAST DAY FOR WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATIONS

## All parties face mixed luck on rebel front, Congress candidate pulls out

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

AT THE end of Monday, the last day of withdrawal of nominations in Maharashtra, all six major political parties in the state were looking at the prospect of rebels, having achieved only partial success in getting them to drop out.

In the multi-corner contest that the state is headed for on November 20, the presence of the rebels and their splitting the votes could prove crucial.

BJP sources expressed confidence about having tackled all the rebels who posed a significant threat, attributing it to rounds of meetings held between Sunday and Monday by top party leaders.

Maharashtra BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule claimed that almost 95% of the party's 27 rebels had withdrawn from the fray.

Shiv Sena-UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray and NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar held a joint press

conference announcing that all rebels had been contacted and asked to withdraw. "Those who will not withdraw will face disciplinary action," said Thackeray.

Among the big names who agreed to withdraw was senior BJP leader and former Mumbai North MP Gopal Shetty, who had earlier filed nomination to contest from Borivali, thus posing a challenge to the party's official candidate, Sanjay Upadhyaya.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

## Husband killed, her video viral, MP woman says everything is a blur

ANAND MOHAN J  
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 4

ROSHINI MARAWI'S memories from the violent Diwali day are a blur. Except, a video that went viral — of her cleaning a blood-soaked hospital bed in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori hamlet — now serves as a reminder of what she went through.

On the evening of October 31, Roshni, who is five months pregnant, eagerly waited for her husband Shivraj Marawi (40), an auto driver, to return home. Her two daughters, aged three and five, were supposed to dress in new

clothes he had bought for them. Roshni and Shivraj fell in love and got married in 2016 despite objections from her family. "My family said he has no money; I said it is not important. I could not be with any other man," she told *The Indian Express*.

The family lives in a mud and brick home and does not have much to their name. Roshni works at a stone mill, earning just about enough to sustain her children.

On Thursday evening, Shivraj, his brother Raghuraj (35), and their father Dharam Singh (65) were killed by a mob of 20-25 people armed with

sticks, rods and sickles, police said. The mob, which included their relatives, killed them over a land dispute, police said, adding that the victims were harvesting paddy at the time.

Another brother of Shivraj is in a critical state. A police officer said four persons have been arrested and efforts were on to trace the rest.

Roshni and her two daughters watched as Shivraj collapsed in front of them. "We had grown some dhaan (paddy) on the disputed land... They turned up with axes and cut down my husband. We were supposed to celebrate Diwali together; the



A video grab of Roshini Marawi cleaning a hospital bed

clothes he bought for his daughters are still unopened," she said.

Roshni said she made frantic phone calls to police but no one from the station reached on time. Hours later, she found herself at the Gadasarai Primary Health Centre. "My two daughters kept asking for their father, but his face was so badly mangled that they could not recognise him. I sobbed next to his body... then, I was asked to clean a hospital bed where my brother-in-law (Raghuraj) had died. I did not think much back then. I only feared for my safety as all the men in our family were dead. Only the women are left," she said.

"I later watched that video and can't believe what I went through... I don't remember much, everything is a blur. I went back home and saw that the video had gone viral," she said.

As the video sparked outrage, the Dindori administration took action. On Saturday, the Chief Medical and Health Officer (Dindori) issued orders to transfer the attending doctor, Chandrashekhar Singh, and suspended two nurses, Rajkumari Markam and Chhoti Bai Thakur. Singh, in his defence, claimed the hospital staff never asked the woman to clean the bed. "The men were shot at during a land

dispute on Thursday and two of them were brought to our facility. The wife of the man who died asked us to let her wipe the blood from the bed with a cloth so she could use it as evidence of the extent of the bleeding. She was not asked to clean the bed. I have not received any complaint from the woman or her family," he said.

Roshni claims otherwise. "I was asked by two women at the hospital to clean the blood. Since my husband's death, all I have got is a packet of rice and some bananas from the Collector. We want financial support from the government and security for my family," she said.

Rajasthan govt takes fresh stance on Ekal Patta case involving ex-Cong minister

Files updated affidavits, requests SC to send case back to trial court for review

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 4

IN A significant development, the Bhajan Lal Sharma-led Rajasthan government has taken a fresh stand in the Supreme Court, filing updated affidavits in the Ekal Patta case involving former Congress minister Shanti Dhariwal. The state is now requesting that previous court orders, which partially quashed proceedings and allowed the withdrawal of prosecution, be set aside and that the case be sent back to the trial court for a full review.

This shift comes after Additional Advocate General (AAG) Shiv Mangal Sharma took over the case recently. The earlier affidavits, submitted in July 2023 and April 2024, had reportedly supported Dhariwal's position but were filed without consulting senior officials or AAG Sharma, sources said.

Sharma subsequently pushed for a comprehensive review, leading to the government's revised stance. The officer-in-charge of the case was

also changed to ensure closer oversight.

The Ekal Patta case centres on allegations of corruption in granting a single lease (patta) for valuable land in Jaipur to M/s Ganpati Constructions. Senior officials, including Dhariwal and high-ranking Urban Development and Housing (UDH) department and Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) officers, have also been named in the controversy, which dates back to 2005 when JDA first approved the lease for a cooperative society managing the land.

Allegations later surfaced that the patta was issued to Ganpati Constructions without disclosing a previous rejection, prompting complaints and investigations.

The Rajasthan government's updated affidavits now stress the importance of a fair trial to examine all evidence and ensure accountability.

The move signals a new approach by the state, with AAG Sharma emphasising transparent and thorough investigation in the high-profile case.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM Pro-Khalistan men target temple; PM to Canada: Cowardly, uphold the law

strong stand on Khalistan separatists in Canada.

In the past few months, especially after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh, Modi has spoken out against the targeting of Hindus — including in a phone call with US President Joe Biden.

The incident on Sunday took place outside a consular camp — held to address grievances of documentation like passports and OCI cards — organised by the Indian High Commission in collaboration with the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton, near Toronto. Video clips on social media showed protesters carrying Khalistan flags.

The video clips appeared to show fist fights and people striking each other with poles on what appears to be the grounds surrounding the Hindu Sabha Mandir, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reported.

According to a report in the Toronto Star, Sikhs for Justice, a banned group advocating for Khalistan, said its supporters were protesting against the presence of Indian consular officials. "I strongly condemn the deliberate attack on a Hindu temple in Canada. Equally appalling are the cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats. Such acts of violence will never weaken India's resolve. We expect the Canadian government

to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law," Modi said in a post on X.

Canadian politicians from across the political spectrum condemned the incident.

"The acts of violence at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton today are unacceptable. Every Canadian has the right to practice their faith freely and safely. Thank you to the Peel Regional Police for swiftly responding to protect the community and investigate this incident," Trudeau said in a post on X, while avoiding any reference to Khalistan separatists.

In Delhi, responding to media queries, the Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said: "We condemn the acts of violence perpetrated by extremists and separatists at the Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton, Ontario yesterday... We call on the government of Canada to ensure that all places of worship are protected from such attacks. We also expect that those indulging in violence will be prosecuted. We remain deeply concerned about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada."

"The outreach of our consular officers to provide services to Indians and Canadian citizens alike will not be deterred by intimidation, harassment and violence," he said.

The Indian High Commission in Ottawa also issued a strong statement condemning the attack by "anti-India" elements. "We have seen violent disruption... orchestrated by anti-India elements outside the consular camp co-organised with the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton," it said.

The statement also noted other incidents of disruption during consular camps held in Vancouver and Surrey on November 2 and 3.

"It is deeply disappointing to see such disruptions being allowed for routine consular work being organised by our consulate with the fullest cooperation of the local co-organisers. We also remain very concerned for the safety of applicants, including Indian nationals, on whose demand such events are organised in the first place," it said.

The High Commission said that despite the disruption, more than 1,000 'life certificates' were issued to Indian and Canadian applicants.

"In light of these incidents and with the continued threats posed to the Indian diplomats and officials, local venue organisers as well as local attendees, organisation of further scheduled consular camps will be contingent on security arrangements made for them by local authorities," the statement said.

The Peel Regional Police in Canada said they were aware of the protest taking place at the temple, and had stepped up security. "We respect the right to protest in a peaceful and safe manner but will not tolerate violence and criminal acts," its chief, Nishan Duraipapp, posted on X after the videos began circulating on Sunday. "Those that do participate in this activity will be pursued, arrested and charged," Peel police told CBC Toronto.

Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown said those responsible should be punished to the greatest extent of the law. "Religious freedom is a foundational value in Canada. Everyone should feel safe in their place of worship," he said.

Canada's Opposition leader Pierre Poilievre was among those who condemned the incident. "Completely unacceptable to see violence targeting worshippers at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton today. All Canadians should be free to practice their faith in peace. Conservatives condemn this violence unequivocally. I will unite our people and end the chaos," he said.

Canadian Member of Parliament Chandra Arya said a "red line has been crossed" by Khalistan separatists.

— With PTI, Ottawa

Deals are not cut like this (in meetings with Govt)... please trust Judges: CJI at Express Adda

"Well, I wouldn't include the Leader of the Opposition because it is not a selection committee for appointing the Central Vigilance Commission or the Director of CBI," he said in a lighter vein.

On the issue of courts not granting bail in several cases, CJI Chandrachud said that "it was a matter of grave concern" for him as CJI that the message that bail is the rule rather than the exception hasn't trickled down to the trial courts which are reluctant to grant bail.

"Speaking for myself, I've always said that I've granted bail from A to Z — from Arnab to Zubair. That is my philosophy," he said.

The CJI also added that in his two-year tenure, while 21,000 bail cases were filed at the apex court, 21,358 bail cases were disposed of. When asked to elaborate on what the CJI meant when he had earlier said that there is a "pressure on the people's court to take on the role of the Opposition," the CJI said that there are "interest groups, pressure groups, groups which are trying to use electronic media to sort of put pressure on the court to arrive at certain outcomes."

"What you increasingly find is that a lot of segments or these groups say that, 'Well, if you decide in my favour, you're independent. If you don't decide in my favour, well, you're not independent' and that's what I have an objection to," the CJI said.

On judicial appointments, CJI Chandrachud said that the Collegium has done its part and he hopes that the government clears the pending recommen-

dations.

"Some of those names are still pending before the government, and you've mentioned some of them. Well, I hope that they are cleared by the government. We have done everything that is within our power as the Supreme Court to ensure that we do our part of the Constitution process. Evaluate the names, discuss the names, and we send the names to the government," he said.

When asked if the government's delay in appointing judges effectively gives it a veto power, the CJI said that the collegium also exercises a veto.

"The veto, I must tell you is not a veto that is only exercised by the government... The veto is something that is exercised by the collegium as well. No appointment can go through unless we clear the appointment". Speaking on how state governments play a role in which names are sent to the collegium to consider for judge appointments, he said, "Where we find that a particular candidate is not worthy of appointment and we veto that, the Government of India can't appoint that candidate... We ensure that people who we do not believe to be worthy of appointment should not be appointed as judges".

On the track record of the collegium he headed, CJI Chandrachud said that while 18 judges of the Supreme Court that were recommended had been appointed; 40 out of 42 Chief Justices recommended had been appointed; 137 out of 164 recommendations for appointment of HC judges were cleared while 27 are pending with the government.

Chairperson bulldozing, we may be forced to dissociate: Opp to Speaker

"unilateral decisions on fixing the dates of sittings even for consecutive three days, where persons/bodies (are) to be called as witness", they have said that it is not "practically possible" for them to prepare.

The letter asks the Speaker to direct Pal "to have a formal consultation with members of the committee before taking decisions on these issues, to assure the nation that the committee is fair and free in arriving at conclusions on the Bill, without any bias and departure from the well-established parliamentary procedures".

"Otherwise, we humbly submit that we may be forced to dissociate with JPC once and for all as we have been stonewalled," says the letter.

Expressing their reservations

on the proposed Bill, the Opposition members have said "the legal exercise done by the government through this Bill is nothing but a surreptitious attempt to mitigate the earlier legislation made by Parliament with due care, which ensure the secular credentials of our Constitution".

They have underlined that the "deposition of various departments and Muslim organisations" must be "academically as well as legally scrutinised and synchronised after every sitting by the members to understand the discussed issues, which need reasonable time gap between the sittings".

Saying that more than 100 amendments have been made in the new Bill, "as against the claim of only 44 amendments by the

government", the letter adds: "Of these amendments, we are reasonably confined to express our fear that the religious, spiritual and moral fabric of a legal institution i.e. Waqf Board is going to be erased, which will tarnish our country's image in the eyes of the world... on minority rights guaranteed in our Constitution".

For these reasons, the sittings of the committee "must be decided in such a manner with adequate time to discuss and deliberate every clause of the Bill including the legislative competency of Parliament," it says.

The committee — tasked to scrutinise the Bill to amend the law governing Waqf boards — has witnessed stormy scenes since the first meeting on August 22.

Last month too, Opposition members had written to Birla, al-

leging that the proceedings were "conducted in a biased and partisan manner" by Pal, and seeking the Speaker's "immediate intervention". Pal has maintained that the Opposition members are given ample opportunities to speak during the meetings.

On October 22, TMC's Kalyan Banerjee was suspended for a day after he smashed a glass bottle during a heated discussion with BJP member and former Calcutta High Court Judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay. Pal had alleged that Banerjee tried "to hit the Chair" with the bottle.

The Opposition members have raised questions on the deposition of "non-stakeholders", while the BJP members have alleged "willful disruption" by the Opposition to avoid facing tough questions.

All parties face mixed luck on rebel front, Cong candidate pulls out

Shetty agreed to drop out after BJP national general secretary Vinod Tawde flew in from Delhi to convince him against contesting as an Independent. Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis expressed his gratitude to Shetty, telling the media: "I was confident he would withdraw. He is a loyal karyakarta who would never engage in any act harmful to the organisation."

In the case of Dadabaheb Keche, the sitting BJP MLA and rebel from Arvi constituency in district Wardha, the party flew him to Delhi for a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Keche then withdrew his nomination, clearing the way for BJP candidate Sumit Wankhede, a personal assistant to Fadnavis as CM, who is contesting his debut election.

The Congress faced a contrasting picture in Kolhapur North, where its official candidate Madhurimaraje

Chhatrapati withdrew her nomination at the last moment. Party leader Satraj Patil, usually an unflappable politician, couldn't hide his anger, lashing out at Madhurimaraje and her husband Malojiraje Chhatrapati, and asking why she agreed to contest in the first place if she "had no guts".

Madhurimaraje is the daughter-in-law of Kolhapur Lok Sabha MP Shahu Maharaj Chhatrapati of the Congress. Shahu Maharaj Chhatrapati belongs to the Kolhapur royal family of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj. The party may now end up supporting Rajesh Latkar in Kolhapur North. This is doubly embarrassing for the party as it had earlier declared Latkar as its candidate from the seat, but dropped him after opposition from some quarters, and fielded Madhurimaraje.

In Mumbai, the Congress had better luck, with former MLA Madhu Chavan withdrawing in

Byculla seat. Similarly, ally Shiv Sena (UBT)'s former MLA Baburao Mane withdrew in Dharavi. Another ally, NCP-SP, was able to get rebel Sandip Bajoria to withdraw his nomination in Yavatmal.

The Sena (UBT)'s Rupesh Mhatre withdrew in Bhiwandi, but its rebel Raju Pednekar is staying put in Versova seat.

At Udgir, the BJP's Vishwajit Gaikwad decided not to fight as an Independent against official Mahayuti candidate Sanjay Bansode. At Andheri (East), Swikruti Sharma, wife of police officer Pradeep Sharma, withdrew against the BJP's official candidate, Murji Patel. Swikruti recently joined the Shiv Sena led by CM Eknath Shinde.

Separately, the Sena-UBT withdrew its candidates in Pen, Panvel and Alibaug seats, and extended support to ally Peasants and Workers Party (PWP). However, the two parties are set to contest against each other in

Sangola in Solapur seat, setting the stage for a triangular battle.

In case of the Shinde-led Sena, its rebel Suresh Patil did not drop out in Mankhurd-Shivajinagar, paving the way for a "friendly" fight between him and the NCP's Nawab Malik and the Samajwadi Party's Abu Azmi, who is a candidate of the Mahayuti. Patil is incidentally being supported by the BJP.

In Nashik's Deolali, the Shinde Sena managed to get rebel candidate Dhanraj Mahale to stand down. The NCP's Narhari Zirwal is now the Mahayuti candidate here. Sources said that on Monday night, CM Eknath Shinde, Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar will hold a meeting to assess the situation post withdrawal of nominations by rebels across parties. Some Independent candidates who have refused to back out despite persuasion are likely to be disowned by their respective parties.

Stormy start for J&K House: PDP moves resolution on Art 370

said, before taking out a letter from his pocket and passing it to the Speaker. "With utmost respect, we request that the resolution attached be taken up for discussion. Although the agenda for the House has been finalised, we believe that your authority as Speaker allows the inclusion of this resolution, as it reflects the sentiments of the people at large," the letter attached with the resolution read.

Moving the resolution, Para said, "This House opposes the revocation of special status of J&K and the constitutional disempowerment of Jammu and Kashmir through the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 and calls for its complete rescinding. The House further resolves to strive for the restoration of special status and all constitutional guarantees granted to Jammu and Kashmir in their original, pristine form."

For a minute, there was complete silence, and then the BJP legislators stood up and raised

their voice, demanding to know under which rules the resolution was moved.

While the National Conference legislators stayed silent, PDP legislators, supported by Sajad Lone as well as independent MLAs Sheikh Khurshheed Ahmad and Shabir Ahmad Kullay, backed Para.

As the commotion continued, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah accused the PDP of doing "politics for the cameras".

He said, "We had information that the honourable member was planning such an act, but we thought it would be done later... I didn't want to do politics on the first day, that is why I didn't make a political speech. But some members can't live without doing politics."

However, he also said the people had not accepted the decision to abrogate J&K's special status. "This Assembly reflects the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The reality is that people of Jammu and

Kashmir have not put their stamp on the decisions taken on August 5, 2019. If they had, then the results (of the recent elections) would have been different. The majority of the people sitting here are those who have not accepted that decision," he said.

He said the PDP should have "consulted us if they had to bring a resolution". "In the coming days, after discussion with you (Speaker), a proposal will come and it will be discussed," he said.

PDP and other non-BJP members of the Opposition objected to Omar's remarks regarding "doing politics", following which National Conference members stood up and traded barbs with them as BJP legislators remained silent.

Para told The Indian Express that the National Conference had not consulted his party when they passed a resolution in the Cabinet calling for the restoration of statehood.

"In the business of the House, the agenda didn't mention any-

thing about bringing a resolution. So, we had to bring a resolution, because it reflects the collective aspirations of the people. It is something that even NC promised in their campaign, something that got them this mandate. The National Conference even promised that they would bring the resolution for restoration of special status on the first day. They should have supported us. We moved this resolution, but we didn't want the debate today. We just wanted this debate to happen in the first session," he said.

National Conference chief spokesman Tanvir Sadiq said the party would bring up the issue of constitutional guarantees in the House on Wednesday. "When they (PDP) knew the National Conference and the government were bringing it (resolution), it seems it was done only to get space in the media," he said.

Before the commotion in the House, there was a display of bi-

partisanship when senior National Conference leader Abdul Rahim Rather was elected unopposed as the Speaker. Minister Javed Ahmad Dar moved the motion, which was seconded by National Conference legislator Arjun Singh Raju. Pro-tem Speaker Mubarak Gul put the motion before the House, and Rather was elected as Speaker through a voice vote without any opposition.

Omar called Rather a "natural choice" for the post of Speaker, saying: "That's why no one opposed it." Opposition leader Sunil Sharma of the BJP also congratulated Rather and assured him of support. He said Opposition legislators would maintain the discipline and decorum of the House, but also warned that this discipline should not be "treated as our weakness".

The first day of the session also saw an address by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who said: "The aspiration for return to the status quo remains strong."

"The Council of Ministers have passed a resolution for restoration of statehood. This resolution reflects the will of the people. My government will make all efforts for restoration of the state and the constitutional guarantees," he said in the address.

The National Conference later said the L-G mentioning constitutional guarantees was a big achievement. "In the L-G's address, there was talk about constitutional guarantees and the return of statehood. It is a big achievement," NC spokesman and legislator Sadiq said.

The start of the Assembly session on Monday marked the first time that the J&K Assembly has convened since it was dissolved in 2018. This comes after an Assembly election was held for the first time in a decade in J&K, in which an alliance of the National Conference and the Congress, along with other parties, won a majority of seats. NC vice-president Omar Abdullah took oath as chief minister on October 16.

Trump or Harris: US votes today in election most bitter and close

winner to emerge. Trump, a 78-year-old Republican, survived two assassination attempts, one by millimeters, just weeks after a jury in New York — the city whose tabloids first elevated him to national fame and notoriety — made him the first former US president to be convicted of a felony.

Harris, 60, was catapulted to the top of the Democratic ticket in July — giving her a chance to become the first woman to hold the world's most powerful job — after President Joe Biden, 81, had a disastrous debate performance and three weeks later dropped his re-election bid under pressure from his party.

For all of that turmoil, the contours of the race have changed little. Polls show Harris and Trump running neck and neck nationally and in the battleground states.

More than 77 million voters have already cast ballots, but the next two days will provide a critical test of whether Vice President Harris or former President Trump's campaign does the better job of driving supporters to the polls.

Voters, both Democrats and Republicans, have broken century-old records in the last two presidential elections, a sign of the passion that Trump stirs in both political parties.

In the final days of this campaign, both sides are flooding social media sites and TV and radio stations with a last round of ad campaigns, and racing to knock on doors and make calls.

Harris's campaign team believes the sheer size of its voter mobilization efforts is making a difference and says its volunteers knocked on hundreds of thousands of doors in each of the battleground states this weekend.

"We are feeling very good about where we are right now," campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon told reporters.

The campaign says its internal data shows that undecided voters are breaking in their favour, particularly women in the battleground states, and that they see an increase in early voting among core parts of their coalition, including young voters and voters of colour.

Trump's campaign has its own in-house canvassing operation, but has effectively outsourced most of the work to outside super PACs, allied political groups that can raise and spend unlimited sums of money.

They have been more focused on contacting "low propensity" voters, or voters that often do not go to the polls, instead of appealing to middle-of-the-road voters who can flip to either side.

Many in this category are Trump supporters, but they are not normally reliable voters.

By cherry-picking the voters

they want to contact, Trump and his team say they are sending door knockers to places where it makes a difference and being smart about spending.

Trump and his allies, who falsely claim that his 2020 defeat was the result of fraud, have spent months laying the groundwork to again challenge the result if he loses. He has promised "retribution", spoken of prosecuting his political rivals and described Democrats as the "enemy within".

On Sunday, Trump complained about gaps in the bullet-proof glass surrounding him as he spoke at a rally and mused that an assassin would have to shoot through the news media to get him, adding, "I don't mind that so much".

Harris has cast Trump as a danger to democracy but sounded optimistic at a Detroit church on Sunday.

"As I travel, I see Americans from blue-called red states to so-called blue states who are ready to bend the arc of history toward justice," Harris said. "And the great thing about living in a democracy, as long as we can hold on to it, is that we have the power, each of us, to answer that question."

Voters responding to a late-October Reuters/Ipsos poll ranked threats to democracy as the second-biggest problem facing the US today, just behind the economy.

Trump believes concerns about the economy and high prices, especially for food and rent, will carry him to the White House.

"We're going to cut your taxes, end inflation, slash your prices, raise your wages and bring thousands of factories back to America," Trump said on Sunday at a midday rally in Lititz, Pennsylvania.

His final day of campaigning on Monday will include stops in three of the seven battleground states expected to determine the winner. He will visit Raleigh, North Carolina; Reading and Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, and Grand Rapids, Michigan. He then plans to return to Palm Beach, Florida, to vote and await election results.

Harris plans to spend Monday campaigning in Pennsylvania, starting her day in Allentown, one of the most competitive parts of the state, before heading on to Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Pennsylvania is the biggest prize among the battleground states, offering 19 of the 270 Electoral College votes a candidate needs to win the presidency.

Non-partisan US election analysts calculate Harris needs to win about 45 electoral votes in the seven swing states to win the White House, while Trump would need about 51, when accounting for the states they are forecast to win easily.

REUTERS

In TN, Harris's village awaits results — but not with bated breath

I am ready to lead us forward."

Earlier, recalling her parents' involvement in the civil rights marches of the 1960s, Harris wrote in her biography, *The Truths We Hold*: "I have young memories of a sea of legs moving about, of the energy and shouts and chants."

Harris, known primarily for embracing her Black identity, also occasionally reflects on her Indian roots, particularly the influence of her mother and grandmother. "My mother inherited my grandmother's strength and courage," she wrote, attributing her grounding in social justice to her family's legacy.

Though Shyamala embraced her South Asian roots, her family's involvement with India has been distant. In August 2020, her aunt, Dr Sarala, spoke to *The Indian Express* about Kamala's connection with Indian culture, saying, "Kamala may know very few Tamil words, such as 'Chitti' as she calls her aunt. But she is aware of India, especially Hindu mythology, South Indian culture, and dishes. They used to come to India once every three or four years in their childhood."

When Harris was announced as Joe Biden's vice-presidential candidate in 2020, excitement swept through Thulasendrapuram. But today, the village is quieter, perhaps tempered by years of media attention or the distance from the actual campaign. Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Monday, Dr Sarala said, "I am not able to give an interview... there are no preparations in the village ahead of the poll results."

N Krishnamurthy, an 80-year-old retired State Bank of India manager from the village, said they will celebrate if she wins, but they're not sure about prayers before the results. "Kamala's grandfather lived here briefly, before leaving for Madras and then Africa. Even her mother may have limited ties here. She might have visited, but Kamala certainly hasn't," he said.

Krishnamurthy, one of the few residents proficient in English and Hindi, said he only learned of Kamala's connection when she was picked as the V-P candidate. "After the media started asking us for comments, we read about her. Personally, both Trump and Kamala are equal for me. However, I'm happy if she wins due to this distant link to our village. Everyone here is proud, and supports her for that small link," he said, adding, "I'd be happy if she wins and strengthens relations with India."

He recalled how this connection was revived about 15 years ago when Dr Sarala visited the village and donated Rs 5,000 in Kamala's name, which led to her name being etched on a temple stone. When Harris was chosen as Biden's running mate, a villager noticed her name, sparking local interest in her lineage. "It's a story that's nearly 100 years old. Thulasendrapuram once had around 40 Brahmin families; now, it's down to 10 or 15. If she wins, there might be some crackers going off — many still have leftover stock from Diwali," Krishnamurthy said.

## No cash, 'ordinary phone' save JNU student from being robbed at gunpoint

HIMANSHU HARSH  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

A FEMALE student survived an alleged robbery bid at gunpoint by three "intoxicated" delivery agents as she was carrying no cash and only had an "ordinary phone". Police said the accused, who were arrested Saturday, even resorted to frisking the woman and eventually left her alone as they could not find anything valuable.

The three accused, identified as Anil (22), Saurabh (23) and Salman (27), were arrested under charges of attempt to robbery.

The victim, a JNU student, was returning to JNU from a friend's place in Jangpura in an autorickshaw on the intervening night of October 20 and 21 when, near Adhchini Red light on Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg around 2:30 am, three unidentified men approached on a bike asking for directions towards Mehrauli, said Surendra Choudhary, DCP South West, Monday.

"While the auto driver slowed down to reply, the bike halted in the front, restricting its way. One of the men, armed with a country-made pistol, got off the bike and threatened the auto driver saying 'they didn't want anything from him,'" her complaint stated.

Meanwhile, the masked assailant allegedly forced his way inside the back seat of the auto where the victim was seated and started demanding money. "When I repeatedly told him that I wasn't carrying any cash, the ac-

cusced allegedly frisked me for any valuables. When I pleaded to let me go as I had nothing valuable, the assailant asked for my phone pointing the gun at me. I somehow convinced him that it was a cheap phone. He asked the auto driver to leave saying that 'she has nothing'," the complaint read.

The victim said she "took a few days to recover" from the traumatising incident and recorded her police statement only on October 24. A case was registered at the Kishangarh police station and an investigation was launched.

Police examined the route taken by the victim's auto on the night of the incident with the help of CCTV footage and identified the bike. This led them to the owner of the vehicle and subsequently, the three accused were arrested on November 2, police said.

During questioning, the accused admitted to the crime and claimed they were intoxicated. "They revealed that they went to eat paranthas in Safdarjung Enclave from their workplace in Ghitorni but near Adhchini Red light they saw an auto and stopped to rob the female passenger of cash. However, no cash was found on her. They claimed that they didn't rob anything from her and ran away from the spot," DCP Choudhary said.

The accused also revealed that Salman allegedly carried an illegal firearm on the night of the incident, the officer said, adding that a black-coloured Apache used in the crime was recovered from them.

## AHEAD OF DELHI ASSEMBLY POLLS

# BJP leader joins AAP, says 'impressed' with its work

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

AHEAD OF the Delhi Assembly polls scheduled in February, senior BJP leader BB Tyagi joined the AAP. This comes a week after three-time MLA from the BJP, Brahm Singh Tanwar, joined the party.

Tyagi, a former two-time councillor from Laxmi Nagar, joined the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP on Monday in the presence of former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. Highlighting the AAP government's initiatives such as free electricity and free travel for women, Tyagi said he was impressed by the ruling party's record in public welfare. "I was working in the BJP for a long time, but I was very impressed with the work that AAP was doing to uplift the people and the facilities it was providing to them... If I can do good for even a few people, then my joining the party will be successful," he said.

Tyagi and Tanwar's induction follows the exit of former Laxmi Nagar MLA Nitin Tyagi and Chatrapur MLA Kartar Singh Tanwar from the AAP, who joined the BJP. Sources in the AAP hope this will give them an edge in the East Delhi Lok Sabha, considered a BJP stronghold.

In 2020, out of the eight Assembly seats that the BJP won, three are in the East Delhi constituency. Even though AAP won



Arvind Kejriwal with B B Tyagi, in New Delhi, Monday. PTI

seven out of the 10 Assembly segments that year, the winning margins were low — Sisodia, the MLA from Patparganj, won the Assembly polls with a margin of just over 3,000 votes; Krishna Nagar MLA S K Bagga won by 3,995 votes; and Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel won Shahdara by 5,294 votes.

"Both Brahm Singh Tanwar and BB Tyagi have been ground leaders and represent Gurjar and Purvanchal communities. Their induction will help AAP in the upcoming polls, especially where the vote margins were low in the last term," said an AAP leader.

Reacting to Tyagi's exit, a senior BJP leader said: "He is popular in Laxmi Nagar and Shakarpur. He has been trying to get a ticket from the constituency but was unsuccessful... This may be one of the reasons why he joined AAP. The

AAP also needs a strong leader after their former MLA Nitin Tyagi's exit as this seat is a BJP stronghold."

While welcoming BB Tyagi, Sisodia said the people of Delhi are witnessing two types of politics: one focused on work and the other on obstructing progress. "... People feel the purpose of politics should be to work for the people. What do they want from their government and leaders? Good schools and hospitals, cheap electricity and low bus fares... Kejriwal is getting all this one..." he said.

AAP leader Durgesh Pathak said, "In the past few days, individuals who consistently advocated for Delhi and its issues have joined our family. Recently, Brahm Singh Tanwar became part of AAP, and now BB Tyagi, a widely respected figure, especially in East Delhi, is also joining us."

## MCD: Mayoral elections to be held on Nov 14

SAMAN HUSAIN  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

AFTER NEARLY a seven-month delay, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will hold the mayoral elections on November 14, 2024 at 2:00 pm, read a notice released by Municipal Secretary Shiva Prasad. Even if the elections are held successfully, the new Mayor and deputy mayor will only have a five-month tenure as the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act mandates mayoral elections

to be held annually in April. Leader of Opposition in the MCD, BJP's Raja Iqbal Singh, credited his party following the date announcement.

"The BJP's struggle has borne fruit. Under BJP's pressure, AAP has allowed the mayoral election on November 14. However, the Dalit community will remember the injustice committed by AAP. For seven months, AAP prevented the Dalit mayor from assuming office," he said.

The mayoral posts have been reserved for the Scheduled Caste (SC) category this year.

Meanwhile, referring to a letter its convener Arvind Kejriwal had sent to the incumbent Mayor Shelly Oberoi, the AAP said: "As instructed by Arvind Kejriwalji, Mayor has given the dates for the elections. AAP has left no stone unturned to take every possible step for the welfare of the Dalit community whereas it was BJP who has deprived the community of their rights."

The AAP had nominated Dev Nagar councillor Mahesh Kumar Khichi and Aman Vihar councillor Ravinder Bhardwaj for the posts of mayor and deputy mayor. Meanwhile, the BJP had nominated its Shakarpur councillor Kishan Lal for mayor and Sadatpur councillor Neeta Bisht for deputy mayor.

## Shots fired outside two shops in Alipur and Nangloi

PRAGYNESH  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

SHOTS WERE fired outside two shops in Delhi's Alipur and Nangloi on Monday afternoon, police said, adding that they believe the suspects in both cases could be the same — three men, with their faces covered, riding a bike.

Outside the Nangloi shop, a note was found naming the

Jitender Gogi gang and its deceased member Kuldeep Fajja, a police officer said on condition of anonymity. No demand for ransom has been made to the owner of the shop, the officer added.

First, eight-nine rounds were fired by the men outside the Nangloi shop and they fled after throwing the note, an officer said.

"At 1.30 pm, a call was received about firing outside a

shop in Nangloi. The spot was inspected by the crime team and based on the complainant's statement, a case is being registered under relevant sections. Efforts to trace the accused persons are on," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Sachin Sharma.

Hours later, in Alipur, three men fired at the shop of a property dealer and fled. "At 3 pm, information was received regarding a firing incident near a gas

agency in Budhpur, Alipur. Efforts are on to nab the culprits," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Nidhin Valsan.

The Gogi gang, started by its now dead leader Jitender Mann Gogi, is currently operated by Yogesh 'Tunda', in alliance with Anshu Lakra and Deepak Boxer, all of whom are in Tihar jail, a police officer said.

In September, two men were arrested for firing outside a bak-

ery in Ranhola after which Rs 5 crore was demanded in the name of 'Tunda' and the Gogi gang.

Later, two men, claiming to be from the Gogi gang, opened fire at a sweet shop in Nangloi and were arrested, police said. "Both were sharpshooters of the Gogi gang and threatened to extort money. A note was thrown outside the shop with photos of Gogi and Fajja... it also named Lakra," a police officer said.

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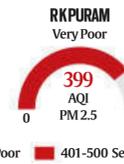
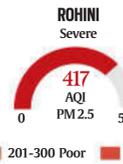
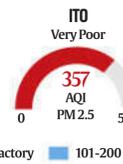
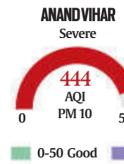
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**SKY WATCH**  
November 5  
Mainly clear sky. Smog/mist is likely in the morning and night  
MAX: 32 | MIN: 16  
1.5°C above normal | 0.7°C above normal

**SC TO DELHI GOVT, AUTHORITIES**

# 'Consider perpetual cracker ban in Delhi'

Says restrictions 'hardly implemented' this Diwali, seeks explanation from govt, police on steps taken to enforce firecracker ban

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4



PROPOSING A permanent prohibition on firecrackers in the national capital, the Supreme Court Monday said the restrictions were "hardly implemented" this Diwali and asked the Delhi government and police to explain what measures were taken to ensure enforcement of the ban.

Referring to submissions made by amicus curiae Aparajitha Singh, who cited a report of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a bench of Justices A S Oka and Augustine George Masih said it showed an increase in pollution levels in Delhi as well as a spike in farm fires during Diwali.

"There cannot be any dispute that the ban was hardly implemented. Moreover, the effect of the non-implementation of the ban is very apparent from the report of CSE, which shows that the pollution level in Delhi on Diwali in 2024 was at an all-time high. It was much higher than Diwali of 2022 and 2023. Moreover, the report indicates that even farm fires were on the rise during Diwali days," the court observed, while also referring to media reports.

The bench directed the government to file "a detailed affidavit placing on record the orders banning the use of firecrackers and the steps taken... to implement the same". It also issued a notice to the Delhi Police Commissioner asking him "to file an affidavit indicating the steps taken by the police to enforce the complete ban on the use of firecrackers in Delhi".

The court further asked them to state "what effective steps they propose to take next year to ensure that the ban... is fully implemented" including measures to be taken to raise public awareness.

The court also asked authorities to consider a perpetual ban on firecrackers in Delhi. "In the meanwhile, the Government of Delhi and other authorities will also take a call on the issue of perpetual ban on use of firecrackers in Delhi," the order read.

The court gave a week's time to file the affidavits and fixed the matter for hearing next on November 14.

The amicus curiae submitted that according to the CSE report, there were 605 recorded incidents of farm fires on Diwali day, compared to 160 the day before. She added that the pollution percentage spiked from 10% to 30% on Diwali day.

Justice Oka said the problem with the lack of enforcement was that the Centre had done away with penal provisions under relevant laws for environmental pollution and there was only a penalty for the contravention of provisions of the Act.

Justice Oka added that the court would, however, see in what manner the ban could be implemented and whether the premises of those selling firecrackers could be sealed.

Something has to be worked out," he said and called for creating more public awareness ahead of Diwali. "People may bring crackers from other states also," he added.

On the question of stubble burning, the court asked the Haryana and Punjab governments to inform it of how many such incidents happened in the last 10 days of October.

Expressing displeasure over continuing instances of stubble burning, the court had earlier summoned the chief secretaries of the two states to explain what steps had been taken to stop fires.



Delhi's air quality was in the 'very poor' category Monday, with the 24-hour average Air Quality Index of 381. *Abhinav Saha*

## AQI 'very poor' for sixth day in a row, several hotspots in red

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

DELHI'S AIR quality remained in the 'very poor' category for the sixth consecutive day Monday, with the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 381. The Capital had the second worst air quality, only behind Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar city that recorded an AQI of 417.

On Sunday, the air quality was marginally worse at 382. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), a majority of pollution hotspots in Delhi remained in the 'severe' category throughout the day. Prevailing unfavourable meteorological conditions of low wind speeds (4-6 kmph) in the day and calm winds at night kept the AQI levels hovering near the 'severe' category for the last two days.

The particulate matter pollution was three times higher than the national prescribed standard in the city.

Meanwhile, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai claimed that 88% of pollution-related complaints registered on the Green Delhi App have been resolved. A total of 81,418 complaints were filed through the app, of which over 71,558 have been resolved. He will hold a departmental review meeting Tuesday, he added.

IMD officials, meanwhile, said smog or mist conditions will likely prevail in the coming days.

## Clean air programme: Delhi in bottom 5, used only 32% of funds

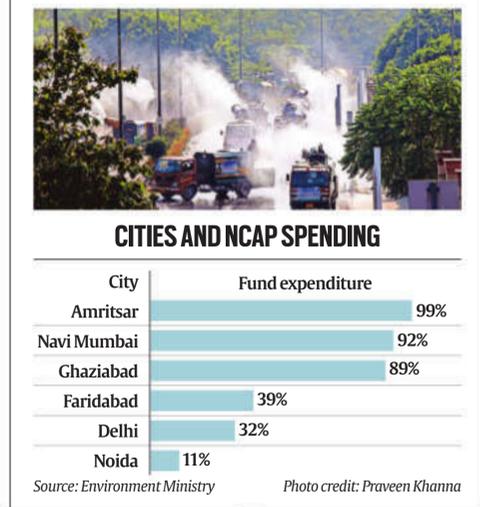
**SOPHIYA MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

DELHI IS among the bottom five cities in terms of fund expenditure under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) — 68% of its funds are unutilised. Among NCR cities, Faridabad lagged with an expenditure of 39%, Ghaziabad utilised 89%, and Noida recorded the least utilisation at 11%.

The NCAP's target is to cut particulate matter pollution (PM 10) by 40% by 2025-26 or meet National Ambient Air Quality standards. However, a recent submission by the Environment Ministry to the National Green Tribunal revealed gaps in the implementation of the programme which include under-utilisation of NCAP funds, lack of completion of source apportionment studies, and poor performance in meeting NCAP targets.

Out of the 19 cities covered under the NCAP, only five cities have so far met annual air pollution reduction targets. With the air quality deteriorating this time of the year, the performance of various cities under the programme becomes crucial.

A source apportionment study for Delhi reveals that 17.5-30.6% of PM 10 levels are from



soil, road dust and construction activities whereas 12-37% are from coal and fly ash.

The top five cities in terms of utilisation were Amritsar at 99%, Jhansi at 98%, Pune at 96%, Jharkhand at 94% and Navi Mumbai at 92%. Amritsar has shown a 38% improvement in PM 10 levels compared to the base year (2017). In Navi Mumbai, however, PM 10 levels have worsened by 11%.

The 19 cities identified are non-attainment cities (NACs), selected upon failure to meet national air quality standards consecutively for five years between 2011 and 2015. Out of these, eight cities still have to complete source

apportionment studies to assess the contribution of various pollution sources — these include NCR cities of Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad and Amritsar and Khurja.

According to the source apportionment studies in the rest of the NACs, road dust, vehicular emissions and the industry sector emerged as major contributors.

To combat this, cities have used the NCAP funds mainly for road dust control — procurement of anti-smog guns, water sprinklers, end-to-end paving of roads, construction and demolition waste collection centres, and development of green spaces, parks, playgrounds — as per the Ministry.

**DUO APPREHENDED**

## 2 teens behind wheel of car that jumped signal, dragged cops for 20 m

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4



A video grab of the incident

TWO 17-YEAR-OLD boys were apprehended on Sunday for allegedly dragging two traffic police personnel for 20 m after they jumped a red light near Kishangarh in Southwest Delhi.

The boys — both in class 12 — were driving a car belonging to the father of one of them when they jumped the red light, the police said Monday. The car's owner, a Vasant Kunj resident, has been charged under the Motor Vehicles Act, police added.

According to police, the owner worked as a taxi driver but the boys used the car for personal purposes. "We don't have confirmation on whether the boy's father knew about them using the car. The matter is still under investigation," said a police officer.

Assistant Sub-Inspector Pramod Singh and Head Constable Sailesh Chouhan of the Vasant Vihar traffic circle were injured in the hit-and-run incident while they were issuing challans on Ber Sarai Road on Saturday evening, said DCP (Southwest) Surendra Choudhary.

"Sailesh signalled the car to stop and the driver stopped the

car. But when asked to step out, in an attempt to escape, the driver sped away dragging the officers for approximately 20 m," Choudhary said, adding that the police personnel sustained minor injuries in the incident. They were admitted to Safdarjung Hospital.

A video of the policemen being dragged on the car soon went viral on social media platforms. The car was later identified after witnesses had noted down the licence plate number and shared it with the police.

An FIR was registered on Sunday under sections 109(1) (attempt to murder), 221 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 132 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 121(1) (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt to deter public servant from his duty), and 3(5) (joint liability) of the BNS.

## HC directs surrender of Sikh leader in Trilochan Wazir's murder case

**SOHINI GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

THE DELHI High Court Monday directed the surrender of Sikh leader and former president of the Jammu and Kashmir State Gurdwara Parbandhak Board, Sudershan Singh Wazir, in relation to the murder of former National Conference MLC Trilochan Singh Wazir in September 2021.

Trilochan (67) was found dead with a gunshot wound in a flat in Delhi in September 2021. He had come to Delhi from Jammu to stay at a friend's place in West Delhi's Basai Darapur and was set to leave for Canada to meet his wife and children.

In 2023, Sudershan was among three people arrested by the Delhi Police in connection with the case. He was then discharged for murder and other offences, along with three other accused, by the Tis Hazari court on October 20 of the same year.

The next day, the Delhi HC had stayed the district court's verdict. While three other accused discharged were still in judicial custody at the time when the district court's verdict was stayed, Sudershan had been released on the night of October 20, 2023.

The latest direction came in an

application filed by the Delhi government under CrP Section 390 — which deals with the arrest of the accused in an appeal from acquittal — seeking court directions for Sudershan's surrender.

Sudershan's counsel, senior advocate Mohit Mathur, argued that a stay of the operation of the district court's order would have a prospective effect and, thus, actions that have already been taken pursuant to the district court's order cannot be reversed. It was also argued that discharge stands at a higher pedestal than acquittal as the discharge was on the basis of non-sufficiency of material. The State, on the other hand, countered that Sudershan can't be treated differently from the other three accused who were discharged but did not avail of the benefit of being released.

Directing Sudershan's surrender, the court of Justice Anish Dayal reasoned, "... It is quite clear by staying the operation of the impugned order, the court intended to ensure that consequential action under the discharge order is not taken. This is in context of the urgent mentioning by the State..."

"... (Sudershan) continuing to avail benefits of the impugned discharge order, would be illegal, invalid, and infirm," the court concluded.

## Delhi transport dept to step up drive against overage vehicles

**New Delhi:** As air pollution levels in Delhi have sharply risen after Diwali, the Transport Department has directed its enforcement wing to carry out aggressive campaigns against overage vehicles and closely monitor BS-II and BS-III vehicles entering the city at the border, officials said.

The drive against overage vehicles was launched on October 11. "The enforcement wing has been asked to conduct the drive against petrol and diesel vehicles that have completed 15 and 10 years of their life as vehicular

emissions is one of the key reasons for pollution... So, we are conducting the drive very actively," said an official.

Over 500 vehicles, including cars, e-rickshaws and two-wheelers, have been impounded after Diwali in the last three days.

Around 5.5 million overage vehicles were de-registered in the national capital. Officials said currently, there are around 1 lakh-1.5 lakh expired vehicles in the city. So far, around 3,039 vehicles have been impounded as part of the drive. **ENS**

**BRIEFLY**

### Ex-district prez of Bajrang Dal Gurgaon held

**Gurgaon:** The former district president of Gurgaon's Bajrang Dal unit and block coordinator was arrested for opening fire at a man Monday, police said. The accused has been identified as Abhishek Gaur. However, VHP has distanced itself from him. The outfit's Haryana state general secretary, Varun Gaur, said, "He is not the president or member anymore. We are not aware of this incident." **ENS**

### 30 students in Paris for French course

**New Delhi:** Thirty students from Delhi's government schools have arrived in Paris to participate in a French course at the Alliance Francaise de Paris. This initiative targets students in classes 9 to 12, many of whom are first-generation school-goers, as per a statement. **PTI**



A PCR call was received at 7.38 am on Monday about a burning Kia Carens car in Civil Lines. Three women who were inside were pulled out before the vehicle went up in flames, said police. *Express*

## DU student, 2 friends injured in accident

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

A STUDENT of Lady Hardinge College and her two friends sustained injuries after the car they were in hit a divider and caught fire, police said.

The incident took place near the Sushruta Trauma Centre. The owner and the driver of the car is absconding, police said.

According to police, a PCR call was received at 7.38 am about a

burning Kia Carens car in Civil Lines.

"A 22-year-old student of Lady Hardinge College and her three friends — two women and a man — were coming in the car towards Civil Lines. The owner of the car, also aged 22, was driving and hit the divider near the Trauma Centre. He fled the scene while the three women were still inside the car. They were taken to Sushruta Trauma Centre. The car caught fire after the women were taken out,"

DCP (North) Raja Banthia said. According to police, two women have been discharged while one is still admitted, but is out of danger.

The driver, a student of Delhi University, is absconding and a search is on to find him, police said.

A case has been registered under sections 281 (rash driving) and 125 (a) (endangering life) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against the man at Civil Lines police station, police said.

**NORTHEAST DELHI RIOTS CASE**

## 'Accused can't be behind bars indefinitely': HC grants bail to man jailed for cop's death

**SOHINI GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

EMPHASISING THAT an accused cannot be made to languish behind the bars for an "indefinite period", the Delhi High Court Monday granted bail to a man who was arrested in 2022 for allegedly murdering a head constable during the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots.

"... it is the duty of the judicial pillars of this country that an accused is not unnecessarily deprived of his personal liberty as enshrined under Article 21...



Head Constable Ratan Lal

Undoubtedly, bail is a rule and jail is an exception, therefore, it is imperative to state that in case a court finds sufficient grounds to enlarge an accused on bail, it must exercise its powers discretionarily and uphold the ends of justice to an accused languishing in jail while ensuring the proper enforcement of procedural law as

envisioned in the provision... (the accused) cannot be made to languish behind the bars for an indefinite period," stated the court of Justice Chandra Dhari Singh as it granted relief to the accused, Mohd Wasim alias Bablu (35), who has been in custody for more than 25 months.

Arguing for bail, Wasim relied on CCTV footage and submitted that he was not part of the mob and had only come out of his home to check on his brother as the mob was allegedly gathered at the site, near his residence. He was arraigned as an accused merely based on the statement of

a police officer, he added. Wasim also cited "grounds of parity", highlighting that 20 of the 28 accused in the case were already out on bail.

Riots had erupted on February 24, 2020, on the 25-foot service road near Chand Bagh on Wazirabad Road. An FIR alleged that "furious protesters", with an intention to kill police personnel on duty, started pelting stones at officers. Following the attack, head constable Ratan Lal sustained grievous injuries and died subsequently. The FIR alleged Wasim attacked officers by throwing petrol bombs, which led to Lal's demise.

## 'New Noida': First meet discusses framework

**NEETIKA JHA**  
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 4

WEEKS AFTER the UP government approved the Dadri-Noida-Ghaziabad Investment Region (DNGIR) Master Plan 2041, authorities have set the ball rolling for the New Noida project, with its first meeting held Monday.

Steps to finalise a develop-

ment framework and launch the project were outlined at the meeting chaired by Noida Authority CEO Lokesh M and attended by other senior officials.

Any new construction in the designated area after the master plan's approval on October 18 will be considered illegal and action will be taken against those violating it, said Lokesh. "Preparations for aerial photography and sur-

veys for the first phase are expected to begin soon, providing essential data to inform the project's early stages," the CEO said.

The meeting also focussed on ways to handle critical tasks such as drafting land acquisition proposals for the initial phase, identifying priority projects, and overseeing planning and execution.

To facilitate project operations, the CEO also directed to set

up a temporary office along the Eastern Peripheral Expressway, which runs from Sonapat to Palwal and passes through Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida and Faridabad, where land records and civil department personnel will manage field activities. "We have also made a request for additional government staff for timely execution of the project," Lokesh said.

HC stays temples' construction in police stations, summons MP govt

**Jabalpur:** The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Monday stayed the construction of temples inside premises of various police stations across the state and served a notice to the government, said a lawyer representing the petitioner in the case.

A division bench of Chief Justice S K Kait and Justice Vivek Jain also served notices to the Director General of Police and others on a petition challenging the construction of temples inside premises of police station across Madhya Pradesh. A detailed court order was awaited.

Om Prakash Yadav, a retired government employee who is also a lawyer, filed the plea challenging the construction of temples, his counsel Satish Verma told reporters. The open space where these temples are being constructed is a public place, the counsel argued.

Flagging crimes against women, Pawan Kalyan slams Andhra Home Minister, warns he may replace her

**SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 4

**ANDHRA PRADESH** Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party (JSP) president K Pawan Kalyan on Monday criticised Home Minister Anitha over rising crimes against women in the state, saying that its law and order situation would be different if he replaces her. He was referring to the recent rape and sexual assault incidents which convulsed Tirupati and Kadapa.

Anitha is from Kalyan's senior ally TDP led by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Kalyan, an actor-turned-politician, said that the alleged inaction by the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP government against criminals, including those who gave death and rape threats to politicians and their families, was responsible for the current situation in the state.

"Rapists and criminals have become emboldened in Andhra Pradesh because the previous government did not take any action against them," Kalyan told a gathering after inaugurating a science fair at a school in his Pithapuram constituency.

"I am telling Home Minister Anitha also that she should be more active. There should not be a situation where I would have to take over as the Home Minister. Things will change drastically if I take over as the Home Minister. We have a new Director General of Police (DGP) too, I urge him to take strong action against criminals," Kalyan said.

In the recent Assembly polls, the TDP-led alliance, including the JSP and the BJP, stormed to power by routing the YSRCP. Of the 175 seats, the TDP bagged 135 seats, while the JSP and the BJP won 21 seats and 8 respectively.

Kalyan did not appear to



**Andhra Dy CM Pawan Kalyan, state Home Minister Anitha**

threaten the Naidu government of which he is a part, but castigated the Home Minister after someone asked him about some recent rape cases. While in Tirupati, a relative of a three-year-old rape-and-strangulation victim has been arrested, about 10 accused have been arrested in the Kadapa sexual assault case.

"During the previous YSRCP regime, there were people who issued direct threats. They said that if Jagan says, they would kill Pawan Kalyan. Some said they would rape or assault female

members of my family. Such people did not face any consequences because the DGP and police did not take any action. This has emboldened criminals who are raping three or five-year-olds. This mentality had been fostered and encouraged by the YSRCP government," Kalyan alleged.

"Isn't safety of every family their right? What is the police doing, who are they afraid of? Didn't we tell you that under our NDA government, law and order should not be like in the previous regime? What should be done is, these type of criminals should be given the same treatment that Yogi Adityanath government gives in Uttar Pradesh, then only they will change their ways," the Deputy CM said.

Kalyan hit out at social media trolls too. "If we say anything, there are death or rape threats."

The JSP chief who won in the Assembly polls for the first time

from the Pithapuram constituency, said that despite public outrage over rape incidents, justice seems to have been delayed in these cases. He referred to the Nirbhaya case, where many had called for death penalty for the accused, and to a suggestion made by a Delhi high court judge for "castration" of convicted rapists.

"Unfortunately, some police officials are still behaving like they did under the previous regime. I am warning them, this should not continue. Take action, be responsible. We will hold you accountable. When rapes or sexual assaults happen, why is the caste of the victim or accused brought in? Police should take action irrespective of that," Kalyan said. He said the Home Minister should become more proactive and bring changes to improve law and order.

The TDP has refrained from making any comments on Kalyan's remarks.

SC verdicts on pvt property, UP madrasa law cases today

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

**THE SUPREME COURT** will on Tuesday deliver its judgment on two issues — whether private property would fall within the definition of material resource of the community under Article 39(b) of the Constitution, and on appeals challenging the Allahabad High Court verdict holding the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education Act 2004 "unconstitutional".

Reserving its verdict in the private property matter on May 1, a nine-judge Constitution bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud remarked that holding every private resource of an individual as part of the material resource of the community will be "far-fetched" and only scare away investors who may be wary of the level of protection they would get.

The nine-judge bench, also comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy, B V Nagarathna, Sudhanshu Dhulia, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Rajesh Bindal, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih, was hearing a reference made to it. The reference arose in the context of the two views given by the judges in the 1978 decision in State Of Karnataka And Anr Etc vs Shri Ranganatha Reddy & Anr. The case dealt with the nationalisation of road transport services. One of the opinions by Justice V R Krishna Iyer was that material resources of the community would include both natural and man-made, publicly and privately owned resources. The other judgment authored by Justice N L Untwalla, however, said the majority of judges did not subscribe to the view taken in respect of Article 39(b) by Justice Iyer.

Justice Iyer's stand was further affirmed in the 1982 case Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Company vs Bharat Coking Coal Ltd And Another.

Article 39(b) in the Directive Principles of State Policy says that "the State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good".

Article 39(c) states that "the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment".

A three-judge bench presided by CJ Chandrachud had also reserved its judgment in the UP Madrasa matter on October 22. The Allahabad HC had declared it "unconstitutional", saying it violated the principles of secularism.

Expounding its stance, the Uttar Pradesh government told the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, that it was of the view that the law is constitutional. It said that the Act need not have been struck down in entirety and only the offending provisions need to have been examined.

The CJ also said "the state does have a vital interest even in ensuring standards in places of religious instruction. You interpret it that way. But to throw out the Act is to throw the baby out with the bathwater."

The SC also noted that some of the provisions of the 2004 Act, which empowers the Board to give degrees like Kamil, Fazil etc may be in conflict with the provisions of The University Grants Commission Act, 1956 which says that only universities within the meaning of the Commission statute.

Romila Thapar resisted 'distortion' of history: Kerala CM lauds PG National Award recipient

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

**HISTORIAN ROMILA** Thapar was honoured with PG National Award 2024 for her contribution to the field of ancient Indian history, in New Delhi on Monday.

Speaking at the award function, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Thapar has been an ardent critic of "distortion" of history for "communal" ends.

"It is because of her fearless criticism of the Sangh Parivar, especially their political interventions in history and education, that she is severely disliked by them," Vijayan said. He later said the Sangh's "dislike" for Thapar was mainly because she distinguished between Hinduism, the political ideology, and Hinduism, the religion in her work. Secondly,

"she is a fierce critic of the colonial segmentation of the study of Indian history into Hindu, Islamic and British periods", he said. Third, she "disagrees with the view that the origin of Hindus can be traced back to Aryans and Indus Valley Civilisation," he said, adding that India's history should be preserved by historians who oppose attempts to "saffronise" history. Vijayan applauded Thapar for "coming out openly against"... "attempts to rewrite history".

The PG award is a tribute to Marxist philosopher and writer P Govinda Pillai who died in 2012. In 2023, writer and social activist Arundhati Roy was the recipient of the award.

Professor Thapar is known for her research on ancient Indian history. She has been writing books on the social and cultural history of early India since the 1960s.

J&K BJP picks rising Chenab Valley face Sunil Sharma as its first Leader of Opp

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 4

**THE FIRST-EVER** Leader of the Opposition of the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir is a legislator who has made his mark as a firebrand leader of the Chenab Valley region of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban, which are the parts of the Jammu province.

Significantly, this comes less than a month after Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during an election rally in the Padder-Nagseni Assembly constituency for Sunil Sharma, a BJP J&K general secretary, appealed to the voters to elect him as MLA, promising that the party would "make him a big man". Sharma secured a narrow win over NC leader Pooja Thakur, who is the chairperson of the District Development Council, Kishtwar.

Sharma, 47, once worked as a Special Police Officer, who were recruited by the J&K Police in its



**Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma addresses the first session of the House, in Srinagar on Monday. ANI**

fight against militancy in the region in the mid-1990s. He won his maiden election in 2014 as a BJP nominee from Kishtwar, defeating Sajjad Ahmad Kitchloo, former National Conference home minister.

The BJP inducted him as a minister in the coalition government it formed with the PDP after the elections.

BJP sources said that Sharma played a key role in the growth of the party in Chenab Valley region, especially after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

When the demand for Scheduled Tribe status by members of the Pahari ethnic group intensified in the Rajouri and Poonch districts, Sharma led delegations to the Centre demand-

ing similar status for the people of Padder in Kishtwar district. As a result, when the Narendra Modi government declared ST status for Paharis, it gave similar status to the Paddri tribe along with Gadda Brahmins and Kolis of Padder.

Padder-Nagseni, from where Sharma contested this time, is a new, Hindu-dominated constituency, carved out of Kishtwar. Before delimitation, all the six constituencies in the Chenab Valley were Muslim-majority. But now at least three of the eight seats it comprises, including Doda West, Padder-Nagseni and Kishtwar, are Hindu-majority.

Of the 29 seats the BJP won overall in the Assembly elections, four came from the Chenab Valley region. In 2014 also, it had won a similar number of seats in the region, which then had six Assembly constituencies, indicating that the party's gamble over the ST status to Paharis didn't pay off as well as it had hoped.

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

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

STAGE	AQI	CITIZEN CHARTER	HEALTH ADVISORY
STAGE I	POOR AQI between 201-300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep engines of your vehicles viz. cars/ bikes/ scooters etc. properly tuned.</li> <li>Maintain proper air pressure in tyres of your vehicles.</li> <li>Keep PUC certificates of your vehicles up to date.</li> <li>Do not idle your vehicle, also turn off the engine at red lights.</li> <li>Do not dispose waste /garbage in the open spaces.</li> <li>Report air polluting activities through Green Delhi App, 311 App, SAMEER App.</li> <li>Prefer Hybrid vehicles or EVs to control vehicular pollution.</li> <li>Plant more trees.</li> <li>Celebrate festivals in an eco-friendly manner – avoid firecrackers.</li> <li>Do not drive/ply end of life /10/15 years old Diesel/Petrol vehicles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid outdoor physical activities</li> </ul>
STAGE II	VERY POOR AQI between 301-400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People to use public transport and minimize use of personal vehicles.</li> <li>Regularly replace air filters at recommended intervals in your automobiles.</li> <li>Avoid dust generating construction activities during months of October to January.</li> <li>Use technology, take less congested route even if slightly longer.</li> <li>Avoid open burning of solid waste and bio-mass.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid outdoor physical activities, especially during morning and late evening hours.</li> <li>Remain indoor and keep activity levels low*</li> </ul>
STAGE III	SEVERE AQI between 401-450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk or use cycles for small distances.</li> <li>Choose a cleaner commute. Share a ride to work or use public transport.</li> <li>People, whose position allow working from home, may work from home.</li> <li>Do not use coal and wood for heating purpose.</li> <li>Individual house owners may provide electric heaters (during winters) to security staff to avoid open burning.</li> <li>Combine errands and reduce trips.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid outdoor physical activities.</li> <li>Remain indoor and keep activity levels low*</li> </ul>
STAGE IV	SEVERE+ AQI >450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children, elderly and those with respiratory, cardiovascular, cerebrovascular or other chronic diseases to avoid outdoor activities and stay indoors, as much as possible.</li> </ul>	

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

Ministry of Culture Government of India

**Bhavatu Sab Mangalam! Namo Buddhaya!!**

His teachings of tolerance, self-awareness and good conduct inspire us to serve humanity. — Droupadi Murmu, President of India

The teachings of Lord Buddha are more relevant than ever before. They can help mitigate several global challenges. — Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

**ASIAN BUDDHIST SUMMIT 2024**  
5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> November

Inauguration by **Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, Hon'ble President of India

Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 | 9 AM onwards  
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Program highlights

- Representation from more than 30 countries
- Special Address on 'Recognition of Pali as a Classical Indian Language'
- Debate on India being the source and origin of dissemination of Buddha Dhamma across Asia
- Curated Exhibition on 'Dhamma Setu Connecting Asia: Dissemination of Buddha Dhamma'

August presence

- Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, Minister of Culture and Tourism, GOI
- Shri Kiren Rijju**, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, GOI
- Shantse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden**, Secretary General, IBC
- Most Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw**, President Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Myanmar

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# 6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## CREATING A WAVE

THE BJP in Maharashtra is leaving no stone unturned to connect to the voters in the state. It has now rolled out a podcast campaign with Vinay Sahasrabudde, former national vice-president of the BJP, as its host. His Marathi podcast series 'Nakki Kay Challay?' (What's happening exactly?) was launched on Sunday. The series features domain experts such as Popat Pawar, Milind Kamble, Pasha Patel, Sadanand More and celebrated podcaster Bhau Torsekar, who give their take on what has happened and what should happen. Smriti Irani and Devendra Fadnis are also likely to join the podcast. Sahasrabudde, it seems, wants to take voters beyond the headlines.

## RIVER FEST

UNION JALSHAKTI Minister C R Patil was in Haridwar to participate in the Ganga Utsav, an event organised by his ministry. As part of the event, the minister released some Golden Mahseer, an endangered fish species that is native to the Himalayan region, into the river. The National Mission for Clean Ganga is trying to revive the population of the Golden Mahseer in the Ganga. On the occasion, Patil also flagged off the first-ever all-woman river rafting expedition organised by the NMCG in collaboration with the BSF.

## THE MISSING KEY

THE UNION government's annual month-long 'Special Campaign' came to an end on October 31, with thousands of offices being cleaned, old files being removed and scrap material being sold. At Nirman Bhawan, which houses the Housing and Urban Affairs and Health Ministries, however, one room remained a challenge for the cleaners. It turns out that after asking all the departments in September in the run-up to the cleanliness campaign and looking at records, the CPWD wasn't able to find out the allottee of the particular locked room on the ground floor. Now, it is learnt, the CPWD is planning to break the locks if the custodian of the room doesn't claim it by Friday.

## Kharge flags reserved vacancies in Central varsities, Pradhan hits back with UPA figures

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday targeted the government for "snatching away reservation rights" of Central university teachers, to which Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the "Congress party is in the habit of lying".

Kharge said that 27 per cent of the teaching posts in 46 Central universities are lying vacant. Pradhan countered Kharge's claim saying that "in 2024 as compared to 2014, the total number of vacant posts has decreased from 37% to 26.8% today".

Accusing the government of "snatching away the rights of reservation of teachers" in Central universities, Kharge said that "out of the sanctioned 18,940 teaching posts in 46

Central universities, 27% are vacant". Citing an RTI response, he said: "More than 38% of SC, ST, OBC reserved posts are lying vacant... SC: 32.1% vacant; ST: 40.3% vacant, OBC: 41.8% vacant," said Kharge in a post on X.

Countering Kharge, Pradhan said: "...the truth is crystal clear. In 2014, during the Congress UPA government, there were 16,217 sanctioned posts in Central universities out of which 6,042 posts, i.e. 37% posts, were vacant. 57%, 63% and 60% posts of SC, ST and OBC were vacant... The Modi government is rapidly filling all these posts by taking every section along. This is the reason that despite the increase in the number of sanctioned posts (18,940) in 2024 as compared to 2014, the total number of vacant posts has decreased from 37% to 26.8% today," said the Union minister in a post on X, replying to Kharge.

MANOJ CGG  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

IT IS election time and the revdi (freebies) versus welfare schemes political debate is back. It is just that one party's revdi is another party's welfare and vice versa. But the feverish squabble over semantics apart, several questions merit attention. Do populist schemes automatically translate into votes, especially to the incumbent, and should there be a debate on the efficacy and reach of at least some of these schemes?

More importantly: what has happened to the Election Commission's (EC) directive two years ago asking political parties to spell out ways and means of raising additional resources to finance their manifesto promises and the impact it would have on the fiscal sustainability of the state or the Central government? In October 2022, the poll

body came out with a standardised disclosure proforma for parties to declare details of the extent and expanse of the coverage of the promised scheme, quantification of physical coverage and financial implications and ways and means of raising resources for meeting the additional expenditure to be incurred in fulfilling the promises.

The latest debate was triggered after Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar hinted at a revision of the free bus ride scheme for women in his state. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge publicly chided Shivakumar and much to his party's discomfiture revealed that the party leadership had asked its state units to make only those promises that were fiscally doable.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP were quick to lap up Kharge's remarks, saying he has now realised that the

## CALLS JHARKHAND ALLIANCE 'GHUSPAITHIYA GATHBANDHAN'

# Modi targets JMM-Cong-RJD: Helping infiltrators settle down

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, NOVEMBER 4

STATING THAT "infiltration has entered the system" of the current Jharkhand government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called the JMM-led ruling coalition in the state a "ghuspaithiya gathbandhan" and urged the people to vote it out in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Accusing the JMM-Congress-RJD coalition of indulging in appeasement politics, the Prime Minister alleged that it is "settling" Bangladeshi infiltrators all over the state to get their votes.

Addressing a rally in Garhwa, his first in Jharkhand after the announcement of Assembly elections on November 13 and November 20, Modi said, "The JMM, Congress and RJD have taken the policy of appeasement to the extreme and are bent on breaking the social fabric. These three parties are supporters of infiltration, and to get the votes of Bangladeshi infiltrators, they are settling them all over Jharkhand."

Referring to recent incidents



PM Modi with party leaders in Chaibasa, Jharkhand. ANI

in the state, the PM said that when prayers of Goddess Saraswati are stopped in schools and when stones are pelted during festivals, it is time to understand that the situation has gotten out of hand. "When curfew is imposed, we realise how dangerous the situation is, when daughters are cheated in the name of marriage, we know that water has started flowing over the head," he said.

Targeting the Hemant Soren government in the state, Modi said, "Jab ghuspaith ka mamlu court mein jaaye aur prashasan use inkar kare to sarkari tantra mein ghuspaith ho chuki hai. Ye

aapki roti bhi cheen rahe hain, ye aapki beti bhi cheen rahe hain, aur ye aapki maati ko bhi hadap kar rahe hain (When the infiltration matter goes to court and the administration denies it, it means infiltration has taken place in the government system. These people will take away your food, your daughters and grab your lands)."

He said the "bad policies" of the alliance continue, the tribal population will shrink. "The security of both the tribal community and the country is under threat, hence this infiltrators' coalition has to be thrown out with your vote," he said.

"The truth is that government of Jharkhand has become a "mafia slave". People are forced to migrate, but these people are busy looting money. There are no businesses here, but the business of transfer-posting is flourishing," he said, urging people to vote out the JMM-led coalition. He asserted that only BJP can provide 'Suvidha', 'Suraksha', 'Sthirta' and 'Samridhhi', which is "Modi's guarantee".

Modi said that if the BJP is voted to power in the state, it will bring stringent legislation to return land grabbed by infiltrators.

Addressing another rally in Chaibasa later in the day, the PM targeted Congress, saying it is trying to "snatch" reservation meant for tribals and hand it over to its "vote bank". "Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar ensured the provision of reservation to protect tribal rights but Nehruji opposed it. The Gandhi family opposed reservation till they were in control of power after Nehru. Now once again they have openly announced that they will scrap reservation for tribals. They will snatch tribal reservation and hand it over to their vote bank," he said.



## CAMPAIGN MODE

Congress party's Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll candidate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during campaigning on Monday. ANI

## Two weeks before Assembly elections, poll panel transfers Maharashtra DGP Shukla

MOHAMED THAYER  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) on Monday transferred Maharashtra DGP Rashmi Shukla, a 1988 batch IPS officer, two weeks ahead of Assembly elections in the state. Earlier, there had been a formal complaint against her by Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole, alleging political bias towards the BJP and sought to have her transferred for free and fair polls.

The EC had also pulled up



Rashmi Shukla is a 1988-batch IPS officer

Shukla and Maharashtra Chief Secretary for partial compliance with its orders seeking transfer of officers. State Election Commission (SEC) officials, however, said that the EC order had not mentioned any reason for the transfer.

Mumbai Police

Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar has been given additional charge of the post of DGP till a new DGP is appointed. The EC asked the government to send the names of three senior officers, following which names of Sanjay Kumar Verma, Retesh Kumaar and Sanjeev Singhal were sent. The EC will select the next DGP from among these names.

Shukla has been sent on compulsory leave for a period of one month following which the new government will take a decision on whether she will be reinstated or the selected DGP will

continue.

Later in the day, in a letter to the EC, Nana Patole said, "Given that the service extension was specifically granted for the role of DGP and was not applicable to any other role, it logically follows that upon vacating the DGP position, the officer's service automatically terminates. Therefore, any reassignment or appointment to another position would be legally impermissible."

Shukla, who was to retire in June this year was given a two-year tenure as state DGP in January this year.

## FROM NOVEMBER 13 TO 20

# Bypolls rescheduled in 14 Assembly seats in Kerala, Punjab and UP due to festivities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

WITH LESS than 10 days remaining, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday rescheduled bypolls in 14 Assembly constituencies across Kerala, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh from November 13 to November 20 after receiving requests from political parties.

The ECI announced bypolls to 48 Assembly seats and two Lok Sabha constituencies on October 15. The bypolls were to be held on November 13 for all seats except the Nanded parliamentary constituency in Maharashtra and Kedarnath Assembly constituency in Uttarakhand, which vote on November 20.

On Monday, the ECI said in a statement: "Subsequently, representations have been received in the Commission from various recognised national and state political parties...and some social organisations for change of date of poll in some Assembly Constituencies having bye elections on 13th November 2024, considering large scale social, cultural and religious engage-

ments on that day which may cause inconvenience to large number of people, give rise to various logistic issues and may lead to reduced voters participation during the poll."

The ECI rescheduled the bypolls in Palakkad (Kerala); Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbawal, Gidderbaha and Barnala (Punjab); and Meerapur, Kundarki, Ghaziabad, Khair, Karhal, Sishamau, Phulpur, Katehari and Majhawan (Uttar Pradesh) to November 20. The date of counting of votes, November 23, would remain the same, the ECI said.

According to an ECI source, the poll panel decided on parties' requests in view of the turnout. The Congress had written to the ECI that a large number of Palakkad electors would be engaged in the Kalpathi Rastholsavam festival from November 13 to November 15, the source said. In UP, BJP, BSP and RLD said electors would be travelling ahead of Kartik Purnima on November 15. In Punjab, the Congress requested a change of polling due to the 555th Parkash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev on November 15 and the Akhand Path from November 13 onwards.

## KERALA ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS

# Palakkad: In seat seen as within its reach, BJP faces rebellion

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 4

THE BJP's hopes of making a dent in the bypoll for Palakkad, a seat where it finished runner-up in both the 2016 and 2021 Assembly elections, have taken a beating. On Monday, its popular young leader and state committee member G Sandeep Varier declared that he would not campaign for C Krishnakumar, the BJP candidate for the Palakkad bypoll, to be held on November 20 now.

In 2021, the BJP had fielded 'Metro Man' E Sreedharan from the seat, and he got 35.34% of the votes, underlining the improvement in the party's vote share election after election in Palakkad. Even in the 2016 Assembly polls, when the BJP did not have such a high-profile candidate, it got 29.08% of the votes in the seat.

In this year's Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won its first-ever constituency in Kerala, Thrissur, boosting its expectations regarding Palakkad.

Varier contested the 2021 Assembly elections from Shornur in Palakkad district, and got 24.34% of the votes. His rebellion against the BJP, announced via a Facebook post, comes close on the heels of a 2021 election fund scandal returning to haunt the party.

Last week, a former BJP office secretary in Thrissur, Thiroor Sathesh, alleged that some hawala money had been



Krishnakumar is BJP nominee for the Nov 20 byelection

"looted" during the elections was meant for the party. He also pointed fingers at BJP Kerala president K Surendran, while claiming he was acting at the behest of party state vice-president Shobha Surendran. Shobha has denied this, while Surendran has said he has no reason to suspect her.

The BJP Kerala president dismissed the impact of Varier's move Monday, indicating that he was on his way out. "We are watching the situation... Let us see to what extent he goes. We have no worries about the poll outcome," Surendran said.

On CPI(M) leaders' offer to Varier to join their party, Surendran said: "Who will join a sinking ship?"

The absence of Varier from the BJP's Palakkad campaign has been noticeable, with party sources saying he believes senior leaders have sidelined him despite his contributions, including heading the party's campaign in the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat from where senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi contested.

A few days back, as per a source, Varier was denied a seat at a party election convention in Palakkad. FULL REPORT

www.indianexpress.com

# Do populist schemes win polls? As PM leads attack, a lot for Congress to chew on

MANOJ CGG  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

IT IS election time and the revdi (freebies) versus welfare schemes political debate is back. It is just that one party's revdi is another party's welfare and vice versa. But the feverish squabble over semantics apart, several questions merit attention. Do populist schemes automatically translate into votes, especially to the incumbent, and should there be a debate on the efficacy and reach of at least some of these schemes?

More importantly: what has happened to the Election Commission's (EC) directive two years ago asking political parties to spell out ways and means of raising additional resources to finance their manifesto promises and the impact it would have on the fiscal sustainability of the state or the Central government? In October 2022, the poll

body came out with a standardised disclosure proforma for parties to declare details of the extent and expanse of the coverage of the promised scheme, quantification of physical coverage and financial implications and ways and means of raising resources for meeting the additional expenditure to be incurred in fulfilling the promises.

The latest debate was triggered after Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar hinted at a revision of the free bus ride scheme for women in his state. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge publicly chided Shivakumar and much to his party's discomfiture revealed that the party leadership had asked its state units to make only those promises that were fiscally doable.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP were quick to lap up Kharge's remarks, saying he has now realised that the

Congress should not make reckless announcements. Modi said the Congress now stands badly exposed in front of the people and that the people should be "vigilant against the Congress sponsored culture of fake promises".

The finger-pointing apart, no party can claim it was above board. On Monday, Prime Minister Modi himself amplified the BJP's manifesto promises for Jharkhand while addressing a rally in Garhwa. He said the BJP's manifesto promised initiatives such as the Gogo Didi scheme, which would provide women with Rs 2,100 each month and an unemployment allowance of Rs 2,000 for the youth under the "Yuva Sathi Bhatta" programme. He said gas cylinders would be available for Rs 500, with two free cylinders provided during festivals.

In fact, it was Prime Minister Modi who triggered the debate on freebies in 2022 when he decided the "revdi" culture, a reference to



Latest debate triggered after Karnataka Dy CM D K Shivakumar hinted at a revision of the free bus ride scheme for women. File

freebies offered by political parties, triggering a war of words between the BJP and Opposition parties. The Congress had made similar promises regarding unemployment allowance and financial assistance for women in Karnataka, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh. And the Prime Minister criticised the Congress for making reckless promises. Among the 10 promises the

Congress made in Himachal Pradesh was a monthly allowance of Rs 1,500 crore for women. In Karnataka, the party promised Rs 2,000 monthly assistance for women heads of family, and Rs 3,000 allowance for unemployed youth with a graduate degree. In Telangana, the Congress made promises including Rs 2,500 each month for women heads of families.

The Congress government in Himachal has been able to implement only five of the 10 welfare promises announced in the manifesto. One of the promises was to provide 300 units of free electricity per household. Owing to financial constraints, the government in July decided to discontinue an existing power subsidy scheme of providing 125 units of free electricity to all households for all consumers falling under the tax-paying group.

But one question is does directionless populism win votes? Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy learnt it the hard way in Andhra Pradesh earlier this year and so did K Chandrababhan Naidu, popularly known as KCR, in Telangana last year. Both Reddy and Naidu were heavily banking on their governments' welfare schemes to see them through in the elections. Jagan, in fact, recounted all

the welfare schemes his government had rolled out — among them social security pension, Rythu Bharosa scheme, Amma Vodi scheme, YSR Aasara, YSR Cheyutha, YSR Matsyakara Bharosa — and said it was unathomable how he could lose despite all that. KCR's Bharat Rashtira Samithi was equally perplexed. On the other hand, the BJP retained power in Madhya Pradesh last year riding on the welfare initiatives, including the Ladli Behna scheme that is now replicated elsewhere by parties.

There is also a debate on the reach and efficacy of some of the schemes. "The free bus ride scheme for women in Karnataka should be limited to those in the BPL category. I had pointed it out to the high command... There is no logic to allow free bus rides to all women including income taxpayers," said a senior Karnataka

Congress leader. He then added, "It is not in our hands... the high command is pushing it... and the leadership perhaps believes such guarantees (promises) are a winning formula."

Agreed a senior Congress leader from Maharashtra. The Congress is set to come out with its manifesto for Maharashtra on Wednesday. "There will be five guarantees but we are not aware of the exact details. The high command is fine-tuning it and they will let us know," he said.

Despite Modi targeting Congress over populist schemes, BJP is heading into the elections in Maharashtra this month with its campaign built around the Eknath Shinde government's welfare schemes (one of the centrepieces of the campaign is the "Ladki Bahin Yojana"). As a result, the Congress would have to come out with some promises to counter BJP and its allies on this front, said the leader from Maharashtra.

Ranthambore: A day after villager mauled to death, tiger found dead

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 4

A 12-year-old tiger was allegedly killed by villagers in Uliyana near Ranthambore National Park on Sunday, less than 24 hours after a tiger mauled a resident to death in the same area.

Officials said the carcass of the tiger, identified as T-86, was found in a field adjacent to the National Park on Sunday afternoon. "Post-mortem reports suggest that the tiger was attacked by a blunt object which raises the possibility that humans may have attacked it. But there are no eyewitnesses to the incident. We are following the procedure and if there is any evidence of killing a tiger, we will take the required action," Chief Conservator of Forest Swai Madhopur, Anoop K R, told The Indian Express.

However, Anoop said it was yet to be ascertained if T-86 was the tiger that had killed the man a day earlier.

Late on Saturday afternoon, Bharat Lal Meena was mauled to death by a tiger while he was grazing his goats in the field near the national park. The tiger reportedly sat near Meena's body for about 20 minutes before fleeing into the forest after villagers arrived.

According to Anoop, T-86's body also had a separate wound that indicated it might have been injured in a fight with another tiger.

After Meena's body was found in the field, angry villagers blocked the Sawai Madhopur-Kundera Road, alleging Forest Department officials did not reach the village despite being informed about the incident.

Gadchiroli man murder: NIA takes over probe

SADAF MODAK MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the probe in connection with the murder of a 27-year-old man in Gadchiroli in 2023 allegedly by Maoists on suspicion of him being a police informer.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in an order passed last month, directed the transfer of the probe into the death of Dinesh Gawde to the NIA — one of the first such cases in the state to be probed by the central agency.

On Monday, the four men arrested in connection with the case by the Maharashtra police were produced before the special court in Mumbai which is designated for cases filed by the NIA in the state. Special Judge C S Baviskar sent the four accused to judicial custody till November 16.

The NIA is likely to seek their custody on Tuesday for further probe. Special public prosecutor Jaysing Desai submitted that the NIA will approach the court to seek their custody after completing all necessary documentation. The special judge directed that proper legal representation be arranged for the accused when they are produced.

The four accused — Doba Wadde, Ravi Pallo, Satish Mahaka and Komati Mahaka, residents of Gadchiroli — were booked on charges including murder, criminal conspiracy of the Indian Penal Code. They now also face seven sections under the UAPA.

ST Commission to seek report from NTCA on villages' relocation from tiger reserves

NIKHIL GHANEKAR NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

THE NATIONAL Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has taken cognisance of representations sent to it against a June advisory of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), asking state forest departments to submit action plans on the relocation of villages from tiger reserves.

The NCST, a constitutional body, held a full commission meeting on the issue on September 24 with chairperson Antar Singh Arya and its three members in attendance.

The commission decided to seek a report from NTCA on the

relocation issue, highly placed sources in the commission confirmed to The Indian Express. The September meeting's decision was ratified in the last week of October.

Further, the commission also decided to seek an action-taken report from the Union Environment Ministry and NTCA on its 2018 recommendations to revise the compensation package offered to villagers voluntarily opting to move out of tiger reserves. The NCST had said in October 2018 that the compensation package should be provided based on the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. It added that the compensation package

should include the monetary package along with the full range of entitlements as provided under the 2013 Act.

The NTCA had revised the compensation in 2021 from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh per family.

The commission, sources said, wants to know the action taken by NTCA on its 2018 recommendations and the relocations carried out thereon.

The Indian Express had reported in June that NTCA had written to state forest departments asking them to take up village relocation on a priority basis and frame a timeline for the smooth relocation of villages from core areas of tiger reserves. As per NTCA's letter, 591 villages

comprising 64,801 families live inside critical tiger habitats, also known as core areas, in 54 tiger reserves across 19 states. So far, 251 villages with 25,007 families have been relocated outside tiger reserves. Later, in September, a collective of over 150 tribal rights groups and individuals wrote to the NCST, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change seeking a rollback of NTCA's letter.

The representation stated that the NTCA's letter was in violation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006, as it sought time-bound village relocation plans for a

process that is voluntary, as per law.

Under the Wildlife Protection Act, areas free of human settlements can be created in the core of tiger reserves. However, this is to be done after recognising the rights of tribal communities under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and with the informed consent of the Gram Sabha concerned.

Additionally, the state government has to conclude that activities of the tribal communities or forest dwellers or their presence are sufficient to cause irreversible damage to tigers and their habitat. They have to also conclude that there is no other reasonable option for the community to co-exist with tigers.

DAILY HEARING TO BEGIN FROM NOV 11 CBI court presses charges in RG Kar rape case, accused says 'being framed'

ATRI MITRA KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 4

NEARLY THREE months after a 31-year-old junior doctor was raped and killed at state-run RG Kar hospital in Kolkata, a special CBI court in Sealdah on Monday framed charges against sole accused Sanjay Roy.

Roy has been charged under Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) section 64 (rape punishable with rigorous imprisonment of life term and not less than 10 years), section 66 (punishment for causing death or resulting in a persistent vegetative state) and 103/1 (murder punishable with death or imprisonment for life) among others.

With the charges framed, the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate court said that the day-to-day trial would commence on November 11.

Roy, who was present in the court when charges were listed against him, claimed he was innocent and that he was being framed. "I have done nothing. I have been framed. All the blame is being put on me. I did not commit the rape-murder. I was not allowed to speak... I am completely innocent. I have been framed," Roy shouted as he was whisked away by the police from the courtroom on Monday.

Roy, a civic volunteer with Kolkata Police, was arrested by Kolkata Police on August 10, a day after the woman junior doctor's body was found inside the seminar hall of the RG Kar hospital.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which took over the probe from the Kolkata



Accused Sanjay Roy outside the court in Sealdah on Monday. Express

Police on the Calcutta High Court's direction, in its 45-page chargesheet submitted to the court had listed 11 pieces of evidence — from forensic to documentary — to hold Roy the sole accused in the crime.

The CBI said that the victim's blood was found on Roy's jeans and shoes. Also, Roy's hair, and a Bluetooth earpiece that synced with his cellphone were found from the crime scene — the seminar hall at the RG Kar hospital — from where the woman's body was found on the morning of August 9.

The report of the swab taken from the area around the crime scene showed presence of Roy's saliva as confirmed by the DNA report, the CBI, said in its chargesheet. The CBI has attached the forensic report and Roy's DNA report with its chargesheet.

On September 14, the CBI-arrested Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of R G Kar Medical College, and Abhijit Mondol, the then officer-in-charge of Talal police station, in connection with alleged tampering of evidence in the case and trying to "hush up" the incident.



During the PWCA Asian Tour India at Bir-Billing in Himachal Pradesh on Monday. Kamleshwar Singh

Russian paragliders soar under foreign flags at Bir-Billing event

SAURABH PARASHAR BIR-BILLING, NOVEMBER 4

A NUMBER of paragliders from Russia are participating in the Paragliding World Cup Asian Tour-2024 under the flags of other countries, a workaround for athletes facing restrictions due to international sanctions on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine. These sanctions, imposed by many sporting bodies, prevent Russian athletes from competing under their national flag. Among those adapting to the rules is the Russian couple Leonid Savintsev and Daria Eltekova, who are competing under the German flag due to their dual citizenships.

Daria stood third in the women's category with a score of 370.5 points in today's race.



Leonid Savintsev and Daria Eltekova represented Germany amid sanctions.

ing licence, while Daria has one from Israel," Leonid explained as he headed for the takeoff.

He added, "The sanctions have limited Russian participation, but we've managed to continue our passion for paragliding." The couple has been training at Bir-Billing since early October, balancing remote work with their love of flying.

At least nine other participants of Russian origin are competing under the flags of Armenia, Kazakhstan, etc. One of them, requesting anonymity, said, "...The organizing authority, PWCA, France, accepted our applications and allowed us to participate after thorough scrutiny. In the 2015 World Cup held in India... there were no restrictions." FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Leonid explained that their dual status and flying licences from other countries allow them to participate in international events.

"I am Russian and currently working in Germany. My wife Daria also has dual citizenship. This is my second international event this year; I also competed in Barcelona. I hold a German fly-

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Advertisement for Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) featuring a notice of record date for the 2nd interim dividend for FY 2024-25, held on 29.10.2024.

Advertisement for Bihar Lok Seva Aayog (बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग) for recruitment of 700 posts (एकीकृत 700वीं संयुक्त (प्रारम्भिक) प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा) on 23.09.2024.

Advertisement for Indian Bank (इंडियन बैंक) regarding a possession notice for immovable property in Gopalganj, Bihar, under Appendix IV (Rule-8(1)) of the Security Interest Act, 2002.

Advertisement for Punjab National Bank (पंजाब नैशनल बैंक) regarding a sale notice for immovable properties under the securitization and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest act, 2002.

## WhatsApp groups 'based on religion': Kerala IAS officer says phone hacked

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
NOVEMBER 4



IAS officer K Gopalakrishnan

THE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM city police have started an investigation after an IAS officer filed a complaint that his phone was hacked and that he was made admin of several new WhatsApp groups, including two separate ones for officers from the Hindu and Muslim communities.

The complainant, IAS officer K Gopalakrishnan, is the director of industries and commerce in Kerala. He claimed that two WhatsApp groups called "Mallu Hindu Officers" and "Mallu Muslim Officers" were created after his phone was hacked.

The "Mallu Hindu Officers" group was formed on October 30. However, it was deleted within hours of its creation as several officials flagged the impropriety of such a group.

Gopalakrishnan then informed the members of the group that someone had taken control of his phone and created 11 groups. Reacting to the controversy, Gopalakrishnan said,

"Another group, 'Mallu Muslim Officers', was also formed with me as the admin. After colleagues alerted me, I deleted all groups." On Monday, he filed a police complaint.

City Police Commissioner and Inspector General of Police Sparjan Kumar said, "We have got a complaint from the officer today... Since the groups have been deleted, we have sought details from Whatsapp. Then only can we come to know whether these groups were formed after hacking the phone."

Industries Minister P Rajeev said, "The government will look into the matter. If the groups had emerged on the basis of religion, it is a serious matter. Let the probe be completed."

The ruling CPI(M)'s state secretary MV Govindan declined to comment on the matter before the probe is completed.

## 36 killed in Uttarakhand bus mishap, CM suspends officials

AVANEESH MISHRA  
DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 4

AT LEAST 36 people died and 27 others were wounded after a bus carrying their lost control and fell into a gorge in Kupi village near Marchula in Uttarakhand's Almora Monday morning.

According to officials, the 42-seater bus was carrying 63 people and was on its way to Ramnagar from Kirath of Nainidanda. Initial reports said the accident was so severe that many people were thrown out of the bus.

"The incident took place Monday morning and the district administration received information about the bus falling into a 150-meter-deep gorge around 8.45 am," said Almora District Disaster Management Officer (DDMO) Vineet Pal.

While 28 people, including 8 women and a child died on the spot, eight others died while undergoing treatment at the Ramduit Joshi Hospital in Ramnagar. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami described



Rescue and relief work underway after a passenger bus fell into a gorge in Uttarakhand's Almora on Monday. PTI

the incident as "unfortunate".

"The district administration has been instructed to conduct relief and rescue operations swiftly. The local administration and SDRF teams at the site of the incident are working swiftly to evacuate the injured and take them to the

nearest health centre for treatment. Instructions have also been given to airlift the seriously injured passengers if required," Dhami said in a post on X.

Later, the CM, who visited the accident site and hospitals, announced that some officials asso-

ciated with the Assistant Regional Transport Officer were being suspended in the affected areas of Pauri and Almora. Additionally, he directed the Commissioner of the Kumaon Division to initiate a magisterial inquiry into the incident. He also announced ex-gratia compensation of ₹4 lakh for the kin of the deceased and ₹1 lakh for the wounded.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also voiced their condolences over the incident.

"My condolences to those who lost their loved ones in the road accident in Almora, Uttarakhand. Along with this, I wish for the speedy recovery of all the injured. Under the supervision of the state government, the local administration is engaged in every possible effort for relief and rescue," the PM said in a post.

Meanwhile, the Prime Ministers' Office too announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh for kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 to wounded.

## Ajit Ranade quits as GIPE V-C days after reinstatement

SOHAM SHAH  
PUNE, NOVEMBER 4



In a letter to Chancellor Sanjeev Sanyal, Ranade wrote that he was resigning for personal reasons

ECONOMIST DR Ajit Ranade has resigned from the post of Vice Chancellor of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics in Pune. In a letter dated October 29 and addressed to the newly appointed Chancellor Sanjeev Sanyal, Ranade wrote that he was resigning for personal reasons with immediate effect.

Aakash Gulankar, communications officer at Gokhale Institute, confirmed the resignation to *The Indian Express*.

Ranade, who has been embroiled in a controversy surrounding his appointment, wrote, "Please note that this letter of resignation does not in any way indicate my acceptance of any defect or ineligibility in my appointment as Vice Chancellor in October 2021."

Ranade was terminated as Vice Chancellor by the previous Chancellor of the Gokhale Institute, the late Bibek Debroy, on September 14 this year after a fact-finding committee found his appointment qualifications did not conform to University Grants Commission (UGC) norms.

Ranade challenged his termination in the Bombay High Court and got interim relief, following which Debroy resigned from the post of Chancellor. Sanyal was appointed as the new Chancellor and he cancelled the termina-

tion order passed by his predecessor, saying that Ranade should get a chance to defend his case internally within the institute.

On October 22, Sanyal's lawyer informed the Bombay High Court that the September 14 order of termination of Dr Ranade as the Vice Chancellor was withdrawn.

A division bench of Justices R V Ghuge and M M Sathaye accepted the statement and disposed of Ranade's plea challenging the termination order.

Welcoming the decision to cancel the termination, Ranade had said, "I welcome with thanks the decision of the Honourable Chancellor of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics to withdraw the earlier order of my termination from the post of Vice Chancellor at Gokhale Institute. The same was also informed by the lawyer representing the Chancellor's office during the hearing at the Honourable Bombay High Court this morning during the hearing."

## SC declines interim relief to Rajoana, gives Punjab 2 weeks to reply

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4



Rajoana is on death row for Beant Singh's assassination

THE SUPREME Court on Monday declined to give any interim relief to Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted of the assassination of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, on his plea seeking commutation of death sentence, without first hearing the matter in detail.

A three-judge bench presided by Justice B R Gavai gave the Punjab government two more weeks to reply to Rajoana's plea and fixed it for hearing next on November 18. The writ petition sought commutation of his death sentence on the grounds of "extraordinary" and "inordinate delay" in deciding his mercy petition by the President.

Appearing for Rajoana, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi submitted that he "has been in custody without break for 29 years till today". The senior counsel said the delay in deciding the mercy plea was shocking. To a specific query, the counsel for the Punjab government told the bench, also comprising Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and K V Viswanathan, that it had not been able to file a reply to the petition on which the court had issued notice to it on September 27.

Seeking interim relief, Rohatgi said, "After 29 years, out of which 15 years he has been on death row, they have not disposed of my mercy plea when others have been commuted to life imprisonment in this case by the Supreme Court." He pointed out that Rajoana's earlier petition seeking commutation of death sentence was disposed of in May 2023 by

the SC, which said that "they (authorities) will take action on the mercy plea in due course".

The senior counsel urged the court to release him "for six months or three months" and said "he is a finished person. At least, let him see what is outside... You cannot have complete violation of his Article 21."

However, the bench said that it would have to hear the matter. Convicted for the August 31, 1995, assassination of Singh and 12 others, pro-Khalistan militant Rajoana was sentenced to death in 2007 by a special CBI court.

A mercy petition was filed on his behalf by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee in March 2012. In September 2019, the MHA wrote to Punjab, proposing commutation of his death sentence into life imprisonment to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, but the proposal was never implemented. In September 2020, Rajoana moved the SC stating that his mercy petition pending for 10 years be taken up immediately for disposal. Hearing his plea, the court asked the Centre to decide on it. The Central government then filed an affidavit stating that it "has decided to defer taking any decision on the mercy plea... as it has a serious potential of compromising the security of the nation or creating a law and order situation".

## MiG-29 fighter jet crashes near Agra during training sortie, pilot, co-pilot eject safely

NEETIKA JHA  
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 4

A MiG-29 fighter jet crashed in Agra's Bagha Sonigha village in the Kagarol police station area in Uttar Pradesh during a routine training sortie around 5pm Monday after encountering a system malfunction, said a senior official of the Indian Air Force. There have been no casualties as the pilot maneuvered the aircraft to ensure that there was no damage to life or property and ejected it safely, he added.

"The pilot and co-pilot have been rescued and admitted to the district hospital," said Devesh Singh, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Sainya), Agra. He added that a rescue operation is currently underway at the spot.

"There was a huge fire after the crash and we are trying to douse the fire," said Kagarol Station House Officer. He said the



Smoke billows after an IAF plane crashed and caught fire near Agra on Monday. PTI

plane had taken off from Adampur in Punjab and was en

route to Agra. An inquiry has been initiated

to find out the exact cause of the accident, the senior official said.

## Naidu plans Dutch gravity canal system in Amravati to check flooding

World Bank wants flood prevention plan in place at earliest: Minister

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 4

USING THE Netherlands' system of gravity canals and reservoirs at Amravati, constructing ring roads, and calling for fresh tenders for all capital city projects by January — these are some of the major decisions that the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) took Monday.

As the Andhra Pradesh government pushes ahead with its

pet Amravati capital city project, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, whose government first started it during his previous tenure between 2014 and 2019, chaired the 39th meeting of the CRDA.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) P Narayana said that the World Bank had agreed to release ₹15,000 crore for Amravati but had asked the state government to execute its flood prevention plans at the earliest.

According to him, the Vijayawada flood in September had raised concerns of a similar situation in the capital region, and the state government wanted to resolve the issue on priority.



N Chandrababu Naidu

"As part of this exercise, reservoirs are being constructed in various parts including the 217 km stretch of the capital city of Amravati," the minister said.

"The gravity canal reservoirs are being built at Kondaveeti and Palavagu in the capital region, while storage reservoirs are be-

ing constructed at Neerukonda, Krishnayapalem, Sakhamuru, and Vundavalli."

Besides this, the Chief Minister also directed authorities to take up inner and outer ring road projects despite having bypass roads around the capital.

According to officials, the state government has decided to close old tenders for Amravati and call for new ones.

It had also set a three-year deadline for completing the Amravati project.

"Tenders had been called between 2014 and 2019 for works worth ₹41,000 crore in Amravati of which works amounting to ₹35,000 crore have been launched," he said.

"Work had been taken up for the construction of the high

court, legislative complex along with several roads, residential complexes for the HC judges, ministers, and All India Service officers," he said.

But the previous government under Jagan Mohan Reddy had "completely neglected" the Amravati project by announcing its three-capital plan, he added.

"Even bills worth several crores for various agencies which have taken up the works have been kept pending," he claimed.

Narayana said that to resolve such issues, the Naidu government had set up a technical committee comprising chief engineers on July 24.

The committee submitted its 23-point report on October 29.

"The meeting discussed the report in detail and approved it," he said.

As per the 23 recommendations, all the old tenders will be closed and fresh tenders will be called. Except for the High Court and the Assembly building works, tenders will be called for all other works before December 31. For High Court and the Assembly, it will be called by January next," he said.

The Netherlands has a history of water management using canals that use gravity to move water from a river or canal to a field or reservoir.

In April 2017, Dutch consultants and TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) had submitted designs for reservoirs and inland waterways for Amravati.

## Army successfully conducts patrolling of key point in eastern Ladakh's Depsang

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

THE INDIAN Army successfully patrolled one of the patrolling points in the Depsang area of eastern Ladakh on Monday, days after Indian and Chinese troops completed the disengagement at Depsang and Demchok, the two friction points in the region.

The patrolling at Demchok began on Friday, a day after the completion of the troop disengagement process.

"Following the consensus reached between the Indian and Chinese sides for disengagement and resumption of patrolling in Depsang and Demchok, the Indian Army patrol to one of the patrolling points in Depsang was successfully conducted today. This is yet another positive step towards maintaining peace and tranquility on the LAC," the Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps posted on X.

Patrolling began on Friday at Demchok, a day after completion of troop disengagement

It was not immediately known which patrolling point the troops patrolled.

The Indian Army has commenced a verification patrolling at Depsang, the second friction point in eastern Ladakh, the government said on Saturday.

Replying to a query at a weekly press briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had said that following the disengagement agreement with China, the verification patrolling began on mutually agreed terms in both Demchok and Depsang.

Last week, Indian and Chinese troops also exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on Diwali.

Sources had earlier said that the areas and patrolling status were expected to be moved back to pre-April 2020 level.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on October 21 said in Delhi that an agreement was finalised between India and China following negotiations over the past several weeks and that it would lead to a resolution of the issues that arose in 2020.

The agreement was firm up on patrolling and disengagement of troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, a breakthrough to end the over four-year stand-off.

The move marked a significant development in the pursuit of reduced tension along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

The ties between the two Asian giants had nosedived following the clash.

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The date of opening of above mentioned tender due on 06.11.2024 has been postponed to 20.12.2024.  
All other terms and conditions of the subject tender remain unchanged.  
(Vijay Singh)  
Executive Director/Track (M&M)  
Railway Board  
Tel: No. 011-47845531  
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# 9 DECISION 2024

MAHARASHTRA • JHARKHAND



## MAHARASHTRA CASTE POLITICS

# 'This is real Diwali for us': BJP claims a boost as Jarange-Patil defuses own quota bomb

Pawar argues move will benefit MVA as Maratha vote will not get divided

**MANOJ MORE**  
PUNE, NOVEMBER 4

ON THE day the deadline to withdraw nominations for the Maharashtra Assembly elections ended, this was one "withdrawal" few were expecting. Not only did 'activist' Manoj Jarange-Patil take the surprise decision to not back any candidate – having earlier climbed down on his decision to field his own – he also asked the Maratha community not to vote solely with the motive of defeating nominees who oppose quota.

In an interview to ABP Majha, Jarange-Patil went further and said his supporters were free to back BJP leaders if they supported the Maratha quota demand.

The BJP immediately hailed Jarange-Patil's decision, describing it as sensible, appropriate and "healthy" for Jarange's agitation for Maratha reservation.

If the activist's decision is seen as lowering the heat on the ruling Mahayuti, it could come as a boost for the coalition, particularly the BJP, whose Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has faced the brunt of Jarange-Patil's frequent hunger strikes and other pressure tactics in the past 15 months. "This is real Diwali for us," said a BJP leader from Beed district.

But the NCP (SP) argued that the development went in its favour, with its chief Sharad Pawar, who many believe has a hand in Jarange-Patil's rise, saying: "We have nothing to do with his decision. If he had backed own candidates, the BJP would have benefited (due to a split in the Maratha vote). He has taken the right decision."

Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Sanjay Raut was cautious, saying: "It is entirely up to Jarange-Patil to take a decision regarding the elections ... His



Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil has asked his community to decide on its own who it wants to vote for. File

battle is not political but a social movement. We will not advise him as to his stand. We will always extend our best wishes to his struggle for Maratha reservations ... He has even staked his life, and the community has stood rock solid behind him."

The activist's change of heart came less than 12 hours after his 11 pm Sunday press conference where he vowed "revenge" against the Mahayuti for "brazenly cheating" Marathas over reservations, and even broke down while making a promise to release a list of candidates he would back before 7 am Monday. He even indicated the seats where these candidates could be standing from. "We will back candidates and wherever we do not, we will defeat those who oppose Maratha reservation," he said.

Instead, at 9.30 am Monday, Jarange-Patil announced that he would not back any candidates, claiming "friendly parties" had failed to send a list of names as promised to him. He claimed he was not acting under any pressure, but as a part of his "Ganimi kava" or guerrilla tactics.

Asking Marathas to decide on their own regarding whom to vote for, Jarange-Patil said: "Because of some hurdles, the list from our alliance partners did not reach us. However, we will remain together... This is politics, such things happen."

On the BJP, he told ABP Majha: "If its candidates give us in writing that they support our quota demand or send videos supporting our demand, we will support them ... We will not share their letter or demand with anyone else."

The Maratha community comprises as much as 32% of the Maharashtra population, and was seen as backing the Maha Vikas Aghadi over the quota issue.

With the elections drawing near, leaders cutting across par-

ties, especially the Mahayuti's Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde (who is himself a Maratha), had been making a beeline to Jarange-Patil's Antarwali-Sarathi village to get his blessing.

A prominent Maratha Kranti Morcha leader, who played a key role in the quota agitation, said they had got a sense the past few days that Jarange-Patil might do a U-turn. He did not want to be identified for fear of a "backlash".

For Fadnavis in particular, the development may prove a relief, with many even within the Mahayuti blaming him and a lathicharge on an agitation led by Jarange-Patil (Fadnavis holds the Home Ministry) in particular for the turn of events.

However, now his consistent defence that it was a government led by him that first gave reservation to Marathas – struck down by courts is going to ring louder. "Jarange-Patil has taken the right decision. The agitation was becoming politicised ... causing confusion among the Maratha community," said BJP spokesperson Pravin Darekar.

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• **JHARKHAND**  
**IN 'ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS', BJP HAS DOMINATED LOK SABHA POLLS**

## Why Hemant Soren 'proposer' joining BJP has dented JMM in Santhal Pargana

**ABHISHEK ANGAD**  
RANCHI, NOVEMBER 4

IN A setback to the incumbent Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) days before the Jharkhand Assembly elections, party leader and Chief Minister Hemant Soren's "proposer" in his nomination from Barhait, Mandal Murmu, joined the Opposition BJP fold on Sunday.



Mandal Murmu (centre) with Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Himanta Biswa Sarma. X

**What was the abduction' row?**  
On October 27, Mandal Murmu's vehicle was chased and stopped by the Giridih police. It was followed by his brief detention. He was reportedly accompanied by a few leaders of the BJYM, the BJP's youth wing. They were soon allowed to leave. The JMM then alleged that it was a case of Murmu's "abduction".

The controversy snowballed, leading to intervention of the state's chief electoral officer (CEO). Subsequently, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar pulled up the Chief Secretary and the DGP of the state over the incident, questioning why the police did not videograph its detention of Murmu and his vehicle.

Hitting out at the BJP, the JMM accused it of "hobnobbing" with Murmu who had then told *The Indian Express*: "So many political leaders come to our village to pay respect to my forefathers. I know many leaders, and I was going to meet them for personal reasons."

Murmu has maintained that Bhognadih lacks basic amenities such as drinking water supply among other things. He said how politicians come to the village every year, but "nothing has happened for the villagers so far".

Murmu has also sought to compare Bhognadih with tribal icon Birsu Munda's village Ulihatu in Khunti district, saying the latter has been "developed".

Ulihatu village is said to have tarred roads, schools, and drinking water supply in most homes. It has been visited by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu, even as Birsu Munda's birth anniversary, November 15, is observed as "Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas (Tribal Pride Day)".

**DECODE POLITICS**

## PARTY HAS NO OPTION BUT TO BACK REBEL

# In blow to Congress, candidate pulls out of race amid infighting

**AJAY JADHAV**  
PUNE, NOVEMBER 4

IN A jolt to the Congress in the Kolhapur North Assembly constituency, the party's candidate Madhurimaraje Chhatrapati, who belongs to the erstwhile Kolhapur ruling family, pulled out of the fray on Monday, the last date of withdrawal of nomination.

Madhurimaraje's move came amid raging factionalism and infighting within the Congress unit in Kolhapur, which is considered to be among the party's traditional bastions in western Maharashtra.

Madhurimaraje is the daughter-in-law of Congress leader Shahu Chhatrapati Maharaj, the Kolhapur Lok Sabha MP.

As per the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)'s seat-sharing pact for the Assembly polls, Kolhapur North was allotted to the Congress.

Denying ticket to its sitting MLA Jayshree Chandrakant Jadhav, the Congress first named local party leader Rajesh Latkar as its nominee from the Kolhapur North seat. Later, the party replaced Latkar with Madhurimaraje as its debutant candidate whose husband

Malojiraje was also its MLA from the same seat from 2004 to 2009. Latkar however refused to roll back his bid, filing his nomination as an Independent. Madhurimaraje also launched her election campaign, with her candidature supported by Congress MLC Satej Patil.

Both Shahu Maharaj and Patil tried to convince Latkar to pull out of the race, but he did not agree, even as the Kolhapur unit seemed to be split over the issue.

Finally, Madhurimaraje was forced to withdraw. Shahu Maharaj said, "Unfortunately, Madhurimaraje has withdrawn from Kolhapur North. Latkar is a good and loyal leader of Congress. He has refused to withdraw. In this situation, we decided not to contest. Also, taking a step backward is a step forward for making a debut in future."

Patil was however disappointed. "The withdrawal of Congress candidate from this constituency at the last minute is wrong. I am disappointed. If the candidate was to withdraw, then the ticket should not have been given to her."

The Congress now seems to have been left with barely any option other than backing its "rebel" face Latkar.

## IMAGE OF THE DAY



**SHOW OF STRENGTH:** CISF personnel and Mumbai Police officials conduct a flag march in Mumbai on Monday. Ganesh Shirsalkar

## I HEREBY DECLARE

CHAMPAISOREN, 68		GANESH MAHALI, 49	
Former CM who was in JMM, now BJP's Seraikella candidate		Former BJP member and JMM's Seraikella candidate	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>₹2.28 CR</b> (2019)	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>₹1.13 CR</b> (2019)
₹3.37 CR (2024)		₹2.47 CR (2024)	
Movable assets	₹2.79 cr	Movable assets	₹94.61 lakh
Immovable assets	₹58.3 lakh	Immovable assets	₹1.48 cr
Liabilities	₹39.81 lakh	Liabilities	₹65 lakh
Education	Class 10	Education	MA, Kolhan
Pending criminal cases	1 FIR	Pending criminal cases	None

## READING THE SIGNALS

# Is Maharashtra's fractured polity becoming a space for de-ideologised politics?

Shifting individual loyalties apart, even parties like that of Uddhav Thackeray are slowly changing. Is there a growing acceptance of a centrist, middle-of-the-road approach?

**THE NEERJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN**  
Weekly insight into what's changing in national politics – and why

MY HEAD spun as I sat in front of the TV screen absorbing the information flowing in as the nominations closed for the Maharashtra elections. It spelt "Maha confusion".

There are six main parties in the fray in two coalitions. The Congress, the Shiv Sena (UBT), and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) are part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), while the Mahayuti is made up of the BJP, Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, and Ajit Pawar's NCP. There are more than six smaller parties allied with the two groups and others

such as the AIMIM unaligned. There are also "proxy candidates", a growing phenomenon in Indian elections.

Then there are hundreds of Independents; of them, 50 are known rebels, or "vote cutters", many backed informally by the big daddies of the political parties to defeat the official candidates to strengthen their post-poll bargaining position. (Officially, the parties on both sides have been trying to get the rebels to withdraw, and the picture will be clear after Monday). And there will also be some "friendly fights".

There are wheels within wheels at work in Maharashtra. In 2019, there were four main parties, with the BJP and its oldest ally Shiv Sena on the one side and the Congress and the NCP fighting on the other. When the BJP and the Sena fell apart over chief ministership, Sharad Pawar moved in for the kill to fashion

the MVA. He brought together the Congress and the Shiv Sena, the unlikely of allies, on the same platform along with his NCP and anointed Uddhav Thackeray as CM. The BJP split the Sena in 2022 and the NCP the following year, and went on to form the government.

Today, the scenario is even more complicated, something seen in recent times. In the absence of earlier benchmarks, it makes poll predictions that much more difficult and risky.

What is more, politics has divided even families right down the middle, like the Pawars. The Pawar family from across the world would gather together once a year despite their differences. But it has become a bitter battle now. It was Sunetra Pawar versus Supriya Sule in Baramati in the Lok Sabha elections. Now it is Ajit Pawar, who has won from the Baramati Assembly seat since 1991, pitted against his



Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and NCP (SP) leader Sharad Pawar after a meeting in Mumbai on Monday. PTI

young nephew Yugendra (the son of his brother) fielded by NCP (SP), making it a do-or-die battle for the supremacy of the party.

To add to voters' woes are the confusing party symbols. An activist who has worked in the relatively prosperous villages in Satara district lamented, "Many villagers, especially women, even the educated among them, are very confused about the symbols. They know about the 'kamal' (lotus, the BJP's symbol) but all else

is confusion ... This may have a big impact on the election."

The court allowed Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP to retain the original symbol of the Sena and the NCP: bow and arrow, and clock. Thackeray's party has been allotted a "mashal" (torch) and Pawar's outfit a man blowing the "tutari" (trumpet).

It would be naïve to believe there is no method to this madness. Politics being an art of "ju-

gaad", Indian politicians are adept at it. Shaina N C moved at the last minute to become a candidate in Mumbai, not of the BJP she represented night after night on TV screens as its spokesperson, but of Shinde's Shiv Sena. This time, the BJP, besides nominating 152 candidates, has parked 17 of its leaders as candidates of allied parties. What is to prevent them from siding with the BJP when it comes to choosing the CM, if the ruling Mahayuti is in a position to form the government again?

Maharashtra today is sending more than one message. An industrial and financial hub that thrives on stability, the state may be moving towards an increasingly fractured polity. The large number of political players in the fray also reflects India's diversity, growing aspirations, and assertion by every group for their share of the pie. But they also underline the growing use of fear, government agencies, and big money as tools to bring about political allegiance.

It may be rare for a Republican to become a Democrat, or vice versa, in the US where presidential elections are

underway. But it is easier in India, and indeed in Maharashtra, for an NCP or a Congress leader to move to the BJP, or the Sena (UBT) to join hands with the Congress it opposed all along, underscoring the de-ideologised politics we are increasingly heading towards.

Shifting individual loyalties apart, even parties themselves are slowly transforming. Today Uddhav Thackeray's hard Hindutva has mellowed and he has found acceptance even amongst the Muslims who voted for him in the Lok Sabha elections. Should this be read as a growing acceptance, even though it may not be openly acknowledged, that a centrist, middle-of-the-road approach is ultimately the way to go in a country as diverse as India?

Despite differences (as on VD Savarkar), the Congress agreed to do business with the Sena, which it had opposed. After the tussle over seat-sharing, and this is not without significance, the Congress finally agreed to contest only 11 of the 36 seats in Mumbai to observe "coalition dharma".

And yet, apart from keeping

the BJP at bay, the Opposition has yet to evolve an alternative narrative that glues its pieces together. Sympathy for Uddhav and Pawar, a desire for the revival of the Congress to counter the BJP, the fear of Dalits about losing reservation, and the Maratha yearning for reservation, took the MVA story to an impressive 30 Lok Sabha seats earlier this year. But Assembly polls are a ball game different from a Lok Sabha election.

The ruling Mahayuti has been quick to course-correct to offset its Lok Sabha losses, with the Ladki Bahin Yojana to give money in the hands of women, the consolidation of OBC support, and the spate of social welfare schemes announced before the code of conduct kicked in.

"It is a cut-to-cut situation today," a Mumbai-based remarked matter-of-factly. In such a situation, who covers the last mile faster will count. On this count, the BJP is better prepared.

(Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, *The Indian Express*, has covered the last 11 Lok Sabha elections. She is the author of *How Prime Ministers Decide*)



## The Indian EXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Why Nov 5 matters

Contrary to popular belief, US is not on the wane.  
Both Trump and Harris will wield power decisively



RAJA MANDALA

BY C RAJA MOHAN

## THE WORLD IS WAITING

An American election is never just about America. For India — and a world in churn — what US voters decide matters

AN AMERICAN ELECTION is never just about America. Governments and people around the world do not, of course, get a vote in who becomes the next US President — the former, especially, will have to navigate the currents that emanate from the White House, no matter the occupant. The US remains the world's largest economy and arguably the most significant actor on the geopolitical stage. The election result will have a deep impact, then, at a particularly volatile global moment. Questions around trade and protectionism, conflicts and interventionism, and the mobility of labour and capital will be determined, not wholly perhaps, but in good measure by whether Donald Trump or Kamala Harris wins this week. And the world — including and especially India — is waiting and hoping for the results of the collective wisdom of the American people.

It is disturbing to see the anti-migrant rhetoric on the campaign trail. Unlike Europe, the US is a country founded and enriched by migrants. Insular protectionism — in terms of capital and labour — goes against basic economic principles and could end up with the US squandering its comparative advantage. The US is India's largest trading partner — in the first seven months of 2024 alone, bilateral trade stood at \$72 billion. The US remains the top choice for Indian students studying abroad, and Indian labour, in crucial sectors such as medicine and technology, has a significant stake in the US. India is also home to the largest number of Global Capability Centres (1,700), which employ nearly 20 lakh people. Trump's threats of protectionism and weaponising tariffs could negatively impact each of these sectors. The GCCs, for example, are the sort of high-value labour outsourcing that the Republican candidate has targeted. Talk of punitive taxation on companies exporting labour defies economic rationality and could squander the gains in controlling inflation. It is important to keep in mind, however, that campaign rhetoric does not translate into policy, especially vis-a-vis Delhi. On the geopolitical front, too, there are major stakes. Trump, as President, gave a major push to the Quad and backed the concept of the Indo-Pacific — Joe Biden doubled down on that legacy. This strategic convergence in Asia is good for both countries. The US-India relationship has enjoyed broad bipartisan support for some time now. Washington has also been cognisant of India's development and energy needs vis-a-vis Russia and Iran. Hopefully, these pragmatic policies will be maintained, whoever the victor.

The world is currently in the grip of two major wars, both with expanding theatres. The consensus on globalisation and free trade has eroded, and the rise of China has added to the uncertainty. Ideas of bodily autonomy, women's rights and identity can and do travel across borders. The turn America takes after November 5 — internally, towards diversity and externally, in how it sees its role in the world — will reverberate beyond its borders.

AS THE WORLD'S leading nations closely monitor the US presidential elections and assess the implications of the impending change of guard in Washington, it is important to recognise that both former president Donald Trump and current vice president Kamala Harris will be unsentimental in leveraging American power in pursuit of US policy objectives. And contrary to widespread assumption, American power is not diminishing.

The argument on America's decline has a long lineage and dates back to the mid-19th century, when Karl Marx posited that capitalism's inherent contradictions would lead to its collapse. Founder of the Soviet Union Vladimir Lenin argued that imperialism, as the higher stage of capitalism, would foster fatal contradictions within and between Western industrial societies. Oswald Spengler provided a cultural and social critique of capitalism with his two-volume work, *The Decline of the West* (1918-1923). His views on the decay of Western civilisation resonated with various thinkers during the inter-war years, disillusioned by World War I's brutality among Western powers.

Despite early 20th-century challenges, capitalism survived, evolving in the US during the inter-war years and post-World War II in Europe. However, the idea of the West's inevitable collapse remained a keystone in the world view of communists, who maintained that capitalism was in a "terminal crisis".

Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev asserted in 1955 that the socialist camp would outlast and surpass the capitalist West. Chinese leader Mao Zedong was more elegant than Khrushchev when he stated that the "East wind will prevail over the West wind". More recently, in 2021, Xi Jinping declared that the West was in decline, and that a rejuvenated China will lead a post-Western world. However, with China experiencing an economic slowdown, the assumption that it will inevitably surpass the US is under doubt. As China's population declines and its economic momentum stalls, it's uncertain whether China can match the US, let alone overtake it.

Recent arguments about American decline focus on structural shifts in the international system, suggesting the rise of non-Western powers and the emergence of a "multipolar world" replacing the US-led unipolar order af-

ter the Soviet Union collapsed. Yet, the arrival of new influential actors doesn't necessarily establish a multipolar world. Only China, with its current economic size of \$18 trillion among the existing powers approximates a pole in the international system; but China's deceleration complicates its status. Other nations, including India, are far from achieving true pole position.

It is also impossible to bridge the differences within the emerging powers and unite them against the US, despite their shared resentment against American power. As we know from the "collective action problem", each member of the anti-American coalition is open to a separate deal with Washington.

Differentiating between Western and American decline is crucial. Non-Western actors are rising at Europe and Japan's expense, which face economic slowdowns and demographic declines. Meanwhile, the US has long maintained its share of global GDP at about 26 per cent. The Eurozone, once seen as an economic peer to the US, has been steadily losing ground; its current GDP is about \$15 trillion. Europe declines and China slows, while the US's share of global GDP is likely to increase.

Another argument supporting American decline suggests the fragmentation of the US-backed "liberal international order" (LIO). However, LIO is an academic invention. The notion of a broad set of rules governing the post-Cold War world was never a reality.

The US has consistently improvised rules to suit its strategic aims, evident in how it transformed the "sacred" nuclear non-proliferation regime to forge a new strategic partnership with India (2005-08). Washington also violated an essential norm of the global financial order when it persuaded the reluctant G7 to seize Russian financial assets worth \$300 billion in Western banks after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Rules are important, but they are drafted and revised by those who dominate the power distribution.

Despite its numerous challenges, the US remains a superpower, thanks to its robust economy, formidable military, and a massive ecosystem of scientific research. The current phase of intense political polarisation and systemic dysfunction tend to mask the entrenched American capacity for self-renewal. As we look forward to the next administra-

tion, the issue isn't so much American decline as it is the growing American temptation towards unilateralism. We have seen this under both Trump and Harris.

While Trump's unilateral approach is well-documented and widely criticised, it's noteworthy that President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, developed unilaterally, has been drawing European capital to the US. Biden has intensified the American weaponisation of the global financial system and the dollar's role as a reserve currency to mount pressure on America's adversaries. Its allies and partners get caught in the crossfire of secondary sanctions, but they have no option except to adapt. Together, Trump and Biden have broken away from the global trading order established by the US in the late 20th century.

As India prepares for the next administration, three major challenges stand out.

Under the last five presidents — Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden — the US has emerged as India's most valued partner. Still, India cannot take Washington for granted. Delhi should focus on assessing the sources of structural change in the US polity and find ways to deal with them. Despite perceived ideological differences, both Trump and Harris will wield power decisively and unilaterally when needed. The liberal Harris administration might sugarcoat its exercise of power; but Trump is prone to the rough and ready.

It is hard to counter American power through countervailing coalitions like the BRICS or the mobilisation of the non-Western world. The focus instead must be on engaging the diverse actors within the American polity. America's internal dynamics constitute the primary constraints on the unilateral exercise of American power. This demands investing more political energy and diplomatic effort into engaging domestic US constituencies to secure favourable outcomes for India's interests with the upcoming administration.

An accurate assessment of global power distribution is a precondition for successful foreign policy. India's national strategy must adapt to the reality of growing American power in relation to China, Russia, and Europe.

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

## CHECKING A CONTAGION

WHO report shows India has plugged gaps in TB care.  
Funding deficits could delay eradication of the disease

THE WORLD HEALTH Organisation's (WHO) latest report on the global tuberculosis burden lists positives for India. The report acknowledges the progress made by the country in closing the gap between detected and undiagnosed cases in the past eight years. In 2023, India was estimated to have had 27 lakh TB cases, of which 25.1 lakh patients were receiving medication. The fact that more than 85 per cent of those suspected to have contracted the bacterial infection were under treatment is significant given the disease's virulence — more than 50 per cent of those who don't fall under the medical system's radar succumb to the infection. The report also lists successes in containing multi-drug resistant TB, signaling the efficacy of some of the recent interventions of the government — shortening the treatment period, for instance.

WHO data shows that India registered an 18 per cent decline in TB incidence in the past eight years. This is more than double the pace of decline compared to the global decline of 8 per cent, the premier health agency suggests. However, at this pace, the country will find it difficult to realise its target of eradicating the disease by 2025. Despite the government's commitment, challenges such as insufficient awareness, inadequate medical facilities and under-nutrition continue to dog the TB elimination programme. Last year, a Lancet report pointed out that poor diet in adults contributes to 35 to 45 per cent of all new cases annually, while undernutrition in patients with TB is a major risk factor for mortality. The government does have a scheme for nutritional support for patients of the bacterial disease. Though the percentage of TB patients covered under the programme has increased appreciably in the past six decades, experts say that the amount is too less to adequately benefit the economically disadvantaged. Government data also shows that support continues to elude more than a fifth of the TB infected.

A study published in PLOS Global Health last year noted that the families of a significant section of the TB-affected in India faced catastrophic costs. WHO estimates this figure to be as high as 20 per cent. The global agency flags a significant fall in funding to eradicate the disease in India — from \$432.6 million in 2019 to \$302.8 million in 2023. The government has been open to course correct its TB elimination programme. Given its reach, the government's health insurance programme could be opened to TB patients, especially those with the more virulent form of the infection. That could go a long way in eradicating TB in India.



RINKU GHOSH

ROHIT BAL WAS happy that day in May, the day he returned from his unit in Noida, very workman-like in a black tee and jeans. "I enjoyed sitting with my craftsmen," he said, the old twinkle in his eye overshadowing his laboured speech and hobble of a walk — he was still recovering from his hospitalisation months ago. Thus was born Kaaynaat, his last collection for the finale of the Lakme Fashion Week and the best bloom of his creative life. It featured red roses, threaded with hope and an intent to endure. That's how "Gudda" Bal would want to be remembered.

Rarely does a fashion designer break the chimaera of a fascinating world swirling in stardust. But Rohit Bal, who defined Indian fashion as we know it today, was aware of its fragility. Most importantly, he knew that fashion had to become the common man's language to make business sense. His inspiration often came from how ordinary people dressed and how he could take his design sensibility to them. He knew how to break the ice, spending hours sitting on the floor, watching the weaver work in the alleys of Varanasi.

"The day I can create something that the kurtaj/jeans person is comfortable in, rather than just valuable, fashion would win," he said. To him, the sari was the greatest couture and the most elegant fashion statement, as he

## BEYOND THE STARDUST

Rohit Bal understood that fashion must speak the common man's language

Seldom does a fashion designer break the chimaera of a fascinating world swirling in stardust. But Rohit Bal, who defined Indian fashion as we know it today, was aware of its fragility. Most importantly, he knew that fashion had to become the common man's language if it had to make business sense. His inspiration often came from how ordinary people dressed and how he could take his design sensibility to them.

paired it with a corset blouse — a Western silhouette that elevated the traditional look. This mastery, of combining the traditional with the modern, happens only when one is sure of their roots. And Bal was more than sure of Indian craftsmanship while recreating the finest veins of the chinar leaf on a jacket trim.

He loved the chinar tree, his place of solace. He believed in Kashmiriyat but never overplayed his Kashmiri identity. Yet, his work is heavily influenced by poetry, folklore, carpet weavers and shahtoosh shawl makers. He kept going back to the Valley for inspiration, but it was the plight of the weavers that moved him to tears. He would buy from roaming carpet weavers, knowing they would have no money to transport them back to their homes if they remained unsold after six-months. His dream was to build a *karkhaana* for Kashmiri craftsmen.

He never played to the gallery when it came to politics. When Section 377 was decriminalised in 2018, he simply wore a jacket emblazoned with 377 at the end of his couture show as a moment worth commemorating.

Long before the corporatisation of design houses, Bal realised the power of the mass market. Although he was among the first to collaborate with Christian Louboutin, he didn't flaunt his international laurels. A founding

member of the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), he believed a thriving domestic market would keep designers relevant. He elevated khadi as India's fabric and instead of Western fashion houses, he preferred to tie up with Indian brands like Linen Club, HiDesign, Titan and Biba, his own Balance coming later. He never looked for European inspirations, lending casual extravagance with his elephants, cockatoos, horses, flowers and leaves.

A lover of India's craftsmanship, Bal would invest himself heavily if the artistry appealed to him. So taken in was he by the artisans and crystal cutters of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Central Europe that he launched a line of handcrafted crystalware. However, these brand extensions, like his restaurant Veda, didn't do too well. But that's because his ultimate joy was in clothing people.

It is easier to remember his flamboyant lifestyle or his customary dance on the ramp, but he had fought severe health challenges for the last few years, giving up many things he loved. He fought valiantly every time he went to the hospital. But as he said, "Good design is when you know where to stop, rather than cramming details for the sake of it." It wasn't time for him to stop.

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## THERE WILL BE TIME

Mathematicians say there isn't enough time in the universe for monkeys to replicate Shakespeare. But there's solace in fiction

APART FROM THOSE fortunate enough to comprehend the esoteric formulations of pure mathematicians and theoretical physicists, understanding infinities is all but impossible. There are, after all, finite and infinite infinities, each described through formulae and symbols that, for the layperson, might well be the mystical formulations of *Shunya*, *Brahmaan* and the various notions of the divine. Thought experiments and metaphor are the means in ordinary language to make sense of the sensible: An infinite universe holds so many possibilities, writers have told us, that the probable is inevitable: So much so that given enough time and typewriters, a troop of monkeys would belt out — by sheer chance — the complete works of Shakespeare. Unfortunately, for the monkeys there's never enough time, even in a seemingly infinite universe.

Two Australian mathematicians — ironically, with time on their hands — have found that the universe would die before the Bard will be replicated. In fact, if all 2,000,000 chimpanzees on Earth kept at it, they wouldn't manage even a page from *Hamlet* in a gogol (1 followed by 100 zeros) of years, when the universe as we know it will meet its "heat death".

For those with unfulfilled creative ambitions — dreams of any kind, really — the mathematicians' findings published in *Franklin Open* can be cause for despair or inspiration. After all, the unfinished short story, the unwritten poem, the travel plans postponed — each is a reminder that there isn't enough time to do the things that matter. And now, there isn't enough time in the universe for that to even be a possibility. On the other hand, when science is disappointing, science fiction need not be: Arthur Dent, in *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* found in space, "monkeys who want to talk to us about this script for *Hamlet* they've worked out." For the procrastinators, or those just caught up with life, fictional time may provide solace. Why be disappointed by theoretical chimps when there are fictional monkeys around?



## NOVEMBER 5, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

**DELHI CALMER**  
BARRING CERTAIN TRANS-YAMUNA areas, life was near normal in the capital. While the official death toll in the four days of rioting was put at 458, reports indicated that an estimated 900 to 1,000 people had been killed. In East Delhi, despite round-the-clock curfew and patrolling by the Army, mobs menaced colonies, particularly areas where refugee Sikhs were huddled together for safety.

**PM'S NEW CABINET**  
PRIME MINISTER RAJIV Gandhi has expanded his five-member Cabinet, inducting almost

the entire council of ministers headed by Indira Gandhi. Nine more cabinet ministers, 21 ministers of state and 11 deputy ministers were sworn in. The only new face in Gandhi's government is Newal Kishore Sharma, a Lok Sabha member from Rajasthan, who has been made Minister of State in the Finance Ministry.

**COUNTRY-WIDE HOMAGE**  
THE ASHES OF Indira Gandhi will be dropped on the snowclad Himalayan range on November 11 after being taken round to all the states and Union Territories for people to pay their homage. The late prime minister's ashes are to be taken round the country in

special trains. The ashes would be collected from Shanti Vana and taken directly to Teen Murti House and kept in an urn there to allow the public to pay homage.

**ZIA FOR INDO-PAK PEACE**  
PRESIDENT ZIAULHAQ pleaded for a fresh approach to Indo-Pakistan relations and expressed the hope that the process of normalisation will get a dynamic impetus under the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi. After his meeting with the Prime Minister, he said that Pakistan will co-operate with India to create a climate of understanding not only between India and Pakistan, but also in the entire region.

# 11 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Watch it like an outsider

There are many ways of consuming the US elections from a distance. The most instructive among them might be the philosopher's perspective of it



**DESHKAAL**  
BY YOGENDRA YADAV

US ELECTIONS ARE like a wedding in the big landlord's family in our village. It makes for a spectacle, designed to keep the entire village busy for some time. As rituals do, it brings out tensions and fissures within that family. As affairs of powerful families do, it has some fallouts for everyone, including us.

But as village elders know, we must not forget that this is not a wedding in our family. A vicarious partisanship — pro-Trump or pro-Harris — is not just misplaced, it is undignified. The foolhardiness of "Begane ki shadi me Abdulla diwana" may be redeemed by its romanticism in some other context. But in relation to a powerful family, this response is cringeworthy.

A village elder might also remind us that the US is not even our neighbour. Our sense of proximity to them is largely imagined. So is our exaggerated anxiety about what a Donald Trump or Harris administration can mean for us. That Kamala Harris shares her first name with my mother cannot make me forget that what matters most to this Kamala in relating to my country is the cold logic of geopolitics and GDP. For us, a charming Obama was not fundamentally different from a boorish Trump. For us, the POTUS is a POTUS. So, keeping a distance from this contest is not a bad idea. As they say, "hathi se na dushmani bhali, na dosti".

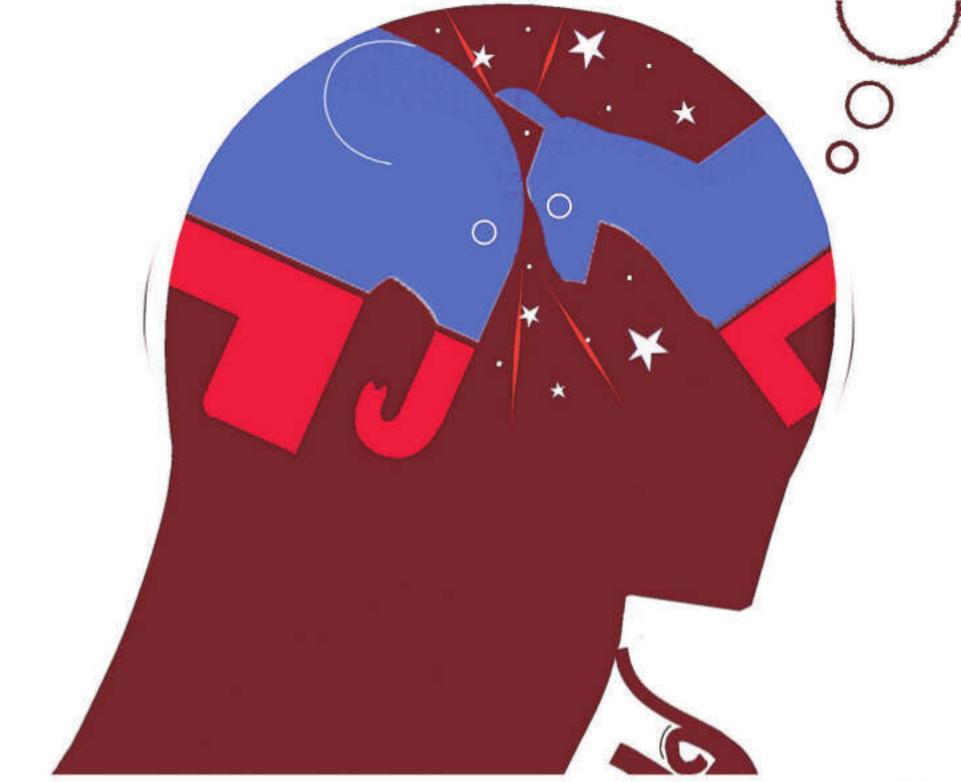
This is not the family of our priests either. They may have tried preaching and exporting democracy to the world, but thanks to Trump, that posture looks more comic than ever before. Democracy in the US may be anything else, but it is no model of how to be a democracy. Looking at the US political system with any sense of awe is not just silly, it is slavish.

We are an outsider in this wedding. An inconsequential outsider. And that's not a bad position to be in.

After all, the all-time classic on American politics was not written by an American nor written in English. Alex de Tocqueville, a French aristocrat who visited the US for nine months in 1831, ostensibly to study prison reforms, wrote *Democracy in America*, originally in French. The two volumes were translated into English in 1835 and 1840 and remain compulsory reading for any student of American democracy. Tocqueville reminds us that an outsider can throw fresh light on a familiar subject, provided the outsider is conscious of her *dharma*.

An outsider can be just a spectator. We can watch the US polls just as we consume a cricket match between South Africa and West Indies. We can turn on CNN, read *NYT* or *The Washington Post* or follow Indian media's second-hand reporting. Election junkies like me could track the polls on [fivethirtyeight.com](https://www.fivethirtyeight.com) and [realandclearpolitics.com](https://www.realandclearpolitics.com). We can indulge in the favourite Indian pastime and make a prediction. And then watch the trends in the election night coverage, the ultimate spectator sports. It's time for pure, detached pleasure. But it is transient.

An outsider can be a voyeur. And there



CR Sasikumar

are many scandals to feed on in this US election. A fracas during a village wedding, not a very uncommon sight, can rip apart the carefully crafted veil of civility and superiority of the "first family". This is what the present US election, with Trump's verbal diarrhoea and his daily dose of lies, has done. The sight of a doddering Joe Biden as the candidate of the Democratic Party makes all our political leaders look smart and agile. And the vacuity of Harris's glib talk assures us that thoughtlessness is not an Indian political affliction. A glimpse into the sociology of voting in the US — Black, Hispanic, Indian, Arab, White working class, White middle class, women of colour, etc — is so reassuringly reminiscent of "vote bank" politics in the Indian elections. As you follow the election campaign, you can entertain yourself with a thought experiment: How would the international media react if a Trump-like candidate, backed by an Elon Musk-like businessman, were to win an election in an African country? A voyeur-like interest in the US election gives us the power to laugh at the powerful. But it also demeans us.

An outsider can be a friend. An honest friend who is not afraid of telling the truth in your face, who is not awkward about learning from you. This is what Tocqueville was in the first half of the 19th century. He correctly anticipated that the rising force of democracy and the spirit of equality that he witnessed in the US then was going to replicate itself all over the world. We need a similar pair of eyes to watch this US election. If Tocqueville's US was in many ways an exemplar of the rising tide of democracy, today's US is arguably a model of how not to be a democracy.

The "electoral college" system that can

A fracas during a village wedding, not a very uncommon sight, can rip apart the carefully crafted veil of civility and superiority of the 'first family'. This is what the present US election, with Trump's verbal diarrhoea and his daily dose of lies, has done. The sight of a doddering Joe Biden as the candidate of the Democratic Party makes all our political leaders look smart and agile. And the vacuity of Harris's glib talk assures us that thoughtlessness is not an Indian political affliction. A glimpse into the sociology of voting in the US — Black, Hispanic, Indian, Arab, White working class, White middle class, women of colour, etc — is so reassuringly reminiscent of 'vote bank' politics in the Indian elections.

defeat popular vote, the political partisanship of higher judiciary, the institutionalisation of political corruption via lobbying, the power of media conglomerates and the control of money bags are deep-rooted anti-democratic features of the American system. These structural weaknesses could be pushed under a carpet during the days of American hegemony. But the decline in its economic and political power has uncovered various tensions in society. Hence, the many paradoxes in this election. The largest support of the candidate whose only qualification is his money comes from the working class. Older non-White immigrants are being mobilised against newer non-White immigrants. The more jingoistic and visibly racist of the two candidates is trusted to bring peace. What is happening to the US is what happens to the family of the rural landlord whose declining fortune does not match its status. It turns inward and is petty. Is this going to be the fate of entrenched democracies in the "developed" world?

Finally, we could look at this election to draw conclusions not just about the modern country called the USA but about the modern deity called democracy. What made us believe that the system of representative governance was going to give us good governance? Why did we think that popular rule would be free of popular prejudices and pettiness? How did we accept that a system of political equality was compatible with a system of political and social inequality? An outsider can be a philosopher too.

The writer is member, *Swaraj India*, and national convenor of *Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan*. Views are personal

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The double standards of the US and many of its Western allies in how they view strikes by Israel and those by Iran makes it clear that the blatant human rights abuses and crimes against humanity committed by Israel will continue to be white-washed as 'defence' operations." — **THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH**

## A bridge called cricket

The game has always been a unifier. That's why I hope India participates in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan next year



**OVER THE BARREL**  
BY VIKRAM S MEHTA

I HAVE NEVER been directly involved with the complexities of India-Pakistan relations. But I have followed its twists and turns and have always hoped for a redemptive initiative that might alter the course of our two countries' sclerotic past. My hopes have been conditioned by family and friends. I was, therefore, pleased to read about the visit of our Minister of External Affairs to Islamabad to attend the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and to see pictures of him with his Pakistani counterpart and his handshake with the Pakistan PM. I was particularly happy to note the speculation that the Indian cricket team might participate in the Champions Trophy in Lahore in February next year.

I have had a long-standing relationship with Pakistan, indirectly through the lens of my grandfather and father and directly through friends and a brief professional tenure. The learnings from these vignettes are the reason I have not accepted the argument that the differences between our two countries are irreconcilably wide and that efforts to bridge them would be exercises in futility. My grandfather, Mohan Singh Mehta, was India's High Commissioner to Pakistan for nearly five years in the 1950s. Over long walks, he shared anecdotes of how he and his Pakistani interlocutors navigated the crosscurrents of official distance and personal proximity. Several like Shah Nawaz Bhutto (father and grandfather of Pakistan Prime Ministers Zulfikar and Benazir Bhutto) were acquaintances from pre-Partition India. Bhutto and my grandfather were both *diwans* (ministers) of princely states and used to meet under the auspices of the Chamber of Princes. None of his anecdotes were built around the searing tragedies that followed Partition. All were related to his efforts to leverage the logic of geography and the commonalities of civilisation, history and culture to normalise relations.

My father, Jagat Singh Mehta, offered more tangibly positive anecdotes. One in particular has contemporary relevance. Soon after his appointment as foreign secretary in 1976, he led a delegation to Islamabad to restore ambassadorial ties. Diplomatic relations had been downgraded to the level of charge d'affaires after the Bangladesh war. On arrival, he surprised newsmen with the remark that the real reason for his visit to Pakistan was to meet and salute his former commanding officer, Lt Hamidullah Burki. Burki was his immediate senior on the naval ship on which both served during the war. This public reference by an Indian foreign secretary to a relationship with a Pakistani national made front-page news the following day. More significantly, it helped bring negotiations to a successful close. Burki was a close confidante of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and

the "back channel" so created was one factor in overcoming the blockers to the finalisation of the agreement. The immediate outcome was the upgradation of diplomatic relations and the resumption of overfly rights for civilian aircraft. The result was the lowering of political temperatures that then contributed to ending the hijacking incident of an Indian Airlines aircraft to Lahore in August 1976 without loss of life or aircraft. It also expedited the conclusion of the long-pending talks on the Salal hydroelectric project which subsequently added about 700MW of electricity to the North Indian electricity grid.

My personal association with Pakistan has been at two levels. At the personal level, I was a university classmate and friend of Benazir Bhutto and Imran Khan. At the professional level, I was on the Board of Pakistan Burmah Shell (PBS), the largest private sector oil/gas company in Pakistan for two years. My nationality did cause disquiet initially. But once I joined, nationality became my greatest asset. I was socially feted more so than any of the other London-based directors and it never intruded into my fiduciary responsibilities.

This backdrop is the reason I am hopeful that India will participate in the Championship trophy. I do not know whether there is substance to this speculation or indeed the politics behind any such initiative. But I do know that if there is any one "non official" force that could alter the patterns of behaviour that have locked our two countries into a rut of mutual suspicion, paranoia and conflict, it is cricket. I have been witness to the strength of this force.

In the anecdotal spirit of this article, let me share one experience. In August 2018, I was one of two Indians who attended Imran Khan's investiture as PM of Pakistan. The cricketer/politician Navjot Siddhu was the other. Imran had also invited members of the Pakistan cricket team that had won the World Cup in 1992 under his captaincy. A couple of hours after he was sworn in, all of us private guests gathered in the ante room of the PM's office. Imran had invited us to meet him and we were waiting for him to arrive. None of the Pakistanis knew who I was and no one particularly cared. And just as well. For my anonymity allowed me to observe uninterrupted a bunch of retired household heroes engage in joyful remembrance of their playing days with Sidhu in convivial reflection of their rivalry on the pitch and of friendships forged off it. It was an extraordinary conflation of emotions — laughter, banter, irreverence, physicality. There was no hierarchy, no barriers, no class. I know it is cliché to write that cricket in the Subcontinent is more than just a sport. That it is a culture — one that helps dissolve differences, build bridges, inspire fraternity and create communities. I do so, nonetheless, because that is what I witnessed that day.

Cricket has the potential to change narratives. Imagine if one day the winners of the IPL played the winners of the Pakistan league. Two games. One in India and one in Pakistan. Imagine the public response. Imagine the positive impact on India-Pakistan relations. That is why I hope our team will be in Lahore in February.

The writer is chairman and Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress

## The eclectic economist

At the core of Bibek Debroy's wide interests and expertise were reformist principles



SAJJID Z CHINYOY

I HAD THE pleasure of working under Bibek Debroy for five years as a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the PM. During that time, one of the most revealing conversations I had with him was not about economics — it was about cricket.

I had just finished talking about the virtues of globalisation and free trade at a conference in Pune in February 2020 — a time when the US and China continued to ratchet up their bilateral trade war. My presentation harked back to familiar arguments: No country had ever grown at 7 per cent or more for decades — like India needed to do — without relying on strong exports and global engagement. Exports, in turn, needed imports and, as a foundational theorem of international trade had shown, an import tariff was equivalent to an export tax. The challenge for India was to navigate and overcome the de-globalisation tendencies that were taking hold.

In the coffee break that followed, Bibek Debroy approached me and, in his understated style, noted that while he agreed with my thinking, there was a simpler, more compelling way to make this argument come to life. Imagine, he said, that the IPL did not permit foreign players at all. This was the cricketer equivalent of imposing tariffs or prohibiting imports. Imagine what the lack of foreign players would do to the quality of the IPL. Imagine what their absence would do to the development of the young Indian cricketers who got to rub shoulders with them. Imagine what that would do to the values of

different franchises. Would the IPL really be able to compete as one of the marquee leagues globally? The virtues of "globalisation" were easy to appreciate when one recognised its intrinsic presence in day-to-day life.

But didn't the IPL offer broader lessons on economic management, we asked each other. Globalisation apart, the IPL thrived on competition. It was the sheer competitive intensity across franchises that had raised the quality of cricket in the league. That had induced 10 different franchises to aggressively scout for talent, unearthing some of India's finest prospects. It was competition that had meant facilities in stadiums had improved all around. The league's success, in turn, boosted revenues to such an extent that administrators could invest heavily in domestic cricket and facilities so non-IPL events were benefiting from this "positive spill-over". At the heart of the IPL, therefore, were two tenets that had been foundational to growth, development and prosperity in recent decades — competition and globalisation. We ended by agreeing to jointly write an op-ed drawing parallels between the IPL and India's economy and the lessons each had for the other. Alas, it never got written. The pandemic came within a few weeks and our little project was overtaken by the subsequent turn of events.

That conversation was revealing because it illustrated that, at his core, Bibek Debroy was a free-market reformist and globalist. Of course, the world is never black or white and there were occasions that called for nuance

and deviating from these principles. So, even as he strongly espoused free trade, he would sometimes cite Keynes' 1933 piece "National Self Sufficiency" in the *Yale Review* that there were occasions in which strategic considerations should take precedence. But, as I saw it, these were the exceptions more than the rule.

Similarly, he believed it was important for governments to create safety nets — especially in the aftermath of the pandemic — as well as create an enabling mechanism for the private sector to thrive. But for any government intervention, you could almost hear him ask: What is the market failure? Have we studied the distortions? Have we undertaken a cost-benefit analysis? How would this be paid for? At a time when a renewed wave of industrial policy is sweeping through the world — spawned by Bidenomics in the US — a careful evaluation is invaluable. That Pune conversation also revealed he was instinctively eclectic and multi-disciplinary at heart. The ability to find common cause between economic reform and cricket, between globalisation and the IPL, was a small, but illuminating illustration of how he could apply foundational principles across vastly different domains. But even as our discussion may have centered around the IPL, Bibek Debroy's approach to macroeconomic management embodied the finest virtues of Test cricket — patience, application and durability. He recognised that macroeconomic stability was the foundation on which growth prospers. That we should abandon short-termism and play the long-game in

stead. That we should seek to achieve steady and sustainable growth for long periods of time — and let the magic of compounding take over — rather than push the fiscal or monetary pedal excessively to achieve spectacular but unsustainable growth.

All told, Bibek Debroy brought a unique array of gifts to the table. A wide-ranging scholarship complemented with an elephantine institutional memory. The ability to marry the macros with the micros. The ability to juxtapose the (more romantic) poetry of high-minded economic principles with the (more challenging) prose of actual governance on the ground. If there is a risk, it is that the sheer breadth of his work — prolific, eclectic, multi-disciplinary — will mask the core economic principles that he continually espoused: Economically reformist and liberal; monetarily and fiscally prudent; institutionally pragmatic.

To the very end, his commitment was exemplary. Even in his last weeks in hospital, I got a request to assess the macro impact on India of fast-moving global events. At a time when the world is confronting so many forks in the road — globalisation versus inwardness, capital versus labour, markets versus the state, populism versus reforms — deploying the wisdom of his core economic thinking in resolving these debates will be the most befitting tribute we can pay him.

The writer is Head, *Asia Economic Research*, JP Morgan and a part-time member of EAC-PM

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FARMERS' NEEDS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'DAP crisis lessons' (IE, November 4). Changes in fertiliser policy play a crucial role in boosting agriculture productivity. The availability of subsidised fertilisers like DAP and urea was key during the Green Revolution. Now, price control has led to price rise of these fertilisers as demand has surged substantially. To reduce this, use of mixed and complex fertilisers can reduce demand. Subsidised rates help small farmers afford the prices of these fertilisers. Price mechanisms should be used to ensure benefits to both farmers and manufacturers.

Atul Thakre, Nagpur

### A RIGHTS ISSUE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Apartheid in Kabul' (IE, November 4). Three years after their fighters marched back into Kabul in August 2021, the Taliban's war against girls and women has intensified. The Taliban's rule is not merely a cruel blow to their rights and dignity, but an existential threat. Afghan women's demand for representation must be heeded.

Kholan Das, Kolkata

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Apartheid in Kabul' (IE, November 4). Since

it returned to power in August 2021, the Taliban imposed a regime of gender apartheid. The UN has sought a unified global approach to dealing with the Taliban. The international community needs to unite and take urgent action to create a future where every man, woman and child can dare to dream and live a dignified life full of safety and respect.

SS Paul, Nadia

### METHOD IN MADNESS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'US & the elephant in the room' (IE, November 4). A Trump victory is likely, as the article argues. Donald Trump is a marketing genius who does not waste time on convoluted arguments to make his point. His appearance at a McDonald's to serve customers in person and his act of driving a garbage truck in response to Biden's gaffe demonstrate how effectively he can make his point. Kamala Harris, on the other hand, relies on abstract and nebulous notions such as the preservation of democracy and unification of the nation which enable her to disguise the fact that she has no concrete plans moving forward. Trump can best be summarised by Shakespeare in *Hamlet*, "There is method in his madness."

Animesh Rai, Noida



FINAL PUSH IN KEY SWING STATES: (left) Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris campaigns in Michigan on November 3; Republican candidate former President Donald Trump speaks in Georgia on November 3. Reuters

# Election Day in US: Here's what to know

Some results will be known soon after polls close in the eastern states (early on Wednesday in India). The national call will take longer — it took four days in 2020. Watch for the seven swing states — these will determine the paths to the 270 electoral votes that a candidate needs to win the presidency

ARJUN SENGUPTA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

TUESDAY IS Election Day in the United States in what some commentators have described as the most consequential presidential election ever. And the race to the White House is as close as it gets.

Democratic nominee Kamala Harris has a slight edge over Republican Donald Trump in the national polling average as of Sunday (in the US). But the winner-takes-all Electoral College system means the presidency will be decided by the way the seven so-called "swing states" fall — and the race is much closer there.

### Election mechanics

Americans do not directly vote for their President. Instead, they vote to determine the composition of the Electoral College, which elects the President.

There are 538 electors in the Electoral College, and 270 is the majority mark. Each state is allocated a specific number of electors, which is somewhat based on population.

A vote cast in favour of a certain candidate is, in effect, meant to elect the candidate's slate of electors in a state, who are chosen by the parties prior to the election. To win the presidency, a candidate needs to cobble together victories in enough states to reach the 270 mark in the Electoral College.

Most states (with the exception of Maine and Nebraska) have a winner-takes-all system, which means whoever wins the popular mandate in the state secures its entire allocation in the Electoral College. This makes the result in most states — which are either firmly Democratic or Republican — a foregone conclusion before the first ballot is cast. It also means that certain states where the race is particularly close have outsized importance in the election.

### State of the race

Seven swing states — Pennsylvania (19 Electoral College votes), Georgia and North Carolina (16 each), Michigan (15), Arizona (11), Wisconsin (10), and Nevada (6) — hold the key to the White House this time. Both the Harris and Trump campaigns have targeted these states.

In 2020, Florida, the largest swing state (30 electoral votes) in that election, voted decisively Republican — and will likely go to Trump again.

The final *The New York Times*/Siena College opinion poll published on Sunday showed Harris and Trump locked in tight races in all seven states, well within the poll's

margin of error. The Vice President held marginal leads in Nevada, North Carolina, and Wisconsin; the former President was just ahead in Arizona. The races in Michigan, Georgia, and Pennsylvania, together accounting for 50 electoral votes, were tied.

In 2020, President Joe Biden won six of these seven states (with the exception of North Carolina). The party is not expected to do as well this time.

### What's at stake?

The stakes for the US — and the rest of the world — are extremely high. Since Trump's surprise win in 2016, American politics has continued to become steadily more polarised. This political division is reflected both in the candidates' policy positions on major issues, and in the issues they have prioritised in the campaign.

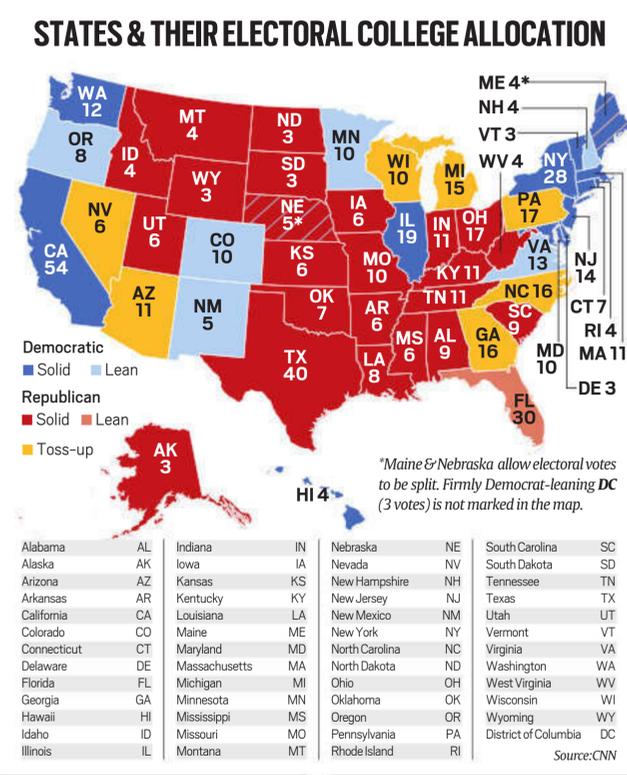
**ECONOMY:** According to most polls, this is the top issue for voters. Biden inherited an economy battered by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the rate of inflation has since gone from a peak of 9.1% in June 2022 to 2.4% in September 2024. The unemployment rate has fallen from 6.4% in January 2021 to 4.1% in October 2024. These positives have not, however, improved sentiment among common voters, many of whom believe the economy is doing badly, according to polls.

One reason for this perception is that grocery bills have remained high. Food is 22% costlier since Biden's inauguration, and for many Americans, the cost of living is higher than four years ago. Trump has promised to "make America affordable again". He has said he will increase oil-drilling to reduce energy costs, deliver lower interest rates (something that the President does not control), provide tax cuts to the tune of trillions of dollars, and introduce a new 10-20% tax on imports to incentivise domestic manufacturing.

Harris, on the other hand, has promised to ban price-gouging on groceries, help first-time home buyers, increase housing supply, raise the minimum wage, and tax big businesses and rich individuals more to fund welfare measures. She has been critical of Trump's blanket import tariffs policy.

Experts say that both candidates' platforms will add to the ballooning deficit.

**IMMIGRATION:** This was Trump's pet issue in 2016 and 2020, and it has been a highlight of his 2024 campaign. He has vowed to seal the border with Mexico, and increase funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the agency that polices immigration into the US. He has also promised the biggest mass deportations of



undocumented migrants in US history. Harris, too, has promised tough action against illegal migration. She has repeatedly invoked her actions as a public prosecutor in dealing with human traffickers, and promised to revive a border control law that failed in Congress (in part due to Trump's objection), which would close loopholes in the asylum process, and give the President greater authority to shut down the border. This has, however, invited criticism from some people who would traditionally vote

Democrat. Harris has been buffeted from both sides on this issue — the Republicans are saying she is not tough enough, while left-wing or progressive Democrats are criticising her for being too hawkish.

**ABORTION:** The Harris campaign hopes this will be her trump card. The Vice President has positioned herself as a champion of reproductive rights, and has promised to bring national legislation on abortion rights.

Abortion has been a huge concern for women voters after the Conservative-majority Supreme Court overturned the landmark *Roe v Wade* verdict in 2022. According to *The New York Times*, 21 states have banned or restricted abortions earlier in pregnancy than what was set by *Roe v Wade* over five decades ago.

Trump has been shaky on this issue — he has taken credit for appointing the three judges that cemented the Supreme Court's conservative majority, but has avoided talking much about abortion. *The New York Times*/Siena poll has found that "the gender gap remains wide across all seven states, with Harris the favorite of women and Trump preferred by men", according to *The New York Times*.

**FOREIGN POLICY:** The US is indirectly involved in the ongoing conflicts in West Asia and Ukraine. Harris represents the *status quo* of the US foreign policy, while Trump's isolationism is seen as a major departure.

So, Harris has promised to keep up support for Ukraine "for as long as it takes", while Trump has long advocated disentangling the US from conflicts worldwide — including in Ukraine. He has claimed that he will negotiate an end to the war with Russia's President Vladimir Putin "within 24 hours".

On the Israel-Palestine issue, their positions are broadly similar. Harris has made some outward gestures towards Palestinians and called for an end to the war in Gaza, but she has been careful not to be overly critical of Israel. This has angered American Muslims and young, college-going voters — both traditionally Democrat-voting groups.

**CLIMATE:** Trump has been open about not caring much for climate change. During a campaign rally last week, he said: "So they talk all the time about the ocean will rise in 500 years, one-eighth of an inch, who the hell cares?"

During his time in the White House, he rolled back hundreds of environmental protections, pulled out of the Paris Agreement

(which Biden re-entered), attacked electric cars, and expanded the US carbon footprint. Climate scientists fear if elected Trump will dismantle the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which does crucial work to document and research global warming and its impact.

As Vice President, Harris has helped pass legislation that has sent hundreds of billions of dollars to renewable energy, and provided for electric vehicle tax credit and rebate programs. However, during her campaign she has dropped her opposition to fracking, much to the chagrin of environmentalists.

On paper at least, a Harris presidency appears to hold out more hope for the planet than Trump 2.0.



### Election Day, after

Although Tuesday is Election Day, voting began as early as September. And as of Sunday, more than 74 million votes had been cast nationwide — almost half of the total number of votes cast in 2020 — in the form of mail-in ballots or early in-person voting.

On Tuesday, most states will open the doors to voting centres between 6 am and 8 am local time (6 am Eastern Time is 4:30 pm Indian Standard Time; 6 am Pacific Time is 7:30 pm in India). Polls will close at 8 pm local time.

Some results will be known soon after polls close in the eastern states. In 2020, the *Associated Press* called the first states as early as 7 pm ET on Election Day (November 3), while voting was still on in most states. However, the national race takes much longer to call — this is because states have their own rules on when counting can begin.

In the seven swing states this year, polls will close between 7 pm and 10 pm ET (5:30 am-8:30 am IST on November 6). The earliest call is likely to be about Georgia, which requires that all early votes be counted by 8 pm ET. North Carolina, Michigan, and Arizona, which allow processing of early ballots before Election Day, are likely to follow.

Counting, however, could take days in Nevada, which allows late-arriving mail ballots, and Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, which do not allow pre-Election Day ballot processing. In 2020, it had taken the AP four days to call Pennsylvania, which held up the national call in favour of Biden till 11:26 am ET (just before 10 pm IST) on November 7.

## How the donkey and the elephant came to represent Democrats, Republicans in US

RISHIKA SINGH  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

IN US politics, how did the Democratic Party come to be represented by a donkey and the Republican Party by an elephant? The answer can be traced back to political cartoons from more than a century ago.

### Man behind depictions

Political cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902), celebrated as the "Father of the American Cartoon", is credited with popularising the depiction of the major parties in the form of the two animals in the late 19th century. (Nast also created the popular version of Santa Claus, wearing red and a beard.)

"It was a time when political cartoons...really had the power to change minds and sway undecided voters by distilling complex ideas into more compressible representations. Cartoons had power," the *Smithsonian Magazine* wrote in a 2012 article.

President Abraham Lincoln is said to have referred to the young Nast as his "best recruiting general", and the cartoonist had a



Thomas Nast, the political cartoonist who popularised use of the animals to depict the parties. Wikimedia Commons

personal preference for the Republican Party.

### Began as satire

In an 1870 cartoon for *Harper's Weekly* magazine, Nast showed a donkey kicking a dead lion, titled "A live jackass kicking a dead lion!" The donkey represented a section of Democrats he disliked; the lion stood for Lincoln's recently deceased Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, whom the Democrats had criticised.

While the donkey was used by Nast to indicate his low opinion of Democrats, the party had embraced this image decades earlier. The *Smithsonian* article recalled that in 1828, when Democrat Andrew Jackson was running for President, his opponents would

refer to him as a jackass. In response, Jackson chose to adopt the image as his campaign symbol, "rebranding the donkey as steadfast, determined, and willful, instead of wrong-headed, slow, and obstinate", the article said.

A CNN report from 2018 referred to Nast's 1874 cartoon "Third Term Panic", a response to *The New York Herald*, which had "spread the rumour that Ulysses Grant, a Republican, was contemplating running for a third term in 1876", which though not illegal then, created fears about presidential overambition. "Nast...drew the *Herald* as a donkey wrapped in a lion's skin, frightening the other animals with wild stories of a Grant dictatorship. Among these animals are an enormous, oafish elephant labeled "the Republican Vote," which looks as though it's about to tumble off a cliff," the CNN report said.

"...He ridiculed his own side almost as gleefully as he did his opponents" — and so, he reimagined the GOP as a weak, panicky creature that was constantly lumbering off in the wrong direction, its size more of a liability than an asset," it added.

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## Why presidential elections are always held on a Tuesday in the month of November

ALIND CHAUHAN  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

SINCE the mid-nineteenth century, the US has had its Election Day on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November — a choice dictated by the nature of the US economy, the Christian faith of most of its citizens, and criticisms of the previous system.

### Month-long elections

Until 1845, states were allowed to hold elections at any time within a 34-day period before the Electoral College met to certify the next President in December. In 1844, for instance, the presidential election was held over a one-month period between early November and early December.

In 1845, Congress passed a law to set a single election day for the entire country. There were two main reasons behind this.

■ By the mid-1800s, states were expanding the right to vote to non-landowning white men who were above the age of 21. This significantly increased the scale of elections, and led to calls for streamlining the voting process.



A person casts his vote early in Detroit, Michigan on Monday. Reuters

■ Critics of the previous system believed that having more dispersed elections led to situations where early voting and declaration of results in some states impacted the turnout and voting behaviour in states which cast their ballot on a later date.

Initially, the law pertained only to presidential elections. But its scope was later expanded to also include Congressional and other elections as well.

### Choice of a single day

The question then was which day should be chosen as Election Day.

The US in the nineteenth century was predominantly an agrarian country, and most

voters resided in rural areas. They figured prominently in Congress' choice of a date.

November was chosen as the month of voting because it did not coincide with the busy spring planting season or the autumn harvest. And the harsh winter was a month or more away.

The choice of day was trickier, based on both religious and economic considerations. Given that many rural voters had to travel all day to cast their ballot in the nineteenth century, Sunday, Monday, and Saturday were ruled out, because that would lead to people missing church. Wednesday was ruled out because it was a popular market day across the country, when farmers travelled to nearby towns and cities to sell their produce.

Ultimately, Congress settled on the first Tuesday after the first Monday. This was to prevent Election Day from falling on November 1, when Christians observed All Saints' Day and merchants typically settled their books from the previous month.

In recent years, the choice of this day has copped criticism with less than 12% of the US now in agriculture, and people having to miss work to cast their vote.

# 13 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 78,782.24 ▼ 941.88 (1.18%) NIFTY: 23,995.35 ▼ 309.00 (1.27%) NIKKEI: 38,053.67 ▼ 1,027.58 HANG SENG: 20,567.52 ▲ 61.09 FTSE: 8,232.31 ▲ 55.16 DAX: 19,251.46 ▼ 3.51

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>USD RATE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹81,100	₹84.11	\$73.71	₹94,900

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

International market data till 1900 IST

## INVESTORS TURN RISK AVERSE AHEAD OF US ELECTIONS, FED DECISION

# Markets under selling pressure, Sensex sheds 942 pts to close below 79,000

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

STOCK MARKETS on Monday came under intense selling pressure and plunged by over one per cent as domestic investors and foreign funds dumped stocks amid a host of factors like the US presidential polls, foreign fund outflows and slowdown in consumption.

With Reliance Industries and realty shares encountering heavy sell-off, the BSE Sensex, which crashed by 1,492 points at one stage, closed below the 79,000 level at 78,782.24, showing a fall of 942 points, or 1.18 per cent. The NSE Nifty Index closed below the 24,000 level at 23,995.35, plummeting 309 points, or 1.27 per cent, during the session.

Even as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out another Rs 4,329 crore on Monday, all the sectoral indices were down with small-cap index falling by 1.72 per cent. RIL shares were down 2.77 per cent, Tata Motors 2.31



File

per cent, Sun Pharma 2.68 per cent, Tata Steel 1.84 per cent and Adani Ports 3.23 per cent. Realty index plunged 3 per cent, oil & gas by 2.54 per cent and power index by 2.06 per cent.

On November 1, stock markets ushered in Samvat 2081 on a positive note with BSE Sensex rising 0.42 per cent, or 335 points, at 79,724.12 and the NSE Nifty Index gaining 99 points at 24,304.35 on all-round buying support.

The Sensex lost 5.82 per cent in the month of October due to heavy selling by foreign investors who pulled out over Rs

### Rupee falls

Mumbai: The rupee on Monday fell by four paise to a record low of 84.11 against the US dollar due to the sell-off in domestic equities and relentless foreign capital outflows. The rupee touched new all-time lows weighed down by negative domestic markets which fell 1.18 per cent amid foreign fund sell-off. However, softening of the US dollar prevented a sharp fall. **ENS**

at Geojit Financial Services.

Of late, emerging markets have turned cautious ahead of the US presidential election and the upcoming US Federal Reserve interest rate decision on November 7. Further, the recent spike in retail inflation due to rising food prices is likely to prompt the Reserve Bank to delay the rate cut plans, analysts said, adding that there were expectations that the RBI would cut Repo rate in the December policy.

"Markets witnessed broader sell-off as investors turned risk averse ahead of key US election outcome and Federal Reserve's policy decision in the next few days' time. While stretched valuation concerns have been weighing for some time, the persistent foreign fund outflows have created a lot of uncertainty amongst the investors resulting in a steep correction. Also, corporate earnings have failed to meet expectations, which has further dampened investors' sentiment," said Prashanth Tapse, senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

# US polls, Chinese stimulus: triggers that outweighed domestic factors in FPI selloff

ANIL SASI NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

BENCHMARK indices experienced renewed selling pressure on Monday. There are multiple factors that triggered the selloff, with external factors overshadowing the domestic ones.

### Domestic Triggers

The bearish sentiment in the market has been partly attributed to concerns over sluggish corporate commentary and potential earnings cuts, which is leading to a re-rating of stock valuations.

Then there are two other factors that could be at play. Domestic investors such as mutual funds are not seen to be buying as much as what the foreign portfolio investors are offloading in the current rally, in contrast to earlier corrections when an FPI selloff was generally seen as a buying opportunity by domestic funds. Also, there is a growing realisation that the interest rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India that was earlier expected by December is unlikely to happen anytime before the end of the current fiscal. Repeated RBI commentary on the persistent inflationary risks is being seen as indicative of the possibility of any fresh rate action being pushed to further into 2025. All of these factors seem to be overshadowing the expectation of a general pickup in government spending, which has been lacklustre during the first half of this financial year.

### US elections-linked volatility, Fed trajectory

The Indian markets, like stock markets globally, are, however, far more focused on the outcome of the US presidential elections and the near-term volatility is reflective of how close the American election outcome is projected to be. Given the razor-thin margins, analysts are also realistically weighing the possibility of a sec-

### THE EXTERNAL FACTORS IN PLAY

**THE INDIAN** markets are focused on the outcome of the US presidential elections and the near-term volatility is reflective of how close the US election outcome is projected to be

**CHINA, MEANWHILE,** is expected to sign off on an economic stimulus package that could end up directing more funds towards buying idle land and property, recapitalising banks, etc.

ond Trump administration. This outcome, which is being viewed as being generally positive for American stocks and really great for the greenback, is seen as being somewhat negative for treasuries.

Then there is the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy meeting slated for November 6-7. There are concerns that the Federal Open Market Committee could hold rates after the big 50 basis points cut in its last meeting and that the Fed's outlook on inflation could somewhat temper rate cut expectations going forward.

But the big external factor really is China. The aggressive selling by FPIs, according to market players, is reflective of a concerted pivot by the foreign investors to China, especially given that the Indian market's already diminished appeal due to sluggish corporate earnings and overvaluation concerns.

### The Big China Factor

As the American election got underway, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the executive body of China's top legislature, convened in Beijing for a highly anticipated five-day meeting that began Monday.

Once it is wrapped up, the Committee is expected to sign off on an economic stimulus package that could end up directing more funds towards buying idle land and property, recapitalising banks, refinancing provincial-govern-

ment debt and offering assistance to households.

The Chinese, like policymakers elsewhere, are also looking closely at the November 5 US election results. Trump's election win could potentially result in tariffs of over 50 per cent being slapped on Chinese goods, a move that could likely shave off, according to analysts, over two percentage points from China's growth over the next year. Beijing's stimulus package could factor this possibility in. If Trump were to sail through,

Nomura anticipates the eventual scale of China's fiscal stimulus package to reach 2-3 per cent of the country's gross domestic product annually over the next several years, with a Trump win to push its size toward the higher end of the estimate. This could make other markets, India included, less appealing to FPIs. As a Trump win and the impact that has on China's stimulus could have a trailing impact on other countries, including India.

On November 1, China's central bank unveiled its biggest stimulus package since the COVID 19 pandemic, when it injected \$70 billion worth of cash into the country's money markets through a newly established policy tool. The move is being seen as a step to ease liquidity stresses in the economy and encourage banks to lend, and came through after growth slumped to its worst pace in five quarters.

### BRIEFLY

#### Manufacturing sector regains momentum: PMI

New Delhi: India's manufacturing sector growth recovered from September's eight-month low to 57.5 in October fuelled by faster increases in total new orders and international sales, the seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) said on Monday. **PTI**

#### 'Bangladesh fast tracks payment to Adani Power'

Dhaka/Bengaluru: Bangladesh is accelerating payment of more than \$800 million it owes Adani Power ahead of a November 7 deadline set by the company, which has cut electricity exports to Bangladesh by more than half, two senior government officials said. **REUTERS**

#### Niva Bupa fixes ₹70-74 band for ₹2,200-cr IPO

Mumbai: Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Ltd has fixed the price band of Rs 70-74 per equity share of face value Rs 10 each for its Rs 2,200 crore maiden initial public offering (IPO). **ENS**

#### I-T act review: Govt gets 6,500 suggestions

New Delhi: The income tax department has received 6,500 suggestions from stakeholders over the past month on review of the Income Tax Act. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday chaired a meeting on the Budget announcement of a comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act, 1961. **PTI**

### TAX EVASION RELATED TO IMPORT AND EXPORT OF GOODS

# Maintain balance between probes and ease of biz: CBIC to Customs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

IN A bid to reach out to industry and limit the possible overreach of tax authorities in investigations, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has instructed the Customs field formations to maintain "balance" while carrying out investigations for tax evasion related to import and export of goods in the interest of "ease of doing business". In the set of instructions issued on November 1, the CBIC said such evasion cases are categorised as commercial intelligence and fraud cases and they need to be differentiated from outright smuggling cases which involve contraband items.

The CBIC has asked the field formations to not approve any such investigation without the approval of the commissioner and conclude investigation into commercial intelligence (CI) cases within a year. The Board has also asked officers to seek information and documents in CI matters in writing with full disclosure of the specific nature of the inquiry being initiated by the authorities.

"The Commissioner is responsible for developing and approving any intelligence, investigation and its completion. Each investigation must be initiated only after the approval of the Commissioner.

### 'DIFFERENTIATE FROM SMUGGLING CASES'

■ In the set of instructions issued on November 1, the CBIC said such evasion cases are categorised as commercial intelligence and fraud cases and they need to be differentiated from outright smuggling cases which involve contraband items

CI case investigation must reach the earliest conclusion which is normally not more than one year," the instructions issued by the Investigation-Customs wing of the CBIC under the Ministry of Finance said. Earlier in March, the CBIC had issued a similar set of guidelines to its Goods and Services Tax (GST) field formations asking them to maintain ease of doing business while engaging in investigation with regular taxpayers. The new instructions come now after concerns being raised by a section of taxpayers on investigations lingering for years and sometimes processes being initiated without adequate written documentation by authorities.

The CBIC has told the officers to analyse all intelligence inputs

and relevant aspects in CI matters before initiating investigation including cross checking with available data, technical literature, prevalent industry practice, judicial pronouncements, extant legal framework, precedence etc. "It is desirable to undertake as complete an analysis as feasible, before the actual investigation is initiated," it said.

The Commissioner may also decide whether the commercial intelligence is to be brought to the notice of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in case it may have cross jurisdictional relevance, the CBIC said.

The Board underlined that ease of business is to be maintained in the process of such investigations by seeking documents preferably by writing letters, as far as possible.

"The time frame specified for appearance, or producing information, should be reasonable and keeping in view the mode of communication of the letter/summon. Before seeking any information or documents, the relevancy and propriety of what is being sought shall be recorded (on e-file), ensuring that it is holistic and result of preparation, and also so as not to have repeated issuance of letter/summmons or seeking of piecemeal information," it said.

**FULL REPORT ON** [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# ₹6,970 crore worth ₹2,000 notes yet to return to RBI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

OVER 17 months after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation, Rs 6,970 crore worth Rs 2,000 notes are yet to come back to the RBI.

The total value of Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation, which was Rs 3.56 lakh crore on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 banknotes was announced, has

declined to Rs 6,970 crore on October 31, 2024, the RBI said on Monday. "Thus, 98.04 per cent of the Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned," it said.

"The Rs 2,000 banknotes continue to be legal tender," the RBI said. According to the RBI, the facility for exchange of the Rs 2,000 banknotes is available at the 19 issue offices of the Reserve Bank since May 19, 2023. "From October 09, RBI issue offices are also accepting Rs 2,000 banknotes from indi-

viduals/entities for deposit into their bank accounts. Further, members of the public are sending Rs 2,000 banknotes through India Post from any post office within the country, to any of the RBI issue offices for credit to their bank accounts," the RBI said.

Earlier, the facility for deposit and/or exchange of the Rs 2,000 banknotes was available at all bank branches in the country up to October 7, 2023.

**FULL REPORT ON** [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# Govt invites applications for RBI Deputy Governor post

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

THE GOVERNMENT has invited applications for the post of Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from interested candidates with at least 25 years of experience and below 60 years of age as on January 15, 2025.

"Persons who have at least 25 years of work experience in Public Administration including experience at the level of Secretary or equivalent in the Government of India," Department of Financial Services (DFS) said in the advertisement.

Deputy Governor Michael D Patra's tenure will end on January 15, 2025. Patra, who is in charge of monetary policy and is a member of the monetary policy committee, was given a one-year extension ahead of the end of his tenure earlier this year.

Patra, with RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, played a vital role in dealing with COVID-related impact on the economy. M Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar and J Swaminathan are the three other Deputy Governors.

Meanwhile, the six-year tenure of Das as the RBI Governor will end in December 2024.

However, there's no word from the government about the RBI Governor post.

Das, a retired IAS, assumed charge as the 25th Governor of the Reserve Bank on December 12, 2018.

# Suzuki unveils its first mass-production battery EV 'e VITARA'; to be made in Guj

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

SUZUKI MOTOR Corporation has unveiled its first mass-production battery electric vehicle (BEV) model, the 'e VITARA', in Milan, Italy. Production will commence at Suzuki Motor Gujarat in India in spring 2025, with sales expected to begin in various countries, including Europe, India, and Japan, around summer 2025.

The e VITARA is based on the concept model 'eVX', which was showcased at the Auto Expo held in India in January 2023. It marks Suzuki's first global strategic BEV model and will be the first EV for India from the Japanese carmaker that will enter a hotly contested segment that includes the Tata Curvv EV, the MG ZS EV and the upcoming Hyundai Creta EV.



Suzuki Motor Corporation unveiled e VITARA in Milan, Italy.

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice**  
 Tender No : Re-65/2024-25/SE/PHC/MVPA  
 JIM-WSS to Ramanganalam, Marady & Pampakkuda (Part)-Package-I-Part-B-Well cum Pump house at Methipara, OHSR at Methipara WTP site, RWP ACWP, Electrical installations and allied works-General Civil Work EMD : Rs. 200000/-, Tender fee : Rs. 11025/-, Last Date for submitting, Tender : 18-11-2024 04:00pm, Phone : 0485285637, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.tenders.kerala.gov.in  
 Superintending Engineer PH Circle Muvattupuzha  
 KWA-JB-GL-6-794-2024-25

**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
 (CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)  
 No.CEE/(T&P)/SEE/2/EET/12N/AEET/12B/2024-25/5029-33 Date: 04.11.2024

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
 (THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)  
 Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids through Karnataka Public Procurement portal against the following enquiry as detailed below:

**Enquiry Number and Description**  
 Bid Enquiry no. KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK\_INDENT1394 for Providing vehicles on hire basis for the use of officers of KPTCL all over the Karnataka State.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 07.11.2024 @ 15:00hrs. Last date & time for receipt of Bids is 28.11.2024 @ 15:00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.  
 Sd/-, Chief Engineer (Electy), Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL, 3rd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-09.

# 'Reliance Jio IPO set for 2025'

New Delhi/Hong Kong: Reliance Industries chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani targets a 2025 listing for his telecom business Jio, valued by analysts at over \$100 billion, and plans to launch his retail unit's IPO much later, two people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

Ambani hasn't updated his IPO timelines after saying in 2019 that Reliance Jio and Reliance Retail would "move towards" a listing within five years.

In recent years, Ambani, raised \$25 billion collectively for digital, telecom and retail businesses from the likes of KKR, General Atlantic and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, valuing both ventures at above \$100 billion. The two sources said Reliance has now firmed up plans to launch the Reliance Jio IPO in 2025. **REUTERS**

**GOVT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH**  
 AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-[sundargarh@yahoo.com](mailto:sundargarh@yahoo.com)  
 No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG - 12 of 2024-25. Letter No. 2454 / Dtd. 29.10.2024  
 e-Procurement Notice

1 Type of the Work	:- Roads (DMF)
2 Class of contractor	:- As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3 Time of Completion	:- As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4 Detail Projects	:- As per Annexure attached
5 Estimated Cost	:- As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6 Other details	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-12 of 2024-25	08.11.2024 11:00 AM	28.11.2024 5:00 PM	27.11.2024 5:00 PM	29.11.2024 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)  
 OIPR-25133/11/0022/2425  
 Sd/-, Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Control) Chief Construction Engineer (E/C) Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh

**RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED NOTICE INVITING e-BIDS**  
**PROCUREMENT-2/NIB-08/2024-25/BN-9016002418 to 9016002419**  
 Online e-bids are invited from interested bidders as detailed below:-  
 1. PURCHASE OF 160 MVA, 220/132kV AUTO TRANSFORMER ALONG WITH NIPFES ON RATE CONTRACT BASIS. (BN-9016002418, UBN- VFN2425GLRC01902)  
 2. PURCHASE OF 31.5 MVA, 132/33kV POWER TRANSFORMER ALONG WITH NIPFES ON RATE CONTRACT BASIS. (BN-9016002419, UBN- VFN2425GLRC01903)  
 The detailed NIB and Bid document /specification are available for viewing/downloading on the website <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>. Details of NIB are available on website [energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvppn](http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvppn). Any extension in bid submission/opening date (if any) will be floated/uploaded on <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>; [energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvppn](http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvppn) & <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> only. RRVPN/TR-6444/2024 Raj.Samwadi/C/24/7256 Superintending Engineer (Proc-II)

**JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED**  
 Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - U40109RJ2000SGC016483  
 (OFFICE OF THE IN-CHARGE (RE-DSM CELL)) Regd. Office: New Power House, Industrial Area, Jodhpur-342003, Email: [xenredsmjodvnl@gmail.com](mailto:xenredsmjodvnl@gmail.com), [sedsmsj@gmail.com](mailto:sedsmsj@gmail.com), Website: [www.jdvvn.com](http://www.jdvvn.com), [www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvn](http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvn)  
**E-PROCUREMENT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
 Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited for design, survey, supply, installation, testing, commissioning, operation & maintenance for 25 years from COD of grid connected solar power plants through RESCO mode, its associated 11 kV line to connect the plant with various 33/11 kV sub-stations and remote monitoring system (RMS) of solar power plants under PM-KUSUM Scheme - Component A in various Circles of Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited against EOI-TN-DSM-81 (UBN No. JVV2425WSOB00648). All the details regarding tender is available at website [www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvn](http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvn), [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) and [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) vide EOI No. JDVVNL/IN-CHARGE (RE-DSM)/EOI-TN-DSM-81.  
 In future any other notices/information regarding corrigendum/extension, if any, shall be published only at websites: [www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvn](http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvn), [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in), [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in)  
**IN-CHARGE (RE-DSM CELL)**  
 For Electricity Complaints Toll free No. 1800 180 6045

# 14 THE WORLD

## TOPOF THE WORLD



An astronaut waves as he is carried out of the capsule on Monday. AP

## CHINA

### Space station crew returns after 6 months

Beijing: Three Chinese astronauts returned to Earth Monday after a six-month stay on the Tiangong space station, part of China's effort to be a global leader in space exploration. A parachute slowed their capsule's nighttime descent to a remote landing area in China's Inner Mongolia region. The crew emerged after touching down at 1:24 a.m. A Chinese national flag stuck in the ground near the capsule flapped in the wind. In recent years, the country's space program has brought back rocks from the moon and landed a rover on Mars. It aims to put a person on the moon by 2030, which would make China the second nation after the United States to do so. AP

## INDONESIA

### Strong volcanic eruptions burn houses, 10 dead

Jakarta: Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency said Monday that at least 10 people have died as a series of volcanic eruptions widens on the remote island of Flores. The eruption at Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki around midnight spewed thick brownish ash as high as 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) into the air and hot ashes hit several villages, burning down houses including a convent of Catholic nuns, said Firman Yosef, an official at the Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki monitoring post. AP

## PHILIPPINES

### Military drills to seize island in South China Sea

Manila: The Philippine military opened two weeks of combat drills on Monday that would include seizing an island in the disputed South China Sea and likely be frowned upon by China. More than 3,000 Filipino army, navy and air force personnel will take part in the maneuvers, which Philippine military officials said were not directed against any country. China has rapidly expanded its military and has become increasingly assertive in pursuing territorial claims in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims in its entirety. AP

# 'The closer I get to election, the madder I get': Voters deal with stress as US goes to poll today

REUTERS PENNSYLVANIA, NOVEMBER 4

DANIELLE TRENNEY, a 39-year-old project manager from western Pennsylvania, is so anxious about the U.S. presidential election on Tuesday that she decided to put up a Christmas tree early this year to take her family's mind off things.

Trenney said she knew of other families doing the same in Bellevue, a Pittsburgh suburb and an electoral hotbed prized by both Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump, rivals in a race that analysts say will go down to the wire. "Just trying to pacify the anxiety," said Trenney, who voted for Harris ahead of Tuesday's Election Day. "Anything and everything to distract from, 'Oh my God, what's going to happen?'"

Sitting on a park bench nearby was Jennifer Bunecke, 68 and a retired graphic designer who plans to vote for Trump. Bunecke



Donald Trump and Kamala Harris during their respective election campaigns on Sunday. AP

is so sick of the acrimony, the incessant calls from pollsters and the campaign ads bombarding her in the battleground state of Pennsylvania that she would rather tune out completely. She spent a chunk of Saturday reading a booklet of pastry recipes to keep calm. "I was never into politics. I wasn't raised with it," she said. On Election Eve, America is stressed out. Like really. Faced with two radically different candidates and visions for the country's future, voters are girding themselves for the results - and fear of the possible unrest that could follow. In recent



## RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

## NEW YORK: BENGALI ON BALLOT PAPERS

New York: The ballot papers in the US presidential elections will have only four other languages apart from English. And guess what? Bengali represents the Indian languages in this list. "We are required to service four other languages besides English. It is Chinese, Spanish, Korean and Bengali as the Asian languages," says Micheal J Ryan, Executive Director, Board of Elections, NYC. PTI

days Reuters correspondents spoke to more than 50 voters across the seven competitive states that will determine the next president. They encountered an electorate on edge: Worried how the country will look should their preferred candidate lose. Worried the other side will make trouble. Worried the political divide will only grow deeper.

Some are turning to religion, others to yoga, swimming or lifting weights. Some are following the news closely, while others have shut off their TVs and smartphones to lose themselves in books or take long walks outdoors.

"I wish my smartphone was smart enough to know I've already voted," said Lynn Nicholson, 72, a Harris voter in Marietta, Georgia, who has found refuge from the deluge of campaign ads through walking, gardening and photography. "It's overwhelming." Todd Harrison, 49, of Canton, Georgia, a pest control specialist who is leaning toward Trump, said he has stopped watching sports on TV because of the barrage of political ads.

"The closer I get to the election, the madder I get," Harrison said. Many voters said they worried about what could happen after the election, especially if Trump loses. They fear a wave of lawsuits and court hearings, demonstrations, even violence.

# German minister in Kyiv as Ukraine girds for impact of US election on war

REUTERS KYIV, NOVEMBER 4

GERMAN FOREIGN Minister Annalena Baerbock arrived in Kyiv on Monday pledging Berlin's continued backing for Ukraine, amid disquiet over the future of Washington's support as the U.S. election looms.

Baerbock said Ukraine, facing its third winter of war, needs support to ensure its very survival as North Korea's military involvement and Russian airstrikes on civilian infrastructure exacerbate the conflict.

Her visit comes on the eve of the U.S. presidential election, in which a win for Republican candidate Donald Trump could cast



German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock

doubt on future support from Ukraine's top military backer. "We are countering this brutality with our humanity and support, so that Ukrainians can not only survive the winter, but so that their country can survive. Because they are also defending the free-

dom of all of us in Europe," said Baerbock, embarking on her eighth visit to Ukraine.

Germany has emerged as Ukraine's top donor of military aid in Europe and has closely coordinated its support with Washington.

However, if Trump beats Democrat Kamala Harris in Tuesday's election, this close coordination could falter. Trump has criticised the level of U.S. support for Kyiv and declined to say he wants Ukraine to win the war, which he says he would end quickly by pushing for a negotiated settlement.

The German foreign minister, who was last in Ukraine in May, is due to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Foreign

Minister Andrii Sybaha while in the capital.

Baerbock said Germany had recently extended its emergency energy aid to Ukraine by an extra 170 million euros (\$185 million) in response to bombed-out heating plants and power lines.

Since August, Russia has intensified its attacks on Ukraine, in what Kyiv officials say is Moscow's attempt to destroy critical infrastructure needed for heating during winter. Russia will have to pay for the billions of euros in damage it has caused, said Baerbock.

The US finalised its \$20-billion portion of that amount with a pledge to pay it out in December, timing meant to shield the loan funds from a potential claw-back from Trump.

## THE 7 SWING STATES



# Trial opens in France in beheading of teacher over Prophet cartoons

ASSOCIATED PRESS PARIS, NOVEMBER 4

THE TRIAL of eight people in Paris on terrorism charges started on Monday over the beheading of teacher Samuel Paty, who was killed by an Islamic extremist after showing caricatures of Prophet Muhammad to his middle school students for a lesson on freedom of expression.

Paty's shocking death left an imprint on France, and several schools are now named after him. Paty was killed outside his school near Paris on October 16, 2020, by an 18-year-old Russian of Chechen origin, who was shot to death by police.

Those on trial include friends of assailant Abdoullakh Anzorov who allegedly helped purchase weapons for the attack, as well as people who are accused of spreading false information online about the teacher and his class. The proceedings started Monday in the presence of members of Paty's family, including his two sisters.

The trial was held under high security, with many police officers patrolling and making checks outside and inside the courtroom. Five of the accused, who are currently imprisoned, were seated in a wide glass box. Three others, placed under judicial supervision, sat on the defendants' benches outside the box.

France's secularism at stake. The attack occurred against a backdrop of protests in many Muslim countries and calls online for violence targeting France and the satirical French newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

The newspaper had republished its caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad a few weeks before Paty's death to mark the opening of the trial over deadly 2015 attacks on its newsroom by Islamic extremists.

The cartoon images deeply offended many Muslims, who saw them as sacrilegious. But the fallout from Paty's killing reinforced the French state's commitment to freedom of expression and its firm attachment to secularism in public life.

# Israeli strikes kill 10 in Gaza as settlers torch cars in Ramallah

REUTERS CAIRO, RAMALLAH, NOV 4

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES killed at least 10 Palestinians in Gaza on Monday, with seven dead in an attack on two houses in the north Gaza town of Beit Lahiya and three fatalities in a strike on a house in Nuseirat camp in the enclave's centre, medics said.

Several people were wounded in both attacks, they said, adding that Israeli forces had sent tanks into the northeast of Nuseirat camp earlier on Monday.

Israel deployed tanks into Jabalia, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahiya on Oct. 5, 2024, saying it intended to prevent Hamas from regrouping.

Palestinians said the new aerial and ground offensives and forced evacuations were "ethnic cleansing" aimed at emptying two northern Gaza towns and a refugee camp of their population to create buffer zones. Israel denies this, saying it is fighting Hamas militants who launch attacks from there.

The Hamas-run Gaza gov-



A man sits on the rubble of a house destroyed in Israeli strikes in Khan Younis on Monday. Reuters

ernment media office put the number of Palestinians killed since Oct. 5 at 1,800. It said 4,000 others were wounded.

## Settlers torch cars

Jewish settlers torched 20 cars during an attack on Palestinian property on the outskirts of Ramallah on Monday, residents said, in one of their boldest raids yet in the area that serves as the Palestinians' seat of

government in the occupied West Bank.

Around a dozen attackers, masked and carrying petrol bombs, targeted the Al-Bireh area, which adjoins Ramallah, at around 3 a.m. (0100 GMT), torching the cars in a matter of minutes, they said.

Resident Ihab al-Zaben said he yelled at the settlers but they carried on burning the vehicles regardless.

## AQI CROSSES 1,000



Students wear mask due to increasing smog in Lahore. AP

# Dangerously poor air quality: Lahore schools shut for a week

Ministers in Punjab blame winds from India for worsening smog

ASSOCIATED PRESS LAHORE, NOVEMBER 4

DANGEROUSLY POOR air quality on Monday forced Pakistani authorities in the cultural capital of Lahore to close primary schools for a week, government officials said, after the air-quality index hit a record high over the weekend.

The measures in Lahore were part of a larger effort to protect children from respiratory-related and other diseases in the city of 14 million people. The government said everyone in Lahore was required to wear a face mask.

Fifty per cent of employees must also work from home as part of a "green lockdown" in the city, the government said, adding that barbecuing food without filters was banned and motorised rickshaws restricted.

Wedding halls must close at 10 p.m. and artificial rain is likely to be used to combat the pollution.

The air-quality index in Lahore exceeded 1,000 over the weekend, a record high in Pakistan.

Toxic gray smog has sickened tens of thousands of people, mainly children and elderly people, since last month when the

air quality started worsening in Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province bordering India. The government has also banned construction work in certain areas and fined owners of smoke-emitting vehicles. Schools will remain closed for a week because of the pollution, according to a government notification.

The concentration of PM 2.5, or tiny particulate matter, in the air approached 450, considered hazardous, the Punjab Environment Protection Department said.

Meanwhile, ministers in Pakistan's Punjab province on Monday blamed winds from India for worsening smog here, urging the Indian authorities to take up the matter seriously, after the air quality index in the capital city hit a record high over the weekend.

Toxic grey smog has sickened tens of thousands of people, mainly children and elderly people, since last month when the air quality started worsening in Lahore, the city bordering India.

The concentration of PM 2.5, or tiny particulate matter, in the air, approached 450, considered hazardous, the Punjab Environment Protection Department said.

- WITH PTI INPUTS

# Japan successfully launches defence satellite carried by new flagship H3 rocket

MARI YAMAGUCHI TOKYO, NOVEMBER 4

JAPAN LAUNCHED a defence satellite aimed at speedier communication and military operations on a new flagship H3 rocket on Monday and successfully placed it into orbit, as the country seeks to build up its military capability amid growing tension in the region.

The H3 No. 4 rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Centre on a southwestern Japanese island. Everything went as planned and the satellite was successfully put into a targeted orbit, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, announced. The rocket

was carrying a Defense Ministry satellite, Kirameki No. 3, which uses X-band communication for information and data sharing, as well as military operations and command.

X-band satellite is less affected by weather conditions and is capable of supporting stable communication.

Maj. Gen. Yasuhiro Kato, the Joint Staff Systems Department chief said that the triple X-band communication satellite system would enable high-speed, large-capacity data transmission and communication across Japan's Ground, Maritime and Air Self Defence Forces, as well as with units deployed overseas on peacekeeping missions or exercises. AP

## HE MADE BEST-SELLING ALBUM OF ALL TIME, MICHAEL JACKSON'S 'THRILLER', ALSO ARRANGED AND COMPOSED MUSIC FOR FILMS

# Quincy Jones, giant of American pop music with 28 Grammys, dies at 91

BEN RATLIFF NOVEMBER 4

QUINCY JONES, one of the most powerful forces in American popular music for more than half a century, died on Sunday in California. He was 91.

His death was confirmed in a statement by his publicist, Arnold Robinson, that did not mention a cause. The statement said that he had died peacefully at his home in Bel Air.

Jones began his career as a jazz trumpeter and was later in great demand as an arranger, writing for the big bands of Count Basie and

others; as a composer of film music; and as a record producer. But he may have made his most lasting mark by doing what some believe to be equally important in the ground-level history of an art form: The work of connecting.

Beyond his hands-on work with score paper, he organised, charmed, persuaded, hired and validated. Starting in the late 1950s, he took social and professional mobility to a new level in Black popular art, eventually creating the conditions for a great deal of music to flow between styles, outlets and markets. And all of that could be said of him even if he had not produced

Michael Jackson's "Thriller," the best-selling album of all time.

Jones's music has been sampled and reused hundreds of times, through all stages of hip-hop and for the theme to the "Austin Powers" films (his "Soul Bossa Nova," from 1962). He has the third-highest total of Grammy Awards won by a single person - he was nominated 80 times and won 28. (Beyoncé's 32 wins is the highest total; Georg Solti is second with 31.) He was given honorary degrees by Harvard, Princeton, Juilliard, the New England Conservatory, the Berklee School of Music and many other institutions, as well as a National Medal



Quincy Jones has the third-highest total of Grammy Awards won by a single person - nominated 80 times and won 28. AP

of Arts and a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master fellowship.

His success - as his colleague in arranging, Benny Carter, is said to have remarked - may have overshadowed his talent.

In the late 1950s and early '60s, Jones led his own bands and was the arranger of plush, confident recordings like Dinah Washington's "The Swingin' Miss D" (1957), Betty Carter's "Meet Betty Carter and Ray Bryant" (1955) and Ray Charles's "Genius + Soul = Jazz" (1961). He arranged and conducted several collaborations between Frank Sinatra and Count Basie, including what is

widely regarded as one of Sinatra's greatest records, "Sinatra at the Sands" (1966).

He composed the soundtracks to "The Pawnbroker" (1964), "In Cold Blood" (1967) and "The Color Purple" (1985), among many other movies; his film and television work expertly mixed 20th-century classical, jazz, funk and Afro-Cuban, street, studio and conservatory. And the three albums he produced for Michael Jackson between 1979 and 1987 - "Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "Bad" - arguably remade the pop business with their success, by appealing profoundly to both Black and white audiences at a time

when mainstream radio playlists were becoming increasingly segregated.

In 2018, he made headlines when he gave wide-ranging interviews to New York and GQ magazines that contained surprising comments about Michael Jackson and other subjects. In 2022 he appeared on the album "Dawn FM" by the Weeknd, performing a monologue on the track "A Tale by Quincy." According to his publicist, Mr. Jones is survived by a brother, Richard Jones; by two sisters, Margie Jay and Theresa Frank; and by seven children: Jolie, Kidada, Kenya, Martina, Rachel, Rashida and Quincy III. NYT

**JEWAR TRANSMISSION LIMITED**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Niryat Bhawan, Rao Tularam Marg, Vasant Vihar, Opposite Army Hospital & Referral, New Delhi-110057  
**NOTICE** Petition No. 2102 of 2024  
(Under sub-section 2(i) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003)  
**In the matter of Application by Jewar Transmission Limited for Grant of Intra-State Transmission Licence within Uttar Pradesh**

I. Jewar Transmission Limited, which is incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, has made an application before the Hon'ble Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC), Lucknow, under Section 14, 15 (1), 86 (1) (d) of the Electricity Act, 2003 for grant of Transmission License to establish Intra-State Transmission System, the details of which are given below:

S.No.	Name of the Transmission Element	SCOD from Effective Date
<b>A.</b>	<b>Construction of 400/220 kV, 2x500 MVA GIS Substation Jewar (Gautam Budh Nagar) with Associated lines</b>	
A1	Construction of 400/220 kV, 2x500MVA GIS substation Jewar (Gautam Budh Nagar) (along with 125MVAR reactor) • 400 kV GIS feeder bay – 02 Nos. • 400 kV GIS Bus Coupler bay – 01 No. • 400 kV GIS Bus reactor bay – 01 No. • 400 kV GIS ICT bay – 02 Nos. • 220 kV GIS Bus Coupler bay – 01 No. • 220 kV GIS ICT bay – 02 Nos. • 220 kV GIS Interconnecting (220 kV S/S Jewar) bay – 02 Nos. • 220 kV GIS Feeder (220 kV S/S Sector-28 YEIDA) bay – 02 Nos.	<b>18 months</b>
A2	LILO of one ckt. of 400 kV Greater Noida (765 kV) – Sector -148 (400), Noida DC line at 400/220 kV GIS Substation Jewar (Gautam Budh Nagar) for LILO, twin HTLS conductor and OPGW stringing work on narrow base multi circuit towers)	
<b>B</b>	<b>Construction of 220/33 kV, 2x60 MVA GIS substation Cantt. (Chaukaghat) Varanasi with associated lines</b>	
B1	Construction of 220/33 kV, GIS Substation Cantt. (Chaukaghat) Varanasi • 220 kV GIS feeder bay – 02 Nos. • 220 kV GIS Bus Coupler bay – 01 No. • 220 kV GIS ICT bay – 02 Nos. • 33 kV GIS feeder bay – 12 Nos. • 33 kV GIS Transfer Bus Coupler bay – 01 No. • 33 kV GIS ICT bay – 02 Nos. • 33/0.4 kV Station transformer bay – 02 Nos	<b>18 Months</b>
B2	LILO of one ckt. of 220 kV Satnath (400)- Gajokhar DC line at Cantt.(Chaukaghat) Varanasi construction of 41.5 Km (37 Km overhead line (Zebra Conductor) on Lattice Tower and construction of 4.5 Km 630 mm <sup>2</sup> line with copper XLPE cable	
<b>C</b>	<b>Construction of 220/33 kV, 3x60 MVA GIS substation Vasundhara (Ghaziabad) with associated lines</b>	
C1	Construction of 220/33 kV GIS substation Vasundhara (Ghaziabad) • 220 kV GIS feeder bay – 03 Nos. • 220 kV GIS feeder bay (spare) – 01 No. • 220 kV GIS Bus Coupler Bay- 01 No. • 220 kV GIS ICT bay – 03 Nos. • 33 kV GIS feeder bay – 10 Nos. • 33 kV GIS Bus Coupler bay – 03 Nos. • 33 kV GIS bus sectionalized bay – 02 Nos. • 33 kV capacitor bank bay (1x10 MVAR)– 03 Nos. • 33 kV GIS ICT bay – 03 Nos. • 33/0.4 kV Station transformer bay – 02 Nos.	<b>18 Months</b>
C2	LILO of one ckt. of 220 kV Muradnagar (400)- Sahibabad (220) SC line at 220 kV Substation Vasundhara (Ghaziabad) (Multi Ckt. / Monopole Tower) (Zebra conductor)	
C3	220 kV Indrapuram (400) – Vasundhara SC line (Monopole and Narrow base multi circuit tower)	
<b>D</b>	<b>Construction of 220/132/33 kV, 2x160+2x40 MVA Substation Khaga (Fatehpur) with associated lines</b>	
D1	Construction of 220/132/33 kV, Substation Khaga (Fatehpur) • 220 kV feeder bay – 02 Nos. • 220 kV spare feeder bay – 02 Nos. • 220 kV bus coupler – 01 No. • 220 kV transfer bus coupler – 01 No. • 220 kV ICT bay – 02 Nos. • 132 kV feeder bay – 03 Nos. • 132 kV spare feeder bay – 01 No. • 132 kV bus coupler – 01 No. • 132 kV transfer bus coupler – 01 No. • 132 kV ICT bay – 04 Nos. • 33 kV Feeder Bay – 07 Nos. • 33 kV Transfer Bus Coupler bay – 01 No. • 33 kV ICT bay – 02 Nos. • 33/0.4 kV Station transformer bay – 02 Nos.	<b>18 Months</b>
D2	220 kV Fatehpur (765) PG -Khaga DC line (Zebra Conductor)	
D3	132 kV Khaga (220) – Khaga DC line	
D4	132 kV Khaga (220) – Hussainganj SC line	
D5	132 kV Bay 132kV Substation Khaga- 02 Nos	
D5	132 kV Hybrid Bay at 132kV Substation Hussainganj-01 No	

**Note:**

- UPPTCL to provide adequate land for construction of 400/220 kV, 2x500 MVA GIS Substation at Jewar (Gautam Budh Nagar) free of cost and shall be handed over to TSP as is where basis.
- UPPTCL to provide adequate land for construction of 220/33 kV, 2x60 MVA GIS substation at Cantt. (Chaukaghat) Varanasi free of cost and shall be handed over to TSP as is where basis.
- UPPTCL to provide adequate land for construction of 220/33 kV, 3x60 MVA GIS substation at Vasundhara (Ghaziabad) free of cost and shall be handed over to TSP as is where basis.
- UPPTCL to provide adequate land for construction of 220/132/33 kV, 2x160+2x40 MVA Substation at Khaga (Fatehpur) free of cost and shall be handed over to TSP as is where basis.
- 02 Nos., 132 kV Bay at 132 kV S/s Khaga shall be under scope of developer.
- 01 No., 132 kV Hybrid Bay at 132 kV S/s Hussainganj shall be under scope of developer.

- A copy of the Transmission License application along with its annexures, enclosures and other documents filed before the Hon'ble UPERC is available on the web site, the URL of which being [jt.in.net/gallery](http://jt.in.net/gallery), for access by any person. The application will also be made available to anybody on demand/request to Jewar Transmission Limited at S-2, T.I.E., Balanagar, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500 037 with Mr. M. Raghu Kumar, Director. (info@jt.in.net).
- Objections or suggestions, if any, may be filed before the Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission, Vidyut Niyamak Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010; with a copy of the objections(s)/suggestion(s) to Mr. M. Raghu Kumar, Director (info@jt.in.net) at Jewar Transmission Limited's above mentioned office address, within 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice in the newspaper.
- In case the Hon'ble UPERC allows any subsequent changes resulting in amendment of the license application, Jewar Transmission Limited will publish such changes or the complete notice afresh for soliciting the comments/suggestions of the public.

For Jewar Transmission Limited  
Mr Mandalaparthi Raghu Kumar  
Director

Place: Delhi  
Date: 05.11.2024

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

Corps of Signals salutes its Signallers who left us for their heavenly abode during the month of Oct 2024.

(a) JC-380328L	Subedar Major	Raj Kumar
(b) 15722141N	Naik	Amal Kumar
(c) 15737665M	Naik	Shibtosh Barman

On behalf of the Corps, we sincerely pray to Almighty for peace to the departed souls & strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

**Eastern Coalfields Limited**  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)  
Office of the General Manager, Kenda Area,  
P. O. - Haripur, Dist - Burdwan, West Bengal - 713378  
CIN: U10101WB1975GOI030295

**ECL/KA/PD/C-6/63/601** Dated: 06/25.09.2024  
**2nd Show Cause Notice/ Notice calling upon explanation to the reason of disagreement recorded by Disciplinary Authority**

To **Sri Nanigopal Bouri**  
U. M. No. 509470,  
General Mazdoor, Chora  
10 Pit Colliery, Kenda Area

Copy also to be sent by registered post at:  
**Sri Nanigopal Bouri**  
Vill - Fulbaria, PO - Samdi, Dist - Burdwan  
West Bengal, Pin-713359

WHEREAS you had been Chargesheeted for serious misconduct vide Charge Sheet no. ECL/CH/C-6B/23/995 dated 07.06.2023 calling upon your explanation and whereas no response thereof had been received. Accordingly, it was decided to hold inquiry into the misconduct enumerated in the charge sheet by appointing an independent Inquiry Officer to give the finding.

And WHEREAS the Inquiry Officer has held inquiry affording reasonable opportunity of defense to you, by observing principles of Natural Justice and relevant provisions of Certified Standing Orders.

And WHEREAS the Inquiry Officer has submitted his report which has been carefully considered.

Now, THEREFORE, you are hereby called upon to SHOW CAUSE as to why it is not reasonably construed that on account of the above, the charges leveled against you, in fact, stand proved. You are being offered one more opportunity to submit your explanation which should reach the undersigned within fifteen days from the date of issue of this Notice; failing which it will be presumed that you have no further explanation to offer. In that eventuality, the management shall be at liberty to proceed further without making further reference to you. The copy of report of inquiry along with findings of the Inquiry Officer is enclosed herewith for enabling you to submit your answer to the same.

Enclosed- As mentioned above

**General Manager**  
Kenda Area

**ECL/KA/PD/C-6/63/602** Dated: 06/25.09.2024  
**2nd Show Cause Notice/ Notice calling upon explanation to the reason of disagreement recorded by Disciplinary Authority**

To **Sri Bande Das**  
U. M. No. 118688,  
General Mazdoor, Chora  
7/9 Pit Colliery, Kenda Area

Copy also to be sent by registered post at:  
**Sri Bande Das**  
Vill- Mortar, PO - Kishora, Dist. - Bilaspur  
Chhattisgarh, Pin - 495006

WHEREAS you had been Chargesheeted for serious misconduct vide Charge Sheet no. ECL/CH/C-6B/23/1003 dated 09.06.2023 calling upon your explanation and whereas no response thereof had been received. Accordingly, it was decided to hold inquiry into the misconduct enumerated in the charge sheet by appointing an independent Inquiry Officer to give the finding.

And WHEREAS the Inquiry Officer has held inquiry affording reasonable opportunity of defense to you, by observing principles of Natural Justice and relevant provisions of Certified Standing Orders.

And WHEREAS the Inquiry Officer has submitted his report which has been carefully considered.

Now, THEREFORE, you are hereby called upon to SHOW CAUSE as to why it is not reasonably construed that on account of the above, the charges leveled against you, in fact, stand proved. You are being offered one more opportunity to submit your explanation which should reach the undersigned within fifteen days from the date of issue of this Notice; failing which it will be presumed that you have no further explanation to offer. In that eventuality, the management shall be at liberty to proceed further without making further reference to you. The copy of report of inquiry along with findings of the Inquiry Officer is enclosed herewith for enabling you to submit your answer to the same.

Enclosed- As mentioned above.

**General Manager**  
Kenda Area

**ECL/KA/PD/C-6/63/603** Dated: 06/25.09.2024  
**2nd Show Cause Notice/ Notice calling upon explanation to the reason of disagreement recorded by Disciplinary Authority**

To **Sri Subhadip Mondal**  
U. M. No. 136163,  
General Mazdoor, Chora  
10 Pit Colliery, Kenda Area

Copy also to be sent by registered post at:  
**Sri Subhadip Mondal**  
Vill- New Hansdiha, PO - Chinchuria,  
PS - Jamuria, West Bengal, Pin 713378

WHEREAS you had been Chargesheeted for serious misconduct vide Charge Sheet no. ECL/CH/C-6B/23/997 dated 07.06.2023 calling upon your explanation and whereas no response thereof had been received. Accordingly, it was decided to hold inquiry into the misconduct enumerated in the charge sheet by appointing an independent Inquiry Officer to give the finding.

And WHEREAS the Inquiry Officer has held inquiry affording reasonable opportunity of defense to you, by observing principles of Natural Justice and relevant provisions of Certified Standing Orders.

And WHEREAS the Inquiry Officer has submitted his report which has been carefully considered.

Now, THEREFORE, you are hereby called upon to SHOW CAUSE as to why it is not reasonably construed that on account of the above, the charges leveled against you, in fact, stand proved. You are being offered one more opportunity to submit your explanation which should reach the undersigned within fifteen days from the date of issue of this Notice; failing which it will be presumed that you have no further explanation to offer. In that eventuality, the management shall be at liberty to proceed further without making further reference to you. The copy of report of inquiry along with findings of the Inquiry Officer is enclosed herewith for enabling you to submit your answer to the same.

Enclosed- As mentioned above

**General Manager**  
Kenda Area

**ECL/KA/PD/C-6/63/604** Dated: 06/25.09.2024  
**2nd Show Cause Notice/ Notice calling upon explanation to the reason of disagreement recorded by Disciplinary Authority**

To **Sri Dilip Bhuia**  
U. M. No. 192928,  
TR Trainee, Chora 10  
Pit Colliery, Kenda Area

Copy also to be sent by registered post at:  
**Sri Dilip Bhuia**  
Vill - Rakur Tinkri, PO - Sarath, PS - Sarath  
Dumka, Jharkhand, Pin - 814149

WHEREAS you had been Chargesheeted for serious misconduct vide Charge Sheet no. ECL/CH/C-6B/23/994 dated 07.06.2023 calling upon your explanation and whereas no response thereof had been received. Accordingly, it was decided to hold inquiry into the misconduct enumerated in the charge sheet by appointing an independent Inquiry Officer to give the finding.

And WHEREAS the Inquiry Officer has held inquiry affording reasonable opportunity of defense to you, by observing principles of Natural Justice and relevant provisions of Certified Standing Orders.

And WHEREAS the Inquiry Officer has submitted his report which has been carefully considered.

Now, THEREFORE, you are hereby called upon to SHOW CAUSE as to why it is not reasonably construed that on account of the above, the charges leveled against you, in fact, stand proved. You are being offered one more opportunity to submit your explanation which should reach the undersigned within fifteen days from the date of issue of this Notice; failing which it will be presumed that you have no further explanation to offer. In that eventuality, the management shall be at liberty to proceed further without making further reference to you. The copy of report of inquiry along with findings of the Inquiry Officer is enclosed herewith for enabling you to submit your answer to the same.

Enclosed- As mentioned above.

**General Manager**  
Kenda Area

**भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग**  
**COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
9th Floor, Office Tower-1, Kidwai Nagar (East), N. Delhi

**NOTICE**

**Sub: Filling up of posts in Competition Commission of India on deputation.**

The Competition Commission of India, a Regulatory Body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, has invited applications vide O.M. No.A-12011/1/2024-HR dated 18 October, 2024, to fill up following posts on deputation basis from eligible and interested officers of Central/State Governments/Autonomous Bodies etc. of Central/ State Governments:-

S.No	Name of post	No of posts@	Revised Pay Scale/Pay Level
<b>A Professional Staff:</b>			
1.	Director (Law)	01	Level 13A (Rs.131100-216600)
2.	Director (Eco)	01	Level 13A (Rs.131100-216600)
3.	Joint Director (Law)	01	Level 13 (Rs.123100-215900)
4.	Joint Director (Eco)	01	Level 13 (Rs.123100-215900)
5.	Deputy Director (Law)	02	Level 12 (Rs.78800-209200)
<b>B Admn. Staff:</b>			
1.	Joint Director (IT)	01	Level 13 (Rs.123100-215900)
2.	Assistant Director (CS)	02	Level 11 (Rs.67700-208700)
3.	Assistant Director (IT)	01	Level 11 (Rs.67700-208700)
4.	Office Manager (CS)	11	Level 10 (Rs.56100-177500)
5.	Private Secretary	01	Level 7 (Rs.44900-142400)

@The vacancies are liable to change without notice. -  
The last date prescribed for receipt of applications, through proper channel, in CCI, is **17th December, 2024**. For further details please visit our website: [www.cci.gov.in](http://www.cci.gov.in) or contact on telephone No.011-24664100 on working days.  
CBC-07112/12/0004/2425

**CHACHA NEHRU BAL CHIKITSALAYA**  
(An Autonomous Institute under Govt. of NCT of Delhi)  
Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031

**RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

A Walk-In- Interview for for training fellowship in Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031 in the following fields will be held as per the details given below :-

Sl No.	Department of Fellowship	Number of seats	Date & Time of written exam/ Interview	Eligibility
1.	Paediatric Anaesthesia- 2025	2	20.11.2024 at 10.00 A.M.	MD/DA (Anaesthesia)/DNB (Anaesthesia)
2.	Paediatric Orthopedics- 2025	1	20.11.2024 at 10.00 A.M.	MS (Orthopaedics)/DNB (Orthopaedics)
3.	Paediatric Infectious Diseases- 2025	1	20.11.2024 at 10.00 A.M.	MD (Microbiology)/MD/ DNB (Paediatric)
<b>Total</b>		<b>04</b>		

- The candidates should report before one hour of the date of written exam/interview.
- The venue of the aforesaid written exam/interview shall be conference hall of Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031
- The candidates while appearing for written exam/interview will produce all relevant original documents along with one number of self-attested photocopies of all Degree/ Diploma/ Certificates alongwith Mark sheet and one passport size photograph complete applications in prescribed format.
- The application fee of Rs. 1000/- for General & OBC (Delhi) category candidates and Rs.500/- for SC/ST candidates is payable in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Director, Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya payable at Delhi/New Delhi No fee is payable for DIVYANG candidates. The application fee is non refundable.
- The maximum age limit for the candidates applying for the said fellowship is 45 years. The age relaxation for SC/ST/OBC (Delhi) & Physically Handicapped candidates is as per Rules.
- Fellowship Accreditation: At the completion of fellowship, the training certificate will be issued by Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya only. Currently, these fellowships are not accredited to any Board or University.
- There will be a written exam/interview for the candidate's selection and there will be an exit exam at the end of course.
- Course Fee Course Fee of Rs. 75,000/-is payable by Demand Draft in favour of Director, Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031 payable at Delhi/New Delhi. The course fee is non refundable.
- Remuneration: During the said fellowship remuneration will be paid at par with Senior Residents of this Institution.
- Corrigendum if any, will be published on the website of the hospital.
- The cut off date of age relaxation, qualification etc. is the date of walk-in-interview.
- Duration of each fellowship is one year.

For complete details visit hospital website [www.cnchospital.in](http://www.cnchospital.in)

Sd/-  
**(Dr. Manish Kumar)**  
Head of Office, CNBC

DIP/Shabdharth/Classified/0247/24-25

**MEERUT SHAMLI POWER TRANSMISSION LIMITED**  
2nd Floor, Niryat Bhawan, Rao Tularam Marg, Vasant Vihar, Opposite Army Hospital & Referral, New Delhi-110057

**NOTICE** Petition No. 2097 of 2024  
(Under sub-section 2(i) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003)  
**In the matter of Application by Meerut Shamli Power Transmission Limited for Grant of Intra-State Transmission Licence within Uttar Pradesh**

1. Meerut Shamli Power Transmission Limited, which is incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, has made an application before the Hon'ble Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC), Lucknow, under Section 14, 15 (1), 86 (1) (d) of the Electricity Act, 2003 for grant of Transmission License to establish Intra-State Transmission System, the details of which are given below:

S.No.	Scope of the Transmission Scheme	SCOD From Effective Date
1	Meerut (765kV) – Shamli 400kV D/C line	12 Months

2. A copy of the Transmission License application along with its annexures, enclosures and other documents filed before the Hon'ble UPERC is available on the web site, the URL of which being [mspt.in.net/gallery](http://mspt.in.net/gallery), for access by any person. The application will also be made available to anybody on demand/request to Meerut Shamli Power Transmission Limited at S-2, T.I.E., Balanagar, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500 037 with Mr. M. Raghu Kumar, Director. (info@mspt.in.net).

3. Objections or suggestions, if any, may be filed before the Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission, Vidyut Niyamak Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010; with a copy of the objections(s)/suggestion(s) to Mr. M. Raghu Kumar, Director (info@mspt.in.net) at Meerut Shamli Power Transmission Limited's above mentioned office address, within 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice in the newspaper.

4. In case the Hon'ble UPERC allows any subsequent changes resulting in amendment of the license application, Meerut Shamli Power Transmission Limited will publish such changes or the complete notice afresh for soliciting the comments/suggestions of the public.

**For Meerut Shamli Power Transmission Limited**

**Place: Delhi** **Mr. Mandalaparthi Raghu Kumar**  
**Date: 05.11.2024** **Director**

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Harjinder Kaur, W/o Surinder Singh Dhingra, R/o 1/24A, M3M GOLF ESTATE, SECTOR- 65, Badshahpur, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011 have changed my name to Harjinder Kaur Dhingra for all future purposes what so ever. 0040756934-5

I, Gurmeet kaur W/o Akshya purohit R/o flat no A - 19, ground floor, eldeco green meadows, sector-pi, greater Noida, g nagar, up -201310 have changed my name to Gurmeet Kaur bhusrari 0070933080-1

I, Jyoti W/o Madan Lal R/o-72A, 11B, New Lahore, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110031 have changed my name to Jyoti Lal 0070933089-1

I, Ghanshyam S/o Jog Raj R/o Flat No.-A-38, Second-Floor, Karampara, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Ghanshyam Rana. 0040756984-4

I, Divya Mittal D/o Surender Kumar Aggarwal R/o-2, Sreshtha vihar Delhi-110092, have Changed my name to Divya Aggarwal 0040756981-9

I, Dilbag Singh S/o Parjaram R/O House no.-E-72, Sector-36, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Buddh Nagar U.P., have changed my name to Dilbag Singh Jaryal for all future purposes. 0070933085-1

I, Basant ballabh mishra S/o Pitambar dutt mishra R/o C-419A, Sector-19, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name to Basant ballab mishra. 0070933055-1

I, Anoj Paswan S/o Jagadev Paswan, Village Chhotki Madhal Po. Dheedha, Pakri Barwan, Nawada, Bihar 805124 my name mentioned in LIC as Ramanuj Paswan. But my correct name is Anoj Paswan for all future purposes. 0040756939-1

I SATBIR S/O JAGPAL R/O 4830, MAIN ROAD OLD SEELAMPUR, DELHI-110031, Have Changed My Name to SATVEER permanently 0040756974-11

I, Nekar Lalitha Alias Md Tayyaba Begum D/o Bandi Soware Shankar Joshi and W/o Nekar Raghu Kumar R/o 3-4-16/49/B/1, Sree Rama Colony, Ramanthapur, Amberpet, Hyderabad, Telangana-500013, have changed my name to Nekar Lalitha 0070933104-1

I Jagdish S/O Chhote LAI R/O 4/243 Block-4 Trilok puri East Delhi. Have Changed My name to Jagdish Singh For All Future purposes. 0070933105-1

I Harish Kumar Saxena Son of / Care of Rajeshwar Dayal R/o G-56, LIG Flats, Sector-56, Noida, Distt Gautam Buddha Nagar U.P. 201301 have changed my name from Harish Kumar Saxena to Harish Kumar for all future purposes. 0070933106-1

I, SUNDER SINGH, S/O SH. SUKKHAN SINGH, R/O H.NO.16/1, NEAR NIHAL FARM HOUSE, POP COLONY, TILPAT, AMARNAGAR, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121003, have changed my name from RAHUL BHATI to SHUBH BHATI, for all future purpose. 0040756957-10

I, PARDEEP LOHCHAB, S/O-SH. CHAND SINGH, R/O, RZF-905/21A, 2ND FLOOR, LBS MARG, RAJ-NAGAR-II, PALAM COLONY, NEW DELHI-140077, have changed my name from PARDEEP to PARDEEP LOHCHAB, for all future purpose. 0040756957-9

I, Kausar Akhtar, W/o Nisar Akhtar R/o B-88, 2nd Floor Abul Fazal enclave-2, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Kausar Masood, Permanently. 0040756974-12

Service No. 15342460N, Hav./Arjuna Kumar Jujharsingh, S/o-Lochan Jujharsingh, R/o-At/Po Brajamoohampur, Distt-Khordha, Odisha-752018. That my wife name has been wrongly-mentioned as SWAGATIKA JUJHARSINGH in my service-record but actual name is SWAGATIKA MAJHI which is correct 0040756972-4

I, Sahil S/o Sukhdev R/o 12/369, Street No. 12, Faiz Road, Near Delhi Jal Board Head Office Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to Sahil Sodhi permanently. 0130046265-1

Me and My Parents Actual/Correct Name is Khimaya Thapa, Amar Singh Thapa. (Father), Prithi Maya Thapa (Mother), Prithi Maya Thapa respectively, were wrongly-written in my Education Certificates. R/o-2094/5-G. Gali. no.19, Prem-Nagar Patel-Nagar, Delhi-8. 0040756974-10

I, Pankaj Mungaal S/o P P Mangal R/o 65, 1st Floor, Sandesh Vihar, Pitampura, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034, have changed my minor son's name from Hridayansh Mangal aged 14 years to Hridayaansh Mangal forever 0070933068-1

I, Zakir Hussain, S/o-Mohd Ayub, R/o, F-153/1, 2nd-floor front-side Shaheen-bagh Abul-Fazal enclave-2 Jamia-nagar, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Md Zakir Hussain, for all purposes 0040756957-3

I, Yasin malik s/o mohd Ibrahim R/o h no-1 gali no.1 old mustafabag delhi-110094, have changed my name to MOHD YASEEN. 0040756952-1

I, Vipin Kumar Kukreja, S/O-Amrit Lal, R/O-H-3/263, Third Floor, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110085, inform that Vipin Kumar and Vipin Kumar Kukreja both names are, the same Person. 0040756972-1

I, Uma Kumari Sharma W/o Suresh Chander Sharma R/o-A-3/127, Sector-8, Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Uma Devi Sharma 0040756998-1

I, Shweta Janmeda, wife of, Manish Janmeda, resident of, Plot No. A/12, RK Puram, Govindpuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201013, have changed my name, from Shweta Janmeda to Shweta vide-Affidavit dated-04 Nov-2024. 0040756945-10

I, Sarah Nawab, w/o Md. Sharique Nawab, R/o-D-96/1, 2nd-floor, shaheen bagh, thoker, no.8, okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Sarah Shahid Ahmad, for all purpose. 0040756955-3

I, Shamsir Singh S/O, Bachan Singh, R/O, H.No. 88, G/F, Kh.No. 52/23/2, Meera Kunj, Nilothi Extn. Near-Nanak Darwar West, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Shamsher Singh, for all Purposes. 0040756955-1

I, Shalu W/o Mahesh Chaturvedi R/O B-2-C, Sium Flats, Avantiika Enclave, Mangolpuri, Delhi-110083, have changed my name to Shalu Chaturvedi. 0040756974-2

I, Savitri Bai Sahu W/o Kishan Sahu R/o K-3/51, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, in my Bank of Baroda Account-No.19410100016209 my name was written as Savitri, whereas my correct-name is Savitri Bai Sahu. 0040756945-3

I, SHUBHAAM BHARDWAJ, son of, Daulat Ram Bhardwaj, Presently residing at, V.P.O. Samar Gopal Pur, Tehsil & distt. Rohtak, Haryana-124514, have changed my name, from SHUBHAM BHARDWAJ to DEEPAK SHUBHAM BHARDWAJ, vide affidavit, date-04.11.2024. 0040756955-10

I, SHILPY KAKKAR, D/o, SH. RAVINDER SINGH, R/o-B-8/10, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to RATANPREET TALWAR, for all purposes. 0040756955-4

I, Rekha, W/o Late Santosh Kumar, D/o Nand Ram, A/O H.No.44, Gali No. 17, A-Block, Shyam Vihar, Phase-1, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043, declare that my Date-of-Birth has been mentioned as 15/09/1975 instead of 03/08/1975 in my father service record in 505 Army Base Workshop. My correct Date-of-Birth is 03/08/1975. 0040756985-1

I, Ramanand S/o Baij Nath R/o, H.No. 135/9, Devi Lal Colony, Gurgaon (Haryana) 122001, have changed my name to Ramanand Sagar. 0040756952-6

I, Rajesh Dahiya S/o Mahabir Singh R/o-663, NAHRI (232), SONIPAT, HARYANA PIN-131103, have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar 0040756974-8

I, Radhika Bagga, D/o Kaushal Kumar Trehan, R/o H.No-15, Road No-78, Ground Floor, West Punjabi Bagh, Delhi-110026 have changed my name to Radhika Trehan. 0040756957-1

I, RAJEEV MITTAL S/O VED PRAKASH R/O, H.NO.-1, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, POCKET-11A, SECTOR-22, ROHINI, DELHI-110086, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJIV KUMAR. 0040756984-2

I, Prithvi Varma Raja K.S./S/o Dinesh Varma, R/O P.MB-301, 3rd Floor Tower-Bal, DLF The Primus Sector-82A, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Prithvi Varma Raja. 0040756952-7

I, Poonam W/o Rajesh Kumar R/o 663, NAHRI (232), SONIPAT, HARYANA PIN-131103, have changed my name to Poonam Devi 0040756974-6

I, Poonam Dahiya W/o Rajesh Kumar R/o-663, NAHRI (232), SONIPAT, HARYANA PIN-131103, have changed my name to Poonam Devi 0040756974-6

I, Mumtaz Malik, W/o Kutubuddin Mallick, R/O, H.No-175, Gali.No.-3, H-Block, Shaheed Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P. 201006, have changed my name to Mumtaz Mallick, for all, future purposes. 0040756952-2

I, PRAVIN KUMAR, S/O PRASHANT KUMAR SINGH, R/O FLAT NO-A44, HARIOM APARTMENT, SURAJ VIHAR, N.S.I.T DWARKA, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110078, have changed my name to PRAVEEN KUMAR SINGH for all future purposes. 0070933065-1

I, Mukesh Verma, S/o Bhagwan Dass R/o, H.No.528/16, Release Land Huda, Sector-4, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Mukesh Kumar Verma. 0040756952-9

I, Mukaddar Hussain, S/o Kallu Beg R/o, D-19, Gali. No.-6, Bhagirathi Vihar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Muqaddar Ali, for all future purposes. 0040756952-5

I, Mohd. Salim S/O, Chote Khan R/O, 210, T-Huts, Prayog Vihar, Hari Nagar, Maya puri, New Delhi-110064, have changed my name to Salim Khan, for all Purposes. 0040756955-2

I, Manish Sachdeva, R/O H-91, DLF the Ultima, Sector-81, Gurgaon-122004 (Haryana), have changed my Minor Son Name from Maanveer to Maanveer Sachdeva. 0040756952-8

I, MADHAV JEET SINGH S/O-MAHAPAL TOKAS R/O-T-7-3004 TATA PRAMANTI SECTOR-72, SIKANDERPUR GURGAON HARYANA-122002, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MADHAV JEET SINGH TOKAS. 0040756974-4

I, LOKESH S/O BALDEV KUMAR, R/O 51/39, STREET NO.14, NAI BASTI, GOPAL DAIRY, ANAND PARVAT, DELHI-110095, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO LOKESH SANKHLA, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040756957-8

I, Km Nalini Khanna, W/O Satish Malhotra, House. No-185/1 Ward. No-11, Mugulpura Near-Teetu Darmsala Gohana Sonipat Haryana-131301 Have Changed My Name To Nalini Permanently. 0040756974-3

I, Kanti Devi W/o Late Shyam Bhai, R/o-145 H-2 Market Jhuggi, Jahangirpuri, Delhi-110033, inform that my name Karee Devi and Kanti Devi is same person. 0040756957-5

I, KIRAN BALA KHANNA W/O RAKESH KHANNA R/O HNO.46, NEAR PEERAGARH, PASCHIM ENCLAVE, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110087, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KIRAN KHANNA. 0040756974-5

I, KHUSHBOO D/O RAJ KUMAR R/O-N-28/D-462, D-Block, Chander Shekhar Enclave, Colony Ashok, Vihar Delhi-110052, have changed my name to KHUSHBOO GUPTA. 0040756946-1

I, Jagdish Kumar Chaudhry S/o Kotu Ram Choudhary R/o-UU-66, Vishakha Enclave Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Jagdish Choudhary 0040756946-3

I, JAGJIT SINGH, S/O-SURJIT SINGH, residing at, B-3/151, Third Floor, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, have changed the name of my minor son JOYJIT SINGH aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as JOYEJIT SINGH. 0070933054-1

I, Haidri Begum, W/o Muqaddar Ali R/o, D-19, Gali. No.-6, Bhagirathi Vihar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Haidry Begum, for all future purposes. 0040756952-3

I, Gita Khatter W/o Ashok Kumar R/o H.No. 21, Vaishali Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Geeta Khatter 0040756946-2

I, Geetanjali D/o Harish Chander, R/o F-10/95, 96 Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110085, hereby declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Harish Chandra in my CBSE Marksheet. The Actual name of my father is Harish Chander. 0040756945-1

I, DIPAK KUMAR GHOSH/DIPAK GHOSH, S/O, DHANANJOY GHOSH residing at F-40, F-BLOCK, GALI NO-7, NEAR MANGAL BAZAR, LAXMI NAGAR, DELHI-110092, have changed my name to DEEPAK GHOSH, for all, future purposes. 0040756974-1

I, DEVWANTI DEVI W/O NAFE SINGH R/O KABULPUR KHERA, KARNAL (HARYANA) 132046 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DAMYANTI. 0040756957-4

I, Zahid S/o Roshan Ali R/o 16/363, Barka Road, Gali-12, Jakir Colony, Baraut have changed my name to Jahid Khan. 0070933083-1

I, Akhtar Raja S/o Muqaddar Ali R/o, D-19, Gali No.-6, Bhagirathi Vihar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Akhtar Raza, for all, future purposes. 0040756945-11

I, Abid S/o, Dilshad Khan, House. no-R-278 Lane-2 near-Al Taqwa Masjid Joga Bai Extension, Jamia- Nagar New-Delhi-110025, have changed my Name to ABID KHAN Permanently. 0040756957-7

I, AJAY DAVIDSON ASHOK DAVIDSON, S/O ASHOK DAVIDSON R/O, E-16/272, UPPER SECOND-FLOOR, SECTOR-8, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AJAY DAVIDSON. 0040756984-1

I, hitherto known as VIKAS S/O SATYENDRA KUMAR SINGH R/O FLAT NO- C-302, UDYOG VIHAR CGHS, PLOT NO-12, BEHIND PRESIDIUM SCHOOL, SECTOR-22, DWARKA SECTOR-19, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110075 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIKAS SINGH. 0070933100-1

I, Mohit Kumar S/O Ajay Kumar, R/o G- 83A, Palam Extension, Dwarka Sector-7, Bagdola, South West Delhi, Raj Nagar-11, Delhi-110077, I have changed the name of my minor Son Viraj Singh Teotia aged about 2 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Viraj Teotia 0070933056-1

I, Rakesh Kumar S/O Mr. Dilbag Singh Jaryal R/O House no.E-72, Sector-36, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Buddh Nagar U.P., have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar Jaryal for all future purposes. 0070933087-1

I, hitherto known as VIBHORE SINGH S/O VIKAS SINGH R/O FLAT NO- C-302, UDYOG VIHAR CGHS, PLOT NO-12, BEHIND PRESIDIUM SCHOOL, SECTOR-22, DWARKA SECTOR-19, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110075 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIBHOR SINGH. 0070933098-1

I, Zindi Begum W/o Najim R/o-Shahabuddinpur, Saharanpur, Behat, Uttar Pradesh-247121 have changed my name to Jindi 0070933102-1

I, VIDHYA DEVI W/O No 3161428 RANK NK (TS) SARDAR SINGH R/O H.NO RZ48, LOKESH PARK, NAJFAGARH, DELHI-43 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME SHUKANTLA VIDE AFFIDAVIT DT 04.11.24 BEFORE DELHI 0070933101-1

I, Usama S/o Mohd Ayub Khan R/O F-313, Khasra-269, Garima Garden, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Mohd Usama. 0070933066-1

I, Sambit Bose S/O Prashanta Kumar Bose, R/O M-116, Second Floor, Greater Kailash-2, South Delhi, Delhi-110048, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sambit Basu. 0070933053-1

I, SYED HASAN ZAHIR NAQVI, S/O SYED ZAHEERUL HASAN NAQVI, R/O C-647, THIRD FLOOR, GALI NO.E-22, ZAKIR NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025, THAT SYEDA HUDA ZAINAB NAQVI is my real daughter and at present I have changed her name from SYEDA HUDA ZAINAB NAQVI to HUDA ZAINAB NAQVI for all future Purposes 0070933107-1

I, SYED HASAN ZAHIR NAQVI, S/O SYED ZAHEERUL HASAN NAQVI, R/O C-647, THIRD FLOOR, GALI NO.E-22, ZAKIR NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025, THAT SYED FAYYAZ HASAN NAQVI is my real son and at present I have change his name from SYED FAYYAZ HASAN NAQVI to FAYYAZ HASAN NAQVI for all purposes in future. 0070933107-1

I, Paramjeet Kaur D/O Raghubir Singh R/O Thakur C.P. Singh, R/o JF-21, 3rd Floor Khirki Extn, Malviya Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110017. Declare that Name of Mine has been wrongly written as Paramjeet Kour in my 10th Class Certificate. The actual name of Mine is Paramjeet Kaur, which may be amended accordingly. 0070933054-1

I, BHAVIKA NAYYAR W/O HITESH MITRA, R/O WZ-1118, RANI BAGH, DELHI-110034, have changed my name to BHAVIKA MITRA. 0040756957-2

I, Naresh Grewal S/o Sh. Dhara Singh Grewal R/O H.No.244, 22, Sonipat Road, Vikas Nagar, Rohtak-124001 Haryana, have changed my name from Naresh Kumar Grewal to Naresh Grewal for purpose in future. 0070933086-1

I, Mohd Ayoub S/o Samsuddin R/O F-313, Khasra-269, Garima Garden, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Mohd Ayub Khan. 0070933063-1

I, Md. Haroon S/O Md. Farooq R/O, H.No.401, Third-Floor, Front-Side, Gali-No.4, Batla- House, Jamia-Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Mohammad Haroon. 0040756984-3

I, Mandep Singh Yadav S/o Dalip Singh Yadav, H.No.5/64, Shivaji Nagar, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Mandeep Singh. 0040756974-1

LOST & FOUND

Lost Original Property Documents, Will, Deed, Agreement to Sell, Affidavit, GPA Dated-21-11-1997, Property-Receipt All Favouring Shakuntala Rani. Founder May Inform, Rajesh Kumar Sharma, S/o, M.R.Sharma H.No.6, Ram Nagar-Ext. East, Delhi-110051. 0040756945-11

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URGENT REQ. PART TIME JOB, WORK FROM HOME, Retired Person/ House Wife/ Senior Citizens, Contact: 9711064780 0040756924-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE My Client On Prakash S/O Pooal Singh R/O 5260, Gali Bharat Nagar, Shora Kohli, paharganj, Swami Ram Tirh Nagar S/O, Central Delhi, Delhi-110055 have disowned their son Satish Kumar and his wife Kusum Lata and their daughters Himanshi, Gunjan, Divyanshi and Raja Raman Kamee from all of their movable as well as immovable properties and my clients have also severed all of their relations with them due to their extreme mis-behavior & had conduct. Henceforth, anybody dealing with them in any manner whatsoever will be doing so at his/her own cost, risk & responsibility. KAMAL SINGH (Advocate) Enrl.No. D/748/2014.

PUBLIC NOTICE My Client Prakash Devi W/o On Prakash Khan R/O 5260, Gali Bharat Nagar, Shora Kohli, paharganj, Swami Ram Tirh Nagar S/O, Central Delhi, Delhi-110055 have disowned their son Satish Kumar and his wife Kusum Lata and their daughters Himanshi, Gunjan, Divyanshi and Raja Raman Kamee from all of their movable as well as immovable properties and my clients have also severed all of their relations with them due to their extreme mis-behavior & had conduct. Henceforth, anybody dealing with them in any manner whatsoever will be doing so at his/her own cost, risk & responsibility. KAMAL SINGH (Advocate) Enrl.No. D/748/2014.

PUBLIC NOTICE Public at large is hereby informed that my clients: Sh. Rajesh S/o Sh. Rameshwar, and Smt Sumitra w/o Sh. Rajesh, Both Residents of RZ-205A, Uggarsain Park, Najafgarh, Delhi 110043 have disowned their son Sh. Rakesh Sharma and severed all relations with him due to his bad attitude towards my clients. Both of us have also disowned their son Sh. Rakesh Sharma from their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Sh. Rakesh Sharma would do so at his own risks and responsibilities and my clients would not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by the debarred person. ARTI SHARMA, ADVOCATE Chamber No. 481, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Kamlesh Tyagi W/o Late Shri Rishi Dutt Tyagi, R/o WZ-47A, First Floor Gali No.74, D-Block Arya Samaj Road, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59 has disowned their son Puspendra Tyagi alongwith his family and his daughter Bharati Tyagi alongwith her family from her all movable and immovable properties and severed all relation from them due to their disobedience, rude and abusive behavior. My client shall not be responsible for their any act. SAtish Kumar (Advocate) Ch. No. 354 Saket Court, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE The General Public is hereby informed that my client SH. ABHILASH KUMAR S/O SHI. SH. RAM KISHOR AND HIS WIFE SMT. PREETI GUPTA BOTH R/O B-129, KIRAN GARDEN, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 have severed all their relations with their son SH. MANIK GUPTA and severed all his bad habits and no obedient behavior. My above named clients have also disowned and debarred their son from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Sh. MANIK GUPTA and his BEHRY will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by the debarred person. Sd/- Praveen Rastogi (Advocate) Enrl No. D-244/06

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Kamlesh Tyagi W/o Late Shri Rishi Dutt Tyagi, R/o WZ-47A, First Floor Gali No.74, D-Block Arya Samaj Road, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59 has disowned their son Puspendra Tyagi alongwith his family and his daughter Bharati Tyagi alongwith her family from her all movable and immovable properties and severed all relation from them due to their disobedience, rude and abusive behavior. My client shall not be responsible for their any act. SAtish Kumar (Advocate) Ch. No. 354 Saket Court, New Delhi.

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Telangana Technology Services Ltd. Tender Call notice for Identification of "Consultancy Agency for Consultancy Support & Preparation of detailed project report (DPR) for upgradation of the Existing State Data Centre and new Data Centre". Time Schedule of various tender related events:- Bid Calling Date: 05.11.2024 Due date and time for Pre Bid Clarifications if any, by Email: 07.11.2024 at 04.00 PM Bid Closing date/ time: 19.11.2024, 03.00 PM nmgdirector@tstsls.telangana.gov.in emailid: nmgdirector@tstsls.telangana.gov.in bvaoc-igs-bid@telangana.gov.in avmveddy-igs@telangana.gov.in Email Ids: TGTST/IPP004/ITE&C/SDC-DPR/2024 Tender reference No. For further details regarding detailed tender notifications and specifications please visit http://www.tstsls.telangana.gov.in / www.tender.telangana.gov.in OR 08081818181-09024 Sd/- Managing Director, Telangana Technology Services Ltd.

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### कार्यालय नगर पंचायत चनपटिया

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- 02/2024-25  
(केवल ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))

1.	विज्ञापन दाता का नाम एवं पता	कार्यालयक पदाधिकारी, नगर पंचायत, चनपटिया।
2.	निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि	01.11.2024
3.	निविदा अपलोड करने की प्रारंभिक तिथि	06.11.2024 के 10.00 बजे (on website <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> )
4.	प्री बिड मीटिंग का समय स्थान/तिथि	समय 11.00 बजे तिथि-09.11.2024 स्थान - कार्यालयक पदाधिकारी का कार्यालय, नगर पंचायत, चनपटिया।
5.	संवेदक द्वारा निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि / समय	दिनांक- 10.11.2024 के 15.00 बजे अपराहन तक।
6.	तकनीकी बीड एवं वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि / समय	दिनांक 11.11.2024 के 15.30 बजे अपराहन तक ( <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> )
7.	Physical Doc Submission End Date as allowed in the tender Document.	12.11.2024 के 15.00 बजे अपराहन तक। ( <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> ) (1) मुख्य अभियन्ता, बूडको, प० बोरिंग कैनल रोड, पटना। (2) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, बूडको, प० बोरिंग कैनल रोड, पटना। (3) कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, नगर विकास प्रमंडल, प० चम्पारण, बेतिया। (4) कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, नगर पंचायत, चनपटिया।

8. मद:- स्टॉप डिप्यूटी/6वीं वित्त आयोग/15वीं वित्त आयोग/पेशाकर/चतुर्थ राज्य वित्त आयोग

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	BOQ की प्राक्कलित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विषय का मूल्य बीड प्रोसेसिंग की (अव्यवस्थित) (रु० में)	बीड प्रोसेसिंग फी	कार्य की अवधि (माह में)
01	Design Construction Supply, Testing, Commissioning of water Supply Schemes for ward no-05,06,07 758 House Under Nagar Panchayat Chanpatia on turn key basis with 3 months trail Run after Commissioning and Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of 60 Months after Successful completion of Trail Run Period under Nischay Yojna on turn key basis.	1,50,12,500/-	3,00,250/-	10,000/-	As Per Online	6 Months

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PR- 011746 (B & C) 2024-25

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER

### CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

5 November 1991

In November 1991, as militancy surged in Jammu and Kashmir, the 42 Battalion of CRPF was deployed for counter-terrorist operations. On the 5th, while moving in convoy from Jammu to Srinagar, the troops were ambushed by terrorists. They responded swiftly, advancing on the attackers. In the ensuing encounter, Shaheed Constable Girish Chandra Pant sustained severe injuries but continued his assault unwaveringly. Overwhelmed by the troops' valor, the terrorists fled into nearby lanes. Constable Pant later succumbed to his wounds, embracing martyrdom. His sacrifice remains forever honored.

**Shaheed Constable Girish Chandra Pant**  
42-BN  
01-01-1959 To 05-11-1991

In 1991, as Punjab grappled with terrorism, the 6 Battalion of CRPF was deployed to restore peace. On 5th November, troops of 6th Battalion set up a naka at Sultanwind Bridge, Amritsar, when terrorists, concealed by thick vegetation, launched an attack. The troops quickly took position and retaliated. In the fierce encounter, Shaheed Constable Jiban Saikia sustained severe injuries but continued the fight undeterred. Overpowered by the determined assault, the terrorists eventually fled. Constable Saikia later succumbed to his wounds, leaving behind a legacy of valor and sacrifice.

**Shaheed Constable Jiban Saikia**  
6-BN  
20-04-1963 To 05-11-1991

### TENDER NOTICE

#### PRABHA ENERGY LIMITED

12A, Abhishek Corporate Park, Opp. Swagat BRTS Bus Stop, Ambli Bopal Road, Ahmedabad-380058, Gujarat, Phone : 02717-298 510, Fax : 02717-298 520

1	Tender no.	PEL/CSMTUBING AND PUP JOINTS/11/2024
	Description of Work	PROCUREMENT OF 2-7/8" TUBING AND PUP JOINTS
	Last date of submission of bid	18 November, 2024, 17:00 Hrs. IST

PEL, as joint operator, on behalf of consortium comprising with PEL, ONGCL and IOCL, invites tender from reputed and experienced Indian and International Suppliers/Manufacturers for 2-7/8" TUBING AND PUP JOINTS at North Karanpura CBM Block, Jharkhand, India.

Interested agency may please visit <https://pepi.tenders.in>. Tender Documents are available for download on e-tender portal.

E-mail ID : [pncamd@prabhaenergy.com](mailto:pncamd@prabhaenergy.com)  
Website : [www.prabhaenergy.com](http://www.prabhaenergy.com)

### UPSIDA U.P. State Industrial Development Authority

UPSIDA Complex, A-1/4, Lakhnapur, Kanpur-208024

Notice for Public Objection / Suggestion on Part Layout Plan of Industrial Area M.G. Road Distt. Hapur by which Industrial Plot No. C-56 & C-57 has been amalgamated and created new Plot No. C-56/57 (Measuring - 1200.00 Sq.m.)

1 (a) The Part Layout Plan of Industrial Area M.G. Road Plot NO. C-56/57- of Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) situated in District Hapur has been prepared.

(b) A copy thereof will be available for inspection at the Regional Manager of the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority, C-2, 4th floor, Mahalaxmi Mall, RDC, RajNagar, District Ghaziabad between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on all working days till the date mentioned in Para 3 hereafter as well as Website: [www.onlineupsida.com](http://www.onlineupsida.com).

2. Objections and Suggestions are hereby invited with respect of the Draft Layout/Amalgamation Plan.

3. Objections and Suggestions shall be sent in writing to the office of Regional Manager, UPSIDA at C-2, 4th floor, Mahalaxmi Mall, RDC, RajNagar, District Ghaziabad within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice mentioning subject as "Regarding Public Objection / Suggestion on Draft Layout / Amalgamation Plan for Industrial Area M.G. Road Distt. Hapur Plot No. C-56 & C-57." Any person making the Objections or Suggestions should also give his/her full name & address. Email id and contact number. (Regional Manager) U.P. State Industrial Development Authority

### Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department

#### "CORRIGENDUM-II"

The online e-tenders called vide this office letter No. PWU/CB/T-1/2024-3349-56 dated 14.10.2024 (RO No. 2728/2024-25 (Classified)) and due to opening 04.11.2024 at 12.30 PM which was extended vide (RO No.2916/2024-25 (Classified)) RD date 25.10.2024 due to opening on 06.11.2024 is hereby further extended as under due to administrative/technical reasons:-

Sr. No.	Description	Old Dates	Amended/new dates
1.	Date of online publication	06.11.2024 (10.00 AM) up to 12.11.2024 (11.00 AM)	18.11.2024 (10.00 AM) up to 25.11.2024 (11.00 AM)
2.	Documents download start and end date/time	06.11.2024 (10.30 AM) up to 12.11.2024 (11.00 AM)	18.11.2024 (10.30 AM) up to 25.11.2024 (11.00 AM)
3.	Bid submission start and end date/time	06.11.2024 (10.30 AM) up to 12.11.2024 (11.00 AM)	18.11.2024 (10.30 AM) up to 25.11.2024 (11.00 AM)
4.	Physical submission of EMD and cost of tender documents	12.11.2024 up to 11.30 AM	25.11.2024 up to 11.30 AM
5.	Date of Technical Bid opening	12.11.2024 (12.30 PM)	25.11.2024 (12.30 PM)

Other terms and conditions of the tenders shall remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division, Haroli, Distt. Una H.P.

### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

#### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR

B-567  
Mail i.d [secbbsr@gmail.com](mailto:secbbsr@gmail.com)  
E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.10 of 2024-25  
No. 4231 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 2nd November-2024

The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for three number of road work to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 5.00 P.M. of 06.11.2024 to 4.00 P.M. of 20.11.2024. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 5.00 P.M. of 20.11.2024 in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in). Addendum/Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/-Er.M.R.Behera  
Chief Construction Engineer  
Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar  
OIPR-34156/11/0008/2425

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CSTE/C/CW/Northern Railway, DRM office, 4th floor, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet system from experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar nature of work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the following work:

"S&T work for provision of Automatic Fire Suppression System at Roza Jn. Station (One centre relay room and 4 Huts) of Moradabad Division of Northern Railway"

Name of work	Approximate cost of the work	Bid Security	Completion Period
	Rs. 0.65 Crs.	Rs. 1,29,100/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand One Hundred only)	06 (Six) months

Date, Time & Place for submission and opening of tender: Tender will be available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) website from 07.11.2024 to 11.30 Hrs on 02.12.2024 and will be opened on 02.12.2024 after 11.30 hrs. Tender can be uploaded from 18.11.2024 to 11.30 hrs on 02.12.2024 and will be opened on 02.12.2024 after 11.30 hrs.

Address from where tender form can be purchased: The detailed e-tender notice and document will be available on Northern Railway web site i.e. on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) from 07.11.2024 to 02.12.2024, bidders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No. 178-Sig/CW/32/111-Pl-II Dated: 04.11.2024 3410/2024  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### Indian Bank

Hathua Road, Gopalganj Branch

#### APPENDIX-IV-A "[See proviso to rule 8(6)]"

#### SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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 proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Hathua Road, Gopalganj Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 25.11.2024 for recovery of Rs. 20,26,043/- (Rupees Twenty lakh Twenty-Six thousand & Forty Three only) (as on 02.11.2024.) with further interest charges and expenses thereon due to the Indian Bank, Hathua Road, Gopalganj Branch, Secured Creditor, from 1.M/s Satyam Vastralaya And Dresses (Borrowing Firm), Prop. Satyendra Mishra Situated at Shanti Market, Hospital Chowk, Below Union Bank of India, Station Road, Gopalganj-841438, 3. Smt. Dharmavati Devi/Dharmavati Mishra (Mortgagor & Guarantor), W/o Sri Satyendra Mishra Both (2 & 3) Resident at Vill+PO Manikpur, Gopalganj-841438

The Specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

**Detailed Description of the property:** All the part & parcel of the land and building belongs to Smt. Dharmavati Devi/Dharmavati Mishra W/o Sri Satyendra Mishra, through Sale Deed No. 1997 Dated 20/02/2016. Property situated at Mauza Manikpur, PO+PS Gopalganj, Sub Registry & Dist. Gopalganj, Bihar, Thana No.-86, Khata No.-100 & 247, Khesra No. 1193, 1066, Having Area -9 Dhur, Boundary: North: Shivprasan Mishra & Ram Mishra, South: Sanjay, Mukesh,Deepak,Mahendra and Ramprasan Mishra, East- Mustari Rasta Niz and Mustari Hal Baider, West- Mustari & arbind Mishra.

Encumbrances on property	NIL
Reserve Price	Rs.09,04,500/- (Nine Lakh Four Thousand & Five Hundred Only)
EMD Amount	Rs.90,450/- (Ninety Thousand Four Hundred & Fifty Only)
Bid Incremental amount	Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)
Date and time of e-auction	25.11.2024 from 11 am to 03 pm
Property ID No.	IDIB3242568635

Bidders are advised to visit the website (<https://www.ebkraj.in>) of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.ebkraj@psballiance.com.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://www.ebkraj.in> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://www.ebkraj.in>

Date : 05.11.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer  
Place : Gopalganj Indian Bank (erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

QR Code

Bank Website	E-Auction Website	Document	Property Location	Video of Property
<a href="http://www.indianbank.in">www.indianbank.in</a>				

Photos of Property

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Contact Person: 1. Piyush Kumar- Authorised Officer- 8122291271  
2. Sunil Kumar- Branch Manager- 8601310662

### Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd

(A Government of India (Ministry of Railways) Enterprise)

#### OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Project Ma nager/Electrical DFCCIL, Ajmer for and on behalf of the DFCCIL, invites e-Tenders under Single packet system for the following works:-  
Tender No.: AIJ-EL-MD-IGB-EM-T-19 Name of the Work with its Location: "Maintenance of General Power Supply (E&M) for Station Building, IMD, IMSD, Service Buildings, Staff Quarters, and any other Buildings and Electrical assets like DG Sets, fire safety equipment's, air conditioners etc. between Madar-Iqbalgarh under Chief General Manager DFCCIL Ajmer unit for 2 years". Approx. Cost of the Work: Rs. 5,43,30,818.40/- Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs. 4,21,700/- Last Date for Submission of e-Tender: 15.11.2024 up to 15:00 hrs. Details and Particulars of Website where tender can be seen & filled up: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Official email Address: [mkvijay@dfccil.com](mailto:mkvijay@dfccil.com) Note:- No manual tender will be accepted. For more details and Corrigendum/Addendum if any, please see DFCCIL official website i.e. [www.dfccil.com](http://www.dfccil.com)

Dy. Project Manager/Elect. DFCCIL/Ajmer

### DISTRICT PROJECT OFFICE

#### SAMAGRA SHIKSHA: CUTTACK (ODISHA)

Phone & Fax: 0671-2509937/2509934  
E-mail: [dpcuttackssa.opepa@nic.in](mailto:dpcuttackssa.opepa@nic.in)  
Notice No. 6007 /MIS/Date. 01.11.24 (By E-mail)  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed & Authorized suppliers / firms/agencies for supply of Sine Wave Inverters for CRCCs in two bid systems (Technical & Financial Bid) as detailed below.

Name of the Tender	Bid Processing fees	Amount of EMD	Last Date time of receipt of Bid	Date & time of Opening of Technical Bid
Procurement of Sine-wave Inverter for CRCCs	Rs.1000/-	Rs. 1,76,000/-	25.11.2024 by 05 PM	26.11.2024 at 11.30AM

The detailed BID document is available in the website [www.osepa.odisha.gov.in](http://www.osepa.odisha.gov.in) and <http://cuttack.odisha.gov.in>. Interested and eligible Authorized supplier / agency / firm may download BID DOCUMENT from the above website and apply accordingly. Corrigendum / addendum, if required, will be uploaded in the above website. Hence potential bidders are requested to be in continuous touch with the above website. The Collector cum Chairman, Samagra Shiksha, Cuttack reserves the right to accept / reject any full or part / all BID / cancel the entire selection process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

By order of Collector cum Chairman, SS, Cuttack Sd/-  
District Project Co-ordinator  
Samagra Shiksha, Cuttack

### DISTRICT PROJECT OFFICE

#### SAMAGRA SHIKSHA: CUTTACK (ODISHA)

Phone & Fax: 0671-2509937/2509934  
E-mail: [dpcuttackssa.opepa@nic.in](mailto:dpcuttackssa.opepa@nic.in)  
Notice No. 6009 /MIS/Date. 01.11.24 (By E-mail)  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed & Authorized suppliers / firms/agencies for supply of Web Camera for CRCCs in two bid systems (Technical & Financial Bid) as detailed below.

Name of the Tender	Bid Processing fees	Amount of EMD	Last Date time of receipt of Bid	Date & time of Opening of Technical Bid
Procurement of Web Camera for CRCCs	Rs.1000/-	Rs. 44,000/-	25.11.2024 by 05 PM	26.11.2024 at 11.30AM

The detailed BID document is available in the website [www.osepa.odisha.gov.in](http://www.osepa.odisha.gov.in) and <http://cuttack.odisha.gov.in>. Interested and eligible Authorized supplier / agency / firm may download BID DOCUMENT from the above website and apply accordingly. Corrigendum / addendum, if required, will be uploaded in the above website. Hence potential bidders are requested to be in continuous touch with the above website. The Collector cum Chairman, Samagra Shiksha, Cuttack reserves the right to accept / reject any full or part / all BID / cancel the entire selection process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

By order of Collector cum Chairman, SS, Cuttack Sd/-  
District Project Co-ordinator  
Samagra Shiksha, Cuttack

### DISTRICT PROJECT OFFICE

#### SAMAGRA SHIKSHA: CUTTACK (ODISHA)

Phone & Fax: 0671-2509937/2509934  
E-mail: [dpcuttackssa.opepa@nic.in](mailto:dpcuttackssa.opepa@nic.in)  
Notice No. 6008 /MIS/Date. 01.11.24 (By E-mail)  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed & Authorized suppliers / firms / agencies for supply of External Hard Disk for CRCCs in two bid systems (Technical & Financial Bid) as detailed below.

Name of the Tender	Bid Processing fees	Amount of EMD	Last Date time of receipt of Bid	Date & time of Opening of Technical Bid
Procurement of External Hard Disk for CRCCs	Rs.1000/-	Rs. 44,000/-	25.11.2024 by 05 PM	26.11.2024 at 11.30AM

The detailed BID document is available in the website [www.osepa.odisha.gov.in](http://www.osepa.odisha.gov.in) and <http://cuttack.odisha.gov.in>. Interested and eligible Authorized supplier / agency / firm may download BID DOCUMENT from the above website and apply accordingly. Corrigendum / addendum, if required, will be uploaded in the above website. Hence potential bidders are requested to be in continuous touch with the above website. The Collector cum Chairman, Samagra Shiksha, Cuttack reserves the right to accept / reject any full or part / all BID / cancel the entire selection process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

By order of Collector cum Chairman, SS, Cuttack Sd/-  
District Project Co-ordinator  
Samagra Shiksha, Cuttack  
OIPR-27169/11/0003/2425

### NOTICE: INVITING TENDER

1. A Cafetena is coming up at Shankar Vihar in Aravalli Auditorium. Same is open for hiring/renting by reputed cafeteria chains and restaurants. Details are as under:-

S No.	Description of Work	Provisions being provide	Accepted foot fall	Last date for sale of Bid Forms	Submission of Bids	Pre Bid Meet	Date of opening of Bid Forms
(a)	Aravalli Auditorium	• Toilets/wash room for Ladies and Gents • Kitchen • Furnishing to incl 10 tables. 36 Chairs & five bar stools	• Max 900 persons during movie days • Max 300 persons during non movie days	05 Nov 2024 upto 1400hr	10 Nov 24 upto 1400hr (To include photograph s/data in reference of menu, staff, fabrication and value addition	08 Nov 2024 upto 1800h	11 Nov 2024

2. The complete set of proposal documents can be obtained from the office of the 18 GRENADIERS, Shankar Vihar during office hours on all working days on cash payment of tender fees Rs 2,000/- (Rupees two thousand only) (non refundable) and on submission of an attested copy of enlistment / registration certificate and also of sale tax / income tax clearance certificate showing PAN number of contractor.

3. The competent authority reserves the right to reject any quotation after assigning specific reason in writing Successful bidder has to execute the format department agreement and deposit performance guarantee @ 5% of bid amount for per annum charge in the form of deposit as call receipt of Bank guarantee For any other query telephonic conversation can be conducted on 9412700833

CBC 10622/11/0067/2425

### Office of Superintending Engineer,

6th Circle, HPPWD, Kullu-175101  
Ph.: 01902-222530, Fax:- 01902-222299, E-mail: [hp-kul@nic.in](mailto:hp-kul@nic.in)  
PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJNA (PMGSY)  
E-Procurement Notice

The Superintending Engineer, 6th Circle HP. PWD Kullu on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of road under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna for the following work including maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HP PWD/CPWD/P&T/Railways/ other State Govt./Central Govt. agencies. Non registered bidders may submit bids. However, the successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authorities in HP PWD.

District	Package No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Period of Completion	Bid security (Rs. Lacs) i.e. 2% of the total cost.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Kullu	HP-06-152 A	Construction of 36.00 mtrs. Span RCC BOW String Arch Bridge over MRL-01 Banjar Bathad road Km. 9/450 in District Kullu (HP) under PMGSY-III.	544.23 Lacs	12 Months	10.89 Lacs

- Date of release of inviting for bids through e-procurement: at 10:00 AM on 04-11-2024
- Cost of bid form:- Rs. 5000/- per package (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website [www.pmgstender.gov.in](http://www.pmgstender.gov.in). The bidder would be required to register in the web site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). \* Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: [www.pmgstender.gov.in](http://www.pmgstender.gov.in). Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidding already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.
- Submission of Original Documents:- The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B (a) (ii) of ITB with the Superintending Engineer, 6th Circle, HP. PWD Kullu, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.
- Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering:- on 16-11-2024 upto 05:00 PM
- The site for the work is available.
- Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore:- bids must be submitted online on website [www.pmgstender.gov.in](http://www.pmgstender.gov.in). The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 11:30 AM on 18-11-2024 by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.
- The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the performance of maintenance activities.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.
- The department has right to extend or cancel the bids without assigning any reasons thereof.

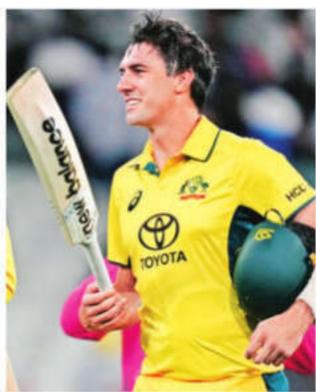
Superintending Engineer,  
6th Circle, HPPWD, Kullu  
No. 3057/HP



## WOMEN'S FTP: INDIA TO HOST ENG, AUS

Dubai: India will host Australia and England in high-profile home series as the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday gave significance to Test matches and bilateral rubbers while announcing women's cricket Future Tours Programme (FTP) for the 2025-29 cycle. **PTI**

## Calm Cummins leads Australia to two-wicket win over Pakistan



Australia were in trouble at 155/7 when Pat Cummins came to the crease before his unbeaten 32 took them to victory. **AP**

**IAN RANSOM**  
MELBOURNE, NOVEMBER 4

PAT CUMMINS proved once more he is the man for a batting crisis as he guided world champions Australia to a tense two-wicket win in their series-opening one-day international against Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Monday.

Playing his first ODI since last year's World Cup in India, Cummins produced a nerveless knock of 32 from 31 balls to push the hosts past Pakistan's modest total of 203 with 16.3 overs to spare.

Cummins, who also took two wickets, burnished his record of guiding Australia to victory from positions of peril, having scored the winning runs during the Ashes test at Edgbaston last year and twice hung tough with the bat at the World Cup.

"Tonight we got it done. I always much prefer sitting in the change-room but a wonderful match," Cummins said.

"It got a bit tighter than we would have liked in the end. Really happy with how the guys bowled, everyone really."

The hosts were in trouble at 155 for seven when Cummins came to the crease, with Pakistan sniffing their first win in Australia in nearly eight years and energised by a three-wicket burst by paceman Haris Rauf. Tallender Sean Abbott was run out for 13 to leave Australia needing 19 runs with two wickets in hand but Cummins and Mitchell Starc (two not out) held on.

Cummins smashed a four straight past Pakistan quick Mohammad Hasnain to level the score then punched a single square to seal the win.

Pace spearhead Starc was named man-of-the-match with three wickets, including dismissing both Pakistan's openers.

In Pakistan's first ODI since missing the World Cup semi-finals, the team's top batter Babar Azam returned to the lineup after being stunningly dropped for the second and third tests against England.

The former captain made 37 off 44 balls before being bowled by legspinner Adam Zampa with an ill-judged push at a straight delivery.

Saim Ayub made his ODI debut for Mohammad Rizwan-captained Pakistan, reprising his opening partnership in tests with Abdullah Shafique, despite the pair's terrible record batting together.

Both were dismissed cheaply by Starc; Ayub for one after chopping onto his stumps and Shafique caught behind for 12. Rizwan top-scored for Pakistan with 44 and ODI debutant Irfan Khan made 22 batting at seven before being run out.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Pakistan 203 all out (Rizwan 44; Starc 3-33) lost to Australia 204/8 (Inglis 49; Rauf 3/67).

**REUTERS**

# New Zealand doing New Zealand things

Despite having a tiny talent pool, the country succeeds through pragmatic planning, careful funding and top-class coaching

**SANDIP G**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 4

A WORM in the Tasman Sea or a half-eaten mutton chop in the Pacific, as a comedian in a tourism video featuring former prime minister Jacinda Ardern puts it. The inventors of the egg-beater, the country where the Lord of the Rings trilogy was filmed. New Zealand can both baffle and surprise.

It is a country with a population of 5 million, spread out over a lakh square miles. Its population is one fourth that of Mumbai; its span roughly as much as Uttar Pradesh.

Yet, size and strength have not prevented them from enjoying sporting success for several decades. On Sunday, its cricket team consigned India — a country of 148 millions as head coach Gautam Gambhir frequently asserts — to its first series whitewash at home. It had earlier vanquished them to claim the World Test Championship mace. New Zealand have reached more semi-finals in 50-over World Cups than any other team. All with a talent depth of one lakh registered cricketers. India, Australia and England have four times the number.

It's a classic case of sporting exceptionalism. Or as Daryll Mitchell put it "New Zealand doing New Zealand things." The country's success across different sports is wildly disproportionate to its population. In rugby union, the All Blacks are the undisputed powerhouse, having won 80 per cent of their games this century.

At the Paris Olympics, they finished 11th on the table with 10 gold medals. In their last of the two football World Cup appearances (1982 and 2010), they returned undefeated and held then world champions Italy to a draw. The White Ferns were crowned world T20 champions too. New Zealand have stamped their footprints in most sports in the world.

An outdoors lifestyle clearly plays a role. Great emphasis at schools is placed on the ability to run, jump and throw. More than half of children will represent their school in a competitive sport in a single year. For instance, Kane Williamson featured in a host of sports, before embracing cricket seriously. Tim Southee had almost picked rugby over cricket.

But there are more cultural, historical and geographical reasons too. Says John Syms, a social science teacher at the Tauranga Intermediate College: "As a nation, we were colonised, and it was a way for us in our isolation to show the world that we could be successful, we could beat the mother country, England."



Hagley Oval in Christchurch, which is home to the Hadlees and Lathams; John Wright and Glenn Turner too reside there. **Reuters**

successful, we could beat the mother country, England."

### Attention to detail

There's also pragmatic planning and careful funding. For instance, athletics received a significant funding boost at the end of 2020 from High-Performance Sport New Zealand, lifting it back into Tier 1, alongside rowing, sailing and cycling. Suddenly there is a surplus to go towards travel, coaching and more competition. "It's not where athletes are born, but made," says Keith Harvey, a staff at the Waikato University High-Performance Centre in Hamilton. "It is where all the budding athletes are taken to, where their international leaps begin," he says.

Cricket has welcomed outsiders too. Neil Wagner, Glenn Phillips and Devon Conway migrated from South Africa for better opportunities. BJ Watling landed in the country in his teens with his mother. Colin de Grandhomme came from Zimbabwe, assistant coach Luke Ronchi from Australia. In the domestic circuit, there are cricketers from

England and the Caribbean. Integration is the essence of the country and it reflects in sport.

The nursery of New Zealand cricket is the Hawke's Bay district, near the southern tip of North Island. There's no New Zealand cricketer in the last 30 years who has not attended the Hawke's Bay cricket camps in the summer.

It started 45 summers ago as a fairly simple cricket camp for kids from 12 teams. This year, it attracted around 150 teams and 2,000 cricketers in various age-groups from across the country. Together, they played 450-odd games spread across 20 grounds from Napier to Hastings. From Ross Taylor and Williamson to Southee and Tom Latham, there is no cricketer that has not featured in the tournament.

Matthew Sinclair, who scored a double hundred on Test debut, is one among them. "It's a pathway, for sure. I remember one team we had here a few years ago had Doug Bracewell, Kane Williamson and Trent Boult in it," he says. Among others to have played in the camp are Ben Stokes. Ross Taylor, Will

Somerville, Jamie How, Jeetan Patel, Jesse Ryder, Peter McGlashan, Jacob Oram, Sara McGlashan, Amelia Kerr and Sophie Devine. "At one point of time, at least everyone had played this tournament," says Sinclair. And understandably, regional selectors and scouts come flocking.

Some were so smitten by the place that they settled down here. Like former openers Mark Richardson and Mark Greatbatch, who reside in Napier, not far from the McLean Park, the international ground. So has Ryder. "If you take the number of ex-Black Caps who are from or settled in Napier, you can make a strong all-time New Zealand XI," chuckles Sinclair.

### Sports culture

Like Napier, the cities are small and compact, yet replete with sporting infrastructure. For instance, Mount Maunganui, the hometown of Williamson and Boult in Tauranga, has a boutique cricket stadium, two rugby grounds that overlook it, the Waikato High-Performance Centre, a glis-

tening blue astroturf for hockey, and a synthetic track for athletics. Roll down the cobblestone streets, and one bumps into the Yachting and Sailing Club.

Similarly, Christchurch is home to the Hadlees and Lathams; John Wright and Glenn Turner too reside here.

In the mid-90s, an elaborate plan was initiated to revive the country's cricket. A new governance structure was created — effectively, the existing provincial directors, who represented the six provinces, voted themselves out of existence, replaced by appointments on merit.

Their weakness was their strength too. "As we are small, we can get our whole country working towards a common goal. Many see this as a weakness but we see this as a strength. The small pool begets a meticulous focus on improving the players New Zealand have," historian Don Neely, who died two years ago, had told this newspaper.

There was emphasis on giving students a strong sporting structure. Like for instance The Palmerston North Boys High School, where Taylor and several other Black Caps studied. "Once we spot talent in a boy, we ensure that they don't slip out of the system. He is provided all the necessary exposure and guidance," says Paul Gibbs, the physical education teacher of the school and Taylor's mentor.

So, rather than viewing their isolation and small population base as weaknesses, it fuels them to maximise their resources and to collaborate across all sports. Under the Sport NZ's Coach Accelerator Programme, the head coaches from all New Zealand national teams are regularly brought together to exchange ideas of best practice.

As significantly, the administrators were careful in not getting into a rat-race with the rest of the cricketing world. Quite early, they realised it was foolish to go for a glamorous T20 franchise league post the success of IPL. "We clearly didn't have the market to sustain it. So we put the money in the grass-roots, national team and A teams," he says. The decision seemed wise as several domestic T20 leagues, like the Global T20 league in South Africa and the Sri Lanka Premier League, flopped.

Some people called it conservative, but in hindsight, it turned out to be a masterstroke. Neely likened this to Kiwi resourcefulness. "We have discovered some useful things in the world, like the egg-beater. It's a small thing, but you know how useful it is," he says. The same holds true for their sports too. You could say that there are more sportsmen than sheep in the country.

## Why does India not use HotSpot technology in cricket?

**VENKATA KRISHNAB**  
NOVEMBER 4

DURING INDIA'S defeat to New Zealand in the third Test at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday, Rishabh Pant's dismissal had become a talking point. With the game in balance, Pant was ruled out caught bat-pad with Decision Review System (DRS) overturning the onfield umpire's Not Out call. The decision to adjudicate him Out by the third umpire became a talking point as there wasn't conclusive evidence available to overturn the onfield call.

While the snicko-meter picked up a spike when the ball was close to the bat, many argued it was because of the bat hitting the pad. As the third umpire was reviewing the footage, Pant was even arguing with the onfield umpires pointing to his pad.

But he eventually had to go back for 64 and with that ended India's hopes as they

fell short by a mere 25 runs.

Many pointed out that having the absent Hotspot technology as part of DRS would have helped detect if the ball came in contact with the bat. And speaking on JioCinema, former India captain and coach Anil Kumble stated that the HotSpot is "not in use in India because it is a military technology."

### What is HotSpot?

Developed by French scientist Nicholas Bion it was supposed to help military forces in combat situations. The thermal imaging technology helped them detect tanks and jets. In dark conditions and when the field is engulfed by thick smoke, the technology allowed forces to detect movements.

### Entry into cricket

Channel Nine in Australia, which has been a pioneer in introducing new technologies to the world of cricket, introduced Hotspot to cricket during the 2006-07



Rishabh Pant's dismissal became a talking point after the umpire's on-field decision was overturned. **PTI**

Ashes. Using the infrared camera, it helped determine which part of the batsman's

body or bat made contact with the ball, with HotSpot alerting to the specifics of which two objects caused friction on colliding. It was introduced to enrich the viewing experience but eventually found a place in DRS for matches Down Under. In time, even matches in South Africa, England and UAE (where Pakistan played) used HotSpot.

### How does it work?

Two thermal imaging cameras are placed on either end behind the bowler. The cameras help in capturing heat signatures that the ball generates when it comes into contact with a batsman's body or bat or pad. The negative image will then highlight the point of contact. So, a HotSpot would have determined if the edge came off the bat or the snicko spiked when bat collided with pad.

### How accurate is it?

Like all technologies in cricket, even Hotspot has brought a fair share of controversies. During India's 2011 tour of England, former England captain Michael Vaughan kicked-off a storm by tweeting "Has

Vaseline on the outside edge saved the day for (VVS) Laxman?" Even the inventor of the tool Warren Brennan raised concerns that coatings on bat could be detrimental to the efficiency of HotSpot.

### Is it used worldwide?

No. Although Kumble mentioned that military technology could be a reason why it is not used in India, those in the broadcast field and in the BCCI say Hotspot operating costs are expensive. Moreover one broadcaster told The Indian Express that HotSpot is not 100 per cent accurate and its usage is very limited as snicko meter picks the edges.

"And add to it there are only four-five HotSpot kits that are available and it costs a lot to use (It costs around \$10,000 per day), a reason why most of the broadcasters around the world don't use it. Sky Sports and SuperSports have also stopped using the technology."

Interestingly, even the International Cricket Council has never included HotSpot as part of their DRS technology in any of their events.

## ON A BARREN RUN

# Have Indian badminton players forgotten how to win titles?

**SHIVANI NAIK**  
NOVEMBER 4

WHILE FANS, funders and fame-managers assigned to market athletes, might desire year-round consistency and constantly reassuring headlines, even of streaky wins, what has truly been lost in 2024 is the ability of Indian shuttlers to win titles.

As expected, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty picked the only two notable title wins this year - French Open and Thailand, just before the Olympics. But the glaring reason why Indians are lamenting a poor season is because no singles shuttler managed to string together 5 wins on 5 consecutive days, at any of the Super 1000s or even Super 750s and Super 500s in 2024, as the sport went into free fall at the top. Lakshya Sen's run to the Olympic semis was commendable, given no Chinese or Japanese got there. But 2024 will be spoken of for its disappointments, rather than relative surprises.

It's bogging because it didn't used to be this difficult. Saina Nehwal had perfected the art of title runs. Sindhu, whose ranking surge

stopped at No 2, could once be trusted to keep India riveted playing top finals season after season - and though she lost as many as she won, there was the assurance that an Indian was in contention.

Prannoy took his time to crack the code, and Lakshya Sen made the most of his surprise-element especially in that reflex defense. But Kidambi Srikanth was perhaps the only men's singles player who knew how to navigate the 5-day peak-on-Sundays drill. It's noteworthy that Srikanth first got his newspaper bold headlines only after winning Thailand Open GP Gold, before proceeding to beat Lin Dan for the China Open crown. Youngsters have it easier now, but never has India in the last 15 years seen a lean phase such as this in raking in bonafide title wins.

Satwik-Chirag look the only ones who are capable of meeting the high standards set in the past few years. And if there's one thing the Olympics disappointment in quarters will do, it is fire them up to win the missing ones on Tour - All England and China. Literally nobody discounts them as contenders, and they are hungry to win alright. But there's an acute score to settle, a lapse to



Satwik-Chirag look the only ones who are capable of meeting the high standards set in Indian badminton over the past few years. **File**

mend, an anomaly to urgently correct - averaging losses from three finals in 2024, that weirdly set the downbeat tone for the Paris plummet of dreams. Losing China, Malaysia and India finals sowed such doubts that the Indian duo, who have won 8 very significant titles, hardly recovered at the crunch.

So why are Indians struggling to win titles? For Satwik-Chirag, the troubles may seem related to fitness. But their game has been in dire need of being expanded in its variety and nous for a while now. A new coach can unlock some of those knots, but the ambition to not just resume winning, but learn and unlearn when needed, has to keep burning, along with the stark realisation that reaching World No 1 is no guarantee of a complete game. There are serious chinks in their armour that need addressing, but both have the perfect attitude to put their heads down and work on these. The duo never set much store by ranking, nor did they ever get over-confident, but the Olympics loss and defeats in 'those' three finals would have drilled in the clarity of what's still missing. A Plan B when their attack is blunted, is a dire need.

For the rest, answers are simpler. Prannoy needs his peak-fit weeks to go beyond the Malaysia title. He wasn't unimpressive at Olympics, but illnesses can hold him back. Sen tends to be at a loss against technically superior players. He just can't bring himself to believe he can match them, and deficits in his game might be the cause of under-confidence, because fitness isn't his big problem going from Day 4 to Day 5 of a tournament.

Srikanth's game is in free-fall, and unless he specifically focusses on All England building towards it, he will only be dawdling about. Everything is a genuine problem - temperament, fitness, his motivation. But there's far too much talent there for that career to peter away, just because All England conditions are inimical.

Sindhu might be in that same boat, with problems aplenty, with third set fitness a major concern. For some inexplicable reasons, she prioritized consistency over tunnel vision for chosen titles, and ended up winning neither. But with all odds stacked against her, a sudden title would look so swell.

Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand and Priyanshu Rajawat are bound to cop criti-

cisms for inconsistency, but should they sort out fitness woes, they can start nailing Sundays soon. It'll be a hard plod, not easy at all. But the waits are worth it.

The art of winning a title - 5 precious wins - is something Kiran George, Malvika Bansod and Anmol Kharb desperately need to get on-board. Anmol sure has the temperament for it, the other two need to prop up their recovery-game, which tends to be singularly important. It's negotiating different playing styles, staying hydrated and refuelled, sleeping well, believing they are good enough to go the distance and superior on-court coaching all of which catalyse a title. Somewhere Indians have forgotten how it gets done, making 2004 gloomy.

Saina, Sindhu, Srikanth and Satwik-Chirag made it look easy, and suddenly India was spoilt in thinking titles just fetch up. 2024 has been a reality check in how they simply don't come out of thin air. Lakshya Sen could start with the Indian tournaments, and take headlines beyond one-off marquee wins. Because there's nothing quite like 5 solid wins Tuesday through Sunday to show the world India hasn't forgotten how to win.

BRIEFLY

IPL auction set to be held in Riyadh

Riyadh: The Indian Premier League's high-profile auction will be held in the Saudi Arabian capital city of Riyadh in the last week of this month, sources in the BCCI confirmed on Monday. "The IPL auctions will be held in Riyadh and it has been notified to the franchisees. The likely dates are November 24 and 25," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. This year's auction is a mega one with high profile India stars like Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer and Arshdeep Singh are going to go under the hammer. The 10 franchises will collectively have around Rs 641.5 crore to spend for 204 slots that are available. Out of those 204 slots, 70 are earmarked for overseas players. As of now, 46 players have been retained by the 10 franchises with cumulative expenditure of Rs 558.5 crore. **PTI**

Chennaiyin beat Jamshedpur FC 5-1

Jamshedpur: A dominant Chennaiyin FC returned to winning ways in style as they pumped in five goals to register a crushing 5-1 victory over Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League here on Monday. It was a thoroughly professional performance from Chennaiyin FC as they dominated the match from start to finish with Irfan Yadwad, Connor Shields, Wilmar Jordan Gil, and Lukas Brambilla all registering their names on the scoresheet. Javi Hernandez scored the only goal for the hosts. With this win, the Marina Machans secured their third victory of the season. The visitors started the game strongly as they were dynamic through the flanks and bombarded the penalty area with plenty of crosses **PTI**

Series win bigger than perfect 10: Ajaz

Mumbai: Ajaz Patel said helping New Zealand wrap up a 3-0 series sweep in India on Sunday was even more special than his spectacular outing at the Wankhede Stadium three years ago when the Mumbai-born spinner picked up 10 wickets in one innings. "It's certainly sweeter. I can say that for sure," Patel told New Zealand media. "Coming here last time and having that achievement, but at the same time getting a hiding, didn't make it feel that special. This time around, bowling the team to a special test win and a 3-0 sweep in India is pretty epic and pretty crazy." **REUTERS**

Mourinho lays into VAR once again

Istanbul: Fenerbahce coach Jose Mourinho said the Video Assistant Referee went from being the invisible man to the most important man on the pitch after several controversial decisions went against his side in their 3-2 Super Lig win at Trabzonspor on Sunday. Trabzonspor were awarded two penalties in the second half following VAR interventions, and with the score tied a 2-2 late in the game Mourinho was incensed when a challenge on Bright Osayi-Samuel went unpunished. The Portuguese coach suggested the VAR, Atilla Karaoglan, had missed the incident as he was drinking coffee. Despite having late penalty claims waved away, the visitors got the win when Sofyan Amrabat scored deep into stoppage time. **REUTERS**

# Tampering claims set off fireworks

Routine tour game against Australia A turns ugly as former cricketers accuse Indian side of wrongdoing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NOVEMBER 4

EVEN BEFORE India set foot in Australia to defend the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, the fireworks have been set off Down Under.

As the Rohit Sharma-led side succumbed to a series whitewash at home to New Zealand on Sunday, the India 'A' team in Australian city of Mackay was at the centre of an alleged ball tampering controversy.

And even though Cricket Australia cleared the touring party of any wrongdoing, there are no signs yet of the issue dying down.

Former Australia wicketkeeper Ian Healy told SENQ: "When you see a team complain about a ball being changed, they were up to something."

The Associated Australian Press called it an 'explosive start to the summer'. "Tamper Temper", screamed the headline of Australian newspaper Daily Telegraph, referring to the spat between India A captain Ishan Kishan and umpire Shaun Craig over the issue. The report alluded to the previous instances of bas blood between the two sides, including the Monkeygate scandal from 2008.

The allegations surfaced on the start of Day 4 when Australia were resuming at 85 for 3. Defending a total of 224, the umpires handed India A a fresh ball.

"You scratch it, we change the ball. No more discussion, let's play" umpire Craig reportedly told the players, according to the Sydney Morning Herald.

A miffed Kishan, returning to the national team radar after a year of turmoil, could be heard telling Craig that it "is a very stupid decision" to play with the new ball, to which the umpire replied: "Excuse me, you'll be on report for dissent. That's inappropriate behaviour. Because of your actions we changed the ball."

Not much was to be made of the skirmish for the rest of the day's play as the partnership between skipper Nathan McSweeney (who may have confirmed his place as opener for the first Test against India on November 22) and Beau Webster that India A were trying to break stayed unbeaten to take their side to a seven-wicket win.

However, things took a curious turn later in the day.

Cricket Australia released a statement a few hours after the furore which seemed to track back Craig's claims, exonerating both India and Kishan. "The ball used in the fourth innings of the match was changed due to deterioration," it said, without going into the nature or cause of the deterioration. "Both teams' captain and manager were informed of the decision prior to the start of play. No further action is being taken."

Given this is an unofficial Test played on Australian soil, the CA's bylaws are in place for its regulation. Their playing conditions state that the umpires are allowed to change the ball without enforcing the requisite five-run penalty.

"If the umpires together suspect, but are not certain, that the condition of the ball has been unfairly changed, or that its condition is inconsistent with the use it has received, the umpires may: Change the ball forthwith. The umpires shall choose a replacement ball for one of similar wear and of the same brand as the ball in use prior to the contravention; Bowler's end umpire shall issue the captain with a first and final warning," the CA playing conditions 41.3.4 reads.

The playing conditions also state that ball-tampering is a level-three offence, for which a ban can also be imposed on a player.



Ishan Kishan evaded punishment despite his skirmish with umpire Shaun Craig. AP



INDIA 'A' PLAYER DENIES ALLEGATIONS

The India A side currently playing their Australian counterparts, has denied all allegations made against them of scratching the ball during the first unofficial Test against Australia A at Mackay in Queensland. A source in the India A team said that the scratch might have occurred due to the ball hitting the side-board or could have happened if it struck a nail near the boundary ropes, but was categorical in saying that no player tampered with the ball while bowling with it. "Our players didn't tamper or scratch the ball. There were three marks on the ball which was

changed. It was like a nail would have brushed it near the ground or the marks would have happened near the boundary rope or it must have brushed the boards. Our players had nothing to do with any allegations and our players told this to the umpire too," a source within the India A team informed.

"Kishan just asked the umpire for reasons to why the ball was being changed as we felt the ball was good enough to be used and that is why our players spoke to the umpire," he added

DEVENDRA PANDEY

The science of reverse swing

Reverse swing is the term used for unconventional swing — when the (old) ball moves in the direction of the shiny side. Due to friction, air passes over the shiny side quicker than it does on the rough side, creating a drag effect that ensures the ball moves in the direction of the shine. This is also dependent on keeping the shiny side heavier, which is done by constantly applying sweat on the shiny side while leaving the rough side completely dry. The only legal way available is to polish the ball using sweat — and ensuring that the other side does not get any moisture at all. Designated ball-shiners are in charge of "making" or "keeping" the ball. The roughness of the other side must be 'natural' — the result of wear and tear in the normal course of the game. Cricketers have used tiny blades hidden in the protective tape worn on fingers, zippers of trousers, bottlecaps, sandpaper, and shoe spikes — or simply rubbed the ball against any rough surface available. Fingernails have been used widely — it is often the team strategy to toss the ball around among four or five fielders before the bowler gets it back, each of whom gets in at least one scratch on the rough side with their fingernails.

EXPLAINED

Although the CA have India a clean chit, some former players were not convinced. Healy went on to add: "India A were gearing up for a big reverse swing session in order to get the Australians under pressure. Australia were chasing a small total and it just didn't happen (for India A). The Australia A batters were oblivious to it. They just put their head down and performed really well."

Healy claimed India 'whinged about it... they didn't then front the media to deny it.' "They just closed ranks and didn't give themselves a chance to sort of say what they thought was happening. But I thought Cricket Australia were clinical, the umpires were good. If they are suspicious about the ball, just change it."

Sections of the Australian press have alluded to the possibility of the cricket board seemingly bending over not wanting to start a conflict with the 'all-powerful' BCCI, citing past examples.

"As the 'Monkeygate' scandal proved nearly two decades ago, following through with allegations against India can sometimes prove to be more trouble than they're worth when you're the host nation at the whim of the most powerful cricketing nation," a report in the Daily Telegraph read.

The Sydney Morning Herald suggested that by "appearing to walk back Craig's words," the statement released by the CA "removed the prospect of an ugly conflict at the outset of India's lucrative tour of Australia for five Tests."

The paper also noted previous examples of such incidents, including during India's tour of South Africa in 2001 when accusations were made against Sachin Tendulkar, who was given a one-match ban, but did not have to serve it during the final game after the BCCI convinced the opposing board to conduct the third Test as an unofficial one that does not come under ICC purview.

The BCCI has not released a statement over the incident but a player, requesting anonymity, has denied ball tampering allegations, suggesting a 'nail from the sideboards may have brushed the ball.'

In Mizoram, 24 footballers, 3 clubs banned for match fixing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

THREE CLUBS, three club officials and twenty four players received varying degrees of bans from the Mizoram Football Association (MFA) for 'match manipulation' in the recently concluded Mizoram Premier League-11. Among the banned players included the top scorer of the league Felix Lalruatsanga of Ramhlun Atletico FC, who had scored eight goals.

In a statement, the Mizoram Football Association said that through the support of local law enforcement agencies, they uncovered cases of corruption in the league.

"These activities involving a few miscreants represent a severe breach of our values, undermine the integrity of our sport and disrespect the fans who passionately support Mizoram Football," read the statement.

"As a consequence of these findings we have imposed strict penalties on those involved. We also assure stakeholders that clubs found to be complicit in these activities will face sanctions affecting their participation in future competitions, and players and officials implicated will be subject to suspensions and other disciplinary measures deemed appropriate by the MFA."

Clubs penalised

The three clubs that were penalised by the state association were, Sihphir Venghlun FC, Ramhlun Atletico FC and FC Bethlehem and all of them received three year bans. The three clubs are all part of the top state league and Sihphir finished among the top four, losing out in the semi-final to eventual winners Aizawl FC.

An official each from the three clubs was suspended as well with Robert Laldithara of Sihphir receiving a five-year ban. Two players Lalnunzama of Chanmari FC and L. Lotha of FC Bethlehem also received lifetime bans.

The majority of players banned were from Sihphir Venghlun FC, which had 14 of the 24 banned players, according to the list released by the MFA.

"We want to assure all fans, partners and stakeholders that we are taking every measure to prevent any recurrence of any such incidents. The MFA will enhance its regulatory frameworks and strengthen monitoring mechanisms to safeguard the fairness of our competitions," said the MFA.

In the past year, the state body has tried to tackle a key issue that has plagued football at their level.

In June, the MFA started an Amnesty programme that allowed players with falsified date of births to come forward confidentially and provide a government-issued digital birth certificate that matched their date of birth on the All India Football Federation's Centralised Registration System. This would allow the players to participate in age competitions organised by the MFA.

**It has come to the notice of the Mizoram Football Association, after investigations with local law enforcement agencies, that certain clubs, officials and players in the recently concluded MPL-11 had indulged in acts of corruption, for which they have been penalised after careful deliberations."**

MIZORAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# Champions League enters crucial phase

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NOVEMBER 4

THE FIRST Champions League team will reach 10 points this week and likely ensure advancing to the knockout stage as the untested 36-team standings format reaches the midway point.

Either Liverpool or Xabi Alonso's Bayer Leverkusen will have 10 points after they meet at Anfield on Tuesday, when Manchester City also can do it by winning at Sporting Lisbon that is still being coached by Ruben Amorim until he joins Manchester United one week later. English teams hold the top three places in the table, with recent European champions Man City and Liverpool looking up at surprise leader Aston Villa.

Villa, the 1982 European Cup winner, goes for a fourth straight win Wednesday at Club Brugge. Much further down the standings, the two teams with the most titles in the competition's 70-season history — both when coached by Carlo Ancelotti — meet in Spain. Record 15-time champion Real Madrid hosting AC Milan, with seven titles, is a clash on Tuesday of the 12th and 25th-placed teams after three of the eight rounds.

The new format sends only the top eight teams directly to the round of 16 in January. Teams that finish Nos. 9-16 are seeded in the knockout playoffs round in February against teams ranked 17th to 24th. Winners of those two-leg encounters advance to the round of 16 in March. UEFA's pre-season simulations



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (L) and Darwin Nunez during training. Reuters

suggested as few as eight points from eight games would be enough to enter the knockout phase. Still, upset losses so far for Madrid, Barcelona and Bayern showed how predictions can be upended.

Unbalanced schedules

All 36 teams got a balanced slate of opponents by drawing two teams from each of four seeding pots based on UEFA competition results over the past five years.

The order of fixtures, however, can be lopsided and Leipzig languishes with zero points after losses against three high-ranked opponents. Leipzig now plays at Celtic, from the lower-ranked No. 3 seeds. Sporting also is a pot 3 team, giving Man City a third lower-ranked

opponent in the first half of its program. Liverpool has excelled despite a front-loaded fixture list. Leverkusen is its third high-ranked opponent and next comes Real Madrid at Anfield on Nov. 27. Atletico Madrid has under-achieved in 27th place, and goes to Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday, but the three-time beaten finalist has one of the softest schedules to come.

Sliding doors

Xabi Alonso could have been in the home team dugout Tuesday. Liverpool offered its former star midfielder, a Champions League winner in the epic 2005 final, the chance to succeed Jurgen Klopp this season.

Alonso opted to stay at Leverkusen and take

the unbeaten Bundesliga champion into the Champions League. Liverpool turned to Feyenoord's Arne Slot who is having a historically good start with the Premier League leader. Ruben Amorim is working against Manchester City on Tuesday just weeks after he was linked with being the club's next coach. Pep Guardiola's future plans are unclear with his contract expiring next year, and Man City already announced its director of football next season will be Amorim's current front office boss at Sporting, Hugo Viana.

Dominating English

Played 12, won 10, drawn two, lost none. The four English teams have not even conceded a goal since the third minute of the opening round, when AC Milan's Christian Pulisic scored in Liverpool's 3-1 win at San Siro. The English Premier League is turning financial power to its advantage and this rate of results will earn a bonus fifth entry in next year's competition. Man City and Arsenal return to Europe after weekend losses. Guardiola's team aims to avoid a rare third straight defeat facing Sporting's in-form Viktor Gyokeres. The Sweden forward played five seasons on loan with lower-tier teams in Germany and England before joining Sporting last year.

Arsenal returns to Italy to face Inter Milan after starting with a 0-0 draw against Atlanta in nearby Bergamo. Few saw this coming from the four-team French challenge. Monaco and Brest unbeaten in fourth and fifth place, respectively, Lille in the top half of the standings and PSG trailing.

# 17th-1st: Verstappen silences critics with statement win

REUTERS  
NOVEMBER 4

MAX VERSTAPPEN answered critics of his driving with a statement win in Brazil on Sunday that ranked among the best of his Formula One career. Red Bull's triple world champion rode a roller coaster of emotions at Sao Paulo's Interlagos circuit, furious after qualifying 17th and then elated as everything slotted into place.

Verstappen passed six cars on lap one, was 10th after lap two and then worked his way through the rest of the field to take the lead and disappear into the distance.

In a wet and chaotic race punctuated by crashes, safety car periods and a long stoppage just before the half distance, he still won by more than 19 seconds to end a run of 10 races without a win.

"I don't even know where to start, because my emotions today have been from almost trying to destroy the garage to winning the race," he said. "I was just very motivated to get a good race and just let the race pan out and see what happens. Because in a wet race, always some crazy things can happen."

Verstappen went from expecting his then-44 point lead to be further whittled away by McLaren rival Lando Norris, starting on pole, to seeing it stretched beyond 60 points with a

fourth title now his for the taking. That could be achieved at the next round in Las Vegas on Nov. 23. In Brazil in 2016 Verstappen finished third after being 16th with 16 laps to go, but he said Sunday's race was far more meaningful.

"This one is definitely much more crucial than back in the day. There I had nothing to lose. I was not in a championship fight and I was coming from the back after the strategic mistake we had. Now there was a lot more at stake," he explained.

"So I had to be more controlled, more aware of the championship. So for me, definitely this one is the best one (of the two)."

Team boss Christian Horner was unstinting with his praise. "He was in a league of his own," he said. "I think as a team we got all the calls right and the car had great pace." "An outstanding drive. To come from 17th, this morning it

felt everything had gone against us but he turned it round... one of his very best." Damon Hill, Britain's retired 1996 world champion who had accused Verstappen of "Dick Dastardly stuff" and using his car as a weapon against Norris after recent clashes between the pair, had no complaints this time.

"That's one of those drives... we sort of projected at the beginning that this would be the day he could show everyone his brilliance and he's absolutely done that today," he told Sky Sports television.



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