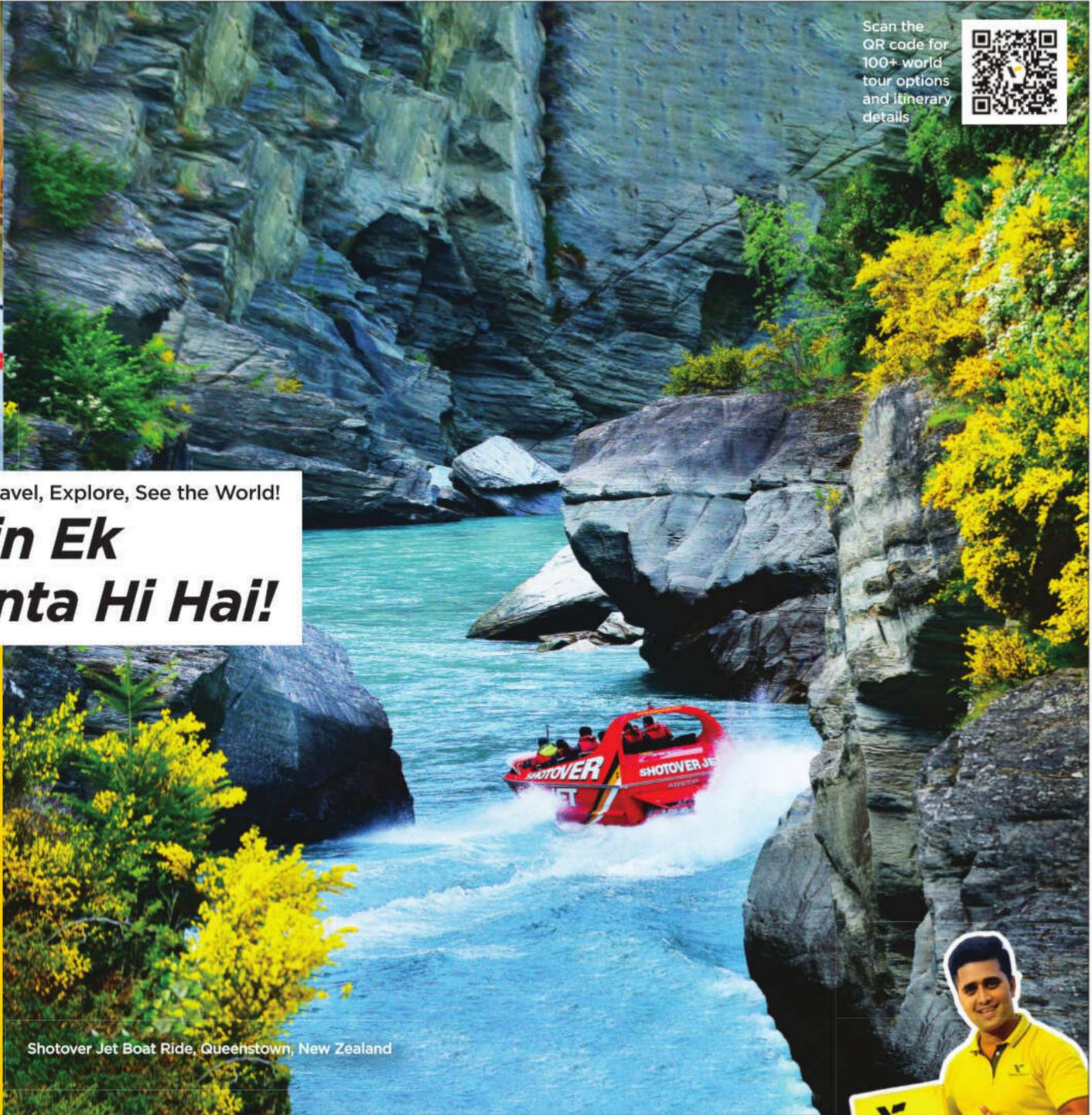


Hongi - The traditional Maori greeting in New Zealand



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THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Former President Evo Morales

BOLIVIA

Morales barred from running for political office

La Paz: A constitutional court in Bolivia has barred former President Evo Morales from running again for office, ushering in a new phase in the country's long-running political crisis. Morales, who led Bolivia from 2006 to 2019, had been vying for the candidacy of his MAS party, alongside his former mentee-turned-rival, President Luis Arce. But, in a decision last week that was reported on Friday, Bolivia's constitutional court ruled that presidents were limited to serving two terms, whether consecutive or non-consecutive. "Without a doubt this ushers in a new era of politics in Bolivia," opposition lawmaker Marcelo Pedraza told journalists on Friday. **REUTERS**

CUBA

Power back in parts of Havana after hurricane

Havana: Cuba had restored power to nearly 20% of the capital Havana by late on Friday afternoon, the government said, two days after hurricane Rafael struck the island and collapsed the country's electrical grid, leaving millions in the dark. Rafael knocked out hundreds of power lines and poles across the western half of the country, downing trees, cutting communications and complicating recovery efforts. **REUTERS**

BRAZIL

Man shot dead at Sao Paulo airport, probe on

Sao Paulo: A man was shot and killed on Friday afternoon at Sao Paulo's international airport, Brazil's busiest, authorities said, with local media reporting the murder was likely linked to organized crime. Sao Paulo state's security secretary said in a statement the murder, and its cause, were still under investigation. Three other people, a woman and two men, were wounded in the shooting and the two men were taken to a nearby hospital, police said without giving any further details. **REUTERS**

TALKS WILL RESUME IF BOTH SIDES COMMIT TO PEACE: OFFICIAL

Qatar to pull out of Gaza truce talks, expel Hamas from Doha

ANDREW MILLS
DOHA, NOVEMBER 9

QATAR WILL stop trying to mediate a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal until Hamas and Israel show a "sincere willingness" to return to the negotiating table, an official briefed on the matter told Reuters on Saturday, in the biggest setback to efforts to reach a truce since the war began.

The Gulf country has also concluded that Hamas' political office in Doha "no longer serves its purpose", the official added, in a further blow to the Palestinian militant group whose top leaders have been assassinated by Israel.

Qatar, alongside the United States and Egypt, has played a major role in rounds of so-far fruitless talks to broker a ceasefire to the year-long war in Gaza and the release of Israeli hostages Hamas is holding in the enclave. The latest round of talks in mid-October failed to produce a deal, with Hamas rejecting a short-term ceasefire proposal.

"The Qataris have said since the start of the conflict that they can only mediate when both parties demonstrate a genuine interest in finding a resolution," the official said.

Qatar has not set a deadline for Hamas' political office to close or for Hamas leaders to leave the country.

Qatar informed Hamas, Israel and the US administration that it would be willing to resume its negotiating role if Hamas and Israel "demonstrate a sincere willingness to return to the negotiation table with the objective of putting an end to the war," the official said.

Washington had told Qatar that Hamas' presence in Doha was no longer acceptable in the weeks since the group rejected



MEANWHILE IN LEBANON: Israeli strikes on Khiam in southern Lebanon on Saturday. At least seven people have been killed and 46 injured in strikes on Lebanon's Tyre, officials said. **Reuters**

EXPLAINED

Other options for Hamas

IF HAMAS is forced to leave Doha, it is unclear where they would base their political office. Iran would be an option, reports say, but it would remain a risky option, given Israel's operations inside Iran including the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. A more likely option would be Turkey, which is a NATO member and a regional power that has often sought to position itself as a broker between east and west.

the latest proposal to achieve a ceasefire and a hostage deal, a US official said on Friday. **REUTERS**

Israel's south Gaza strike kills 44, mostly children, say families

REUTERS & AP
GAZA, NOV 9

A GAZA family sat weeping on Saturday over children killed by an Israeli strike as they were getting ready to play soccer, amid an intensified bombardment that Palestinian health authorities said has killed 44 people over the past 24 hours. The strike was in Mawasi, a southern coastal area where hundreds of thousands of people have sought shelter after Israel's military told them to leave other areas.

"There were no wanted or tar-

geted people there and there was nobody else in the street. Just the children who were killed yesterday," said Mohammed Zanoun, a relative of the dead children.

Aid reaches north Gaza for 1st time in weeks

COGAT, the Israeli military body in charge of humanitarian aid to Gaza, said Saturday that 11 aid trucks containing food, water and medical equipment reached the far north of the enclave Thursday. It is the first time any aid has reached the far north of the enclave since Israel began a fresh campaign there last month.

REPULSIVE PLOT BY ISRAEL, OTHERS: IRAN

US charges Iranian man over 'conspiracy' to assassinate Trump

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 9

THE UNITED States charged an Iranian man on Friday in connection with an alleged plot ordered by Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards Corps to assassinate President-elect Donald Trump, the Department of Justice said.

Farhad Shakeri informed law enforcement "that he was tasked on October 7, 2024, with providing a plan to kill" Trump, the department said in a statement. It said Shakeri told law enforcement he did not intend to formulate such a plan within the time frame directed by the IRGC.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said in a statement carried by Iranian media on Saturday that the claim was a "repulsive" plot by Israel and Iranian opposition outside the country to "complicate matters between America and Iran."

Two New York residents whom Shakeri had met in prison, Carlisle Rivera and Jonathan Loadholt, were also charged with



Donald Trump will meet President Joe Biden in the White House Wednesday

helping Shakeri plot to kill a U.S. citizen of Iranian origin in New York, described as an outspoken critic of Iran who had previously been targeted for murder.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden and President-elect Donald Trump will meet on Wednesday at the White House on Biden's invitation, a White House spokesperson said on Saturday.

"At President Biden's invitation, President Biden and President-elect Trump will meet in the Oval Office on Wednesday," Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

Polish PM to meet French, NATO, UK leaders for talks on Ukraine

REUTERS
WARSAW, NOVEMBER 9

POLISH PRIME Minister Donald Tusk will meet France's president, Britain's prime minister, the head of NATO, and leaders of Nordic and Baltic states soon to discuss transatlantic cooperation and the war in Ukraine, he said Saturday.

The future of aid to Ukraine is among the major questions facing the European Union after Donald Trump's U.S. election victory. Trump has criticised the level of U.S. support for Ukraine's fight against Russia's invasion, and before the election promised to end the conflict before even taking office, without explaining how.

"There is no doubt that this new political landscape is a serious challenge for everyone, especially in the context of a possible end to the Russian-Ukrainian war as a result of an agreement between, for example, the president of Russia and the new president of the United States," Tusk said.

"...in the coming days, we will very intensively coordinate cooperation with countries that have a very similar view on the geopolitical and transatlantic situation and situation in Ukraine," he added.

Tusk said French President



Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Budapest on Friday. **Reuters**

Emmanuel Macron and NATO head Mark Rutte would visit Warsaw soon and he would meet British Prime Minister Keir Starmer either in Warsaw or in London. Tusk will also meet Nordic and Baltic leaders in Stockholm. "Everything will, of course, be in the context of new challenges facing our homeland, the entire region, the European Union and the Western community," Tusk said.

He reiterated what he said before the US election: no matter the result, Europe has to take greater

NAVY DOESN'T CONFIRM WHETHER HE WAS IN UNIFORM

GUNMEN KILL NAVY REAR ADMIRAL IN MEXICO

Gunmen on Friday killed a navy rear admiral in Mexico, one of the highest-ranking officers slain in the country in a decade. Mexico's navy said that a rear admiral — just below full admiral, the highest rank — had been shot to death in Manzanillo. Local media gave his name as Fernando Guerrero Alcántar, but a navy spokesman would not confirm that or whether he was in uniform at the time. **AP**

14 security forces among 27 killed in bombing at Quetta railway station

62 injured; Baloch separatist group claims responsibility

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, KARACHI, NOV 9

AT LEAST 27 people, including 14 security forces, were killed and 62 others injured on Saturday in a suicide bombing at a railway station in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, officials said.

The explosion ripped through the railway station of the provincial capital Quetta as passengers gathered on the platform before the departure of the Jaffar Express, scheduled to depart for Peshawar at 9:00 am. There were around 100 people on the platform when the blast occurred.

"So far, we have received 27 bodies and at least 62 people are injured, with some in critical condition," said Dr Wasim Baig of the Quetta Trauma Centre.

Dr Arbab Kamran Kasi, Managing Director of the Trauma Centre, warned that the death toll may increase since several wounded individuals, aged 20 to 50, remain in critical condition. Quetta Division Commissioner Hamza Shafaqaat said it was a suicide attack targeting security forces and civilians were also hit badly.

"There are around 14 members of the law enforcement agencies among the dead and dozens more among the wounded," he said. The suicide bomber had entered the station with luggage, Shafaqaat said, adding that was difficult to stop a person coming with an intention to carry out a suicide attack.

Earlier, SSP Operations Muhammad Baloch had also said that initial findings point to a possible suicide bombing. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), an ethnic Baloch separatist group



Relatives carry the body of one of the victims of the bomb blast in Quetta on Saturday. **AP**

designated as a terrorist organisation, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The BLA alleges that the federal government exploits Balochistan's resources while neglecting the province's development. However, the federal government dismisses these allegations and claims that foreign powers are manipulating disgruntled elements to perpetrate sabotage.

"All bus stations, public spots have been put on high alert and gatherings discouraged," Shafaqaat said. Balochistan Inspector General of Police (IG) Moazzam Ansari said early investigations suggest the terrorists "targeted personnel from the Army Infantry School". Rescue and law enforcement teams responded immediately, securing the area and transporting the injured and deceased to Civil Hospital Quetta, according to the provincial government spokesperson Shahid Rind.

An emergency was declared at the hospital where additional

medical staff was summoned to deal with the injured.

The blast, which also damaged the platform's roof, was heard far and wide in various areas of the city. BLA has stepped up attacks in the restive Balochistan province in recent months. Saturday's suicide bombing comes a week after a blast near a girl's school and a hospital in Balochistan's Mastung district killed eight people, including five children.

The terror group has also been targeting Chinese nationals working in the province and in Karachi. Last month a suicide bombing near the Karachi airport killed two Chinese engineers.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti condemned the attack, terming it as "a horrific act targeting innocent civilians", and ordered an immediate investigation. He said that terrorists are increasingly aiming civilians, labourers, women, and children, and vowed that those responsible would be pursued

PROTEST AGAINST MISRULE: HASINA PARTY

Won't allow 'fascist' Awami League to hold rally, says Dhaka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, NOVEMBER 9

TERMING AWAMI League as "fascist", Bangladesh's interim government on Saturday said it will not permit the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's party to hold Sunday's planned rally.

Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus's press secretary Shaiful Alam in a Facebook post said that the interim government won't tolerate any violence or any attempt to break the law and order situation in the country. "The Awami League in its current form is a fascist party. There is no way this fascist party will be allowed to hold protests in Bangladesh," he said.

Alam further cautioned that "anyone who would try to hold rally, gathering and processions by taking orders from the mass murderer and dictator Sheikh Hasina will face full force of the law enforcing agencies".

Alam's statement followed a call from the Awami League on its Facebook page, urging supporters to gather at Shaheed

Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus

Noor Hossain Chatter, or Zero Point, in Gulistan Sunday to protest what they described as "misrule."

"Our protest is against the deprivation of the rights of the people of the country; our protest is against the rise of fundamentalist forces; our protest is against the conspiracy to disrupt the lives of the common people," read the Facebook post.

While several political factions have called for the Awami League to be banned, Yunus said such a decision is up to political parties. Some ministers of the interim government also oppose the ban, emphasising political inclusivity. Awami League's main rival Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led by former prime minister Khaleda Zia also opposed banning any political party.

RECORD LOW SEA-ICE LEVELS IN ANTARCTIC HAVE WREAKED HAVOC ON LIVES OF EMPEROR PENGUINS

After a 2,000-mile trip, an emperor penguin finds itself on an Australian beach

VICTOR MATHER
NOVEMBER 9

IT WAS a day as Australian as you can get: Sun, waves and surfing at the beach. And then something distinctly un-Australian turned up.

Aaron Fowler and a friend were heading back to the parking lot after a day in the waves. "We saw something coming out of the water," Mr Fowler, a 37-year-old drywall repairman, said. "We thought it was a seabird, but then we thought, 'Oh, that's way too big,' and it had a big, long neck and a tail sticking out like a duck. "It stood up in the water and

waddled straight up to us and just started cleaning itself."

Standing there on the beach in the small town of Denmark in Western Australia on Friday afternoon was a male emperor penguin, about 2,100 miles from where one might expect to find it, in Antarctica.

Fowler had seen plenty of dolphins and other creatures in the waves, including one leopard seal, which is also native to Antarctica, but he never expected a penguin. "We were in shock," he said. Even someone with years of experience studying penguins was surprised at the sighting. "That crazy young penguin," said Dee Boersma, a professor of biology at

the University of Washington and author of "Penguins: Natural History and Conservation."

"Emperor penguins move around, because they have to be on an ice sheet or a glacier to raise young, and the glaciers are eroding away," she said. "That's not unusual. You've got to continue to swim until you find food... But this is the furthest north I've heard of an emperor penguin."

Record low sea-ice levels in the Antarctic have wreaked havoc on the lives of emperor penguins. Penguins have sought new breeding grounds as a result, but normally they stay relatively close to their old homes. This penguin's motivation for



This penguin's motivation for the much longer trip was almost certainly food, experts say. **NYT**

the much longer trip was almost certainly food, Boersma said, especially as it was an emperor, the largest penguin species with the biggest appetite. "You may be a young bird without much food, so you're going to look elsewhere," Boersma said. "You've got to continue to swim until you find food." Moving around is common among penguins, though normally over much shorter distances. "Young penguins have to explore their world."

The penguin who arrived in Australia did not seem to have been flummoxed too much by its new surroundings, even when finding itself on a beach with surfers, instead of sea ice. The

penguin "seemed completely happy," Fowler said. "It was not at all shy. It was very friendly. It was quite happy in our company."

Boersma said: "I think he was just looking for a place to land. It doesn't matter. You like to rest a little." She added, "As long as he's in a place with a lot of food, he'll be fine." While this may be the longest known journey under a penguin's own power, Boersma knows of a longer trip, with an asterisk. She noted that a Humboldt penguin had been found in Alaska. That penguin hitched a ride, probably on a tuna boat. "You can't come into a port with a penguin, so they probably threw it overboard."

Fowler alerted the authorities about the newly immigrated Aussie penguin. It was picked up and is being cared for; its rehabilitation is expected to take a few weeks, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions of Western Australia said. "The penguin appeared to be malnourished," the agency said, "and was removed from the beach to avoid potential threats from dogs, cats, foxes and vehicles."

"I have a dedicated penguin enclosure," said Carol Biddulph, a wildlife carer with the agency. "Never in my wildest thoughts would I thought I'd ever have an emperor penguin to care for. It's just amazing." **NYT**



'WOMEN HAVE GOT LADKI BAHIN MONEY BUT COMPLAIN OF PRICE RISE'

Sharad Pawar admits Mahayuti schemes 'may have some effect', but says people want change

'Absolute misuse of agencies... when my daughter attacks govt, her husband gets I-T notice; my brother's daughters (Ajit Pawar's sisters) have faced raids'

ALOK DESHPANDE
NANDED, NOVEMBER 9

NATIONALIST CONGRESS Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar admitted Saturday that the momentum the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) got after its success in the Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra — it had won 30 of 48 seats — may have been affected by populist schemes rolled out subsequently by the Mahayuti government.

In an interview to *The Indian Express* on his campaign trail in Nanded, Pawar, however, asserted that the people of Maharashtra were looking for change which, he claimed, would drive the MVA towards a majority in the November 20 Assembly elections.

Excerpts of the interview.

How do you see this Assembly election in the backdrop of the last Lok Sabha elections?

In the Lok Sabha, Narendra Modi was aiming at an absolute majority. The issue of changing the Constitution harmed him. Especially the weaker section rejected the idea in totality. Second, Mr Modi's approach towards minorities (was a factor). After polls, Mr Modi had to depend on Nitish Kumar and



SHARAD PAWAR
NCP (SP) CHIEF

Chandrababu Naidu as he failed to win a majority. That was an indication that people were unhappy with Mr Modi and his policies. Maharashtra, too, saw the Opposition winning a higher number of seats. This is the backdrop for the current Assembly election.

Do you see the Lok Sabha trend (where MVA made gains) continuing?

I can't say now. Because, after that election, the government has used all its machinery extensively and it has taken a number of populist decisions like Ladki Bahin by giving money and trying to change the atmosphere. It may have some effect as per our colleagues.

But I must tell you about one incident. While travelling,

PM: Cong states become ATMs for shahi parivar, won't let it happen in Maharashtra

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 9

ALLEGING THAT wherever a Congress government is formed, that state becomes the ATM (automated teller machine) of the "shahi parivar", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said "we won't let Maharashtra become the ATM of Congress".

Addressing two rallies, in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions, in the run-up to the November 20 Assembly elections in the state, Modi also reiterated his "ek hai to safe hai" (together, we are safe) call for Dalit, OBC, Adivasi unity. While a divi-



PM Narendra Modi with Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and BJP leader Ashok Chavan in Nanded, Saturday. PTI

sion among Dalits, Adivasis and Backward Classes suits Congress's politics, the party is

losing its support base due to their unity, he said. Speaking in Akola, Modi accused the Congress of being the most corrupt party. "Wherever the Congress forms a government, that state becomes the ATM of the party's shahi parivar (Nehru-Gandhi family). As much as Rs 700 crore has been extorted from the liquor business in (Congress-ruled) Karnataka for the Maharashtra polls. Telangana and Himachal Pradesh have also become this shahi parivar's ATMs... But we will not let Maharashtra turn into the Congress's ATM," he said.

He said the manifesto of the ruling Mahayuti focuses on women's security, job opportunities and expansion of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

STUDENT DIRECT STREAM PROGRAMME

Canada Govt ends fast-track student visas for India, 13 other countries

In 2023, 60% of Indian students who wanted to go to Canada opted for SDS

DIVYA A & MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 9

INA decision that will impact applicants from India — and at a time when diplomatic ties between the two countries are strained — Canada ended its popular, fast-track student visa programme with effect from Friday. The Student Direct Stream (SDS) programme was launched in 2018 to provide faster processing for eligible post-secondary students from 14 countries, including India. Besides a shorter processing time, the approval rates were also higher under the programme.

According to official estimates, 60 per cent of the 4 lakh Indian students who sought to study in Canada in 2023 applied under the SDS programme. Under SDS, the approval rate for Indian students was consistently higher, breaching 70 per cent in 2023. In contrast, those applying through the regular route had approval rates as low as 10 per cent.

Announcing the end of the programme on Friday, the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) said: "Canada's goal is to strengthen programme integrity, address student vulnerability, and give all students equal and fair access to the application process, as well as a positive academic experience. To meet this commit-

EXPLAINED
The SDS programme

LAUNCHED IN 2018, the Student Direct Stream programme aimed to simplify the visa application process for students from 14 countries, including India and China, who met specific requirements. A Canadian Guaranteed Investment Certificate worth \$20,635 CAD (Rs 12.51 lakh) and English/ French language test scores were among these requirements.

INSIDE

MANY SUPPORTERS OF KHALISTAN IN CANADA: TRUDEAU
PAGE 6

ment, the Student Direct Stream (SDS)... ended as of 2 pm today... Canada is committed to giving all international students equal and fair access to the application process for study permits." The IRCC said prospective students can still apply through the regular study permit route, for which guaranteed investment certificates are accepted as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DECISION 2024



Why Ajit frowned on Yogi remark: Pawar heat, fear of losing 'secular' vote

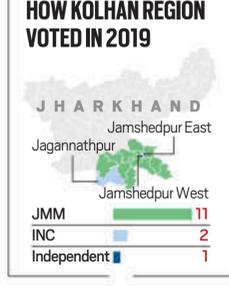
Why Modi's attack on RJD has reignited row over formation of Jharkhand

PAGE 5

In Jharkhand's Kolhan, BJP banks on women, OBCs; JMM on tribals

LIZ MATHEW & ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, SARAIKELA, JAMSHEDPUR, NOVEMBER 9

UNLIKE IN the past when the Jharkhand polls used to be a crowded affair marked with multi-corner contests, the upcoming Assembly polls present a clear fray involving two major alliances — the incumbent JMM-led INDIA bloc and the Opposition BJP-led NDA.



With large sections of the state's electorate appearing to be divided along multiple faultlines and both the coalitions leaving no stone unturned to consolidate their vote banks among the Scheduled Tribes (STs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and OBCs, the current elections seem to be going down to the wire.

This is the fifth Assembly polls in the mineral-rich state carved out of Bihar in 2000, where tribals, Dalits and OBCs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK



PT RAM NARAYAN, WHO GAVE SARANGI CLASSICAL STATURE, DIES AT 96

SECOND ENCOUNTER IN SOPORE IN 24 HRS, MILITANT KILLED
PAGES 8, 7

UNACCEPTABLE UNDER LAW: CJI-BENCH SETS GUIDELINES

SC: Home ultimate security, bulldozer justice unknown to civilised system

Danger properties will be razed for extraneous reasons: Court

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

"JUSTICE THROUGH bulldozers is unknown to any civilized system of jurisprudence" and "is simply unacceptable under the rule of law", the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Chief Justice of



CJI-bench order on November 6 in UP case

India D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said that "if it were to be

permitted, the constitutional recognition of the right to property under Article 300A would be reduced to a dead letter." The court said this in its November 6 order by which it directed the Uttar Pradesh government to pay Rs 25 lakh as compensation to a man whose house was demolished for a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



27 KILLED IN QUETTA BLAST

At least 27 people, including 14 security forces, were killed and 62 injured in a suicide blast at a railway station in Quetta, Pakistan. The toll was likely to rise, officials said. AP THE WORLD

HELD CAPTIVE FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS IN KANPUR: FIR

Police: Minor NEET aspirant raped, two coaching centre teachers held

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 9

TWO MALE teachers of a coaching institute in Kanpur were arrested on Saturday for allegedly raping a minor girl and holding her captive for several months

after she enrolled for NEET (National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to undergraduate medical education) classes in 2022.

While the case dates back to 2023 when the victim was 17 years old, the FIR was filed at a Kanpur police station on Friday.

In her complaint, the victim said she had been struggling with depression since then, but, a few days ago, she found the courage to file an FIR after she saw a video of one of the accused being arrested for allegedly harassing another student.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

J&K students in Karnataka nursing college 'told to trim, shave beard'

SANATH PRASAD
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 9

A GROUP of students from Jammu and Kashmir studying in Karnataka under the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) has approached the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association, highlighting that the college administration asked them to trim or shave their beard.

The students, enrolled in the Government Nursing College, Holenarasipura, Hassan, which is affiliated with the Rajiv Gandhi University in Karnataka, claimed the college is enforcing "discriminatory grooming standards" that infringe on their cultural and religious rights.

In a letter submitted to the association, the students claimed the college threatened to mark them absent from clinical activities unless they shave or trim their beards.

This policy, the students argued, is arbitrary and culturally insensitive. They said this issue

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'It's a nuisance now': As tourists throng Goa neighbourhood, residents shut doors

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
PANAJI, NOVEMBER 9

"PHOTOGRAPHY BANNED with the backdrop of the house. You are under surveillance" — reads a board that has recently come up outside a house in the picturesque Fontainhas, located in the heart of Panaji's heritage wards dubbed the Latin Quarter. Next to the board, a tourist couple is posing on the stairs of the facade of a house, passing instructions to a photographer for their pre-



Police on patrol as tourists throng Fontainhas. Pavneet Singh Chadha

INSIDE

MISUSE OF LAW TO SHUT CRITICISM: 'X' USER FACING GOA GOVT COMPLAINT
P 8

wedding shoot. Nearby, outside St Sebastian Chapel, another board reads: "This is a chapel, a holy place! Photography banned with the backdrop of the chapel. Silence

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

All of 3, Kolkata child's journey to become youngest ranked chess player

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SAYAK DUTTA
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 9

THREE-YEAR-OLD Anish Sarkar has to sit on a stack of three plastic chairs to reach the chessboard placed on the table at his training school — the Dhanuka Dhunseri Dibyendu Barua Chess Academy here. To make a killing on the other half of the board, he has to be on all fours — hands on

the table, legs on the chair. Chess is used to teen prodigies but with Kolkata preschooler Anish becoming the youngest FIDE-ranked player in the world, organisers, in the coming days, may have to order a few "high baby chairs" for tiny tots at tournament venues.

Since the time Anish made the historic cut, the Barua academy has received unprecedented media attention. The child star is oblivious to the camerapersons circling him. His coach Dibyendu Barua, a highly-rated Indian Grandmaster, is

amazed at Anish's memory but requests not to hype his ward. The mother, too, is guarded. She doesn't want her name or photograph to be published but is ready to talk about her son's chess initiation.

Last year, when Kolkata hosted its big annual chess event — the Tata Steel India Chess Tournament — the presence of teenage posterboy R Praggnanandhaa created a buzz. Among those excited was Anish's maternal uncle, so much so that he got the child a chessboard from Durga Puja.



Anish Sarkar, a 3-year-old chess player from West Bengal, has a FIDE ranking of 1555. Partha Paul

It didn't prove to be an age-inappropriate gift for the three-year-old, who learnt the rules of the game from YouTube.

In the days to come, the mother would realise that her son was special. It happened while the family was on a train, returning home from Agra. The bored little boy walked across to an older child in the adjoining seat who was playing the game online.

"We were returning from Agra on a train. There was another child who was playing chess there, so he went up to that child. That child was older than

him, but by the end of our train journey, Anish was winning," recalls the mother.

In March this year, the family enrolled Anish at the Barua academy.

Within months, Anish made his debut at the state Under-9 tournament. He secured a creditable 5.5 out of 8 points and finished 24th, defeating two rated opponents in the process.

Next came the Under-13 state event, where he had to face five rated players to get into the FIDE rankings. His solid play got him a ranking of 1555.

Asked how a three-year-old could be hooked to this cerebral indoor game and get advanced lessons on YouTube, Anish's mother mentions a channel called Gotham Chess that has over 5.5 million subscribers and Levy Rozman as host.

Rozman's motto is to make chess fun and for that, he has a WWE-style booming signature chant — "Sacrifice the Roooook!". He says this often on the show.

Anish loved this chant and would keep asking his parents to let him hear it. "He used to say

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Minor NEET aspirant raped

Additional Commissioner of Police, Kanpur, Harish Chander, confirmed the arrests. The accused were produced before a court on Saturday which sent them to judicial custody for 14 days. A medical examination of the victim was conducted, and her statement before a magistrate will be recorded on Monday, said sources.

A case has been filed under IPC Sections 328 (causing hurt by means of poison etc with intent to commit an offence), 376 (rape), 344 (wrongful confinement for ten or more days) and 506 (criminal intimidation), as well as provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

According to the FIR, one of the accused invited the victim for a party in January 2023, saying all the students had been invited. When she arrived at the apartment, she found that there were no other students, police said.

The victim alleged that the accused gave her a drink laced with a sedative, and then raped her and filmed the act. She alleged that he held her captive for about six months, forced her to consume ganja and alcohol, and raped her on several occasions. He also allegedly blackmailed her, threatening to circulate her videos and photographs on social media.

Police said that during this time, she was not allowed to

leave the apartment or attend coaching classes. A few months later, the accused hosted a Holi party, where the other accused also allegedly raped her.

She also alleged that when she went home later, the accused called her up and threatened to kill her parents if she didn't return.

After the NEET results were announced earlier this year and she didn't make it, she asked her mother to take her home, police said.

In September, one of the accused was arrested for allegedly molesting another student. While he was released on bail, a closure report was filed later after the victim denied the harassment allegations.

According to police, a case was filed by the coaching institute staff, alleging that an unidentified person had sent a pen drive containing a video clip showing the accused allegedly molesting a girl inside a wash-room of the institute. The police registered a case on charges of molestation and other offences in September, following which he was arrested. "During investigation, the coaching staff could not confirm the source of the video. Furthermore, the girl seen in the video denied in her statement before the magistrate that he had molested her. Following no evidence, we filed a closure report in the case," said the local SHO.

SC: Home ultimate security

road-widening project in 2019 without giving him due notice.

The order, made available Saturday, said that the petitioner alleged that the demolition was "reprisal" for a newspaper report which contained allegations of wrongdoing in relation to the construction of the road in question. "We need not engage with this aspect, save and except to the extent that it supplies the background to the grievance of the petitioner," the court said.

Underlining that there was no room for such "high-handed and unilateral action," by the state government, the court raised serious concerns. "Justice through bulldozers is unknown to any civilized system of jurisprudence. There is a grave danger that if high-handed and unlawful behaviour is permitted by any wing or officer of the state, demolition of citizens' properties will take place as a selective reprisal for extraneous reasons," the court said.

"Citizens' voices cannot be throttled by a threat of destroying their properties and homesteads. The ultimate security which a human being possesses is to the homestead," the court said. "The law does not undoubtedly condone unlawful occupation of public property and encroachments. There are municipal laws and town-planning legislation which contain adequate provisions for dealing with illegal encroachments."

Calling for due process, the court said that it proposed to lay down certain "minimum thresholds of procedural safeguards" which must be fulfilled before the state takes action to remove illegal encroachments or unlawfully constructed structures.

"Bulldozer justice is simply

unacceptable under the rule of law," the court reiterated. "If it were to be permitted, the constitutional recognition of the right to property under Article 300A would be reduced to a dead letter. Officials of the state who carry out or sanction such unlawful action must be proceeded against for disciplinary action. Their infractions of law must invite criminal sanctions. Public accountability for public officials must be the norm. Any action in respect of public or private property must be backed by due process of law."

It also laid down guidelines authorities should follow before acting against alleged encroachment in a road-widening project.

According to these, authorities must ascertain the width of the road as per maps and find if there's any existing encroachment. If one is found, the court said, a "proper, written notice" should be sent to encroachers to remove the encroachment.

If the notice raises an objection, the court said, it should be decided by a speaking order in "due compliance with the principles of natural justice." If the objection is rejected, notice should be furnished to the person against whom adverse action is proposed and upon the failure of the person concerned to act, "proceed in accordance with law, to remove the encroachment unless restrained by an order of the competent authority or court."

If the existing width of road, the court added, including adjoining state land is not sufficient to accommodate the widening, "steps must be taken by the State to acquire the land in accordance with law before undertaking the road widening exercise."

Kolkata child youngest ranked chess player

'sacrifice the rook' over and over at home. This piqued his interest. He was pretty interested in watching chess games after that," says his mother.

At the academy, Anish would impress Barua. "We gave him some problems to solve, which he did. After that, he said 'I am going to give you a problem.' I thought he'll just arrange some pieces haphazardly on the board. But he gave me a proper problem," says Barua.

When the coach asked him how he knew this, the answer was "YouTube" again. "He is special and God-gifted. Other than that, it is impossible for a child to memorise these things so well," Barua says.

There is a sense of awe in chess circles about what Anish has managed to do at the age of three. For

context, former world champion Magnus Carlsen was five when he pushed his first piece down a chessboard. His predecessor on the world champion's throne, Viswanathan Anand, was six when he learnt how to play.

Earlier this year, Grandmaster R B Ramesh, who has shaped the careers of stars like Praggnanandhaa and R Vaishali, told *The Indian Express* that the ideal age for a child to start learning chess was between four and six years. He started working with Pragg just before he was eight years of age.

GM Pravin Thipsay says that he thinks a child should take up chess after turning 6 years, but can't hide his surprise over Anish's achievement. "It just shows that the human brain has remarkable capacities. Let us

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

'Mahayuti schemes may have some effect'

I stopped to talk to 15-20 women working in a field and asked them whether they have received the money and are happy about it? The women said they did get the money, but this government is giving money from one hand and taking it out from our pockets with the other as prices of everything have increased so much. That's the general sentiment. In addition, farmers and unemployed youth are being given the money. So the government is targeting different sections differently.

So how is the Opposition pleased?

My observation is, the public wants a change. And if that feeling continues then we will get a clear-cut majority. Secondly, our MVA alliance of Congress, Uddhav Thackeray and us, is working well everywhere except in a few constituencies. Except for 10-11 seats out of 288, our workers are working together in coordination.

Who is the CM face for the MVA?

We have decided not to finalise a single name. After elec-

tions, if we get a majority, the party among our partners, which gets higher seats, will decide at that time.

How do you see Manoj Jarange-Patil's decision to not contest?

Mr Jarange-Patil has taken a sensible decision of not contesting the election and that will definitely benefit the Opposition. Also, along with his demand for reservation, he has also issued a statement in support of Muslim and Dhangar reservation. That means he has expanded his horizon and spread his base. It has also created a feeling that he is not against OBCs.

Does this mean there are challenges to non-Maratha consolidation on the ground?

Yes, it looks like this. In Haryana, talk of Jat and non-Jat consolidation was discussed extensively. You are suggesting something similar isn't happening here.

I have seen Haryana and have been there. There were too many candidates from Congress, a lot of Independent candidates and

there were rebellions. Initially, we expected this here as well. But most of them have withdrawn.

Do you think smaller parties like MNS, Vanchit Bahujan Aaghadi, will dent MVA?

The situation of vanchit (today as compared to) five years ago is not the same - they are not likely to have that much of an impact.

Why has the MVA alleged misuse of ED, CBI during this poll?

The statement from Chhagan Bhujbal has proven it. We all saw it yesterday. Money and agencies are being used against us. I can give you an example. My daughter is a Member of Parliament for the fourth term. Whenever she attacks the government, her husband gets a notice from Income Tax. In fact, my brother's daughters (Ajit Pawar's sisters) have faced raids. The Central government has misused the agencies even against my family. This is the election where we are seeing the absolute misuse of power and government agencies which we have not seen ever in the past elections.

In Jharkhand's Kolhan, BJP banks on women, OBCs; JMM on tribals

are estimated to make up over 26%, 12% and 40% of the population.

The tribal-dominated Kolhan region has emerged as a crucial front in the polls, JMM leader and Chief Minister Hemant Soren is going all out to retain the party's supremacy in Kolhan, which has 14 Assembly seats, including Seraikella, the constituency of ex-JMM CM Champai Soren.

In the 2019 Assembly polls, the BJP had not been able to get any seat in Kolhan, where 11 seats were won by the JMM, two by its INDIA ally Congress, and one by an Independent. By inducting tribal leader Champai Soren into its fold three months ago, the BJP has sought to bolster its chances in the region.

While the JMM-led alliance has kept its focus on tribals, the BJP is reaching out to women voters, relying on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity among them. In its campaign, the BJP has pledged various sops for women, which seem to have created a resonance among them.

In Tamar town, where several male residents back Hemant, Kamla Devi, who runs a tailoring shop, is a staunch supporter of Modi. "Modi helps women and their families. He is doing good for the country. When I listen to him, I feel someone from my family is speaking. Anapan mehsoos hota hai (I feel as if someone from our own is speaking)," Devi says, adding that the PM ensured the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya earlier this year.

Devi however admits that she has got three instalments of Rs 1,000 each under the JMM-led government's Maiya Samman Yojana. Ahead of the poll announcement, the Hemant government raised this monthly stipend for economically disadvantaged women from Rs 1000 to Rs 2,500. This was to counter the BJP's promise of a monthly hand-out of Rs 2100 under the Gogo

Didi Yojana if it comes to power.

Like Kamla, another Tamar resident Jyotsna, a mother of a one-year old daughter, also finds the BJP "more trustworthy". "If BJP wins we will get good schemes," she says, questioning the intention behind the Soren government's "last minute decisions".

In Dharam Bahal village in the Ghatshila constituency, Priti Pramani, a school teacher, has various reasons to back Modi. "Under Modi government our lives have improved, roads have been built and a long pending railway track is in place in our area. No other PM has worked for the country this much," Pramani says. She concedes though that the Centre has not succeeded in creating new jobs or curbing price rise. "But our salaries have also gone up," she says.

For Usha Namata, a resident of the Potka constituency, the help she got under the Ayushman scheme for her daughter's appendix surgery is a major reason to rally behind the BJP.

In the recent Lok Sabha polls, although the BJP had won nine seats in Jharkhand as against the JMM-Congress combine's five, it had lost the state's all five ST seats to the latter due to various factors, including the "tribal sympathy" for Hemant over his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged money laundering case in January this year. Hemant continues to be the INDIA bloc's popular tribal face with a significant mass support. The BJP leaders however point out that the party had then led in 52 Assembly segments.

As part of the BJP's strategy for the Assembly polls, while trying to consolidate non-tribals, the party is reaching out to women voters. Some

BJP leaders believe that it was the "silent women voters" segment that ensured its "surprise" wins in the Haryana and Madhya Pradesh elections. In Jharkhand, they say a majority of first-time

voters are women and that female voters outnumber men in over 30 seats.

The cohesiveness of the NDA, in contrast to the INDIA bloc's rifts, is also giving the BJP confidence. After long negotiations, the BJP's core Jharkhand team led by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma sealed a deal with the party's allies, including the AJSUP, JD(U) and LJP (Ram Vilas), giving them 10, 2 and one seats respectively. All these parties had fought the 2019 polls separately.

Kolhan however poses a tough challenge to the BJP as it remains a major JMM stronghold. "We don't trust BJP. JMM is better for Jharkhand," Loten Munda, a farmer in Tamar, says.

In light of its 2019 rout, the BJP has been making sustained attempts to woo the tribal community in a bid to wrest some seats from the JMM in the region. Hence, the induction of Champai, dubbed as "Kolhan ka tiger (Kolhan's tiger)", who switched to the BJP soon after being replaced by Hemant as the CM in July following the latter's release from the prison, assumes significance. Hemant had stepped down as the CM and named Champai as his successor after his arrest.

Even several non-tribals in Kolhan have their issues with the BJP. Sumet Kumar, a graduate who has set up a mobile shop after failing to find a job, says, "There is a tight fight in Jharkhand. People know the Soren government did work, but not as much as it could have done. Still there is a soft corner for Soren in this area."

Mukesh Seth, who works in a private firm in Jamshedpur, asks what the BJP has done for Jharkhand despite being in power for most of the time since its inception. "BJP is good at the Centre... we need Modi and BJP to defend the country but Soren is good for Jharkhand," he argues.

But Seth's friend Rajkumar believes that the BJP could bring de-

What's your view on Central policies when it comes to cotton and soybean farmers?

Practically speaking, cotton and soybean farmers are facing serious issues. Prices have dropped, the cost of cultivation cannot be recovered. That's why these farmers are extremely unhappy. It is not correct when the government says that the distribution of money has satisfied the farmers. In fact, even in the case of sugarcane, there is a demand from the national federation regarding the minimum support price and also about Ethanol which are not being fulfilled. This means even this assure-income crop is facing a problem. By and large, be it cotton or soybean or sugarcane, the farmers are in trouble.

Some senior BJP leaders alleged that Muslim consolidation in some seats hurt them in Lok Sabha elections. They call it 'Vote Jihad'. What's your response?

It shows the communal approach of the ruling party. In the last election, there were four-five BJP leaders who talked about changing the Constitution. Now with this, it exposes the real approach of the government.

development to the state. "Modi is popular and no one would say he or she does not know who our PM is. His schemes to reach tap water and electricity to every household as well as the digitisation drive are good," Rajkumar says.

The waiver of power dues for about four million families to the tune of Rs 3500 crore in the state by the Hemant government has also struck a chord with people.

Utam Samal, a Sarakela resident, says the state should have "strong leaders" even as he criticises the BJP's "polarising politics". He says he supports the JMM because his Rs 28,000 electricity dues had been waived.

Unlike the Kolhan case, the BJP has managed to gain some traction among tribals in the Santhal Pargana region, where it has raked up issues like "Bangladeshi infiltrators" and its implications for tribals and their land and culture. In his campaign for the Jharkhand polls, PM Modi has also flagged the "threat" from infiltrators on tribals "maati, beti and roti (land, daughter and livelihood)".

Such a narrative, the BJP leaders say, would help the party to leverage the "anti-incumbency" factor against the Hemant-led alliance. The party has been emphasising on change and accountability to dent the JMM. The BJP is also going all out to consolidate its traditional support base among the OBCs, of which the single largest bloc is Kudmi Mahatos.

The JMM originally had the backing of Kudmis but lost it to the BJP later. It has now mounted fresh attempts to win them back after Hemant took its control. But, the AJSUP's return to the NDA fold and the emergence of Jairam Mahato's JJKM may hurt its plan. The main vote bank of the AJSUP led by Suresh Mahto is the Kudmi community.

The Kolhan region is bound for polls in the first phase on November 13, while the state's second and last phase of voting is scheduled for November 20.

PM: Cong states ATMs

Ladki Bahin Yojana, while the Maha Vikas Aghadi, comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sharad Pawar's NCP, have come out with a "ghotala patra". "The entire country knows the MVA means corruption, token money and transfer posting business," he said.

Modi also pointed to the importance of the day - November 9 - referring to the Supreme Court's verdict on the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on this day in 2019. "Today, the country is moving ahead with the goal of developed India and the people know that only BJP and its allies are working seriously to achieve this goal," he said. "That is why the people are electing BJP and NDA governments again and again," he said.

In Nanded, Modi reiterated his claim that "Congress wants the OBCs, Adivasis and Dalits to fight, as a split in their votes will get it back to power". "The Congress's game plan is to divide you into different groups and communities... It hates the OBCs because it cannot digest the fact that an OBC is the PM. They want to divide the OBC communities into small castes and snatch the power of their unity. If that happens, Congress will snatch the reservation," he said.

In his speeches, Modi also accused the Congress of "disregarding" the Constitution and "betraying Babasaheb Ambedkar". "The Congress has crossed all limits. At election campaigns,

they gave a red-coloured copy of the Constitution. The cover page looks like the Constitution, but the inside pages are blank... This shows the Congress mindset. They want to have their own Constitution," he said.

"The Congress has always harbored deep hatred towards Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar," he claimed, as he asked the "shahi parivar" if they had ever visited Ambedkar's "panchteerth" - his birthplace in Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, the place in London where he stayed while studying in the UK, Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur where he embraced Buddhism, his 'Mahaparivrat Sthal' in Delhi, and 'Chaitya Bhoomi' in Mumbai.

"They hate Babasaheb because he was a Dalit and because he got credit for drafting the Constitution. Babasaheb is an inspiration for me, the BJP and my government. Our government has developed places attached to his legacy. I have even named our UPI as BHIM UPI," Modi said.

Criticising the Congress for supporting the resolution in the J&K Assembly for restoration of special status, he said: "These people are speaking the language of anti-India forces and want to push Kashmir back into violence and militancy. They want to take Ambedkar's Constitution out of J&K. After Article 370 was removed, Dalits and tribals there got reservations. Kashmiri Hindus fled due to Article 370."

With PTI

Goa locality

and decorum to be maintained." As a group of tourists strike a pose in front of the chapel door, Nascimento D' Silva, a local, rushes to shoo the group away. "Mass is going on. Please have some respect for our privacy," he says.

On a weekday evening, the residential neighbourhood of Fontainhas, which means 'little fountain' in Portuguese, is packed with tourists and their entourage of vloggers, YouTube and camera crews - much to the chagrin of the locals. The narrow lanes in Fontainhas are dotted with Portuguese-style houses.

Irked over their privacy being compromised "at the cost of invasive or mass tourism", the residents of the heritage wards of Sao Tome and Fontainhas in the Goa capital have now sought the intervention of Rohit Monserrate, the mayor of the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP). Residents say that a "growing influx of tourists" and "unstructured and unregulated tourism activity" has transformed their quaint neighbourhoods into a "noisy and intrusive" experience for the residents, besides "destroying local ethos and cultural heritage" and "the peace in the Latin Quarter".

The residents complain that tourists - armed with cameras and tripods - start arriving in the neighbourhoods as early as 5.30 am for pre- and post-wedding, and commercial shoots. Some barge inside the gates and verandas of homes, peep through the windows, climb up the stairs and even damage properties - "all for one minute of glory on social media or a selfie". "My house is not a public monument," says Aloo Gomes Pereira, of Sao Tome.

An argument over a photo-shoot escalated last month in Sao Tome, when a resident threatened to hit a group of tourists with a stick. Two policemen were deployed in the area after that.

Pereira, who was involved in that melee, says, "This is an invasion of our privacy. What gives a tourist the right to barge into my house and click a photo, and put it on social media? They come in big groups and make noise all day. These are residential wards where a lot of elderly people live. When tourists initially started coming, we thought 'a few are just roaming around' and there was no objection. It's a nuisance now. This has to end."

Lucia Couto, a resident of Fontainhas, says she keeps the windows of her house shut. "Tourists say they like the colourful backdrop of the houses. My children are unable to study due to the constant noise. It is strange to see 40 people constantly aiming a camera at my door. Where is our privacy?" she says, adding that her family has decided against

painting the walls of their house - an annual tradition in the area mandated by law during the erstwhile Portuguese rule.

Though Panaji has always had a large influx of tourists, Sao Tome and Fontainhas have become an integral part of tourists' itinerary over the past few years, especially since the pandemic. The residents blame content creators for popularising these areas on social media. The areas are lined with cafes, old taverns, bars and bakeries.

Pereira, who has worked in the tourism sector for decades, says, "This parasitical attitude of the tourists is creating an anti-tourist sentiment. Residents cannot take this pressure... We are not saying we don't want tourists - Goa needs tourism and livelihoods are dependent on the industry - but tourism has to be controlled. Come for our culture, learn about our heritage... not just for Instagram."

Clifton Afonso, a guest house owner in Fontainhas, says a majority of tourists visiting the neighbourhood are not interested in exploring the area's culture, architecture or history. "They just want a photo for social media. People are filming with drones. Who knows what is being filmed? The authorities have to levy stringent fines to curb this behaviour."

In a letter to the Mayor, the residents also called for deployment of tourist police to monitor "anti-social activities" and a ban on entry of tourist vehicles in the area.

CCP Mayor Rohit Monserrate says that residents have apprised him of their concerns. "Drone shoots start at 5.30 am and it's all for Instagram. It's not like these tourists contribute to local area. A lot of them don't even frequent the businesses. They come, litter, make noise and leave," he says. "If people walk into someone's house, it's a safety issue... People complain that tourists are generally rude. They don't really understand that people live there. They (tourists) think it's some sort of a movie set where they can just walk into the homes. It is horrible... Many residents in these areas are senior citizens and their children have either moved elsewhere in Goa or abroad. People are showing their phones inside their houses, so (for residents) it's a bit like when you go to a zoo."

A police personnel in Sao Tome says, "Can we stop people from taking pictures on a public road? We are sensitising tourists, but often they do not pay heed."

Mayor Monserrate acknowledges there are limitations in what the authorities can impose. "You cannot stop anyone from taking a picture of a house in a public area. It's a free country. For the government to say 'don't come to that area' is not constitutionally correct also. Tourists are a nuisance, but it's not a law-and-order situation per se," he says.

Canada Govt ends fast-track student visas

proof of financial support.

Under the SDS programme, students could secure study permits in just 20 working days, even as processing times under the standard route often extend to around eight weeks for Indian applicants.

India is Canada's largest source country of foreign students with an estimated 4.27 lakh Indian students studying there in 2023.

The SDS programme was available to residents of Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vietnam.

Calling it a big blow to students aspiring to study in Canada, Gurpreet Singh, who has been running a visa consultancy in

Kapurthala for the last 10 years, said all the students from his area had been taking the SDS route ever since it was introduced. "That's the case with most of the students from the rest of Punjab as well," he said.

The Canadian government said it was looking to reduce the number of temporary residents in the country, after hosting a record 8 lakh study permit holders last year, with the need to alleviate pressures on housing and services. As part of its 2024 policy shifts, the government set a cap of 437,000 new study permits for 2025, covering all levels of education, including post-graduate programmes.

In September, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had announced plans to curb inflow of students. "We're granting 35 per

cent fewer international student permits this year. And next year, that number's going down by another 10 per cent... Immigration is an advantage for our economy - but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack down," he had said in a post on X.

Further tightening measures include tougher language and academic benchmarks for students aiming to qualify for the Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP), limited work permits for spouses of international students, and higher financial proof requirements. Additionally, the Canadian government is reducing the availability of multiple-entry visas, which have been commonly used by international students to enter and exit Canada during their study periods.

"We understand that it is part of their custom."

He added, "Yes, it is true that one of the teachers asked them not to come for clinical duties if they do not maintain a professional appearance. We have just asked them to follow the disciplinary standards expected of nursing students. Yesterday, we held a detailed discussion with all the teachers, including the clinical instructor. While we un-

derstand there may be cultural sensitivities, we only asked them for basic grooming to maintain a professional environment. Moreover, the students have a shortage in attendance and are not regular for clinical activities."

According to college authorities, 14 students from Jammu & Kashmir study in the nursing college. The association has already written a letter in this regard to the Karnataka CM's of-

J&K students in Karnataka nursing college 'told to trim, shave beard'

could lead to further discrimination, particularly during internal assessments and practical examinations.

They requested that the association advocate on their behalf. "We hope that this matter can be resolved without any further pressure or punitive action from the college administration," the students wrote, urging the association to convey their concerns to the college authori-

ties.

Acknowledging the instructions given to the students, Chandrashekar, the college principal, said, "We have informed the students that maintaining a neat and professional appearance is essential, especially in a field like nursing where discipline is critical. We only asked them to keep their beard trimmed; we did not impose any requirement to shave com-

pletely. We understand that it is part of their custom."

He added, "Yes, it is true that one of the teachers asked them not to come for clinical duties if they do not maintain a professional appearance. We have just asked them to follow the disciplinary standards expected of nursing students. Yesterday, we held a detailed discussion with all the teachers, including the clinical instructor. While we un-

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fice.

Nasir Khuehami, national convener for the J&K Students Association, who spoke to *The Indian Express* on their behalf, said they will also write to the Jammu and Kashmir government. "No student should be forced to compromise their beliefs and identity to access education. Forcing Kashmiri students to shave their beards not only infringes on personal free-

dom but goes against the spirit of inclusivity in Karnataka's educational institutions," he said.

Meanwhile, medical education department officials told *The Indian Express* that the principal has been issued a show-cause notice.

"The dean has warned the principal already and asked them (college authorities) not to escalate the matter," a government official said.

Make all sewage treatment plants fit in four weeks, NGT tells UP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 9

THE NATIONAL Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Uttar Pradesh chief secretary to disclose the steps to be taken for making non-functional sewage treatment plants (STPs) functional and to ensure that all STPs comply with specified norms, within four weeks.

The bench emphasised the need for immediate action to address the sewage management issues across multiple districts of Uttar Pradesh along the course of Ganga river and its tributaries.

"The state must disclose the timeline for tapping these drains and for setting up the STPs for treating the sewage from these drains. Hence, we require the Chief Secretary, State of UP to file the affidavit disclosing the information relating to each of the drains in different districts, sewage generated from it, the STP to which it is proposed to be connected, the timeline for making the STP functional, funds which are available, identification and allotment of land for setting up the STP," directed the three-member bench. The NGT has scheduled the next hearing for January 20, 2025.

The intervention comes in the wake of a compliance report filed by the UP government on October 30, detailing the current status of sewage treatment and the discharge of untreated wastewater into the river. The report highlighted gaps in sewage treatment infrastructure, especially in key districts of Prayagraj, Kanpur Dehat and Ayodhya.

"...we found that within the Prayagraj Nagar Nigam, 468.28 MLD sewage is generated, the quantity of sewage treated is 394.48 MLD and the existing treatment... capacity of STPs is only 340 MLD. Therefore, the gap in sewage generation and existing capacity is 128.28 MLD. The report further reflects that in Prayagraj, untreated sewage from 25 untapped drains is discharged into Ganga and from 15 untapped drains in Yamuna," read the order.

New members of NDMC take oath



L-GVK Saxena and Chief Minister Atishi on Saturday. ANI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE NON-OFFICIAL members of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) assumed charge Saturday after taking oath at a ceremony held at Raj Niwas.

The newly appointed non-official members, announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs on November 5, include Kuljit Singh Chahal, who returns to NDMC as vice-chairperson; social worker Anil Balmiki; Sarita Tomar, general secretary of Delhi BJP's Mahila Morcha, and Dinesh Pratap Singh, former president of Delhi BJP's Purvanchal Morcha.

The ceremony, which was administered by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, was also

attended by NDMC Chairman Keshav Chandra, New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, as well as party MPs Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Yogendra Chandolia.

In his address, Chahal expressed gratitude to the party's senior leadership and outlined his agenda for the first 100 days in office, which will focus on a "clean, smart, and digitally integrated NDMC".

The agenda included coming up with a robust sanitation monitoring system, enhancing waste management practices, improving condition of public toilets, implementing advanced technology solutions such as a digital parking system by utilising FASTag technology and promoting electric vehicles, among others.

Man arrested for killing mother after row over marriage: Police

HIMANSHU HARSH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

A 31-YEAR-OLD man was arrested on Thursday from Delhi's Badarpur for allegedly stabbing to death his mother following an argument over marriage and his

desire to move to Canada. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast Delhi) Ravi Kumar Singh said the victim, Geeta (50), was brought dead with multiple stab wounds to Apollo Hospital on November 6.

During investigation, police learnt that around 3.30 pm the

same day, accused Krishan Kant alias Rohin called his father, Surjeet Singh Choudhary (52), a property dealer, to his Jaitpur office and asked him to return to their house in Molarband.

"Upon arrival, Kant apologised to his father and asked him to go upstairs. He ran out of the

house after that. When Surjeet went to the first floor, he found Geeta lying lifeless in a pool of blood with multiple injuries over her body. He rushed her to the hospital with the help of neighbours, but she was declared dead on arrival," Singh said. Kant was arrested the next day.

The DCP said that Kant has revealed that a heated argument broke out between him and his mother over his desire to migrate to Canada for a job. "The family reportedly wanted him to marry first. In a fit of rage, he allegedly used a knife to attack his mother," the officer said.

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NDA

[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 (₹ in Crore)													
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated					
		Quarter ended		Half Year ended		Year ended		Quarter ended		Half Year ended		Year ended	
		30.09.2024 (Unaudited)	30.06.2024 (Unaudited)	30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	30.09.2024 (Unaudited)	30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	31.03.2024 (Audited)	30.09.2024 (Unaudited)	30.06.2024 (Unaudited)	30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	30.09.2024 (Unaudited)	30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	31.03.2024 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	707.18	258.12	708.17	965.30	1068.84	2012.09	707.28	258.46	708.28	965.74	1069.24	2012.61
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	310.12	(41.96)	386.57	268.16	446.73	600.30	309.60	(42.22)	385.73	267.38	445.89	597.58
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	310.12	(41.96)	386.57	268.16	446.73	600.30	309.60	(42.22)	385.73	267.38	445.89	597.58
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	268.21	(39.12)	331.04	229.09	378.57	599.08	267.86	(39.32)	330.23	228.54	377.75	596.97
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	268.17	(39.15)	330.37	229.02	377.23	589.34	267.82	(39.35)	329.56	228.47	376.41	587.23
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	6882.47	6841.64	6968.69	6882.47	6968.69	6880.80	6879.37	6838.80	6966.94	6879.37	6966.94	6878.11
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Net worth	10548.35	10507.52	10634.57	10548.35	10634.57	10546.68	10545.25	10504.68	10632.82	10545.25	10632.82	10543.99
10	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	17378.86	16691.73	13166.17	17378.86	13166.17	14910.36	17440.69	16752.23	13176.17	17440.69	13176.17	14939.77
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	1.84	1.73	1.39	1.84	1.39	1.58	1.85	1.74	1.39	1.85	1.39	1.59
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 1000/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) - 1. Basic (in Rs.); 2. Diluted (in Rs.);	73.16	(10.67)	90.30	62.49	103.27	163.42	73.09	(10.71)	90.14	62.38	103.10	163.00
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	310.13	285.78	221.57	310.13	221.57	264.42	310.13	285.78	221.57	310.13	221.57	264.42
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	2.52	0.48	3.15	1.55	2.26	1.93	2.50	0.47	3.10	1.54	2.23	1.90
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	5.52	1.18	9.83	3.59	8.95	6.67	5.52	1.18	9.81	3.59	8.94	6.65

- Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.

Notes:
1. The above results have been approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 08.11.2024.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Half Yearly financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange(s) under Regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the Quarterly / Half Yearly Financial Results is available on the websites of the stock exchange(s) and THDCIL (<https://www.bseindia.com/xml-data/corpfiling/AttachLive/3468ec89-6fab-49dd-b006-785454cb6dc2.pdf>) and https://nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/Debt_08112024182723_Financial_Statement.pdf)
3. For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the stock exchange(s) (NSE and BSE) and can be accessed on the URL (<https://www.bseindia.com/xml-data/corpfiling/AttachLive/3468ec89-6fab-49dd-b006-785454cb6dc2.pdf>) and https://nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/Debt_08112024182723_Financial_Statement.pdf)

For and on Behalf of Board of Directors
Sipan Kumar Garg
Director (Finance)
DIN: 10746205

Place : Rishikesh
Date : 08.11.2024

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PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that in order to facilitate all left out/unenrolled eligible citizens to get their names registered in the electoral roll SPECIAL CAMPS are being organized on **09th November, 2024 (Saturday) and 10th November, 2024 (Sunday) at all POLLING STATION LOCATIONS and all VOTER CENTERS** in all districts of NCT of Delhi from 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM as part of ongoing Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls w.r.t. 01.01.2025 as qualifying date. List of voter centres and polling stations is available at <https://ceodelhi.gov.in>

All citizens of Delhi who have already attained the age of 18 years or attaining the age of 18 years as on 01.01.2025 can apply in Form-6 at these SPECIAL CAMPS.

Any eligible citizen, who is going to attain the age of 18 years on or before any of the subsequent qualifying dates in the year **2025**, that is to say, the 1st April 2025, 1st July 2025 or 1st October 2025, may also file his or her claim for inclusion of name in the roll, in Form-6, in advance. Such advance forms shall however, be disposed of in the first month of respective quarter only.

APPEAL

- All new applicants attaining the age of 18 years by 01.10.2025, please apply in Form-6.
- Apply for correction/replacement of EPIC/Shifting/Marking of PwD through Form-8
- Never have name in the electoral roll in more than one constituency or in any constituency more than once. It is a punishable offence u/s 17 & 18 of the Representation of People Act, 1950. Apply for deletion of multiple entry(ies) in Form-7.
- Application can be made online at ECI's Voters' Portal <https://voters.eci.gov.in> or Voter Helpline App /Saksham App (Divyangjan)
- Download prescribed Form from these Websites or Obtain from the Voter Centre and submit at Voter Centre of your Assembly Constituency or your Polling Station Location whose list is available on www.ceodelhi.gov.in
- General Public is also informed that mere holding of Voter Identity card does not entitle the voter to cast his/her vote during election. The name of the voter has to be present in the updated electoral roll. Accordingly, every voter is earnestly requested to check his/her name in the draft electoral roll by any of the following modes:-**

- Online : Visit <https://electoralsearch.eci.gov.in>
- Mobile App : "Voter Helpline" for both searching the name & other electoral services.
"Saksham App for Divyangjan (a fully accessible mobile app of ECI)
- Helpline : Call 1950

Sd/-

DIP/SHABDARTH/CLASSIFIED/0256/24-25

Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi



DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI)
5th FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI 110006

Visit us at <https://www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in/>

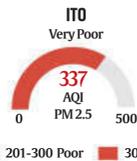
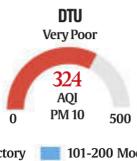
PUBLIC NOTICE

In compliance with order passed by Hon'ble NGT on 20.05.2020 in O.A. No. 46/2018 in the matter of N Jayasimha Vs Govt of NCT of Delhi, CPCB has framed "Guidelines for Environmental Management of Dairy Farms and Gaushalas". The guidelines framed by CPCB are available at the website of DPCC i.e. on dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in

Subsequent to the guidelines, the Dairy Farms & Gaushalas have been categorized as Orange and Green Category respectively based on the directions given by CPCB under **Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981** on 10.07.2020. The categorization is available on the DPCC site

In compliance of the orders of Hon'ble High Court in the case in O.A. No. 13236/2022 in the matter of Sunayana Sibal Vs GNCTD, **all gaushalas, the stand alone dairy farms having 15 or above cattle and all the dairies operating in dairy colonies in Delhi (irrespective of the number of cattle), which are registered with MCD, are hereby directed to immediately apply on-line for Consent under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as per relevant category, in DPCC within 15 days from issue of this notice** failing which further necessary action under relevant acts shall be initiated.

Member Secretary (DPCC)



SKYWATCH
 November 10
 Smog/shallow fog mist likely in the morning and night. Mainly clear sky.
MAX: 32 2.5°C above normal
MIN: 18 3.7°C above normal

Year after their removal, Delhi govt reinstates 10,000 bus marshals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE DELHI government has approved the reinstatement of 10,000 Civil Defence Volunteers (CDVs), who were removed as bus marshals last year, to enforce various anti-pollution measures in the Capital, Chief Minister Atishi said Saturday. The temporary deployment will begin Monday with plans to soon present a proposal on their permanent appointment to Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, she added. Initially deployed in 2017 to ensure passenger safety in public transport buses, the marshals will be seen in their new role till February next year.

"For the next four months, bus marshals and civil defence volunteers will contribute to the fight against pollution. Call-out notices for the marshals will be issued

from Monday, and they can proceed to register at different DM offices. Deployment for pollution control efforts will follow within 2-3 days of registration," CM Atishi said.

Their tasks will now include monitoring pollution control centers, curbing open burning, managing construction waste, halting the illegal use of diesel generators, and addressing complaints received via the Green Delhi app.

The reinstatement comes amid a political blame game between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the BJP who have accused each other of mishandling the issue of the bus marshals' termination and their delayed reinstatement.

Addressing the controversy, CM Atishi hit out at the BJP, stating, "The impact of these bus marshals has been evident. They have prevented incidents of harassment against women,



CM Atishi addresses a press conference at the Delhi Secretariat Saturday. PTI

thwarted kidnapping attempts, and provided assistance to the elderly... However, the BJP was displeased with the safety of women, children, and the elderly, and with 10,000 youths from low-income families finding work as marshals. Consequently, the BJP conspired through its officials to halt the salaries of these marshals from April 2023." Atishi also accused the BJP of

deliberately blocking the disbursement of salaries despite repeated directives from Delhi ministers and former CM Arvind Kejriwal. "In October 2023, they ensured that these 10,000 bus marshals and civil defence volunteers lost their jobs. This left women on buses feeling insecure and rendered over 10,000 young individuals unemployed. Arvind Kejriwal made it a point to reinstate these marshals, determined to restore their jobs regardless of the challenges," she alleged.

Highlighting the struggles faced by the volunteers, Atishi noted, "For over a year, bus marshals and civil defence volunteers have been protesting on the streets, and the Delhi government, its ministers, and AAP MLAs have stood by them. From street protests to facing police brutality and arrests, AAP MLAs and ministers have stood shoulder to shoulder with the marshals

in their fight."

Meanwhile, the BJP criticised the government for delays in the reinstatement process. "Under pressure from the Delhi BJP, CM Atishi Marlena has been forced to order the reinstatement of Civil Defence Volunteers on duty starting from November 11. The Chief Minister has kept the civil defence personnel unemployed until now. The truth is that Arvind Kejriwal and Atishi Marlena do not wish to employ them," claimed Delhi BJP chief Virender Sachdeva. The BJP has demanded that the volunteers' wages be paid from November 1 as per the L-C's order.

The CDVs were removed from November 1, 2023 after objections were raised by finance and revenue departments that they were meant to serve in disaster mitigation related works and their deployment as bus marshals was wrong.

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

BJP says govt 'unwilling to adopt any central scheme', AAP hits back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE AAP government in Delhi and Opposition BJP on Saturday locked horns over the delay in the implementation of the Health Information Management System (HIMS) due to lack of a specific software at the core of the initiative, which seeks to digitise health services in the Capital.

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta, wrote to Chief Minister Atishi demanding the implementation of the system with the Union government's software at its foundation.

Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, who reviewed the project on Friday, hit back, attributing the delay to the non-availability of the requisite software platform for the system due to a "U-turn" by the bureaucracy.

Gupta wrote to the CM saying that the effectiveness of the software used by the Centre, which was developed to digitise healthcare services, ensure tracking of patient health records, facilitate smooth hospital management, prevent misuse of public funds, and improve the entire healthcare system, is evident.

"For several years now, it has been successfully used in 738 hospitals nationwide, including the Union government's Safdarjung Hospital and Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital... despite an announcement in the 2016-17 Budget, the Delhi government has failed to implement HIMS," he added.

"Three months ago, the Delhi chief secretary and principal secretary (Health) also expressed

concern over the delay in its implementation and recommended action to the health minister. However, the Delhi government appears indifferent and is completely apathetic," he added.

Both the 'e-Hospital' and 'Next Gen Hospital' software developed by the Union government's National Informatics Centre (NIC) were "widely accepted across India", Gupta argued. He alleged that the Delhi government was "intentionally delaying its implementation", suggesting that it "fears its corruption will be exposed" and seemed "biased and unwilling to adopt any central scheme".

"The government did not extend the benefits of the Prime Minister's Ayushman Bharat scheme to the residents of Delhi and is now creating obstacles in the implementation of this," he said, urging the CM to "avoid politicising the matter".

Hitting back, Bharadwaj said that at a meeting with the NIC team over the project last year, its software was found to be lacking some important modules for running the operations of healthcare facilities in Delhi.

"...it was further stressed that the solution provided in e-Hospital by NIC seems to be deficient in critical features necessary for HIMS of GNCTD (Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi)... for next one year, the file was never submitted... a technical committee was supposed to be formed for examination of HIMS modules... however, the file was dumped," he alleged in a note on the matter.

"The department also did not start the process of retendering as

was decided earlier. It is strange that suddenly in January, 2024, the secretary (Health) changed his stance... and concluded that HIMS of NIC will be suitable for GNCTD," he added.

Due to "continuous insistence" by the secretary (Health) and the chief secretary at that time, Bharadwaj said, he had visited a central government-run hospital where the NIC's e-Hospital was implemented. He said that he had several queries regarding the capacity and the willingness of the NIC to implement features related to flagship Delhi government schemes.

"In spite of following up with NIC several times, it has not agreed to develop the modules as per the requirement specified... the secretary (Health) is insisting that... e-hospital should be implemented if they are not agreeing to implement the requirements of GNCTD," Bharadwaj said.

"It has been noted... that Government of India (GOI), through Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has recommended the use of MeitY and GOI softwares for health management system, which includes e-Hospital of NIC and e-Shrut application by C-DAC. Therefore, as far as recommendations of Centre are concerned, both these softwares are equally recommended... C-DAC has agreed to develop the modules demanded by GNCTD, while NIC has not," he added.

"It is, therefore, directed that the department should take necessary approvals from the finance and other departments to implement C-DAC HIMS in the health facilities of GNCTD," Bharadwaj directed.

Three juveniles open fire twice within 10 mins, one killed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

AMAN was killed and another injured in two incidents of shooting carried out by three juveniles within a span of 10 minutes in separate areas of Northeast Delhi early Saturday. All three — in the 16-17 age group — have been apprehended, said police.

The deceased has been identified as Nadeem (24). The police said that around 1.30 am, three bike-borne assailants arrived at Kabir Nagar and fired at three men — Nadeem, Aman and Shanwaz — who were on a scooter. Nadeem and Shanwaz were hit and rushed to the GTB hospital. "While Nadeem was declared brought dead, Shanwaz, who was shot on his right leg, is recovering," DCP (Northeast) Rakesh Pawaria said.

Meanwhile, after the shooting, the assailants took Nadeem's scooter and moved towards Kardampuri in nearby Jyoti Nagar. Within 10 minutes, they opened fire in front of the house of a person named Rahul (24). "As per CCTV camera footage, the same people took part in both incidents of firing," Pawaria said.

The police said the three accused had allegedly taken a loan from Nadeem, which they claimed to have returned with interest. "However, they claimed that Nadeem was asking them to pay additional interest and hence, they killed him," Pawaria said.

The police said that the three juveniles were paid by a local gangster to open fire outside Rahul's house. "We are trying to confirm the identity of this gangster," an officer said.



BLANKET OF SMOG

New Delhi witnessed a smoggy morning on Saturday. Despite a slight improvement in the evening, the air quality remained 'very poor' with an AQI of 351 being recorded at 6 pm. Praveen Khanna

GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR

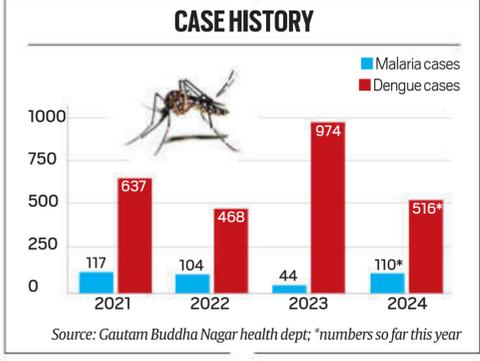
Malaria cases up by 150%, dengue dips

NEETIKA JHA
 NOIDA, NOVEMBER 9

THE NUMBER of malaria cases has increased by 150 per cent in a year while that of dengue has seen a 47 per cent decline in Delhi-NCR's Gautam Buddha Nagar.

On Saturday, the number of malaria and dengue cases stood at 110 and 516, respectively, according to a senior official of the health department. Last year, only 44 dengue cases were reported as opposed to 974 dengue cases.

On Saturday alone, the district hospital screened 11 dengue positive cases. "Among the total number of suspected patients, 11 were found to be dengue positive with mild symptoms," said Dr Shruti



Verma, District Malaria Officer, Gautam Buddha Nagar. The district so far has not

recorded any death due to dengue whereas last year, two patients had succumbed to the infection,

she added. Verma attributed the rise in malaria cases to increased testing and more inclusion — of anyone with even a mild symptom. In 2023, she said, around 300 cases of dengue were reported from Greater Noida West, but this year only two to three cases were seen in that area. "Gautam Buddha Nagar has set a target to have zero malaria cases by 2027. To reach this target, we have intensified the number of camps and increased awareness regarding the disease and its symptoms. We have extensively included pregnant women in the testing," she added.

"Cases of malaria see a spike in September in Gautam Buddha Nagar whereas dengue cases surge in October," Dr Verma said.

NGO report rues 'pathetic' condition of Gurgaon night shelters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 GURGAON, NOVEMBER 9

THE CONDITION of night shelters under the Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) is "pathetic" and "concerning", falling short of standards set by the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), a survey by an NGO based in Delhi has revealed.

The report by the Centre for Holistic Development, an NGO that works with the urban homeless, was released in October. It compares the existing infrastruc-

ture with the standards set by the NULM and the Scheme of Shelter for Urban Homeless guidelines, which mandates one homeless shelter per lakh population.

While the report draws up its conclusion on the basis of the 2011 Census, which put the population in Gurgaon at 8.8 lakh, the figures have soared multiple times, according to surveys conducted by different departments in the Haryana government.

In response to the report's findings, the MCG stated that more night shelters will be set up to address the demand.



More night shelters will be set up to address the demand, MCG stated. Express

Currently, there are 12 night shelters in Gurgaon district with seven managed by MCG, two by Pataudi Municipal Corporation,

and one each by Manesar, Sohna, and Farrukhnagar municipal corporations. Only three of the 12 are permanent shelters. As per the report, which put the city's homeless at 2,703, three night shelters are being refurbished and three are under construction.

The NGO having visited eight shelters in the district, the report stated, "The conditions in the visited shelter homes are concerning, pathetic, burned, with many facilities appearing poorly maintained... Deplorable condition and management of two night shelters in Pataudi and Gurugram. Recent

incidents of fire have further exacerbated the concerns."

MCG's City Project Officer, Mahendra Singh, said, "Sanitation will be improved as we have given directions to sanitation workers to maintain these set-ups. We will also increase the number of night shelters from seven to 15. In areas where many labourers stay, we will open a shelter — such as at Hero Honda Chowk, Basai Chowk, near Sikanderpur and Sector 18, among others."

"We aim to have a night shelter in every 1-1.5 km radius," he added.



Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav with party workers during the 'Dilli Nyay Yatra' on Saturday. PTI

On Day 2 of Dilli Nyay Yatra, Cong leaders visit religious sites

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE SECOND day of the Delhi Nyay Yatra saw Congress leaders visiting several of the city's iconic religious sites, including Jama Masjid, Gauri Shankar Mandir, Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib, Digambar Jain Mandir, and the Central Baptist Church, showcasing an emphasis on inclusivity and unity.

In a statement, the party said, "The Yatra is the voice of every citizen of Delhi, walking on the path of justice, equality, and rights, aiming to make Delhi strong, prosperous, and happy. (Delhi Congress chief) Devender Yadav is addressing every pain during this journey while paving the way to solve the sufferings of everyone."

The Yatra covered 25 km, passing through the Assembly segments of Chandni Chowk, Sadar, Karol Bagh, Rajinder

Nagar, and Patel Nagar. Taking on AAP and BJP, Yadav said, "Seeing the success of the Nyay Yatra, the BJP and AAP are frustrated and upset. They have no answers for Delhi's problems. Instead, they have only cheated the public with false, baseless, and hollow promises."

He added, "The people now look forward to the Congress for a bright future in Delhi, reminiscent of our governance during the previous 15 years. The Congress will once again work to make Delhi strong, prosperous, and powerful."

"...when Congress workers interacted with people, they received complaints like dirty water or not getting water through DJB pipes, accumulated garbage as the MCD vans rarely come, waterlogging and monsoon mishaps, air pollution and traffic congestion and other such problems... the people are angry because they have suffered," said Yadav.

Capital brings together 4 Indian masters under a roof to celebrate their birth centenary

VANDANA KALRA
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

IN A timeline of Indian art, the year 1924 is certain to find prominence. It marked the birth of four of India's most recognised artists — KG Subramanyan in February, FN Souza in April, Ram Kumar in September and VS Gaitonde in November. Though divergent in their art practice, they shared the common aim of discovering an individual artistic idiom and contributing to the development of

art in India. In their birth centenary year, they are now being celebrated together in an exhibition titled "The Four: Celebrating the Birth Centenary of Four Modern Indian Masters". Organised by Progressive Art Gallery in collaboration with the Raza Foundation at the Triveni Kala Sangam, the exhibition curated by Yashodhara Dalmia brings together works by the four modernists primarily from the gallery collection. "This exhibition is a humble tribute to their genius. While on the one hand it creates a

dialogue between their works, it also celebrates their legacy, the subjects and themes they explored, their understanding of contemporary aspirations and their larger contributions to the development of art in India," notes RN Singh, founder of Progressive Art Gallery.

In the section dedicated to Souza, we see some of the Goan artist's recurring engagements — from distorted human forms to his distinctive heads, a vivid 1944 gauche Goan Peasants in the Market, to the 1957 oil on



The works of VS Gaitonde are displayed at the exhibition being held at Triveni Kala Sangam. Express

board titled The Castle, painted during his years in London. Exhibited on the adjacent wall are his fellow Progressive Artists' Group (a prominent artists collective) member VS Gaitonde's more sublime and luminous abstracts. While the display includes his meditative renditions, it also features a 1950s figurative painting by Gaitonde, before he turned to "non-objective" representations.

Banker-turned-journalist-turned artist Ram Kumar is represented by his famous depic-

tions of Banaras, a city he visited innumerable times since he first travelled there with artist MF Husain in 1960. If in a 1989 canvas In Memory of Banaras, we see the city in sombre shades, in a 1961 oil on canvas a lone figure ruminates.

Finding a place at the centre of the room are KG Subramanyan's wooden toy sculptures. Also on view are the polymath's watercolours that draw from his surroundings as well as the more animated reverse glass paintings. If the 2011

acrylic Leela has a man and a woman in conversation, with plants, animals and birds in the foreground, in 2002 Peacock Throne, Subramanyan comments on the socio-political scenario.

In a note on the exhibition that is on till November 10, Ashok Vajpeyi, managing trustee of the Raza Foundation, notes, "The four artists were born in almost four corners of the country. In a way, these artists through their religious, intellectual, familial, and regional backgrounds reflected the overall plural reality of India."

5 DECISION 2024

MAHARASHTRA • JHARKHAND



I HEREBY DECLARE



IMTIAZ JALEEL, 55, AIMIM candidate from Aurangabad East

TOTAL ASSETS
₹3.85 CR (2024)
₹2.95 CR (2019)

Movable assets	₹1 cr
Immovable assets	₹2.85cr
Liabilities	₹0.24 cr
Criminal cases	6
Education	Master in Business Administration



VIJAY KUMARGAVIT, 69, Bharatiya Janata Party candidate from Nandurbar

TOTAL ASSETS
₹35.58 CR (2024)
₹27.15 CR (2019)

Movable assets	₹5.37 cr
Immovable assets	₹54.68cr
Liabilities	₹6.90cr
Criminal cases	Nil
Education	MBBS

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KEY PLAYERS

BORN OUT OF JHARKHAND MOVEMENT, BJP ALLY JSU TRIES TO MAKE A MARK IN COMING POLLS

FISSURES WITHIN MAHAYUTI ALLIANCE

Why Ajit frowned on Yogi: Sharad Pawar's heat, keeping 'secular' vote

NCP does not want rallies of Yogi or PM in its seats; Ajit says not needed as his is a family fight

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 9

THE BJP's star campaigner and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's "batenge toh katenge (divided we fall)" remark on Tuesday during campaigning in Maharashtra has exposed fissures in the ruling Mahayuti, with NCP chief Ajit Pawar distancing himself from such comments saying the state is committed to communal harmony.

The NCP has also decided not to hold rallies of the UP CM, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and even Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the constituencies that it is contesting.

Targeting the Opposition Congress for "pitting one caste against another", PM Modi, while addressing rallies in Dhule and Nashik on Friday coined the slogan, "Ek hai toh safe hai (Together, we are safe)".

To a question from reporters, Ajit Pawar said he did not request PM Modi to hold a rally in his Baramati seat because the fight there is "within the family". Ajit, the sitting MLA, is pitted against his nephew Yugendra Pawar of the Sharad Pawar-led NCP(SP) in the constituency.

Ajit is facing a battle of survival in the November 20 Assembly polls. His perceived discomfort



NCP is also ensuring that Mahayuti allies do not make personal remarks on Sharad Pawar. X

over the UP CM's remarks stems from the point that the hardline Hindutva approach of his allies — the BJP and the CM Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena — may alienate the NCP's "secular" vote, especially Muslims. Condemning Adityanath's remarks, Ajit had said Maharashtra, which follows Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Jyotiba Phule, cannot be compared to other states.

"The life and teachings of Shivaji are inclusive, and united all communities and classes. People from other states often come to

Maharashtra and speak their mind but such remarks are not liked by the people here and are unacceptable," he said Friday.

Since his July 2023 rebellion and subsequent entry into the NDA fold, Ajit has maintained that the "development agenda" of PM Modi drew him towards the ruling alliance. He has repeatedly brushed aside alleged communal remarks made by allies and right-wing organisations.

As a part of the Mahayuti, the NCP is contesting 53 seats of the 288, of which the party will be in

a straight fight with the NCP (SP) in 41 seats, including 20 in sugar belt of western Maharashtra, which is known as the Pawars' stronghold. The BJP is in the fray in 148 seats while the Shiv Sena has fielded its party candidates in 80 seats.

His allies' "hard Hindutva" stance has landed Ajit in a spot even in the Baramati seat from where he is seeking a record ninth term, facing a formidable battle against Yugendra Pawar.

The NCP leaders are also going out of their way to ensure that

their allies refrain from making any personal remarks against Sharad Pawar, Ajit's uncle, as they feel it would help the NCP(SP) garner sympathy votes. Instead, the party wants to keep the focus on its "development" agenda, with Ajit being seen to aggressively push the Mahayuti's flagship scheme, the Ladki Bahin Yojana for women, in its campaign.

NCP sources said this decision was taken after Shah, at a BJP event in Pune a few months ago, called Sharad Pawar a "kingpin of corruption who has institutionalised it in the country". More recently, a Mahayuti leader and MLC Sadabhau Khot made some alleged derogatory remarks against the octogenarian over his facial disfigurement due to oral cancer.

Shah's comments had triggered outrage among the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) parties and also evoked a reaction from the NCP(SP) chief, who is usually not known to respond to personal attacks. "It is strange that someone who was exteemed from a city by the Supreme Court is currently the Home Minister of the country," Pawar had then hit back at Shah.

The BJP downplayed Ajit's criticism of Adityanath's remarks, claiming "such differences" are "natural". "This does not threaten our coalition and will not affect the polls," a senior BJP leader said.



Harshvardhan and Sanjana belong to prominent political families in the Aurangabad area. Facebook/X

In Maharashtra seat, battle hits home: husband, wife slug it out

Independent Harshvardhan faces Sena's Sanjana Jadhav in Kannad

ZEEZHAN SHAIKH
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 9

FOR THE residents of Kannad, a small town located 330 km east of Mumbai, the story of the Jadhav family is an example of the deepening political polarisation in Maharashtra, where even the closest personal ties are not immune to an ideological divide.

The constituency has become a battleground for an unusual political rivalry. Harshvardhan Jadhav, a former two-term MLA, is contesting as an Independent, while his wife Sanjana Jadhav, daughter of senior BJP leader and former Union minister Raosaheb Danve, has chosen to run as a Shiv Sena candidate from the seat.

The clash between them will see a seasoned political player take on a "rising star" backed by the ruling Mahayuti alliance.

The Jadhav family hails from influential political families of Aurangabad and the neighbouring Jalna district. Harshvardhan Jadhav, 47, is the son of the late Raibhan Jadhav, a former Congress MLA from Kannad. His own political journey, however, has been far from being conventional, marked by numerous twists and turns. After an unsuccessful first attempt in the 2004 Assembly elections as an Independent, he made a dramatic comeback in 2009, winning the Kannad seat on a Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) ticket.

Jadhav quit the MNS in 2013 and later contested the 2014 elections on a Shiv Sena ticket and won, but his alliance with the Sena proved short-lived. In 2018, he resigned as an MLA in protest against the government's handling of the Maratha reservation agitation.

In the 2019 Aurangabad Lok Sabha elections, he played a crucial role in ensuring the defeat of Sena candidate Chandrakant Khaire. Running as an Independent, he garnered 2.83 lakh votes, which ultimately led

to Khaire's loss by just 4,492 votes to the AIMIM's Imtiaz Jaleel.

Harshvardhan's tumultuous political innings intersected with his personal life, leading to a fallout with his wife. Known for openly discussing his own struggle with mental health, he has faced serious allegations in recent years, including an assault on a family in Pune and accusations of physical violence from a female acquaintance.

In his affidavit for the 2024 Assembly elections, Harshvardhan disclosed that he has been "separated since 2019 but not yet divorced". His wife, on the other hand, still lists herself as married in her affidavit.

Sanjana also comes from a political family. She is the daughter of former BJP Maharashtra chief Raosaheb Danve and a member of the Aurangabad Zilla Parishad. Though initially aligned with the BJP, Sanjana shifted to the Shiv Sena last month and managed to get a nomination. The party swap was necessitated as the undivided Sena had won the seat in 2019 and Shiv Sena leader and CM Eknath Shinde was unwilling to relinquish his claim on the seat.

Harshvardhan's decision to re-enter politics by contesting against his wife has raised eyebrows, especially given that he had announced in 2020 that he was stepping away from politics. "My successor in politics will be my wife... Every household has its differences, but I am firmly behind Sanjana," he had said at the time, endorsing her as his political successor.

For his part, Harshvardhan is blaming the BJP for allegedly orchestrating the rift within his family for political gain. "By creating a split in the family, one political party has given her a ticket. Raosaheb Danve is behind this. They have torn my house apart and made my wife run against me. People spend festivals with their families, but this party has forced me to celebrate Diwali away from my loved ones because of its politics," he alleged.

Soren attacks BJP's infiltration narrative: 'We are not divided'

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, NOVEMBER 9

AT A press conference on Saturday, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren lashed out at the BJP's "infiltration" narrative and said the party would be "beaten in the state".

Soren hit out at Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav's recent statement at a rally in Ranchi that Soren's JMM government has turned Ranchi into "Pakistan's Karachi". He also made an apparent reference to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's "batenge to katenge (divided we fall)" remarks as well.

"The 'Ranchi, Karachi' comment... These people (BJP) are intellectual people and have learnt a lot of things... We are not divided, and we will not be divided. This (Jharkhand) election, these people (the BJP) will surely be beaten."

In its campaign, the BJP has been raising the issue of the "Bangladeshi infiltrators", allegedly marrying tribal women, buying land and usurping jobs meant for locals, especially in the tribal-dominated Santhal Pargana region comprising six



Soren spoke of the 'excesses' of central agencies. Facebook

districts. They are: Dumka, Jamtara, Godda, Sahebganj, Pakur and Deoghar.

Asked about its ally Congress's campaign for the Jharkhand polls, Soren said: "Not all fingers of the hand are the same". He added that their coalition partner was doing things as "per their own capability".

Soren also spoke of the Election Commission of India (EC), accusing it of being "biased" especially in the episode involving his proposer Mandal Murmu who joined the BJP.

On October 27, Mandal Murmu's vehicle was chased and stopped by the Girdih police. It was followed by his brief detention. He was reportedly ac-

companied 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". Murmu went on to join the BJP days later. "People view things according to their own inclination. I think this (BJP trying to induct Mandal Murmu) was wrong. There is a justice system... People can go there to seek justice," said the CM.

On the recent IT raids at the premises of his Personal Secretary Sunil Shrivastav, the CM said the Centre was committing "excesses". "Before 2014, there was never a case of agencies raiding any political party or leaders' residence."

IMAGE OF THE DAY



CASTING HER VOTE: An elderly woman in Mumbai casts her vote as part of the early home-voting facility on Saturday. PTI

DECODE POLITICS

PM Modi says JMM ally RJD once opposed Jharkhand formation. Did it?

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

IN HIS campaign for the upcoming Jharkhand Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, while slamming the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-Congress alliance, said that the RJD had opposed the formation of Jharkhand as a separate state but the JMM joined hands with the RJD to form the government in the state.

The records of parliamentary proceedings show that the RJD MPs had in principle supported the formation of Jharkhand, but had raised various concerns while calling it a "politically motivated" move by the NDA-ruled Centre. They had also pointed out that the Lalu Prasad-led RJD government had passed a resolution in the Bihar Assembly in July 1997 for the formation of

Jharkhand as a separate state.

On Wednesday, hitting back at the BJP, the RJD reiterated that the party was not opposed to the formation of Jharkhand but to the "unjust" distribution of resources between Jharkhand and Bihar from which the tribal state was carved out.

How was Jharkhand created?

Jharkhand was one of the three new states that were created in 2000 during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government with the other two being Chhattisgarh (carved out from Madhya Pradesh) and Uttaranchal (now Uttarakhand, carved out from Uttar Pradesh).

Then Union Home Minister L K Advani moved the Bihar Reorganisation Bill in the Lok Sabha on August 2, 2000, following which it was passed. The Rajya Sabha then passed the Bill on August 11 that year and the state of Jharkhand officially



PM Modi claimed the RJD had opposed the formation of Jharkhand as a separate state. PTI

came into existence on November 15, 2000.

What did RJD MPs say in the LS debate?

Demanding the withdrawal of the Bill, RJD MP from Vaishali,

Raghuvansh Prasad Singh charged that Jharkhand was being created for "political reasons". "On the basis of all the documents and proof, I would like to say that Jharkhand is not going to develop with these

arrangements. It will remain poor and so will Bihar. They (BJP-led Centre) are forming a new state for political reasons. If you are not forming it keeping political considerations, why are you spending so little?" Singh had

said and demanded that the Bill be referred to a Standing Committee or a Joint Select Committee. The RJD's Maharajganj MP, Prabunath Singh too echoed Raghuvansh's views.

Nagmani, the Chitra MP, pointed out that the Bihar Assembly had unanimously passed a resolution in support of Jharkhand's formation. "We, on behalf of the RJD, want to say that the state of Jharkhand may be created. But we demand a special package to make good the damages caused by the annual floods," he had said.

Samata Party MP from Khagaria, Renu Kumari too supported the formation of the new state and also highlighted the resolution passed in the Bihar Assembly. "No one was expecting that a year after the Lalu government passed the resolution supporting the formation of Jharkhand, the head of the gov-

ernment (Lalu, although his wife Rabri Devi was then CM) would say that the state would be formed over his dead body and that the people of North-Central Bihar would face starvation," the MP said.

What was Advani's reply?

Replying to the debate, Advani said the Centre would be accountable and will tackle the financial difficulties of Bihar.

"When small states were created, prima-facie it seemed that these will not be viable economically. Still, they desired that their state should be created... The reason behind this desire is that they want their identity to shine," Advani said. He had added: "Though it may not be financially viable, it has its importance and everyone knows the importance of financial viability. It becomes the duty of the nation to worry about the financial viability of a state."

What is RJD's stand?

The RJD maintains that Lalu was not opposed to the formation of Jharkhand but only wanted "justice in division". "After bifurcation, while 80% of Bihar's resources went to Jharkhand, 80% of the population stayed in Bihar. Modi must answer why economic injustice was meted out to Bihar during division," RJD national spokesperson Nawal Kishore has claimed recently.

How has RJD fared in Jharkhand polls?

After the inception of Jharkhand, the RJD's political fortunes in the new state declined. In the 2014 polls, the RJD contested 14 seats but drew a blank while in 2019, it contested seven seats but managed to win only one — Chitra. In the upcoming polls, the RJD will contest seven seats as part of the incumbent JMM-led alliance.

6 GOVT & POLITICS

COVID EQUIPMENT 'SCAM'

Panel recommends prosecution of BSY, ex-minister; former CM says won't bow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 9

AN INTERIM report by a committee formed by the Karnataka Congress government to investigate alleged irregularities in purchase of equipment and medicines during Covid-19 pandemic has recommended prosecution of former CM B S Yediyurappa and former health minister B Sriramulu for alleged corruption.

The Justice John Michael D'Cunha committee submitted its interim report on August 31. The report said that the committee found alleged irregularities in the imports of 3 lakh PPE kits in 2020 from China, which resulted in an excess payment of ₹14 crore as transportation cost apart from over ₹1.22 crore of excess payment for the PPE kits.

"As the price quoted by both the suppliers included the freight and transportation charges, the additional expenditure towards freight and transportation (excluding GST and IGST) has resulted in undue benefit to the suppliers to an extent of Rs 14,21,72,421," the report said.

"The additional transportation and freight charges for import of total 3 lakh PPE kits from Chinese firms in 2020 was facilitated by corrigendum issued on April 6, 2021 and the payment was wholly arbitrary, mala fide, without authority of law and was intended to confer undue advantage to the supplier to the extent of ₹14,21,72,421," it said.

"The conduct of the then Chief Minister and the then Health Minister in approving the contract and the subsequent corrigendum amounts to criminal misconduct within the meaning of Sec.7 and Sec.11 of the Prevention of Corruption Act," it said.

"The Commission recom-

mends initiation of disciplinary action against the then Additional Director/Signatory to the above corrigendum, and initiation of criminal prosecution against the then CM and the then Health Minister for the offence under Sec.7 and Sec.11 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988, as amended and Sec.405/406 of IPC and simultaneous action for recovery of the excess amount of ₹14,21,72,421 from the supplier M/s DHB Global Hong Kong (China) as per law," the report said.

Reacting to the recommendation against him, Yediyurappa said he "won't bow down to such threats", and hit out at CM Siddaramaiah, asking him to abstain from "politics of conspiracy" and face the charges against him.

"... With no other way, Siddaramaiah is trying to dig out old things, what we had done honestly. This will in no way benefit them... let them do whatever they want, I have strength to face it," he said.

State BJP chief and Yediyurappa's son B Y Vijayendra, said, "The report seems to be a report of assumptions and presumptions... There needs to be a set of facts constituting an offence. Only thereafter can an inquiry or investigation be launched."

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy called the release of parts of the report "politically motivated" and "an attempt by the ruling government to misuse its agencies and officials to suppress opposition leaders".

Congress spokesperson Ramesh Babu said that criminal cases should be filed based on the report and the "looted money should be recovered". "The Covid scam of BJP leaders has been exposed. They bought PPE kits from firms in China at 10 times the cost to cheat and play with people's lives."

WITH PTI INPUTS



Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, CDS General Anil Chauhan, ex-minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in Dehradun during state Foundation Day celebrations, Saturday. ANI

Uttarakhand income doubled since 2014, GST collection rose by 14% this yr: Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 9

FROM FOCUSING on preserving Uttarakhand's local dialects and respecting pilgrimage sites to avoiding use of single-use plastic and supporting local artisans, PM Narendra Modi highlighted several ways in which residents and tourists could help "foster" Uttarakhand's development.

In a video address at the Police Raitik Parade held at the Police Lines at Uttarakhand's silver jubilee Foundation Day celebrations, Modi highlighted how the "double engine" government helped its "progress", citing examples such as meeting its Sustainable Development Goals to improve its ease of doing business in 2023.

"Today, as India embarks on its 25-year Amrit Kaal, Uttarakhand too must advance towards a vision of development aligned with the nation's aspirations," he said.

Modi emphasised the auspicious symbolism of November 9, requesting that locals focus planting a tree in their mother's name, conserving water, maintaining village connections, and beautifying homes with traditional Tibari designs.

Reflecting on Uttarakhand's growth, Modi cited the "success"

of "Pravasi Uttarakhand Sammelan" held earlier this week and acknowledged the efforts made to establish the state under the leadership of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He expressed gratitude for the state's support, reaffirming his commitment to serving Uttarakhand and sharing the belief that "this decade will prove transformative for the state."

Highlighting Uttarakhand's progress, Modi noted milestones in economic growth and infrastructure development. "The state's income has more than doubled since 2014, with the GST collection rising by 14% this year, indicating robust industrial growth and new opportunities for youth."

Modi announced new infrastructure projects, including a satellite centre for AIIMS, the country's first drone application research centre, and a planned smart industrial township in US Nagar. He also underscored connectivity improvements, with projects like the Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail line scheduled for 2026 and the Dehradun-Delhi Expressway, which will reduce travel time to just 2.5 hours.

He highlighted the "unprecedented" growth of tourism, saying the state saw 6 crore tourists and pilgrims this year — far exceeding the pre-2014 figure of 24 lakh Chardham pilgrims.

TRUDEAU AT DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

'Many supporters of Khalistan in Canada, don't represent all Sikhs'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
OTTAWA, NOVEMBER 9

CANADIAN PRIME Minister Justin Trudeau has acknowledged the presence of Khalistan supporters in Canada saying they do not represent the Sikh community as a whole.

His comments came during Diwali celebrations at Ottawa's Parliament Hill amid the ongoing diplomatic row with India over the killing of Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

"There are many supporters of Khalistan in Canada, but they do not represent the Sikh Community as a whole. Similarly, there are supporters of Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi's government in Canada, but they do not represent all Hindu Canadians," Trudeau said.

The relations between the two countries came under severe strain following Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Nijjar's killing. New Delhi has rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd".

Whoever says 'ek hain to safe hain' can't keep nation together: Sukhu targets Modi

ENS & PTI
SHIMLA, MUMBAI, NOV 9

HIMACHAL PRADESH CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Saturday slammed the BJP over "batenge katenge" slogan and said that it was against India's culture, unity and integrity. Whoever says "ek hain to safe hain" cannot keep the nation together, he said.

At a press conference in Mumbai, Sukhu, his Telangana counterpart A Revanth Reddy and Karnataka Deputy CMD K Shivakumar also listed the guarantees implemented by Congress in their states to counter the BJP's allegation that the grand old party was not fulfilling the pre-poll promises.

To media queries about PM Narendra Modi's 'Ek hain to safe hain' message, Sukhu said, "whoever speaks like this cannot keep the nation together".

"Our culture is to keep the nation united. The Congress ideology has laid a strong foundation for a progressive India with its prime ministers implementing policies prioritising national interests and setting the country on the path of development," Sukhu said.

Meanwhile, Shivakumar said Mahayuti leaders should visit his state to see how Congress's welfare schemes are benefiting people. "Whenever the Congress comes to power, it implements one or the other scheme for each section of the society... We are not looking at votes but development of the state," he said.

Reddy accused the PM of lying about the scheme pertaining to his state. "We are systematically implementing the guarantees," he said. He said his government waived the farm loans after coming to power. "Farm loans of 22,22,067 farmers were waived, which cost the government ₹17,869 crore," he said.

Ministry asks Maharashtra to address forced eviction concerns of 33 families in Tadoba-Andhari Reserve

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE MINISTRY of Tribal Affairs has directed the Maharashtra government to address complaints of "non-recognition of forest rights and forced eviction" raised by families living in Rantalodhi village inside the core area of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve.

On October 21, the ministry wrote to the Tribal Development Department of the Maharashtra government, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Chandrapur District Collector Vinay Gowda to address a petition sent to it.

The petition by families liv-



Canadian PM Justin Trudeau during Diwali celebrations at Ottawa's Parliament Hill on Monday. AP File

India expelled six Canadian diplomats and withdrew its High Commissioner Sanjay Verma and other "targeted" officials from Canada after strongly dismissing Ottawa's charges.

India has said the main issue between the two countries is that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistan elements operating with impunity.

On November 3, Khalistani supporters disrupted a consular

event co-organised by the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton and the Indian Consulate.

The incident was condemned by Trudeau who said every Canadian has the right to practise their faith freely and safely.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said that New Delhi remains "deeply concerned" about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada.



'A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY' GIFT

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav celebrates the birthday of Khazanchi Nath, who was born in 1916 when his mother was in a bank queue after demonetisation, in Lucknow, Saturday. Vishal Srivastav

Demonetisation, GST weapons to kill farmers, labourers: Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMSHEDPUR, DHANBAD, NOV 9

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi Saturday attacked the BJP-led Centre, alleging that its policies on demonetisation and GST were "weapons to kill farmers, labourers and the poor in the country".

He also claimed that a battle is on in India between the ideologies of the BJP-RSS and INDIA bloc, who are believers of hatred and love, respectively. The battle is also between violence and unity, he claimed.

"The policies of Narendra Modi are responsible for spreading unemployment in India. Demonetisation, GST are weapons to kill the poor, farmers and labourers," he said at a poll rally in Jamshedpur.

"The BJP and RSS are playing



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Jharkhand's Baghmara, Saturday. PTI

politics to divide India on the basis of caste, religion and language. The Congress wants to protect the Constitution of India, while the BJP-RSS is hell-bent on destroying it," Gandhi alleged.

He accused PM Narendra Modi of funding capitalists who in turn invest money abroad.

At another at Baghmara in

The Indian consulate in Toronto said it was scrapping some of the planned consular events this month because of Canadian "security agencies conveying their inability to provide minimum security protection" to organisers.

ENS adds: Hours after the Brampton violence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned the "deliberate attack on a Hindu temple" and called on the Canadian government to "ensure justice and uphold the rule of law".

The standoff deepened this week after Canada blocked an Australian news outlet which aired a press conference by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Australian counterpart Penny Wong in Canberra where he made some strong remarks on the India-Canada standoff.

Stating it was "surprised" over the "strange" Canadian move, the Ministry of External Affairs said the action "yet again highlights the hypocrisy of Canada towards freedom of speech".



TMC leaders Derek O'Brien, Kirti Azad, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Sushmita Dev and Saket Gokhale at the EC office, Saturday. PTI

TMC to EC: Central forces engaging in illegal activities, intimidating voters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE TMC Saturday submitted two complaints to the Election Commission, including one seeking an "urgent inquiry regarding central forces" during the bypolls to six Assembly seats in the state.

In a letter to the EC, the TMC said that it has been brought to the party's notice "that CAPF personnel alone, without presence of the State Police, are engaging in various illegal activities at the behest of their political masters".

"They are entering private residences to intimidate voters and adversely influence them to cast their votes in favour of the BJP. Such partisan behaviour is illegally skewing the impartiality and sanctity of the ensuing elections," said the letter.

A TMC delegation went to the EC and submitted the complaints on Saturday afternoon.

The party said in its letter that it was worth mentioning the "synergy between State and Central Forces is of paramount importance in ensuring secure and impartial elections..."

It then pointed out provisions of the Election Commission's Manual on Force Deployment in

Elections 2023, saying that as per rules, "every CAPF team should be provided with a representative of the local police from the time of their induction till the completion of the electoral process".

"This provision underscores the importance of balanced force deployment and coordination between CAPF personnel and local state police for the conduct of free and fair elections," the letter, signed by Sudip Bandyopadhyay, TMC parliamentary leader in the Lok Sabha, Derek O'Brien, TMC parliamentary leader in the Rajya Sabha, and other MPs.

"Given the gravity of these allegations, we urge the Commission to take immediate cognizance of the matter and provide clarity on the deployment protocols," the letter said.

In a separate letter, the TMC said, "Sir, it has come to our notice that on 07.11.2024, Shri Sukanta Majumdar who is the BJP State President in West Bengal, delivered a false, derogatory and defamatory speech during an election rally in poll-bound Taldangra. Shri Sukanta Majumdar has also insulted the State Emblem of India and the State Police by stating that police personnel should replace the Emblem on their uniforms with icons resembling footwear."

"The Commission should take immediate cognizance of the matter and provide clarity on the deployment protocols," the letter said.

Rahul showed fake copy of Constitution, insult to Ambedkar, says Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PALAMU, RANCHI, NOV 9

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Saturday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of making a mockery of the Constitution by showing a "fake" copy of it.

Shah was referring to the alleged distribution of copies of the Constitution with inside pages blank at a recent rally in Nagpur. He claimed that the BJP will never allow the Congress to implement reservations for minorities.

"Rahul Gandhi was exposed two days back. Someone got a copy of the Constitution he has shown. The Constitution was written on the cover of that copy but the pages were blank. Don't make a mockery of the Constitution. By waving a fake copy of the Constitution, you have insulted B R Ambedkar and the Constituent Assembly," Shah alleged at a rally in Palamu.

"The Congress was against OBC quota, it promised 10% reservation to minorities when a



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a rally in Jamshedpur on Saturday. ANI

delegation of Ulemas met Congress leaders in Maharashtra. Under PM Modi's leadership, the BJP will never allow religion-based reservations," Shah said.

He also attacked the Congress for its alleged attempts to restore Article 370 in J&K. "Kashmir is an integral part of India. I warn Rahul Gandhi that every your fourth generation cannot bring back Article 370," he said and alleged that the Congress made Kashmir the hub of terrorism. "Its leaders used to be afraid to go to Lal Chowk, but now I ask them to fearlessly visit Lal Chowk."

UP BJP leader quits over 'verbal abuse' audio clips

Meerut: Bareilly city unit chief of BJP's minority cell Anees Ansari resigned Friday after audio clips surfaced on social media, allegedly containing "obscene language" and "verbal abuse" between him and a woman.

Ansari has denied the charges in a letter to party's Bareilly unit chief Adheer Saxena, and called it a "conspiracy" against him by a group of YouTubers "in league" with the woman. The woman filed a police complaint on October 14 alleging that Ansari and his accomplices threatened to kill her and her 2 children. On October 10, Ansari filed a police complaint alleging he was "honeytrapped" by the woman and 2 YouTubers. SP (Bareilly) Manush Pareek said, "We are investigating." ENS

EXPLAINED Why families claim rights' violation

UNDER THE Wildlife Protection Act, tribal communities and forest dwellers living inside national parks and tiger reserves can be relocated only after obtaining informed consent from the Gram Sabha and after establishing that human presence will harm wildlife. Villages are relocated to create spaces free of human settlements and for movement of animals.

It asked the state government to take necessary action to mitigate the challenges faced by the community and keep the petitioners informed.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Chandrapur district collector Vinay Gowda said no "coercive measures" were being adopted to evict any family and also denied the claims that essential services were not being provided. Officials of the Tribal Affairs Ministry could not be reached for comment.

Jitendra Ramgaonkar, field director, Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, said, almost 85 per cent of families have decided to relocate from the village. "We will not evict anyone without their consent," he said.

in Rantalodhi, Bhadravati tehsil in Chandrapur district, alleged that the forest department was forcing them to relocate in violation of the provisions of Forest Rights Act, Wildlife Protection Act and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

It sought action against the district administration and the forest department for the alleged violations.

The petition stressed that even though claims under the Forest Rights Act were filed in 2010, they were still pending and, in some cases, rejected and appeals were also pending.

The petition sent to the Tribal Affairs Ministry concerns

33 families, the last few ones that remain in Rantalodhi village. As per the NTCA data, out of 244 families inside Rantalodhi, 211 opted for voluntary relocation while 33 decided to not leave.

The petition also alleged harassment as the anganwadi and school were not functioning.

The ministry pointed out to the state government that the Forest Rights Act recognises the rights of Scheduled Tribes and forest-dwelling communities to occupy forest land, including tiger reserves.

It said the Act stipulates that no one from the STs or forest-dwelling community should be evicted without due recognition and verification of rights.

BRIEFLY

BIHAR
60 drowning deaths during Chhath festival

Patna: More than 60 people drowned across Bihar as the four-day Chhath festival concluded on Friday, with Samastipur district reporting the maximum number of casualties with 10 deaths, officials said. Most of the deaths occurred on Friday morning as devotees took a dip in water bodies and offered prayers to the rising sun. The Bihar disaster management department said seven casualties each were reported from Patna and Begusarai. Five people, including three of a family, drowned in Rohas district. Five deaths were reported from Khagaria as well. While Bhagalpur district reported four deaths, Aurangabad, Saharsa, Muzaffarpur, Madhepura and Gaya districts reported three deaths each due to drowning. **ENS**

WEST BENGAL
BJP leader found dead at party office

Kolkata: Nearly four days after a local BJP leader went missing, the police recovered his body from inside the party office on Friday, in the 'Dwip More' area under Usti Police Station of South 24 Parganas. The police have arrested a woman in connection with the murder. The victim, Prithviraj Naskar, was in charge of the BJP's social media cell in Mathurapur organisational district. **ENS**

GUJARAT
CRPF jawan held for killing 8-year-old

Surat: A CRPF jawan was arrested for allegedly kidnapping an eight-year-old boy from his neighbourhood in Ankleshwar city of Bharuch district and then killing him, police said. The accused, Shaileendra Rajput Prajapati (35), whose current posting is in Gwalior, had kept the body of the minor in a trunk at his house after killing him, said officials. He was on a leave from work, and was alone at his house. **ENS**

Pak falsehood won't alter facts: India at UN

MP Sudhanshu Trivedi asserts Jammu & Kashmir 'was, is and will remain an integral part of India'

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

INDIA HAS slammed Pakistan at the United Nations for peddling "falsehood" after it referred to Jammu and Kashmir during a debate on peacekeeping operations. Member of the Rajya Sabha and national spokesperson of BJP Sudhanshu Trivedi, who is part of a delegation of Indian MPs visiting the UN, asserted that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and will remain an integral part of India".

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have recently exercised their democratic and electoral rights and elected a new government. Pakistan must desist from such rhetoric and falsehood because it will not alter the facts," Trivedi said. His remarks came during a debate on peacekeeping operations at the Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth Committee) of the UN General Assembly in New York on Friday.



BJP's Sudhanshu Trivedi at the UN. @SudhanshuTrivediX

Trivedi delivered India's strong response after the Pakistani delegate spoke about the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), mandated to supervise the ceasefire along the Line of Control. "India chooses its right to reply in response to the comments made by Pakistan that has yet again made an attempt to divert this august body from its agenda," he said, adding that "out of respect for the august members of the UN forum, India will refrain from responding to any further attempts by Pakistan to abuse the UN procedures". India maintains that UNMOGIP has outlived its utility and is irrelevant after the Simla Agreement and the consequent establishment of the LoC.

Later in a post on X, Trivedi said that during the discussions in the UN the representative from Pakistan "tried to digress the subject and unnecessarily mentioned that Pakistan's involvement with UN peacekeepers started when the UN had put up peacekeepers in 1948" in J&K.

Trivedi said that "taking a sharp exception to this remark", he exercised the Right of Reply and "firmly stated on the floor that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, is and will remain an integral part of India". "It has also recently gone through a proper democratic election," he said. Trivedi is part of a delegation of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs — including Congress's Rajiv Shukla, DMK's Tiruchi Siva and BJD's Sasmit Patra — who are on a visit to the UN for diverse engagements at the world body. Earlier on Tuesday, Shukla also delivered a retort in the UN debate after Pakistan raised the issue of Kashmir. "Let me be clear. Real democracies function differently. The people of Jammu and Kashmir turned out in record numbers in the recently concluded elections."

Shukla also stressed that inclusive access to information is essential for fostering trust, accountability and good governance. "A (Pakistani) delegation has yet again used this august forum for peddling lies and falsehood," he said. "No amount of disinformation and misinformation will change facts on the ground. I urge this delegation to engage more constructively in this forum, rather than using it for their divisive, political agenda," Shukla said.

2nd encounter in Sopore in 24 hrs, militant killed

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 9

A MILITANT was killed during a gunfight in the forests of Sopore in north Kashmir on Saturday evening. Police say security forces are still searching the area for more militants who could be hiding there.

On Saturday evening, security forces launched an operation in the forests of Rampur-Rajpur after receiving information about the movement of militants in the area. As the joint team was conducting a search operation, they came under fire. The team retaliated, leading to a gunfight in which one militant was killed.

Police sources confirmed the development and said they are trying to ascertain the militant's identity. "We are still in the process of identification — whether he is a local or a foreigner," said a police officer.

A police officer said the slain militant could be the same person who escaped from an encounter in Bandipora recently. On November 6, a militant was killed in the Kaitsan forests of Bandipora in a gunfight. Police say they had inputs about two militants in the area, and one of them managed to escape. The Kaitsan forest is close to the Rampur-Rajpur forests.

The Rampur-Rajpur forests fall on the border between Sopore and Bandipora. The forests connect to Sopore on one side, Bandipora on the other side and the frontier Lolab valley of Kupwara on a third side.

This is the second anti-militancy operation in Sopore, in the last 24 hours. On Friday, two militants were killed in Sopore.



TRAIN DERAILS NEAR HOWRAH

Three coaches of the Secunderabad-Shalimar Superfast Express derailed near Howrah station, about 40 kms from Kolkata, on Saturday morning. No casualty was reported, South Eastern Railway said, adding that a probe has been launched. **Express**

Porter crushed between coaches during shunting op

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, NOVEMBER 9

A RAILWAY porter was killed during a shunting operation when the train he was working on allegedly reversed without warning at Barauni Junction Railway Station in Bihar's Begusarai district, crushing him between buffers. Shunting is the process of reorganising coaches into complete trains. Eastern Central Railways (ECR) confirmed the incident, identifying the victim as Amar Kumar Rao (35) from Dalsinghsarai, Samastipur. He was working on the Lucknow-Barauni Express (15204) at Platform 5 of the railway station, officials said.

As passengers raised the alarm, the engine driver allegedly left the spot. "The matter is being probed. Action would be taken against the engine driver if he is found guilty," an ECR official said. Rao, who lived alone in Barauni, had got the job on compassionate grounds after his father's death.

Barauni Railway Union head Shiv Prasad Yadav blamed staff shortage for the incident and demanded action against erring railway employees. "There is a system of raising an alarm when a train is sent to the yard," he said.

In a post on X, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said: "When will the common people be safe Modiji? You are just busy keeping 'one' Adani safe."

Darul Uloom removes ban on entry of women

Saharanpur: The ban on the entry of women in Darul Uloom, an Islamic seminary here in Deoband, was lifted.

They will now be able to enter the campus, subject to some rules, the institution said. Women will have to wear hijab and have to be accompanied by a family member to enter the campus, according to the rules that came into effect on Friday. The management of Islamic educational institution, which earlier this year banned the entry of women over complaints of "reels" being shot inside the campus, said videography would be prohibited and visitors would have to deposit their phones at the gate before entering. **PTI**

Parliament will pass Waqf Bill, says Union minister as BJP finds cause in Kerala land controversy

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 9

THE ROW over 400 acres of land at Munambam near Kochi has now taken centre stage in the Kerala bypolls, with BJP leader and Union Minister Suresh Gopi saying Saturday that Parliament will pass the Waqf Amendment Bill.

Addressing BJP's election campaign in Wayanad — where Priyanka Gandhi is the Congress's candidate — Gopi referred to Waqf as "kiratham (brutality) that is confined in four English alphabets". He was referring to the Kerala Waqf Board's claim over 400 acres of land in Munambam, which is currently in the possession of 600-odd families — most of them Christian.

"It's not at Munambam alone. The Modi government is not meant for a particular section. You cannot measure his chest. This brutality will be suppressed in



Suresh Gopi referred to Waqf as 'kiratham' (brutality)

India. No board will stand here with backbone and it will be taken away. We don't want to gain anything by propitiating Munambam. There would be harsh decisions. To uphold the true constitution, this Bill (Waqf Bill) will be passed in the Parliament," he said.

BJP state-president B Gopalakrishnan also made similar remarks. "Tomorrow, Sabarimala (Hindu hill shrine) will become Waqf property. (Lord) Ayyappa (the deity at the temple) will have to vacate. Should we allow that? Velankanni Christian shrine (in Tamil Nadu) is important for Christians. If Waqf claims a stake over the land, the shrine will go to the board. We have

brought the amendment bill against that. The LDF and UDF in Kerala have passed a resolution in the Assembly against this bill. If you don't want to see Sabarimala and Velankanni going to waqf, vote for BJP," he said.

The row over the waqf board's claim over the Munambam land comes days before three seats in Kerala are set to vote. As elections draw near, the BJP has found a cause in the waqf board's claim, particularly since several families are holding protests. According to the occupants of the land, they had legitimately purchased it from Farook College, which had previously held the land, three decades ago.

For the Sangh Parivar, the issue appears to be a way to reach out to Kerala's Christians.

Although Munambam is away from the areas going to polls, the BJP has been playing the issue to hit. On Sunday, the party's Palakkad candidate C Krishna Kumar will visit Munambam.

JHARKHAND
Nadda: No tribal rights for kids of infiltrator father, Adivasi mother

Ranchi: BJP president J P Nadda Saturday asserted that if BJP is voted to power in Jharkhand, it will not allow tribal rights to children of infiltrator father and local Adivasi mother.

At a rally at Bishrampur in Palamu district, Nadda alleged that the JMM-led government has given shelter to Bangladeshi infiltrators and they would be driven out. "Children of Bangladeshi infiltrator father and Adivasi mother will be denied tribal rights if the BJP is voted to power in Jharkhand. It will not allow infiltration to continue," Nadda said.

He alleged that "corrupt people and thieves" are part of the JMM-led government. "Time has come to oust the single-engine government from Jharkhand and form a double-engine government here," he said. Nadda said PM Modi worked to bring tribals into the mainstream. The budget for tribal welfare was increased by three times and for Eklayva model schools 21 times, he said. **PTI**

Professor C V Ramakrishnan, founder of MSU's Biochemistry Dept, dies at 98

LEENA MISRA & ADITIRAJA
AHMEDABAD, VADODARA, NOV 9

PROFESSOR COMARALINGAM V Ramakrishnan, father of Nobel Laureate Venki Ramakrishnan, died Friday in Cambridge, the UK, where he lived with his daughter Lalita. He was 98.

Prof CVR, as he was popularly known, founded the Department of Biochemistry at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (MSU), in Vadodara, with his wife R Rajalakshmi in 1955, was its first head.

Prof Rajalakshmi, who died in 2007, did her PhD in Psychology at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, and was the Professor of Biochemistry and Nutrition in the Biochemistry Department that her husband had founded. She played a significant role in mentoring, teaching and research in food and nutrition at the MS University, which was the



Professor C V Ramakrishnan with daughter Lalita, her husband Mark Troll and his granddaughter Maya in 2018

first in the country to start a Home Science Faculty.

Prof Venki Ramakrishnan told *The Indian Express* that his father would have turned 99 in January. "Apart from his impact on education in India, his own children did unusually well in academics and I am sure the reason is that he and my mother created an environ-

ment where education was valued," said Prof Venki in an email.

Originally from Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu, Prof Ramakrishnan moved to Vadodara in Gujarat with his family in 1955, where the family settled and Venki later went to Convent of Jesus & Mary School and the MS University. Prof Ramakrishnan did his

post-doctoral fellowship from Madison, Wisconsin, in the US in 1952, when he was still in Chidambaram. He would regularly visit India till 2019. Dr Vikram Sarabhai Institute of Cell and Molecular Biology, established in 2012 at MSU, was under his mentorship after Prof Venki won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2009. In December 2010, he visited Vadodara with Venki, spending time at the school and at MSU, where felicitation events were held for them.

During his visit to Vadodara in 2019, which would be his last, he interacted with MSU students, and in 2021, he participated in a webinar co-hosted by the university to celebrate his 96th birthday. The virtual celebration was organised by one of his students, Prof R K Rao, from the Department of Physiology, University of Tennessee. Prof Ramakrishnan is heard telling a student from the batch of 1980 — "You have become much older than me, so I am not able to identify you".

Manipur: Woman shot dead in paddy field

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
IMPHAL, NOVEMBER 9

A DAY after the Jiribam violence, which left one woman dead, another woman was killed in Manipur's Bishnupur district after a group of armed miscreants launched an attack Saturday morning. The incident occurred in Saiton village, in the Bishnupur district (Meitei-dominated area)

bordering Churachandpur district (Kuki-Zo dominated area).

The deceased has been identified as Sapam Sophia Leima (34). Armed miscreants, suspected to be Kuki-Zo groups, fired upon a group of farmers at a paddy field in Lalilampat, police said. The BSF personnel deployed in the area retaliated. The locals staged a protest at the BSF post with the body of the deceased accusing the central force of negligence.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
WRITTEN TEST FOR NON-TEACHING POSITIONS
Central University of Kashmir shall conduct written test for non-teaching positions, advertised by the University vide Employment Notification No. 01 of 2023 dated 12-01-2023, at Tuimulla Campus, Central University of Kashmir, Ganderbal, J&K, UT, India, as per the following schedule:

Name of Post	Date of Test	Time and Paper
Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS)	23-11-2024 (Saturday)	11:30AM to 01:00PM Paper -A (OMR based)
		01:30PM to 03:00PM Paper -B (Descriptive type)
Lower Division Clerk (LDC)	24-11-2024 (Sunday)	11:30AM to 01:00PM Paper -A (OMR based)
		01:30PM to 03:00PM Paper -B (Descriptive type)

All the eligible candidates are informed to download the admit card from the e-Samarth portal link (<https://cukashmirint.samarth.edu.in/>). The admit card can be downloaded from 15-11-2024, onwards. Further, syllabus & scheme of written test is available on the University website www.cukashmir.ac.in. No communication shall be made in person. The candidates in their own interest are advised to regularly visit the University website www.cukashmir.ac.in for further updates/information regarding the test. **Sd/-**
Dated: 08-11-2024 **Controller of Examinations**


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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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- Students to apply on their respective State Scholarship Portals
- Student should have a valid Mobile Number, Aadhaar Number (UID), Aadhaar seeded Bank Account, Income Certificate and Caste Certificate

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SALUTE THE SOLDIER



CT/GD MOTI LAL
3rd RES. BN. BHILAI
10-NOV-1991

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with terrorists at URI, (Jammu & Kashmir). His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for his noblest deed.



L / HAV SRI DHORO MAJHI, SC
(10 November 1981)

We pay homage to L/Hav Sri DhoroMajhi,SC of 12 BIHAR, who made the ultimate sacrifice on 10 November 1981, while fighting insurgents in the Tirap Sector of Arunachal Pradesh. His valiant act of conspicuous bravery ensured that the insurgent hideout was destroyed and helped to bring back peace to this disturbed area. We, the fraternity of the Veer Biharissalute you.

The Bihar Regiment Association

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
HC KESHARI DAS



MARTYD ON 10.11.1992
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Srinagar (J&K)

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT VIR BHAN SINGH



04.05.1971 - 10.11.1996
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Srinagar (J&K).

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE
10 November 2007



An operation began on 8th November 2007 at a Hotel in Main Chowk, Baramulla, where two militants were trapped, and troops of the 177th Battalion, CRPF, were conducting a room intervention. On 10th November,

a team from the 177th Battalion was returning from headquarters with additional ammunition and supplies for the operation when it was ambushed near D.T. Bridge, Sopore, Baramulla. In a courageous counterattack, the team forced the militants to retreat. Despite being critically wounded in the neck, Constable Yumnam Romio Meitei fired 17 rounds, driving the militants to flee. He later succumbed to his injuries, attaining martyrdom. The room intervention operation ultimately led to the neutralization of both terrorists by th177th Battalion troops.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE
10 November 2006



On 10th November 2006, during counterinsurgency operations in Tinsukia, Assam, troops of 33 Battalion of CRPF were ambushed while withdrawing from an operation near Budhaguri village, PS Sadiya. Insurgents detonated IEDs, followed by

intense gunfire. One vehicle sustained a direct hit, injuring its occupants. Despite their injuries, the troops held their ground, retaliating with courage, forcing the insurgents to flee. The injured were evacuated, but Shaheed Constable Banshi Lal Lauch succumbed to his wounds, attaining martyrdom. His sacrifice in service to the nation will always be remembered.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE
10 November 2010



On 10th November 2010, troops of 154 Battalion CRPF were deployed in Pattan market, Baramulla, to prevent militant activity when militants attacked one of their pickets. Disguised within the crowd and with weapons concealed under pherans, the militants opened fire. Shaheed HC Balram Tigga and Shaheed HC Om Prakash sustained severe injuries but courageously returned fire, injuring one militant. However, the attackers escaped under the cover of the crowd. Both brave hearts later succumbed to their injuries, attaining martyrdom.

BSES
BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SHORT TERM PURCHASE OF POWER FOR THE PERIOD 1st April 2025 TO 30th SEPTEMBER 2025
Tender No. Head (PMG)/BPL/E Tender/2024-25/4543
In accordance with the guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power and directions issued by Hon'ble DERC, BREL has floated power procurement tender with the General Terms and Conditions for purchase of power and same is available on e-Bidding portal www.mstcecommerce.com, www.bsesdli.com.
Bidders are requested to kindly visit above website and submit the competitive purchase offers on www.mstcecommerce.com. Last date of bid submission is 28th Nov 2024 up to 15:00 HRS and Opening of non financial technical bids is 03rd December 2024 at 11:00 HRS
Address:- Head PMG, BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd., BSES Bhawan, 2nd Floor, D-Block, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019 Tel: 49209037
Regd. Of: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2011PLC111527 Telephone No.: +91 11 4961725 Website: www.bsesdli.com

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
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Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
T.N.No.98/2024.Dt.08.11.2024.
SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS
E-Procurement Tender Notice:
The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website www.ireps.gov.in And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen in Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System As Available On www.ireps.gov.in."
Tender No. Brief Description
30241494 Brake Beam Complete (without bush)
30241903 Battery Box for 110 volts
66247300 Procurement of Mounting Foot
38241147 Wide Jaw Adapter
66247030 Procurement of fixed displacement
66246989 Procurement of pumps & motors
38241154 Spring Plank
38241014 Knuckle
66247613 Procurement of TCT Tamping
60246788 Trap switch sleepers
38241172 Bogie Centre Pivot Bottom
66247620 Procurement of Sensor, kit
29241100 Modified Single Duct Leather
66247181 Procurement of plasser PAC
56241239 Semi assembly point machine
29.24.1147A End Frame Driving End
66247522 Procurement of Sleeve, hook
38242359 Polymer Packing
80241201 Antwear Hyd oil VG 68
Note:-Due dates of Tender Opening:-
SL.No.01 on dt.25.11.2024.
SL.No. 02 & 03 on dt.26.11.2024.
SL.No.04 & 05 on dt.27.11.2024.
SL.No.06 to 09 on dt.02.12.2024
SL.No.10 & 11 on dt.03.12.2024
SL.No.12 on dt.04.12.2024
SL.No. 13 on dt. 06.12.2024.
SL.No.14 to 17 on dt.09.12.2024.
SL.No.18 on dt.10.12.2024.
SL.No.19 on dt. 27.12.2024.
Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having Value Above Rs. 50 Lakhs for details Please Visit Railway Website Above.
Principal Chief Materials A1433 Manager/ Secunderabad
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE Date:07.11.2024
E-tender is invited from reputed and experienced contractor by the undersigned for and on behalf of the president of India for the following-
Tender No.:ELECT-GEN-BPL-T-60-2024. Name of work: Itarsi: Shifting of 04 Nos Lifts from Old FOB at Itarsi Station with 03 years Comprehensive AMC., Completion Period: 60 Days, Estimated cost Rs.: 6035944.00/-, Earnest Money in Rs.: 120700.00/-. Date and Time for closing of tender: 21/11/2024, 11:00. The details of complete tender documents and its related information may be seen at https://www.ireps.gov.in and notice board of this office. Manual offer for above said tender is not acceptable and if any manual offer submitted, will not be considered. Corrigendum/ Updating, if required, will be uploaded on website, it may be seen at above said URL and notice board of this office, till the date of closing of tender. If cost of tender is above Rs. 50 lakhs then as per para 10 of GCC eligibility criteria will be applicable. Before participation in tender, contractor first read this condition. Documents for same should be uploaded on the IREPS website, by the contractor. Uploaded documents will be considered for finalization for tender. The brief of same has also been given in the special condition attached with the tender.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(General), DRM's Office, West Central Railway, Bhopal
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, RAYAGADA.
e-mail: cephd.rgda.od@nic.in, cephdrgda@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO. EEPHDRAYAGADA-26/2024-25 DT.28.10.2024
SI No. Name of the work Bid identification No. Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakh) Class of Contractor Period of Completion Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding From To
1. 3 years Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply System in connection to "Augmentation of Water supply to Rayagada Town". EEPHDRAYAGA DA-26/2024-25 Dtd.28.10.2024 'B' And 'A' Class 36 (Thirty-Six Months) 12.11.2024 27.11.2024
Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid: Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Rayagada. Email: cephd.rgda.od@nic.in, cephdrgda@gmail.com
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"
All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.
Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA
OIPR-13052/11/0005/2425

Government of Madhya Pradesh
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief Water Resources Department, Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsī Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)
Email Id: ceproc.enwrd.bpl@nic.in
Tel: 0755-2767635, Fax: 0755-2552406
Bhopal, Dated 04.11.2024
N.I.T. No. 1110/2024-25/E-in-C/e-tendering
Bids for following works are invited on website https://www.mptenders.gov.in Last Date of purchase/download of Bid Document and submission of bid is 25-11-2024, 17:30 hrs. Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.
S. Tender No. Work District Amount (Lakhs)
1 2024_WRD_379926 On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of 05 Nos Stop Dam on Kanh River (At Village Brahmanpiliya, Darjkaradiya, Kudana, Kayasthkheddi, Sahada) and Construction of 04 Nos Ghats on Lohar and Kshipra River (At Village Farashpur, Mundi, Pivday and Sivin) and Construction of Retaining wall on Jai Jaiwanti River at village Akya, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.
Indore 1581.85
Sd/- Chief Engineer (Procurement)
G-18649/24

Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D, Bulandshahr E-Procurement Tender Notice
Dated: 05.11.2024
Letter No. 5490/IA
On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bids online through https://etender.up.nic.in from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per column no. 10 below Road work Category as applied from Date 12.11.2024 to 19.11.2024 upto 12:00 Noon as per the prescribed T1 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 19.11.2024 at 12:30 PM. 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 any validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.
S. Name of Work Estimated cost (Rs. In Lac) Bid Security (Rs. In Lac) Time of Completion work including rainy season Tender Cost (In Rs.) Address of Executive Engineer Address of Superintendent Engineer Address of Chief Engineer Category
1 Construction work of Speed Table, umbilic strips etc. on different roads/Junctions for Traffic safety purpose in Block Agauta of District Bulandshahr. 5.00 0.50 01 Months 150+500+18% GST 117,000 = Rs. 767.00 Executive Engineer P.D. P.W.D., Bulandshahr Superintendent Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut A, B, C, D (Road Work)
2 Construction work of Speed Table, Umbilic strips etc. on different roads/Junctions for Traffic safety purpose in Block Bulandshahr of District Bulandshahr. 5.00 0.50 01 Months 150+500+18% GST 117,000 = Rs. 767.00 Executive Engineer P.D. P.W.D., Bulandshahr Superintendent Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut A, B, C, D (Road Work)
1. Time allowed for completion of Whole work in column No. 5, including rainy season.
2. The Tender Document Fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only.
3. All registered contractors have to upload turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 years and details of maximum cost of work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender. Details of e-tender uploaded on https://etender.up.nic.in shall also be uploaded on upwd Chanakya Software before last date & time of submission of bid.
4. Terms & Conditions related to bids are available on https://etender.up.nic.in
5. During execution of work contractor should ensure the all safety Measures for COVID-19 issued by the Uttar Pradesh government.
6. In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahari Software URL for Prahari is https://wms.upwd.gov.in/Prahari/
Assistant Engineer UPID-221984 Dt. 08.11.2024 www.upidadv.gov.in (Er. Rahul Sharma) Executive Engineer P.D., P.W.D., Bulandshahr

"IMPORTANT"
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Office of Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle, P.W.D. Rampur
Short Term E-Procurement Tender Notice
No.: 5548 /E-Nivida-R.Circle/24-25 Dated : 24.10.2024
1. On behalf of the Governor of UP, tenders for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur online on website https://etender.up.nic.in from registered contractors Category as per column No.8 from date 12.11.2024 at 10.00 am to 18.11.2024 at 12.00 pm. Technical bid /Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 18.11.2024 at 12.30 pm in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders' who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day.
2. Details of the works are following:

Sl. No.	District	Name of work	Estimated cost (including 5 years maintenance) (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakh)	Time of completion of work (including rainy season)	Cost of tender documents including GST (RS.)	Category	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
Reconstruction work of Sugar cane department roads										
1	Bijnor	Meharpur Palla Road to Sarda Wajapur to Ajpur Dist Road	96.20	6.31	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	234.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A, B, C, D	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Bijnor	Marketed Zone, PWD Markanda
2	Bijnor	Changpur Nohar road to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	72.85	5.63	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
3	Bijnor	Rudra to Deota Address Road	54.00	4.70	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
4	Bijnor	Makhpur Bhatnagar to Barampur Tank Road	52.30	4.63	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
5	Bijnor	Rudra to Barampur Tank Road	48.80	4.44	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
6	Bijnor	Tharai to Mahapur Road	48.20	4.41	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
7	Bijnor	Barna Kaur Road	48.50	4.43	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
8	Bijnor	Ajpur Dist Sugar Mill to Jaina Road	50.30	4.52	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
9	Bijnor	Meharpur Sarda to Karampur Road	52.70	4.64	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
10	Bijnor	Haldipur to Sakamara Road	56.50	4.83	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
11	Bijnor	Changpur to Nohar Wajapur Road	58.00	4.90	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
12	Bijnor	Changpur Sarda Road to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	62.30	5.12	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
13	Bijnor	Changpur Palla Road to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	101.20	7.06	12 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
14	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur to Mungpur Road	72.80	5.64	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
15	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur Road to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	57.60	4.88	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
16	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur Road and Farashpur Sarda Road	50.00	4.50	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
17	Bijnor	Mahapur to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	42.00	4.10	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
18	Bijnor	Changpur Road to Mahapur Tank Road	63.00	5.15	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
19	Bijnor	Rampur Mahila Road	78.70	5.84	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
20	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	161.50	10.08	12 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
21	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur Sarda to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	43.90	4.20	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
22	Bijnor	Changpur Road to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	43.70	4.19	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
23	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur Road to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	47.40	4.37	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
24	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	37.20	3.37	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
25	Bijnor	Prashad to Prashad Road	78.70	5.84	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
26	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	56.30	4.82	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
27	Bijnor	Farashpur to Palla Road	48.50	4.03	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
28	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur Road to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	58.10	4.91	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
29	Bijnor	Farashpur to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	290.00	16.50	12 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
30	Bijnor	Ujan Ujan Road to Mahapur Sarda Road	74.40	5.72	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
31	Bijnor	Ajpur to Mungpur Kaur Road	276.20	15.91	12 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
32	Bijnor	Farashpur to Mungpur Dist Road	67.80	5.38	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
33	Bijnor	Changpur to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	60.00	5.00	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
34	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	74.40	5.72	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
35	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	58.40	4.87	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
36	Bijnor	Rampur Mahila to Mahapur Road	56.70	4.84	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
37	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	62.00	5.10	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
38	Bijnor	Palla to Mungpur Dist Road	48.20	4.31	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
39	Bijnor	Geeta to Mahapur Road	201.20	12.00	12 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
40	Bijnor	Mahapur Dist Road to Mahapur Dist Road	37.50	3.38	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
41	Bijnor	Gang Farashpur Road Nohar Palla to Farashpur Bhatnagar Road	45.40	4.27	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
42	Bijnor	Rudra to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	66.60	5.33	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
43	Bijnor	Sarda Wajapur	81.90	6.10	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
44	Bijnor	Haldipur Nohar Palla Road to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	42.00	4.10	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
45	Bijnor	Changpur Nohar Road to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	48.70	4.34	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
46	Bijnor	Ujan Ujan Road to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	46.30	4.32	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
47	Bijnor	Mahapur to Mahapur Road	45.10	4.26	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
48	Bijnor	Meharpur Mahapur Road to Mahapur Mahapur Road	44.80	4.24	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
49	Bijnor	Geeta Road to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	43.90	4.20	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-
50	Bijnor	Farashpur Palla Road to Sarda Wajapur Dist Road	64.80	5.24	04 Months (Including Rainy season)	-	A, B, C, D	-	-	-

➤ All work including 5 years maintenance period after completion of work.
➤ The Rates adopted in the BOQ are including all other taxes but excluding GST.
➤ The Bid Security and tender cost should be deposited online through Net Banking as per Column 5 & 8 in the table.
All terms & conditions can be seen on website https://etender.up.nic.in The bidder have to login on Prahari URL https://wms.upwd.gov.in/Prahari to upload required documents as per Government order no. 879(1)23-7-2020 dt. 25.08.2020 & E.N.C./H.O.D.'s up pwd order No. 4859/4M-LC/2020 dt. 27.08.2020
Executive Engineer P.D, PWD, Bijnor Ph. 01342-262776 Email - pdbjnorr@gmail.com
Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle, PWD, Rampur Ph. 0595 - 2351163 Email - pwdrampur@gmail.com
UPID-221952 Dt. 08/11/2024 www.upidadv.gov.in

Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in
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ANOTHER **STRONG** leader has been elected. Mr Donald Trump won fair and square in a democratic election in one of the oldest democracies of the world. No one can question the legitimacy of the election process in the United States. Mr Trump, the Republican Party candidate, won the majority of the electoral votes: **301 to 226** for Ms Kamala Harris, the Democratic Party candidate. He also won the popular vote: **72.9 million to 68.3 million**. The Republican domination of the 2024 election was further established by the party acquiring control of the Senate and likely to retain control of the House of Representatives.

By every standard it was a comprehensive and thumping victory for Mr Trump and the Republican Party.

The pre-election polls were terribly wrong. The so-called 'close' election was not anywhere near close. The so-called seven 'swing' states swung one way, in favour of Mr Trump:

STATE	POPULAR VOTE	
	TRUMP	HARRIS
Arizona	1,303,793	1,167,898
Georgia	2,654,306	2,538,986
Michigan	2,799,713	2,715,684
Nevada	688,179	647,247
North Carolina	2,876,141	2,685,451
Pennsylvania	3,473,325	3,339,559
Wisconsin	1,697,237	1,668,757

Most independent observers and most unbiased media were agreed that Mr Trump's election campaign and his speeches were misogynistic, racist, abusive, and divisive.

But the majority of the American people did not care. They cared — and apparently were very concerned — about **immigration, inflation and crime**. Except inflation, the other two are not what we call 'bread and butter' issues; they could be described, loosely, as 'survive or sink' issues

Bare-knuckle politics

In a fiercely contested election, the margins were significant to substantial.

WHAT MAGA MEANS

Most independent observers and most unbiased media were agreed that Mr Trump's election campaign and his speeches were misogynistic, racist, abusive, and divisive. But the majority of the American people did not care. They cared — and apparently were very concerned — about **immigration, inflation and crime**. Except inflation, the other two are not what we call 'bread and butter' issues; they could be described, loosely, as 'survive or sink' issues. Immigration is seen as opening the door for 'people not like us' swamping the white American Christian citizens of the U.S.

Letter-day immigrants (mainly Latino voters) also felt that the new immigrants were a threat to the old immigrants. Inflation hurts everyone in every country. Although inflation was contained in the U.S. to 2.4 per cent and the U.S. Fed is poised to reduce the policy interest rate (a sign of lower inflation), nevertheless inflation was a powerful weapon in the hands of the Republican Party. The U.S., like most countries, has witnessed more crimes, thanks to growing population, urbanisation and drugs. Crime is an all-season weapon and any government in-

force is vulnerable.

Mr Trump exploited these issues to the fullest. And he did in his own bare-knuckle way using coarse and profane language. What surprised me was that the voters did not object to the coarseness and profanity.

MODERATION & DECENCY LOST

On the other hand, the main issues that Ms Kamala Harris took up in her campaign did not find resonance among the majority of voters: abortion and women's rights, the sanctity of the Constitution, fairness, racial equality and compassion. It is a tragedy that these values lost the battle against Mr Trump who has scant regard for them.

Among other issues that seem to have 'lost' in the U.S. elections is the brutal killing of nearly 44,000 Palestinians (among them thousands of women and children and United Nations staff). The Russian invasion of Ukraine hardly created a ripple. Most Americans did not give tuppence for China threatening Taiwan, North Korea firing long-range inter-continental missiles that could land on American soil, the civil wars in several countries, and the restrictions on freedom in so-called democracies. Nor did most voters seem to care that they were voting for

— and eventually electing — a convicted person awaiting a sentence. On the economy, the majority of American voters seem to care little for withdrawing from policies (free and open trade, low tariffs, anti-monopoly) that have made the United States the richest country in the world. The economic players who are cheering Mr Trump's victory are Big Oil, Big Pharma and Big Tech.

GENDER AND COLOUR

Ultimately, the American voters voted according to their predilections and prejudices. Male voters preferred Mr Trump. Young voters (18-29 years) preferred Mr Trump. Working class voters preferred Mr Trump. Non-graduate voters preferred Mr Trump. Latino voters (Mexicans, Puerto Ricans and Cubans) preferred Mr Trump. The blunt truth be told, they voted against Ms Harris mainly because of her gender and colour.

It is a matter of speculation whether the results of the U.S. elections will influence the elections in other countries. They could. Mr Trump's victory could encourage leaders of other countries to emulate the coarse language and the divisive rhetoric that he successfully used in the American elections. If Mr Trump's model spreads to other countries, it will be a grave setback to democracy.

Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen_singh



Socialist prince vs real princes

FIRST AN admission. I glanced through Rahul Gandhi's article on his economic ideology published in this newspaper last week and found it dull and predictable, so I did not read it carefully. It was when my friend Gaj Singh (Bapji) Jodhpur sent me his views on it that I paid more attention. I have known Bapji for years and have never seen him react angrily to anything. But Rahul managed to infuriate him enough for him to say that as someone who was a product of the architects of the License Raj, it was outrageous for him to accuse the Indian Princes of killing Indian enterprise by colluding with the East India Company. Correct.

If anyone managed to almost destroy Indian enterprise, it was Rahul's granny and her father, J.R.D. Tata is on record saying that though Jawaharlal Nehru was his friend he never managed to convince him that his economic policies would not benefit Indian industry. Here, may I remind you that when our colonial masters were still ruling India and crippling private enterprise with sanctions and penalties, Indian companies continued to grow and thrive. Indian businessmen defied British sanctions and succeeded well enough to begin manufacturing not just motorcars but aero planes and ships. It was Nehru's central planning that put an end to their ambitions.

Then came his daughter's License Raj which created an economic dictatorship that ordained who could produce what. Those who dared exceed their quotas were punished. But despite all this 'socialism', the shining dream that the Indian public sector would produce enough wealth to lift the Indian people out of poverty never came true. So, to blame the East India company or the Indian Princes is both incorrect and ignorant. But, as Bapji pointed out in his email to me, the Nehru family has always had a problem with the Indian Princes. He knows this well.

His father, Hanwant Singh, who became the Maharajah of Jodhpur at the age of 24, just weeks before Independence, resisted merging his state into the Indian union till the last moment from an over-arching sense of responsibility for his people. Then in India's first general election, he proved that he was a ruler who could adjust to modernity. He formed a political party and won nearly all of Marwar's seats in Parliament and the assembly. Had he not been killed in a mysterious air crash on the day the results came, he may have been Rajasthan's first chief minister.

Not long after, Congress leaders warned the princes that they would lose their privy purses if they continued to contest elections. They lost their privy purses and have continued to prove that they remain popular enough to win not just seats in Parliament but whole states. And since Indian democracy has produced socialist princelings galore, why should they not be allowed to show that this is a game that they know how to play well.

What saddens me when I travel in those parts of India that the British did not rule is that Indian historians have never fully acknowledged the role played by the princes in keeping Indian civilisation and our traditions alive. It was in the princely states that our classical music, painting, dancing, languages and customs were preserved because of the patronage of Maharajahs and Nawabs. In those parts of India that the British ruled directly, these things were frowned upon and a generation of brown sahibs was born. They produced more brown sahibs who continue to impose colonial governance on India. Modi has failed to change this despite coming from outside the privileged enclave we call Lutyns Delhi.

Having just finished reading William Dalrymple's outstanding new book 'The Golden Road', I confess that it saddened me that we Indians have not written enough books that tell us of our own history. Even in these times of Hindutva there is a dearth of Indian writers who care about our civilisation enough to explore it more fully. For the criminal neglect of our ancient monuments, all our politicians need to answer. There was much more to Indian civilisation than religion and temples but inexplicably, nobody in these Hindutva times seems to care about this. So it is in western universities that ancient Sanskrit texts are paid more attention to than in our own. And it is worth remembering that these texts may not have survived if more than half of India had not remained under the rule of Indian Princes.

Proof of this lies in the museums that the princes have set up in their crumbling forts and palaces. Many of them fell to ruin when the privy purses were stopped by Indira Gandhi. If they have seen a revival in recent years, it is because when foreign tourists started coming to India, they made it clear that it was not socialist princes they were interested in or the ugly, Soviet-style buildings that came up in socialist times. They went looking for the 'real India' and found it in those states that were ruled by the much-maligned Indian maharajahs.

For the record, I did read Rahul Gandhi's article on his new deal for businessmen and found it as dull and predictable as I thought it would be. He would do well to sack his economics and history tutors. And he would do well to also read 'The Golden Road' for his own discovery of India's ancient wonder.

What if we let boys opt out of traditional masculinity?

How to RAISE A BOY

LALITA IYER



AS AN 11-year-old who fought for women-eating-before-men at the wedding ceremony lunch of one of my aunts, I was raising men even before I was aware of my womb. So eventually, when I begat a boy at 41, the bar was already set very high.

I imagined my husband and I would raise him together. But that was not to be. I was a single parent since my son was four and all he saw was me being in charge. Since then, we have moved at least six different homes, lost four cats, several teeth (his), believed in Santa and the Tooth Fairy, and then pretended we had grown up.

I don't know whether his feminism came from a single-mom ecosystem (we were surrounded by them and their children) but it has to be more than that. With his absent father, a scarcely communicative grandfather and a maternal uncle who lives continents away, I didn't exactly have "male role models" on speed dial.

As a child, he has been woke for as long as I can remember. Almost a poster child for feminism, his icons had always been women — ranging from Dora to Sofia to the Winx Club. He wholeheartedly rejected the pink-and-blue world and we always found a middle ground — he created it and I made space for it. Treating feminine-coded play as natural was one way. As a child, whenever he was offered Kinder Joy toys "for girls" or when people referred to him as "baby", thanks to his long ringlets, I never bothered correcting them. If we had to smash the patriarchy, this was as good a place to start as any.

As a teenager and feminist, he is quick to call out toxic masculinity, particularly those complicated in sexism, misogyny and homophobia. When he turned 10, I gave him a house key, taught him how to cook the basics for survival, do his laundry, run errands, manage money, etc.

Men in my family never got brownie points for cooking (at least not from me) or caregiving. Both my father and brother have been excellent cooks. Food had no gender in our home. I find this "maa ke haath ka khana" to be the biggest roadblock in raising kids — boys or girls. The minute something acquired a prefix — "my mother's hummus", for instance — I shied away from making it. When he was younger, I would

burst a capillary whenever he addressed something as "nani's green dal" or "nani's tomato chutney". "It's just a palak dal!" I would scream. It was time to talk about the link between food and patriarchy. I started involving him in prepping meals as early as age eight. Some of my friends took on the stance of "I don't cook" while parenting, but then they invariably got other women to cook for them, so all the children saw was a woman as a provider of meals. When women are relegated to being providers of meals, it becomes a baggage that children carry forever. "I miss my mother's cooking" is no way to say that you love your mother.

Money is a big one too. Women who say "I don't know anything about finances, my husband handles it all" are probably conveying to their sons and daughters that financial power always rests with the man. When your child goes to higher grades, particularly when he becomes a teenager, suddenly, there's no place for a middle ground, just different forms of toxicity. You either blend into the herd's notion of male-hood or you are excluded, you cease to matter.

So, then, what does it mean to raise good boys? I asked my son. "First of all, you have to go beyond the binary. And second, maybe you can start by teaching them how to talk to girls," he said. Instead of focusing on that single or singular path of "raising a boy", what if we gave them the agency to opt out of the traditional (and often damaging) ways of being a boy or a man? Sometimes, even using the term "little man" for boys speaks so much about our struggle with masculinity.

A good place to start is rejecting a gender binary, revisiting our own gender assumptions, having vulnerable conversations with our children, even if we come undone in some of them. Allowing them the space to voice unpopular opinions teaches our kids that resisting peer pressure or popular conceptions is okay, especially in environments of intense masculine pressure.

We need to change the narrative around what it means to be a man and focus instead on raising good humans. Remember that they will mirror us, so we have to watch what we do. In the end, masculinity is a box that traps those that stay within it. We can't entirely free ourselves from the box, but we can begin to pry it open. Maybe we will never be able to erode the limits of patriarchy completely, but in our own worlds, we can make a dent, however small.

Iyer is a Kodaikanal-based author, educator and sourdough baker (How to Raise a Boy is a fortnightly column)

She SAID

POOJAPILLAI



ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2016, mere weeks before he was to be elected president of the United States for the first time, Donald J Trump spoke at the funeral of one of the figureheads of the American right, Phyllis Schlafly, in St Louis, Missouri, where he drew parallels between his journey and hers: "Her legacy will live on every time some underdog, outmatched and out-gunned, defies the odds and delivers a win for the people."

Schlafly's story, seen from one perspective, is certainly inspiring: A housewife — she wore the label like a badge of honour — Schlafly is best known for leading the fight against the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), a key feminist project of the 1970s to enshrine the principle of gender equality in the American constitution, explicitly prohibiting discrimination against women.

'MINDLESS EQUALITY'

For Schlafly, a true-blue conservative, the Amendment signified everything that was wrong with the US at a time of great churn, when women and queer folks marched the streets and pushed for recognition of their rights: To her, the ERA, with its "mindless equality", spell the end of women's privileges.

Women, she warned, would no longer have the right to be financially supported by their husbands and would be drafted into the armed forces, and that women who chose to be housewives and mothers would be looked down upon.

The irony is that, until a friend told her about the ERA, gender politics was not even on Schlafly's radar. Her passion was national security — Schlafly had written four books on nuclear strategy and described the atomic bomb as "a marvellous gift that was given to our country by a wise god".

In a deeply sexist political culture, however, she was not taken seriously by those whose ear she sought — that is, until she started speaking on women's issues. The underdog then suddenly came out on top — and here the irony deepens — by speaking against and defeating a movement that fought to make women equal citizens of the US in every sense.

In many ways, the US that voted Trump back into the White House this week has changed from the days when Schlafly sent freshly-baked loaves of bread to male politicians in order to solicit their support

Women in US politics will always be the underdog



Phyllis Schlafly is best known for leading the fight against the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), a key feminist project of the 1970s. X/@tperkins

for her crusade against the ERA.

It is no longer a bizarre idea for women to be in mainstream politics, hold important positions and push policies and laws on a range of subjects, from national security to trade, and not just "women's issues". They now lead Fortune 500 companies and figure among those instrumental in shaping the cultural landscape and defining popular tastes.

WOMEN BILLIONAIRES

There are 31 self-made women billionaires in the US today — a record high — including musicians Katy Perry and Taylor Swift, skincare and fashion mogul Kim Kardashian, Silicon Valley czars Sheryl Sandberg and Marissa Meyer and eBay CEO Meg Whitman. Which is why, as Kamala Harris's campaign picked up pace following her nomination at the Democratic National Convention in August, it seemed just possible that a woman would finally make it to the Oval Office.

A lot of post-result analysis has focused on Team Harris's failure to put real distance between the vice-president's campaign and her boss, Joe Biden, the wishy-washiness of her position on key issues, as well as the Democrats' inability to understand just how much the "liberal elite" tag and their general lack of touch with ground reality worked in Trump's favour. Yet, the fact is that Harris

ran at a time when, like in the 1970s, there is great anxiety about new forces — embodied, to a large extent, by women seeking and holding power — undermining an older way of life, when men were still, by and large, in charge.

SEXIST REMARKS

Team Harris's astuteness in tapping into the rage and despair of women in the post-MeToo, post-Roe v Wade era came up against Team Trump's recognition that a so-called "browall" of disaffected men — especially young and White — could stem the tide. The latter's successful strategy of focusing on young men voters, a demographic that has historically recorded very low turnout, and mobilising them to vote in a man with a documented history of misogyny and sexist remarks and who is a convicted felon, suggests that certain fundamental things have not changed since the days when Schlafly found her political ambitions frustrated and pivoted to more "gender-appropriate" issues.

In 2020, Harris became the first woman vice-president of the US since the position was created in 1789. But the glass ceiling had not disappeared. It had only moved higher, as 2024 shows — the woman, it turns out, is still the underdog.

National Editor Shalini Langer curates the fortnightly 'She Said' column

History HEADLINE

GULUEZEKIEL



WITH THE meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Movement (CHOGM) completed last month in Apia, Samoa, and with Indian cricket reeling after being whitewashed by New Zealand in the Test series, it is relevant to look back 75 years when the Commonwealth movement and Indian cricket almost collided.

The Imperial Cricket Conference (now the International Cricket Council) was formed in 1909 with England, Australia and South Africa as the three founder-members. The first two had played the first official Test series in 1877, while South Africa's first was in 1889. The standard of cricket in South Africa

How Nehru saved Indian cricket

at the time however was barely that of an English county second XI. Yet they were granted membership over more deserving candidates, particularly US and Argentina where cricket at the time was much stronger, purely due to South Africa being a member of the Commonwealth which USA and Argentina never were. One of the main clauses of the ICC was that only Commonwealth nations were granted membership.

India became a member of the ICC in 1926 and played its inaugural Test at Lord's in 1932 when still under British rule. It played its first series as an independent nation in Australia in 1947-48. A piquant situation arose in 1950 when after becoming a republic, the government was considering leaving the Commonwealth altogether, which, in

turn, would have meant India losing membership of the ICC and its Test status. But despite pressure from Home Minister Sardar Vallabhai Patel and his own ruling Congress party, India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru took the call to stay within the Commonwealth.

The ICC, at its 1948 meeting at Lord's, London, even while the debate was raging in India, decided to defer a decision on India's membership for two years and granted it provisional status. India became a Republic on January 26, 1950, but thanks to Nehru remained in the Commonwealth. This in turn meant at its 1950 ICC meeting, India was now granted permanent membership.

Nehru took a keen interest in cricket but whether his decision was at least partly motivated by a desire for India to

retain ICC membership and Test status is not known. In effect though he did save cricket in India, however inadvertently, at a time when it was competing for attention with football and hockey. Being stripped of Test status so soon after Independence would surely have sounded the death knell for the game in the country. This incident was narrated by journalist Mihir Bose in his 2019 book *The Nine Waves: The Extraordinary History of Indian Cricket*.

There is a twist to the tale though, which concerns South Africa. In 1961 it withdrew from the Commonwealth under threat of sanctions from numerous member nations due to its policy of racial discrimination (Apartheid).

This entailed automatic suspension from the ICC. It had been founded on the

initiative of South African business tycoon Sir Abe Bailey, with Clause 5 of its constitution implicitly intended to exclude the United States. But the 1962 ICC meeting swept the issue under the carpet, deciding there was nothing to prevent South Africa's matches being called Tests, though these would not be recognised as official, causing further confusion. They continued to play only against the 'white' nations of New Zealand, Australia and England, till finally being banned in 1970 and returning post-Apartheid in 1991. Today, the ICC has over 100 member nations worldwide, though only 12 full members enjoy Test status.

The writer is an independent sports journalist based in New Delhi and the author of numerous sports books

ECONOMY

SEBI HAS RECEIVED APPLICATIONS OF ABOUT 40-50 NEW FPI REGISTRATIONS

Despite sell-off, more foreign portfolio investors set to enter Indian market

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 9

THE SUSTAINED sell-off by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) since October this year hasn't deterred new FPIs from seeking permission to invest in Indian markets.

Applications of about 40-50 new FPI registrations have come to the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) during the month.

Once these applications are cleared, they are expected to start investing in Indian markets. "Despite the ongoing sell-off by funds since last month, this month saw an unprecedented number of applications of about 40-50 new FPI registrations which are eyeing to enter the Indian market," said Manoj Purohit, partner & leader, Financial Services Tax, Tax & Regulatory Services, BDO India.

The number of FPIs registered with the Sebi was 11,219 as of March 2024. Only 138 FPIs had registered with the Sebi in full fiscal 2023-24. This means an av-



File

erage of 12-13 FPI registrations every month.

"All thanks to Sebi's recent relaxation to NRIs, permitting them to participate up to 100 per cent and announcing measures for ease of entry and operations in India," he said. Though FPI community had been very cautious about Indian markets in the last couple of months, shifting their allocation to other countries like China, India still stands on better footing as compared to other markets. "The major factors attributable are political cer-

tainty, long term growth, better yields, substantial capex spending by the government and last but not the least, the central bank's vigilant approach while announcing rate cuts to put a check on inflation," Purohit said.

The offshore participants are optimistic that the RBI will adopt a balanced approach to ensure the cost of raising funds is under control and is made easily accessible to India Inc in the upcoming quarter's announcement, he said.

Additionally, the outcome of

11,219 FPIs REGISTERED WITH SEBI AS OF MAR '24

■ The number of FPIs registered with the Sebi was 11,219 as of March 2024

■ After the massive FPI withdrawal of Rs 1.13 lakh crore in October, FPIs have sold equity worth Rs 19,849 crore in the cash market in November so far

October, FPIs have sold equity worth Rs 19,849 crore in the cash market in November so far.

The rationale for the FPI selling is the elevated valuations in India which appear conspicuous in the context of the earnings deceleration evident in the Q2 numbers. The FPI selling trend is likely to continue in the near-term as China on Friday announced a mega stimulus package to salvage the economy. "If the Q3 results and leading indicators reflect recovery in earnings, the scenario can change with FPIs reducing selling and even turning buyers. Investors will have to wait and watch for the data," said V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Meanwhile, the hallmark of the global market trend this week has been the record setting uptrend in the US market, being driven now by the 'Trump trade'. Expectations of implementation of the promised corporate tax cuts and its positive impact on US corporate earnings is the fundamental logic behind this trend.

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

WITH DONALD Trump's re-election as the United States' President, tech company heads and workers have to contend with a new reality. While many of them have typically voted for the Democratic Party, with some publicly supporting Kamala Harris's election bid and some sitting on the fence publicly, they will all face the consequences of Trump's new term in office.

Under Trump's first tenure, a number of movements happened in the tech space, which saw the beginning of antitrust action against companies like Meta, Google, Apple and Amazon; the trade war with China, which prevented the export of some high-end American-made hardware solutions to Beijing.

In his reelection bid, Trump spoke against the Biden administration's move to breakup Google, even though the investigation into the company started in his term. His stance on TikTok's fate in the US remains uncertain and has been marked by flip-flops, and his protectionist stance against China could pose a challenge to companies like Apple.

Some contentions would be new for him. When he left office in 2020, artificial intelligence (AI) had not attained the momentum it has today. When he begins his second term, AI is all the tech world is talking about. Trump has made some initial signals that he may not go hard on AI regulation, and with some of the influential Silicon Valley people rallying behind him, that stance might not change.

Trump's victory marks vindication for at least one tech mogul - Elon Musk. He put his entire weight behind Trump in a way that no business person has done



US President-elect Donald Trump. Reuters File

in the past for any Presidential nominee, which included funding his campaign and turning social media platform X into a pro-Trump megaphone. There is speculation that Musk might get a role in the Trump administration - he has suggested Trump might put him in charge of a new "department of government efficiency" that would cut government workforce.

Antitrust

Trump could get rid of appointees of the Biden-era, which includes anyone associated with the former administration's antitrust battles with the big Silicon Valley tech companies. Trump has already said he would fire Lina Khan, the head of the Federal

Trade Commission, who spearheaded the agency's cases against companies like Amazon and Meta. While heads of all big tech companies have congratulated Trump on his victory, some doubled down even before the elections. Washington Post, which is owned by Amazon's Jeff Bezos, did not endorse any candidate in this election, which was widely viewed as tacit support for Trump.

In the run-up to elections, Musk has posted online about apparent biases in workers at tech companies like Google and Microsoft and some of their products. He has also questioned political funding made by em-

ployees of these companies. Silicon Valley workers and leaders have traditionally leaned towards the Democratic Party, and Trump 2.0 could pose a difficult balancing act for them.

Tariffs and trade wars

During his campaigning, Trump had proposed a 60 per cent tariff on goods from China - and a tariff of up to 20 per cent on everything else the United States imports. This was widely seen as an impediment to companies like Apple, which have a big manufacturing base in the country. Apple has moved some of its production to countries like Vietnam and India, but a substantial amount of its products and components are still made in China. Any retaliatory action against Beijing by Trump, could possibly pose a challenge to Apple's supply chains.

There is another layer to Trump's actions against China. His newfound ally Elon Musk. Musk's Tesla has major business interests in China where the company has a big manufacturing base, and any action on China by Trump could have a potential bearing on Tesla's business in Beijing. Trump has returned to power largely by tapping into protectionist and nationalist sentiments within American voters. There could be some moderation by Trump as far as his anti-China policies are concerned, but it could be tricky for him to manoeuvre around the issue.

Artificial Intelligence

Trump has vowed to repeal the Biden-era executive order on AI, as he looks for more avenues to overturn his predecessor's legacy. That order, issued last October, required companies developing AI models to inform the US government about how they were training and securing those models, and open up their systems to probe for vulnerabilities.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

'Without Russian imports, oil prices would have jumped'

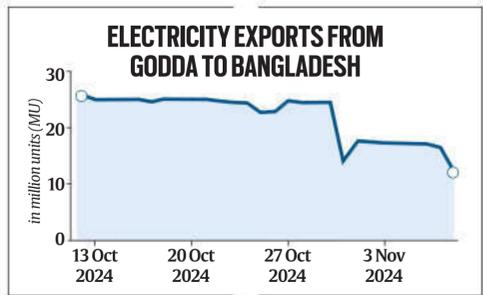
New Delhi: Global oil prices "would have hit the roof" if big importer India had not bought oil from Russia following the Ukraine war, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said, adding that prices would determine where the country buys oil from. "What many around the world don't seem to realise is that global oil prices would have hit the roof if India had not bought oil from Russia," Puri, wrote on X late on Friday. "We owe it to our citizens - India will buy oil from wherever our companies get the best rates." REUTERS

Asian Paints profit declines 43.7% to ₹693.7 cr in Q2

New Delhi: Asian Paints on Saturday reported a 43.71 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 693.66 crore for the September quarter, impacted by soft-demand conditions, material price inflation and a decline in decorative and coatings business in the domestic market. The company had logged a net profit of Rs 1,232.39 crore during July-September period a year ago. PTI

AMID PAYMENT DISPUTE WITH BANGLADESH

Power supply from Adani's Godda plant hits fresh low



AGGAM WALIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

ADANI POWER'S Godda thermal plant in Jharkhand, which supplies power exclusively to Bangladesh, exported only 12 million units (MU) of electricity on Friday, down 53 per cent from 26 MU four weeks ago. Cuts in power supply come as Bangladesh scrambles to pay over \$800 million in dues to Adani Power amid a forex crisis.

Until October 30, an average of 25 MU was supplied each day,

AI, Air India Express building network at group level; LCC to connect tier 2, 3 airports with hubs

Tata Group's full-service carrier Air India to focus on hub-to-hub routes

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

TATA GROUP airlines have started rationalising their networks under a broad strategy that would progressively see the full-service carrier (FSC)—Air India—operating on major hub-to-hub routes, while the low-cost carrier (LCC)—Air India Express—operating from tier two and three cities to hub airports, according to Air India Express managing director Alok Singh. Hub airports refer to large airports, often in major cities, that handle high aircraft and passenger volumes.

For instance, the Delhi-Dubai route, which is a hub-to-hub route, is being operated by Air India, while Air India Express is not on it. On the other hand, Air India Express is operating the Goa-Dubai route, which Air India is not operating anymore. Similarly, Air India Express and not Air India is operating the Delhi-Sharjah route, Singh said.

The examples in the domestic market include the Delhi-Ranchi route, which is being operated by Air India Express, but not Air India, and the Delhi-Mumbai route, which is being operated by the latter, and not the former.

The strategy, however, is "not cast in stone" and there will be routes on which both Air India and



File

Air India Express will have presence as they might have enough demand across customer segments to warrant deployment of a full-service as well as a low-cost product.

"Our prime focus will be on the metro to non-metro and on the regional short-haul international network. Again, it will be primarily from tier two, tier three cities to points in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, etc," Singh said. He termed tier two and three cities as the growth engines in India's aviation market.

"The largest chunk of the domestic India market is actually metro to non-metro routes...I think it is about 65-odd per cent, and that is the segment that is growing the fastest," Singh said.

The strategy is part of building a consolidated network at the Air India group level based on demand and route profiles. The

broad understanding is that the Air India group is looking to deploy the full-service product on hub-to-hub and business routes, while the budget product is being seen as the more suitable option to connect relatively smaller airports with the hub airports. Air India Express's focus to connect tier two and three airports with hub airports will also help in directing passenger flows to its parent airline's long-haul services from major Indian airports.

Similar strategies have been adopted by large airline groups that have both FSC and LCC products in their stable. For instance, on its Singapore-India network, the Singapore Airlines group has deployed the FSC product mainly on flights operating between major Indian metropolitan cities and Singapore, while Scoot mostly connects tier two and three airports in India with Singapore.

Apple sets up design, R&D arm in India to broaden local value addition

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

EVEN AS smartphone maker Apple works on broadening its manufacturing base in India, it has also laid the ground for conducting research and development, and design operations in the country, in a bid to increase local value addition while tapping into India's skilled engineering base.

The company has set up a wholly-owned subsidiary called Apple Operations India which will "engage in business of procurement management, development, manufacturing support and other related operations such as processing, undertaking research and development and design relating to science, engineering, technology and applied technology, computer and information technology programming, research, and systems, and related technical support and technical testing and analysis," as per filings with the Registrar of Companies.

The company currently has no design base in India, and carries out such operations in countries like the United States, China and Israel.

The company has set up a wholly-owned subsidiary called Apple Operations India. It currently has no design base in India, and carries out such operations in countries like the US, China and Israel

The development comes as the central government has been pushing companies like Apple to conduct research and development and design operations in India as they broaden their assembly and manufacturing base in the country. India is a major design hub for various global electronics companies, particularly those in the semiconductor space. Most smartphone companies are yet to design in India, however.

"The government sees designing and R&D as a major part of local value addition in the electronics sector. As companies move more of their assembly operations to the country, having a design unit will help India in creating a larger space within the research

ecosystem. We have a big pool of design engineers in the country because of which all major chip companies carry out R&D here. We expect a similar development for the smartphone sector," a senior government official said.

Steadily, Apple has been laying the groundwork for having an expansive presence in India, which includes assembly operations on the manufacturing side, and official stores on the consumers' side. It is also one of the beneficiaries of the government's production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for mobile phone manufacturing.

It has created a substantial production base in India for iPhones. According to the Economic Survey 2023-24, in the fiscal year 2024, India was responsible for assembling iPhones valued at \$14 billion, which represents 14 per cent of Apple's worldwide production of the device. The phones being made by Apple's contract manufacturer Foxconn in India are being sold domestically, and also being exported.

India exported smartphones worth around \$15 billion in 2023-24, of which iPhones contributed 65 per cent, or about \$10 billion - up from \$5 billion in the previous year.

'CCI probe: Swiggy, Zomato breached competition norms'

New Delhi: A Competition Commission probe has found that food delivery platforms Zomato and Swiggy indulged in unfair business practices, including alleged preferential treatment to some restaurant partners, according to sources.

The detailed investigation was ordered by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in April 2022 and the probe report was submitted to the regulator earlier this year. Under the norms, CCI Director General's report has been shared with the parties concerned. The regulator will pass the final order. The decision to probe the two entities had come on a complaint filed by the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI).

Query sent on e mail to Swiggy remained unanswered while Zomato declined to comment. NRAI said it has reviewed the redacted investigation report that was sent to it in March 2024. NRAI president Sagar Daryani hoped that CCI will also speed up the investigation on the other issues raised by the NRAI in its petition in 2022. PTI

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No : JDA/EE&TA to Dir.Engg.-I/2024-25/D-83 Dated : 08.11.2024

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No. : EE & TA to Dir.Engg.-I/23/2024-25

Bids are invited from interested bidders for following works :-

S. No.	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	Nature of Work	Last Date
1.	JDA2425WSOB00373	293.25	Repair and renewal of Road Cut	28.11.2024

Other particulars of the respective bid may be visited on Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in.

Executive Engineer & TA to Dir.Engg.-I
Raj.Samwadi/C/24/7552

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERTHAMPUR
Phone: 0680-2281582, e-mail: ccesocbam@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]

Bid Identification No. CCE, S.C (R&B)-BAM-11/2024-25 No. 3811/ Dated: 07.11.2024

- The Chief Construction Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible contractors for construction of Road works as detailed in the table below.
- Nature of work** : Road Works
- No. of work** : 03 Nos.
- Tender Cost** : Rs.10,000/- (online)
- Class of Contractor** : "B" Class, "A" Class & Special Class
- Availability of Bid document in the Website** : From 12.11.2024 10.00 AM to 26.11.2024 5.30 PM
- Date of Opening of Bid** : 27.11.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
- The Bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
- Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-
(Ashis Kumar Nayak)
Chief Construction Engineer (I/C),
Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur

OIPR-34103/11/0013/2425

BRIDGE

Dealer: North Vulnerable: East/West

NORTH	SOUTH
♠ 53	♠ A87
♥ AKQ	♥ J103
♦ AJ10	♦ K9876
♣ AJ1032	♣ 54

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	Pass	1C	1S
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass

West leads the spade nine, East overtakes with the spade ten, then you allow to hold, and continues with the spade king. How do you plan the play?

Fortunately, a play is available that caters to all such cases. Declarer should duck the second spade (in case West started with three spades and the queen of diamonds), win the third spade, and discard a heart honour from dummy. After cashing the ace-king of hearts, declarer should play the ace of diamonds and, if the queen does not appear, lead the jack of diamonds intending to let it run. If West has two or three diamonds to the queen he can win his queen. But declarer has nine tricks. If East has two or three diamonds to the queen and plays in the second round of the suit declarer can win with the king and discard dummy's blocking ten of diamonds on the jack of hearts.

The West hand: S-964H-98764D-32C-876
The East hand: S-KQJ102 H-52D-Q54C-K99

Dealer: West Vulnerable: Both

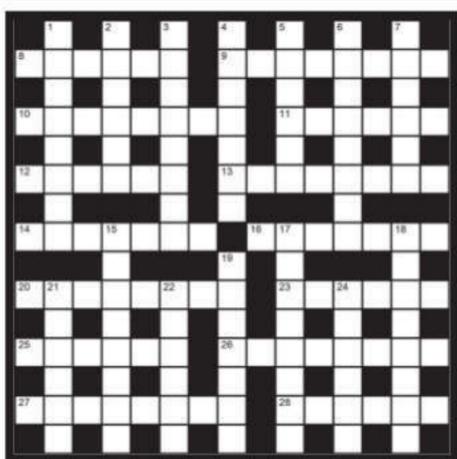
NORTH	SOUTH
♠ 32	♠ AQJ10876
♥ 54	♥ Q3
♦ AJ10864	♦ 3
♣ AKQ	♣ J109

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
4S	1H	Pass	2H
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

West leads the five of diamonds to dummy's ace. Two of spades is led from the dummy and East discards the three of clubs. Plan the play.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2503

- QUICK CLUES ACROSS**
- Cake (6)
 - Runway (8)
 - Separate (8)
 - Raise (6)
 - Maintained (6)
 - Commencing or beginning (8)
 - Wanting (7)
 - A kind of wild fern often found on hillsides (7)
 - Cause to be upset (8)
 - Winter melon (6)
 - Mummify (6)
 - Once each year (8)
 - Bold resistance (8)
 - Lime tree (6)



- DOWN**
- First Indian C-in-C of the Indian army (8)
 - Pounding instrument (6)
 - Went to bed (6,2)
 - Milk sugar (7)
 - Severe shock (6)
 - Sporty (8)
 - Middy meal in India (6)
 - Continue effort? (4,2,2)
 - Newly (8)
 - Encourage (8)
 - At ease (7)
 - Quantity (6)
 - Clothing (6)
 - Sullies or defiles (6)

- work (6)
25. Pass over the trumped-up story of the dog (6)
26. It gives no small offence (8)
27. The others, say, went first, despite having fought (8)
28. Five hundred over paper money, for a change, indicates inaction (6)

- this (8)
19. Is there, at the time, a send-off? (7)
21. A number of directors at sea (6)
22. American dramatist to make a person sick? (6)
24. How grand to have got such a glow as one in society (6)

- CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS**
- Top off living quarters above Georgia's Toledo wine store (6)
 - When there's plenty of water this thins, and about time too (3,5)
 - A bloom I'd located in town of the Wimmera region (8)
 - I'll see about name for boy (6)
 - Circle round a damaged glider (6)
 - Rehearsal of Spooner's card game at an end (5,3)
 - A peculiarity that is quite unmatchable? (7)
 - Before the wise man's forecast (7)
 - Light job for one standing on street (8)
 - Spotted one politician during

- DOWN**
- IfI, outmoued, can be slightly changed (8)
 - Gossamer couch for those tired of the internet? (6)
 - Roy turns up in the dining room with a leading lady of the town (8)
 - Maroon threads? (7)
 - Wrongly blamed for the uproar (6)
 - Guide through darkness for styce case, perhaps (4,4)
 - Moved unit is unmoved (2,4)
 - See panel processing Asiatic (8)
 - They give high-jumpers openings (8)
 - Expression of surprise about a South European getting set with

Solutions to 2502

QUICK CLUES Across: 7 Works, 8 Lived up, 10 Terror, 11 Twice shy, 12 Taking in, 13 Deft, 15 Sophism, 17 Crossed, 20 Idea, 22 Declared, 25 Capsicum, 26 Shifty, 27 Breadline, 28 Gravy Down: 1 Dodecagon, 2 Skirmish, 3 Listing, 4 Bewilder, 5 Hereof, 6 Pushy, 9 Brig, 14 Detective, 16 Scarcely, 18 Spaniard, 19 Adamant, 21 Dismay, 23 Cosy, 24 Laird
CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 7 Fleas, 8 Cellmates, 10 Hairdo, 11 Ruminator, 12 Molasses, 13 Nope, 15 Present, 17 Top hole, 20 Ida's, 22 One's word, 25 Watchdog, 26 Betray, 27 Split vote, 28 Jason Down: 1 All aboard, 2 Fairways, 3 Peers, 4 Flamenco, 5 Catnap, 6 Pelts, 9 Mobs, 14 Clarendon, 16 Nosedive, 18 How's that, 19 Forgets, 21 Dacoit, 23 Ebbs, 24 Carps.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday November 10
It's easy to repeat old patterns. Certain opportunities are on the way, and you need to be free to move into the future. You have earned every stroke of good luck which comes your way.

Monday November 11
If anything, today's stars are more lively than yesterday's and you really do seem to be facing chances to make a completely fresh start.

Tuesday November 12
You're back on form and your rising confidence may be seen in the Moon's imminent alignments. You might still be inclined to keep yourself to yourself.

Wednesday November 13
You'll be putting on your thinking-cap, musing deeply over long-term choices. You can reach firm decisions and sign papers today, but nothing is forever.

Thursday November 14
The most positive development at the moment seems to relate to your willingness to take decisions that once seemed beyond you.

Friday November 15
Jupiter's generous alignment with your chart emphasises all open-hearted offers. And, when the Moon sends an adventurous message to Pluto, passions will deepen.

Saturday November 16
You can afford to be optimistic about the future because of all the efforts you have put in so far. A friend will support you no matter what.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
It's a new day, a new week and a new dawn. Tying the foundations for a different kind of life, one which takes into account your determination to go back to the past. Make a point of talking to people you used to know or haven't seen for a long time.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Benevolent stellar alignments are on your side. Your mood should change soon, becoming much smoother - and you'll be less inclined to find fault than you were. See to it that financial affairs are settled, particularly if other people are involved.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Perhaps it's because Mercury is behaving so strangely that you are ready to question most aspects of your life. One thing the events of the past few months should have taught you is that worldly success is important to your happiness.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Emotional stars are doing their best on your behalf. Your romantic feelings at the moment are dominated by hope and optimism, but if your dreams are not fulfilled it is all too easy for you to become disillusioned. Therefore, it's up to you to take the appropriate action.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
It is now time to decide whether you are content to find a place at the bottom of the ladder, or whether you want to be top dog. It should be about another seven weeks before you have to act on current resolutions. Until then, please spare a little time for a romantic dalliance.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Why don't you give yourself a real treat and allow other people to do what they want - and entertain you in the process? The question is how far you are able to drop your taboos and abandon your preconceptions. If you're not sure of the answer, you can seek advice from partners who have been there and done it before you.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You no doubt feel feazed by the behaviour of friends and colleagues who once seemed so reliable. This should be a lesson to not make the mistake of depending on others when you would be better off standing on your own.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
A long, drawn-out conflict which has cast a shadow over your affairs could now be settled. Working relationships are more closely under the spotlight than any other, so it's here that the greatest effort may be required. A family outing could bring surprises, hopefully welcome ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
You have many fine qualities, and can be accommodating when it comes to people's little foibles, just as long as you don't have to have anything to do with them yourself. The price of romantic happiness or emotional contentment might be high.

CAPRICORN (Dec 24 - Jan 20)
The time is coming for some decisive action. You may well decide that the moment has arrived to cut connections which are tying you to the past. On the whole, though, the only commitments that should be dumped are those which have quite definitely outlived their usefulness.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Career or professional matters could be going through a rather disappointing phase. If so, the reason is that your hopes are now meeting reality head-on, while the solution for most problems lies in a change of perspective. Romantic developments could soon prove costly.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
In normal circumstances, all you have to do to get your own way is show how terribly vulnerable you are and wait for others to come to your aid. How much easier this ingrained quality must be now that Venus, planet of grace and charm, is favouring your sign.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

The artist must bow to the monster of his own ____ - Richard Wright (11)

CCA AO EHRINT

DV VII ARMING

Answer: The artist must bow to the monster of his own imagination - RICHARD WRIGHT

SUDOKU 5770

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

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

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5769

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

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person **Amit Rizal S/o Sh. Shambhu Rizal R/o H. No. E-172, Gali No. 70 Part 3, Mahavir Enclave, Veer Bazaar Road, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 83/2021 U/S 25 ARMS ACT, P.S. Sagarpur, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Amit Rizal** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Amit Rizal** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that **Amit Rizal in FIR No. 83/2021 U/S 25 ARMS ACT, P.S. Sagarpur, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **10.12.2024**.

By order
Ms. Isha Singh
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03
Room No. 18, First Floor, Main Building
Patiala House Court, Delhi
DP/14858/SW/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Suraj Kumar S/o Sh. Manoj Kumar R/o H.No. A-151 2nd Floor Camp No. 4 Jwala Puri Delhi.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case **FIR No. 561/2019 U/s 356/379 IPC P.S.: Paschim Vihar West Delhi,** it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Suraj Kumar,** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Suraj Kumar,** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Suraj Kumar,** accused of Case **FIR No. 561/2019 U/s 356/379 IPC P.S.: Paschim Vihar West Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **12.12.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Ankit Karan Singh
M.M-08 West Room No. 30
Tis Hazari Court Delhi
DP/14843/OD/2024
(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Chandu @ Raju, S/o Abdul Khilid R/o 181, Barat Ghar Ke Samne, Babu Khan Kabadi Wali Gali, J.J. Colony Phase-IIIrd, Madanpur Khadar, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 226/2020 u/s 25/54/59 Arms Act, P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Chandu @ Raju** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Chandu @ Raju** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Chandu @ Raju of FIR No. 226/2020 u/s 25/54/59 Arms Act, P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **10.12.2024**.

By Order,
Sh. Kartik Taparia
Metropolitan Magistrate-03
SED 512, Saket, New Delhi
DP/14864/SE/2024

varthana Varthana Finance Private Limited
Registered Office At: No. 59C-110, Varasiddhi, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website: www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office: Unit no. 3, Ground Floor, Pearls Omaze Tower, Plot B 1, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034.

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8(1)] (For Immovable Property)
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd. (Formerly Known as M/s. Thrivent Finance Private Ltd.) Delhi Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated: 13-08-2024, calling upon the Applicants/Co-Applicants/ Mortgagees, in Loan Account No. S19GUR-GUR-006240, U21DELDEL-016785, U20DEL-DEL-014737, U21DEL-DEL-017887. 1. M/s New Saraswati High School, Represented by Authorized Signatory, Pana Bhokran, Khadwail Rohak, Haryana-124303. 2. M/s. M/s Vedik Education Society, Represented by Authorized Signatory, Pana Bhokran, Khadwail Rohak, Haryana-124303. 3. Mr. Sandeep Kumar, S/o Om Prakash, Pana Bhokran, Khadwail(85), Rohak, Haryana-124303. 4. Mr. Karamchand Rathee S/o Rajender Singh, Pana Bhokran, Khadwail(85), Rohak, Haryana-124303. To repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being a sum of Rs.20,18,825/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Five Only) as on 13-08-2024, to repay agreed contractual rate of interest together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges etc., as details mentioned in the Demand Notice, till the date of payment, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

However the Applicants/Co-Applicants/ Mortgagees herein above having failed to repay the full amount with interest/other charges, notice is hereby given to the Applicants/ Co-Applicants/Mortgagees in particular and to the public in general that the undersigned being Authorized Officer of the M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd., Delhi, Branch has taken POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this day of 05-11-2024.

The Applicants/Co-Applicants/ Mortgagees in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd, Delhi, for an amount of Rs.21,49,710/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ten Only) as on 04-11-2024 with agreed contractual rate of interest, as mentioned herein above until the date of payment together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges. The Applicants/Co-Applicants/Mortgagees attention is invited to provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured Assets.

Description of the Immovable Property: All Peace and Parcel of Sale Deed dated 14.05.2015 in favour of Vedic Shiksha Samiti through Pradhan Sh. Sandeep S/o SH. Om Pana Bhokran, Khadwail (85), Rohak, Haryana - 124303 (Owner) in respect of the said property measuring, area 816 SQ. Yards, Lal Dora, Village Khidwail, Tehsil & Distt. Rohatak, Haryana. East: H/O Krishna Gopal S/O Sishram 70 West: H/O Ram Kishan Khastri 70 North: Plot of Bhima S/o Pyare Lal 109 South: Street 109
Date: 10-11-2024, Distt. Rohatak, Haryana Sd/- Authorised Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited

UPSIDA U.P. State Industrial Development Authority
UPSIDA Complex, A-1/4, Lakhnampur, Kanpur-208024

Notice for Public Objection/ Suggestion on Part Layout Plan of Industrial Area M.G. Road Hapur by which Industrial Plot No. CN-123 to CN-132 has been Sub division and created new Plots No CN-123 (Measuring 542.57 Sq.m.), CN-124 (Measuring-536.00 Sq.m.), CN-125 (Measuring - 536.00 Sq.m.), CN-126 (Measuring-536.00 Sq.m.), CN-127 (Measuring - 536.00 Sq.m.), CN-128 (Measuring-536.00 Sq.m.), CN-129 (Measuring - 536.00 Sq.m.), CN-130 (Measuring 536.00 Sq.m.) & CN-131-132 (Measuring-1432.00 Sq.m.)

1) (a) The Part Layout Plan of Industrial Area M.G. Road Hapur Plot No. CN- 123 to CN-132 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 mail RD, Raj Nagar 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

2) Objections and Suggestions are hereby invited with respect of the Draft Layout/Sub Division Plan.

3) Objections and Suggestions shall be sent in writing to the office of Regional Manager, UPSIDA at C-2, 4th Floor Mahalaxmi mail RD, Raj Nagar Ghaziabad within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice mentioning subject as "Regarding Public Objection/ Suggestion on Draft Layout/ Sub Division Plan for Industrial area M.G. Road Hapur. 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

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Mahipal S/o Phool Singh R/o E-933, Mangolpuri, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 1270/2021 U/s 129/55 Gambling Act, P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Mahipal** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Mahipal** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Mahipal of case FIR No. 1270/2021 U/s 129/55 Gambling Act, P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **11.12.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Rishab Kapoor,
Judicial Magistrate First Class-05
Room No. 105, First Floor
Rohini Court, Delhi
DP/14782/OD/2024 (Court Matter)

INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)
Head Office: A-13, Sector -1, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)

Tender for "Updation of DPR for NW-4"

Proposals from prospective bidders for "Updation of DPR for NW-4" are invited as per salient dates: Date for download of Tender is 08.11.2024 to 09.12.2024. Pre-bid meeting on 18.11.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Last date of submission of bids on 09.12.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Date of opening of bids on 10.12.2024 at 15.00 hrs. IWA's website i.e. www.iwai.nic.in and https://eprocure.gov.in/epprocure/app.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Tech.)

ARMY COLLEGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (ACMS)
NEAR BASE HOSPITAL, DELHI CANTT-110010

TENDER NOTICE (CORRIGENDUM)

The tender is invited through two bid system for selection of contractor for the renovation of Army College of Medical Sciences (ACMS) buildings. The complete tender document can be purchased physically at office of Registrar, ACMS, Delhi Cantt., Delhi. The tender date are extended through this corrigendum.

S/N	Name of Contract/Tender	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Tender Form
1.	Renovation of Army College of Medical Sciences (ACMS)- Civil, interior and other works	₹ 43.74 Crore	₹ 87.48 Lakhs	₹ 5000

The period of contract is 24 months from the commencement of the contract agreement. Bidders can purchase the "Tender Document" and submit hard copy to office of Registrar, ACMS, Delhi Cantt. Delhi. No online submission will be accepted for this tender.

S/N	Activity	Date	Time in IST
1	Date of Tender Published in Newspaper	29/10/2024	10.00 AM
2	Bid Document Sale Date	29/10/2024	10.00 AM
3	Bid Submission Start Date	29/10/2024	10.00 AM
4	Bid Document Sale End Date	04/12/2024	3.00 PM
5	Bid Submission last Date	04/12/2024	5.00 PM
6	Pre-Bid Meeting	20/11/2024	11.00 AM
7	Technical Bid Opening Date	05/12/2024	10.30 AM

ACMS, Delhi Cantt. Delhi **Dean ACMS**

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 74-W-CSP-24-25-07 Date: 07.11.2024

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Engineer/Concrete Sleeper Plant, North Central Railway/Prayagraj. For and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-TENDERS for the following works up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. The details of the Tenders are as under-

S.N.:1 Tender No.: 74-W-CSP-24- 25-07. Name of Work: Supply of Coarse Aggregate, 20mm nominal size of granite stone to Concrete Sleeper Plant.

Approx Cost of Work (Rs): 34.77 Lakh | Earnest Money (Rs): 69600.00
Completion Period: 06 months, Date of Opening of Tender: 09.12.2024.
Note:- 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tender will be uploaded and shall be available up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening on Website www.ireps.gov.in. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. The tenderers are required to submit/upload certificate mandatory in form of Annexure-V, uploaded on website as documents. 5. For detailed information, please refer the tender document uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in. 6. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit / Bid Security in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or e-payment gateway only. 7. In case of any difficulty helpdesk on the website of IREPS may be approached. 8. Tender can be submitted online up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening and will be opened after 15:00 hrs. 9. Suppliers of Goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act, and Rules as applicable from time to time. 10. The Railway reserves the right to amend/postpone/cancel any tender/s without assigning any reason thereof.

1953/24 (ADM)
North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | @northcentralrailway | CPONCR

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS "THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT TENDERS"

TENDER NOTICE No: S/2024/78 Date: 08-11-2024
The Principal Chief Material Manager, North Western Railway, headquarter 3rd floor, Near Jawahar circle, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur-302017 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tenders on www.ireps.gov.in site as follows. All the E-tenders will be closed at 14.25 hrs.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty	Unit	Due Date
1	90240022	ONE SIDE PRE-LEMINATED SHADED COMPREG	1611	Nos	14-11-24
2	37243388	Cast steel bolster for 22 NLB (for modified separate type pivot)	94	Nos	18-11-24
3	37241584	Buffer plunger	1133	Nos	18-11-24
4	65245022	EOT Crane 65/10 T	02	Nos	18-11-24
5	60245334	EOT CRANE CAP 50/10T	01	Nos	19-11-24
6	37242138	Poly Ring	44644	Nos	20-11-24
7	37242129	K-type composite brake blocks.	28457	Nos	25-11-24
8	30243328A	KIT FOR LHB BRAKE CALIPER WITHOUT BRAKE	656	Nos	26-11-24
9	6324ENG09	Running contract for manufacturing and supply of high viscous nylon-66 insulating liner	639500	Nos	28-11-24

Jurel stars again but India A lose by six wickets



Dhruv Jurel scored a patient 68 off 128 balls in the second innings. *BCCI*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOVEMBER 9

DHRUV JUREL is making the most of his early arrival in Australia. The 23-year-old, who flew in with KL Rahul to get a head-start and get used to Aussie conditions, has made a strong case with his gritty performances for a spot in the side when the senior team arrives in Perth later this month.

Jurel, who scored a crucial 80 off 186 balls in the first innings of the second unofficial Test, continued his good form with another half-century in the second innings, even though it couldn't prevent Australia A from registering a six-wicket victory at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday.

The hosts had also prevailed in the previous game at Mackay.

Jurel's gritty 68 helped India A reach 229 - setting a target of 168 - after they were 56/5 at one stage. The wicketkeeper-batsman showed a lot of composure and skill to deal with the Australia A bowling attack, especially the pace bowlers. His 94-run partnership with Nitish Reddy (38) helped the visitors to a semblance of respectability in their second innings. The cloud cover at MCG made Jurel's innings, during which he hit four boundaries, even more impressive. KL Rahul, who was sent along with Jurel to get some game time before the five-match Test series, failed in both innings.

Prasidh Krishna ignited Indian hopes at the start of the Australia A chase when he dismissed Test players Marcus Harris and Cameron Bancroft in the first over with only one run on the board. Mukesh Kumar made it 48/3 when he got Nathan McSweeney and it was 73/4 when spinner Tanush Kotian breached Oliver Davies' defence.

But a 96-run unbroken partnership between Sam Konstas (73 not out) and Beau Webster (46 not out) took Australia A home without much further alarm.

Earlier, India's last five wickets put on 173 runs with Kotian (44) and Krishna (29) also contributing with the bat, but it was not enough.

Jurel's consecutive half-centuries come at a time when Indian batters are struggling to find form, especially in the backdrop of the whitewash against New Zealand at home. His exploits might earn him a call-up for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy which begins on November 22.

Brief Scores: India A 161 & 229 all out in 77.5 overs (Dhruv Jurel 68, T Kotian 44; C Rocchiccioli 4/74, B Webster 3/49) lost to Australia A 1st innings: 223 & 169-4 in 47.5 overs (Sam Konstas 73*, B Webster 46*; P Krishna 2/37) by 6 wickets

Samson silences doubting Thomases

After hitting second successive T20I ton, wicketkeeper-batsman opens up on how he got out of his slump

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOVEMBER 9

SANJU SAMSON seems to have finally cracked international T20 batting. His last two matches for India have brought two hundreds - in vastly different conditions in Hyderabad and Durban - and shows why various selection committees kept going back to him despite the Kerala batsman having a largely inconsistent output over an international career that is almost a decade old.

Samson will turn 30 on Monday but has only played 50 games for his country, but now may have finally figured out what it takes to succeed at the top level. On Friday at Kingsmead, neither pace nor spin was spared as he showed proficiency on both front and back foot. Once set, there was no stopping him.

"After so many years of experience, I know what my ability is. If I spend some time at the wicket, I have shot-making ability against spin and pace and know that I can definitely contribute well to the team. I can win the match," Samson said after his match-winning 107 off 50 balls in India's 61-run in the first of four T20Is against South Africa.

He targeted both the straight boundary and the short one on the sides to good effect. Opening the batting with left-hander Abhishek Sharma, Samson hit as many as 10 big sixes and seven fours which took India to 202 for 8 in 20 overs. The Proteas never really threatened that total and were bowled out for 141 in the 20th over.

But the wicketkeeper-batsman wasn't always so bullish about his game. Being in and out of the side and not performing when he needed to had resulted in doubts creeping into his game.

"Failures are part of my life and career. There is doubt, especially with social media's influence, but at this level, it's important to focus on improvement. I think when you go through that failure, you have a lot of doubts in your mind. People say that social media definitely plays a role. But you also think a lot about yourself. 'Sanju, are you not made for international level? I think you are doing well in the IPL. Why are you not doing well internationally?' So I have a lot of such thoughts," Samson reflected about his struggles.

This is where support from the captain and the team management played a pivotal role. "When you have a supporting captain



After so many years of experience, I know what my ability is. If I spend some time at the wicket, I have shot-making ability against spin and pace and know that I can definitely contribute well to the team. I can win the match.

SANJU SAMSON, ON THE CONFIDENCE HE HAS TO BACK HIS GAME

I received a lot of phone calls from Gautam bhair and Surya, telling me what to work on. So I think all those small things play a huge role in coming back here."

ON THE SUPPORT HE HAS RECEIVED

like Suryakumar Yadav and Gautam (Gambhir) bhair and VVS Laxman sir, they all support you during failures. The way they communicate with you in your failures is very important. Everyone knows that if a player is going through a negative phase, he can get lost there," he said.

"So at that time, I received a lot of phone

What we have been saying in the dressing room right after winning the World Cup is that 'even if you lose the toss conditions are tough, we have to go all out.'"

ON INDIA'S AGGRESSIVE APPROACH

calls from Gautam bhair and Surya, telling me what to work on, like advising me to collect all the spinners in Kerala and practise on rough wickets there," Samson revealed.

"So if your Indian team's captain is calling you and telling you how to practise after a duck, you have confidence that the captain is trusting you. He wants you to do well. So I

think all those small things play a huge role, I think, in coming back here."

Repaying the faith

Samson is aware that he has been kept as a part of the set-up for a long period despite not cementing a place in any of the three formats. Now, with Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli moving on from the format, and several multi-format players not always available, he has stepped up in his last two outings.

"I'm very grateful for the trust shown in me. I think I've been able to give it back to my team management. I feel that it's just a start. I would like to just practise hard, train hard, just be very grateful for walking out to play for my country and just look to contribute and win games for my country every time I walk in."

The wicket at Kingsmead had some pace and bounce. Getting a hundred in conditions which one normally doesn't find in India shows a mature side to Samson's game. "When you score 100 for your country, it's definitely a very special feeling. The wicket was a little more bouncy, a little spongy in the beginning. It's been raining here for 3-4 days, so the conditions were a bit more challenging," he said.

"We are preparing accordingly. Even when it rained for 3-4 days, our team came here and practised. We did batting for 2-3 hours, so it was a little beneficial."

The ongoing T20I series and the subsequent ones are useful before the next edition of the World Cup, to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka in 2026. As defending champions, India will have a target on their backs and it will be up to Samson & Co to do justice to their status. The team has adopted an ultra-aggressive approach, regardless of conditions and opposition.

"What we have been saying in the dressing room from so many seasons right after winning the World Cup or even in the last 2-3 years is that 'even if you lose the toss and even if the conditions are tough, we have to go all out. We can't think that we will have to look for something like 160-170 on these wickets because I think chasing becomes a bit easier. We were just looking to attack even knowing that the conditions are slightly helping the bowlers,'" Samson said.

"We are the world champions at the moment. So I think we have to play like that and just keep on looking to dominate in this format."

Shaw among probables for Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy



Prithvi Shaw was recently left out of Mumbai's Ranji Trophy squad. *BCCI*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOVEMBER 9

PRITHVI SHAW, who was excluded from Mumbai's Ranji Trophy squad a few weeks back, was handed a new lease of life when he made it into the state's 28 probables for the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

The 25-year-old, who has played five Tests, six ODIs and one T20I for India was dropped from the Mumbai squad for their away Ranji Trophy clash against Tripura owing to fitness and disciplinary matters.

Shaw was asked by selectors to follow two weeks of a fitness programme prepared by Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) trainers after the team management informed MCA that Shaw's body contained 35 percent fat and he needed rigorous training before he gets back into the side.

"He has been dropped, and needs to go back to training and shed some body weight to be considered for selection," an MCA official had said.

Meanwhile, Shreyas Iyer also made the Mumbai list for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy probables after impressing with the bat scoring 142 and 233 in his last two outings in Ranji Trophy. Among those included are comeback man Siddhesh Lad, who made 169 in his last outing and all-rounder Shams Mulani, who ended his barren run with the ball to take 6/115 and 5/71 in Mumbai's massive win against Odisha.

The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy will be held from November 23 to December 5 and will divide the Ranji Trophy into two halves along with the Vijay Hazare Trophy this season.

Himanshu, Mulani spearhead Mumbai's win over Odisha

DEVENDRA PANDEY
NOVEMBER 9

MUMBAI SPINNERS Shams Mulani and Himanshu Singh ensured that the defending champions cantored to a win against Odisha by an innings and 103 runs. On Saturday, they picked up their second win and increased their net run rate to 1.555 at the MCA-BKC ground.

Left-arm spinner Mulani finished with a five-wicket haul to go with his six-for in the first innings, while the offspinner Himanshu Singh ended with four wickets as Mumbai took home maximum points on the final day of the game. This is Mulani's 15th five-for from 21 innings as he ensured Mumbai take home a bonus point to strengthen their position in the Group A.

Mumbai needed a mere five wickets on the final day to complete the formalities. Odisha resumed at 126/5 and was already trailing by 191 runs and found the going tough against Mumbai spinners on the fourth-day pitch.



Mumbai's Shams Mulani celebrates after claiming a five-wicket haul. *PTI*

They would have folded far quicker than they did but Kartik Biswal offered some resistance with a 77-ball 45. The last five wickets added 88 runs, courtesy Biswal's fight.

While Mulani's performance was the stand out in the outing, Mumbai would be certainly pleased with their 6.4' tall off-spinner

Himanshu Singh's performance. He had finished with a six-wicket haul against Tripura followed by a decent performance against Odisha. "It is a long way to go for me. I'm learning from match to match. I'm not thinking too much. In the first innings, the ball wasn't turning much, so if you see most of the wickets were in slips. Ajinkya Rahane said to bowl the way I had been bowling over the years," Singh said after the game.

Himanshu idolises the two offspinners R Ashwin and Nathan Lyon. "I only follow two bowlers all over the world, Nathan Lyon and R Ashwin. Whatever I have learned, I have learned from watching them." Himanshu had bowled in India's pre-season camp held in Chennai. "I had gone there first and Ranji happened later. I got confidence after bowling to the big players there. And that confidence is now reflecting here," Himanshu Singh said.

Brief scores: Mumbai 602/4 d (Shreyas 233, Siddhesh 169) bt Odisha 285 (Pattanaik 102, Mulani 6/115) and 214 (Mulani 5/71, Himanshu 4/77) by an innings & 103 runs.

ROUND UP

Chandigarh upset Delhi

Chandigarh: Opener Shivam Bhambri made mincemeat of spinners on a turner as Chandigarh shocked seven-time champions Delhi by nine wickets to take a giant step towards the Ranji Trophy knock-outs. Chandigarh lead Group D with 19 points from four games but the defeat puts Delhi in a bit of a spot as they are now placed fourth with 11 points from four games. **Brief Scores:** Delhi 276 and 250 lost to Chandigarh 324 and 204/1 (Shivam Bhambri 100 not out, Arsalan Khan 68) by 9 wickets

Services win

Brief Scores: Services 293 & 230 beat

Maharashtra 185 & 303 (Ankit Bawane 94 not out, Saurabh Nawale 56; Pulkit Narang 6/87, Amit Shukla 4/94) by 35 runs.

Vidarbha on a roll

Brief Scores: Himachal Pradesh 307 and 180 (Mukul Negi 40; Harsh Dubey 6/36) lost to Vidarbha 575 by an innings and 88 runs

Jalaj spins out UP

Brief Scores: Uttar Pradesh 162 and 116 (Jalaj Saxena 6/41, Aditya Sarvate 3/15) lost to Kerala 395 (Salman Nizar 93, Sachin Baby 83; Aaqib Khan 3/51) by an innings 117 runs

PEP TALK

What Gambhir's 46 all out team can learn from Shastri's 36 all out comeback

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
NOVEMBER 9

WHO WOULD be the ideal person to pep up a team that has lost a Test series 3-0 after getting 46 all out in the first Test? Someone who has been in-charge of a team that went on to win the Test series 2-1 after getting all out for 36 in the first Test of the series.

It is tempting to give a suggestion to the Indian board. They better call Ravi Shastri for a small pre-Border Gavaskar Trophy series talk with the boys haunted by memories of the 'worst-ever' defeat against New Zealand.

Back in 2020, it was his booming voice of positivity and the stubborn refusal to brood about defeat that turned the forgettable Adelaide annihilation into the opening chapter of a memorable Cinderella story for ages. Lessons learnt from 36 all out can be passed to the 46 all out sufferers.

If not, the present Indian management needs to quickly find their own method to inspire a team that has looked disjointed in the three-Test series against New Zealand. And since Rohit Sharma is likely to miss the opening Test at Perth, the onus will be on Gambhir to do a Shastri. He has options. He can be himself or try being Shastri. Either way it isn't going to be easy. Very early in his stint, the new coach has a task at hand.

Those in the know say that the BCCI inquest in India's worst-ever showing threw up worrying findings. The cohesiveness and bounce-backability that was witnessed in India's series win against England at the start of the year was missing against New Zealand.

Disregard the unconfirmed rumours about the seniors players not traveling with the team or rushing home on their whims, but there is enough in the scoreboards of the three Tests to show that had the Indian team passed through a "mettle-detector" there wouldn't have been a blip.

That was not the case when Rohit's boys took on the Bazballers from England. Like against New Zealand, they had lost the first Test at Hyderabad but they came back roaring like cornered tigers. The second Test would start with opener Yashasvi Jaiswal hitting a double hundred and when bowling Jasprit Bumrah would take 6 wickets.

Others too would step up in subsequent Tests. The bit part players would put their hands up. 3rd Test: Siraj takes four wickets. 4th Test: Dhruv Jurel compiles 90. 5th Test: Kuldeep Yadav scalps 5 wickets.

Those stories of resilience were missing in the 3-0 whitewash against Kiwis. 46 all out didn't seem to inspire the team to dig the trenches and launch endless do-or-die sorties like was in the case post 36 all out. Ravichandran Ashwin and Hanuma Vihari



As India head to Australia, the onus will be on coach Gautam Gambhir. *BCCI*

partnership were on painkillers but they faced 259 deliveries adding an unbeaten 62 runs over more than 42 overs at Sydney. At Gabba, Cheteshwar Pujara took endless blows on his body to set the stage for Rishabh Pant to be a miracle man.

In his fly-on-the-wall book on India's greatest ever escape to victory, The Miracle Makers, Bharat Sundaresan talks about the days after

the Adelaide disaster. Shastri's short and simple message to the team was in the language of the young. "Shit happens" - was the long and short of his talk to the boys. He wanted the team to move-on. No one was asked to talk or even think about the second innings collapse but rather focus on the rest of the game where India was competitive.

Shastri had actually called for a team

dinner. He didn't want the boys to sit and brood over the loss. There were party games and singing sessions planned. Sundaresan quotes the team's bowling coach and Shastri's buddy from his playing days, Bharath Arun to paint a very unlikely picture of a defeat that wasn't really licking its wounds. "It ended up being a great evening. All the team members were there until late. It was a fun night. If anyone from outside had seen the team that night, people would have been saying, 'Are they celebrating or mourning the 36?'" Arun would say.

Gambhir has a chance to script his own comeback tale. Though, men of contrasting character, Gambhir and Shastri have a lot in common. They got groomed at Indian cricket's two big traditional centres - Delhi and Mumbai. From an early age they have brushed shoulders with the stalwarts of the game. They are aware of the country's cricket legacy and also have a chip on their shoulder, a virtue if you are coach in-charge of stars.

In their playing days, they were true team players. Shastri batted at every position, he moulded himself in any role that the team wanted him to play. Gambhir famously got out hitting a big shot while in his 90s in the World Cup final. They had a big match temperament but never shied away from a fight. They were leaders of men but they played in an era of greats.

Gautam had other credentials to succeed as a coach. As KKR coach and captain, he showed he could get the best out of a diverse dressing room. International stars vouch for his tactics too.

Gambhir and Shastri also had a famous disagreement. It was about a statement Shastri made when he was coach of the Indian team. "If you look at the last three years, we have won nine matches overseas and three-Test series... I can't see any other Indian team in the last 15-20 years that has had the same run in such a short time, and you have had some great players playing in those series."

Gambhir found the statement funny. He said Shastri "either doesn't know the records or hasn't watched series in the past". He even made it personal. "What he won was the ODI World Series. There was nothing else that he had won. I don't remember if he has won anything outside India ever," he would say.

Maybe, now the pragmatic Gambhir will understand the hyperbolic Shastri better. Even after the Adelaide loss, Shastri had lifted the morale of the team facing a confidence crisis. He famously asked everybody to wear '36 as a badge'. Gambhir needs to quickly tear a bunch of pages from Shastri's coaching manual. It will help him understand that when the team hits rock bottom you need to praise them to the skies.

BRIEFLY

Mourinho fined for remarks on officials

Istanbul: Fenerbahce coach Jose Mourinho has been suspended for one match and fined by the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) for criticising the performance of the Video Assistant Referee after a 3-2 Super Lig win at Trabzonspor. Trabzonspor were awarded two penalties in the second half following VAR interventions and with the scores level at 2-2 Mourinho was incensed when a challenge on Bright Osayi-Samuel went unpunished. The Portuguese coach suggested VAR official Atilla Karaoglan had missed the incident, adding that the Turkish league "smells bad" and that international fans had no reason to watch the league.

REUTERS

George's Korea run ends in semifinals

Iskan City: Kiran George's impressive run at the Korea Masters came to an end with a semifinal loss to Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the men's singles competition here on Saturday. The 24-year-old, ranked 41st in the world, went down 12-21 20-22 to the top-seeded and world number five Vitidsarn in the BWF World Tour Super 300 event. George, who trains at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA), had earlier registered a fine win over fifth seed Takuma Ubayashi of Japan in the quarterfinals.

PTI

Chess: Raunak holds high-flying Pranav

Chennai: GM Raunak Sadhwani ended the four-match winning run of promising Pranav V, holding the latter for a draw in the Challengers category of the Chennai Grand Masters here on Saturday. The two Indians agreed to share the point after 39 moves in the fifth-round contest, but Grandmaster Levon Aronian was in roaring form while dispelling the challenge of GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. Aronian now has 3.5 points to close in on table-topper GM Arjun Erigaisi (4) who was held to a draw by GM Parham.

PTI

Legend Czechs in

Two-time Olympic medallist Chopra announces world record holder Zelezny as new coach

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOVEMBER 9

TWO-TIME Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra announced on Saturday that he will be coached by javelin legend Jan Zelezny, who holds the world record in the event. Zelezny will replace German Klaus Bartonietz, who is heading home for an indefinite break.

Chopra has often spoken of his admiration for Zelezny, who was the gold medalist at the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games besides having five of the top ten all-time throws. The Czech legend broke the javelin world record on four occasions and his 98.48m mark, set in 1996, is yet to be surpassed.

"Growing up, I admired Jan's technique and precision and spent a lot of time watching videos of him. He was the best in the sport for so many years, and I believe that working with him will be invaluable because our throwing styles are similar, and his knowledge is unmatched. It's an honour to have Jan by my side as I push towards the next level in my career, and I can't wait to get started," said Chopra.

Under Zelezny's guidance, Chopra is eager to fine-tune the technical aspects of his throwing. Interestingly, when Chopra won the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, Zelezny was the coach of the other two athletes on the podium, Jakub Vadlejch (silver) and Vitezslav Vesely (bronze). Zelezny has also coached two-time Olympic Champion and three-time World Champion Barbora Spotakova.

"I have already spoken about Neeraj as a great talent many years ago. When I saw him early in his career, I realised great possibilities for top results. I also said that if I should start to coach somebody from outside Czechia, my first choice would be Neeraj. I like his story and I see big potential, as he is young and able to improve. There have been many athletes contacting me for coaching, so for me to take this up means that it is a great honour to have him in my team," Zelezny said.

"We are getting to know each other more closely and will start in person at a traditional winter camp in South Africa. I believe in his progress, especially in the technical aspect, so that he can continue achieving top positions at the main championships," Zelezny added.



Under Zelezny's guidance, Chopra is eager to fine-tune his technique.

IIS

FACTFILE

■ Zelezny is the only ever javelin athlete to win four medals at four Olympic Games. Neeraj Chopra is halfway there to emulating the Czech icon who won three golds and a silver from 1988 Seoul to 2000 Sydney.

■ Zelezny still holds the World record (98.48m) and the best throw ever at a World Championships (92.80m). When Arshad Nadeem threw the sixth-biggest throw in Javelin competition history, the gauntlet for Chopra was thrown -- not just for the Paris Games -- but for the times to come. Training under Zelezny could potentially take the Indian to not just getting past that 90-m hurdle, but to possibly go further.

■ At 6 ft, Zelezny was not the tallest javelin thrower out there. But his five 95m plus scores came from consistently improving his throwing technique and the speedy run-up he possessed. Those attributes of the 58-year-old are the very same tenets on which Chopra's throwing technique is built on.

Zelezny's impact

Recently, in a video on social media, Chopra had spoken of the impact Zelezny had on him early in his career. When the Indian watched Zelezny's clips for the first time, he was left in awe.

"When I searched for the world record in javelin on YouTube, I found Zelezny's clips. Kya gazab ka athlete hai (what an incredible athlete he was). When I saw a clip of his world record throw of 98.48m, I knew right then that he was the best and I wanted to watch his videos and emulate him. He had a smooth run-up, great cross-leg action, attack and blocking leg. It became my routine: Zelezny, YouTube and me! One thing that not many people know is that when I was throwing at the Tokyo 2020 final, Zelezny was sitting right behind me. He was coaching the silver and bronze medallists. But he didn't know that he also had a role in my medal (because of him inspiring me early on)."

Chopra had spoken of the impact Zelezny had on him early in his career. When the Indian watched Zelezny's clips for the first time, he was left in awe.

AFI sought Klaus extension

Bartonietz first came on board as a biomechanical expert and took over as Chopra's coach after his predecessor Uwe Hohn fell out with the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and the Sports Authority of India.

Chopra's partnership with Bartonietz yielded two Olympic and two world championship medals. "He is returning to his hometown in mid-October. Till May 2022, he was also involved in coaching other javelin athletes and conducting courses for javelin coaches. He is nearly 76 years old and wants to stay with his family. He was not willing to continue after 2021 but we requested him and he agreed. But this time he is going back." Athletics Federation of India chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair had told The Indian Express.

Though the AFI was keen on Klaus being involved in the programme for junior athletes, the German is yet to take a call. Last year, he had spoken about what makes Chopra special. "He is a very hard worker. Also, you have to be mentally strong, otherwise you are not going to win at big events. He is not overconfident but realistic. He never talks nonsense and never makes a big noise. Like a Formula One race driver who understands the power, engine speed and everything about the car, Neeraj understands the event and his body," Klaus had said.

Chopra's partnership with Bartonietz yielded two Olympic and two world championship medals. "He is returning to his hometown in mid-October. Till May 2022, he was also involved in coaching other javelin athletes and conducting courses for javelin coaches. He is nearly 76 years old and wants to stay with his family. He was not willing to continue after 2021 but we requested him and he agreed. But this time he is going back." Athletics Federation of India chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair had told The Indian Express.

Harmanpreet, Sreejesh bag top honours at FIH Star Awards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOVEMBER 9

THE CAPTAIN of the Indian men's hockey team **Harmanpreet Singh**, who led the country to its second successive bronze medal at the Paris Olympics, won the FIH Player of the Year award for 2024 in Oman on Friday.

PR Sreejesh, who retired from the game on a high after winning his second Olympic medal, was the Goalkeeper of the Year. The awards were declared during the 49th FIH Statutory Congress. They are decided following a vote by an expert panel, national associations - represented by their respective national teams' captains and coaches - fans and media.

Harmanpreet beat the likes of Dutchmen Joep de Mol and Thierry Brinkman, Hannes Muller of Germany and Zach Wallace of England to bag the top award for the third time after 2020-21 and 2021-22. He topped the scoring charts at the Paris Games with 10 goals, including goals in the quarterfinal, semi-final and both of India's strikes in the bronze medal match against Spain, which India won 2-1 for their second consecutive podium finish.

Sreejesh beat the competition provided by Netherlands' Pimmin Blaak, Luis Calzado of Spain, Jean-Paul Danneberg of Germany and Argentina's Tomas Santiago. He is also a three-time winner of the award (2020-21 and 2021-22). The custodian from Kerala was the rock in India's defence during their campaign in Paris, especially against Great Britain in the quarterfinals, when they had to play almost three-fourths of the game with 10 men.

The other winners of FIH awards were: Yibbi Jansen of Netherlands (Women's Player of the Year), Ye Jiao of China (Women's Goalkeeper of the Year), Pakistan's Sufyan Khan (Men's Rising Star of the Year), Zoe Diaz of Argentina (Women's Rising Star of the Year), Jeroen Delmee of Netherlands (Men's Coach of the Year), Alyson Annan (Women's Coach of the Year), Steve Rogers of Australia (Men's Umpire of the Year), Sarah Wilson of Scotland (Women's Umpire of the Year).

Vinicius scores hat-trick as Real return to winning ways



Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr with Brahim Diaz after completing his hat-trick.

REUTERS

MADRID, NOVEMBER 9

REAL MADRID forward Vinicius Jr scored a hat-trick to help the LaLiga champions snap a two-game winless run in all competitions with a commanding 4-0 victory over Osasuna on Saturday.

Following shock defeats by Barcelona and AC Milan, their first back-to-back home losses in over three years, Real suffered two major early blows against Osasuna as forward Rodrigo and defender Eder Militao were both forced off injured.

Manager Carlo Ancelotti brought Morocco forward Brahim Diaz and 21-year-old academy defender Raul Asencio off the bench and his side kept calm led by a brilliant performance from Vinicius.

The Brazilian forward opened the scoring in the 34th minute after taking a Jude Bellingham pass in his stride to beat the offside trap and firing an unstoppable strike past goalkeeper Sergio Herrera.

Bellingham recovered his scoring instinct by netting his first goal of the season with a brilliant finish eight minutes later, lobbing the ball over the goalkeeper to extend Real's lead. Real's stand-in right back Lucas Vazquez was also forced off but Vinicius extended the lead with a great goal in the 61st minute, running on to a long pass from his goalkeeper Andriy Lunin before rounding Herrera and tapping into the empty net.

Eight minutes later, Diaz stole the ball from a distracted defender on the edge of the box and put it on a plate for Vinicius to fire home and wrap up a comprehensive win with his second hat-trick in four games. Vinicius is now second in LaLiga's top-

scorer race with eight goals in 12 games, six behind Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski.

Second-placed Real climbed to 27 points, six behind leaders Barcelona. Osasuna are fifth on 21 points.

"I don't want to touch this subject (the injuries), because it hurts me to see colleagues crying... It breaks my heart..." Diaz, who missed over six weeks this season with a thigh injury, told Real Madrid TV.

"We won convincingly," Diaz added. "We played a complete game, with hard work and effort. The victory was needed. Now we have to continue at this high level, because we have talent."

Las Palmas bag win

Las Palmas snatched a 3-1 win at Rayo Vallecano in La Liga, when Colombia star James again only made a substitute appearance. Sandro's early corner delivery enabled Fabio Silva to open the scoring early with a header on Friday, then he repeated the feat in the second half with another corner to force an own goal from Rayo defender Aridane.

Substitute Manu Fuster sealed Las Palmas' win on a counterattack four minutes later. Rayo dominated the game without finding a breakthrough. The home team's consolation came as an own goal from Scott McKenna in stoppage time.

James played for the last quarter-hour to make his sixth league appearance for Rayo. Since his surprise summer move to Vallecacos, the 33-year-old former Real Madrid midfielder has started only one La Liga game.

Spanish media reports suggested last week that the playmaker could leave already in the winter transfer window. He reportedly does not fit with Rayo coach Inigo Pérez's preferred style of play based on pressure and intensity.

Zverev hopes to end year on high with Finals title

REUTERS

NOVEMBER 9

WORLD NUMBER two Alexander Zverev said he is thrilled with the level of tennis he has displayed this year and thinks his performances have helped quash any doubts about him that arose after a serious ankle injury in 2022. Zverev, who had an extended spell on the sidelines after damaging his ankle ligaments at the 2022 French Open, returned to his career-high number two in the world rankings following his victory in the Paris Masters this month.

The German also won a Masters 1000 title at the Italian Open in May and reached the final of the French Open.

"In 2023, I didn't feel like I was competitive in big events, I was far away from winning them," Zverev told ATP Media ahead of the season-ending ATP Finals.

"Being able to compete and make Grand Slam finals, win Masters 1000 events, that is a big satisfaction to me because there were obviously question marks if I was ever going to do that again after the injury.

"It was the first year where I was competitive again in big events. I'm happy with where I am."

The week-long ATP Finals, which feature the world's best eight singles players and doubles teams, are being staged at the Inalpi Arena in Turin from Sunday.

Zverev will begin his quest for a third title on Monday, taking on world number nine Andrey Rublev, before facing four-times Grand Slam winner Carlos Alcaraz and Norwegian Casper Ruud.

"I think coming in and playing one of the best eight players in the world straight off is a very difficult thing to do. You have to be focused, you have to be ready from the get go. I'm looking forward to this week," Zverev said. Rublev is a "powerful, extremely fast player," he said. "He tries to overpower you. The most important thing against him is to not let him."



Zverev will begin his quest for a third title on Monday, taking on world number nine Andrey Rublev.

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WHERE NEWSMAKERS DROP IN FOR A CANDID CHAT.

Revanth Reddy

Chief Minister of Telangana

in conversation with

Anant Goenka Executive Director The Indian Express Group	Liz Mathew Deputy Editor The Indian Express
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SCREEN, PAGE 2

The Open Road

Canadian soft rock giant Bryan Adams on his India tour and how artistes have a moral responsibility to speak on political matters



BOOKS, PAGE 3

- Review of Sakshi Malik's *Witness*
- Review of Ranjit Hoskote's *The Homeland's an Ocean*
- Lawyer and writer Gautam Bhatia on his latest book, *The Sentence*

NOT EVERYBODY WANTS TO SAY 'I Do'

Young urban Indians are choosing to lead fulfilling family lives without marriage as a goalpost. What's driving this trend?

Rinku Ghosh

THIRTY-FIVE-YEAR old Anirban Sen has redrawn his life alongside the crayons and colouring books of his twin sons. A top-notch IT professional in Mumbai, he's back home by their study hour, takes care of their playdates and finishes remaining work after they sleep. Just like any other multi-tasking parent, Sen chose not to marry, had his boys through surrogacy in 2019, lives with his parents, has a tight group of friends and is open to companionship without strings.

"Marriage today has become a complex challenge. Everybody has their individual goals and pressures to deal with. And aligning them or accommodating each other without acrimony and regret is the toughest task. No one partner has to subduct the other. That stasis may take time and more importantly, the intent to find. If I find an equal companionship, I will honour it. But you do not need to marry to do so," he says. Sen longed for a family early in life and wanted to become a father. But his then partner had other priorities. So he went for surrogacy the moment he was financially stable. "Not marrying doesn't mean I am commitment-phobic. For me, parenting took precedence. We have a habit of idealising marriage as the only pivot of love. But that's not true. Other bonds are equally fulfilling for a family life," says Sen, who took a couple of years to get acceptance for his "parenthood without motherhood" way of life. "Some even thought I was a closet gay. But why should heterosexual people be expected to marry all the time?" he asks.

Meanwhile Lavli Thakur, 38, from Bhagalpur, Bihar, has chosen singlehood as she lives with her two sisters in Delhi and runs an animal rescue NGO. "My partner and I wanted different things. I was surprised to find even married men masking their status on dating apps and choosing momentary flings," adds Thakur, who tried out a matrimonial site at her parents' insistence only to find most candidates interested in hook-ups. "Most marriages in my circle are a one-gender responsibility. I think it is far more important for women to focus on their finances, how much they can budget for their health and leisure as well as retirement without any dependencies. I still don't mind a friendship but I would want to build enough resources so that I can afford some luxury in my old age. A full life lived on one's own terms is not an antithesis to marriage, it's just a parallel choice," she says.

Both Sen and Thakur represent a growing number of young Indians in urban and semi-urban India who are choosing to lead fulfilling family lives without marriage. The National Statistics Office's Youth in India Report 2022 has shown that 23 per cent of

young people are not interested in marriage. Earlier, this figure was 17.2 per cent.

What's underpinning the anxieties about marriage among young people? "That largely stems from economic factors," says Dr Shaunak Ajinkya, psychiatrist and relationship counsellor at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai. Anecdotally, up to 20 per cent of his young patients are averse to marriage. "It is definitely not based on avoidance of responsibilities. If anything, young people are far more organised about mapping their lives. Both boys and girls are chasing career goals and want to achieve some sort of economic stability before they consider marriage. Some of them are taking care of student loans, some have high ambitions and are squaring off living costs, and, therefore, do not want to add to their financial burdens. Women, who continue to get ignored for mid-career promotions because they have a family, now want that position before settling down. Financial independence widens the bouquet of choices other than marriage. Those in non-mainstream professions, particularly those in the creative space, do not want to bet on an unpredictable future," he adds.

The economic concerns, as documented by Dr Ajinkya, are many. "There was this mid-40ish couple who sacrificed their health insurance to set aside funds for the education of their offspring. Both denied themselves their me-time and indulgence. It affected their marriage," he says. In this balancing act of aspiration and self-sacrifice for their children, marriage sometimes can take a back seat, especially among youngsters who have satisfying relationships with friends, family and colleagues. That's why 27-year-old Sarthak Gupta

has relocated from his job in Kolkata to his parental home in Noida and be secure in his homely comfort. "If you talk about settling down in life, I am very settled. I don't need marriage for that. A woman should have an equal right to settle down in her own home. My partner wanted to prioritise the needs of her ageing parents and wanted to be around them than move in with me. That doesn't stop her or me from being with each other as companions," he argues.

Societally, women are demanding respectful space. Many of Thakur's peers are choosing to be single, because they are finding it difficult to have faithful partners or intellectual equivalents. "You need to constantly fuel your marriage, give time to your partner and grow as people together. If you get sucked into chores and goal-chasing, the relationship suffers. It is human nature to seek affection and so marriages where partners do not give time to each other snap as they seek extramarital comfort zones. It's better not to marry till you are in a position to handle these needs," says Thakur.

The rising number of divorces and the legal baggage and stigma that come with it are deterrents. This is as much true in China where



ILLUSTRATION: KOMAL

normalising singledom and alternative relationships. However, that doesn't mean marriage itself is under threat although it seems to have been weighed down by role-playing expectations. "For long, it has been the only sanctified and valid couple bond. Yet, in the new-age, relationships are seen as a matter of personal freedom and we need to project marriage as any other healthy interdependent relationship with benefits. It doesn't need to be projected as an obligatory milestone of our lives but as an all-encompassing umbrella that embraces every kind of love. We have to normalise imperfections and stop overselling the dreaminess of a wedding," says Dr Ajinkya.

Most dating apps are now going beyond casual hook-ups and have sub-categories for like-minded people to bond over shared activities and interests. "Couples can have a fulfilling life in whatever model they are subscribing to. And who knows, they may find their way to each other this way, too," says Dr Ajinkya. Ad filmmaker Sangeeta Sinha, 38, who met her now-husband on the Bumble app, was certain she would never marry because she loved being a careerist. "Over coffee and dinner dates, we laid down our priorities. We had no expectations of each other and could just be our raw selves. And then we grew under each other's skin enough to take the plunge," she says.

Gupta himself feels that a marriage comes under the lens of a performance metric and puts pressure on youngsters like him to score high. "A relationship is meant to be evolutionary, it is not a drill," he says.

A template exists in ancient Indian literature, which has many examples of healthy family structures of men and women who never married. The *Brahmavadinis* or women scholars, like Gargi, dedicated their lives to study and chose not to marry. Lilavati, the daughter of the famous mathematician Bhaskara II, was a single woman who used her knowledge of mathematics to support herself. The author of Ved Vyas, as depicted in Puranas, raised his son Suka on his own and never married. At the same time, *gandharv* unions, where the boy and girl pledged themselves to each other with Nature as witness, were respected and later sealed as a marriage. "The fact that alternative relationships existed in society did not take away from the sanctity of marriage. In fact, it normalised marriage as another union between consenting adults," says Dr Ajinkya.

Dr Borade has an exercise in his pre-marital sessions. "There was this one couple who seemed to be in conflict over every issue. So I gave them a challenge every session, asking them to deal with it individually. Then I asked them to deal with it together. And the results surprised them. What they did together had the best of both. We make them focus on what they can do together despite their differences and demystify marriage as an everyday ritual of togetherness. That works for most," he says.

Sen feels the more we level up marriage with other forms of human relationship, the less of a challenge it will feel. "It's impossible to have a perfect marriage in an imperfect world but then can't there be a marriage of minds?" he asks.

a recent Weibo hashtag about rejecting marriage generated 92 million views, with commenters citing divorce and domestic violence as reasons. Most women in India are sceptical for the same two reasons. Divorce in India, if not mutual, is both a psycho-social and economic drain. "Nobody wants to pick up the financial burden of a failed marriage," says Dr Ajinkya. Usually, fears arising out of past break-ups, childhood trauma or sexual abuse, abandonment or any kind of unstable relationship within the family itself can pull many young people away from marriage. The good part is there is an awareness of it.

This is why the number of couples seeking pre-marital counselling at Pune psychiatrist Dr Pankaj Borade's clinic keeps getting bigger. "Most couples are regular professionals, some of whom are driven by family pres-

ures to enter into wedlock. And while everything may seem hunky dory, with the number of marriages going up, the number of divorces is also going up. Recent data from the National Family Health Survey indicates that the divorce rate in India has surged by 35 per cent over the past five years. The good thing is couples are at least thinking before taking the plunge that could cost both of them," he says. Just a week ago, two 31-year-olds thrashed out their challenges with the girl concerned about relocating to another city. They decided to hit the pause button till they could align their priorities better. Another boy was worried about whether he could pleasure his new wife, both sexually and emotionally.

Both counsellors agree that opting out of marriage has become easier with the healthy acceptability of live-ins and social media itself

It's impossible to have a perfect marriage in an imperfect world but then can't there be a marriage of minds?

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND
 RANJIT LAL Author, environmentalist and bird watcher

Seasons in the Sun

From once having summer, monsoons and winter, we now have fire, flood and fog as our seasons

BACK IN the day, it was said that India had three main seasons annually: winter, summer (which the Brits called the 'hot weather') and the monsoons. Between winter and summer, there was a very brief spring, during which trees flowered and birds sang and Holi created havoc.

Summers were incandescent — hot and sweltering along the coast, but fanned by sea breezes, roastingly hot and dry in the interiors and northern parts, where khush coolers worked miracles and cooled entire houses. This was when the blazing hot loos blew and the occasional dust storm sandpa-

pered every surface. The plains, cracked and desiccated as any wasteland, would turn the country, brown, beige, tan and buff and gritty, and frogs buried themselves deep under the earth, where it was still damp. Some birds, of course, regaled you in the tinderbox temperature: deep from under shade, the common-hawk cuckoo would watch birders tramp about in the sun, and scream, 'brain-fever, brain-fever, brain-fever' which optimistically in Marathi has been rendered as *paos-ala, paos-ala paos-ala* (rain is coming, rain is coming, rain is coming).

And then came the season probably most looked-forward to all over the country.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE DID

Once the mountains were places we fled to, now we see pine forests crackling and exploding

Those living on the west coast got a ringside view of the approaching south-west monsoon — a lowering gunmetal horizon moving ever closer, preceded by silver showers of rain and skittish breezes, before the big guns opened up. Peacocks would go into paroxysms of ecstasy. Large mammals, like elephants, tigers and leopards, would soak happily, then shake themselves off in show-

ers of spray. Once the monsoon had bestowed its largesse and gracefully withdrew, another short interlude of hot sweltering weather followed, but wait, there was a gradual coolness in the air.

Winter was on its way and gradually cardigans, windcheaters and shawls made their appearance. The air would be crisp as a salad brought out from the fridge, and in the

northern parts, frost would crackle underfoot early morning — and cheeks would get rosy. Occasionally, a grey fog would envelope the landscape and then suddenly, mid-morning lift, like a transfer being peeled revealing a glittering kaleidoscopic world beneath. Nights would be freezing, inviting huddles around bonfires and *angeethis*. Along the coasts, it would be just perfectly breezy and balmy.

And what do we have today? In summer, we have fire — a lot of fire. Up in the hills and mountains, where one fled for respite from the blast-furnace plains, there would be entire pine forests, crackling and exploding, flames racing through at a horrendous pace, driven by dragon winds. Tinderbox hill-stations perched precariously (and illegally) on slopes would be in danger of going up in flames. Smoke would wreath the skies, making one hack and cough.

And then came the turn of the monsoons to show what they could do: some parched places would remain cracked and dry, others receive their entire monsoon quota in the space of a single morning. Cities would go under, people left waving desperately from rooftops. Rivers would overflow and rage through cities and their suburbs, drowning everything in their path. In the hills, entire mountainsides would come roaring down in landslides taking everything before them, from temples to town-

ships. Those rickety hill stations would now be in real danger of being swept down and buried under tons of gluey mud. The same desiccated brown plains would now turn into vast brown lakes. This was not the monsoon season anymore — this was flood season. Storms and cyclones on the coast would barrel inland, flattening everything in their path. Tidal surges would render vast areas of land saline and useless.

But, yes, the rains would eventually withdraw — and now insolently the first wisps of winter mist would suddenly appear, and quilt the ground early in the morning. And then you would realise, by the sandpapery feeling in your throat that this was no innocent, clean mist. It was abrasive and scratchy and made you cough. As the weeks went by it would thicken into a dirty, dense grey-brown fog blotting out the sun for weeks at a time. As seasonal affective disorder (SAD) settled on you, you now understood the plight of people in those countries where there was no sunlight for months at a time and only vodka as solace. You (and every animal, insect and bird) were now inhaling 20 packs of cigarettes every day.

And so, from once having summer, monsoons and winter (interluded by spring), each enjoyable in its own right, we now have fire, flood and fog as our seasons. Yes, certainly the climate has changed and all within the span of a single lifetime.

New Theatrewallah

Zahan Kapoor on balancing his artistic aspirations and carrying the legacy of Prithvi Theatre forward

Alaka Sahani

Over the years, Prithvi Theatre has become an 'emotion'. Actor Zahan Kapoor, one of its trustees, is aware why the theatre, established in 1978, feels like "home" to its visitors. "We have fostered an atmosphere of acceptance and make people feel welcome. Everyone says Prithvi Theatre feels like home because when you go home, you are accepted. That vibe is institutionalised here without anyone having to underline it," says Zahan.

As the grandson of Shashi Kapoor and Jennifer Kendal Kapoor, and the son of Kunal Kapoor and Sheena Sippy, he has an incredible legacy to live up to. So, it is remarkable that Zahan, who made his screen debut with Hansal Mehta's *Faraaz* (2023), balances his acting aspirations along with running the theatre. He does the latter with his father and sister Shaira Kapoor. With the 39th edition of the annual Prithvi Theatre Festival underway — it will go on till November 18 — Zahan has his hands full with handling social media, programming and other logistics of the festival.

Zahan's involvement with the festival started in 2012, a critical year since his paternal aunt Sanjna Kapoor had stepped down as the theatre's director and Kunal helmed the festival. Armed with a DSLR camera, Zahan shot a promotional video for the festival. "Since I was interested in filmmaking, I thought the Prithvi Theatre Festival should have a promo video." In subsequent years, he worked on increasing the festival's outreach through social media and marketing. "I got involved because of my deep interest in story-



Everyone says Prithvi Theatre feels like home because when you go home, you are accepted

telling and learned on the job," he says. This experience was fascinating enough to draw him to the festival, year after year. "Shaira and I used to work on the decor together. We used to draw designs, brainstorm and even put up the lights ourselves. Today, she has taken over the decor and lighting aspect of the festival because that's her expertise while I am more focussed on social media. We design posters and plan publicity," says Zahan, seated at the Prithvi cafe, brimming with the festival bustle.

His interest in acting, however, was triggered before his involvement with the festival when he assisted theatre personalities like Sunil Shanbag and Neeraj Kabi during their Summertime workshops as a volunteer in 2010.

"That's when I got interested in acting. Till then, I was more keen on filmmaking even though I had acted in school plays, including the stage pro-

duction of *The Kite Runner*," he says.

However, more than the fame and glitz of being an actor, Zahan was drawn to the process of putting up a play and the preparations actors go through. That's when he took a deep dive — reading about stagecraft, theatre and other aspects of performance art. "For a month, I watched the rehearsal of Naseeruddin Shah's *Arms and The Man* (a play written by George Bernard Shaw)," he says. He also attended several workshops, including one at London's National Youth Theatre and Adishakti, near Auroville.

The titular role of *Faraaz* came to Zahan almost by fluke, when Mehta, his neighbour, had seen him passing by. Casting director Mukesh Chhabra had earlier auditioned Zahan for a project and liked him but someone else got that role. When Mehta asked Chhabra about Zahan, the latter strongly recommended him. With this, Zahan worked on developing the film, whose script

was yet to be written. "With Mahesh Bhatt, the producer then, and Hansal Sir, I went to Bangladesh to research. Hansal Sir, at that time, only had a story that needed to be fleshed out. That was a great experience," says Zahan. He has acted in two forthcoming web shows, including the Vikramaditya Motwane-directed, *Black Warrant*.

Although Zahan is a fourth-generation theatrewallah — his great-grandfather Prithviraj Kapoor had founded the theatre group called Prithvi Theatre, which performed plays across the country — he learnt of his family and the extended Kapoor family's artistic legacy during his teenage years.

"While growing up, *Dadaji* (Shashi) had retired from movies. I became aware of his body of work after he received the

Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2014. Since he could not travel to Delhi to receive the award, we celebrated it at Prithvi Theatre. My father was unhappy with the montage of songs shown during the award ceremony. He asked me to make a video that captures *Dadaji's* range, vibrancy and energy. While going through his films, I learnt about his contribution to cinema," says Zahan, who has acted in Makarand Deshpande-directed plays *Pitaji Please* and *Siachen*.

Zahan aspires to continue his artistic pursuits and, eventually, be able to tell stories of our culture and country in a compelling way. He even hopes to live by his great-grandfather's motto: *Kala desh ki sewa mein* (Art serving the nation)". However, he wants to give himself some time as he enjoys this stage of exploring various facets of performance art.

'As programming is algorithm-based, a lot of new music falls by the wayside'

Canadian soft rock giant Bryan Adams, 65, on his forthcoming India tour in January, artistes' responsibility to speak on political matters and being inspired by Taylor Swift

Suanshu Khurana

Your connection with India goes beyond your past concerts here. Your father was once a peacekeeping observer for the India-Pakistan war. Did he have any conversations with you about the complexity of the subcontinent?

My mother says my father came back from that experience a different man. In the '60s, there was no diagnosis for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but it affected him profoundly for the rest of his life. He did tell me stories about that time but would go quite silent about some of the details. You could tell it was a frightful experience.

For a musician who started out over 40 years ago, when there was no Internet and radio was the boss, what has changed in this time of social media?

I think music, and for that matter everything, has a much wider reach than ever before due to the Internet. But what has changed is that everyone has a chance to be heard. Look at the horrific genocide that is happening in Gaza. Even with the massive press blackout, this is the first time in history we are able to see the atrocities in real time because people can post videos live as they happen.

You released the anti-war single, *What if There Were No Sides At All*, recently. How significant is it for artistes to speak on political matters of the day?

I think artistes have a moral responsibility to speak up. At the time of its release, I was disgusted by the impending war between Russia and the West and the complete lack of peace negotiations. There are still no peace negotiations, which is crazy. Furthermore, I had no idea Gaza was going to be flattened and so many people were going to be murdered. Yet a facsimile of the wall that Israel built, one that divides the Palestinians from them, is in the video. It was just a premonition but ain't it funny how art imitates life?

You are now performing for generations of fans. Is it surprising that *Summer of '69*, a track from the '80s, still gets so much love? Is the hallowed past a part of that story or is it all about the future?

It's both, of course, one feeds the other. Introducing the occasional new song is part of the challenge and it always has been so. It's amazing when the old tracks find so much affection, and I'm very grateful for it. However, it's very difficult to get new music played. Mainly because programming is all algorithm-based. Therefore, a lot of new music simply falls by the wayside. *Summer of '69* was going to be called *The Best Days of My Life* but during the writing process, I started scating the title 'it was the summer of '69' and I was more or less trying to finish the thought. It was like an unfinished idea without that title.

What drives you to continue touring and performing and making sure that you maintain the same standards?

What else is there to do? Music is global and I feel like I've been part of opening the door to live music from the West. After all, we were the first band from the West to hold a stadium concert in India!

You recently followed in Taylor Swift's footsteps and re-recorded your work so you could own it. Is it disappointing when



OPEN ROAD
Singer-songwriter
Bryan Adams

big music companies do not treat their artistes right?

I'm not sure what it's like for new artistes these days but 40 or 50 years ago, it was very difficult to get a good deal as an emerging artist. In my case, Universal Music inherited my contract. When it expired, they wouldn't let me own some of my early works. So I basically did what Taylor did. I simply re-recorded them again and called them 'Classic Versions'.

You got interested in music through the Columbia Record Club catalogue and its photographs. You are a photographer yourself now. How has music been visual for you?

That was an old system of selling vinyl records. You'd get a few albums for a dollar and then you'd pay for the subsequent ones by subscribing. I'd get the catalogue and order one or two albums with the hairiest-looking

bands I could find. That's how I discovered music in the '60s. That, and through friends.

You found life and music on your own after your parents split and you moved to Vancouver with hardly any money. How does one learn to play music when daily life and its chores are a struggle?

There wasn't much choice. My mother was skint, and there was nothing in the fridge. So with my mother's blessings, I went to do kitchen work. Then I started auditioning for bands. By the time I was 15, I was on the road. We couldn't afford any formal training in the guitar, so I just worked it out slowly and more, of course, when I played with other musicians.

You met your longtime song collaborator Jim Vallance at 18 and went on to write *Summer of '69* and a few other songs with him. How significant is that relationship?

We connected in Vancouver and started working on songs when I was 18. By the time I was 20, I had signed to a label and was on my way making music. I owe it all to Jim for helping and teaching me.

Your last album *So Happy It Hurts* sticks to your musical vision. Has music-making changed or become relatively easier?

It has become easier to record ideas and exchange them. That record was made during the lockdown and it set the tone for what we were going to do for the next three years. The best bit was getting nominated for a Grammy.

What are you currently working on?

I have a new album coming next year called *Roll With The Punches* and I have a retrospective book of photos coming out too, titled *#shotbyadams*.

Loss and Longing

Shishir Jha's *Tortoise Under The Earth* is a Santhali-language film, which, through the story of a grieving couple, talks about mining and the displacement of tribals

Alaka Sahani

WRITTEN AND directed by Shishir Jha, *Tortoise Under The Earth* (*Dharti Latar Re Horo*), a Santhali-language feature set in a uranium mining area of Jharkhand, adopts an organic and slightly unusual method of storytelling. It traces the everyday life and challenges of a tribal couple that copes with the loss of their daughter. This documentary-style feature, inspired by real life and people, explores the intertwined connections between tribal communities and the forest, their traditional home. It also brings in the vivid colours of their festivals, folk songs and a sense of community that binds them.

Tortoise Under The Earth, which is produced by Humara Media Labs and currently streaming on MUBI, is a poetic elegy to a world that is rapidly disappearing, subsumed by unchecked development and displacement. A National Institute of Design (Ahmedabad) graduate, Jha talks about making his first feature, capturing soundscapes of the Santhals, and how realities of uranium mining and displacement seeped into his script. Excerpts:

Though *Tortoise Under The Earth* is a feature film, it has a documentary feel. To what extent is it true to facts?

The film is based on real-life stories. I have introduced fictional elements to maintain the



narrative flow. I did not want to make the story informative. Instead, I wanted to get a feel of this world. We tried to tell a story so that the viewers empathise and relate to the characters. I don't think there is a big difference between a documentary and a fiction feature. Every movie has a story and evokes feelings.

What influenced your cinematic choices?

I adopted a minimalist approach to reduce production costs. What had also stayed in my mind is what I had learnt from Iranian director-screenwriter Abbas Kiarostami. (Jha received a diploma in filmmaking at the workshop of Kiarostami at Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV in Cuba in 2016). We had to make a short film under his guidance. We went to nearby villages and when we returned, he

asked us to narrate our stories. After listening to us, he felt Cuba was missing in every story. We realised that we have to use the resources we have around us for storytelling. I have tried to apply the same process while making *Tortoise Under The Earth*.

How did you zero in on the story of Jagarnath Basky and Mugli Basky, the Santhali couple?

This film is shot in a Santhal village located 30 km away from Jamshepur. I had read Paul Olaf Bodding's *Studies in Santal Medicine and Connected Folklore*. Later, I came across Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar's short story collection *The Adivasi Will Not Dance*. While I discovered so many things about Santhali life and culture through these books, I wanted to learn more about their contemporary issues.

When I visited the Santhal areas the experience was different. Since cities have expanded, these villages are now closer to urban areas. Initially, I did not want to tell an uranium-mining story since that's what everyone tries to do. Also, there was a risk of having an outsider's point of view. Intuitively, I was drawn to the story of the Basky couple. They were welcoming when we shot at their home. Yet, I was careful about not intruding into their private space.

How did you build the film's script?

We did not follow a conventional process.



A NEW LORE
(Left) Director Shishir Jha; a still from his film *Tortoise Under The Earth*

If you have a script ready, you need a certain set-up and a budget. Here, we were inspired by their life and surroundings. They took us to the jungle near their village before we visited their homes. We just heard their stories and went with the flow. For instance, Jagarnath and Mugli were hesitant to talk about their daughter, whom they had lost. I tried to retain that and capture their reflections around her instead of asking them how she died.

How did concerns around uranium mining and displacement seep into your script?

The villagers there live in harmony and follow a minimalistic way of life. However, displacement is a reality. Some scenes were recreated because capturing the visuals of people leaving their homes were not possible since one did not know about it beforehand.

Everything is based on reality, including the cases of premature deaths and children born with deformities. Most villagers are aware of the repercussions of mining but can't leave.

Your film features beautiful folk songs.

They celebrate many festivals and they have a song for every occasion. Mugli used to always hum and sing. There are a few songs that I heard during village fairs. I asked sound recordist Binod Hansda, a local who assisted me for a year, to record and translate the songs. There were stories about how the earth was created. We got Durga Prasad Murmu, who teaches Santhali to local children, to compose and sing a song for us. We took him to a nearby jungle and recorded it there. Through the film I have tried to capture the rhythm of their life, which includes them dancing during a festival as well as Mugli speaking to flowers and trees.

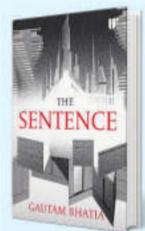


ONE WAY OUT
Wrestler Sakshi Malik at the Jantar Mantar protest last year

AMIT MEHRA/EXPRESS ARCHIVE

The Price of Peace

Lawyer and writer Gautam Bhatia on his latest novel and the moral questions that decide the fate of society



THE SENTENCE
BY GAUTAM BHATIA
Westland
396 pages; ₹599

Udbhav Seth

THE SENTENCE by Gautam Bhatia tells the story of Jagat, an anarchist politician who goes down in history for becoming a martyr and preventing civil war. Years later, a leader tasked with preserving the peace says, "The past is like a thread. If you pull at it, you can unravel something you don't expect." In this interview, Bhatia, 36, discusses the dilemmas that birth all democracies and how they inform his novel's politics. Excerpts:

Science fiction excels at tweaking elements of society we take for granted and exploring the ethics of that off-centre world. How did that work in *The Sentence*?

The main 'what-if' in this society is a technology that allows you to preserve the human body in a cryochamber and resurrect it many years later. If applied to the death penalty, it effectively makes it reversible. If someone is proved innocent, you can bring them back to life. But when the concept of death changes, what does it do to ideas of crime and injustice?

Another 'what-if' idea was inspired by the (19th-century) Paris Commune. What if that anarchist commune actually survived? How would it engage with capitalist societies outside?

Jagat made me think of Umar Khalid and Varavara Rao, prisoners whose incarceration are used to inspire the masses to political action. What drew you to that idea?

Tolkein famously disliked allegory. I wouldn't draw such obvious connections. But the book deals with how, by effacing yourself through death or imprisonment, you become a symbol. In this specific case, as long as you are preserved in the cryochamber, you become a symbol, and the symbol may not have any relationship with the actual person that you are. As you can be brought back 100 years later, the story explores how society deals with the inevitable gap between the real person and the symbol they have become.

The book's peace treaties reminded me of Ursula Le Guin's *The Ones Who Walked Away from Omelas* (1973) — what if utopia is built on a founding crime? Also of Britain, the United Nations and their role in Israel's occupation of Palestine. Why write a novel about institutions that fail?

There are historical inspirations. In many Latin American countries, after coups and violence, they have this arrangement where, effectively, you agree to forget; you don't want to rake up the past because doing so won't let you move on. You have a treaty, agreement or institution (to enforce that). In Spain, after Francisco Franco died and you had the turn of democracy, there was a Pact of Forgetting because otherwise you would be caught in a cycle of endless violence. There are two views about that. One that peace is beyond all price, the other that a peace built on falsehood or injustice will never be durable. The book explores that dilemma.

Your novels often deal with the legacy of revolution. Do you grapple with your, perhaps, conflicting identities as legal scholar, artist, citizen and public commentator?

There's a very interesting book, *The Op-Ed Novel* (2024), about writers in post-Franco Spain who wrote fiction and also contributed columns to newspapers. They would test an idea in a column and transport it to fiction, or vice-versa. I think it's the same for me. As a constitutional lawyer, the death penalty is unavoidable as a subject of thought. I'm an abolitionist. But in a novel, I can't be pushing my view as the view. That defeats the purpose of the form.

In *The Dispossessed* (1974), Le Guin is unsparing in revealing the flaws of a seemingly perfect anarchist society. But you see her sympathy for that ambition. (My goal is) to have those sympathies but not force them on the reader.

No Longer Afraid

Sakshi Malik's *Witness* offers glimpses into the insecure life of elite athletes and the murky world of Indian sports

Mihir Vasavda

I'VE NEVER enjoyed the actual act of confrontation," writes Sakshi Malik. She goes on to describe her life that is littered with confrontations. Her countless bouts on the wrestling mat. The fights with her family to marry long-time partner Satyawart Kadian. Challenging the patriarchal set-up. Grappling with her fears. And, of course, taking on the establishment in her battle for justice.

Sports autobiographies, especially the Indian ones, often fall into a familiar trap: the authors — the athletes themselves — being reluctant to delve into any grey areas of their personalities or careers. The goody-goody representation and controlled narrative may still provide some fascinating, previously unknown tidbits. But they don't always give an honest, 360-degree view of who they actually are and what they think.

Malik's *Witness* — co-authored with award-winning sports journalist Jonathan Selvaraj — provides a breath of fresh air by breaking away from the usual tropes.

It isn't as candid as, say Andre Agassi's *Open* (2009) — one of the benchmarks of bare-it-all storytelling — but it still is brutally honest. In her memoir, Malik takes the witness stand to give a ringside view into the insecure life of an elite athlete and the murky

behind-the-scenes world of Indian sport.

Unsurprisingly, all the early headlines upon the book's release have been around Malik's bout with former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, whom she and other wrestlers have accused of sexual harassment.

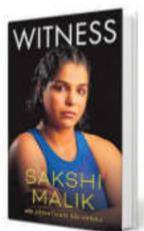
Unsurprisingly, again, that's how the book opens — with Malik reliving the painful memories of being dragged on the streets of New Delhi by the police during the height of the protests, and the subsequent decision to throw their medals into the Ganga owing to the delay in taking action against Singh.

She takes the readers right to the heart of all the behind-the-scenes discussions: from the highway dhabas in Haryana where the first protest was planned in January 2023 to the house of the then-sports minister Anurag Thakur, where it ended; from the back seats of cars to Jantar Mantar. This, apart from her many meetings with Singh as a wrestler, where she claims the BJP MP harassed her.

Some of the facts have been disputed. But it is Malik's truth and she has stood by it.

Witness, however, is much more than this episode. The wrestler is careful to not make her autobiography only about Singh and it is richer because of that. Because the only Indian woman to win a wrestling medal at the Olympics has been elusive about her story.

Malik hadn't done much before the Rio



WITNESS
BY SAKSHI MALIK WITH JONATHAN SELVARAJ
Juggernaut
336 pages
₹799

Olympics that would make her a solid medal prospect at those Games. Yet, defying everyone's expectations, she became one of the only two Indian medal winners in 2016. From then on, she'd been on a downward spiral and never could reach the same heights again. It's almost as if the wrestling gods smiled on her for that one August day.

Malik dedicates an entire chapter where she confronts her struggles, admitting that even today she does not know what had gone wrong, she opens up about how it impacted her mentally and the extent to which her family went to reverse her fortunes.

It's ironic how bravely Malik talks about her shortcomings because on the wrestling mat — be it at the inter-school level or Olympic medal playoff — she admits to being consumed by fear.

This is how she describes her first-ever bout: "I should have been happy and excited to wrestle but I felt my stomach sink before my first bout. That sense of dread heightened as my foot sank into the soft synthetic plastic mat. It peaked as I crossed the red border of the nine-metre-wide circle that I'd have to fight inside for the next six minutes. It's a fear that I've carried to the end of my career. I've never enjoyed the actual act of confrontation."

Malik's openness is complemented by Selvaraj's descriptive style, which in subtle ways educates the readers about the finer

nuances of wrestling. In the same chapter, Malik's articulation of different wrestling moves and their *desi* names have been deftly worded by Selvaraj. This elevates *Witness* from being just another memoir and turns it into a handbook of sorts for anyone willing to learn the basics of the sport.

Perhaps, one of the most important chapters in the book — and also one of the boldest talks by an Indian woman athlete — is when she opens up about her body: The '14-inch thick biceps' that made her self-conscious ("an Italian wrestler pointed to my arms... saying, 'Hey big arms!'"), the urge to dress up ("Every female wrestler wants to look pretty") and wrestling with self-doubts over how she looked and what she wore ("I've had my fingers twisted, my hair pulled out by their roots and my ACL ripped. But it felt far more stressful to wear a sleeveless dress for the first time").

It would have been far easier for Malik to glorify her Olympic medal and focus on the wrestlers' protests against Singh. But she's courageously gone beyond that to speak about intimate issues that make *Witness* as much a book on rights and feminism as it is about wrestling.

Given the severe paucity of quality sports literature — especially Olympic sports — in India, *Witness*, like Abhinav Bindra and Rohit Brijnath's *A Shot at Glory* (2011), becomes essential reading.

HOT OFF THE PRESS



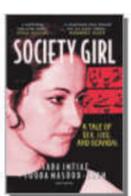
HarperCollins
464 pages
₹599

INTERSTELLAR MEGACHEF by Lavanya Lakshminarayan is about a woman who travels from Earth to the culturally snobbish Primus, a planet that's hosting the biggest cooking show in the galaxy. She has been invited but has an uphill battle to fight in terms of xenophobia to Earthlings, her insecurity about the primitive cooking methods used on Earth (fire), and the technocratic corporate honcho she begins to fall for against all odds.



Zubaan
116 pages
₹395

UNMOORED BY Ramachandran Usha and translated from the Tamil by Krupa Ge is the titular novella in this collection about women, freedom and money. It tells the story of three women who return to Chennai from the Gulf in search of families they left behind to secure financial stability. But things have changed and money can't buy time. The other stories in the volume, 'Khushka' and 'Success', explore similar territory.



Roli
360 pages
₹595

SOCIETY GIRL by Saba Imtiaz and Tooba Masood is a true story from October 1970 when 'phones began ringing all over Karachi' due to a sensational news break that would go on to dominate Pakistani headlines for years to come. Poet and ex-civil servant Mustafa Zaidi was found dead in his bedroom with his love affair, Shahnaz Gul, a married socialite, unconscious in the next room. The authors revisit this story and unravel the obsession around it.



Yoda Press
192 pages
₹599

INDIANS ON THE MOVE by Indrajit Roy, Zaheeb Ajmal and Ankur Jaiswal is an intimate account of one of the largest internal migrations in Indian history, when Prime Minister Modi imposed a nationwide lockdown in 2020 due to COVID-19. Within a few hours of notice, driving away millions of migrant workers from the cities they had come to for better opportunities, deprived of security nets in the economies they had helped build from the ground up.



Tulika Books
204 pages
₹850

REVOLUTION WITHIN by TK Anandi is an account of the reforms that have taken place in Nampudiri Brahmin households, one of the most dominant caste groups in Kerala, and the role played by young people and women in spearheading those changes. It also discusses norms of inheritance, marriage and reproduction in the households, as well as disruptions that contributed to the state's larger progressive movements.

His Rootless Verse

Ranjit Hoskote's *The Homeland's An Ocean* offers invaluable translations of Mir Taqi Mir's poetry

Jonaki Ray

THemes like longing for home, violence destroying all one holds dear, and intolerance for the Other, were as relevant in the 18th century as they are today — that's what one realises reading *The Homeland's An Ocean* by Ranjit Hoskote. The book has translations of 150 *ashd'ars* (couplets) by Urdu poet Mir Taqi Mir and began as a social media exercise in which Hoskote shared his translations of Mir's *she'rs* next to Roman transliterations. Hoskote got interested in the poet after coming across Ghalib's admiration for him.

The striking imagery of Mir's work and its relevance in today's world are brought out vividly in Hoskote's introduction. Mir was born in 1723, came to Delhi as an 11-year-old and saw the massacres and loot unleashed

in Delhi after Nadir Shah's attack in 1739. His fortunes reflected the chaos in the city and he had to seek shelter from different patrons. In 1747, when Ahmed Shah Abdali attacked the Mughal empire, Mir was forced to leave the city, not returning for 11 years. As he writes in a poem: "ham bhi is shahr mein un lo-goñ se haiñ kharab/ mir ghar-bar jin-hoñ ke rah-e sailab mein haiñ" (I, too, am one of those people in this city whose homes have been trashed, Mir, whose everything lies in the flood's path).

He came back but left for Lucknow in 1782 and died, away from the beloved city he always considered home. The experience led to lines like, "dhuip mein jalti haiñ gharbat-vatanoñ ki lasheñ/ tere kuche mein magar sayah-e divar nah tha" (The sun burns up the corpses of those driven from their homeland./ Your lane did not offer them even the



BARD OF THE BEREAVED
18th-century Urdu poet Mir Taqi Mir

shadow of a wall.) The transitory nature of what constitutes home for most of us is brought out by lines like, "ek jagah par jaise bhañvar haiñ lekin chakkar rahta haiñ/ ya 'ni vatan darya hai us mein char taraf haiñ safar mein ab'" (Like the whirlpool, still centre of a giddy circling,/ the homeland's an ocean that

scatters us in all directions).

As Hoskote writes, "... the twin poles of (Mir's) consciousness were *watan*... and *ghurbat*, the condition of exile... and Mir wrestled with the question of how to make sense of and give shape to a life led uneasily between these poles...". This is exemplified in poem 130: "barse hai ghurbat si ghurbat gor ke upar 'ashiq ki/ abr namat jo a' o idhar to dekh ke tum bhi ro ja'o" (Exile upon exile pours down on the lover's grave./ If, cloud-like, you came here, you too would rain tears).

On the term, 'solastalgia', a concept proposed by environmental philosopher Glenn Albrecht — "a homesickness you have when you are still at home" — Hoskote writes, "It is the deep sense of irremediable loss and displacement that we experience when our surroundings... the basis of our lives, are changed rapidly and destructively around us... it is a lament for a lost present". This, he explains, is why in translating Mir, he uses 'exile' instead of 'wretchedness' or 'misery' for *ghurbat*.

That Mir Taqi Mir, known as the *Khuda-e-Sukhan*, or the God of poetry, has long been admired by Urdu poetry readers, especially for his range and versatility, is not a surprise.

In fact, the late scholar, writer and translator Shamsur Rahman Faruqi often wrote that it was a common misconception that Mir had a tragic life or that his writing focused only on his thwarted love.

The Homeland's An Ocean is a valuable compendium for those interested in Mir's work because of its holistic analysis of the poet's life and work — ranging from the political and cultural climes of that time to Mir's use of the 'Hindavi continuum' — a combination of various languages and influences rather than what we know as Urdu today.

Most importantly, the book reminds us that migration and displacement remain common today, and as an act of resistance we can raise our voices for those who are more vulnerable.

After all, as Mir once wrote, "sha 'ir ho mat chupke raho ab chup mein janeñ jati haiñ/ bat karo abyat paho kuchh baiten ham ko batate raho" (You're a poet, don't be silent, lives are lost under cover of silence./ Speak up, read a couple of lines, read us verses, keep talking to us.)

Ray is a poet and the author of *Lessons in Bending and Firefly Memories*

SUGAR UNCOATED



DR AMBRISH MITHAL

Can weight loss drugs delay ageing?

They could potentially help you remain functional longer

NEW DIABETES drugs may delay ageing" made headlines across the media. The reference was to a study using glucagon-like peptide receptor agonist (GLP1RA), which mimics the hormone incretin to regulate appetite and blood glucose levels. Semaglutide, popularly known as Ozempic, belongs to this class of drugs and is known for controlling blood sugar, suppressing hunger and reducing weight. Are they truly anti-ageing, too? Let's find out.

What is ageing?

Ageing is a highly complex biological process. Our DNA is constantly being broken down and repaired. An imbalance in this process, leading to poor repair of DNA, is one of the hallmarks of ageing. Telomere shortening, deranged protein metabolism and altered sensing of nutrients are other features. These changes lead to cellular senescence (cells lose their power to grow and multiply), reduced tissue regeneration and reduced communication between cells.

What's the link between weight loss drugs and ageing?

GLP1RAs have been shown to protect against oxidative stress, cellular senescence and chronic inflammation, which are widely accepted as the major risk factors of ageing. This is char-



FACT OF THE MATTER

Recent studies have shown that GLP1RAs have protective effects on our vital organs

acterised by memory loss, cognitive impairment and coordination deficits. Recent studies suggest that GLP1RAs could have beneficial neuroprotective effects. A large study from Sweden showed that in people with Type 2 diabetes, the use of GLP-1RA was associated with 23-30 per cent lower risk of dementia, compared with other anti-diabetic agents.

There are several common pathological processes in Alzheimer's Disease, a brain disorder that causes a gradual decline in memory and thinking skills, and Type 2 diabetes. These include impaired glucose metabolism, insulin resistance, increased oxidative stress and increased inflammation. Alzheimer's Disease has been referred to as diabetes of the brain.

What's anti-ageing all about?

GLP1RAs have shown great promise in treating Alzheimer's and have also shown some efficacy in treating Parkinson's disease. Definitive, larger studies are ongoing on this subject. Some of the "anti-ageing" benefits may simply be the result of their weight-loss inducing properties. Obesity triggers Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and early death. Reduction in body weight can prevent, delay or reduce the development of these conditions with advancing age.

GLP-1RAs, including semaglutide, have been shown to reduce the risk of cardiac complications in people with Type 2 diabetes. Men and women who took the drug died at a lower rate from all causes, including cardiovascular issues and Covid-19. Heart failure, too, was lower in the semaglutide group. The drug further slowed the progression of kidney disease in people with diabetes by 24 per cent.

One concern with the use of GLP1RAs is the muscle loss that accompanies profound weight loss. This can potentially lead to frailty, falls and fractures and affect the elderly. Otherwise, it can protect all organs and put the brakes on ageing.

Not just SRK. These two men kicked the habit in their 40s and are now fitter than ever before

Rinku Ghosh & Anuradha Mascarenhas

AD FILMMAKER Niranjan Kaushik, 50, takes a break from playing tennis and corrects you for calling him an ex-smoker. "I am a non-smoker. There's no residual relationship. The toxicity is out of my life forever," says the man who couldn't do without 40 puffs a day till 2016. He's now a tennis buff, having started playing at 44 after he gave up smoking. Regular sessions have helped him decrease body fat and lower cholesterol, something he had to battle with as a smoker. As he doodles on his storyboard, he does so with soundscapes instead of the curl of smoke he was so used to.

"Growing up in Juhu, Mumbai, in the 1980s, I never thought smoking was a risk factor. Nobody did. It was the done thing, a sort of recreational activity. I began by picking up dad's unfinished cigarettes and by the time I was in class XII, I was smoking three to four cigarettes a day. Once I took up advertising, it became my creative tool," says Niranjan.

TURNING POINT AND A REBOOT

His turning point happened during the demonetisation announcement in 2016, when he realised he had Rs 20,000 of unusable notes and bought eight cartons of Marlboros from the nearest vendor for Rs 16,000. "That I did it guiltlessly just scared me. Since I led a fairly active lifestyle, I didn't have any noticeable health impacts like other smokers, except for elevated levels of cholesterol. But I thought I was really mentally sick to blow up my money during a crisis on cigarettes and justifying the act in my mind as an advance purchase for the months ahead. That twisted thinking did it," says Niranjan.

So his rehabilitation followed the psychological route called neuro-linguistic programming (NLP), which basically resets and retrains your mind to delink the image of cigarettes from everyday activity. "I always associated smoking with me writing a storyboard or a punchline. Much of my ideas developed during smoking breaks and I wrongly attributed my creativity to them. Nicotine is a stimulant that excites the brain by releasing adrenaline. When you're bored, sleepy or tired, nicotine can perk you up. It can even relax you tem-



LIFE POSITIVE



NEED TO KNOW

Dissociation of the smoking imagery with pleasurable pursuits and a graded and personalised deaddiction plan can prevent relapse

porarily because it encourages the release of endorphins and dopamine, which can improve mood and create feelings of pleasure. Truth is, this is an illusion," says Niranjan, who has now changed the imagery associated with his work.

"The existing positive associations with smoking can be replaced easily with other images. I switched over to tea from coffee and took up some other activity during work breaks, so I could dissociate my thinking from smoking. In fact, NLP can help you visualise the perils of smoking in such detail, that giving up smoking may seem like a relief," he says. Niranjan did three months of this protocol and has not been remotely tempted by smoke since. He stayed away from nicotine replacement pills and patches because he didn't want to be dependent on them.

He now eats clean and has corrected his lifestyle. "Of course, I didn't attempt everything together. While I was quitting smoking, I continued having my red meat. This gradual withdrawal prevented a relapse," he says.

HOW TO PREVENT RELAPSE

Relapse is something that 53-year-old Madhav Kolhatkar had been dealing with before he finally gave up smoking on February 4, 2017. "I am nicotine-free." This is the SMS that he has been sending daily since that day to Mukta Puntambekar, director at Pune's Muktagan De-Addiction Centre, who helped



(Left) Niranjan Kaushik (Right) Madhav Kolhatkar

him kick the habit. That was quite a zigzag journey of promises kept and broken, of burning himself in bed, blood pressure and finally a liver abscess, the result of cell injury caused by chemicals in a cigarette. Now, the former smoker is a counsellor himself.

What began as a Class IX student's "post-dinner thrill" quickly changed into addiction as Madhav saw many of his peers do that in South Mumbai. "By the age of 21, I was smoking at least 10 cigarettes a day. I even stole money from my dad's wallet to buy a pack of cigarettes and then got attracted to alcohol. I became an addict of both, puffing up 15 cigarettes with 360 ml of rum and beer. Sessions with a psychiatrist failed and when my parents visited my older sister in the US, I stayed back, smoking and drinking at home. Once the mattress on my bed almost caught fire," he says.

He lost weight, his blood pressure soared, he had jaundice and typhoid. But it took a liver abscess to press the pause button and sign up for a rehabilitation programme. "For a while I was fine but my craving for tobacco remained unaddressed. I gave up midway and replaced cigarettes with *gulkha* or *paan masala*. Then I focussed on giving up alcohol first. That made it easier for me to give up cigarettes as I usually smoked and drank simultaneously," says Madhav as he battled withdrawal symptoms like restlessness and sleeplessness.

Puntambekar devised a personalised

Withdrawal symptoms

Nicotine affects the brain's pleasure centres, and without it, many people feel irritable, anxious, or even depressed. It widens your bronchial tubes, so when you quit, your lungs may feel constricted. This can lead to shallow breathing and hyperventilation. A long-time smoker frequently coughs up phlegm because of the smoke's irritants. When you stop smoking, mucus production takes some time to slow down. Sometimes, this increased mucus can block airways, leaving the person breathless. Furthermore, your lungs will involuntarily move to clear excess mucus containing toxins, which might cause shortness of breath even when you're not doing anything.

Nicotine withdrawal can cause changes to the digestive system and how quickly it processes food, leading to bloating or constipation.

— Dr Nikhil Modi, Respiratory and Critical Care, Apollo, Delhi

module of deaddiction. "We followed a graded action plan, bringing down his cigarettes from 10 to two in the initial days. Then I asked Madhav to call me the moment he had a craving. I would immediately remind him that his lung problems could only worsen and that he could have lung failure or cancer. We planned his meals and filled his waking hours with different activities. We used the HALT and HOW methods. HALT refers to Hunger, Anger, Loneliness and Tiredness which are triggers for smoking. We distracted him during these phases. HOW refers to Honesty, Open-mindedness and Willingness, which helped Madhav build trust. I would conduct surprise urine tests, which can identify nicotine even if the person has smoked ten days before. So Madhav started feeling accountable and got serious about quitting," she says.

Initially, Madhav was put on a nicotine replacement chewable called Nicogum, which mimics the effects of nicotine and tricks the brain. It can help reduce cravings and irritable feelings that occur when someone stops smoking. "I took to journaling, writing down how each day passed without nicotine. As I read every page, I realised my life was getting fuller and I was becoming more meaningful to others than feeling sick," he says. Madhav has now completed his graduation and got a diploma in Rational Emotive Behavioural Therapy. He thinks his practical experience will make him a better counsellor.



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Now, a stent to clear brain clots in 24 hrs

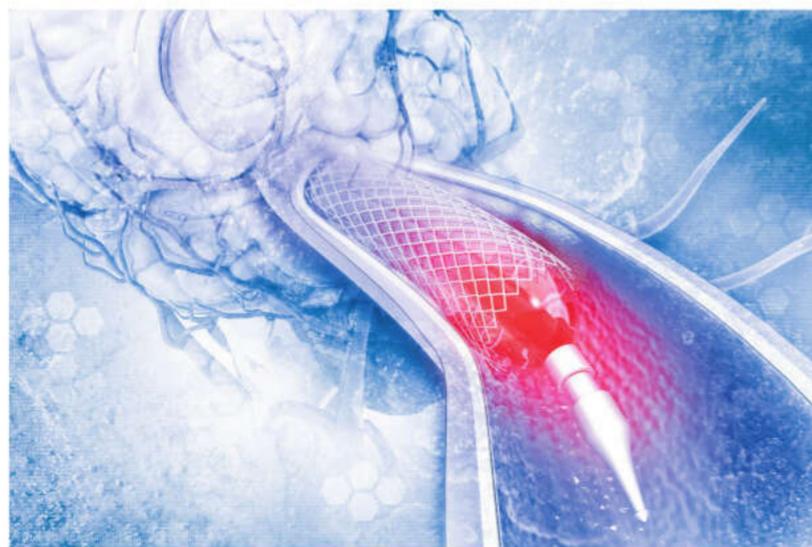
Although the device is used in the West, AIIMS is testing a version that's more suited to Indians and is cost-effective

Ankita Upadhyay

FOR SOMETIME now, brain stroke patients in the West could avert brain damage as neurosurgeons used a sophisticated retriever stent to clear the blood clot from blocked arteries and restore blood flow within 24 hours. However, this device is out of reach for most Indians despite brain strokes increasing among them. That's all set to change with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, now conducting a trial with an upgraded device that's equipped to remove

all kinds of blood clots, is better at opening blocked arteries and may cost one-fourth the original price. The clinical trial, GRASSROOT (Gravity Stent-Retriever System for Reperfusion of Large Vessel Occlusion Stroke Trial), is looking at the effectiveness and accessibility of a new generation of advanced stent-retriever devices that can be used in mechanical thrombectomy, a minimally invasive stroke surgery to clear artery blockage in the brain. According to Dr Shailesh Gaikwad, professor and head, Department of Neuroimaging and Interventional

••• A thin, mesh tube is inserted through a catheter and expanded within the artery. It traps the clot and pulls it out in 10 minutes •••



GETTY IMAGES

Neurosciences Centre, AIIMS, and one of the investigators of the trial, "We are finding out how the device works on the Indian population. The new stent-retriever has been designed specifically to tackle the unique features of a stroke clot in the Indian population, given that our arteries are narrower." The new device was first used on August 25. The patient is doing well.

What's a stent-retriever?

A stent-retriever is a thin, cylindrical mesh tube that is inserted through a catheter and expanded within the artery to widen the vessel walls. Once the clot gets trapped in the stent's mesh, it is pulled out by the catheter. It doesn't need permanent deployment. The removal can be done within 10 minutes and the blood flow to the brain can be restored rapidly.

Is it better than existing protocols?

It achieves faster and complete restoration of blood flow to the brain compared to IV infusions, where 50 per cent of the dose is given immediately and 50 per cent is spread over 12 hours. "During these hours, the artery is supposed to open up but one cannot predict how soon. It can happen within 10 or 12 hours. Within this intervening period, there is no way to monitor whether the drug is effective or not, the clot is breaking or not. The stent-retriever has immediate results," says Dr Gaikwad.

Besides, the IV infusion works only if the patient manages to reach within six hours of the brain stroke. After this, mechanical thrombectomy is the only effective means of care. But it is an expensive procedure and currently costs Rs 5-7 lakh as the devices are imported from the US. It is because of the high cost that only about 4,000 patients of the 17 lakh brain stroke cases reported in India get mechanical thrombectomy.

Why is the study important for India?

According to Dr Deepthi Vibha, additional professor, Department of Neurology, and

one of the investigators, the primary aim of the trial is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of an advanced stent-retriever in the Indian population. The second priority is to see to what extent patients regain their functionality.

"We are generating clinical data for approval of the device in India. It is already approved in Southeast Asia and more than 120 patients have been successfully treated over the last six months," she adds.

If successful, it could help India meet its critical stroke care challenge. "With only 4,500 of the estimated 3,75,000 eligible stroke patients receiving life-saving mechanical thrombectomy treatment each year, the need for accessible stroke intervention has never been greater," Dr Vibha adds.

Why are our brain clots different from Western populations?

Dr Gaikwad explains that the blood vessels of Indians are not of the same size as their Western counterparts. "They have an average height of 6 ft, ours is 5 ft 6 inches. Their average age of developing a brain stroke is 60-70 years. Indians experience such strokes 10 years ahead, in the 40-50 age group. So if we are 10 years ahead in getting a stroke, we need to understand the long-term efficacy of the device. Our eating habits, sedentary lifestyle, early diabetes and hypertension as well as deranged lipid profiles mean that the nature of stroke is different from the Western population," he says.

Which hospitals are part of the trial?

The trial spans 16 hospitals across India, including AIIMS, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER) and Zydus Hospital, Ahmedabad. "More and more people will get hands-on training and this will help in capacity building," says Dr Gaikwad.

If approved, can the stent be manufactured in India?

Dr Gaikwad says if approved for use, AIIMS would approach the government and regulatory authorities to give permission for domestic manufacture of this device. "We have the technology and we have a research and development wing. This way we can reduce the cost by one-fourth," he says.

CUTTING EDGE



Dr Mithal is chairman of endocrinology and diabetes at Max Healthcare

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