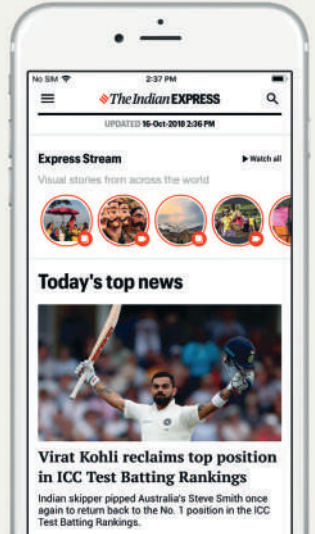




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ADITI MANGAL DAS: 'ARTISTES MUST HAVE COURAGE TO ASK UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTIONS'
"Dance forms came into being with a set of stories. But as the river progressed, along its journey, the stories changed. As practitioners of classical dance forms, we have to be aware that stories have changed, and we need to know the pulse of contemporary work," she said.

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Uttarakhand to give more teeth to its anti-conversion law
Cabinet clears amendment to make it cognizable offence with 10-yr jail term

AVANBEEH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 16

The decisions were taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. Over 20 proposals were passed in the meeting

THE UTTARAKHAND Cabinet on Wednesday cleared a proposal to make the state's anti-conversion law – Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act – stronger with an amendment to make forced conversion a cognizable offence with a provision of 10-year imprisonment, like the law in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh.

The state government also reached an informal consensus on the proposal to shift Uttarakhand High Court from Nainital to Haldwani.

The decisions were taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. Over 20 proposals were passed in the meeting.

"Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018, was passed with an intention to equally strengthen the importance of every religion in the state under the right to freedom of religion given by Articles 25, 26, 27 and 28. Under the current, changed circumstances, and to strengthen the law, Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2022, is being passed by the Cabinet," a source in the government said.

State minister Subodh Uniyal told *The Indian Express* that with the amendment, forced conversion will be a cognizable offence "with provision of 10 years of punishment". He said, "We are making laws stricter than that in Uttar Pradesh... A 'sai dhantik sahmati' (agreed in principle) has also been reached on the proposal to shift Uttarakhand High Court from Nainital to Haldwani." A legislation will soon be brought in the Assembly introducing the amendments in the anti-conversion law. The

Assembly session starts on November 29.

The 2018 state anti-conversion law stipulates a prison term of up to five years for anyone convicted of "forced or fraudulent" conversion.

In November 2020, UP Governor Anandiben Patel had promulgated the ordinance against "forced" or "fraudulent" religious conversions. The ordinance became an Act in March 2021. The UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, provides for a jail term of up to 10 years for any violation.

In Wednesday's meeting, the Cabinet also decided to provide 2,000 sq ft land for free to BSNL to set up mobile phone towers for 4G connectivity in rural areas. The Cabinet also passed the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy for Jamrani Multipurpose Dam, 2022, under which 1,323 families from three villages will be compensated for being affected by the project.

Meanwhile, the ruling BJP in the state welcomed the amendment. Calling it a decision according to people's wish, state BJP president Mahendra Bhatt thanked the Chief Minister and said that the step will become a milestone in curbing forced conversion in the state.

The party also welcomed the decision to shift the High Court from Nainital to Haldwani.

FROM PAGE ONE
Diplomacy and dialogue vital: G20

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negotiations between officials and a two-day leaders' summit.

India had abstained at the UNSC resolution vote.

"Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy – constraining growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity, and elevating financial stability risks," it said.

While India has not explicitly condemned the war in Ukraine, it has raised the issue of food, fuel and fertiliser shortage impacting the Global South – a community of the developing and the less-developed countries.

Referring to Russian and Chinese views, which have had a different interpretation on the basis of perceived NATO's expansion, it said: "There were other views and different assessments of the situation and sanctions.

Recognising that the G20 is not the forum to resolve security issues, we acknowledge that security issues can have significant consequences for the global economy."

"It is essential to uphold international law and the multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability. This includes defending all the Purposes and Principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and adhering to international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians and infrastructure in armed conflicts. The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible. The peaceful resolution of conflicts, efforts to address crises, as well as diplomacy and dialogue, are vital. Today's era must not be of war," it said.

This paragraph, Indian officials said, echoes India's position since the beginning of the war: respect for UN charter, advocating diplomacy and dialogue, need for

peace and stability, against the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, and the PM's "now is not the time for war" statement.

"India played a key role in the successful negotiations of the outcome document," said Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, adding that India's approach was very "constructive, cooperative, and... consensus building" across the range of issues which were negotiated in the document.

"Naturally, the outcome document was being negotiated in a particular global context and that global context did find mention in the outcome document as also during negotiations. There I would say that the Prime Minister's message that this is not the era of war, and the best way is to return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the conflict resonated very deeply across all the delegations, helped bridge the gap across different parties and contributed to

the successful outcome of the document," he said.

An Indian government source said the Ukraine matter, as far as G20 communique is concerned, is settled before the Indian presidency commences. A full-fledged leaders' declaration has come out only because of India's leadership of developing countries and emerging markets, the source said, adding that India helped in working out a consensus.

Sources said India's suggestion that in view of deep divisions, the Ukraine matter should be settled through an inclusive paragraph, paved the way for the agreed language in the declaration after "five days of discussions". India's position on Russia-Ukraine at the UN fora has been totally preserved, the source said.

While Putin had opted out of the summit, his foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, who represented him, left a day before the declaration was released.

Takeaways: Modi-Xi handshake, Biden-Xi meet, India presidency

■ Biden-Xi meeting: Biden and Xi, presidents of the two most powerful economies, met for about three hours at a time when bilateral ties have been strained.

Their comments later were seen as an incremental step towards rebuilding relations, with both leaders urging "peace and stability" in the Taiwan strait. Then again, the two leaders are now in stronger negotiating positions with the Democratic party's success in the US mid-term elections and Xi being elected supreme

leader of China for the third time.

■ Putin's play: With Putin not attending the Bali summit, the barrage of Russian missiles targeting Ukraine was seen as a show of strength by the Kremlin after Russian forces were forced to withdraw from Kherson.

The G7 leaders at the summit gathered quickly to condemn the action. It later turned out that the missile that landed in Poland had been fired by the Ukrainians to intercept an incoming Russian missile attack.

■ Modi-Xi encounter: Modi and Xi met at the dinner hosted by Indonesian President Joko Widodo. The two leaders, who had met at least 18 times between 2014 and 2019, were meeting each other again in public after a two-year hiatus.

Modi and Xi shook hands and spoke briefly with sources saying they "exchanged courtesies at the conclusion of the dinner". Cameras captured the moment: As Xi walked by, Modi, who was seen seated and chatting with US

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, turned around to shake hands. Both appeared relaxed.

The last time Modi and Xi were seen interacting in public was in Brazil in November 2019, on the sidelines of BRICS summit.

■ India gets baton: Indonesia's President handed over the gavel to Modi as the next chair of the grouping. At the closing session, Modi told G20 leaders that India's presidency will be "inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented".

G-20 Presidency

make a big contribution to this. Its purpose is to make sustainable lifestyles a mass movement."

"The need today is that the benefits of development are universal and all-inclusive. We have to extend the benefits of development to all human beings with compassion and solidarity," he said.

In the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war and China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region, Modi also flagged concerns of peace and security in the world. "Without peace and security, our future generations will not be able to take advantage of economic growth or technological innovation. The G-20 has to convey a strong message in favour of peace and harmony," he said.

"All these priorities are fully

embodied in the theme of India's G-20 Chairmanship – 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'," the Prime Minister said, linking the priorities with the theme of India's G-20 Presidency.

He said global development was not possible without women's participation. "We have to maintain priority on women-led development even in our G-20 agenda," the Prime Minister said.

Invoking a sense of pride among Indians on the G-20 Presidency, Modi said, "It is a proud occasion for every Indian to assume the G-20 Presidency. We will organize G-20 meetings in different cities and states of our country. Our guests will get full experience of India's amazing diversity, inclusive traditions, and cultural richness."

AAP Surat East nominee drops out

Jariwala told reporters later.

AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in a Twitter post on Jariwala, said, "He is being forced by the police and goondas to withdraw his nomination. India has not seen such goondaism. What is the meaning of elections? It's the end of democracy."

Earlier, Kejriwal said Jariwala and his family had been "missing" since Tuesday. "First, BJP tried to get his nomination rejected. But his nomination was accepted. Later, he was being pressurised to withdraw his nomination. Has he been kidnapped?" he said on Twitter.

The BJP rejected the AAP allegations as "baseless". Surat city BJP president Niranjana Janjmera told a press conference: "We have nothing to do with these allegations. On the contrary, if he

(Jariwala) had remained a candidate, we would have definitely benefitted. We have also seen the statements of Jariwala on news channels in which he says he had voluntarily withdrawn his form and there was no pressure from anybody on him."

"We condemn the dirty politics played by AAP leaders. They want to take political advantage of the incident. Jariwala has not been with BJP, and he has no relation with BJP leaders," Janjmera said.

The AAP alleged that the BJP made "all attempts" to get Jariwala's nomination rejected. On Tuesday afternoon, Jariwala reached the local election office with his supporters. The Congress candidate from Surat (East), Aslam Ciclewala, and BJP candidate Arvind Rana were also present there along with their

Maken quits as Rajasthan in-charge

indiscipline, but there was no action. Not even an apology. And how will I, as general secretary, walk or work with those against whom I had suggested disciplinary action but no action has been taken," Maken is learnt to have conveyed to the leadership.

According to sources, Maken also pointed out that the three senior leaders had been given key responsibilities for coordinating the yatra in the state.

Kharge, however, did not accept Maken's resignation and asked him to continue. Having waited for a week, Maken let it be known on Wednesday that he does not want to continue. In his one-page letter, Maken, however, said: "Wedded to the ideology of Congress for the last three generations and being in active Congress politics for over 40 years, I will always remain an ardent follower of Rahulji, whom I trust and have faith in beyond words."

Earlier this week, Maken also stayed away from a meeting of a task force set up by the party to co-ordinate the Bharat Jodo Yatra, said sources. The committee took stock of the preparations for the yatra as it prepares to enter the Hindi heartland in a few days. From Maharashtra, the yatra will enter Madhya Pradesh next week and Rajasthan in the first week of December.

Moreover, a bypoll to the Sardarshahar Assembly seat in Churu district of Rajasthan is slated to take place on December 5. Maken has told Kharge that it is imperative to have a new person in charge of the Rajasthan unit as soon as possible, in view of the yatra and bypoll.

As the AICC observer, Kharge was witness to the drama that unfolded in Jaipur on September 25. About 90 party MLAs had skipped

the CLP meet, where they were expected to pass a one-line resolution authorising the party high command to pick the next chief minister, as Gehlot was touted to contest for the post of Congress president. Gehlot's supporters wanted him or his loyalist to continue as chief minister, amid the possibility that Pilot could take his place.

Gehlot's supporters not only boycotted the CLP meeting, but also held a parallel meeting at Dhariwal's residence and submitted their resignations to the Speaker, leaving the party high command red-faced.

Kharge and Maken were in Jaipur to hold the CLP meeting, and had submitted a report to then party president Sonia Gandhi.

The rebellion was a huge embarrassment to the party leadership, which issued showcause notices to Dhariwal, Joshi and Rathore, based on a report by Maken. The notices made it clear that they had committed "grave indiscipline" by boycotting the CLP meeting and holding the parallel meeting.

Gehlot later declared that he would not contest for the post of Congress president and said he had apologised to then party president Sonia Gandhi for the turn of events in Jaipur.

Maken's decision to resign despite Kharge asking him to continue is the first organisational challenge that the new Congress chief has encountered. The issue is whether the Congress high command wants to enforce a change of guard in the state. The party leadership, especially new party president Kharge, would be hard-pressed to act against Gehlot, given that he enjoys the support of a majority of the MLAs.

UAVs to refuellers

II, for instance, can climb at a speed of 800 feet per minute, providing real time information to all the ground stations which can use it to decide their course of action, says Bleser. Above all, it can listen to various devices and pinpoint the target, he says. MK II can also be used for search and rescue operations. "It can carry under its wing a rubber dinghy which can be released for rescue missions."

Bleser says 70 percent of the flying hours in the defence sector are now being done by UAVs. "The world is looking for unmanned capability and solutions."

—(THE REPORTER WAS IN ISRAEL AT THE INVITATION OF THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL IN NEW DELHI)

Kathua case

tried as one.

A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and J B Pardiwala said there were "discrepancies in the certificates on record disclosing the date of birth of the" accused Shubam Sangra which showed him as a juvenile, and hence it would rely on the medical report which stated he could have been between 19-23 years of age when the incident occurred in January 2018. The bench also expressed concern over the "rising rate of juvenile delinquency" in the country and said this "makes us wonder whether the (Juvenile Justice) Act, 2015 has subserved its object".

"We have started gathering an impression that the leniency with which the juveniles are dealt with in the name of goal of reformation is making them more and more emboldened in indulging in such heinous crimes," the bench said and left it to the "Government to consider whether its enactment of 2015 has proved to be effective or something still needs to be done in the matter before it is too late in the day".

Mehrauli murder

Chattarpur Pahadi in south Delhi's Mehrauli area. They also said that Poonawala allegedly transferred Rs 54,000 from Walkar's account to his own in the days after he allegedly strangled her.

According to police, the two left their jobs in Mumbai and backpacked across Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand before reaching Delhi and taking up a house on rent for Rs 9,000 in May. Four days after arresting Poonawala, the police are now staring at a series of challenges – from the murder weapon not being recovered to Walkar's phone still missing, and key body parts of the victims unlocated.

On Wednesday, they said they had recovered some CCTV footage from Chattarpur Pahadi with some "movement" of the accused. The police will now conduct CCTV mapping to connect the visuals and ascertain the route taken by him. According to police, Poonawala told them that he chopped Walkar's body into over 30 pieces and dumped them over 2-3 months in the forested area

near Mehrauli.

"Based on his confession, it has been pointed out that he would allegedly walk out with the body pieces at 1-2 am at night. We are now looking for the footage to check if something is seen in his hands. It is a difficult task to recover all the CCTV footage from May because most of the systems don't have the storage capacity for older footage. We have still managed to get some visuals in the area from that time," said the officer.

During searches at the couple's rented home, police said they have recovered two potential pieces of evidence – "traces of blood" lifted by the forensic lab team and sent for DNA testing, and a bag that allegedly belonged to Walkar.

"We have taken her father's DNA sample to match with the blood sample. We have also found a bag with clothes and other articles. We will show these to her family so they can identify if it belonged to their daughter," said an officer.

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E-Auction
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Date and Time of E-Auction: Tuesday, 29 November 2022 at 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm
(With unlimited extension of 5 minutes each)

Sale of Assets and Properties owned by **BETON CONCRETE PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)** situated at Gut No: 223/1/2 c (Old) New Gut No: 223/1/2/F Revenue Village: Khadka, Taluka: Newasa, District: Ahmednagar (Land not owned by the Corporate Debtor) forming part of Liquidation Estate formed by the Liquidator, appointed by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench vide order dated 22 September 2021 (order received on 30 September 2021). The sale will be done by the undersigned through the e-auction platform <https://e-auction.123done.in/>. INR.

Asset	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value
Plant & Machinery	31,84,335/-*	3,18,434/-	50,000/-

*Taxes extra

Terms and Condition of the E-auction are as under

- E-Auction will be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" BASIS through approved service provider M/s Auggeo Asset Management Company (123done.in)
- For the purpose of participating in the auction, the intending bidders are required to deposit EMD amount through DD/ NEFT / RTGS in the account "BETON CONCRETE PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED In Liquidation", Account No.-016230100003900, Bank: Janata Sahakari Bank Limited IFSC Code: JSBP00000016.
- Bidders shall make independent enquiries prior to submitting their bid and submit bids online in the prescribed format available on website <https://e-auction.123done.in/>. Mr. Shekhar Singh at +91-9711522275/7428993244; shekhar.singh@123done.in bhl@123done.in
- Interested bidders will have to upload their KYC documents along with the EMD submission details on <https://e-auction.123done.in/> before 5:00 PM of 28 November 2022.
- The name of the eligible bidders will be identified by the Liquidator to participate in e-auction on the portal <https://e-auction.123done.in/>. The e-auction service provider (www.123done.in/) will provide User id and password by email to eligible bidders.
- E-auction date & Time: Tuesday, 29 November 2022 from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. (with unlimited extension of 5 min)
- The bidding will start from the reserve price, in case, a bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes with unlimited extension.
- The bidder who submits the highest bid amount on closure of e-Auction process shall be declared as the Successful Bidder and a communication to that effect will be issued through electronic mode which shall be subject to approval by the Liquidator. The highest bid does not entitle the bidder to claim as a successful bidder. The Liquidator's decision in this case would be final.
- Upon the communication by the Liquidator to the successful bidder through e-mail / any other electronic mode, the successful bidder shall be required to further deposit 10% of the bid amount within 2 working days and balance sale consideration be paid within 30 days of the e-auction. Failure to deposit such amount shall result in the forfeiture of amount deposited as initial EMD and the bidder with the 2nd highest bid in value shall be declared as the successful bidder thereafter. The process shall continue until the payment of further deposit by the bidder. The initial EMDs paid by the remaining bidders shall be refunded within a period of 15 days from the date of e-auction.
- The properties mentioned above can be inspected by the prospective bidders at the site with prior appointment, contacting Mr. Shekhar Singh: +91-9711522275.

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Place: Pune

Behind Kantara — firm linked to BJP minister

to the film in his speech, stating it had "grossed nearly 20 times" its budget of around Rs 15 crore.

"Kantara is a low-budget film that showcases the culture of Karnataka... Investors and industry are attracted to India and the state that has very progressive policies," he said.

On the same day, Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman tweeted: "With a team of volunteers and well-wishers watched #KantaraMovie in Bengaluru. Well made @shetty_rishab (writer/director/actor). The film captures the rich traditions of Tuluvanadu and Karavali."

Ashwathnarayan is Karnataka's minister for higher education, information technology, bio-technology and science. Earlier, he was Deputy Chief Minister in the BJP government between 2019 and 2021.

At the same time, he has featured regularly in promotion events of movies made by Hombale Films -- from the muhurat shot of "Salaar" in

Hyderabad in 2021 to the trailer release of "KGF-2" in March 2022.

RoC records show that Hombale Films (started in 2017) and two sister concerns, Hombale Infrastructure Projects LLP (2011) and Hombale Constructions and Estates Pvt Ltd (2016), have Vijay Kiragandur and Chaluve Gowda as its directors. Gowda is also one of the producers of "Kantara".

The records show that Hombale Infrastructure, which came into existence during the BJP's first full tenure in Karnataka between 2008-2013, saw earnings jump from Rs 64 lakh in 2011-2012 to Rs 42 crore in 2012-13. Rs 49 crore in 2013-14 and Rs 92 crore from 2014-15 -- and none subsequently.

Kiragandur is also director of Malleswaram Sports Foundation, which was started in 2012 by Ashwathnarayan in Malleswaram, his constituency in north Bengaluru, and Padmashree Medicare Pvt Ltd

where the minister holds shares as per his 2018 election affidavit.

Kiragandur, incidentally, was also the subject of an IT probe in 2019 over his earnings.

In the case of Hombale Infrastructure, RoC records show that Ashwathnarayan was guarantor for a bank loan of Rs 15 crore taken by the firm in 2012 from Vijaya Bank. According to a loan sanction memo to RoC, Ashwathnarayan's relationship to the borrower is disclosed as "cousin brother".

As for Hombale Constructions, the Minister is listed in records as guarantor for enhancement of a bank guarantee from Rs 95 crore to Rs 175 crore with Vijaya Bank for a loan taken by the firm in 2018.

RoC documents for the two other organisations, Padmashree Medicare and Malleswaram Sports Foundation, and an affidavit filed by Ashwathnarayan for the 2018 Karnataka polls, show similar links.