



A Bagpiper, Scotland, UK



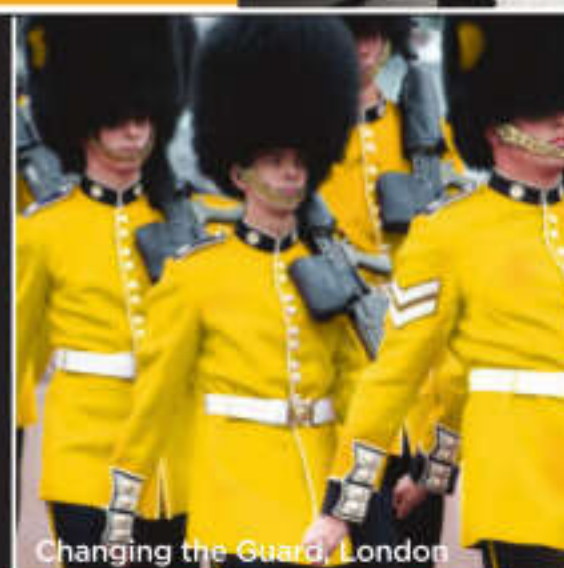
Mount Titlis, Switzerland

Europe is truly every Indian's dream. Art & culture, history & folklore, nature & culinary delights... You can never get enough of Europe.



Flamenco Dancer, Spain

While booking your Europe tour, think twice, choose wisely and select properly. Don't be penny-wise and pound-foolish.



Changing the Guard, London



Eiffel Tower, Paris



Hallstatt, Austria

Veena World means No Discounts! No Hidden Costs! No Optionals! Only Memories of a Lifetime! Come, let's make joyful memories with your loved ones.



Stonehenge, UK

Over the past 11 years, more than 75,000 guests have explored Europe with Veena World, including 16,000+ this year between April and November.

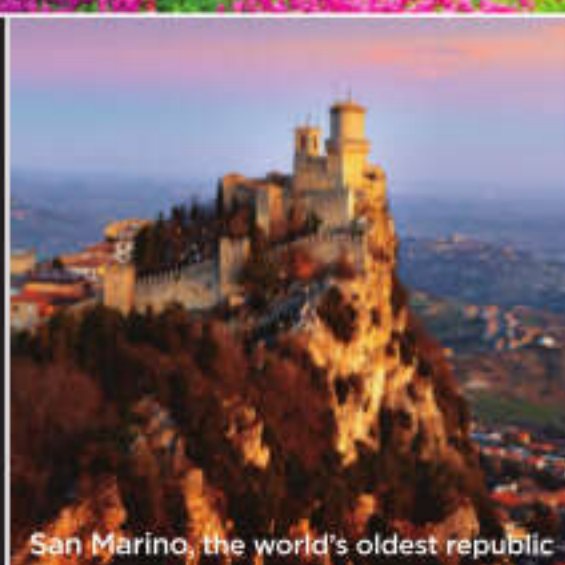


Windmills & Tulip Gardens, Amsterdam



Polar Bear, from Arctic Cruise

Europe's vast beauty can be overwhelming to navigate, but with a dedicated Veena World Tour Manager by your side, your Europe adventure becomes stress-free and enjoyable every step of the way.



San Marino, the world's oldest republic

# Veena World EUROPE

Always the right choice! Proven & Trusted by thousands!

Step into the enchanting continent of Europe, where every country feels like a story book come to life. Loved by globetrotters worldwide, Europe isn't just a destination, it's an experience you will want to relive time and again! Veena World offers tours to an incredible 47 countries, designed just for you. First-time travellers can dive into 8 countries in 8 days, 10 countries in 10 days, or even 11 countries in 11 days, perfect for discovering Europe at a glance. For those seeking deeper adventures, our tours span from 6 days to an epic 60 days, catering to every style of travel. With so much to offer, it's no wonder Europe has our guests returning for their eighth or even tenth tour! Come, embrace Europe's wonders, and create memories to treasure forever. Your dream continent awaits, let Veena World make it a reality!

## Chalo, Bag Bharo, Nikal Pado to Europe with Veena World!

Act now, book today and get your visa process rolling before the crowds increase at consulates. Our team of 110 visa executives is here for you!



**Main Hoon Na!**  
Aapke Saath on Tour  
Scan for your Europe & USA Tours



All India Same Tour Price for tours from Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Cochin, Ahmedabad if booked before 31st Dec, 2024. Veena World Gift Cards! Buy Today

Leaning Tower, Pisa, Italy



Northern Lights, Iceland



Hot Air Ballooning, Turkey



Lowicz Folk Dance, Poland



Santorini, Greece



Scan to see what Veena World guests have to say.



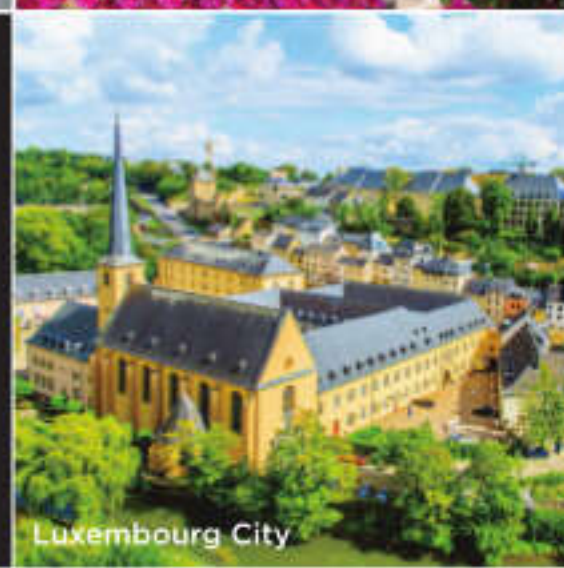
Pena Palace, Sintra, Portugal

Veena World offers diverse tours across Western, Eastern, Northern, and Mediterranean Europe. First-time travellers can choose from 35+ Western Europe options



The Kelpies, Scotland

Foreign exchange fluctuations can be unpredictable, but with Veena World you need not worry, as you pay your entire Europe tour price in Indian Rupees.



Luxembourg City

Choose from Veena World's all-inclusive family group tours, women's specials, seniors' specials and honeymoon tours. Find many more tours around the world on [veenaworld.com](http://veenaworld.com)

All-Inclusive  
Tours including  
Airfare and  
Visa Fees

Maximum  
'Must-See'  
Sightseeing  
with Entrance  
Fees

Included  
VISA Fee  
Travel  
Insurance\*  
Driver-Guide  
tips

Indian  
European  
local cuisine  
Breakfast  
Lunch Dinner  
included

'Veena  
World Treats'  
at specific  
sightseeing  
spots

Mumbai  
to Mumbai  
Veena World  
Tour Manager  
at your  
service

EURO  
fluctuating  
Don't worry!  
Pay entire  
tour price in  
INDIAN  
RUPEES

Direct  
Joining Leaving  
Ex-Destination  
tour price  
available

Buy your  
Foreign  
Exchange  
at  
Veena World  
FOREX

0%  
Convenience  
Fee on RuPay,  
Credit & Debit  
Cards, VISA &  
Mastercard

Get your  
private Europe  
holiday  
Customized  
with  
Veena World

MICE  
Corporate  
Tours for  
IncentiveTours  
Conferences,  
Award  
Functions...

Western Europe - Most Popular Tours	Northern Europe	Eastern Europe	USA South America Canada
European Explorer (27D) 625000 - 650000 European Dream (23D) 535000 - 550000 European Magic (19D) 475000 - 490000 European Marvels (17D) 415000 - 430000 European Jewels with Versailles/Disneyland (15D) 365000 - 380000 European Delight (13D) 330000 - 345000 European Wonders (13D) 310000 - 325000 European Highlights (11D) 290000 - 305000 European Charm (11D) 275000 - 290000 European Splendors (10D) 250000 - 265000 European Panorama (8D) 225000 - 240000 Glimpses of Europe (6D) 190000 - 205000 London Paris Swiss Italy (9D) 260000-275000 Swiss Paris Amsterdam Brussels (8D/11D) 210000 - 330000 London Paris Amsterdam Brussels (7D) 230000 - 245000 Amsterdam Brussels Bruges (7D) 220000 - 235000	Scandinavia (10D/15D) 310000 - 390000 Norway+Lofoten Islands (9D) 525000- 550000 Scandinavia Northern Lights (9D/10D Ice breaker) 370000 - 410000 Scandinavia Midnight Sun (10D/16D) 390000 - 495000 Scandinavia Iceland (15D) 510000 - 525000 Scandinavia Iceland Northern Lights (14D/15D Ice breaker) 495000 - 545000 Scandinavia Iceland Midnight Sun (14D) 575000 - 590000 Iceland Northern Lights (10D) 475000-500000 Spitsbergen Arctic (9D) 875000 - 900000	All of Eastern Europe (17D) 360000 - 375000 Croatia Slovenia Slovakia Hungary (12D) 285000 - 300000 Vienna Prague Budapest Bratislava (8D) 225000 - 240000 Vienna Prague Salzburg Munich (8D) 210000-225000 Best of Croatia (8D) (ex-Zagreb) 265000 Uzbekistan Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan (9D) 200000 - 225000 Best of Baku Azerbaijan (7D) 135000 - 150000 Georgia Armenia Azerbaijan (10D) 200000 - 215000 Georgia Armenia (8D) 165000 - 175000	American Explorer (21D) 750000 - 765000 American Dream (19D) 700000 - 715000 American Splendours (18D) 635000 - 650000 American Wonders (15D) 575000 - 590000 American Discovery (15D) 625000-640000 American Magic (13D) 525000 - 540000 USA East Coast (7D) 300000 - 315000 California Carnival (10D) 400000 - 415000 Best of Alaska (9D) 400000 - 415000 Best of Alaska Canada (17D) 650000 Best of Canada (10D) 475000 - 490000 All of Canada (17D) 725000 - 740000 Best of USA & Canada (19D) 750000-765000 Best of Hawaii Mexico (13D) 775000 - 790000 Best Brazil Argentina (13D) 750000 - 765000 South America (21D) 1225000 Antarctica The 7th Continent (14D) Mar 9-1295000


Ask us for exclusive  
tours for your group  
of family and friends

**Travel Now Pay Later!**  
EMI options available (3 months to 24 months)  
subject to EMI partner approval. T&C apply


Group tour price includes return airfare, transport, accommodation, all meals: breakfast lunch  
dinner, sightseeing with entrance fees, driver tips, travel insurance\*, services of a Tour Manager  
and VISA fee (except for Free Visa Countries). USA tours for valid US visa holders only.

[veenaworld.com](http://veenaworld.com)  
Call: 1800 22 7979

Scan for your  
nearest Veena World  
Sales Office



Monday-Saturday 10 to 7  
travel@veenaworld.com


**VEENA WORLD**  
Travel. Explore. Celebrate Life.



# The World

## TOP OF THE WORLD



TV host Matiuallah Jan

### PAKISTAN TV host held after probing Imran party protest gets bail

*Islamabad:* A Pakistani court approved bail for a journalist arrested this week after investigating claims of casualties in a protest march, his lawyer said on Saturday. Matiuallah Jan, a critic of military influence in politics, was granted bail by an anti-terrorism court in Islamabad in a terrorism and narcotics case, his lawyer, Imaan Mazari, said. Jan was picked up Wednesday while probing claims of casualties in a protest demanding the release of jailed ex-Prime Minister Imran Khan. Hours before being picked up, Jan had appeared on television casting doubt over the government's denial that live ammunition had been used when security forces dispersed the protest and that any protesters had been killed. **REUTERS**

### GEORGIA Over 100 arrested for pro-EU protests

*Tbilisi:* More than 100 demonstrators were arrested overnight in Georgia as they clashed with police following the government's decision to suspend negotiations to join the European Union, the country's Interior Ministry said Saturday. It was the second straight night of protests after Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze of the country's ruling Georgian Dream party announced the decision the previous day. Demonstrators faced off against police late Friday in major Georgian cities including the capital, Tbilisi, and the Black Sea port of Batumi. **AP**

### CHINA Journalist jailed for seven years on spy charges

*Beijing:* A Beijing court sentenced veteran Chinese state media journalist Dong Yuyu on Friday to seven years in prison for espionage, his family said in a statement, calling the verdict a grave injustice. Police in the Chinese capital detained the 62-year-old former *Guangming Daily* editor in February 2022 while he was lunching with a Japanese diplomat, the US National Press Club said in a statement. He was later charged with espionage. **REUTERS**

## DOZENS OF SOLDIERS KILLED: SYRIAN ARMY

# In biggest challenge to Assad in years, rebels enter Aleppo in surprise attack

## Military declares temporary pull back to prepare counter-offensive

SULEIMAN AL-KHALIDI  
AMMAN, NOVEMBER 30

THE SYRIAN military said on Saturday that rebels had entered large parts of Aleppo city during an offensive in which dozens of soldiers had been killed, forcing the army to redeploy — the biggest challenge to President Bashar al-Assad in years. The surprise attack led by the Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham has jolted the frontlines of the Syrian civil war that have largely been frozen since 2020. The army said it was preparing a counteroffensive to restore state authority. The Syrian army command's statement was the first public acknowledgement by the military that rebels had entered Aleppo, which had been under full state control since government forces backed by Russia and Iran drove out rebels eight years ago. "The large numbers of terrorists and the multiplicity of battlefronts prompted our armed forces to carry out a redeployment operation aimed at



Rebel fighters burn Syrian government flags at Aleppo's old city on Saturday. AP

strengthening the defence lines in order to absorb the attack, preserve the lives of civilians and soldiers, and prepare for a counterattack," the army said. The army said that the rebels had entered large parts of Aleppo but army bombardment had stopped them from establishing fixed positions. It promised to "expel them and restore the control of the state ... over the entire city and its countryside". Two rebel sources said the insurgents had also captured the

city of Mara'at al Numan in Idlib province, bringing all of that province under their control. The fighting revives the long-simmering Syrian conflict as the wider region is roiled by wars in Gaza and Lebanon. The attack was launched from insurgent-held areas of northwestern Syria that remain outside Assad's grasp. Two Syrian military sources said Russian and Syrian warplanes targeted insurgents in an Aleppo suburb Saturday.

Speaking on Friday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow regarded the rebel attack as a violation of Syria's sovereignty. "We are in favour of the Syrian authorities bringing order to the area and restoring constitutional order as soon as possible," he said. The foreign ministers of Iran and Russia voiced support for Syria on Saturday, Iranian state media reported. They agreed on the need to intensify joint efforts

EXPLAINED

Counter-strike

The rebel fighters said the campaign was in response to recent airstrikes against civilians by Russian and Syrian forces in Idlib, and to preempt any attacks by the Syrian army. Mustafa Abdul Jaber, a commander in the Jaish al-Lzza rebel brigade, said their speedy advance had been helped by a lack of Iran-backed manpower to support the government in Aleppo province. Iran Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, in a call with his Syrian counterpart Friday, had accused the US and Israel of being behind the attack.

# Sri Lanka to probe ‘propaganda’ over week-long Tamil Heroes Day events

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO, NOVEMBER 30

SRI LANKAN authorities have announced an investigation into "false media propaganda" aimed at discrediting the government for permitting commemorative events in the Northern Province for those who lost their lives during the decades-long separatist conflict with the LTTE. The week-long events commemorating 'Maaveerar Naal' or Great Heroes Day are observed from November 27 by some Tamil political groups and the relatives of those killed in the conflict. "We were not opposed to the relatives celebrating their dead," Ananda Wijepala, the public security minister told reporters. "However there is no room for celebrating the LTTE who remains a banned terrorist organisation," Wijepala stressed. He said the LTTE remains a banned organisation as per the government gazette of 29 August 2011. Wijepala said an investigation would start on false media propaganda carried out to discredit the government for allowing LTTE celebrations in the north and east. Slain LTTE supremo

15 KILLED IN STRONG WINDS, FLOODS

*Colombo:* Adverse weather from a deep depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal has claimed the lives of fifteen people in Sri Lanka, according to the Disaster Management Centre Saturday. The DMC said over 450,000 people have been hit by floods, strong winds and earth-slips. Fifteen people have died so far, it said. The most number of 10 deaths have been recorded from the Eastern Province. Heavy winds of over 60 km per hour are also expected to hit parts of the island. **PTI**

Velupillai Prabhakaran used to make his annual policy speech on his birthday on November 26 when the LTTE ran a parallel state in parts of Sri Lanka. The LTTE had run a military campaign for a separate Tamil homeland in the Northern and Eastern provinces of the island nation for nearly 30 years before its collapse in 2009 after the Sri Lankan Army killed Prabhakaran. Relatives said they lit oil lamps in commemoration of their kith And kin.

## New nuclear tests still an open question, says Moscow



Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov

REUTERS  
NOVEMBER 30

A POSSIBLE resumption of nuclear weapons tests by Moscow remains an open question in view of hostile U.S. policies, a senior Russian diplomat was quoted as saying early on Saturday. "This is a question at hand," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told TASS news agency when asked whether Moscow was considering a resumption of tests. "And without anticipating anything, let me simply say that the situation is quite difficult. It is constantly being considered in all its components and in all aspects." In September, Ryabkov referred to President Vladimir Putin as having said that Russia would not conduct a test as long as the US refrained from carrying one out. Moscow has not conducted a nuclear weapons test since 1990. Putin this month lowered the threshold governing the country's nuclear doctrine in response to what Moscow sees as escalation by Western countries backing Ukraine. Under the new terms, Russia could consider a nuclear strike in response to a conventional attack on Russia or its ally Belarus. The changes were prompted by US nod to allow Ukraine to use Western missiles against targets inside Russia.

# Israel strikes kill 32 Palestinians in Gaza as Egypt set to host Hamas for truce talks

REUTERS  
CAIRO, NOVEMBER 30

THE ISRAELI military said it killed a Palestinian it accused of involvement in Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel in a vehicle strike in Gaza, while medics said at least 32 Palestinians were killed in Israeli strikes across the enclave overnight and into Saturday. The escalation comes as leaders of Hamas were expected to arrive in Cairo on Saturday for ceasefire talks with Egyptian officials, days after Israel and Hezbollah agreed to ceasefire in Lebanon, two officials of the group told Reuters. Later on Saturday medics said nine people were killed when an Israeli air strike targeted a vehicle near a gathering of Palestinians receiving aid in the southern area of Khan Younis south of the enclave.



The site of an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City, Saturday. Reuters

Residents and a Hamas source told Reuters that the vehicle targeted near a crowd receiving flour was used by security personnel tasked with overseeing aid deliveries into Gaza.

Meanwhile, Egypt is hosting a Hamas delegation in Cairo on Saturday to discuss a ceasefire, two Hamas officials told Reuters late on Friday. The visit is the first since the United States an-

# Trudeau visits Trump amid tariff threat

REUTERS  
WEST PALM BEACH, NOV 30

CANADIAN PRIME Minister Justin Trudeau visited Donald Trump's Florida resort on Friday to meet with the U.S. President-elect, days after Trump threatened to slap tariffs on Canadian imports over border-related concerns. Trudeau, whose public itinerary did not list a scheduled visit to Florida, was seen leaving a hotel in West Palm Beach, Florida, to go to Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort, according to a Reuters witness. Trudeau's office and Trump's representatives did not immediately responded to requests for comment. Trump threatened on



Canada PM Justin Trudeau in Palm Beach, Florida, Friday

Monday to impose a 25% tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico until the countries clamped down

on drugs, particularly fentanyl, and migrants crossing their borders with the US.



Mayor Anne Hidalgo, who took office in 2014, has made reducing car traffic in Paris a signature effort. NYT

tricts, in the heart of the city, rekindling the argument that Hidalgo's anti-car stance is impractical, bad for business, and caters mostly to wealthy liberals who can afford to live in the city center. "She is putting a garrote around Paris," Patrick Aboukrat, a boutique owner in the fashionable Marais neighborhood, said this week.. The debate in the French capital reflects the challenges facing policymakers around the world as they ask constituents to alter ingrained life habits in the fight against climate change. Hidalgo's experiment — which has turned many Parisian

streets into whooshing parades of pedaling commuters — is also unfolding in a city that has long harbored an innate tension between the big-city need for speed and the more languorous pleasures of "la belle vie." Hidalgo, who took office in 2014, announced this week that she would not seek a third term. She has made reducing car traffic a signature effort. Her government has already turned roads on the banks of the Seine into walking and bike paths, created hundreds of miles of new bike lanes elsewhere, and reserved most of the Rue de Rivoli, a key east-west

thoroughfare, for cyclists. Varry, the cyclist who was killed, hailed from a close-in suburb, Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine, where he had made the cause of cyclists "the commitment of his life," according to the City Council there. The motorist, whose name was not disclosed by prosecutors, has been detained. A lawyer for the man described him as a father of four who worked as a sales representative. The incident sparked more than 200 protests across France, including one October 19 that gathered roughly 1,000 people in Paris. **NYT**

## LATEST POLICY BANS MOTORISTS FROM DRIVING THROUGH FOUR DISTRICTS IN HEART OF THE CITY

# Death of a cyclist lays bare divide in Paris Mayor’s long war against automobiles

RICHARD FAUSSET  
& SÉGOLENE LE STRADIC  
PARIS, NOVEMBER 30

IT SENT a shock through Paris, a city striving to transform itself into one of the great cycling metropolises in the world: a bicycle rider, crushed under the wheels of an SUV in a bike lane just a few yards from La Madeleine, the landmark neoclassical church, in what prosecutors suspect was a deliberate act of road rage. A murder investigation has been opened, and last week, Mayor Anne Hidalgo led the Paris

City Council in a minute of silence for the cyclist, Paul Varry, 27, who was also a cycling advocate. Hidalgo, a member of the Socialist Party, delivered an emotional speech in which she signaled she would continue to roll out her famously aggressive policies that aim to drastically reduce the role of the automobile in Parisian life. "I am truly angry," she said. "The future does not belong to cars." An outpouring of emotion over Varry's October 15 death has put a spotlight on the dangers facing cyclists in a city that has seen an explosion in bikes and cycling lanes in recent years. But

it has also underscored the frustrations that motorists increasingly feel in a place that has chosen to limit the movement, speed and parking options of cars. In recent weeks, as cycling organizations, spurred by the death of Varry, have demanded more protections from aggressive drivers, others have complained about Parisian bikers themselves, some of whom have earned a reputation as dangerous risk-takers. Ratcheting up tensions this month is a new policy banning motorists from driving through the four arrondissements, or dis-



EXPRESS NETWORK



**CYCLONE FENGAL MAKES LANDFALL NEAR PUDUCHERRY**  
PAGE 9

**2 more monks arrested in Bangladesh, says ISKCON**

**RAVIK BHATTACHARYA**  
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 30

DAYS AFTER Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das was arrested and charged with sedition in Bangladesh, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), Kolkata, said that two monks who had gone to give him medicines in jail were also arrested on Friday.

While there was no official confirmation from Dhaka, the Bangladesh Sammilito Sanatani Jagaron Jot, of which Chinmoy was a leader, also said in a statement that two more monks had been arrested.

"We have got information that two monks were arrested by Bangladesh police on Friday. They had gone to jail to give medicines to Chinmoy Krishna

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**SOME HOSPITALS IN TRIPURA, KOLKATA SAY NO TO BANGLA PATIENTS** PAGE 9

## NO DELAY OR DISPUTE: STATE BJP CHIEF ON GOVT FORMATION Maharashtra oath-taking on Dec 5; decided on BJP CM, says Ajit Pawar

Shinde unwell, his camp wants Home, says Fadnavis held portfolio as Dy CM

**SHUBHANGI KHAPRE, LIZ MATHEW & VALLABH OZARKAR**  
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, NOV 30

ENDING SPECULATION on the swearing-in of a BJP-led government in Maharashtra, the party's state unit Saturday said the oath-taking would be held on December 5 in Mumbai, in the

presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Separately, Ajit Pawar, the chief of Nationalist Congress Party, one of the two key allies of BJP, confirmed that the Chief Minister would be from the BJP, and the state government would have two Deputy CMs, one each from the two allies, NCP and Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Will look at voter deletion, addition data: EC to Cong

**DAMINI NATH**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

A DAY AFTER the Congress submitted a memorandum raising "serious concerns" regarding the Maharashtra voter data, the Election Commission of India Saturday told the party it would examine the allegation that

names were struck off the electoral roll arbitrarily.

Replying to the Congress's memorandum, the EC pointed out that political parties are closely involved in the electoral roll updation process. The Congress had raised the issue of "arbitrary deletion of voters and subsequent additions" and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Goodbye, cap and gown; Welcome, kurta and sari

Since UGC dress-Indian advisory in 2015, over three-fourths of Central institutions, including IITs and IIMs, make switch



BHU was among the first Central varsities to respond to the advisory, switching from black robes (left) to white kurtas for men and saris for women, along with *uttariyas* and *safas*. BHU

**PALLAVI SMART**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 30

THE TRADITIONAL convocation dress, of satin robes and gowns, hoods and mortarboards (caps), will soon be a thing of the past.

A review by *The Indian Express* of the 92 Central institutions — IITs, IIMs and Central universities under the Education Ministry — shows that since

2015, when the University Grants Commission (UGC) issued an advisory suggesting a change to "handloom fabric," over 76% or three-fourths of the institutions have shed the colonial-era dress code.

As many as 70 have discarded ceremonial robes, with 62 having made the switch since 2015. Among the 23 IITs, all but IIT-Delhi have embraced Indian attire. Of these, 18 IITs made the change

post-2015. These include six second- and third-generation IITs, where the first batch of students graduated after 2015 and their convocation attire was Indian.

When it comes to IIMs, while 14 of 21 have dropped the colonial dress code, not all have replaced it with Indian outfits. Of the 14 IIMs, students at seven wear Western formals with a stole, while the remaining have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION Delhi's dirty secret: For 75 sewer deaths over 15 years, only one conviction

Only 9 of 38 cases resolved; officer says 'informal settlements' main challenge



**DHEERAJ MISHRA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

**DECEMBER 6, 2009:** Rajesh Mehto, a migrant worker from Muzaffarpur in Bihar, was called by a private firm to clear sewer garbage at the Delhi State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSI-IDC) facility in Patparganj. But Mehto died after inhaling toxic gas in the sewer. The police filed an "Untraced Report" later, claiming they could not find the accused.

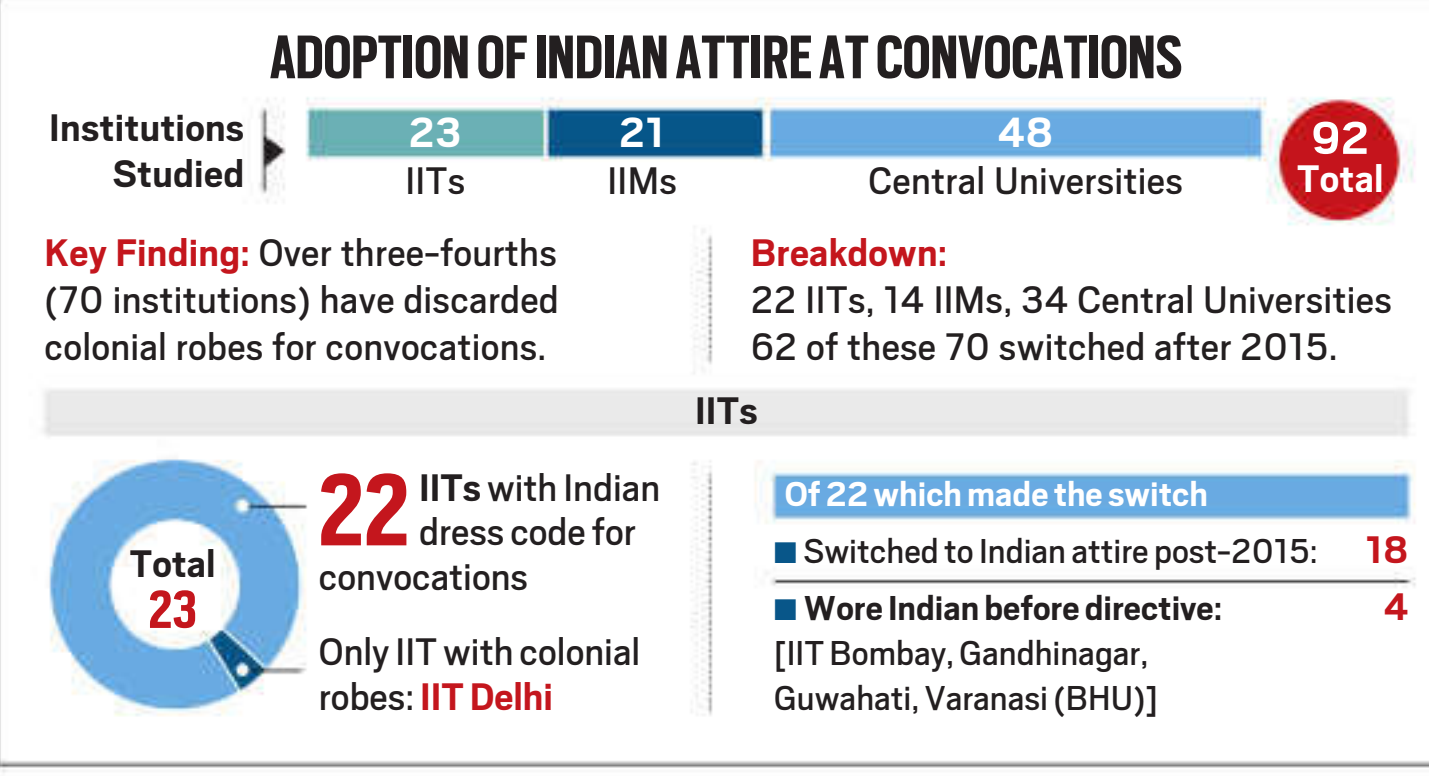
**OCTOBER 19, 2010:** Mahesh Chand, a migrant worker from Baghpat in UP, was called to open a blocked sewer at the

### YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

then LSR Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases near Qutub Minar but drowned in the drain. In 2018, a Delhi court acquitted the supervisor, citing lack of sufficient proof to prove negligence. The institute's probe said the "incident is purely an accident".

EVERYONE NEEDS them but what they need is justice.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister



**ODISHA**  
INDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET.



**Shri Mohan Charan Majhi**  
Chief Minister, Odisha

# Eco Retreat ODISHA

Gear up for a  
**Perfect Glamping Getaway**  
**Grand Opening**  
**1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**



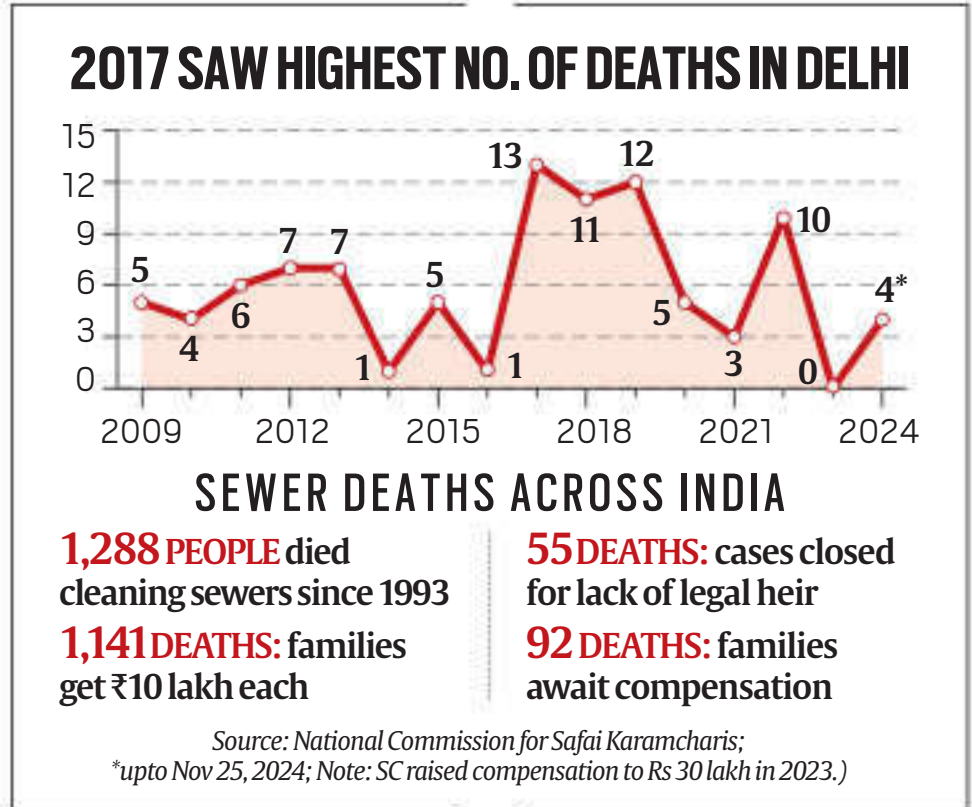
**Bhitarkanika | Satkosia | Hirakud | Daringbadi | Sonapur | Putsil**

OIPR-37001-13-0010-2425

DSPL-233



● Delhi’s dirty secret: For 75 sewer deaths in 15 years, only one conviction



Over the past 15 years, a total of 94 people have died while cleaning sewers in Delhi. But in 75 of those deaths, for which records are available, only one case has led to justice for the victims in the form of a conviction in court, an investigation by *The Indian Express* of data obtained under the Right To Information (RTI) Act has found.

Records analysed by this newspaper show that only nine of the 38 cases filed in connection with these 75 sewer deaths have been disposed of in court, accounting for a total of 19 lives. They include one conviction, acquittal in two cases, two cases quashed by the High Court, a case of compromise, one closure report, and two cases in which the Delhi Police said the accused could not be traced. The police are yet to challenge the acquittal orders in a higher court, the RTI records show.

For the 75 deaths, the only case since 2009 that led to a conviction involved a site supervisor who was found guilty and sentenced to six months imprisonment for not providing oxygen masks and other safety equipment to the victim before sending him inside a sewer near Sunder Nagar on March 15 that year.

According to records, many of the remaining cases are pending in various Delhi courts for reasons ranging from officers and witnesses not appearing for hearings to lack of adequate staff. Consider this:

■ In at least three cases, the police told the court they are not able to trace the accused.

■ In at least two cases, the investigators were not able to obtain the address of the witness.

■ In at least five cases, witnesses or investigating officers failed to appear regularly in court.

■ And then there are at least five cases in which the police have not yet completed the investigation and the charge sheet has not been filed.

■ In some other cases, the court observed that it could not complete the hearing due to lack of staff and cited non-cooperation of senior police officials.

The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, bars hazardous cleaning, but there is no specific ban on manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks as long as protective gear is given. The law specifies 44 types of protective gear, including breath mask, gas monitor and full body wader suit.

“Those who employ people to clean sewers are getting away with brazen impunity. This is a matter of great concern,” said M Venkatesan, chairperson of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), a body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment which deals with sewer deaths and manual scavenging.

“Police say they are not able to get evidence in these cases. Suppose, only two people were present at the site – the supervisor and the sanitation worker – and the cleaner died after entering the sewer. Who will prove whether the supervisor had asked the cleaner to go into the sewer or not? For this, some changes are needed in the law. In case of sewer deaths, the FIR should be registered against the commissioner of Municipal Corporation also, then the civic bodies will follow the rules properly. Only when there is accountability for each death, will a signal go right down on following the rules,” Venkatesan said.

A senior official of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment said it is continuously following up with states on this issue.

“It is a matter of concern for the Ministry and it has written to the states for possible intervention to ensure justice in these cases,” said the official.

Records show that overall,

## FROM PAGE ONE

# Maharashtra: Swearing-in on Dec 5

Tagging the party’s Chief Ministerial candidate Devendra Fadnavis, Shinde and Pawar, the state BJP President, Chandrashekhar Bawankule, said on social media that the ceremony on December 5 would be held at 5 pm in Mumbai’s Azad Maidan.

What has somewhat delayed government formation in the state despite a clear mandate to the Mahayuti is caretaker Chief Minister Shinde’s decision to go to his village Dare in Satara district the very day he returned from New Delhi after the meeting of all allies. Some in his party said this indicated Shinde’s “unhappiness” and that he was keen that the Home Ministry portfolio in the new government be allocated to Shiv Sena.

Back home in his village, Shinde is learnt to have taken ill. His family doctor RM Parte told the media in Satara that Shinde has throat infection and fever, that he was under treatment, and should get better in two-three days.

BJP tried to downplay any rift with its ally. Bawankule said everything will be finalised over the next 2-3 days and the CM along with his deputies would be sworn in together on December 5. Sources in the BJP said the central observers would travel to Mumbai over the next couple of days and oversee the appointment of the new leader during a legislature party meeting.

Bawankule held a meeting with the BJP district chief to plan the oath-taking ceremony on a grand scale in the presence of Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and CMs of other BJP-ruled states.

“There is neither any delay in government formation, nor is there any dispute among alliance partners. The NDA has the credibility of taking along its alliance partners and ensuring proper coordination,” Bawankule told *The Sunday Express*. “All decisions related to Mahayuti and government formation will be taken by BJP central leaders and the parliamentary board in consultation with state leaders including the allies Shiv Sena and NCP,” he said.

In Pune, Ajit Pawar said the BJP had 132 MLAs and support of five independent and other MLAs. “This means 137 MLAs, and that is not a small number. We have already told the BJP that they can decide the CM and that will be accepted by us. A decision has been made that there will be a CM from the BJP and Dy CMs from the remaining two parties,” he told reporters.

BJP sources said the legislature party meeting is likely to be held on December 2-3. Some Shiv Sena leaders *The Sunday Express* spoke with said Shinde is likely to participate in the

Mahayuti meeting only after the BJP legislature party chooses its leader.

On Sena’s demands, some leaders in the party cited the portfolio allocation under Shinde wherein he agreed to let Fadnavis keep the Home portfolio despite he being the Deputy CM. “When Shinde ji was CM, the home ministry was given to the Deputy CM. So, portfolio distribution should be done similarly; that would be fair. A leader like Shinde can maintain law and order very well even when sensitive situations of communal riots arise in the state,” said Sena MLA Sanjay Shirsat. Two other Sena MLAs Shambhuraj Desai and Bharat Gogawale seconded this argument.

Responding to a question, Ajit Pawar of NCP said he had no idea whether the Home portfolio will be given to Shinde or not. “The head of the state government will decide,” he said, adding, Shinde was not upset and he went to his village to rest. Sena sources said that Shinde had informed the leaders of BJP and NCP about his visit in advance. “He said he would be back to continue the talks on Sunday,” a Sena source said.

Besides the Home portfolio, the Shinde group has also demanded portfolios the party held in the outgoing government including Urban Development,

Industry, Education, Health and Excise. “We do not want to make any compromises on it,” said the source.

Party leaders denied reports Shinde had expressed his unwillingness to accept Fadnavis as the Chief Minister and cited Shinde’s statement during his press conference in Thane on Wednesday when he clearly said that whatever is the decision of PM and HM and whoever their CM candidate, Sena will fully support him.

The BJP leadership has also offered Shinde to come to the Centre and be part of the Narendra Modi government in case he is not keen on the Deputy CM’s post. “It’s a suggestion under consideration. But the question is how can you not accept a popular leader’s demand,” said a Sena leader.

A senior BJP leader categorically ruled out any other candidate other than Fadnavis for the CM’s post. “Such experiments to handpick fresh faces is possible where BJP has absolute majority on its own, for instance, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Maharashtra is a complex state with a three-party coalition and strong regional leaders. In such a scenario, BJP has to appoint a strong leader with administrative capabilities and a good understanding of the state.”

(WITH INPUTS FROM MANOJ MORE IN PUNE)

## ● Goodbye, cap and gown; Welcome, kurta and sari

adopted Indian attire. However, IIM-Bangalore, IIM-Calcutta, IIM-Lucknow, IIM-Indore, IIM-Rohtak, IIM-Udaipur and IIM-Amritsar continue to follow the colonial convocation dress code.

According to the UGC advisory, in tune with the Prime Minister’s emphasis on “revival of handloom and improving earnings of the handloom weavers,” universities were requested to consider using “handloom fabric for ceremonial dresses...for special occasions like convocation etc.”

This would not only “give a sense of pride of being Indian but also be more comfortable in the hot and humid weather,” the advisory said.

The UGC advisory was followed by a call from then Education Minister Prakash Javadekar, who urged universities to replace the “British-inspired” attire as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary.

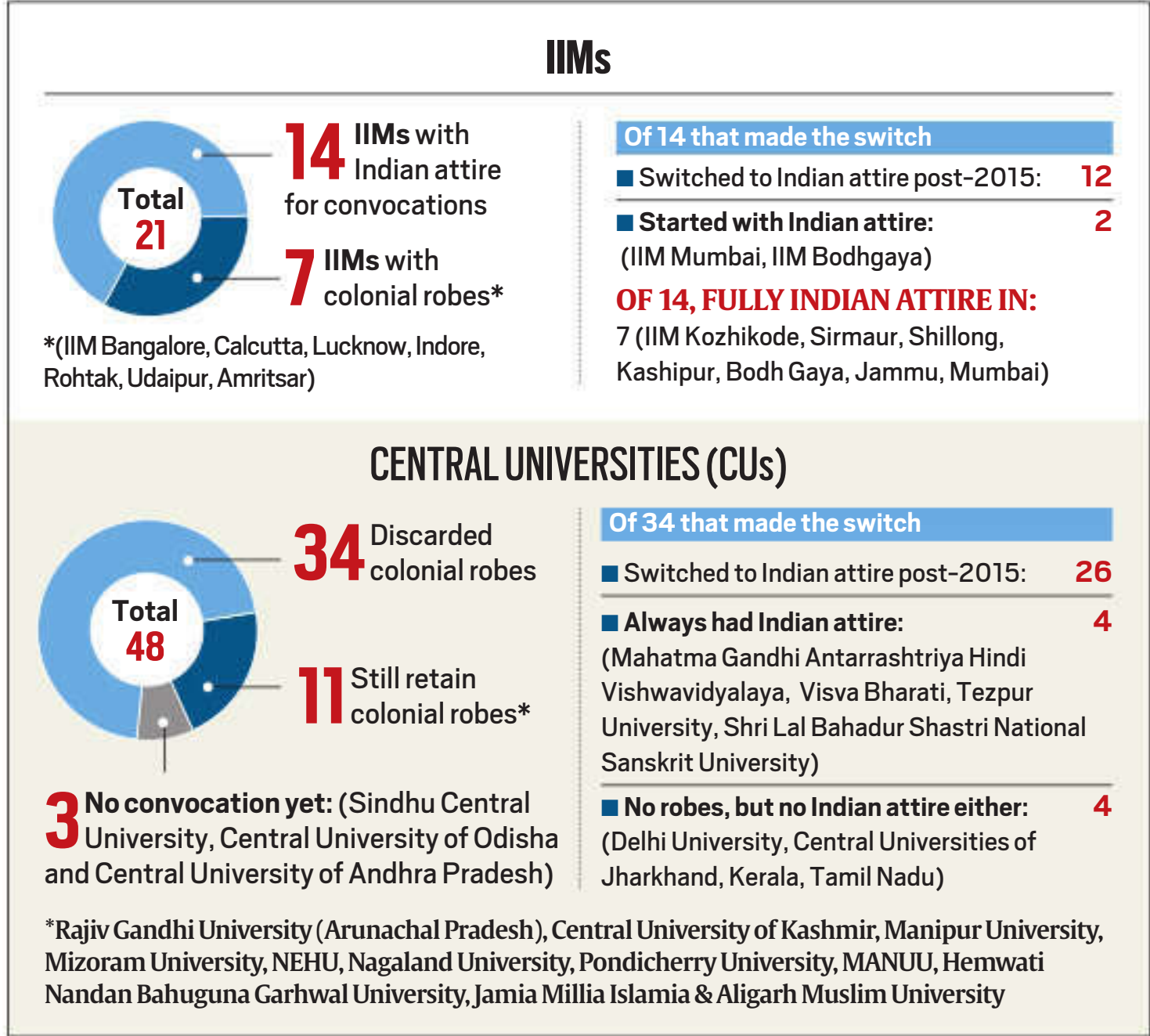
Additional advisories from the UGC in 2019 and in January 2024, too, emphasised switching over to Indian attire, and promoting handloom as “comfortable for local weather” and a source of “pride in Indian heritage.”

Following Ministry of Education’s lead, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently asked medical institutes to adopt an Indian dress code for their convocation ceremonies.

Among Central universities funded by MoE, 34 of 48 have phased out robes and caps. Though 30 of 34 made this switch after 2015, the dress code at four institutions was already Indian attire or robes with traditional patterns: Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya in Maharashtra’s Wardha; Visva Bharati in West Bengal’s Santiniketan; Tezpur University in Assam; and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University in New Delhi.

Of the 34 Central universities where the convocation dress code does not mandate wearing of ceremonial robes anymore, four of them – University of Delhi, Central University of Jharkhand, Central University of Kerala and Central University of Tamil Nadu – have adopted a blend of Western and Indian elements for their graduation ceremony outfits.

Among Central universities, BHU in Varanasi was among the



first to respond to the government’s 2015 advisory. It transitioned from black robes to white kurtas-pyjamas for men and saris for women, along with yellow utariyas and safas.

“It was our 100th anniversary, and the management wanted to promote Indian culture,” says Dr Rajesh Singh, the BHU PRO.

Of 11 Central universities that are yet to make this shift, five – including Rajiv Gandhi University in Arunachal Pradesh, North Eastern Hill University in Meghalaya, Nagaland University and Manipur University – confirmed that they were considering making a change.

“While we haven’t finalised the specifics, we are definitely looking at more Indianised attire,” says Professor W. Chandrabu Singh, Registrar, Manipur University.

Nagaland University, meanwhile, is having discussions on introducing the traditional Naga attire for the convocation ceremony.

Three more of these universities – Sindhu Central University in Ladakh, Central University of Odisha and Central University of Andhra Pradesh – are relatively new and haven’t yet held a convocation ceremony.

The transition, however, has

not been without challenges. An official from a Central university says, “The entire concept of a convocation is Western, so why insist on an Indian dress code at all?”

In November last year, IIT-Kharagpur’s detailed convocation dress code had triggered a controversy. The institute’s guidelines had specified the attire style, sleeve length, and even footwear and jewellery. Students, who already wore Indian-style clothing, called the guidelines restrictive. The institute later clarified that these details were not mandatory.

In 2021, IIT-Jammu had faced criticism after it announced plans for convocation attire inspired by Kashmiri culture – pherans (knee-length robe) and pakols (soft, flat, rolled-up men’s cap). Following objections, it switched to white kurtas-pyjamas.

Opposing the dress code introduced in 2015, Lucknow-based Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University’s Dalit Students Union had in 2019 requested permission to wear formal Western attire as a tribute to Dr B R Ambedkar.

When it comes to IITs, even before the UGC advisory, IIT-BHU, IIT-Jodhpur, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Gandhinagar and IIT-Guwahati, had already changed it to Indian attire.

“Since the beginning, our convocation dress code included cream kurtas-pyjamas, with an option for saris, paired with a dark cream Gandhi (Nehru) jacket. The intent was to reflect Indian culture,” says Professor Vikas Dubey, Dean, Research and Development, IIT-BHU.

IIT-Bombay, which always followed an Indian dress code, introduced a khadi uttariya (stole) in 2016.

At many graduation ceremonies now, the dress code includes a nod to the local regional culture. Instead of the traditional blue satin robe at IIT-Mandi for instance, graduates now wear off-white kurta-pyjamas and salwar-kurtas or saris paired with a Himachali shawl and topi (cap).

At Banaras Hindu University (BHU), students now don kurta-pyjamas and saris along with a traditional safi (turban) and uttariya, while IIM-Shillong’s convocation attire features a Khasi wrap.

Incidentally, in 2010, Jairam Ramesh, former environment minister and a Congress member, had removed his convocation robe in protest, calling them a “barbaric colonial relic,” at a ceremony organised by the Indian Institute of Forest Management in Bhopal.

## ● EC reply to Congress

“inexplicable increase in voting percentages from 5pm to the final voter percentage declared” by EC at 11.30pm on polling day.

“As regards the first allegation regarding addition and deletion of voters in Maharashtra, as the INC is aware, electoral rolls are always prepared and finalised with close involvement of all political parties including yourselves. The copies of the draft electoral roll published are given to political parties and the verification process involves political parties at every stage of the process. Having stated this, the Commission would get the issues raised by INC examined and keep them informed of the outcome,” the EC wrote.

The Congress also raised the issue of voter turnout data, which the party and other Opposition members had raised during the Lok Sabha elections as well. This time, the Congress said the polling percentage in Maharashtra as per EC data had increased from 58.22 per cent at 5 pm to 65.02 per cent at 11.30 pm. Ultimately, the turnout increased to 66.05 per cent several hours before counting of votes, the Congress memorandum said. The Congress said the increase in voters from 5 pm to 6 pm, when polls close, would amount to 76 lakh votes. While the polls officially close at 6 pm, those who are in the queue to vote inside polling stations at 6 pm are allowed to cast their votes till as long as it takes. The Congress said it was implausible for such a large number of votes, 76 lakhs, to be cast in the last hour of polling.

Responding to the second allegation, the EC said it had clarified the issue before, including during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as well. The authorised agents of candidates are given a copy of Form 17C, which includes the total votes polled at the polling booth, at the end of polling, which was November 20 in Maharashtra.

“This cannot be changed. This number aggregates to final voter turnout which all political parties and candidates can verify. For the conduct of elections, ECI takes employees on election duty from

## ● ISKCON

Das. When they were returning, the police arrested them. We strongly protest against such arrests and appeal to the Bangladesh government to give protection to minorities,” Radharamn Das, vice-president and spokesperson of ISKCON, Kolkata, told *The Indian Express*. “Those arrested are Sri Adi Purush Shyam Das and devotee Ranganath Das Brahmachari Prabhu,” he said.

Sharing a photograph of Shyam Das, who is Chinmoy’s assistant, in a post on X, Radharamn said: “Does he look like a terrorist? #FreeISKCONMonks Bangladesh. The arrest of innocent #ISKCON brahmacharis are deeply shocking & disturbing.”

He also posted a purported video clip of an attack on an ISKCON centre. “Another ISKCON centre in Bhairav, Bangladesh, has been vandalised. No respite in sight. #SaveBangladeshiHindus,” he posted.

In another post on X, Radharamn said ISKCON devotees would gather in over 150 countries on Sunday “to pray and chant for the safety and security of Bangladeshi minorities”.

While ISKCON has clarified that Chinmoy “does not represent” them in Bangladesh, it emphasised in a statement earlier this week that it “supports his rights and freedom for peacefully calling for protecting Hindus and their places of worship”. According to ISKCON officials, Chinmoy was expelled in September this year.

The Bangladesh Sammilito Sanatani Jagaron Jot, of which Chinmoy was a leader, also issued a statement on Saturday highlighting the fresh arrests and alleged atrocities on minorities.

“Monks who went to give medicines to Chinmoy Krishna Das were arrested by police. Other Hindus are also being arrested by police. Where is human rights?

Why big difference in turnout

CONGRESS HAS raised red flags over the sharp increase in voter turnout in the last one hour of polling. Such doubts were raised in 2024 Lok Sabha polls too. According to the EC, data from all polling stations is fed into the Voter Turnout App only after the presiding officer wraps up other tasks such as filling up statutory forms, recording the day’s developments in her diary, among other things. These tasks take time, and therefore there is a difference between the turnout as shown in the app at 5 pm, and when the final numbers are fed.

various departments of State Government,” the EC said.

It said that the presiding officer at each polling station completes the formalities, including filling up statutory forms and keeping a record of the day’s developments in the PO’s diary, before winding up for the day. “The data feeding from all polling stations into Voter Turnout App, at this stage, thus takes time,” it said.

However, the EC said it would convey its detailed reply to the issues raised after hearing from the Congress in-person as the party had sought a meeting for the same. The EC asked the party delegation to visit on December 3.

The issue of voter turnout data had cropped up during the Lok Sabha elections this year. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge had said that there had been a delay in releasing voter turnout data, to which the EC wrote to him on May 10 that the real time data was available on the Voter Turnout App throughout the elections and that the polling station wise data was available to polling agents of all candidates at the close of poll.

Where is the protection for minorities,” said the statement in Bengali, adding that places of worship, including ISKCON centres in Bangladesh, were being attacked.

On Friday, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India has conveyed its concern over the attacks on Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh and pressed for a “fair and transparent trial” for Chinmoy. “Our position on the matter is clear – the interim government must live up to its responsibility of protecting all minorities. We are concerned at the surge of extremist rhetoric, increasing incidents of violence and provocation. These developments cannot be dismissed only as media exaggeration. ISKCON is a globally well-regarded organisation with a strong record of social service. We once again call upon Bangladesh to take all steps for the protection of minorities,” he told a media briefing.

According to local media reports in Bangladesh, Chinmoy, who had been leading rallies demanding security for Hindus, was arrested from Dhaka’s main airport on November 25 while travelling to Chattogram in southeastern Bangladesh. He faces charges of sedition filed in October after he led a rally in Chattogram in which he was accused of disrespecting Bangladesh’s national flag.

A case was filed against Chinmoy and 18 others on October 30 at Chattogram’s Kotwali police station based on the complaint of a leader of former PM Khaleda Zia’s BNP, which accused them of disrespecting the national flag in the city’s Lal Dighi Maidan during a rally of the Hindu community on October 25.

A Bangladeshi court denied bail to Chinmoy, triggering violent protests in which assistant government prosecutor Saiful Islam Alif was killed in Chattogram. On Thursday, the Bangladesh High Court rejected a petition seeking a ban on ISKCON activities.

## ₹800-crore boost to 8 lesser-known tourist sites in 6 Northeastern states

DIVYAA KAZIRANGA, NOVEMBER 30

TO EASE overcrowding and over-tourism, eight lesser-known tourist spots in six northeastern states will be developed as iconic sites at a cost of ₹800 crore approximately. The projects, spread across Meghalaya, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Sikkim and Tripura, were approved by the Department of Expenditure (DoE) this week.

Funds have been released by the DoE – the first instalment being 66% of the total approved

amount – directly to the states concerned; the Ministry of Tourism will monitor the progress, officials told *The Indian Express*. The states have been given a timeline of two years for completing the projects and the funds will be released before March 2026, they said.

The approved projects include border experience at Nathula in Sikkim (₹97.37 crore), 51 shakti peethas park at Gomti in Tripura (₹97.7 crore), Loktak lake experience in Manipur (₹89.48 crore), Umiam Lake in Shillong (₹99.27 crore), Assam state zoo in Guwahati (₹97.12 crore) and Siang Eco-retreat in

Arunachal’s Pasighat (₹46.48 crore).

These are part of the 40 projects – worth over ₹3,295 crore, spanning 23 states – approved by the Centre with an aim to promote a more balanced distribution of tourists across the country. Union Tourism and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said.

According to the directives of the DoE, the Ministry of Tourism has issued operational guidelines for Special Assistance to States/UTs for Capital Investment (SASCI) for the development of iconic tourist centres, officials said.

The Ministry of Tourism circulated the SASCI guidelines to the state governments with a request to formulate and submit proposals for projects which are iconic in nature and can create impactful destinations. By the last date of submission, October 15, 2024, a total of 87 project proposals were received costing more than ₹8,000 crore, the officials said.

Thereafter, the Ministry of Tourism shortlisted 40 projects across 23 states for ₹3,295.76 crore which have now been sanctioned. Other selected destinations include Matsyagandha Lake, Saharsa (Bihar), proposed

Town Square, Porvorim (Goa), Orchha (MP), among others.

The aim of this scheme is to infuse long-term interest-free loans for 50 years to states for comprehensively developing iconic tourist centres and branding and marketing them on a global scale. Shekhawat told reporters on the sidelines of the just concluded 12th International Tourism Mart in Kaziranga.

“By focusing on lesser-known destinations, the ministry hopes to enhance the overall tourism experience, boost local economies and ensure sustainable growth in the sector through a strategic approach to

new project selection,” the ministry said. It is also encouraging state governments to explore public-private investment opportunities. The land for the projects will be provided by the states concerned.

### Along China border

Meanwhile, speaking at the ITM, Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu said the state has seen a 205% growth in tourist footfall over the last decade. “There has been an increase in tourist numbers in villages bordering Tibet, for which the state government, the Centre and the Army are working together,” he said.



# AAP MLA Naresh Balyan arrested in extortion case; triggers AAP-BJP sparring

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30



Naresh Balyan

THE AAP'S Uttam Nagar MLA Naresh Balyan was arrested by the Delhi Police's Crime Branch Saturday in connection with an extortion case registered last year. The arrest comes on the day that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in a press conference, played an audio clip, claiming it was a conversation between Balyan and a gangster. AAP, however, called the audio clip fake and pointed to court orders against its circulation. DCP (Crime Branch) Sanjay Sain said, "The arrest was made after an investigation revealed an audio clip of a conversation between Balyan and notorious gangster Kapil Sangwan, also known as Nandu, who is currently based abroad. The conversation allegedly involved discussions about collecting ransom money from businessmen. Further investigation is on."

Dismissing the accusations levelled against him, Balyan said in a post on X before his arrest, "I am sending notices to all those who have spread the false clip and getting FIRs registered against them... Those who spread lies should be ready for legal action."

The FIR in the matter was registered in August 2023 against a man named Ashru for forcibly entering the house of a man and beating up his family in June last year. One of Ashru's three accomplices had shot at the man and threatened to kill him. The bullet did not hit the victim, the FIR states. Balyan is not named in the FIR. His involvement is not mentioned either. Investigation, police sources, has revealed the involvement of gangster Sangwan.

On August 17, 2023, a trial court passed an ex parte ad interim order restraining a news channel from broadcasting news against Balyan. The Delhi High Court on August 25, 2023, had refused to set aside the trial court's order. It, however, said it had not examined the merits of the con-

tentions raised by the parties. Addressing the media at the national BJP headquarters earlier in the day along with Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said: "In one audio clip, AAP MLA Naresh Balyan is heard speaking to a gangster, where he tells him to extort money from a builder. Fearing arrest, he even asks the gangster to switch to another phone. The level of collusion, closeness, and friendship between the corrupt AAP MLA and the gangster is such that they are openly exchanging information."

"Will Arvind Kejriwal and Chief Minister Atishi immediately expel this MLA from the party? If they don't, it will be clear that the extortion is being carried out at the behest of Kejriwal," he added. The AAP, responding to the arrest of its MLA, called the audio clip "fake". "Balyan filed complaints of receiving threat calls five times between 2022 and 2023. In July 2023, he received threatening calls from gangster Kapil Sangwan. In August 2023, a few TV channels ran a fake audio clip, whose broadcast was later stayed by the Delhi High Court. BJP played the same audio in violation of the court's order on Saturday. Balyan has been arrested on unfounded allegations," AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said.

Singh, at a press conference called in response to the BJP's allegations, said, "The BJP's sole aim is to lie and provoke quarrels to achieve its ultimate goal of destroying the nation. AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal has been consistently raising concerns about Delhi's deteriorating law and order situation... Instead of addressing them or curbing crime in Delhi, Home Minister Amit Shah is solely focused on targeting Kejriwal."

# ACCUSED A BUS MARSHAL, DETAINED: POLICE Man 'throws liquid' at Kejriwal during padyatra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

CHAOS BROKE out at AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal's padyatra in South Delhi's Malviya Nagar Saturday evening after a man flung some liquid at him. The party alleged it was an attempt to "burn" the former Delhi CM claiming the man had thrown "spirit", while the police said the accused had thrown "water". The man, identified by police as Ashok Jha, was detained by security personnel at the spot. The incident took place when Kejriwal, along with G K MLA and Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, was walking in a narrow lane, greeting people. Police personnel had placed ropes on both sides of the two leaders, and security personnel were walking alongside them. Kejriwal has Z+ security. DCP (South) Ankit Chauhan, however, said the party had not taken permission for the padyatra. "Despite proper police deployment for crowd control, at 5.50 pm, Ashok Jha, a bus marshal from Khanpur depot, attempted to throw water on Kejriwal while he was greeting followers. The attempt was immediately foiled as police... apprehended Jha and detained him. The motives behind his actions are under investigation," he added.

AAP, however, claimed the man threw "spirit" on Kejriwal. Addressing a press conference after the incident, Bharadwaj claimed the man attempted to kill Kejriwal as another person had come with matches and threatened to burn the former CM alive. In a video of the incident, Kejriwal can be seen walking in front, Bharadwaj a few steps behind him. Security personnel are also within the cordon. As he moves forward, the man reaches out and throws the liquid on Kejriwal, which also falls on two security personnel. Asked if the sample of the liquid was sent for testing, a police



Arvind Kejriwal after attack by accused Ashok Jha (above), PTI

officer told *The Indian Express* that they were looking for traces of the substance at the spot. "Prima facie it appeared to be water..." he said. On whether the accused has been arrested, he said Jha is being questioned jointly by local police and security agencies. "He claims to be disgruntled because he hadn't been given his past month's salary and previous dues," said the officer. Asked if any other person was involved, the officer said this did not appear to be the case, but they were analysing the accused's call detail records and footage from CCTVs nearby, along with video clips shot on phones by people at the spot. On whether police found any political affiliation, police sources claimed Jha told officers that he had become a member of the BJP via their missed call registration campaign and had also donated money to the AAP in the past. Bharadwaj alleged the man was associated with the BJP. "... Amit Shah's failure is obvious. If a former CM is not safe in the capi-

tal, where will the common man go?... This is the third attack on him in the past 35 days. He was attacked in Vikaspuri and Nangloi earlier," AAP said in a statement. Kejriwal also took on the BJP over the incident. "Amit Shah ji, what will happen if you stop me, you should stop crime in Delhi. Will crime in Delhi reduce if you stop me? Will open shootouts in Delhi stop if you stop me? Will the women of Delhi become safe? Will the businessmen of Delhi become safe?" he posted on X. While Delhi BJP condemned the incident, its spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said, "Elections are held across the country, and leaders, whether good or bad, participate in campaigns under varying levels of security. However, such bizarre incidents occur only with Kejriwal during every assembly election." On the accused allegedly being associated with the BJP, Kapoor said, "Anybody can join BJP online. One is a BJP cadre only when he or she is assigned any party work. The question is was Ashok Jha a BJP worker?"

# A contentious issue that has spilled into AAP's campaign for 2025 polls

SAMAN HUSAIN  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

THE TERMINATION of services of over 10,000 bus marshals last November on grounds of improper recruitment has become a contentious issue between the AAP government and the Opposition BJP, triggering protests and heated exchanges in the past one year. More recently, it has led to disruptions during former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's campaign rallies, making it a focal point during the Delhi polls slated for early next year. At a rally in Burari on Friday, Kejriwal's speech was interrupted by Mukesh Pal Singh, a bus marshal, as he raised slogans and pleaded for his reinstatement. After inviting him to the stage, Kejriwal said, "This brother is a bus marshal. I and my party are the ones fighting for you; no one else will. In Gujarat, even police officers are on temporary contracts. The BJP never makes anything permanent."

On Saturday, a man named Ashok Jha, who police said was a bus marshal from Khanpur depot, attempted to "attack" Kejriwal while he was greeting the crowd during a padyatra at Malviya Nagar in Greater Kailash. Sachin Bharwal, a representative from the Bus Marshal Pratinidhi Mandal, said: "In the fight to take credit for the redeployment of bus marshals, our futures are at stake. Both parties are deliberately creating hurdles for each other, and an issue that could have been easily solved is being delayed. Even among bus marshals, many people have started taking sides of parties, which will only weaken our movement."

To prevent incidents of misbehaviour towards women in DTC

## BUS MARSHAL DEADLOCK: A TIMELINE

**Nov 2023:** Services of around 10,000 civil defence volunteers (CDVs) discontinued after the revenue and finance departments had raised technical issues with their appointment as bus marshals. As per the Civil Defence Act, 1968, CDVs are to be called to deal with situations such as hostile attacks or for disaster management and they are paid an honorarium.

■ Sparks AAP govt, L-G tussle, with each blaming the other for the removal of CDVs. Volunteers protest

■ L-G VK Saxena clears the enrolment of over 10,000 new home guard personnel to be appointed bus marshals in DTC and cluster buses. Preference in the form of extra credit be given to experienced CDVs during selection as they already have worked as bus marshals.

**Sept 27, 2024:** On the first day of a two-day Delhi Assembly session, AAP and

BJP supported a resolution to restore jobs of CDVs. A proposal moved by BJP and AAP for reinstatement of bus marshals in DTC buses was later passed in House.

**Nov 9:** The Delhi government approved the reinstatement of 10,000 CDVs to enforce various anti-pollution measures in the Capital, Chief Minister Atishi said.

**Nov 13:** L-G V K approved the AAP government's proposal to deploy CDVs to tackle air pollution in the city from November 1, 2024, to February 28, 2025. Saxena also urged the AAP government to formulate a scheme for bus marshals, which clarifies their role, rationale and service conditions. Chief Minister Atishi, meanwhile, said, "... the issue of bus marshals falls under the purview of L-G, as it pertains to services and public order, so L-G is requested to create a scheme for bus marshals."

buses, the bus marshal scheme was introduced in 2015. Initially, 3,356 civil defence volunteers (CDVs) were deployed as marshals, and following a 2019 recommendation by a task force on women's safety, the vacancies were increased to over 13,000, with over 10,000 appointed in subsequent years. However, in November 2023,

the services of these 10,000 bus marshals were abruptly terminated after the Revenue and Finance departments said that their deployment as bus marshals did not align with the Civil Defence Act, 1968. Since then, the dismissals have fueled a blame game between the AAP-led Delhi government and the Centre-appointed L-G V K Saxena. (see box)

एफ सी आर आई

**FLUID CONTROL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
(Under Government of India, Ministry of Heavy Industries)  
Kanjikode West, Palakkad, Kerala - 678 623

Notification No. FCRI/P&A/2024-25/PO/04      Date of Notification: 27.11.2024

**RECRUITMENT on DEPUTATION Basis**

Name of Post	No. of Posts [CATEGORY]	Scale of Pay	Age Limit	Tenure
Personnel Officer	1 [GENERAL]	Pay level 10 in the Pay Matrix	56 years	3 years

For details on the Qualifications and Experience criteria and Application Form, please visit website [www.fcricindia.com](http://www.fcricindia.com).  
Last date for Receipt of Applications: 17.01.2025.

गृह मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre  
सहजीव कलकवई • Working Together With Vigour

# Q. CAN YOU BE ARRESTED OVER A VIDEO CALL?

## Ans. No

Here's how scammers try to trap you:

THEY MAY CALL AND CLAIM THAT YOUR NAME IS INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS PARCELS CONTAINING BANNED ITEMS.

IMPERSONATING POLICE OFFICERS, THEY FORCE YOU TO JOIN AND REMAIN ON A VIDEO CALL.

THROUGH FEAR AND INTIMIDATION, THEY EXTORT MONEY OR HARASS YOU.

## STAY ALERT:

CBI, POLICE, OR COURT OFFICIALS WILL NEVER ARREST YOU THROUGH CALLS OR VIDEO CALLS.

**WHAT TO DO:**

VERIFY IDENTITIES BEFORE SHARING ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION

CALL **1930** OR

FILE A COMPLAINT AT [WWW.CYBERCRIME.GOV.IN](http://WWW.CYBERCRIME.GOV.IN).

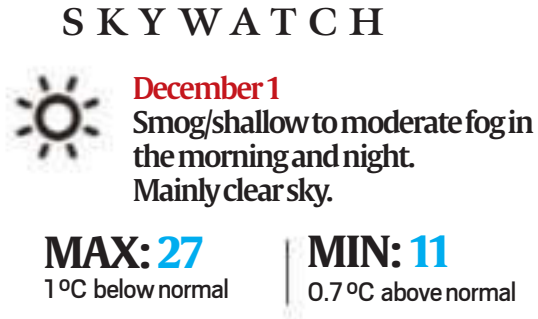
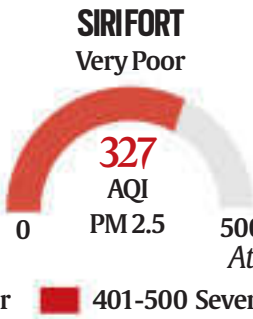
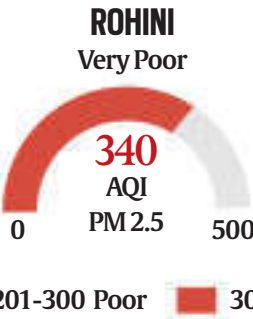
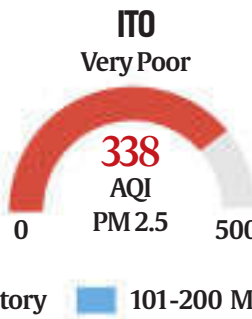
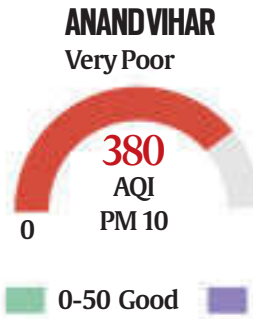
**STOP • THINK • TAKE ACTION**

FOR MORE INFORMATION FOLLOW **CYBERDOST**

CBC 19101/13/0022/2425

epaper.indianexpress.com





After false break-in call, man tries to flee police custody; dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

A 26-YEAR-OLD man died Thursday from a head injury he sustained while attempting to escape from police custody in Mayapuri, police said Saturday.

As per initial investigation, the deceased had been struggling with mental health issues that resulted in him becoming paranoid about his safety, they added.

On Tuesday, police received a distress call reporting a break-in at a house in Mayapuri. "The caller said dacoits had broken into his house and were looting it," DCP (West) Vichitra Veer said.

However, upon arrival at the house, police found the man's parents and uncle with knife injuries. "Due to his illness, the man would think dacoits had entered his house... he attacked his parents and uncle with a knife, inflicting slash wounds to their necks, hands, and waists. His father also sustained a gash to the head," Veer said.

Police rushed the injured to a hospital and took the man to Mayapuri police station for questioning. While in custody, the man attempted to escape while being questioned, police said.

"He asked for some water and when one officer left the room, he pushed the other officer aside and ran out of the police station. He tried to climb over a 3-4 ft high wall but fell headfirst, sustaining a serious head injury," Veer said. He was rushed him to a nearby hospital where he succumbed on Thursday.

The uncle, who lived on the floor above the man and his parents and sustained injuries when he intervened on hearing a commotion on Tuesday, has been discharged from hospital, police said. The parents are still in hospital.

According to police, accounts from family members and neighbours indicate that the man, a law graduate, often exhibited paranoia and aggression. He was unemployed, they added.

"On November 24, two days before the incident, he made a call to the police control room claiming dacoits had broken into his house. When police reached the house, his parents explained he was suffering from mental health issues," said an officer.

Noida to get 3 puzzle parking facilities by 2025

NEETIKA JHA  
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 30

THE NOIDA Authority Saturday said it will develop three puzzle-parking facilities in the industrial township by 2025 to ease traffic congestion.

"Puzzle parking is also called stack parking... where vehicles can be moved up and down with the help of several stands and slots. The vehicles, while being parked, won't come in contact with each other and this will reduce the time that goes in parking," Lokesh M, chief executive officer (CEO), Noida Authority, told *The Indian Express*.

"This is along the lines of puzzle parking developed in Delhi by New Delhi Municipal Council," he said, adding that puzzle-parking facilities are slated to come up at Savitri Market in Sector 18, Ramllela Maidan in Sector 62, and Sector 124.

"The facilities will be developed on a public-private-partnership model; the Authority will float a tender within two months. We have asked the planning department to ascertain that there is no land-acquisition problem," said the CEO.

"These areas see huge traffic congestion due to vehicles parked almost everywhere. The puzzle-parking facilities will be an automated parking system and will consist of sliding platforms on various levels. As they (platforms) can slide over each other, the vehicles can be easily rotated and moved. This will provide more space to accommodate vehicles," the official informed.

The CEO also said authorities are yet to ascertain the amount required to develop each puzzle-parking facility.



Ram Kali at her home in a JJ cluster in Rohini. Abhinav Saha

SEWER DEATHS: AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

Partial relief, acquittal, untraced report: For 3 families, justice still out of reach

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA & DHEERAJ MISHRA  
NEW DELHI, BAGHPAT (UP), NOVEMBER 30

RAJKUMARI, RAM Kali and Salesh Devi have each lost a loved one — a husband, a son — on the job. The job? Cleaning Delhi's sewers. For one of them, promises of compensation have gone unfulfilled. For all three, justice remains elusive.

They are not alone. The lives lost are among the 94 sewer deaths over the past 15 years in Delhi, but in 75 of those deaths, for which records are available, only one case has led to conviction in court, according to an investigation of RTI records by *The Indian Express*.

*The Indian Express* tracked down and met the three women to know how their lives changed overnight and where their case stands — it found a swell of despair and helplessness.

'Unfair, but what can we do?'

**RAMPAL Background:** Moved from UP's Sisamau village to Delhi in search of better work opportunities; belongs to the SC community.

**Case:** Died cleaning a sewer in Rohini Sector 18 in 2011.

**Case status:** Accused (a junior engineer) acquitted.

**Compensation:** Rs 10 lakh received from the government.

"This system where people like us are expected to take up these jobs, it's unfair. But what can we do? We don't have the education to get better jobs or money to study further," Rampal's wife Rajkumari (50s), who lives in Delhi's Haiderpur village, said.

According to records, Rampal, who worked as a safai karamchari at a housing society, earning Rs 8,000 a month, died cleaning a sewer in front of the complex in Rohini's Sector 18 in 2011. In October 2018, the Rohini Metropolitan Magistrate Court acquitted the accused, a junior



Rajkumari and her youngest son Aditya at their home in Delhi's Haiderpur village. Vidheesha Kuntamalla

engineer (JE), citing lack of evidence. It noted that the sewer had not been maintained by the Delhi Development Authority (under whom the area falls) and there were no witnesses to confirm Rampal was instructed to clean it under the JE's supervision.

Rajkumari said she was unaware of the court's decision until now. "I was angry (about the way Rampal died) at first, but we just want to move on now," she said.

After Rampal's death, Rajkumari, who earned around Rs 5,000 working as a house cleaner, was left to raise their four children — Ravi, Rinki, Shivam, and Aditya — alone. Rinki completed a degree in Arts and works at a bank. The sons were forced to leave school after Class X to support the family, she said. Shivam works as a cleaner in a nearby society. Aditya is now a driver.

'Everything changed that day'

**MANOJ (19) Background:** Family moved from UP's Jhijnjhana to Delhi in 2008; father stayed back in village, working as a farm labourer. Belong to the SC community.

**Case:** Died cleaning a sewer in Rohini's Sector 3 in 2012.

**Case status:** Trial pending.

**Compensation:** Family says they received only Rs 2 lakh of the Rs 10 lakh compensation amount

"I moved to Delhi so I could give a good life to my children... Everything changed the day I lost my son... since my son passed away, my health has been poor," Manoj's mother Ram Kali (60), who lives in a JJ cluster in Rohini, said.

In June 2012, Manoj, who had studied up to Class V, had been called by a private contractor to clean a sewer in Rohini's Sector 3. According to Manoj's brother Deepak, 30, who works at a nearby Airtel store, "Manoj accepted the job. His friend Shankar (47), a labourer from our village, entered the manhole but collapsed due to the poisonous gases inside. Manoj, without any safety gear, rushed in to save him. He collapsed too... By the time we reached the hospital, he was dead... It was his first time doing this kind of work."

A case of negligence was filed against the contractor, but the trial remains pending.

On March 5 this year, the South Rohini district court in its order said: "As per the report received from the office of the DCP concerned, the said PW (prime witness) is stated to have left the previous address and his contact no. is not available. In view of the report received, the name of PW Rahul is dropped from the list of witnesses."

The family said they received only Rs 2 lakh of the promised compensation of Rs 10 lakh. Deepak and his second brother Sunil, 32, who does housekeeping at a mall, said they made several attempts to pursue justice. "Last year, we went to the SDM's office to ask for the rest of the money, but they told us the trial is still pending," Deepak said.

'No money to run after case'

**NAR SINGH (55) Background:** Halalpur village in UP's Baghpat, family belongs to an SC community.

**Case:** Died cleaning a sewer in Patparganj Industrial Area in 2009.

**Case status:** Accused untraced.

**Compensation:** Rs 10 lakh received from government

"We don't want to fight the case. We cannot run after it from one office to another anymore. We don't have that much money," Nar Singh's wife Salesh Devi (60), an anganwadi worker, said.

Records show that Nar Singh, along with co-worker Rajesh Mehto from Bihar, died cleaning a sewer in Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi, on December 6, 2009.

According to Devi, she received the Rs 10 lakh compensation only in July 2022 — 13 years after her husband's death. "For around 13-14 years, nobody came to my aid. There have been days when there was nothing to eat at home and I had to ask neighbours for money," she said while breaking down in tears.

In the case, it was alleged that Nar Singh and his co-worker died due to negligence on the part of a contractor who was assigned the work by the state government-run Delhi State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC).

DSIIDC said it had given the work of installing pumps in the pump house to a firm and the accident took place away from the pump house. The Delhi Police filed a report stating it could not "trace" the accused.

In his letter to the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), dated March 15, 2010, Y S Solanki, Chief Project Manager (ED-IV) of DSIIDC, wrote: "On 06.12.2009... I was... informed by police... an accident had taken place in the manhole. According to the scope of work covered in the said agreement, there was no mandate for the contractor to clean the manhole or send labour(ers) into (it)."

Devi has three children — two sons, Shashikant and Durgesh, who work as delivery agents at an e-commerce firm in Jaipur, and a daughter, Kumari Shanu, who is a data entry operator at a government hospital.

"We never talk about the incident... but whenever I see such news on TV or read about it in the newspaper, everything comes back," said Shanu.

Starting today, Gurgaon to see 10-30% hike in circle rates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, NOVEMBER 30

GURGAON IS set to see a 10% to 30% hike in circle rates that will come into effect from December 1 and remain in place till March 31, 2025.

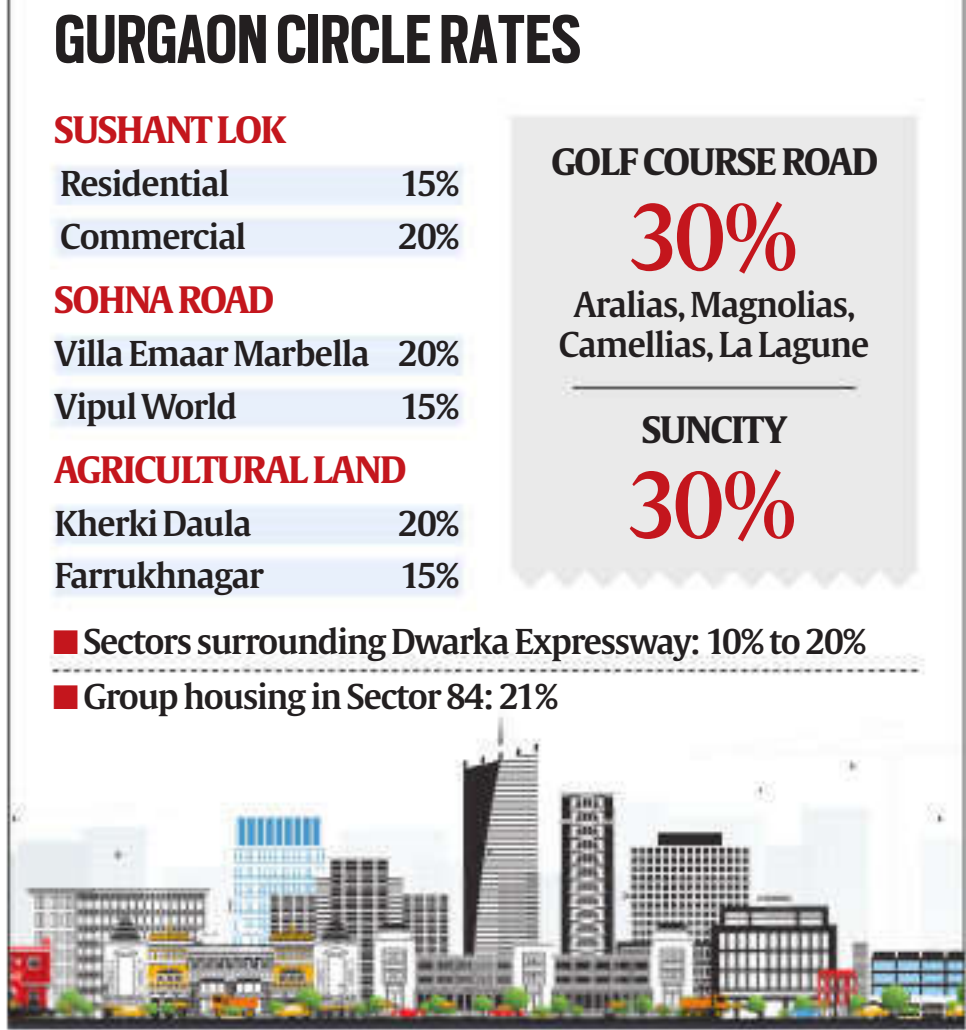
On the Golf Course Road, the circle rate — the minimum price set by the government at which a real estate property can be sold — will go up by 30%, especially in luxury residential projects such as DLF Aralias, DLF Magnolias, and DLF Camellias. While the minimum price set by the government for these properties was Rs 27,500 per sqft in 2023-24, the rate will increase to Rs 35,750 per sq ft from Sunday.

Other upscale residential properties, such as Laburnum, La Lagune, and The Palm Springs will also see a 30% hike in circle rate.

In Farrukhnagar, while agriculture, residential, and commercial properties will see the circle rate increasing by 10% to 20%, residential properties on Sohna Road will see a jump of 10% to 15%.

A realtor in Gurgaon, V M K Singh, said in residential areas such as Suncity — which will see a 30% increase in circle rate — the gap between market price (actual price at which a property is sold) and circle rate is significantly wide. "The market rate is Rs 3.5 lakh per sq yard, but the circle rate is over Rs 1.3 lakh sq yard in case of residential plots. In case of apartments, the circle rate is Rs 12,870 per sq ft while the market rate is Rs 20,000 per sqft. So, the increase of 30% in circle rate will make little difference," he said.

The circle rates for commercial properties on Sohna Road and Golf Course Extension Road will see an increase between 9% and 15%. In Manesar tehsil, on the Dwarka Expressway, the hike in circle rates in both residential and commercial proper-



MALERKOTLA COURT SENTENCES HIM TO 2 YRS IN JAIL

AAP MLA convicted in 2016 sacrilege case

RAAKHI JAGGA  
LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 30

A MALERKOTLA court Friday convicted AAP MLA from Delhi's Mehrauli constituency, Naresh Yadav, in the 2016 Quran sacrilege case. The court on Saturday sentenced him to two years' imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 11,000.

The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Parminder Singh Grewal added that Yadav's jail term will be extended by a month if he defaults on the fine payment.

In March 2021, Yadav, along with another accused Nand Kishore, was acquitted by a local court in Malerkotla, as the police then failed to prove their allegations. However, one Mohammed Ashraf, a resident of Malerkotla, filed a criminal appeal against

AAP MLA from Mehrauli Naresh Yadav

Yadav's acquittal in Additional District and Sessions Court, Sangrur, (now Malerkotla) on April 19, 2021.

On June 24, 2016, torn pages of Quran were recovered from Jarg Road of Malerkotla leading to unrest in the town. Police had initially booked two brothers — Vijay Kumar and Gaurav Kumar — and Nand Kishore. But later during investigation, the name of Naresh Yadav cropped up based on a statement by one of the accused. Yadav was arrested by a Punjab Police team from his house in Delhi on July 24, 2016, on charges of conspiracy to spread social unrest.





**Punjab** Land of  
**Unlimited** Opportunities

# BHAGWANT SINGH MANN IS BUILDING

## A DRUG FREE PUNJAB

### Anti Drug Helpline and Whatsapp Chatbot



## 9779-100-200

“We will leave no stone unturned to make Punjab a drug free state. Only when every young person stays away from drugs will we be able to make Rangla Punjab.”

**Bhagwant Singh Mann**  
Chief Minister, Punjab

Join Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's  
official WhatsApp channel

Scan Here





# 6 GOVT & POLITICS

Court rejects plea against order to raze 3 storeys of Sanjauli mosque

**SAURABH PARASHAR**  
SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 30

ADDITIONAL DISTRICT and Sessions judge Praveen Garg on Saturday dismissed the plea of All Himachal Muslim Organisation (AHMO) challenging the October 5 order of the Municipal Commissioner's Court to demolish three "illegally" built storeys of Sanjauli mosque.

The muslim body had also challenged the authority of Mohammed Latif, president of Sanjauli mosque committee, who submitted before the Shimla MC Commissioner Bhupender Attri that the committee is ready to demolish the illegal structure on the mosque on September 12.

"The court has dismissed our plea. We are yet to receive the copy of the detailed order. After reading the order, we will decide the further course of action," advocate Vishav Bhushan, who represented AHMO, said.

Latif, who was present in the court when the decision was announced, said, "The mosque committee is bound to demolish the illegal structure. We have demolished one floor. However, the demolition work was stopped due to the shortage of labour. We have informed the court of the MC Commissioner in writing about the same. We informed the court of MC Commissioner that demolition work will be completed after March, 2024. There is a time frame from the side of Himachal Pradesh High Court for demolishing all illegal structures by December 20."

AHMO spokesperson and petitioner Nazakat Ali Hashmi had filed his plea in the court on October 29, alleging that the affidavit submitted by Latif to the commissioner was illegal. It was claimed that the affidavit submitted by Latif was filed without the consent of the committee.

On November 6, the court declined to stay the commissioner's decision but sought the records of the decision. On the same day, residents applied to become a party to the case, and the court sought responses from other parties by the next hearing.

## Will oppose Waqf Bill: YSRCP shifts stance, puts TDP in a fix

In outreach to Muslims, Jagan breaks months of silence

**NIKHILA HENRY**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

AT A time when Andhra Pradesh's ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which is allied with the BJP in the state and at the Centre, has been silent on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the Opposition YSR Congress Party, led by Jagan Mohan Reddy, has come out against the Bill in a move that is being viewed as an attempt to woo the state's Muslim population.

The YSRCP finds itself aligned with the INDIA bloc, which has been at odds with the Narendra Modi-led NDA government over the Bill. This has also been reflected in the deliberations of the Joint Committee of Parliament, which is examining the Bill.

Last Thursday, the Lok Sabha passed a motion to extend the tenure of this joint committee till the last day of the Budget Session next year. The motion was moved by the panel chairperson and BJP MP, Jagdambika Pal.

The YSRCP had been silent on the Bill earlier. In the recent Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, the TDP, along with allies BJP and the Pawan Kalyan-led JanaSena Party (JSP), ousted the YSRCP from power in Andhra Pradesh, reducing it to just 11 Assembly and four Lok Sabha seats. The NDA constituents bagged the remaining 175 Assembly and 25 Lok Sabha seats. Now, a weakened YSRCP seems to be reaching out to the Muslim community by opposing the Waqf Bill. The community accounts for 9.56% of the state's population as per the 2011 Census.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, YSRCP Lok Sabha MP PV Mithun Reddy said, "The Waqf Bill is being brought in without taking Muslims into confidence." The YSRCP maintains that Waqf land belongs to the community and "cannot be forcefully taken

## Soren Cabinet formation gathers pace as Congress and RJD jostle for berths

**JATIN ANAND & LALMANI VERMA**  
RANCHI, NEW DELHI, NOV 30

TWO DAYS after Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Hemant Soren was sworn in as Jharkhand Chief Minister without any other ministers, the negotiations for the Cabinet posts picked up momentum Saturday among the INDIA bloc parties, which were said to be marked with hard bargaining.

The INDIA partner Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, which secured two seats in the Jharkhand Assembly polls, announced that it would not stake claim over any ministerial position. Jharkhand is mandated to have 12 ministerial berths including the CM's post.

However, sources in the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), which has won four seats, said it would "expect" more than one ministry. With 16 MLAs on its side, the Congress party is reportedly looking at getting at least four ministries that the party also had in

the previous JMM-led INDIA alliance government, sources said.

"Things (regarding government formation) should be clear within the first week of December. The Congress will get four Cabinet posts as per the formula (of one minister per four MLA seats)... Who will get the Cabinet berths is yet to be clarified," a senior state Congress leader said. In the previous Soren Cabinet, the Congress had four ministers: Rameshwar Oraon, Banna Gupta, Irfan Ansari and Dipika Pandey. Barring Banna, who lost from Jamshedpur West, the other ministers retained their seats with increased margins.

The RJD, which has been able to increase its strength from one seat in the 2019 polls to four now, is expecting two Cabinet posts. In the previous Soren government, the RJD's then lone MLA Satyanand Bhokta was the labour resources minister.

"We are sure to get at least one more ministerial berth in the new Jharkhand Cabinet. Our lone MLA was a minister last time. The party has four MLAs now and a discussion at the top



**CPI (ML)-Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya on Saturday said they would not seek any ministerial berth in the Jharkhand government. PTI**

level has happened on this. As Bihar elections are due next year, a respectful representation to smaller allies in government will send a good message for INDIA alliance," said an RJD leader.

However, Jharkhand RJD spokesperson Rakesh Sharma said "top leaders of the JMM and Congress will collectively decide" on the matter soon.

Speaking to the media Saturday, CPI (M-L) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya expressed gratitude for the peo-

ple's mandate in Jharkhand. "The BJP led a vitriolic campaign. But people showed it otherwise. The Central government will also need to respect this mandate. We have two MLAs this time and we will try to raise pertinent issues both inside and outside the Assembly," he said.

Acknowledging that his party's legislative strength is a "small number", Bhattacharya said the CPI (M-L) would be a part of the INDIA bloc coordination committee but would not exert "pressure" to claim any ministerial berth.

"There is a lot of pressure for ministerial berths (among INDIA bloc parties). We just have two MLAs. It is not proper to exert pressure for a ministerial berth. We will do our best to support the government as far as delivering on guarantees is concerned. We have not been offered any (seats in the Cabinet)," he said.

A JMM leader said "discussions were on" between the allies regarding the contours of the Cabinet. "This increased number of INDIA MLAs is the reason for delay in Cabinet formation.



**Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with Congress MPs Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and K C Venugopal at a public meeting in Kozhikode on Saturday. PTI**

## In first tour to Wayanad after election, Priyanka tears into BJP

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 30

BEGINNING HER two-day Wayanad tour after being elected to the Lok Sabha in last week's bypoll, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Saturday said the BJP knows "no democratic norms".

"There are no rules, no explanations. Behaviour of the BJP knows no democratic norms. Institutions are destroyed. Even our basic faith in the electoral process and in other institutions that held our country together, wavered. Our fight is for the basic values of the Constitution," she said, addressing a meeting at Mukkam, which falls within Wayanad Lok Sabha seat.

Later, speaking at a reception

given to her in Karulai in Nilambur Assembly constituency, Priyanka claimed that Parliament had not functioned for a week as the BJP was afraid to discuss certain issues on which the Congress-led Opposition wanted to hold discussions in the Lok Sabha.

"We have a big battle before us in Parliament and across India. We are fighting to safeguard our Constitution," she said.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi was among senior Congress leaders who joined Priyanka. Referring to the survivors of the Wayanad landslide, which killed around 300 people four months back, Priyanka said: "We require the same kind of courage and tenacity. I had seen how much courage you had given to my brother and you also gave me the same courage. I am here to learn your issues and un-

derstand your problems".

Referring to Gautam Adani's indictment in the US, Rahul said: "Constitution says all people should be treated equally... Prime Minister Modi says Adani is going to be treated different from any other Indian. PM Modi says it does not matter if Adani had been indicted in the US... In India, we will not entitle it".

Referring to the delay in giving a package for rehabilitation of Wayanad landslide victims, Rahul said Constitution says all people in the country and all regions in the country will be treated fairly.

"The Prime Minister says regardless of the tragedy Wayanad had faced, I will not give them support that is their due. This is the atmosphere where they are operating," he said, adding: "I'm confident that we will defeat the ideology of BJP."

## Congress fighting shy of naming Opposition, Hooda asked by BJP

**VARINDER BHATIA**  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 30

ONE-AND-A-HALF MONTHS after the Congress suffered a shock defeat at the hands of the BJP in the Haryana elections, the Nayab Singh Saini government has asked Congress veteran and ex-chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda to vacate the residence occupied by him as Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the previous Assembly.

It is learnt that BJP minister Vipul Goel is eyeing Hooda's bungalow (House No. 70) located in Chandigarh's upscale Sector 7.

The BJP government has issued a notice to Hooda, asking him to vacate the house.

Stung by the poll defeat, the Congress high command has been delaying the move to hold a Congress Legislature Party

(CLP) meeting to elect its leader, who would also serve as the LoP.

Hooda, who has been occupying the government bungalow since 2019, has sought 15 days' time to vacate the house.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Hooda said, "It (the notice) is a normal procedure. There's nothing more to it. It (house) has to be vacated, otherwise the penal rent starts."

House No. 70 was considered a power centre in Haryana during Hooda's tenure as the CM from 2004 till 2014. In that period, the house was occupied by Hooda's then Principal Officer on Special Duty M S Chopra.

Although the Congress had plunged to 15 seats out of the state's 90 in the 2014 Assembly polls with Hooda as the LoP, the house was initially allotted to him "in the capacity of being a former CM". He had then organ-



**Haryana's former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda**

ised a massive gathering for the grihapravesh (house warming) in what was seen as a show of strength in political circles.

During Hooda's tenure as the CM, the Haryana government provided facilities to former CMs equivalent to those for Cabinet ministers. However, a few months after the BJP formed the government in 2014, then CM Manohar Lal Khattar withdrew this provision. Thus, Hooda had to subsequently vacate the



**Leader of Opposition in UP Assembly Mata Prasad Pandey and other SP leaders in Lucknow on Saturday. Vishal Srivastav**

### BAN EXTENDED TILL DEC 10

## SP leaders barred from entering Sambhal district

**MANISH SAHU**  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 30

THREE SAMAJWADI Party (SP) parliamentarians, including its Sambhal MP, were barred from entering the violence-hit district, as the administration on Saturday extended the ban on the entry of outsiders into Sambhal until December 10 to maintain "peace and order".

A 15-member SP delegation was scheduled to visit Sambhal to gather information about the circumstances under which the violence that claimed four lives broke out.

The district administration's directive on a ban, issued on Saturday, applies to outsiders, social organisations and public representatives.

The SP leaders had planned to enter Sambhal from different directions but were thwarted by heavy police deployment across the state. In some areas, tensions escalated, prompting the police to detain a few of the leaders temporarily. They were later released the same day.

Meanwhile, the party announced financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each to the families of those who were killed in the violence.

"We demand that the government provide ₹1 crore to each of these families as compensa-

tion. We had planned to visit Sambhal today, but heavy police deployment prevented any delegation member from reaching the district," said Leader of Opposition Mata Prasad Pandey, the head of the delegation.

He added that on Sunday, the party would convene a meeting with former Chief Minister and party chief Akhilesh Yadav to decide the next course of action.

On Saturday morning, police personnel were deployed outside the residence of Mata Prasad Pandey, preventing him from stepping out.

"Police force was deployed outside my house and houses of other leaders who were scheduled to go to Sambhal since Saturday morning. We were prevented from going there. Several party workers and also delegation members who attempted to proceed were detained by the police in Moradabad," he said.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav accused the UP government of engineering the violence in Sambhal to distract the public from alleged "rigging" in the recent by-elections.

"The BJP has a vested interest in instigating communal disturbances to polarise the people and divert their attention from their abysmal record in governance," he said.

-WITH PTI INPUTS

## Kerala orders action over irregularities in social welfare pension scheme

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 30

A HIGH-LEVEL meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday decided to take stringent action against government officials who had illegally pocketed various social welfare pensions over the years.

An inspection conducted by the Information Kerala Mission earlier this month at the behest of the State Finance Department had found that as many as 1,458 state government employees in Kerala were enjoying social welfare pensions. The disclosure had drawn wide-spread outrage.

After the meeting, a commu-

nication from the Chief Minister's office said such officials will face departmental action, apart from recovery of the money with interest. "The officials, who facilitated the entry of illegal persons, will also face action. Besides, the action will cover all those who illegally pocket pensions. A concurrent audit will be held to remove those dead from the list of beneficiaries. Annual mustering will be made mandatory and income certificate and Aadhaar seeding will be made compulsory," it said.

Earlier, Finance Minister KN Balagopal said, "The illegally obtained money will be levied from them... They should not have done it. The state welfare pension is meant for the poor people."

## Haryana Leader of govt to vacate house

house, which was then allotted to Industries and Commerce Minister Vipul Goel, who is again eyeing the same bungalow.

The house was however allotted to Hooda afresh after the 2019 Assembly polls, even though the Congress still lost the polls following which he was again named the LoP.

The results of the recent Assembly polls were declared on October 8 and the new government led by CM Saini took oath on October 17. The BJP's ministers in the previous government who lost had already vacated their official bungalows, which have now been allotted to the newly-inducted ministers.

About eight weeks after the polls, the Congress has still not picked its CLP leader. After each of the last four Assembly elections, the LoP, irrespective of the party, had been declared within

a fortnight of the announcement of the results.

In the Congress's case this time, fighting between the rival party factions led by Hooda and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja has delayed the decision on the CLP leader, party insiders said.

Hooda has been downplaying the delay. During the just-concluded Winter Session of the Assembly, Hooda told reporters: "It is not uncommon not to have a LoP in the Vidhan Sabha. The decision has to be taken by the party high command and they shall take it soon." But things are not going well within the Haryana Congress ever since the party failed to reach the majority mark, getting 37 seats. Congress sources told *The Indian Express* that intense lobbying is continuing within the state party unit to corner the post of the CLP leader. **FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**



# 31% of Bihar govt’s health budget not used between 2016-2022: CAG report

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, NOVEMBER 30

THE BIHAR government was not able to spend 31% of its total health budget between 2016-17 and 2021-22, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India said in its latest report on the state’s public health, basic infrastructure and services. The figures, presented in a report that was tabled in the Assembly on November 28, has drawn criticism from the Opposition. According to the CAG, “Between the financial years of 2016-17 and 2021-22, the state spent only ₹48,047 crore (69%) of total budget provisions of ₹69,730.83 crore.” The report also highlighted some other important aspects, such as massive shortage of doctors. According to the report, Bihar is still short of 66,775 doctors – 53% less than the number recommended by the WHO and 32% less than the national average. The WHO recommends 1,24,919 doctors for a population of 12.49 crore (as of March 2022), the report says. Likewise, there’s also a shortage of nurses, paramedical staff and essential medicines in government hospitals. While the shortage of nurses ranged from 18% (Patna) to 75% (Purnia), that of paramedics ranged from 45% (Jamui) to 90% (East

Champaran). Shortage of essential medicines ranged from 21-65% in OPDs and 34-83% for those admitted at hospitals between 2016 and 2022. The CAG has made as many as 31 recommendations to improve health services in the state. “Bihar’s achievement in respect of key health indicators (like MMR, NMR, TFR etc.) was well below the SDG targets as well as the average national achievement during 2020-21,” the report said, recommending “adequate deployment of health workers in health care units” and increasing the number of registration counters and staff to reduce waiting time for registration. The Opposition RJD has attacked the state government for the underutilised health budget. Significantly, the RJD was part of the Nitish Kumar-led government from August 2022 to January 2024, when the CM broke the alliance to go back to the NDA. Congress spokesperson Gyan Ranjan Gupta said leaving 31% health funds unused “shows inefficacy of the system, especially when we are too short of doctors, support staff and medical equipment”. Senior BJP leader and Health Minister Mangal Pandey defended it saying: “The state government has been trying its best to ensure that its budget is optimised but some funds could not be used because of procedural delays”.

## Surat: Three girls die of suspected gas poisoning

Surat: Three girls died from suspected gas poisoning after inhaling plumes from a bonfire caused by burning garbage in an open field in Surat industrial area, police said on Saturday. The victims were identified as Durga Mahanto (12), Amita Mahanto (14), and Anita Mahanto (8), police said.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

PROVIDING TRUSTED FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Varaval, Gujarat- 362266  
Branch Office- Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd, Unit No. 710 A | 7th Floor | Corporate Park | B-109 | Sanjay Place | Agra -282002.

APPENDIX IV[See Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]  
Possession Notice(for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 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 calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 8 the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.  
The borrowers in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited for an amount of mentioned below and interest thereon. Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

1. Name of Borrower: MEENA WO RAJU & DEV KUMAR  
Outstanding: Rs. 13,21,815/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Twenty One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifteen Only) Demand Notice Dated: 11-09-2024 Date of Possession: 27-11-2024  
Description of the Immovable Property  
All That Piece And Parcel Of Residential Double Storied Property House On Plot No. 4-A, Khasra No. 104, Admeasuring 65 Sq. Yds I.E. 54.34 Sq. Mtrs., Mohalla Basera Bagh, Dayal Bagh Hariparwat Ward, Agra, Near Basera Estate Mauza Jaganpur, Tehsil & District Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282001, And, Bounded As: East: Raasta Vanikas 16 Ft. Wide, West: Others House, North: Plot No. 4-B, South: Plot No. 3-A/House

2. Name of Borrower: RAJESH KUMAR SHARMA & VINITA DEVI  
Outstanding: Rs. 13,22,932.71/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Two and Seventy One Paise Only) Demand Notice Dated: 12-09-2024 Date of Possession: 27-11-2024  
Description of the Immovable Property  
All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Nagar Nigam House No. 42/12/2167, Admeasuring Area 110 Sq. Yds. I.E. 91.97 Sq Meter, Mauza Naraich, Teshil Etmadpur, District Agra, Khasra No. 2167, Moja Chandra Nagar, Agra, Uttar Pradesh- 282006, And Bounded As: East: Prop Of A.D.A, West: 20 Ft. Wide Road, North: Plot Of Chetan Gupta & Pavan Kumar Gupta, South: Plot Of Chetan Gupta. Measuring: East Side: 18 Ft. West Side: 18 Ft. North Side: 55 Ft., South Side: 55 Ft.  
Date : 27-11-2024 Authorised Officer  
Place : AGRA Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

# Rajasthan to introduce Bill against forceful religious conversions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 30

THE RULING BJP government in Rajasthan has decided to introduce a bill in the upcoming Assembly session to stop religious conversion by force or fraud in the state. A decision in this regard was taken during the cabinet meeting chaired by CM Bhajan Lal Sharma on Saturday. Arunachal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand have already implemented similar laws. “The Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill-2024 will be tabled in the upcoming session of the Assembly to stop attempts of conversion by inducement or fraud. At present there is no spe-

cific law in the state regarding stopping illegal conversion, so its proposal was approved after consideration in the cabinet meeting,” said Law and Legal Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel. He further said that after this bill becomes a law, no person or institution will be able to convert a person by using misrepresentation, fraud, force, undue influence etc. If any person or institution carries out such an act, they will be severely punished. “If someone marries with the intention of converting a person’s religion against the law, then the family court can declare such marriage invalid. In this law, the crime will be non-bailable and cognizable. In several other states, laws already exist to prevent forced conversion and Rajasthan will also follow their footsteps,” said Patel.

# Karnataka Bill to replace Gov with CM as state varsity chancellor gets Cabinet nod

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 30

THE KARNATAKA Cabinet on Thursday approved a draft amendment bill to replace the governor with the chief minister as the chancellor of Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University. The Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Draft Bill 2024, aims at transferring the governor’s powers to the chief minister. It will become a law once it is tabled and passed in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council in the up-

coming Winter Session and gets the governor’s assent. “The Cabinet has decided to approve the bill that will transfer the powers of the chancellor from the governor to the chief minister. After this amendment, the chief minister will be the chancellor of the university,” H K Patil, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, said. In September, the Cabinet had approved an amendment to the Act that gave powers to the governor to appoint a vice-chancellor to the State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, setting off a fresh standoff between the Congress government and Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot.

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI  
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT: OPERATION BRANCH 5/9,  
UNDER HILL ROAD: DELHI - 110054  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
CHROMIUM BASED HOLOGRAM STICKER ON OLD & NEW  
VEHICLES REGISTERED IN NCT OF DELHI

1. General Public is hereby informed that the installation of Chromium Based Hologram Sticker on new vehicles (w.e.f. 01.04.2019) and old vehicles (registered till 31.03.2019) registered in NCT of Delhi is a mandatory requirement, as per Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 13.08.2018 and subsequent amendment in Rule 50 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.



2. The Owners of old/ existing vehicles are advised to approach their concerned vehicles dealers for affixing Chromium Based Hologram, depending on the relevant class of fuel, on the windshield of their respective vehicle.

3. The on-line booking facility for affixation of HSRP alongwith colour coded sticker at home is available through the website of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers [www.siam.in](http://www.siam.in). A link is also available at <http://transport.delhi.gov.in>.

4. The vehicle owners, who fail to get the colour coded sticker (third registration mark) and HSRP affixed on their vehicles are liable for prosecution under the Motor Vehicle Act and Rules.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (OPS)


DIP/SHABDARTH/CLASSIFIED/0273/24/25



Government of Haryana

Nation  
Remembers

Maharaja  
Shoor  
Saini



अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, नागपुर  
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, NAGPUR  
Plot No.2, Sector-20, MIHAN, Nagpur, Pin: 441108.  
[www.aiimsnagpur.edu.in](http://www.aiimsnagpur.edu.in)  
Academic Section



AIIMS - PhD Programme  
January - 2025 Session

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur invites applications for admission in PhD Programme January 2025 Session

DATES FOR APPLICATION		
PhD Programme	Opens On	Closes On
	05 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024

Important: For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website [www.aiimsnagpur.edu.in](http://www.aiimsnagpur.edu.in). All subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will be uploaded on the website ONLY.

Dean (Academics)



PUBLIC INFORMATION

This is to inform that Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur is going to destroy its medical records from Oct 2018 to Mar 2019 (General Discharges) and Jan 2013 - Dec 2013 (All MLC Cases/Death). Anybody requiring a copy of these records may contact Medical records section before 31.12.2024

Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001, India  
Tel.: 022 66658282 Fax: 022 66657724  
(CIN) – L27100MH1907PLC000260  
Website: [www.tatasteel.com](http://www.tatasteel.com)


Under Sant-Mahapurush Samman Avam  
Vichaar Prasar Yojana


State Level  
Function



Chief Guest  
Sh. Nayab Singh Saini  
Chief Minister, Haryana






Date- December 1, 2024 | Time - 11 am  
Venue - Baba Gaibi Saheb Ground,  
Near Saini Bhawan, Chandana Gate, Kaithal

Scan the QR code to  
join the program








Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana  
[www.prharyana.gov.in](http://www.prharyana.gov.in) | Follow us on  @diprharyana





epaper.indianexpress.com





# Mumbai police book actor Sharad Kapoor in sexual harassment case

*Mumbai:* Mumbai police have registered a sexual harassment case against actor Sharad Kapoor on the complaint of a 32-year-old actress and producer from Goregaon. Kapoor, who is best known for his work in films like Josh, Lakshya and Dastak, has denied the allegations.

The Khar police said they had registered a case against the actor Wednesday night and were investigating the matter.

The complainant alleged that Kapoor invited her to his house on the pretext of discussing a film

shoot. He called her into his bedroom, where he lay naked, and "hugged" and "groped" her, prompting her to run away. The actor also sent her a photo and a link to obscene material over WhatsApp, and abused the complainant using vulgar language by sending voice notes, states the FIR.

Investigators said the police booked him under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) pertaining to sexual assault.

They also said no arrests were made in the case. **ENS**

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 82nd RAISING DAY OF THE 2ND BATTALION, THE BIHAR REGIMENT, WE SALUTE THE VEER BIHARIS, WHO HAVE MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE FOR THE MOTHER LAND.



**REFUGEE TRAIN PROTECTION DUTY, GUJRAT, PAKISTAN (11 JAN 1948)**

Capt Gurbachan Singh Grewal, SC, Jem Shyam Bahadur Singh, Nk Rama Pati Singh, L / Nk Sita Ram, Sep Hari Charan, Sep Dharam Nath Singh, Sep Manaki Jarika, Sep Barnabas Soy, Sep Pothlu Singh, Sep Junas Dangwar, Sep Ram Autar, Sep Sena Bhadr Singh, Sep Harmand Singh, Sep Bala Din, Sep Roen Surin, Sep Ram Raj Singh, Sep Jawahar Singh, Sep Sheo Charan Birua, Sep Ishwar Dutt Topno, Sep Joseph Tuti, Sep Sani Charan Karwa, Sep Jamuna Singh, Sep Budhwa Munda, Sep Shankar Hembrom, Sep Sheo Kumar, Sep Pirthi Singh, Sep Gopi Nath Singh, Sep Sheo Nandan Rai, Sep Dwarka Singh, Sep Babuni, Sep Lal Dhari Singh, Sep Sheo Prasad Singh, Sep Ram Prasad, Sep Sudarshan Singh, Sep Muni Lal, Sep Paika Dhan

**J & K OPERATIONS (1948 - 1949)**

Maj K S Thimayya, Capt Khazan Singh Rupyal, Hav Suleman Kongari, Nk Sohan Singh, Nk Nikodim Horo, Nk Daniel Suren, Nk Jadu Nath Singh, Sep Shiv Narain Singh, Sep Paulus Mini, Sep Hiziekell Tute, Sep Jageshwar Singh, Sep Rudel Singh, Sep Jai Ram Singh, Sep Jai Masih Orea, Sep Jinanam Turia, Sep Rajeshwar Singh, Sep Bir Singh Bari, Sep Birs Aind, Sep Raisin Marandi, Sep Benjamin Dhan, Sep Gulab Singh, Sep Ram Sewak Singh, Sep Shiv Dhani Singh, Sep Samuel Topno, Sep Habil Topno, Sep Narendra Hansda, Sep Bhima Marandi, Sep John Kandulna, Sep Sukra Munda, Sep Bhagwati Pathak, Sep Deo Narain Singh, Sep Din Dayal Yadav, Sep Bhuail Singh, Sep Kaleshwar, Sep Kusno Tudu, Sep Johan Soren, Sep Ishaq Kandulna, Sep Banuk Alda, Sep Chhotka Soren

**J & K OPERATIONS (1964 - 1965)**

Sep Mukund Deogam, Sep Shivji Rai, Sep Bhagwati Pathak, Sep Sheo Narain Singh, Sep Deo Narain Singh, Sep Din Dayal Yadav, Sep Collector Pandey, Sep Mahesh Singh,

**OP RAKSHAK J&K**

Maj Rakesh Trivedi, SM, Nb Sub R C Pandit, Nk Vijay Linda, Nk (Armr) Arvind Singh Tomar, Nk B A Kujur, Sep G R Kachhap, Sep Bisu Oraon, Sep Sunil Kumar.

**OP RHINO**

Nk Bharat Singh Honhaga, Nk Rama Shanker Singh, Nk Chavan Vinod Babu Rao, L/Nkji Shri Ram Yadav, Sep Paras Nath Tirkey, Sep Jay Kumar Singh, Sep Bhola Toppo, Sep Amrit Kumar Tirkey, Sep Randhir Kumar, Sep Paraw Murmu.

**You lived up to the Regiment's motto of "Karm Hi Dharm". Your gallantry will always serve as an inspiration for us. We, the fraternity of The Veer Biharis, salute you.**

**The Bihar Regiment Association**

In proud memory of Bravehearts of 6th Battalion The Dogra Regiment, who made the supreme sacrifice while serving the Nation at Poonch (J&K) on 01 Dec 1991. Their act of valour, raw courage & devotion to duty will always remain a source of inspiration and motivation to all of us.

**"BRAVES DIE, BUT ONLY ONCE"**  
**Remembered by Commanding Officer and All Ranks 6 DOGRA.**

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE 1 December 1982**

On this day, while deployed to counter insurgent activities in Nagaland, 62 Battalion of CRPF faced a grave challenge. Guarding Dak Bungalow, Chuchem Long, Constable N. Iyyam Pillai was ambushed by underground Naga rebels. Displaying exceptional courage, he fiercely resisted the assault. Despite being grievously injured in the encounter, he fought valiantly until his last breath, making the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation.

**1 December 1988**

During a surge in terrorism in Punjab, 76 Battalion of CRPF was tasked with searching the house of a notorious terrorist, in Tapijala village, PS Beas, District Majitha, Amritsar. As the house was cordoned off, a fierce exchange of fire erupted, resulting in the elimination of two terrorists. While attempting to escape, the terrorists were intercepted by Constable Gulfam, who engaged them with precision. Despite being gravely injured in the counterfire, he displayed extraordinary bravery, crawling to a better position and continuing the fight. Later, the braveheart succumbed to his injuries and attained martyrdom. For his indomitable courage and valour, Constable Gulfam was awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry.

**1 December 1991**

On 29 November 1991, troops of 89 Battalion of CRPF set up a Naka at Atti Canal Bridge, PS Goraya, as part of anti-terrorist operations in Punjab. Suddenly, terrorists launched an attack, prompting a swift retaliation. In the fierce encounter, Constable Bijendra Prasad Tiwari sustained critical injuries. Despite his wounds, he fought valiantly until he was evacuated to Hospital at Ludhiana, where he succumbed to his injuries on 1st December, attaining martyrdom in a blaze of courage and sacrifice.

**1 December 2005**

On 16 November 2005, troops of 119 Battalion of CRPF were conducting an area domination patrol near Ahirguda village, PS Errabore, district Dantewada, when they were ambushed by Maoists. The insurgents detonated a powerful IED, severely injuring HC M. Biren Singh, followed by indiscriminate gunfire. Despite his injuries, he took position and retaliated alongside his fellow troopers. Undeterred by the wellentrenched Maoists, the troops launched a flanking assault, forcing the insurgents to retreat. HC M. Biren Singh, who displayed remarkable bravery in the face of the enemy, succumbed to his injuries on 1 December 2005.

# 60,000 ‘ineligible’ beneficiaries in Kerala under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, shows data

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANANTHAPURAM,  
NOVEMBER 30

OVER 60,000 ineligible persons, including income tax payers, in Kerala have been pocketing central government's flagship Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi — an initiative to ensure minimum income support of ₹6,000/year for farmers.

Data from the State Level Bankers Committee shows that the figure of ineligible beneficiaries doubled since 2022, when the Centre first directed the state to screen the list and remove disentitled ones from the scheme after ensuring refund.

The tardy process in Kerala with regard to recovery of the money from the ineligible accounts comes close on the heels

of the state finance department finding that 1,458 state government employees have been pocketing various welfare pensions meant for the weakest section of society.

According to data provided at a meeting of the SLBC earlier this week, the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi in Kerala has 60,687 ineligible beneficiaries, and the amount to be refunded is ₹36.40 crore. However, only ₹13.59 crore could be recovered so far from 22,661 ineligible persons.

Government documents show that the Centre had first told the state in early 2022 to weed out ineligible beneficiaries and recover the amount already paid to the accounts of such persons. At that time, the state had only 31,416 ineligible beneficiaries while 37.2 lakh farmers in Kerala were included in the scheme.

However, the number of ineligible beneficiaries has nearly doubled to 60,687 as of November 2024 while the number of eligible beneficiaries in Kerala has come down — data on the scheme's portal shows that, as on November 30, Kerala has only 28.1 lakh eligible beneficiaries.

The state's agriculture department has been tasked to identify the ineligible beneficiaries and the central government has issued a standard operating procedure to recover the amount from the ineligible, government sources said. "We are in the process of identifying the ineligible farmers and removing them from the data. Many ineligible persons are refusing to refund the amount," an official said.

Krishhi Bhavans (panchayat level agricultural offices) have to examine the list of beneficiaries

and weed out ineligible beneficiaries. "In some places, local politicians or panchayat members, who enrolled the ineligible, are also delaying the recovery. We are still in the process of cleaning the list, but it is a slow process. Respective banks have also been frequently intimated about ineligible accounts," the official said.

When the scheme was launched in 2019, the target was to cover the maximum number of people. "But we don't know how the number of ineligible has grown over the years despite screening to find them had begun in 2022," the official said.

Meanwhile, an official with the SLBC said the banking sector can initiate refund or recovery process only on the intimation from the agriculture department. "We have no provision to take a suo motu action. When

we get intimation from the agriculture department, we hold the balance in the account (restriction) and there is an automatic process to pull out the amount to be refunded," the official said, adding that as an alternative, the government should initiate the recovery process.

Ineligible beneficiaries in Kerala continue to benefit from the Kisan Samman Nidhi at a time the state's dependence on agriculture for livelihood is the lowest in the country. A recent study conducted by NABARD had found that only 18% households in Kerala are agricultural households, whereas the figure at the national level is 57%.

This figure for Andhra Pradesh is 53 per cent, Assam 67%, Madhya Pradesh 64%, Jharkhand 69%, Karnataka 55%, Gujarat 54% and Tamil Nadu 57%.

## Maternal deaths: Karnataka bars using ringer lactate IV fluid, probe underway

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 30

FOLLOWING THE recent spurt in maternal deaths reported from Ballari, the Karnataka health department has asked all state government hospitals to stop using a batch of ringer lactate solution an intravenous fluid used for rehydration and restoring fluid balances.

"A full probe is underway. Every life is precious we know and as a result we have ordered a stop to the use of ringer lactate solution across the state. A final decision will be taken after a laboratory analysis of samples is available," Karnataka health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said Saturday.

Of the 34 caesarean section deliveries cases reported at the Ballari district hospital between November 9th and 11th, seven resulted in medical complications and four ended up in deaths.

A technical team sent to the hospital found that there was no negligence by medical officers "but doubts have been expressed about some of the products used," the health minister said.

The ringer lactate solution, under the technical team's lens, is supplied by a West Bengal based pharma firm and samples have been sent to the Central Drug Testing Laboratory for quality testing, the minister said.

## SOLAR, WIND CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANT SHARE OF POWER

# Study: Day-time charging of EVs can cut carbon emissions by 10%

AMITABH SINHA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

WHILE INDIA has been recording an impressive growth in the number of electric vehicles, the gains in terms of emissions savings are not getting fully realised, mainly due to continued high dependence on coal for power generation and the fact that electric vehicles are charged mainly at night.

A new study by New Delhi-based Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) found that a shift to day-time charging, when renewables like solar and wind contribute a significant proportion of power generation, could avoid an additional ten per cent of carbon dioxide emissions.

"To put things into perspective, this means that day-time charging can unlock additional yearly emission reductions of 10 kg of CO2 per vehicle in case of electric scooter and about 106 kg for an electric sedan," Shyamasis Das, the lead researcher, said.

"... considering the total number of electric scooters and electric sedans on road currently, this translates to additional emissions savings of over 11,000 tonnes of CO2 in a year in case of e-scooters and more than 8,000 tonnes of CO2 for electric sedans," he said.

The study says that while electric vehicles still offer substantial climate benefits over conventional transport vehicles, these are not entirely clean. The carbon footprint of the electric



Reuters file

Carbon footprint of EVs comes mainly from emissions during manufacturing and carbon load of power used in charging

vehicles comes mainly from the embedded emissions in the manufacturing process and the carbon load of the electricity used for charging these vehicles.

India now has over four million electric vehicles, almost 90 per cent of which are two-wheelers. Although the penetration of electric vehicles in the four-wheeler market is less than two per cent, it is growing at a fast rate.

Das's study finds that the climate benefits of electric vehicle usage in India have slightly been overstated till now, mainly due to lack of disaggregated analysis taking into account different kinds of vehicles, variations in the carbon load of electricity generation and timing of charging.

"Most of our current understanding are based on studies that have used one vehicle model as representative of the entire segment. But different models have different energy efficiencies, be-

cause of which generalisations can be erroneous. A few studies have used the Tata Nexon model as representative of the entire four-wheeler segment and concluded that the emissions per km of this segment was 70 gmCO2 per km. However, when we calculated the average emissions for the segment, we found the four-wheeler passenger segment had emissions of 100 gmCO2 per km at a national level," Das said.

His study also looked at the carbon footprint of EVs in nine different cities. It found that EVs offered cleaner rides in Bengaluru and the dirtiest in Kolkata.

The study says that while greater renewable integration in power generation would improve the climate benefits of EVs in due course, the government needed to ensure a shift towards day-time charging of EVs in short term.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

# Lone Barnawapara Tiger captured after entering town, moved to new reserve

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU  
RAIPUR, NOVEMBER 30



A radio collar has been placed on the tiger to track its movements

THE LONE tiger that came to Chhattisgarh's Barnawapara sanctuary in March this year was relocated to the newly notified Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve after it entered a village and then into a town. Its movement could have resulted in a possible human-animal conflict, the authorities suspected.

The four-year-old male tiger was sighted Thursday in Kot village of Kasdol Tehsil in the Baloda Bazar Forest Division, venturing perilously close to human habitations, an official said.

It entered Kasdol town on

the same day where it came near a market. Around 60 officials and men from forest and police departments, two elephants and a JCB machine were brought for the operation.

A specialised rescue team comprising wildlife experts, veterinary officers, and frontline forest personnel was assembled.

The forest officials were tracking the tiger using drones and a thermal drone. On Thursday afternoon the officials spotted him using a thermal drone. A doctor, using a JCB machine, was able to spot and tranquilise the big cat with a dart gun. After a thorough check-up, the tiger was transported to the new Tiger Reserve. A radio collar has also been fitted to the tiger to enable continuous tracking in its new environment.

The tiger had rekindled hopes of officials to revive Barnawapara's population where the last tiger was spotted over a decade ago.

## Goa police probe hacking of CM Sawant's email

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PANAJI, NOVEMBER 30

GOA POLICE have initiated a probe days after the personal email account of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant was hacked.

According to sources, the chief minister's gmail id was hacked on November 19, following which a complaint was lodged with the cyber crime cell of Goa police. The account was recovered after over five hours, police said. They said the accused hacker also changed information related to recovery of the email account but that the account was not misused.

"A probe has been initiated to track the hacker. As per the investigation so far, no data from the account has been found missing," said a police official.

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE  
1 December 2014

		On 1 December 2014, joint forces of 150, 206, and 223 Battalions of CRPF launched an operation against Maoists near Tandamarka and Kasalpara villages, PS Chintagupha, District Sukma. The troops uncovered a Maoist hideout, recovering rifles and equipment. Around 1030 hrs, they were ambushed near Kasalpara, with insurgents firing from a hilltop. Despite the tactical disadvantage, the troops launched a daring counterattack. Unbeknownst to them, another Maoist group lay hidden in the village, opening fire from behind, trapping them in a two-sided ambush. Undeterred, the troopers fought valiantly until reinforcements arrived, neutralizing 15-20 Maoists and forcing the rest to flee. In this fierce encounter, 14 brave CRPF troopers made the ultimate sacrifice. Their courage and dedication to the nation will forever be remembered.	

**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH**  
**DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS NAHARILAGUN**

**NOTICE**

NO. IPR (TAB) 20/2024      Dated, Itanagar, the, 30th November 2024

The Notice Inviting Expression of Interest vide even number dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 for three Dimension Model and subsequent Fabrication of Tableaux for Republic Day 2025 at New Delhi stand cancelled due to non-selection by the Expert Committee of Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India, New Delhi vide their letter No. I(III)/1/2024/D (Cer) dated 29th November 2024.

Sd/-  
NYALI ETE, IAS  
Secretary  
Information & Public Relations  
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh  
Itanagar

DIPR/ARN/001695-96/24

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

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि शासनदेश संख्या 4835/77-4-20-03जीएन/20 दिनांक 01.01.2021 के क्रम में नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण में यथा आवश्यकता रिक्त पदों पर कार्यरित न सेवानिवृत्त सहायक क के समतुल्य पदों के सापेक्ष नियोजन अवर्ग के महाप्रबंधक (नियोजन) (01 पद) पर कर्मियों को अनुबंधित किये जाने हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।

आवेदन पत्र का प्रारूप अर्हता एवं अन्य जानकारी प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट— <https://noidaauthorityonline.in> से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। आवेदन पत्र निर्धारित प्रारूप पर संबंधित दस्तावेजों के साथ इस सार्वजनिक सूचना के प्रकाशन की तिथि से 15 दिन के अन्दर सहायक महाप्रबंधक (कार्मिक), नौएडा के मुख्य प्रशासनिक भवन, सेक्टर-6 स्थित कार्यालय के स्वागत कक्ष में व्यक्तिगत रूप से अथवा डाक के माध्यम से नियत तिथि के भीतर आवेदन प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।

**‘महत्वपूर्ण सूचना’**

नवीन ओखला औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में शासन से स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान एवं उत्तर प्रदेश औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास अधिनियम, 1976 के विपरित प्लॉटिंग या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह अवैध है। जनसामान्य को आगाह किया जाता है कि इस प्रकार की अवैध कॉलोनियों एवं अवैध निर्मित भवनों में भूखण्डों / अपार्टमेंट / दुकान / गोडाऊन / फार्महाउस की खरीद-फरोख्त से पूर्णतः सचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनाइजर के लुभावने एवं भ्रामक विज्ञापनों से बचें। साथ ही नौएडा अधिसूचित क्षेत्र के हिण्डन एवं यमुना नदियों के डूब क्षेत्र (Flood Plain Zone) में अनधिकृत/अवैध प्लॉट एवं फार्म हाऊसों के कारोबार में संलग्न भूमाफियाओं के चंगुल में न फसे।

सहायक महाप्रबंधक (कार्मिक) नौएडा।

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Open E-Tender Notice No.: IZN/Elect/OT/29/2024, Dt. 29-11-2024  
E-Tender are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/N.E. Railway/ Itanagar for & on behalf of the President of India for the following work:-  
**S.No-1**, Description of work: Electrical work in connection with provision of mechanized laundry (2 Ton) at Tanakpur station in Izzatnagar division. **Details:** Approximate tender Value in Rs.: ₹ 64,60,778.05, Earnest Money in Rs.: ₹ 1,29,300/-, Cost of tender paper in Rs.: Nil, Date & time of closing E-tender: 26-12-2024 at 11:00 hours, Completion time from the date of issue of letter of Acceptance: Four Months.  
• Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and such manual offer received shall be ignored. • The tender can be viewed at website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. • The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital signature certificate & must have registered on IREPS Portal • Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate in e-tendering.  
• All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering.  
Sr. Div. Electrical Engineer (G) CPRO-Vidut-184 Itanagar  
**Never travel on roof and foot boards.**



BRIEFLY

HIMACHAL PRADESH  
Woman booked for bullying J&K shawl traders

**Dharamshala:** A pan-chayat official caught on camera warning two shawl sellers from Kashmir against trading their wares in Himachal Pradesh was booked for “promoting disharmony” and “insulting religious sentiments”, officials said. The video on social media showed the woman asking the two Kashmiris to say “Jai Shri Ram” to prove they are “Hindustani”. The woman later apologised in another video. **PTI**

UTTAR PRADESH  
Man dies while spitting ‘paan’ from bus

**Sultanpur:** A 45-year-old man fell to death from an air-conditioned UP roadways bus allegedly after he opened its door to spit ‘paan’, as the vehicle moved through the Purvanchal Expressway Saturday, police said. “As the bus reached near Bihi village in the Baldirai police station area, a passenger opened the door of the moving bus to spit. He lost balance and fell onto the road, resulting in his death. He had opened the door to spit ‘paan,’” police said. **PTI**

SIKKIM  
6 killed, 15 injured as bus falls into gorge

**Gangtok, Kalimpong:** Six people were killed and 15 others injured as a bus plunged into a gorge near the West Bengal-Sikkim border Saturday, police said. The accident took place between Andheri and Atal Setu, they said. The private bus, heading to Gangtok from Siliguri, veered off the NH-10 and crashed on the bank of the Teesta river, Kalimpong SP Srihari Pandey said. Injured persons are being moved to hospitals in Sikkim and death toll is likely to go up, police said. **PTI**

MADHYA PRADESH  
4 killed, 21 injured as bus overturns

**Khargone:** Four persons, including three women and a toddler, were killed and 21 injured when a private bus veered off the road and overturned in MP’s Khargone district on Saturday, police said. The Khargone-Airajpur bus was speeding when the driver lost his control of the wheel killing four persons on the spot, police said. Eight of the 21 injured were rushed to the district hospital, SP Dharmaraj Meena said. The driver of the bus fled the spot after the incident, he said. **PTI**

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 30

**WHAT LINKS** Pakistan, Italy, Dubai and Amritsar? Going by the findings of an investigation by the Punjab police, these places — along with several others — are part of drug supply nexus that is ultimately pumping contraband into Punjab. Alongside the challenge that is global in scale, the state police is grappling with local factors — from smugglers in India sending empty drones to Pakistan so they can be returned with consignments, to smaller drones being used to send fewer drugs. As part of its crackdown on drugs in the state, the Punjab police relied on technical surveillance and information from hu-



High tides lash the Marina beach amid heavy rainfall in Chennai on Saturday. **ANI**

Heavy rains lash Puducherry, coastal TN as Cyclone Fengal makes landfall

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 30

CYCLONE FENGAL, which made a delayed landfall close to Puducherry Saturday evening, caused heavy rainfall and squally weather over the coastal belt of Tamil Nadu. This is the second cyclone after Dana to develop in the Bay of Bengal and affect India’s east coast in less than two months. Chennai, its nearby districts and Puducherry reported heavy rainfall and gusty winds as the cyclone’s landfall process commenced around 7 pm. As predicted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Fengal’s track crossed between Mahabalipuram and Karaikal.

At the time of landfall, the storm brought packing wind speeds of about 70-80 km/hr gusting to 90 km/hr. Steady rain in Chennai, neighbouring areas affected public transport, including bus, train and flight services, and people from vulnerable areas were moved to safe shelters by the authorities. From afternoon onwards, there were intermittent rains in most areas and by nightfall, it ceased. Tamil Nadu Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management, KKSSR Ramachandran said there were no immediate reports of any major damage in the aftermath of the cyclone. Three persons were electrocuted in different rain-related

incidents in Chennai. The minister also indicated the cyclone did not leave the kind of impact anticipated by the authorities. Hospitals and houses were inundated in Chennai and its neighbourhoods while people used flyovers and spaces beneath them as parking lots to avoid a repeat of what was endured during the 2015 floods. Operations at the Chennai airport were suspended till 4 am Sunday following inundation of two runways and a taxiway. Official sources said apart from the cancellation of 55 flights, 19 others were diverted. The services include both domestic and international flights. According to meteorologists,

even before intensifying into Cyclone Fengal, the associated system showed a slow-moving tendency. This slow progress continued even as the storm approached the land, forcing the associated winds and rainfall to cause rough weather over north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry. After remaining stagnant for over two days, cyclone Fengal moved closer and reached 120 km east of Puducherry, 110 km southeast of Chennai, 200 km northeast of Nagapattinam. The Met department has warned of heavy rainfall over Tamil Nadu till December 2. Since Friday morning, Chennai and neighbouring areas witnessed very heavy rainfall. **WITH PTI INPUTS**



STANDING TALL

During the Passing Out Parade of the 147th course of the NDA at Khadakwasla in Pune on Saturday. Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh addressed the parade. **Pavan Khengre**

Indian student from Telangana shot dead in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 30

A YOUTH from Khammam district of Telangana was shot dead by miscreants at a gas station near Chicago in the United States where he was working, family members said Saturday. Sai Teja Nukarapu (22) was shot at by the assailants in the early hours of Saturday Indian

time, BRS MLC Madhusudan Thatha said, citing preliminary information happened from the US. The MLC, who called on the parents of the victim at their residence near Khammam, said Sai Teja was not on duty when the incident happened but helping a friend who asked him to stay on for some time. The friend had gone out on some work. Sai Teja completed BBA in India and is pursuing MBA in US.

PUNJAB’S DRUG CRACKDOWN, IN NUMBERS

*Amritsar, Tam Taran, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Ferozepur top districts in heroin seizure between Jan and Oct, 2024*

**19.22kg** OF ICE (methamphetamine) seized till Oct 31 this year, highest ever

**₹284 cr** WORTH OF property seized under NDPS Act of those accused in drug cases. Up from Rs 131 crore in 2023 and Rs 1.61 cr in 2022

**19** POLICE PERSONNEL accused of being involved in drug-linked crimes, cases against 16

**85%** CONVICTION rate claimed by police in NDPS cases. Between Jan and Oct, 71 cases accepted by court as cancelled or untraced

a key player in the international drug trade and has been in touch with Indian drug smugglers such as Simranjit Singh Sandhu and Ankush Kapoor.

Sandhu, originally from Amritsar, is now holed up in Italy, from where he runs the drug trade, sources say. Police investigations also suggest that Bhai

2 hospitals in Tripura, Kolkata say will not treat Bangla patients

DEBRAJ DEB & ATRI MITRA  
AGARTALA, KOLKATA, NOV 30

A DAY after a hospital in Kolkata said it will not treat patients from Bangladesh over alleged disrespect to the Indian flag there, a multi-specialty healthcare facility in Agartala followed suit on Saturday. “As an Indian, we respect and support the emotions of people who came today. With this thought, we want to iterate that Bangladeshi people have insulted us, have mistreated our people and we shall not provide any service to them...” an executive of Agartala’s ILS Hospitals told the media Monday. The statement from ILS Hospitals came on a day when an Indo-Bangla international passenger bus rammed into another bus while crossing the Biswa Road in Bangladesh’s Brahmanbaria district. The Tripura government claimed the bus came “under attack”. “...a goods-carrying truck deliberately rammed into the bus with the intention to cause an accident... After the incident, local people started hurling threats to Indian passengers in the vehicle. Anti-India slogans were raised and life threats were made to them,” Tripura Transport and Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury wrote on social media.

On Friday, the JN Ray Hospital in Kolkata’s Maniktala announced it will not treat any Bangladeshi patients as a sign of protest over the manner in which “the national flag of India has been desecrated in various places” in the neighbouring country. BJP leader Sajal Ghosh, a councillor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, is one of the directors of this hospital. “Country is above all. Nothing can happen above the country. Medical service is a noble profession but the dignity of the country is paramount. Other medical institutions should also follow this path,” Subhranshu Bhakta, the director of JN Ray Hospital, said Friday. He said the hospital has decided to stop providing all services to patients from Bangladesh for now. “Our hospital is a private hospital and Ghosh is our one of the directors and management service provider,” Bhakta said. According to hospital sources, the 141-bed hospital always used to have 20% Bangladeshi patients at any given time. “We don’t have any Bangladeshi patients right now. We have three Bangladeshi patients who were discharged in the last few days and then we announced to stop admitting Bangladeshi patients,” he said. Earlier, gynaecologist Indranil Saha said on social media that he had stopped seeing

Bangladeshi patients. On Thursday night, Saha posted a picture on social media purportedly showing disrespect to the Indian flag in Bangladesh. “I am stopping seeing Bangladeshi patients in the chamber for now. Country first, income later. I hope other doctors will do the same until the relationship is normal,” Saha said. On Friday afternoon, Suwendu Adhikari, Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, made the same demand. “I bow down to Dr Indranil Saha.” “...I request the entire Indian medical community, businessmen and India lovers to boycott Bangladesh completely,” Adhikari said. While the state does not have an exact number of Bangladeshi patients that come here for medical tourism, private hospitals that *The Indian Express* spoke to claim that they make up at least 10% of their total patient count. However, hospital sources also say that the political crisis in Bangladesh has caused these numbers to plummet — in some cases, dramatically by three quarters. A senior representative of the Narayana Health, which runs the RN Tagore Hospital, said, “The numbers have gone down from 180-200 to 60. We apprehend more fall in these numbers in the coming weeks because of Visa issues.”

‘Stop atrocities on Hindus’: RSS calls for release of monk held in Bangladesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

THE RSS on Saturday issued a statement calling for the release of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das arrested in Bangladesh on sedition charges. “The atrocities being committed against Hindus and other religious minorities in Bangladesh by Islamic extremists, including attacks, killings, looting, arson and inhumane persecution of women, are alarming... Instead of taking appropriate steps to stop these incidents, the current government of Bangladesh and other concerned agencies have remained a mute spectator. Out of helplessness, when Bangladeshi Hindus resorted to raising their voice democratically for self-protection, to suppress their voice, a new phase of injustice and oppression has visibly emerged,” said RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale. “RSS calls upon the government of Bangladesh to...release Pujya Shri Chinmoy Krishna Dasji from the prison,” Hosabale said. “RSS also urges the government of Bharat to continue with every possible effort to prevent the ongoing atrocities...and take necessary steps to garner international support in this regard,”



Hosabale said. A day after Bangladesh police arrested Chinmoy Das on sedition charges and a court on Tuesday denied him bail, the Ministry of External Affairs expressed “deep concern” and urged the authorities “to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities” in the neighbouring country. Hours later, Dhaka described the issue as “internal affairs of Bangladesh”. It said that “such unfounded statements not only misrepresent facts, but also stand contrary to the spirit of friendship and understanding between the two neighbouring countries”. Local media reports in Bangladesh said Chinmoy Das, who has been leading rallies demanding security for Hindus, was arrested from Dhaka’s main airport on Monday while travelling to Chattogram in southeastern Bangladesh. Chinmoy Das faces charges of sedition filed in October after he led a rally in Chattogram in which he was accused of disrespecting Bangladesh’s national flag.

Chairman, Bhai Jaan: Punjab probe into global drug nexus uncovers a cast

man intelligence to identify several Pakistani smugglers, who are in touch with Indians abroad dealing in drugs. A detailed map of areas used as launchpads for the drones along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab has been prepared, based on the forensic examination of the seized drones, officials said. Sources say Lahore-based Shafqat Hussain Butt alias Chairman alias Baga Butt is one of the most prominent Pakistani kingpins of the drug trade, and is in touch with Indian drugs smugglers based in the US, Canada and Turkey. An internal assessment of the smugglers network prepared by the Punjab police states that Butt is actively involved in contraband smuggling into India through drones. He is said to

have a good grasp of Pakistani politics, and has a nephew who is a sitting provincial minister. Bhat is involved in smuggling activities in the Amritsar border on the behest of Pakistani intelligence agencies, the police assessment states, adding that his choice of drones has been large hexacopters that can carry maximum load. Another Pakistani smuggler police have zeroed in on is Haji alias Mustafa alias Yusuf, who is based in Baldia Town in Karachi. He is believed to be involved in smuggling of heroin into India through boats and containers as well as via the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir. Another Pakistani-based smuggler, based in Dubai, goes by the name Bhai Jaan. The police assessment states that he is

Jaan is in touch with Tanvir Singh Bedi, who lives in Australia. Nearly 150 Pakistani smugglers, and 40 Indian smugglers living abroad, have been triangulated by the Punjab Police as having close links and pushing drugs and other contraband into Punjab. The Pakistani smugglers are mostly based in Lahore, Kasur, Nankana Sahib, Narowal, Bhawalnagar, Karachi, Sheikhupura and Peshawar. As far as Indian smugglers are concerned, US and Canada top the list, with 18 of them identified as residing there, while others live in Australia, Dubai, Italy, Portugal and Turkey. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Punjab’s Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said his force has done a detailed forensic analysis of the drones seized

along the International Border in the state and mapped their trajectory. “Forensic analysis of the drones revealed the entire flight path data. In fact, we have had cases where smugglers sitting in India sent drones to Pakistan and got drugs back,” said Yadav. Commenting on the nexus of drug smugglers, the DGP said, “Around 25-30 years ago, we used to hear about big smugglers who had shifted from Punjab to Delhi, Mumbai, etc. Now the top smugglers have shifted abroad. They remain in touch with their gang members here. Below them is another layer who manage their operations, and the last layer is of couriers who pick up the consignment and pass it on. Using technical means and human intelligence, we have

mapped the hotspots along the border.” Punjab police officials say drone activity from Pakistan has gone up possibly due to the fact that Pakistani smugglers have shifted to smaller drones. “Maybe because of economical factors. Now we are getting one kg, two kg drug consignments through drones, while earlier the numbers used to be larger,” said the DGP. Riverine gaps along the International Border with Punjab are also a source of drug smuggling, with there being a nearly 40 km gap where fencing is not possible on the 553 km border. According to the DGP, the riverine gaps are plugged with increased human and technical surveillance measures by the BSF and Punjab Police.



## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

**I, Saiyad Neelofer Jafri W/o Zakir Hussain Pathan R/o D-1405, Amrapali Zodiack, Sector-120, Noida, UP-201301** have changed my name to **NEELOFER JAFRI** for all purposes. 0070937742-1

**I, SUNIL KIRODIA, S/O RATAN LAL KIRODIA R/o-Bigodana, Bogodana Khunjhunu, Rajasthan-333026, have changed my, minor son name from PARTH VERMA TO PARTH KIRODIA** for all future purposes. 0040761576-1

**I, Archna W/o Sanjeev Kumar R/o-112, Agroha Kunj Apartment Sector-13 Rohini, Delhi-85, have changed my name to Archna Aggarwal.** 0040761562-9

**I, HIMANSHU ASIJA, S/O MOHINDER ASIJA, R/O C-24, DLF CAPITAL GREEN, MOTI NAGAR, DELHI-110015, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME DITYA TO DITYA ASIJA, PERMANENTLY.** 0040761562-5

**Be it known to all that I, ANUPREET KAUR W/O Inderjit Singh R/O B 49 VIVEK VIHAR DELHI 110095** has changed my name to **ANUPREET KAUR CHAWLA** for all future purposes. 0040761494-1

**I Ankita Yadav D/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Sharma R/o H.No.114, Deepchand Pradhan Mohalla, Rajokari Village, Rajokari, South West Delhi -110038** have changed my name to **Ankita Sharma** for all purposes. 0040761478-3

**I Jayant S/o Rakesh Kumar R/o 42A, Near Deepak Mandir, Vijay Nagar, Sonipat, Haryana-131001** have changed my name to **Jayant Khatkar** for all purposes. 0040761478-2

**I Parvesh D/o Satpal Khapra R/o Pritampura (67), Sonipat, Pritampura, Haryana -131029** have changed my name to **Parvesh Khapra** for all purposes. 0040761478-1

**I, RAMESH CHANDRA BHARGAVA, S/O-AMBICA CHARAN BHARGAVA, R/O Flat-B-706, Karor apartment, Plot-39C, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, have changed my name to RAMESH CHAND BHARGAV,** for all future purpose. 0040761540-6

**I, Shaikh Shabana Abdulla, W/o Shoaib Ali, R/O N-44 Gali, No-2 Bajrangbali Mohalla Maujpur Delhi-110053, Have Changed My Name To Shabana Abdullah Shaikh.** 0040761540-8

**I, Shambhoo Nath Pandey S/o Shakal Pandey, R/o R-76, Prem Nagar-2, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Nithari, Delhi-110086, have changed my name from Shambhoo Nath to Shambhoo Nath Pandey** for all purposes. 0040761483-1

**I, Upender Kumar, S/O Jai Inder Singh, R/O Flat No-97, Krishi Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed the name of my minor daughter Divyanshi Singh** aged 11 years and she shall hereafter be known as **Divyanshi Chhikara.** 0040761576-3

**I, Upender Kumar, S/O Jai Inder Singh, R/O Flat No-97, Krishi Apartment Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed the name of my minor son Shaurya Singh** aged 13 years and he shall hereafter be known as **Shaurya Chhikara.** 0040761576-4

**I, VIRENDER GARG S/O JAGDISH RAI GARG R/O DP-121, PITAMPURA DELHI-110088, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIRENDER KUMAR GARG** 0040761592-3

**I, Yadvinder Singh, S/o Bhupinder Singh R/o, J-186A (UGF) Rajouri Garden, New Delhi** has changed the name of my minor son Mehrjot Singh Bhasin to **Mehrjot Singh born on 17.04.2012.** 0040761576-5

**I, KULPREET SINGH AHUJA, S/O GURBACHAN SINGH, R/O FLAT, NO. 602, TOWER-Q, LOGIX BLOSSOM COUNTY, SECTOR-137, NOIDA, GAUTAMBUDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH, have changed my name to KULPREET SINGH.** 0040761576-6

**I, KUSH PANDEY, S/O-HAUSALA PANDEY, R/O PLOT, NO.58, 2ND FLOOR, BLK-A, ASHOK VIHAR PH-1, NORTH-WEST DELHI, DELHI-110052, have changed my name to KUSH KUMAR PANDEY,** for all future purpose. 0040761540-5

**I, Neelam Chowdhary W/o Vindit Koul R/O-26, Pragatisheel Apartment Sector-9, Rohini Delhi-85, have changed my name to Neelam Koul.** 0040761562-10

**I, POONAM W/O RAKESH PHORE R/O 636/31, HASTSAL VILLAGE UTTAM NAGAR, DWARKA, DELHI-110059** HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO POONAM PHORE. 0040761540-3

**I, RAKESH, S/O RANBIR SINGH PHORE, R/O-636/31, HASTSAL-VILLAGE, UTTAM NAGAR, DWARKA, DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAKESH PHORE.** 0040761540-4

**I, Pawan Chauhan S/o Om Prakash R/o D-9, Pratap Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi** have changed my name to **Pawan G Chauhan** 0040761562-7

**I, Sunil Kumar S/o Ram Lubhaya R/o-A-2, UGF, Naveen Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Sunil Walia** for all purposes. 0040761562-2

**I, Sunil Kumar S/O Ram Lubhaya R/o-A-2, UGF, Naveen Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Sunil Walia** for all purposes. 0040761562-3

**I, Aapoovr Chaturvedi S/O Dr. Harivansh Chaturvedi, R/O Flat. No. 31D, Royal Apartments, Sigma-IV, Greater Noida hereby inform all publicly that the name of my daughter (Mother's Name Priyanka Chaturvedi) is being changed from ANIKA to ANIKA CHATURVEDI** just to add surname of parents. Henceforth, my daughter will be known as Anika Chaturvedi. It has been attested by Notary & Advocate, Mr. Anil Kumar Saxena, Regd. No.1535, Distt.-G.B.Nagar. 0070937744-1

**I, Chanda Begum, W/o Tanvir Ali, R/o B-8/50, Gali No 5, Kabir Nagar, Delhi-110094** have changed my name to **Chanda Begam.** 0070937675-1

**I, DEVANSH KUMAR S/O, DEVENAND KUMAR, R/O H. No. 549, Sector-21A, Faridabad, Haryana-121001, have changed my name to DEVANSH** is given name and KUMAR is surname for all purposes. 0040761528-1

**I, Harshmita Shokeen, D/O Manoj Kumar Shokeen, R/o H-901, Oyster Grande, Sector-102A, Gurugram, Haryana-122001** have changed my name to **Harshi Shokeen.** 0040761562-1

**I, Kimaya D/o-Sanjay Prakash, Residing at H.20.23 R.P.S Colony, Opp Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Bus Terminal Khanpur, Delhi, 110062, have Changed my name to Kimaya Prakash, Permanently** 0070937677-1

**I, Mahendra Kapoor S/o Brahmr Prakash Kapoor R/o H.No-849, sector-13, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, UP-201012** have changed my name to **Mahender Kapoor** for all future purposes 0070937740-1

**I, hitherto known as POONAM SARWAN D/O Sh. N.P. Sharma W/o Ravi Kumar Sarwan, R/O H.No.-305, Ground Floor, Sunlight Colony-1, New Delhi-110014, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as POONAM SHARMA.** 0040761576-2

**I, Naseer Ahmad Mir, S/O-Mohammad Dilawar Mir, R/O-Gantmulla, Tehsil/District-Baramulla. In the school record my ward namely M?hveen Naseer Mir enrolled in class 10th in Delhi Public School Delina Baramulla under admission no-321/DPS, Roll no-13118756 and Registration NO-C/1/24/23572/0018 class(X) session 2023-24. In school records the parentage has been wrongly mentioned as Naseer Ahmad instead of Naseer Ahmad Mir. It needs correction. Objections be filled to concerned school authorities.** 0020485191-1

**I, Naveen umar S/o Sh.Suresh Chand Gupta R/O E-18/200-201 UG Floor, Sector-3, Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Naveen Aggarwal for all future purposes.** That Naveen kumar and Naveen Aggarwal is the one and same person.K 0040761501-1

**I, ANITA RANI BHARGAVA, W/O- RAMESH CHAND BHARGAV, R/O-Flat-B-706, Karor apartment, Plot-39C, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, have changed my name to ANITA RANI,** for all future purpose. 0040761540-7

**I, Abha Kakar, W/o-Vikas kesar chand kakar Add-C-82, Naraina Vihar West delhi-110028, changed my name to Abha dhawan.** 0040761562-8

**I, DAKSH S/O RAKESH PHORE R/O 636/31, HASTSAL VILLAGE UTTAM NAGAR, DWARKA DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DAKSH PHORE.** 0040761540-2

**I, Divjot Singh Kainth S/O Shri lqbal Singh R/O H.No.264, Chanderlok Mandoli Road, Shahdara, Delhi-110093, have changed my name to Divjot Singh.** 0040761592-1

**I, HIMANSHU S/O MOHINDER ASIJA R/O C-24, DLF CAPITAL GREEN, MOTI NAGAR, DELHI-110015, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME HIMANSHU ASIJA PERMANENTLY.** 0040761562-4

**I, Harsha Kapoor, D/o Shri Praveen Kapoor, W/O Shri Pulkit Sharma, R/o-194, Satya Niketan, New Delhi-110021, Have changed my to Harsha Sharma, for all future purposes.** 0040761540-1

**I, lqbal Singh Kainth S/O Late Shri Karnail Singh Kainth R/O H.No.264, Chanderlok Mandoli Road, Shahdara, Delhi-110093, have changed my name to lqbal Singh.** 0040761592-2

**I, KAPIL MALHOTRA, R/O M-25, STREET NO.1, NEAR SHIV MANDIR, SHASTRI NAGAR, ASHOK VIHAR, DELHI-110052, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER, from DHRUVIKA TO DHRUVIKA MALHOTRA, for all future purposes.** 0040761562-6

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My client SMT. BISHA SHARMA W/O LATE SHRI SANJEEV LOCHAN R/O WZ 14 NEAR BHARAT TEXT BHOE POSSANGI PURI JANAKA PURI B-1 WEST DELHI-110085 have disown/disclaimed to her Son LAKSHI RAJ and VANSI RAJ SHARMA both Sons of LATE SHRI SANJEEV LOCHAN from all her movable and immovable properties and have also severed all the relationship with them, as they are not under control of my client and not earning and not doing any job, if any person dealing with them, shall be responsible themself. Sd/- VIJAY SHARMA Advocate Office: 23, Jyulces Chambers, R. K. Garg Block, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi-110001

### LOST & FOUND

**I, Sudheer Kapoor Alias Sudhir Kapoor S/O Late L.N. Kapoor, have lost my Original Lease Deed of Property No. B.P-15 Bazar Marg Northen Extension Area Rajinder Nagar Pusa Road New Delhi, duly Regd. Document No.162 Addl Book No-1. Vol.No 5 On Pages No.123 To 124 dated 25/09/1951. If found Pls. Contact: 7011732128**

0040761533-1

**I, Nupur Shukla, W/o Ashok Shukla, R/o # 1057, Sector-D, Pocket-1, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, lost my Provisional Allotment letter dt. 26.03.2013 issued by Jaiprakash Associates Limited for Jaypee Greens Wish Town Noida. Unit Ref No GD121602 while travelling. Finder may contact at 8800187976, Email atshukashok@gmail.com or return to Jaiprakash Associates Limited, Sector 128 , Noida 0040761608-1**

**I, Arun Bajweja S/O K.G. Bajweja, have lost my Original Lease Deed of Property No. 5A/3 TILAK NAGAR, NEW DELHI, duly Regd. Document No.1515 Addl Book No-1. Vol. No 463 On Pages No. 110 To 112 dated 16/03/1966. If found Pls. Contact: 7011732128**

0040761533-2

### MATRIMONIAL



### KHATRIS/ARORA

**Match for beautiful, Punjabi businessman, affluent Hindu Khatri family boy, 5'5", Oct 1992/B.Tech, Preferred professionals/well educated, contact 9318806006/8360240370**

**Professionally qualified working girl for July 1996 born, handsome Gursikh boy, 5'-10". B.Com (Hons.) from SRCC , MBA from Top IIM. Working in Global MNC. 50 LPA. Parents Senior Government Officers. 98717-78855 0020485148-1**

### OTHERS

**Seeking a simple, homely, & caring wife for an issueless divorced 53 yr lat handsome clean-shaven Sikh (MBA Finance) working in an MNC in Mumbai. Call/whatsapp 9820054157. 0130046874-2**

**Alliance invited for Sood boy , B.Tech, DOB 4-8-1996 (1:28 AM, Shimla). Presently working in Dubai. Well settled family. Looking for a professionally qualified girl. Contact or send details on 9418456377/ vinsood99@gmail.com -<mailto:vinsood99@gmail.com>** 0050255304-1

**Match for Canadian citizen, 29 years, 5'8", vegetarian, government job, contact whatsapp + 14377991095 vinod.rajpütt@gmail.com -<mailto:vinod.rajpütt@gmail.com>** 0050255305-1

**I, Divjot Singh Kainth S/O Shri lqbal Singh R/O H.No.264, Chanderlok Mandoli Road, Shahdara, Delhi-110093, have changed my name to Divjot Singh.** 0040761592-1

**I, HIMANSHU S/O MOHINDER ASIJA R/O C-24, DLF CAPITAL GREEN, MOTI NAGAR, DELHI-110015, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME HIMANSHU ASIJA PERMANENTLY.** 0040761562-4

**I, Harsha Kapoor, D/o Shri Praveen Kapoor, W/O Shri Pulkit Sharma, R/o-194, Satya Niketan, New Delhi-110021, Have changed my to Harsha Sharma, for all future purposes.** 0040761540-1

**I, lqbal Singh Kainth S/O Late Shri Karnail Singh Kainth R/O H.No.264, Chanderlok Mandoli Road, Shahdara, Delhi-110093, have changed my name to lqbal Singh.** 0040761592-2

**I, KAPIL MALHOTRA, R/O M-25, STREET NO.1, NEAR SHIV MANDIR, SHASTRI NAGAR, ASHOK VIHAR, DELHI-110052, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER, from DHRUVIKA TO DHRUVIKA MALHOTRA, for all future purposes.** 0040761562-6

**I, RAKESH, S/O RANBIR SINGH PHORE, R/O-636/31, HASTSAL-VILLAGE, UTTAM NAGAR, DWARKA, DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAKESH PHORE.** 0040761540-4

**I, Pawan Chauhan S/o Om Prakash R/o D-9, Pratap Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi** have changed my name to **Pawan G Chauhan** 0040761562-7

**I, Sunil Kumar S/o Ram Lubhaya R/o-A-2, UGF, Naveen Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Sunil Walia** for all purposes. 0040761562-2

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The public at large is hereby notified on behalf of my clients Sh. Gunvar Verma, S/o Sh. Anand Verma and his wife Mrs. Anu Sharma, currently residing at 1401, Lotus Tower, Old Airport Road, Abu Dhabi, UAE, that my clients have permanently disowned and severed all ties with their brother, Sourabh Verma, his wife Monika Verma and their children. This severance includes all social, financial, and emotional connections, and my clients disavow any future responsibility or association with them on behalf of non-conflictual relations from several years. Our clients shall not be responsible for any acts and deeds of the above named disowned persons from the date of this notice is issued till the future. Sd/- MAHENDER SINGH YADAV Advocate Ch. No. 636, Lawyer's Chambers Block, Dwarka Complex, New Delhi-110075

**General Public is hereby informed that I, Sudheer Kapoor (Sudhir Kapoor S/O Late L.N. Kapoor S/P-15 Bazar Marg Northern Extn Area Rajinder Nagar New Delhi is filing in L&DO for Substitution of the Property No. B.P-15 Bazar Marg Northen Extension Area Rajinder Nagar Pusa Road New Delhi in the name of Sudheer Kapoor (Sudhir Kapoor S/O Late L.N. Kapoor on the grounds of Court Order & Ret. Deed and if there are any Objections/Casms from the General Public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered Post or by visiting L&DO at Nirmam Bhawan New Delhi or Through an Email At L&DO@nic.in within 30 days of Publication of this Notice BINOD KUMAR PODDAR (Adv.) #23, NDNC MKT Connaught Place, N-4-61**

**Be it known to all that my client Mr. Gaur Singh S/o Sh. Sunder Lal and Mrs. Gaur Devi W/o Shri Gaur Singh, R/o WP-467 Wazirpur Village, Shri Gaur Delhi-110052 has debarred and disinherited his/her Grandson and Daughter-in-law namely Mr. Lakshay Raj S/o Late Shri Sachin Choudhary and Mrs. Pratibha Taneja W/o Late Shri Sachin Choudhary both R/o WZ 402 Bessa Daur, Delhi-110015 from his/her all movable and immovable properties due to their hostile disobedient, insolent and if quite behavior towards my client and is not under her control. My client will not be responsible for any of their deeds and acts. (Sidharth Joshi) Advocate**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My client Sh. Gucharan Das, S/o Sh. Kevall Ram, and his wife Smt. Swarn Kanta both R/o House No. 41, P2 Block, Maunab Enclave, Pitampura, Saranwati Vihar, Delhi-110034 wants to give a public notice that they have served all their relations and ties with their son namely Mr. Dhruv Medhatia and their daughter-in-law namely Smt. Yashna Medhatira and their grand-daughter Ms. Udi Medhatira have also debarred them from all their movable and immovable properties and shall have no concern in future with them. Sd/- PRIVYANKA SOMKAR ADVOCATE Office: 61, (F.F.) Western Wing, The Hazrat Courts Delhi-110054

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My client Sh. Gucharan Das, S/o Sh. Kevall Ram, and his wife Smt. Swarn Kanta both R/o House No. 41, P2 Block, Maunab Enclave, Pitampura, Saranwati Vihar, Delhi-110034 wants to give a public notice that they have served all their relations and ties with their son namely Mr. Dhruv Medhatia and their daughter-in-law namely Smt. Yashna Medhatira and their grand-daughter Ms. Udi Medhatira have also debarred them from all their movable and immovable properties and shall have no concern in future with them. Sd/- PRIVYANKA SOMKAR ADVOCATE Enrol No. D12922013 Office: C-9012, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**I VANDNA TAKIAR W/O RAKESH TAKIAR HAS LOST THE ALLOTMENT / POSSESSION CERTIFICATE ISSUED IN THE NAME OF AMIT DHARIWAL issued by DELUXE CGHS LTD. for FLAT NO 26 DELUXE CGHS LTD V ENCLAVE Delhi Flat is NOT MOTGEGED NEITHER SOLD OR ANY DISPUTE VANDNA TAKIAR CALL: 8882476388**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for the general public information that my Client Sh. Rajinder Kumar Bakshi S/o Sh. Hans Raj Bakshi R/o C61-A, Flat No.10, 4th Floor, JYTS Garden, Chattarpur Extension, New Delhi-110074 has severed all his relation with his son Tushar Bakshi and Smt. Varsha W/o Tushar Bakshi has debarred them from all his movable and Immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them shall do the same on his own risk and my client shall not be liable for any of his act in any manner Sd/- Ntendra Kumar Advocate Ch. No. 966, Patiala House Court, New Delhi-110001

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General Public is hereby informed That We, (1) Narendra Kumar Batra S/O Late P C Batra (2) Anurima Gulati D/O Late Sarang Gulati (3) Anshu Gulati D/O Late Sarang Gulati (4) Manita Gulati W/O Late Sarang Gulati (5) Arun Bawasia S/O K.G.Bawasia (6) Anshu Luthra D/O Satya Chawla (7) Archana Khosla D/O Late O.P.Batra (8) Amita Sibal D/O Late O.P.Batra (9) Pinky Sharma D/O Krishna Nangia (10) Poonam Malik D/O Krishna Nangia (11) Pankaj Nagpal D/O Krishna Nangia are filling in L&DO for Substitution of the Property No. 5A/3 Tikar Nagar, New Delhi in the name of (1) Narendra Kumar Batra S/O Late P C Batra (2) Anurima Gulati D/O Late Sarang Gulati (3) Anshu Gulati D/O Late Sarang Gulati (4) Manita Gulati W/O Late Sarang Gulati (5) Arun Bawasia S/O K.G.Bawasia (6) Anshu Luthra D/O Satya Chawla (7) Archana Khosla D/O Late O.P.Batra (8) Amita Sibal D/O Late O.P.Batra (9) Pinky Sharma D/O Krishna Nangia (10) Poonam Malik D/O Krishna Nangia on the grounds of Death Certificates & Reinsurance/Deed and if there are any Objections/Casms from the General Public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered Post or by visiting L&DO at Nirmam Bhawan New Delhi or Through an Email At L&DO@nic.in within 30 days of Publication of this Notice BINOD KUMAR PODDAR (Adv.) #23, NDNC MKT Connaught Place, N-4-61

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Clients Nareesh Kumar S/O Late Sh. Om Parkash & his wife Sneeh Lalia W/o Sh. Nareesh Kumar both R/o Flat No 804, Madat Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-85 have cancelled their previous statement which got published on 19/07/2024 in Indian Express & Jansatta News paper Delhi in which they had debarred and disownd his son Suyash Garg from all their movable/ immovable properties and relations, and now they cancel all previous published notices of disownd and debarred and accept all relations and liabilities and responsibilities of his said son. Now, they have released all relations, legal rights and titles of movable and immovable properties and made free from all boundations to his son Suyash Garg in respect of movable and immovable properties and relations and he has full rights to deal with any one or any matter. Sachin Kumar (Advocate) RU-6, Pitampura, Delhi-34

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is Brought To The Notice Of General Public At Large That my Clients Sh. Sunil Kumar Tyagi, S/O Lt. Sh. Ramesh Chand Tyagi And Mrs. Seema Tyagi, W/o Sh. Sunil Kumar Tyagi, Both R/O-74, SI. No. 8, Jagat Puri Extension, Delhi-83, Has Severed Their Relations With Their Son Mr. Shihab Tyagi And His Wife Nilu Uniyal With Immediate Effect And Herby Disinhered Them From All Their Movable And Immovable Properties Whatsoever. My Clients Donot Have Any Relation With The Above Mentioned Persons ie Shihab Tyagi And His Wife Nilu Uniyal And Therefore My Clients Shall Not Be Liable For Any Court Proceedings They Are Induged in Or May Be Induged In Future. AAYUSH DAWAR ADVOCATE OFFICE- H-18 BASEMENT, KAILASH COLONY, DELHI-110048

### "IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on any advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

### WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

**E-Open Tender notice No. 37-2024**  
For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. DIVISIONAL MECHANICAL ENGINEER (Fr), WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY, BHOPAL invites E-Open Tenders from reputed contractors for the under mentioned work. (1) Name of work: Retrofitment of Twin Pipe Air Brake System on ( 250 Nos. BCNA + 78 Nos. BCN ) Wagons at ROH Depot of BPL Division. (2) Approximate Value of work: ₹ 75,25,947.50 (Including GST). (3) Contract period: 06 Month, (4) Earnest Money: ₹ 1,50,600.00 (5) Cost of Tender Documents: Nil, (6) Date and time of Closing of Tender: 23.12.2024 at 15.00 hrs. (7) Date and timing of Tender Opening: 23.12.2024. After 15.30 hrs. (8) Tender notice can be seen on notice board of Sr.DME office WCBRPL and all information regarding tender terms & conditions and eligibility criterion is available on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (9) No manual offer will be accepted.

Sr.Div. Mech. Eng.(Freight)  
West Central Railway, Bhopal

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-Tender Notice**  
Srl. No. (1): E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-111-24-25, Date-25/11/2024. Work: Deployment of assistant patrolman (Patrolman companion) in the jurisdiction of ADEN/Raigarh for winter patrolling. Tender value (In Rs.): 74,24,874/- EMD (In Rs.): 1,48,500/- Completion Period: 12 Months.

Srl. No. (2): E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-112-24-25, Date 25/11/2024. Work: Deployment of assistant patrolman (Patrolman companion) in the jurisdiction of ADEN/Brajrajnagar for winter patrolling. Tender value (In Rs.): 61,85,743/- EMD (In Rs.): 1,23,700/- Completion Period: 12 Months.

**Start date of Submission of Tender:** 04-12-2024.

**Last date of Submission of Tender:** Upt 11.00 hrs, on 18-12-2024.

The complete information of above e-Tender Notices is available over websites <https://www.ireps.gov.in> Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders.

Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.)  
CPR/10/347 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur

**WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION**  
**ENGINEERING WORK**  
E-Tender No. : CWM-EWS-ADI-09-24-25  
Name of Work: Handling, loading, unloading, shifting of raw materials, finished and semi finished products work of structural shop in Engineering workshop, near Kaligam, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad.

**Location :** Office of the Chief Workshop Manager (EWS), Ahmedabad, Western Railway, P.O. Digvijaynagar, Kaligam, Ahmedabad- 382470. **Mobile No.:** 9773213925. **Completion Period :** 24 Months. (ii) **Approx. Cost of the Work :** ₹ 1,85,81,688.00 (iii) **Bid Security/EMD to be deposited :** ₹ 24,42,900.00 (iv) **Date & Time for submission of Tender :** 19.12.2024 upto 15.00 Hrs. (v) **And date of opening :** 19.12.2024 at 15.30 Hrs. (vi) **Website Particulars, Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the Office etc. :** Office of the Chief Workshop Manager (EWS), Ahmedabad, Western Railway, P.O. Digvijaynagar, Kaligam, Ahmedabad-382470. **Mobile No.:** 9773213925. **Website particulars :** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **NOTE:-** The complete detailed terms and conditions of work are available on Railway Website. 251


Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Tendering**  
**Tender Notice No. 69/2024**  
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) N.E. Railways, Itanagar For and behalf of President of India invites "Open" e-tender through Online (E-Tendering) for the following work:

**S.No. 1: Description of works:** Provision of Galvalume roof sheeting over roofs of old quarters for prevention of roof leakage in LKU (Ex) to KSJ (Ex) section under ADEN/L&ZN section; **Approx. Value (₹):** ₹34,49,058.12; **E.M.D Money (₹):** ₹69,000/-; **Cost of Tender forms:** ₹Nil; **Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter:** 06 Months; **S.No. 2: Description of works:** Maintenance of Level Crossing road, Gate lodge etc. in jurisdiction of ADEN/L&ZN & ATEN/Town Section in IZN Division; **Approx. Value (₹):** ₹63,00,026.61; **E.M.D Money (₹):** ₹1,26,000/-; **Cost of Tender forms:** ₹Nil; **Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter:** 12 Months; 1. Online e-tender can be submitted upto to 15:00 hrs. of dated 23.12.2024. 2. For full details



Across  
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in  
Twitter @PChidambaram\_IN

# Mahayuti's campaign: Trick, not treat

MY COLUMN published on November 16, 2024 (*The Indian Express*) was headlined *Maharashtra is the Prize*. I have no hesitation in acknowledging that the *Mahayuti*, an alliance of the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP, won the prize decisively. *Mahayuti* won 230 of the 288 seats.

CLEVER MESSAGING

A debate has started on what was the main cause of *Mahayuti*'s victory. Most people seem to agree that it was *Ladki Bahin Yojana (LBY)*. Under the scheme, the Shinde government promised — and distributed beginning July 1, 2024 — Rs 1,500 per month to every woman whose family income was less than Rs 2,50,000 a year, and the number of beneficiaries amounted to 2.5 crore. *Mahayuti* also promised that, if re-elected, the amount would be enhanced to Rs 2,100 per month. The scheme clicked because of agrarian distress, high unemployment rate especially among rural women, stagnant rural wages and inflation. But it was not a novel scheme. It was a copy-cat scheme that had been implemented in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana. Besides, the main rival, *MVA*, had also promised a sum of Rs 3,000 to every poor woman if *MVA* came to power. On the balance of arguments, I do not think that *LBY* was the determining factor in the elections. In my view, the *new* factor in the

Maharashtra Assembly elections was the insidious message that was delivered to the Maharashtra electorate by the trio of Mr Narendra Modi, Mr Amit Shah and Mr Adityanath, and amplified by the army of RSS volunteers.

They coined '*Ek Hai toh Safe hai*' (if we are one, we are safe) and '*Batenge toh Katenge*' (divided, we perish) that were deceptively neutral exhortations but, in fact, were addressed to the members of a particular community. Inflammatory speeches on '*love jihad*' and '*vote jihad*' were frequently made in the campaign. Old war cries such as '*tukde tukde gang*' and '*urban naxals*' were revived. The messaging was clever, well-directed and found its mark. It recalled to my mind the poisonous barbs that were thrown during the Lok Sabha elections: '*If you have two buffaloes, Congress will take away one. Your mangalsutra will be taken away. And all that will be given away to people who bear more kids*'.

A MAHA YUKTI (TRICK)

There was no doubt which was the target community for which the messages were intended. And there was no doubt which community was the so-called danger to the target community. Mr R Jagannathan, columnist, usually sympathetic to the BJP, writing in the *ToI*, admitted that it was "a potent slogan for

Hindu vote consolidation". The new slogans were reminiscent of RSS Chief Mr Mohan Bhagwat's speech on Vijayadashami day this year in which he said, "Hindu community across the world should learn the lesson that being unorganised and weak is like inviting atrocities by the wicked." The slogans and the speeches were part of the hate campaign and part of the 'divide and win' election strategy. They were an abuse of the freedom of speech and expression. They cocked a snook at the Constitution of India. They trampled on Articles 15, 16, 25, 26, 28(2), 28(3), 29 and 30 of the Constitution. The campaign was a *Mahayukti* (grand strategy, trick) conjured by *Mahayuti* (grand alliance).

Every country has minorities. A minority could be religious or linguistic or ethnic or racial. The United States has black people and Latino people. China has Uighurs. Pakistan has Shias. Pakistan and Bangladesh have Hindus. Sri Lanka has Tamils and Muslims. Australia has aboriginals. Israel has Arabs. Several European countries have Jews and Roma. The Council of Europe has adopted the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, 1998 to promote equality and preserve and develop the culture and identity of national minorities. Among the seminal laws are the Civil Rights Act, 1964 in the US and a raft of laws to protect the rights of aboriginals

in Australia. The far-sighted Dr Ambedkar elevated the rights of minorities in India to fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of India.

HYPOCRISY

Indians and the Indian government are passionate and vocal about the rights of Hindus in Bangladesh and Pakistan. We are concerned when Indian-origin students are harassed or killed in foreign Universities. We are incensed when Hindu temples or Sikh gurdwaras are vandalised in foreign countries. But when other countries or human rights organisations question India on the treatment of minorities, the Ministry of External Affairs springs into action to warn them, 'don't interfere in our internal matters'. The hypocrisy is apparent.

Spiteful speeches and actions are spreading around the world. Bangladesh arrested a Hindu monk and there is a clamour for a ban on ISKCON. The head of an Indian Mutt reportedly said 'Deny voting rights to Muslims' (*source: newindianexpress.com*). Both are unacceptable in a democracy.

The minorities issue will haunt India if the NDA continues to play its game of "divide and win". It is no different from the sinister British game of "divide and rule".

inside  
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



# In 1950s, when a business house stood in the dock

Do It My Way

THE NDA'S Maharashtra victory overshadowed the significance of Yogi Adityanath's impressive feat in UP. The BJP alliance won seven of nine Assembly by-elections, turning the tables on the Opposition, which earlier represented six of the constituencies, including four by the SP. The BJP's gain of four seats is a remarkable achievement in the light of its poor showing in India's largest state a few months earlier in the Lok Sabha poll. Adityanath handled the campaign entirely on his own. No major BJP leaders came to canvass. In contrast, during the Lok Sabha campaign, the UP candidates were largely selected by the Delhi high command. Many believe this worked against the ruling party. This time around, the UP CM chose the candidates shrewdly and managed to breach SP bastions with his caste alliances. In Kundarki, a Muslim majority constituency, the BJP's Ramveer Singh created history by winning the seat for the BJP after a gap of 30 years. Significantly, Thakurs came out to vote in large numbers with an enthusiasm missing during the Lok Sabha polls. Yogi is now firmly ensconced not just as CM, but as one of the foremost players in the BJP's Gen Next. Even in faraway Maharashtra, Adityanath created ripples with his slogan "*Batenge to katenge*". The jury is still out on whether the PM's milder version, "*Ek hain toh safe hain*", was an endorsement or a snub.

WEAK LINKS

At the start of the Maharashtra campaign, Sharad Pawar had urged Rahul Gandhi to publicly declare Uddhav Thackeray as the MVA's chief ministerial candidate; Gandhi declined to do so. Pawar urged Gandhi not to be complacent because of the MVA's sterling performance in the Lok Sabha poll. He warned that if the BJP won Maharashtra, it would gain momentum and a domino effect could come into effect in the ensuing Assembly polls, restoring Prime Minister Modi's image that slightly dented after the Lok Sabha poll. Neither of Pawar's two allies paid much heed. While the 83-year-old Pawar campaigned relentlessly covering six rallies daily, Gandhi made just half a dozen trips to Maharashtra. He and Priyanka Gandhi spent a disproportionate time in Wayanad, Kerala, where victory was assured. The state Congress had hoped the Gandhis would galvanise young voters. Uddhav Thackeray, meanwhile, did not overly exert himself cit-

History  
HEADLINE

HARISH DAMODARAN



ON DECEMBER 11, 1956, the Union government under Jawaharlal Nehru set up a Commission of Inquiry on the administration of the Dalmia-Jain (DJ) Group of companies.

Among its terms of reference was to look into "any irregularities, frauds or breaches of trust or action in disregard of honest commercial practices or contravention of any law" in respect of these companies and "the nature and extent of the personal gains made" by the promoters along with "the losses suffered by the investing public".

The trigger for appointing the Commission — initially headed by Bombay High Court's Justice S R Tendolkar and later by former Supreme Court Judge Justice Vivian Bose — was a speech by the Prime Minister's son-in-law, Feroze Gandhi, in Parliament on December 6, 1955 that exposed the financial manipulations by India's then third largest business house after Tata and Birla.

The Lok Sabha member from Rae Bareilly had wound up his nearly two-hour-long marathon by suggesting that the government constitute "a Commission of Inquiry with full judicial powers to investigate the entire Dalmia-Jain affairs from 1945-46 or whenever it began up to date". The Commission — it also had N R Mody, chartered accountant with the audit firm A F Ferguson & Co, and S C Chaudhri, Commissioner of Income Tax, as members — submitted its 815-page report on June 15, 1962.

Compare that with the present time, where the Narendra Modi government is avoiding even a debate in both Houses, forget conceding to the Opposition's demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe, on the allegations against the Adani Group.

It's not the contrasts alone, but also the parallels, that are striking. Gandhi's speech did to the DJ Group what the US investor-activist firm Hindenburg Research's January 24, 2023 report did to Adani, accusing it of stock price rigging and accounting fraud.

The DJ Group had interests in cement, banking (Bharat Bank and Punjab National Bank), insurance (Bharat Insurance), publishing (Bennett, Coleman), sugar, paper, chemicals, textile and jute mills, aviation, motor vehicles, light railways, collieries, electricity distribution, biscuit-making and dairy.

That made it a horizontally diversified conglomerate much like Adani, which has businesses from ports, airports, coal mining

and trading, thermal power, electricity transmission and distribution, renewable energy, solar photovoltaic manufacturing and natural gas supply, to cement, edible oils, road and rail development, data centres, grain handling and fruit marketing.

Adani is today India's No. 3 business house (after Tata and Reliance), just as the DJ Group once was. Both had upstart founders: Ramkrishna Dalmia's first venture was a sugar factory at Bihta (Bihar) in 1933, while Gautam Adani's Mundra Port at Gujarat took off only in 1998.

The similarities end there.

The Vivian Bose Commission showed how the funds of the DJ Group's public limited companies, banks and insurance firms were used by the promoters' proprietary concerns for speculative acquisitions or even personal purposes. The companies in which the public had invested their monies were often forced to lend without security at low interest rates. After being squeezed dry, even "the husks were discarded". The Commission documented many instances of companies taken into voluntary liquidation, and their account books and records destroyed to leave no traces of fraud committed.

There isn't evidence, so far, of such brazen fund diversion or embezzlement vis-à-vis the Adani Group. At least eight out of its 11 listed companies seem to be profit-making. Hindenburg's charges were primarily about the conglomerate pumping up its company stock prices, pledging these as collateral to take on too much debt relative to free cash flows, and parking shares with offshore shell entities

to conceal actual promoter ownership.

In the DJ Group case, not only was Feroze Gandhi allowed to speak, the Finance Minister, C D Deshmukh, helpfully buttressed in by noting Dalmia's "extraordinary capacity" to intermix the finances of his various industrial, banking and insurance concerns. The DJ Group challenged the Tendolkar/Bose panel's appointment under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, which, it claimed, dealt only with matters of public importance, as opposed to the conduct of individual persons or companies. The courts, however, upheld the government's position that the "grave consequences... ensued to the investing public" from the "gross irregularities" in the management of the DJ Group companies were matters of "definite public importance".

The government, then, didn't feel the need to defend Dalmia, who had to endure the ignominy of a two-year jail sentence as well as dissolution of his business empire. The group's most prized assets went to his son-in-law, Shanti Prasad Jain, and brother, Jaidayal. Gandhi's speech was the precursor to the nationalisation of India's life insurance industry, via an ordinance promulgated on January 19, 1956. It was also a time when India under Nehru had embarked on a strategy of planned economic development — in which the public sector, not private corporates, occupied the "commanding heights".

Cut to the present, where the government and the main ruling party have, at best, sought to deflect and distance themselves from the Adani Group. This is despite the latest charges — pertaining to a "bribery scheme" of over \$250 million payments to officials in India for securing solar energy supply contracts — coming from the US Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission, and not from some trader with short positions in Adani stocks.

The Modi government's apparent reluctance to act against Adani could be because it views, more than previous administrations, big business as a partner in nation-building and also serving the country's foreign policy and geostrategic interests.

But to what extent the current developments will impact the Adani Group's own stock valuations and ability to raise credit for funding its ambitious investment plans, both domestic and overseas, remains to be seen. Business history is littered with examples of over-leverage and over-diversification exacting a heavy price.

On the  
LOOSE

LEHER KALA

leherkala@gmail.com



# Going bust with statues

interior of Bengal created the piece as "a tribute borne out of deep admiration".

If beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, this figurehead was a resounding success because Governor Bose looked pleased as punch with it. For the rest of us, our frame of reference for sculpture is Michelangelo's David so it's hard to make sense of the image — the Governor in a black *bandhgala* and dark glasses peering at his eerie likeness (kitted out identically in a black *bandhgala*) with a much too shiny forehead and strangely beatific expression — while the museum staff clapped dutifully in the background.

Busts have been around since the Greco-Roman era to signify prominence and honor family lineage. Folklore has it that Michelangelo thoroughly examined corpses to make sure his creations were anatomically correct. Replicating the human form can't be easy and I'm certainly no authority on the artistic merit of this bust, but speaking purely as an observer, if I was to stumble on these busts on a chilly dark night, I would flee, screeching, convinced a prop from *The Exorcist* has sprung to life to rip me to shreds.

Horror movie enthusiasts may recall the lurid 1975 film *Trilogy of Terror* where a waxen doll-like statue leaps out of a suitcase and sinks its teeth into the protagonist's arm. It was the bane of my childhood. Definitely, strolling down an ancient cobbled street in Rome, life-sized marble portraits of Gods and heroes transports one back to a glorious era but in 21st century popular culture, mannequins and busts are more likely to invoke a sense of creepy unease. Somewhere in our fertile imaginations (at least mine) their lifeless humanity signifies death, if not a weirdly nightmarish rebirth. The mystery is why these vulgar travesties continue to be made when nine times out of ten, statues' facial expressions seem frightening, like they're grimacing in agony.

Fashions change. There was a time when a taxidermy tiger had a pride of place in aristocratic homes, some grand uncle having shot the magnificent creature in a *shikar*. Nobody does that anymore. Only decrepit heritage hotels in Rajasthan have antler horns mounted on walls. Elephant tuskers and ivory tables too, have mercifully vanished over the years. Similarly, perhaps it's time to consign busts and statues to history since the emotions they evoke are either a shudder of distaste or a shiver up the spine. The Indian Museum, where a

future shrine to Governor Bose has been carved out, has plenty of other objects of fascination. There are red sandstone remnants of the Bharput Stupa, metal images from the 8th century and art from the Gandhara School. Occupied by such riches from the past, it's unlikely that connoisseurs of art or inquisitive students would be enamoured by figurines of current political appointees, however much they may consider themselves to be living legends.

In India, there's no getting away from politicians in power. They hog the limelight on prime time TV, page one in newspapers and even on the road, with their *lal batti* and VIP security. It's not such a big ask that the museum be spared from displaying them on pedestals as well.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films

Fifth  
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter @tavleen\_singh



# Violence in wastelands

HAVE BOTH Hindus and Muslims gone completely mad in our beloved Bharat? I ask the question seriously. The reason why I ask is because it must be madness that becomes manifest when people who turn up to throw stones in defence of a mosque or to make hate speeches are so blinded by religiosity that they do not notice the bigger problems that surround them every day. All it needs is to watch carefully the visuals that appear on your TV screens every time there is a new fight over a mosque, or a temple and you will see what I mean about bigger problems.

For some days now I have watched the violent clashes over the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal and the aftermath. Instead of gazing at the white mosque that looms over shabby bazaars and slums, I have been more interested in what lies below this mosque with so grandiose a name. And I have been horrified by the slimy drains that line dilapidated alleys, the decrepit stairways that rise from hovel-like shops and the general sense of decay that hangs over everything. Images from the destruction of Gaza came to mind and not for the first time it shamed me to see that living conditions that usually come because of war exist in India in normal, ordinary peaceful times. Small towns in India are filthy, ugly and grim everywhere but if there was a competition, the fine state of Uttar Pradesh would win effortlessly.

This is what makes it so puzzling that Hindus and Muslims should be fighting about mosques and temples when they should be fighting for basic civic rights. I have personally not been to Sambhal but I have been to many small towns in Uttar Pradesh over the years and not come across one that showed the smallest signs of municipal governance. In these towns if there is one, clean and relatively attractive structure it is always a mosque or a temple that shine like beacons in the wasteland from which they rise.

Instead of fighting for the right to better living standards, Hindus and Muslims spend their time killing each other while trying to establish that beneath some mosque there may once have been a Hindu temple. Why do we not just agree that when Muslim invaders rampaged through India, they flattened thousands of Hindu, Buddhist and Jain temples? Why not just accept this ugly truth? Why do we need to continue blaming every Indian Muslim today for what his co-religionists did hundreds of years ago? Muslims are not innocent victims either. They rally in support of a Waqf Board that has been notoriously corrupt and criminally territorial for far too long. But when you have a Hindutva government trying to restrict the Waqf's powers there are inevitably suspicions that this is just one more attempt to humiliate Muslims in general.

As I write these words a certain trepidation comes over me because I remember that there is some Hindutva outfit called the Hindu Sena that is now trying to convert Ajmer Sharif into a Shiv temple. This is one of India's most revered dargahs (shrines) at which both Muslims and Hindus have worshipped for at least seven centuries so if there was a temple here once, does it really matter now? Do courts need to accept petitions that demand a survey of these Islamic places of worship when they come from lunatic fringe outfits like the Hindu Sena? Please remember that the man who heads this Hindu army is the same one who organised a 'havan' for Donald Trump's victory in the 2020 election. A mad thing to do. Right?

In all this madness, if there has been heard one sane voice it came, ironically, from the head of the RSS, Mohan Bhagwat, who warned when a survey was being conducted in the Gyanvapi mosque that it was wrong to go about searching for a Shivaling in every other mosque. Nobody listened to him but if he is backed up with other sane voices from religious and political leaders, it is possible that this tide of madness will be stopped. This is necessary because it really is time for both Hindus and Muslims to start demanding much more important things like municipal governance.

In towns like Sambhal people live without such basic amenities as running water and electricity. They live in homes that rise out of rotting garbage and when the rains come, their children play on mud floors that soak up sewage that pours in with the rainwater. These are towns in which temples, schools and hospitals often appear as if they have been built on layers and layers of garbage. The air stinks so much it is hard to breathe. And clouds of flies and mosquitoes block the light and settle on the faces of small babies. Could it be because people are forced to live in such horrendous conditions that the only way they find to release their rage is by joining religious processions that nearly always end in violence.

As someone who has traveled in much poorer countries than India, I often say in this column, that there is almost no country in the world in which I have seen living conditions more abysmal than in India. They will improve only when ordinary citizens discover that they need basic, civic governance more than places of worship.



# 12 ECONOMY

AVERAGE TICKET SIZE SURGES BY 23% Y-O-Y

## Developers' luxury push continues even as launches below ₹2.5 cr slow down

AGGAM WALIA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

AFTER GROWING at a robust 52 per cent annually since the Covid pandemic, residential launches across India's top real estate markets fell by 2 per cent in the first three quarters of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. This marks the sector's first slowdown since the post-2020 boom, with just one ticket size bucking the trend — luxury units priced above Rs 2.5 crore.

The growing premiumisation of India's residential real estate sector amidst easing demand is also evident in sales, which fell by 3 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) between April and September 2024, while the average ticket size of units sold grew by 23 per cent, an analysis of data from Anarock showed. In the Delhi-NCR market, where demand for luxury housing is especially pronounced, sales fell by 0.6 per cent while the average price of units sold surged by 56 per cent.

The first signs of a slowdown in residential real estate mirror recent concerns around waning urban demand across sectors, from automobiles to consumer goods. Major developers have announced plans to transition away from affordable housing as they no longer see a business opportunity in the segment. Even in the upper-end Rs 1.5-2.5 crore segment, launches fell by 15 per cent y-o-y in the first three quarters of 2024, as against doubling each year between 2020 and 2023.

### Strong demand for luxury housing

Launches of residential units priced above Rs 2.5 crore across the top seven cities — including the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru,

### FIRST SLOWDOWN SINCE POST-COVID BOOM

**Growing premiumisation amidst easing demand**  
**Just one** ticket size bucks the trend — luxury units priced above Rs 2.5 crore



**52%** annual growth in residential launches across India's top real estate markets since Covid pandemic (2020- 2023)

**2%** drop in residential launches in the first three quarters of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023

**The first signs of a slowdown in residential real estate mirror recent concerns around waning urban demand across sectors**

**Major developers have announced plans to transition away from affordable housing**

**Even in the upper-end Rs 1.5-2.5 crore segment, launches fell by 15% Y-o-Y in the first 3 quarters of 2024, as against doubling each year between 2020 and 2023**  
*Source: Anarock*

and Chennai — surged at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 116 per cent between 2020 and 2023, marking an unprecedented boom in luxury housing. From just 4,000 such units in 2020, launches soared to over 41,000 in 2023. Even in the first three quarters of 2024, when overall residential launches declined by 2 per cent, luxury launches displayed notable resilience, growing by 56 per cent to over 52,000 units.

After the pandemic, housing became increasingly aspirational for urban Indians, with mid-segment buyers gravitating toward projects offering superior amenities and better connectivity. Demand for larger homes with flexible configurations, such as additional rooms, has also risen sharply. Reflecting this trend, the average flat size grew from 1,167 square feet in 2020 to 1,300 square feet in 2023 — a rise of 11.4 per cent, according to data from Anarock.

In an earnings call last month, Aakash Ohri, Joint MD at DLF Ltd,

noted that demand for luxury housing is no longer confined by a north-south geographic divide. "I have seen in super luxury, including our projects in Goa and of course, Camellias, it has been pan-India. The recent sales and the interest that I'm seeing is coming from top families of Tier 2 cities all over the country... I feel that the start point is where we are today. It is only going to go up," Ohri said.

Others are more cautious — Jagadish Nangineni, MD of Bangalore-headquartered Sobha Ltd, believes that luxury sales may begin to stabilise. "I think there is a steadiness in the market and probably what we can anticipate is not (what) we have seen (with) the increase in the sales volumes in the last couple of years. Probably we are reaching a steady state instead of continuous increase in terms of demand," Nangineni told analysts on November 15.

### Developers pivot from affordable housing

Between 2020 and 2023, launches below Rs 40 lakh grew at the slowest CAGR of 29 per cent to a little over 83,000 units. The next ticket size — launches priced between Rs 40 lakh and Rs 1.5 crore — grew at 50 per cent to around 2,60,000 units. Growth in both these ticket sizes was lower than the overall CAGR of 52 per cent. In the first three quarters of 2024, launches below Rs 40 lakh fell by 10 per cent and those between Rs 40 lakh and Rs 1.5 crore fell by 7 per cent. The latest data reflects what developers have been saying for some time — both demand and margins are higher in the premium segments. Soaring input costs and land prices have also made affordable projects in and around metropolitan cities harder to execute.

Abhishek Lodha, MD and CEO of Macrotech Developers Ltd, reiterated the company's "planned transition" away from entry-level housing towards the "upper end of the mid-income and beyond" in a recent earnings call. "As a con-

sequence of that... we will be moving from a tilt of about 85 per cent to 90 per cent of our sales coming from lower mid-income and entry-level housing to that moving to 50 per cent, obviously, over a period of 3 years," Lodha said.

Amit Kumar Sinha, MD and CEO of Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd, also confirmed that the company "will not pursue affordable anymore". "So, that segment is out. And while super luxury and all are very exciting, our focus is going to mid-premium and premium. And the way we segment the market is affordable, mid-premium, premium and luxury... we will play in the middle 2 segments, we will not play in the 2 extreme segments," Sinha told analysts last month.

Pavitra Shankar, MD of Brigade Enterprises Ltd said on November 14 — "If in future, there was affordable housing, we would look at that, too, if there was opportunity there. But currently, there is a lot of demand in terms of premiumization of consumer demand and itself, whether real estate or any sector. So that's why we are capitalising on this trend."

Among top 7 cities, Delhi-NCR recorded the steepest rise in the average price of units sold, which surged to Rs 1.45 crore between April to September 2024 from Rs 0.93 crore during the same period in 2023. On the other hand, sales fell slightly by 0.6 per cent to 32,125 units. In Bangalore, the average price of units sold jumped by 44 per cent to Rs 1.21 crore while sales fell 0.2 per cent to 31,380 units. The MMR was the only exception among major cities to record a positive growth in units sold — from 76,410 to 77,735 units, a growth of 1.7 per cent. The average price of units sold in and around Mumbai also did not change from Rs 1.47 crore.

## Pressure on micro loans may stress small finance lenders, dent consumption further

GEORGE MATHEW & HITESH VYAS  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 30

EARLY SIGNS of stress in India's microfinance institutions, small finance banks and unsecured personal loans are beginning to show up, primarily driven by escalating borrower indebtedness. Latest data reveals a surge in delinquencies during the first half of FY25, with multiple analysts predicting this trend to persist into the next half year, casting a shadow over the asset quality of underlying loans. As a result, small and micro loans face significant risks to their growth and profitability, sparking concerns about the sector's resilience in these challenging times, analysts and rating agencies said.

On November 13, ESAP Small Finance Bank, which used to focus on micro loans, reported a jump in gross non-performing assets (NPAs) to Rs 1,279.3 crore (6.9 per cent of advances) for the quarter ended September 2024 from Rs 399.1 crore (2.6 per cent) a year ago due to its concentration on micro loans. Its share price has plummeted from the 52-week high of Rs 82.26 to Rs 39.01 now. Aviom India Housing Finance informed its lenders earlier this month about an ongoing audit by the National Housing Bank (NHB) in the wake of the discovery of fraudulent transactions during a recent onsite supervisory inspection. Saying that there could be a delay in repayments to creditors, Aviom said in a letter to lenders, "the NHB Audit was initiated following the regular on-site supervisory inspection that resulted in observations, including that the statement of accounts of mutual fund(s) appear to be managed."

Crisil has estimated that the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of small finance banks (SFBs) is expected to move up to 2.9 per cent by the end of fiscal 2025 from 2.3 per cent as on March 31, 2024. "As a result, credit cost is set to rise 40 bps to 1.4 per cent. The impact of the expected delinquency trends will not be uniform, though. The extent of rise in gross NPAs and credit costs across SFBs will vary based on the extent of their exposure to the vulnerable segments," said Vani Ojasvi, Associate Director, CRISIL Ratings.

### Rising indebtedness

Indicating the rising indebtedness, credit card outstanding rose to Rs 2.71 lakh crore by September 2024 from Rs 2.30 lakh crore in September last year. The Reserve Bank of India stepped in to check the rampant rise in the indebtedness and delinquencies in the personal loan segment with more restrictions last year, leading to a decline in the growth in the overall personal loan book of banks to 5 per cent as of September this year from 18 per cent a year ago.

ICRA said delinquencies in the microfinance institutions (MFI) sector rose to 2.4 per cent by June 2024 from 2.1 per cent in March, while highlighting the increasing delinquencies in the microfinance sector, which is likely to push up the NBFC-MFI credit costs to 320-340 basis points — one basis point is one hundredth of a percentage point — in FY25 from 220 bps in



A worker operates a machine in a small scale manufacturing unit in Mumbai. Reuters File

FY24. The evolving asset quality risks will dampen sectoral growth and earnings in the current fiscal; ICRA expects NBFC-MFI's assets under management (AUM) growth to dip to 17-19 per cent in FY25 from 29 per cent in FY24. Microfinance institutions faced a significant rise in delinquencies during the first quarter of fiscal 2025, according to Crisil. Early-stage delinquencies (0+ and 30+ days past due) increased by 110 basis points and 55 basis points, respectively, compared to the preceding March quarter.

### Decline in portfolio quality

Four key factors contributed to this decline in portfolio quality: lending to over-leveraged borrowers, debt-waiver campaigns, high field-staff attrition, and operational challenges due to elections and extreme weather. As a result, average monthly collection efficiency dropped to 96 per cent in Q1 FY25 and further to 94 per cent in Q2, down from 98 per cent in the previous fiscal, Crisil said. According to Jyoti Prakash Gadia, Managing

Director, Resurgent India, while the banking industry as a whole is showing resilience with a gradually reduced NPA, stress is visible in microfinance, small finance, and unsecured loans. "This is primarily because of the relatively more aggressive approach adopted by these institutions in granting loans. The risk assessment and compliance criteria have been apparently diluted with the element of flexibility in selecting the borrowers," Gadia said. Target hunting with an intent to expand quickly has prompted sanctions on some borrowers who did not have adequate cash flows to fall back upon for repayment, leading to stress. The overall economic scenario at the rural and semi-urban level has also not improved to a level of buoyancy, thereby creating stress for small loans, Gadia said.

In fiscal 2025, microfinance loans and unsecured personal loans, where early signs of stress are visible on account of a rise in borrower indebtedness, will see a moderation in portfolio quality. Sub-segments within secured asset classes, catering in part to a similar customer segment, could also see higher delinquencies, Crisil said.

The RBI has recently imposed a 'cease and desist order' on some NBFC-MFIs, preventing them from sanctioning and disbursing loans. "The restrictions were due to issues related to predatory prac-

ing, insufficient transparency in disclosures, and improper evaluation of household income and fixed monthly liabilities. Additionally, concerns have been raised about lending to customers with multiple fake voter IDs, often categorised as new-to-credit (NTC) customers, which further undermines the integrity of the lending process," CareEdge Ratings said in a report.

In October, the RBI cautioned non-banking finance companies against aggressively pursuing growth without building up sustainable business practices and risk management frameworks, commensurate with the scale and complexity of their portfolio. "The Reserve Bank is closely monitoring these areas and will not hesitate to take appropriate action, if necessary," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said. Driven by the significant accretion to their capital from both domestic and overseas sources, and sometimes under pressure from their investors, some NBFCs — including microfinance institutions (MFIs) and housing finance companies (HFCs) — are "chasing excessive returns on their equity", he said.

Furthermore, the RBI has raised concerns regarding the practice of loan netting by MFIs and has instructed certain banks and MFIs to ensure that this does not lead to 'ever-greening of delinquent loans'. The increasing borrower indebtedness is compounded by various factors, such as heatwaves, general elections, and political movements like the "Karja Mukti Abhiyan."

The profitability of small finance banks, measured in terms of return of assets (RoA), will moderate around 40 basis points (bps) to 1.7 per cent this fiscal from 2.1 per cent for fiscal 2024 due to lower net interest margins (NIM) and higher credit costs, Crisil said. The overall profitability will continue to be significantly influenced by credit costs.

### Cautious approach needed

The expectations of significant improvements in future earnings and social aspirations have led to a substantial increase in the unsecured borrowings by new consumers, and this portfolio, particularly of NBFCs and microfinance institutions has grown faster. The delinquencies have correspondingly grown in the absence of adequate generation of income and surplus impacting the repayment capacity, Gadia said.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Every attack makes us stronger: Gautam Adani

VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 30

GAUTAM ADANI, chairman of the energy-to-infrastructure Adani Group, on Saturday held forth on challenges his conglomerate was facing amid allegations of bribery and fraud pertaining to Adani Green Energy.

In his first public event since the indictment by the US Department of Justice and the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), Adani, 62, said every attack made the group stronger and every obstacle was a stepping stone for more resilience. "Less than two weeks back, we faced a set of allegations from the US about compliance practices. This is not the first time we have faced such challenges. What I can tell you is that every attack makes us stronger," he said. "No one from the Adani side had been charged with violations of the FCPA or any conspiracy to obstruct justice. As we work through the legal process, I want to re-confirm our absolute commitment to world class regulatory compliance," Adani said on the issue.

The billionaire has been named along with seven others

**No one from Adani side had been charged with violations of the FCPA or any conspiracy to obstruct justice ... I want to re-confirm our absolute commitment to world class regulatory compliance"**  
— GAUTAM ADANI  
CHAIRMAN, ADANI GROUP

for allegedly giving bribes to secure contracts. The group has denied the allegations.

Speaking at the 51st Gem & Jewellery Awards in Jaipur, Adani also said that he had come to accept roadblocks as a price for pioneering. "The more bold your dreams, the more the world will scrutinise you. But it is precisely in that scrutiny that you must find the courage to rise, to challenge the status quo, and to build a path where none exists," he said.

Adani also gave two other examples of the resistance and challenges he has faced as a businessman. One was pertaining to the Carmichael coal mine in Australia.

The second instance was the 2023 Hindenburg report on the group's financials. **FE**

## EPF Board okays ETF reinvestment norms, employer amnesty scheme

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

### CPPS PILOT

**■ Board also discussed the pilot of the Centralised Pension Payment System (CPPS), which is likely to be launched on December 31**

A REDEMPTION policy for investments in exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and reinvestment of 50 per cent of those redemption proceeds into ETFs, along with an amnesty scheme for employers to voluntarily disclose and rectify past non-compliance without penalties was approved by the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in its 236th meeting Saturday. The Board also discussed the pilot of the Centralised Pension Payment System (CPPS), which is likely to be launched on December 31.

The EPFO, which has 7.37 crore contributing subscribers and a total of 32.56 crore members, plans to increase the ETF redemption period to 7 years from 4 years over the next six years to improve yields. While 50 per cent of the redemption proceeds will get reinvested in equity through ETFs such as Bharat 22 and CPSE ETFs, the remaining 50 per cent would be invested in other asset classes as per the existing pattern such as government securities and corporate bonds. The changes in investment norms is being done with an aim to earn better returns through investment in equity. The invest-

ment committee of the EPFO had earlier noted that "there is a need to balance the short-term returns on investments under EPF Scheme with the future growth prospects in equity". As per the notified pattern of investment by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the EPFO can invest up to 15 per cent of its incremental flows in equity. EPFO started with an investment of 5 per cent in equity through ETFs on Sensex or Nifty in August 2015. Subsequently from 2017 the investment in ETFs was increased to 15 per cent of the fresh accretion.

The 44-member CBT, headed by Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and having both employees' and employers' representatives, also gave nod for the EPFO Amnesty Scheme 2024. The scheme is being brought as the Labour and Employment Ministry moves ahead with the implementation plan for the Budget announce-

ment of Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme.

"The initiative is designed to encourage employers to voluntarily disclose and rectify past non-compliance or under-compliance without facing penalties or legal repercussions. A simple online declaration from employers will be sufficient to avail the scheme benefits," the Ministry said in a statement. The amnesty scheme has been proposed in the backdrop that several small establishments, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), may opt for the ELI scheme but would have faced a roadblock if there were past dues of non-compliance for EPF contribution.

The CBT also approved a key feature of crediting interest at the time of claim settlements. At present, for the claim settled till 24th of the month, interest is paid only up to the end of the previous month. Now, the interest will be paid to the member up to the date of settlement.

The Board also discussed the earlier decision to increase the limit for auto claims settlement facility to Rs 1 lakh from Rs 50,000 which is now applicable for advances for housing, marriage and education. In the current financial year 2024-25, the EPFO has settled 1.15 crore claims in auto mode.



old technology like not being able to apply brakes etc," said Gadkari during the event. He further said that the most important thing in

**"... there are potholes on the roads at many places. There is lack of underpasses, overbridges. We have identified black spots in road engineering problem and such spots are being rectified on the National Highways ..."**  
— NITIN GADKARI  
MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

this is that the highest number of road accident deaths in the world occurs in India and out of this, the highest number of deaths occur

in Uttar Pradesh (UP). "There have been 44,000 road accidents in UP and out of these 23,650 deaths have occurred. Of these, 1,800 deaths are of people below 18 years of age and 10,000 are of pedestrians and two-wheelers. There have been 8,726 deaths due to overspeeding," Gadkari said in Lucknow.

Gadkari said that these accidents are happening because people do not have respect and fear for the law. "There are many reasons for accidents, but the biggest reason is human behaviour. This is also true that there are potholes on the roads at many places. There is a lack of underpasses and foot over bridges. We have identified the

black spots in this road engineering problem and such spots are being rectified on the National Highways by spending about Rs 40,000 crore. All roads are not under me, I am the Minister of National Highways only. There are many state highways and district roads. It also concerns the state government. The cause of the accident can be found and rectified," the Minister said.

He said that instructions have been given to companies to improve automobile engineering. Along with this, an awareness programme is being run. "We are trying to ensure that the state government includes 'rules of the road' in its curriculum. We were talking about reducing ac-

cidents by 50 per cent by 2024, but they have not reduced. This means we need to do more work," said Nitin Gadkari. Sources said that the Road crash severity i.e fatalities per 100 crashes have marginally decreased to 36 in 2023 from 36.5 in 2022. Overspeeding is the major cause of accidents, where 68.1 per cent people in 2023 died because of this reason. Two-wheeler users accounted for 44.8 per cent and pedestrians accounted for nearly 20 per cent of all road crash fatalities.

On an average, in 2023, India witnessed 1,317 road crashes and 474 fatalities every day or 55 crashes and 20 fatalities every hour.

### BRIEFLY

#### ITR deadline for a taxpayer category extended to Dec 15

**New Delhi:** Tax authorities have extended the income tax return filing deadline by 15 days to December 15 for FY 2023-24. The due date for furnishing the return of income under section 139(1) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 in the case of an assessee who is required to furnish a report referred to in Section 92E, is November 30. The deadline has been extended for taxpayers who have international transactions and are required to furnish reports under Section 92E. **PTI**



**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA  
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN  
WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD**  
O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500 004

**e-TENDER NOTICE**

e-Tender Notice No. & Date	Name of Work	Approximate Estimate Contract Value (in Crores)
EP/No.05/CGM(E)/STP Circle-I/22STPs-ULBs-ORR/Pack-II/2024-25 Dated: 30.11.2024 (2 <sup>nd</sup> call)	Construction of 22 STPs of 471.50 MLD capacity in HAM Mode for ULBs between GHMC and ORR including MoM for a period of 15 years under AMRUT-2.0 (TRANCHE-III)-Package-II.	>ECV put to tender is Rs.773.67 >O&M cost Rs.541.55 for 15 years and quoted TP applicable on O&M cost. (Total cost Rs.1315.22 Cr.)

(1) The bid documents download starts online on or after: 02.12.2024. (2) Name and address of Chief General Manager (Engg), concerned - Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, HMWSSB, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500004. (3) The contractors/firms are requested to upload the information in the ZIP format preferably. (4) Further details can be seen @ <http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in>

**Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500004**

No: ASC/P-864/F.M. Procurement/2024-25/3170

**e-Procurement Notice (Re-Tender)**

The Managing Director, Assam Seeds Corporation Ltd., Khanapara, Guwahati-22 invites bids in Two-Bid System through e-Procurement from eligible Bidders for "Procurement of Seed Processing Plants for Assam Seeds Corporation Limited" as mentioned in the Bid document for the year 2024-25. The last date for online submission of Bid is 22/12/2024 upto 05:00 PM.

Eligible Bidders may download the Bid document available at <http://assamtenders.gov.in>

Sd/-

Managing Director

Assam Seeds Corporation Ltd.,

Khanapara, Guwahati-22

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax- 0135- 2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866. Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

**TENDER NOTICE** दिनांक 29.11.2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-II), UJVN Limited, Guptkashi, invites bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-

**Tender No. : 06/EE(Civil-II)/Guptkashi/2024-25**  
**Name of work:** Construction of footpath to cremation ground for project affected village Churni near Powerhouse of Madhyamaheshwar SHP (3x5 MW) in Distt- Rudraprayag.  
**Estimated Cost: Rs 10.81 Lakh (Plus GST Extra)**  
Date of availability of bid document on website: 30.11.2024 from 17:00 Hrs onwards  
**Last date for submission of bid: 26.12.2024 up to 16:00 Hrs**  
For full & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "[www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)"

**Executive Engineer (Civil-II)**

**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

**Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Project Central-1),  
Annex-2 Building, BBMP Head Office, Bengaluru-560 002.

No. EE/PC-1/TEND/02/2024-25 Date: 30.11.2024

**INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)**  
**(Short Term Tender Notification)**  
Through GOK KPP Portal only  
website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

The Executive Engineer, Project Central-1, BBMP, Bengaluru invites from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of Works
1.	Construction of Nursery and Primary School at Austin Town, Bengaluru. Appx. Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs) Excluding GST : 187.48, EMD (₹ in Lakhs): 1.874 Lakhs (Rs. one lakh through E-Procurement & remaining as specified in bid document).

**Calendar of Events: (1)** Documents may be downloaded through Kpp Portal from **02.12.2024 onwards.**  
**(2)** Last Date for receipt of queries is **07.12.2024 up to 5:30 p.m.** **(3)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **10.12.2024 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Project-Central-1. **(4)** Tenders must be submitted online through Kpp Portal on **16.12.2024 before 5:30 p.m.** **(5)** Technical Bids will be opened on **17.12.2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Project Central-1), BBMP.**

**E-AUCTION FOR THE CONTRACT OF LEASING  
OUT OF VPH & SLR COMPARTMENT**

E-Auction for the contract of leasing out of VPH & SLR Compartment through e-Auction by various train on round and single trip basis for a period of 2 years. **Description:** Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment) **Auction Start Date & Time:** 10:00 hrs. on 17-12-2024; **Auction Close Date & Time :** 11:50 hrs. on 17-12-2024. **Rate Unit:** Per Trip Licensing Fee.

Auction Catalogue No.: TSK-SLR-44		
Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Trips/Days
AA/1	15642-SLR-R1-NTSK-SCL-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105
AA/2	15928-SLR-F2-NTSK-RNY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	418
AA/3	15968-SLR-F1-LEDO-RNY-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	313
AA/4	15928-SLR-R1-NTSK-RNY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	417
AA/5	12423-SLR-F1-DBRG-NDLS-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/6	15968-SLR-F2-LEDO-RNY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	313
AA/7	15604-SLR-R1-LEDO-GHY-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/8	15968-SLR-R1-LEDO-RNY-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	313
AA/9	15930-SLR-F1-NTSK-TBM-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105

The press notification has already been uploaded in the IREPS website on 27-11-2024 through e-auction portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

E-Auction for the contract of leasing out of VPH & SLR Compartment through e-Auction by various train on round and single trip basis for a period of 2 years. **Description:** Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment) **Auction Start Date & Time:** 10:30 hrs. on 18-12-2024; **Auction Close Date & Time :** 14:40 hrs. on 18-12-2024. **Rate Unit:** AA/1 to AA/19 : Per Trip Licensing Fee, AB/1 to AB/4 : Per Round Trip (Two Way).

Auction Catalogue No.: TSK-SLR-VP-45		
Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Trips/ Days
AA/1	22502-SLR-F1-NTSK-SMBV-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105
AA/2	15946-SLR-F1-DBRG-LTT-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	209
AA/3	15903-SLR-F1-DBRG-CDG-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	209
AA/4	13281-SLR-F1-DBRG-RJPB-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	105
AA/5	15670-SLR-F2-DBRG-GHY-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/6	15962-SLR-F1-DBRG-HWH-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	209
AA/7	15604-SLR-F2-LEDO-GHY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/8	15642-SLR-F2-NTSK-SCL-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105
AA/9	20505-SLR-F1-DBRG-NDLS-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	209
AA/10	15670-SLR-F1-DBRG-GHY-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/11	15604-SLR-F1-LEDO-GHY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/12	15933-SLR-F1-NTSK-ASR-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105
AA/13	15909-SLR-F1-DBRG-LGH-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/14	15670-SLR-R1-DBRG-GHY-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/15	15960-SLR-F1-DBRG-HWH-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	522
AA/16	15642-SLR-F1-NTSK-SCL-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105
AA/17	20503-SLR-F1-DBRG-NDLS-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	521
AA/18	15928-SLR-F1-NTSK-RNY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	417
AA/19	22504-SLR-F1-DBRG-CAPE-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	417
AB/1	20505-20506-VP-1-DBRG-NDLS-22-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	209
AB/2	13281-13282-VP-1-DBRG-RJPB-22-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	105
AB/3	15960-15959-VP-1-DBRG-HWH-24-2 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	522
AB/4	15930-15929-VP-1-NTSK-TBM-22-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	105

The press notification has already been uploaded in the IREPS website on 27-11-2024 through e-auction portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Divisional Commercial Manager (IC), Tinsukia**

**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

The press notification has already been uploaded in the IREPS website on 27-11-2024 through e-auction portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Divisional Commercial Manager (IC), Tinsukia**

**बैंक ऑफ इंडिया  
Bank of India**

**ZONAL OFFICE, PATNA ZONE**  
1st Floor, Chanakya Place,  
R-Block, Patna- 800001  
(Tel. 0612-2506639/2506932)

**[Appendix-IV, Rule 8 (1)], Possession Notice (for Immovable Property)**

Whereas,  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **BANK OF INDIA, PATNA ZONE** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed in the table hereunder written calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned against their names in the table, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s or guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **28th day of November of the year 2024.**

The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF INDIA, PATEL NAGAR BRANCH, PATNA** for the amount shown in the respective column of the table.

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower & Guarantor	I. Branch, ii. Date & Amount as per Notice u/s 13(2)	Description of the Immovable property	Date of Possession of Assets
1.	<b>Mr. Deepak Kumar and Sunita Devi</b>	<b>(I) Patel Nagar Branch (ii) Demand Notice Date: 12.09.2024, ₹ 26,41,576.36 and interest thereon.</b>	EQM All that part and parcel of the property consisting of flat no 202 (2nd Floor) Area 1261.00 sq.ft. in the name of Sri Deepak Kumar situated at Shree Ganesh Radhika Enclave, S. Plot No-1176, Khata No. 379, Thana No-02, Mauza-Mainpura, P.S.-Patliputra, Dist-Patna, Flat no-202 (2nd Floor), Block ARoad No-01, Ravi Chowk, Indrapuri, P.O.-Keshri Nagar, P.S.- Patliputra, Dist-Patna <b>Boundary of Flat:- North: Lobby, Lift thereafter Flat No-203 of Block-A, South: Front Set Back of the Building, East: Flat No-201 of Block-A, West: Side set back of the Building, Boundary of Apartment: North: Part Plot No-1176, South: River Plot no-1220 &amp; 20 feet wide Branch Road, East: Plot No-1175, West: Plot No-1180</b>	<b>28.11.2024</b>
2.	<b>M/s.Mama Bhanja Saree House Prop.-Mr. Deepak Kumar</b>	<b>(I) Patel Nagar Branch (ii) Demand Notice Date: 12.09.2024, ₹ 25,28,245.39 and interest thereon.</b>	Hypothecation of Stocks, Stocks in Trade, Address: Mama Bhanja Readymade Garments, Regd. Office Address:- West Patel Nagar, Patna, Bihar-800008	<b>28.11.2024</b>

**\* With further interest at applicable rate till repayment.**

**Date: 28.11.2024**  
**Place: Patna**

**Authorized Officer  
Bank of India**

**झारखण्ड सरकार  
झारखण्ड खेल प्राधिकरण  
(पर्यटन, कला, संस्कृति, खेलकूद एवं युवा कार्य विभाग)  
गेट सं०-29, बिरसा मुण्डा फुटबॉल स्टेडियम, मोराबादी, राँची-834008  
Email :- [sajha9@gmail.com](mailto:sajha9@gmail.com), Website :- [www.sajha.in](http://www.sajha.in)**

आवृत्ति सं० : 196 दिनांक : 29 / 11 / 2024

**आवश्यक सूचना**

एवंद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि झारखण्ड खेल प्राधिकरण अन्तर्गत District Sports Co-ordinator के रिक्त 09 पदों पर संविदा आधारित नियुक्ति हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या -175, दिनांक 05.10.2024 (PR No.-338174) के विरुद्ध प्राप्त अभ्यवेदनों की स्कूटनी के उपरान्त अनुसूचित योग्य एवं अयोग्य उम्मीदवारों की सूची झारखण्ड खेल प्राधिकरण के वेबसाइट [www.sajha.in](http://www.sajha.in) एवं [www.jharkhandsports.in](http://www.jharkhandsports.in) के Notice भाग पर देखा जा सकता है। संबंधित अभ्यर्थी अपनी आपत्ति साझा के ई-मेल -[sajha9@gmail.com](mailto:sajha9@gmail.com) पर दिनांक 07/12/2024 को पूर्वान्न 11:00 बजे तक देना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

योग्य उम्मीदवार को इन्टरव्यू की तिथि उनके ई-मेल/मो.नं. अथवा वेबसाइट के माध्यम से सूचित करा दी जाएगी।

**कार्यकारी निदेशक,  
झारखण्ड खेल प्राधिकरण**

PR 340863 Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs(24-25)#D

**झारखण्ड सरकार  
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,  
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़**

**ई0-अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

ई-निविदा सं० :- **RE-02/RDSD/RAMGARH/04/2024-25(3<sup>rd</sup> Call)**

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :- MMGSY मद अन्तर्गत।

क्र.	आईडेंटिफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड	ग्राम / पंचायत	योजना का नाम	प्रकलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि (रु०)	परिमाण मूल्य (रु०)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	RE-02/RDSD/RAMGARH/MMG SY /01/2024-25	पतारतु	कण्डेर	रामगढ़ जिला के प्रखण्ड पतारतु के ग्राम/पंचायत- कण्डेर में डेलिया पत्थर नदी पर उच्चतररीय पुल निर्माण।	35419400	709000	10000	18 (अठारह) माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- दिनांक 05.12.2024

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 05.12.2024 से 14.12.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।

4. ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़।

5. ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 16.12.2024 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे।

6. ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़।

7. ई निविदा प्रकोट का दूरभाष सं०- 9939700965

8. परिमाण विषय की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है। तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।

9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।

10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुगताम जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बन्द कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जमाबंदी संबंधित संवेदक की होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट [Jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in) एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

**कार्यपालक अभियंता,  
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़**

PR 340899 Rural Work Department(24-25)#D

**OFFICE OF THE MEDININAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
e-mail :- [municipalcouncil.medininagar@gmail.com](mailto:municipalcouncil.medininagar@gmail.com)

**Very Short Tender Notice (2<sup>nd</sup> Call)**  
**Tender notice No:-UDHD/MMC/16/2024-25 DATED: 29/11/2024**

1.	Tender Value	:	INR 3,50,15,700.00/-
2.	Date of downloading of bid document	:	From 30/11/2024 10:00 Hrs. to 13/12/2024 up to 14:00 Hrs. through website <a href="https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a>
3.	Place & Date of Pre-bid meeting	:	Date: 05/12/2024, Time 15:00 Hrs. Medininagar Municipal Corporation, CourtCompound, Medininagar Dist- Palamu, Jharkhand, Pin code- 822101
4.	Date and time for submission of queries through e-mail	:	After last date of queries submission, no queriesshall be entertained. Only queries submitted to advertised email id i.e. <a href="mailto:municipalcouncil.medininagar@gmail.com">municipalcouncil.medininagar@gmail.com</a> will be considered and entertained.
5.	Last date and time for uploading of bids	:	Date: 13/12/2024 up to 14:00 Hrs
6.	Time and date of opening technical bids	:	Through website <a href="https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a>
7.	Time and date of opening of financial bids	:	Date: 14/12/2024 up to 14:00 hours
8.	Place of opening of bid	:	To be communicated later
9.	Period of bids validity	:	Through website <a href="https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a>
10.	Tender Inviting Authority	:	180 days
11.	For participating in e-tendering process, the contractor shall have to e themselves registered to get user ID, Password and Digital signature. This will enable them to access the website <a href="https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> and download / participate in e-tender. All tender queries related to this tender shall be communicated at Medininagar	:	Municipal Commissioner, MMC, Medininagar
12.	Bid processing fees / EMD to be paid through online mode i.e. through the payment gateway of <a href="https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a>	:	
13.	(ii) Bids along with necessary online payments must be submitted in the NIT. The department doesn't take any responsibility for the delay / Non availability of internet connection, Network Traffic / Holidays or any other reasons. Tender Fees Amount: INR - 10,000/EMD Amount- INR - 350,200/-	:	
14.	The tender documents can be obtained through website <a href="https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a>	:	
15.	In lieu of Bid Security, the Bidder shall furnish "Bid Securing Declaration Form" along with the technical proposal as per the format described in the bidding document.	:	
16.	All the information / corrigendum / addendum related to the project shall be published on the website <a href="https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> . The authority shall have the right to reject the bid partially or fully without assigning any reason whatsoever.	:	
17.	For any information department help line No. 936849354/7860001444 may be used	:	
18.	Deleted.	:	
19.	Opening and visibility of the uploaded documents at website <a href="https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> shall be the responsibility of the bidder. Bidder should ensure that the uploaded documents are opening and visible. This can be done by downloading the documents and checking the same before final submission of bid at e-procurement website.	:	
20.	Further details of works can be obtained from the office of Municipal Commissioner, MMC, Palamu. For clarification, regarding the e-tendering process, please contact e-procurement Helpdesk, 936849354/7860001444	:	

Note :- Only Online tender is Permissible.

**Sd/-  
Municipal Commissioner -Cum- Administrator  
Medininagar Municipal Corporation**

**UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)  
Victoria Cross Vijeya Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwall Road, Dehradun-248001, Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC025867/2358  
Telephone - (0135) 2763672-76, Fax - (0135) 2760289, Website : [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

**E-TENDER NOTICE (SPECIFICATION NO. CCP-II/14/2024-2025)**  
Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. Dehradun invites e-tender for following work as detailed below :-

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (in ₹)	Average yearly Turn Over of Preceding Three Financial Year (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Cost of tender document including GST (in ₹)	Last Date & time of online request for Tender and Submission of tender in online & Offline mode	Date of opening of Part-I of tender in online & off line mode
Onsite Checking, Testing of all HT connections involving following: (i) Analysis of MRI report (ii) Checking of wiring connection (iii) Testing of accuracy of Current Transformers. (iv) Testing of accuracy of Potential Transformers. (v) Testing of accuracy of Meter	Supply Voltage 220kV 132kV 66kV 33kV 11kV	No. of Connection 3 16 3 292 3623	4.415 Crore	6.630 Crore	8.840 Lakh	17 700

For further details, please visit our website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in).  
No.: 647/EE(cm)/UPCLA-2 Dt.: 29.11.2024

**"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" Use LED Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. : 1912)**  
**"Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org)"**  
(For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to 0221 Pex No. : 1800 130 4185/ 1800 419 0405, Fax No. 0135-2760911)

**Superintending Engineer  
Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)**

**REGIONAL OFFICE:**  
Bank of Baroda, First Floor, Diamond Complex, Dilli More, Darbhanga-846004 Cont. No. 8969513429 Website: [www.bankofbaroda.com](http://www.bankofbaroda.com)

**POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)**  
[As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **BANK OF BARODA** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF BARODA** for the amount stated herein below and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

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

Name of Borrower / Guarantors & Description of Immovable Properties	
Branch / Name of Borrowers / Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession / Amount Outstanding	Description of the properties
<b>Branch: Righa (Mahesia) Branch M/s Kunal Enterprises, Prop. Mr. Ashwini Kunal Srivastava S/o Nawal Kishore Prasad and Guarantor- Smt. Shashi Srivastava W/o Nawal Kishore Prasad Date of Demand Notice: 19.09.2024 Date of Possession: 27.11.2024 Amt: ₹24,90,893.89 (Rupees Twenty four lakh ninety thousand eight hundred ninety three and eighty nine paise only) + unapplied interest + Other charges as on 08/09/2024 together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges &amp; expenses till date of payment.</b>	<b>Property S.No.-1:</b> Mauza-Sitamari, Ward No.22(old), 17(New), Khesra No.-45, Thana no. 315, Thana-Sitamari, Anchal-Dumra, D.S.R. Office-Sitamari, Dist.-Sitamari. Area-04 Dec. Boundary:- N-Brij Kumar Ray, S-8 feet chaura rasta, E-Smt. Ugra Tara Devi, W-Nilam Devi <b>Property S.No.-2:</b> Khata No.-283, Khesra No.3803, Thana no.-03, Mauza-Bhakurhar, Thana-Baiganiya, Anchal-Baiganiya, S.R. Office.
<b>Ant: ₹24,90,893.89 (Rupees Twenty four lakh ninety thousand eight hundred ninety three and eighty nine paise only) + unapplied interest + Other charges as on 08/09/2024 together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges &amp; expenses till date of payment.</b>	<b>Property S.No.-2:</b> Khata No.-283, Khesra No.3803, Thana no.-03, Mauza-Bhakurhar, Thana-Baiganiya, Anchal-Baiganiya, S.R. Office.
<b>Dhng, Dist.-Sitamari, Area-16 Dec., Boundary (As per Sale Deed):- N-Mahajan, S-Nij number Haza, E-Ramashankar Pd., W-Shivdhari Das. Boundary (At Present):- N-Mahajan, S-Pitch Road (Main Road), E-Ramashankar Pd., W-Shivdhari Das. Property is in the nae of Smt. Shashi Srivastava W/o-Nawal Kishore Prasad.</b>	<b>N-Mahajan, S-Nij number Haza, E-Ramashankar Pd., W-Shivdhari Das. Property is in the nae of Smt. Shashi Srivastava W/o-Nawal Kishore Prasad.</b>
<b>Date : 27.11.2024</b> <b>Place : Riga</b>	<b>Authorised Officer Bank of Baroda</b>

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION  
ENGINEER CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK**  
E-mail:ID- sectcrb\_2006@yahoo.co.in  
Tel/Fax - 0671-2301751/2302751

**( 'e' - PROCUREMENT NOTICE)**

**Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc. (R&B) 11/2024-25.**

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B)Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Bridge works as mentioned below.

2. No. of work :- 03 Nos.

3. Nature of work :- Bridge works

4. Class of contractor :- 'B' & 'A' Class.

5. Tender paper cost :- Rs. 10000/- (online)

6. Available of bid document in the website :- From 07.12.2024 to 17.30 Hours of 21.12.2024

7. Date of opening of bid :- Dt.23.12.2024 at 11.00 Hours.

8. 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 web site.

**Sd/-  
Chief Construction Engineer,  
Cuttack(R&B) Circle**

OIPR-34012/11/0014/2425

**"IMPORTANT"**

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any mon



BRIDGE

Dealer: East Vulnerable: North/South

NORTH			
♠	2		
♥	J852		
♦	84		
♣	106432		
SOUTH			
♠	J1096543		
♥	AK		
♦	AK		
♣	75		
WEST			
1♠	Double	Pass	1NT
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West leads the king, ace and queen of clubs; East plays the eight, nine and jack. Plan the play.

The theme in this problem is to save the honours. Declarer's only problem is to avoid the loss of four trump tricks. If the first spade lead is the jack, ten or nine, the contract will be made only if the missing spades divide three-two. But if the first spade lead is a low card, it can also be made against a four-one split, if the singleton is the ace, king or queen.

The West hand: S-AH-10964 D-109752 C-AKQ  
The East hand: S-KQ87 H-Q73 D-J63 C-J98

Dealer: East Vulnerable: East/West

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠	J53	♠	AK1042
♥	Q852	♥	A74
♦	AQJ6	♦	K8
♣	A3	♣	KQ2
WEST		EAST	
Pass	2D♦	Pass	Pass
3NT	Pass	4C♣	Pass
5C♣	Pass	5S♠	Pass
6S♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Club six, ace, five, deuce, Spade three, six, ace, heart nine. Plan the play.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2506

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Vitality (6)
- Dependable person (8)
- Type of cabbage (8)
- Implanted items (6)
- Ramp (8)
- Embrace (6)
- Swedish city (7)
- Microsoft OS (7)
- Majestic (6)
- Gambling game (8)
- Carriage (6)
- Not readily handled (8)
- Get on good terms with (8)
- Loose overcoat (6)

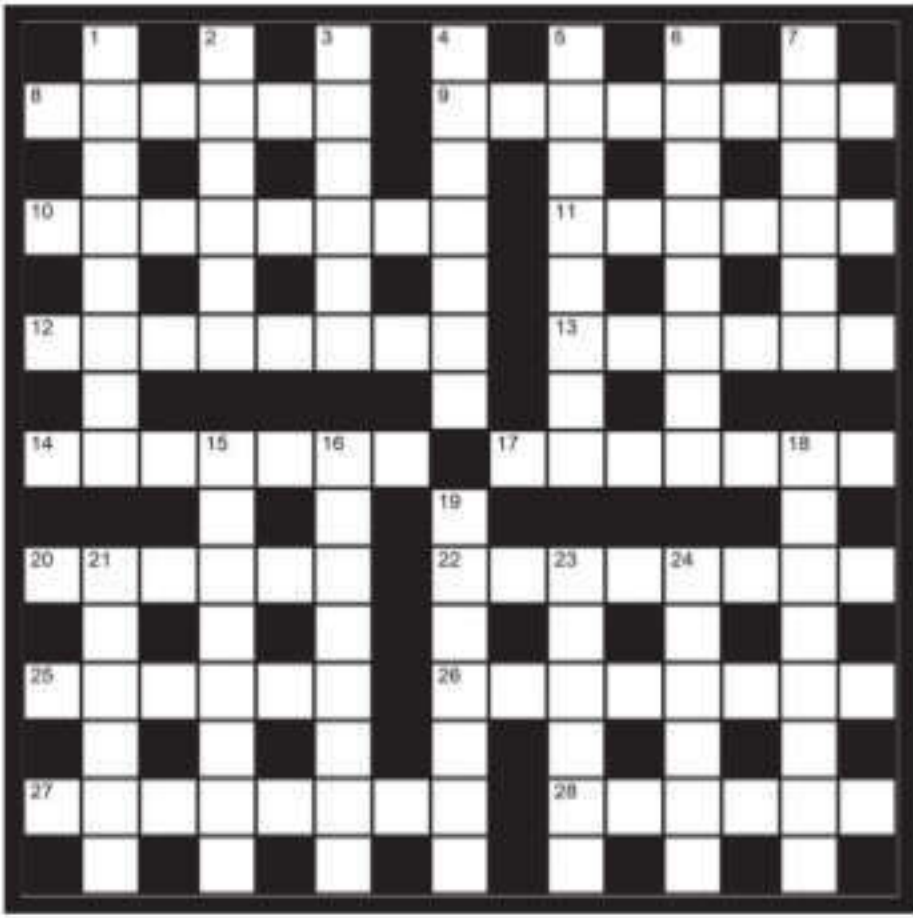
DOWN

- "Predator" anagram for what eyes secrete? (8)
- Located (6)
- Royal seat (6)
- Casual garments (1-6)
- Mexican band (8)
- Bilateral (8)
- Hansel's sister (6)
- Big \_\_\_\_ : buyers on a big scale? (8)
- Manual worker (8)
- Retreat (8)
- Landed estate (7)
- Customs, employments (6)
- Oblivious to danger (6)
- Come out (6)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- What one is most likely to do with a cheque? (4,2)
- Zero height, except in rough weather? (3,5)
- A European aristocrat moves smartly, note (8)
- Gangsters at the top had the old woman covered (3,3)
- Almost give up getting a latin translation for 'alert' (8)
- You'll go places if you do! (6)
- Building circular full of tone (7)
- Remove and copy (4,3)
- A conductor might take his stand on it (6)
- Plenty of room up above for



- this flier (8)
25. It's an anomaly to sound like a funny little song (6)
26. Supporter of street lighting (8)
27. Not a good excuse, love, for being ineffectual (4,4)
28. One of five getting in the way had a peep (6)

19. To eat lick, in an oddly feline way (7)
21. The place of the long-time radio enthusiast (6)
23. Misers crazy about a young lady are negligent (6)
24. To fire this weapon is child's play (3,3)

Solutions to 2505

QUICK CLUES Across: 8 Salami, 9 Grandeur, 10 Literati, 11 George, 12 Bigots, 13 Slowside, 15 Relieved, 17 Methods, 20 Homeless, 22 Blooms, 23 Attest, 25 Relaying, 26 Rejoined, 27 Gurkha Down: 1 Maximize, 2 Take notice, 3 Titans, 4 Against, 5 Mangrove, 6 Eddo, 7 Budget, 14 Schoolyard, 16 Ejecting, 18 Dimanche, 19 Astirde, 21 Outset, 22 Beluga, 24 Egos CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 8 Crouch, 9 Unbidden, 10 Bludgeon, 11 Cashed, 12 Snared, 13 Straw-hat, 15 Lacquey, 17 Editors, 20 Exposure, 22 Borage, 23 Wallet, 25 Watchdog, 26 Key money, 27 Openly Down: 1 Sri Lanka, 2 Quid pro quo, 3 Shield, 4 Furness, 5 Obscured, 6 Ida's, 7 Serena, 14 Water-wheel, 16 Exultant, 18 Rag dolls, 19 Seaways, 21 X-rayed, 22 Button, 24 Lamp

If it's your Birthday

Sunday December 1

Your goals are changing surely, but ever so slowly. By this time next year, you might be in a completely different place, or state of mind.

Monday December 2

You're pulled by a strong sense of free-flowing romantic possibilities on the one hand, but by a sense of duty and obligation on the other.

Tuesday December 3

It's an exciting moment, and you may be frustrated by restrictions which you normally take for granted. You'll be broadening your horizons.

Wednesday December 4

You've every right to be secretive. That, after all, is the best way to avoid criticism and come out on top while others are still on the starting line.

Thursday December 5

Stay positive. When change is coming, you need to take the necessary steps. Quite simply you must make an effort to see through other people's eyes.

Friday December 6

Nothing is as simple as it seems, and the stars are playing a double game. Within an overall context of caution and concern for the future, take a gamble.

Saturday December 7

Keep on the move and exploit all friendly contacts. Venus, the planet of personal relationships, is still active and linked to Mercury, the symbol of genius.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

It's a mixed week, and you should be prepared for each day to take you on a new path. Although immediate concerns seem to be based around minor money and financial issues, a major opportunity is in the offing, one which could have a dramatic effect on your status.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Your stars maintain a generally positive outlook, and in many respects your task is clear: somehow you must combine a willingness to seize any and every opportunity with a realisation that you should keep your feet firmly on the ground.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

It is surely time both to ask for advice, and to listen to what you are told. You may be too proud to do that, but try to see that the current situation is not one where it counts who wins and who loses. Rather, it's all a matter of doing what is best for now.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

It is time to be open, frank and honest, and now is not the moment to hold back if there are important things to be said, perhaps about problems which have been simmering away beneath the surface for too long. The chances for agreement are excellent, by the way.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Serious Saturnine alignments indicate that your stars couldn't be better for sensible and constructive social progress, whether you're bringing imaginative schemes to a routine close or planning a major advance in your long-term ambitions.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

It is time to broaden your horizons. You may continue to follow an adventurous path, taking the line of least resistance where necessary. There is little point in being hard on yourself, and you should learn to accept compliments and offers of help with good grace.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

It's a strange time to be sure, and you may be weary of the responsibilities you're burdened with and the people who pester you. Yet, there is neither change nor progress without hard work. The kind of challenges you will face are from partners.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Most people are on your side, but some may not agree with your ideas. Those friends and companions who habitually oppose your plans may be a source of irritation, yet they will have a positive influence on your life if they force you to look at your activities in a fresh light.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

Your planets are certainly changeable. In general, your mornings seem to be more optimistic than your afternoons, so you should always hatch your plans early on in the day and ask for help as soon as you possibly can. Above all, pay attention to partners' little qualms.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Please keep an eye open for any legal or ethical complications. Such minor glitches are easily avoided, and should be simply dealt with if they do arise. It's all a question of maximising your potential by steering clear of hidden pitfalls.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

As you know well enough, a positive outcome always depends on your readiness to take the initiative. Frustration regarding your domestic situation may now be eased by taking active steps to make whatever improvements are necessary, from minor adjustments to a move of home. Family relationships must also be taken into account.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

This is a time which favours fantasy rather than fact, which is bad for some people, but finds you on home ground. You can feel fairly confident about any choices and decisions you take at home. Those of you in the property market stand to gain.

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.

..... is a mental cancer. - B. C. Forbes (8)

EHVAE	GHOPLU
<div></div>	<div></div>
KRWOS	GILN Y
<div></div>	<div></div>

Answer: Jealousy..... is a mental cancer. - B. C. Forbes

SUDOKU 5791

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

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5790

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

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Ajay @ Teetu** S/o Bansri R/o Jhuggi No. 328, Extn. Camp Pitampura, Delhi Also at: Plot No. 116, Parvesh Nagar, Mubarakpur, Dabas, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence Case FIR No. 215/20 u/s 356/379/411 IPC at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ajay @ Teetu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ajay @ Teetu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ajay @ Teetu** accused of case FIR No. 215/20 u/s 356/379/411 IPC at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **27.02.2025**.

By Order: **Sh. Himanshu Sehloth,**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03 (North),  
Room No. 213,  
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/15741/RD/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 (2) (ii) CrPC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Namely: **Babbu Khan, S/o. Tasabbar Khan, R/o.: E-83, Janta Colony, Welcome, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No. 221/2019 U/S 25/54/59 A. ACT** registered at **P.S Welcome, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Babbu Khan** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Babbu Khan** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Babbu Khan** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **13.02.2025**.

By Order: **DEEPAKSHI RANA**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03,  
First Floor, Shahdara District, Court No.19,  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/15716/NE/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person **Mohammad Rihan** S/o Mohammad Inam R/o 819, Kila Koha, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh also at Building No. 871, 1st Floor, Qutub Road, Sadar Bazar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 618/2021 U/S 286/188 IPC & 5/9(B) EX. ACT P.S. Sadar Bazaar, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Mohammad Rihan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Mohammad Rihan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that **Mohammad Rihan** in **FIR No. 618/2021 U/S 286/188 IPC & 5/9(B) EX. ACT P.S. Sadar Bazaar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **24.03.2025**.

By order: **Shri Gaurav Goyal**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class  
Room No. 247  
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/15743/N/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that accused **Sameer, S/o Mohd Yasin R/o 1st Floor, H. No. D/975, Gali No. 15, Khadra No. 470, Rajeev Nagar, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi** has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 194/24, U/S 25/54/59 Arms Act & 3(5) BNS, P.S. Preet Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Sameer**, can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sameer**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sameer**, of case **FIR No. 194/24, U/S 25/54/59 Arms Act & 3(5) BNS, P.S. Preet Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **13.01.2025**.

By Order, **Sh. Mayank Goel**  
Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate  
East District, Court No. 27  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/15658/ED/2024(Court Matter)

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SPORTS) DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION, SPORTS BRANCH, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI, CHHATRASAL STADIUM, MODEL TOWN, DELHI

No. DE. 41/Sports/2023/3189 Dated: 30/11/24

CORRIGENDUM

In partial modification to publication no DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0288/24-25 regarding Notice for Inviting tender issued vide tender id 2024\_DE\_265394\_1, name of the work may be read as Notice for Inviting tender for **Hiring of Buses/Cars for Local and Outstation Journey in R/O Various Programs** in place of Online tender for lodging of players and officials for 6th Nation School Games 2024-25 to be held at Delhi.

Rest of the contents of the Publication will remain same.

Sd/-  
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0292/24-25 DDE (Sports)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 (2) (ii) CrPC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Namely: **Raju @ Totla, S/o.: Puttan, R/o.: H.No.80/62, Welcome, Seelampur Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No. 349/2016 U/S 25 A. ACT** registered at **P.S Welcome, North East District, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Raju @ Totla** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Raju @ Totla** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Raju @ Totla** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **22.03.2025**.

By Order: **DEEPAKSHI RANA**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03,  
First Floor, Shahdara District, Court No.19,  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/15732/NE/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Shivam @ Bada S/o Dharmender R/o H.No. 1085, Gali Bartan Wali Sadar Bazar Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **e-FIR No.000375/2022 U/s 411 IPC at P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Shivam @ Bada** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Shivam @ Bada** have absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shivam @ Bada** of **e-FIR No. 000375/2022 U/s 411 IPC at P.S.: Sadar Bazar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.01.2025**.

By order: **Gaurav Goyal**  
Judicial Magistrate  
First Class-06, Central District,  
Room No. 247,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/15564/N/2024

विशेष शाखा, पुलिस मुख्यालय, मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल

कमार्क:-विशा./स्टोर./2024-25( 560 ) दिनांक-27.11.2024

निविदा सूचना का शुद्धिपत्र

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना कमार्क SB/Store/2024-25 (499), Dated:- 22.10.2024 द्वारा **Fiber Optical Surveillance System & 03 Others** के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा में क्रय किये जाने वाले उपरोक्त उपकरण की समय-सारणी में अंशिक संशोधन के संबंध में "शुद्धिपत्र" (Corrigendum) जारी किया गया है जो [website-https://mptenders.gov.in/nicepp/app](https://mptenders.gov.in/nicepp/app) पर विभाग की वेबसाइट [www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

हस्ताक्षर:-  
सहायक पुलिस महानिरीक्षक  
विशेष शाखा (जी), म.प्र. भोपाल  
दूरभाष नं० 0755-2443654  
ईमेल:sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in

G-19672/24

**WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION**  
**ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE**  
e-mail: - sec2\_bis@rediffmail.com  
**Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice**  
Bid Identification No.CCEE-08/ 2024-25

No: 4322 Dt: 27.11.2024.

1. Nature of work	>> Building Work
2. Number of works	>> 01 No. Building Work
3. Amount put to Tender	>> Rs. 365.00 Lakh
4. Class of Contractor	>> "A" Class
5. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	>> Dt.06.12.2024 at 10:00 AM
6. Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal	>> Dt.20.12.2024 up to 05:00 PM
7. Date of opening of bid	>> Dt.21.12.2024 at 11:00 AM
8. Name & address of the Office inviting bid	>> Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>." All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.

Sd/-  
**Chief Construction Engineer**  
Eastern Circle (R&B) Balasore

OIPR-34026/11/0006/2425

THE H.P. STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LIMITED TOTU, SHIMLA- 171011.

No:512/P&I-8/24-XXV- Dated:-30.11.2024

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE**  
H.P.Milkfed invites the online bids on item wise, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the following item  
(Approximate) for FOR Basis:-  
**Sr.no.01.** Black Gram=1280 qtls, Soyabean(Yellow)=1920 qtls, Ground Nut Seed=640 qtls, Sugar(S-30)=3190qtls, Cotton Seed Refined Oil(Branded 15Kg Tin Packing)=580 Qtls. **Approx. (for 2 Quarters w.e.f December to March & April to July) (Supply at Mandi Plant)**  
**Sr.No.02.** ARC of Micro-nutrient premix (Solid Form) for the fortification of Panjiri, Biscuits & Wheat Savian. The Micro-nutrient premix should be such that 100gm of the formulated item should contain iron 6mg, calcium-200mg, Vitamin A-200mcg, Vitamin B1- 0.3mg, Vitamin B2-0.35mg, Niacin-4.0mg, Vitamin C-15mg and Folic Acid 15mcg. **Approx. Qty.40 MT Annually (on quarterly basis). (Supply at Mandi, Shimla & Kangra Plant).**  
**Sr.No. 03.** Ajwain=32 qtls, Salt (Brand Tata/Annappurna/I Shakti (or any other reputed Brand) in Packed form=70 qtls, Sugar S-30 grade=3400 qtls, Bakery Shortening (Melting point below 40°C) Reputed Brand=3500 qtls, Custard Powder (Brand Classic/MAX) or any other reputed Brand) in Packed form=23 qtls, Baking Powder reputed Brand=30qtls, Vanilla Powder (Brand Bush/IFF (Packed (or any other reputed Brand) in Packed form=13qtls.**Approx. (for 2 Quarters w.e.f December to March & April to July) (Supply at Kangra & Shimla Plant).**  
The Bid document is available/published online for Sr.no.01 on dt. 02.12.2024 upto 4:00 PM & Sr.no.02 on dt.04.12.2024 upto 04:00PM. & Sr.no. 03. On dt.04.12.2024 at 4:00 PM Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission on bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying Authorities (CA



## LET'S DROP LABUSCHAGNE: JOHNSON

Former pacer Mitchell Johnson reckons that Australia should drop out-of-form Marnus Labuschagne from the playing eleven for the day-night Adelaide Test against India, starting December 6. Labuschagne got out for two (52 balls) in the first innings and 5-ball three in the second essay during the Perth Test. **PTI**

## U-19 ASIA CUP

## India lose by 43 run to Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DUBAI, NOVEMBER 30

TEEN PRODIGY Vaibhav Suryavanshi's struggles against seam bowling was apparent during his brief stay as India U-19 comprising IPL contract owners struggled badly during their 43-run defeat to Pakistan in the Youth Asia Cup here on Saturday.

After muscular left-hander Shahzaib Khan thrashed Indian bowlers to submission with 10 sixes in his 159 off 147 balls, Indians were never in sight of victory target of 282.

They eventually got out for 238 in 47.1 overs but rising youngsters like Suryavanshi (1), Ayush Mhatre (20), C Andre Siddarth (15) and left-arm spinner Hardik Raj (0/47 in 6 overs) won't be amused with their performance.

However it must be mentioned that Mhatre with his touch and range looked a cut above the rest in the Indian team as he got out for 20 which had five boundaries.

The bulky left-hander Suryavanshi, who has had a very poor Ranji season, just got a solitary run as tall medium pacers Ali Raza and Abdul Subhan troubled him a lot.

Lot is expected of the Rajasthan Royals' Rs 1.10-crore signing but at 13 year and 8 months, he needs a lot of work to be even consistent at U-19 international level.

Subhan squared up Mhatre with a delivery that rose from length and moved a shade to take his outside edge, while Suryavanshi's feet didn't move when Raza slipped an angular fuller ball that he edged to the keeper.

The biggest disappointment turned out to be skipper Mohammed Amman, who dragged his way to 16 of 43 balls and his innings was one of the reasons that India U-19 couldn't really get the momentum once Mhatre was gone.

Nikhil Kumar's 67 was the only saving grace.

In the bowling department, India depended on their two spinners -- leg-spinner Mohammed Ennan (0/34 in 2 overs) and Raj, and both were taken to task by Shahzaib.

Especially Ennan, who either bowled half-trackers or over-pitched deliveries, all of which were dispatched into the stands.

In fact, Mhatre (2/30 in 7 overs) had to be brought in to cover for him and promptly got a couple of wickets, but Shahzaib had done enough damage and 280-plus was a winning total at the U-19 level.

**BRIEF SCORES: Pakistan U-19** 281/7 in 50 overs (Shahzaib Khan 159; Samarth Nagraj 3/45, Ayush Mhatre 2/30) defeated **India U-19** 238 in 47.1 overs (Nikhil Kumar 67, Ayush Mhatre 20, C Andre Siddarth 15, Vaibhav Suryavanshi 1).



Vaibhav Suryavanshi scored one run before departing in India's loss. **PTI**

## REUTERS

DURBAN, NOVEMBER 30

SOUTH AFRICA'S lanky speedster Marco Jansen took the last two wickets as the hosts won the first test against Sri Lanka by 233 runs on Saturday but had to toil hard to break down stubborn resistance to prevail before tea on the fourth day at Kingsmead.

Jansen finished with match figures of 11-86 -- the second best in test history in Durban -- as Sri Lanka were dismissed for 282 to hand South Africa a fourth straight test win and keep up hopes of a place in the 2025 World Test Championship final.

However, Sri Lanka went some way to restoring their own confidence ahead of next week's second test after being rolled over for 42 in the first innings, their lowest ever test score.

Dinesh Chandimal scored an impressive 83 and Dhananjaya da Silva a brisk 59 off 81 balls in a much better batting display on Saturday, even if the match-winning target of 516 looked near impossible.

Resuming from their overnight score of 103-5, the tourists put on 93 runs in the opening 90 minutes before captain Da Silva chipped a slower delivery from spinner Keshav Maharaj to Tristan Stubbs at mid-wicket.

South Africa would have been hoping to

## What cricket means to Australia

The very idea of the country could be traced back to the 1880s and reluctant colonies who came together for the summer game



## EXPRESS IN AUSTRALIA

## SRIRAM VEERA

CANBERRA, NOVEMBER 30

RELENTLESS RAIN forced an early abandonment of the first day's play of the two-day pink-ball game between the Indians and the Prime Minister's XI at Manuka Oval in Canberra. India had a photo-op with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and gave him a floppy sun-hat with their autographs. The setting -- the game and the capital city -- points to the importance of cricket for Australians.

Canberra is a city of compromise. A city birthed, constructed, designed as a balm to developing wounds in the Australian political society.

More than hundred years ago, in 1913, due to political rivalries between New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Victoria, there was a dispute over where to have the capital and the parliament house.

Once it was deemed that the capital had to be at least 100 miles (160 kms) from Sydney, the Canberra region, inhabited by the Ngunnawal people for thousands of years, was finally chosen.

A worldwide designing contest too was undertaken, and American architect couple Marion Mahony Griffin and her husband Walter Burley won, and dreamed up the capital in their imagination.

It's not surprising that the idea to host a Prime Minister's XI fixture at this ground struck to then PM Robert Menzies in 1953; it's a surprise that it didn't strike earlier as cricket and politics in not only entwined in Australia, it can be even said that the very idea of Australia was forged by cricket, such is the importance of the summer game to this country.

## Sense of identity

Cricket gave Australia a sense of national identity after a period of parochialism which also reflected Australia's affinity with England.

Those were the days when Britannia ruled Australian culture. In his retirement speech, 'The Demon' Fred Spofforth said it would be a privilege if England gave him a chance to play.

Billy Murdoch, who captained Australia in the match where the Ashes legend was born, later represented England against South Africa and was buried in England. Albert Trott too played for England. Australia hadn't yet cut the umbilical cord with England.

It was around the end of 1880s that cricket helped shape the idea of Australia. The colonies which never did anything together began to assemble under the umbrella of cricket. On the 1878 tour of England, they had a Tasmanian, and in the follow-up tours had three South Australians, six New South Welshmen and five Victorians.

Would Australian nationalism have suffered if they had lost those early games?

Cricket historian and writer Gideon Haigh thinks so.

"Every country tends to value those things they are successful at. If we hadn't been a successful cricket country, if we had lost the Oval Test of 1882, if we had lost the Ashes series of 1897, perhaps we wouldn't have regarded cricket as fundamentally important as we do," Haigh told *The Indian Express*.

"It's amazing how significant early victories can be when you are searching for a sense of nation, of national identity. The Australians were able to accomplish as a single entity what the squabbling colonies were unable to attain politically was a significant step."

## Cricket, the great unifier

The 1897 series against England was an important landmark in cricket and society. It coincided with a series of pre-federation conferences in which the individual colonies were trying to reach an agreement at some sort of a federation. On that 1897 tour, Harry Trott's side of Australians thrashed England 4-1, an achievement toasted back home.

The Bulletin, a very old magazine which finally shut down in 2008, hailed that victory as doing "more to enhance the cause of Australian nationality than could be achieved by miles of erudite essays and impassioned appeal".

It's also important to keep in mind that Australia didn't have many social and cultural narratives. It's a modern nation. Or as Haigh says, "It's a geographical construct. We didn't have any political identity until 1901. Like what CLR James wrote of cricket in the Caribbean, here

cricket provided us access to a readymade culture and helped us assert our superiority in certain controlled and limited respects."

In 1901, through the process of Federation, six separate British self-governing colonies of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia formed one nation. Many of the Federation fathers actually learnt how to run the country through their experience of running cricket.

The first prime minister of Australia, Edmund Barton, was an umpire and former vice-president of New South Wales Cricket Association. As an umpire, he was famous for stopping a riot against a visiting English side in a game against New South Wales in 1879.

"Post-Federation cricket has a particular cache, because it represents values held dear, it's national in a new-born nation, it's traditional in a land with few traditions. It's imperial in a country where the links of Empire mattered, and it's also white in a region of the world which immediately beyond Australia's shores was not. And I think Australian cricket success allowed the country to parade both its purity and the necessity of maintaining that freedom from racial contaminants," Haigh said to this newspaper.

Things are changing these days of course. Cricket now is at the next step of fusing Australia. It's taking the integrated idea of Australia to the next level, trying outreach programmes with the South Asian population. As always, with Australia, cricket is at the forefront of silent revolutions.



The importance of cricket to Australia can be traced back to its formation and how it provided identity to the country. **AP**

## Pink ball could be handful under lights: Boland before Adelaide Test

## SRIRAM VEERA

CANBERRA, NOVEMBER 30

AUSTRALIAN PACER Scott Boland, 35 years old now, thought his Test career had "passed", but is ready to play the Adelaide pink-ball Test in the absence of the injured Josh Hazlewood. Boland last played a Test in July last year, his 10th as a replacement player. The Victorian has also only played two first-class matches this summer on his return from a foot injury.

Watching the rain fall at the Manuka Oval, Boland, in the Prime Minister's XI team that was set to take on the Indians in a two-day game, spoke about the challenges presented by a pink ball day-night Test. "It does behave a bit differently at night, but during the day it's pretty similar to a red ball. I feel like the teams that bat first can time when they want to bowl, if they bat really well on the first day. If you get a newish ball at night, it can be pretty lethal," Boland said.

"Usually it can be two different games in the same game. During the day when the sun's out, it doesn't do a whole lot and then you get to the night session and the ball starts moving around a bit."

In a game against New Zealand in 2019, Australia chose to crawl through the middle session with Tim Paine and Cummins adding just 38 runs, because they didn't want to declare or try scoring runs quickly and risk getting bowled out. The plan, that successfully worked, was to bowl under lights with the pink ball. Mitchell Starc ripped through the top order to leave the Kiwis struggling at 109 for 5 at stumps. "Although it was pretty slow to watch and perhaps be a part of, it was certainly part of the pink-ball tactics to try and utilise the brand-new pink ball under lights," Starc said then. "It's probably justified when you take five



Scott Boland could be called up by Australia in place of Josh Hazlewood. **AP**

wickets in the last session." The pink-ball Tests at Brisbane haven't quite gone the way of Adelaide where India were shot out for 36 during their last tour. Gabba has at times produced more runs, even under lights.

"Last year at the Gabba, we took the new ball and didn't get as many wickets as we would have hoped in that night session. Now back to Adelaide, I think they produce a really good cricket wicket that really suits the pink ball," says Boland.

In a day-night Test in 2018 against South Africa in Adelaide, Faf du Plessis declared their innings early to utilise seam movement under lights. It also meant David Warner, who was off the field for a while, couldn't open. But though they lost two quick wickets, Australia hit back via hundreds from Usman Khawaja and Steve Smith and went on to win that game. Pink-ball Tests can

## Hazlewood ruled out of 2nd Test

Adelaide: Pacer Josh Hazlewood was on Saturday ruled out of the second Test against India -- a day-night match -- starting here on December 6 with a "low grade left side" injury, Cricket Australia announced. Australia are trailing 0-1 in the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy after a 295-run shel-lacking in the first Test at Perth. "Josh Hazlewood has been ruled out of the match with a low grade left side injury. Hazlewood will remain with the group in Adelaide to prepare for the remainder of the series," the CA said in a media release. **PTI**

throw up tactical plans different from the norm. Boland also spoke about the difference between the pink and red balls, in particular their seam. "The [seam of the] pink ball feels more like a white ball than a red ball."

Indian seamer Prasidh Krishna also vouched for the difference. "The pink ball is slightly heavier and has a more pronounced seam due to the black dye. This increased seam movement makes it more unpredictable, especially under lights," he told bcci.tv.

Fellow seamer Mukesh chimed in: "The seam isn't easily visible on the pink ball. Batters often rely on the shine to gauge the ball's movement. With the pink ball, this visual cue is missing, making it harder to predict its behaviour."

Akash Deep believes that the "pink ball bounces more than the red". It remains to be seen if Adelaide adds more drama to the story of pink-ball Test cricket.

## Kiwis clinging on after England's Brook hits 171

## REUTERS

NOVEMBER 30

ENGLAND TOOK charge of the first test against New Zealand on Saturday, riding Harry Brook's 171 to a first-innings lead of 151 before reducing the Black Caps to 155 for six at close of play on day three in Christchurch.

New Zealand openers Tom Latham and Devon Conway departed cheaply before tea, and the crisis deepened when Kane Williamson and Tom Blundell were dismissed in successive balls in the final session with the hosts still in arrears.

Williamson offered hope with an innings of 61 but it all but disappeared when Chris Woakes, belying his reputation as a bowler who struggles outside England, trapped him in front and then had Blundell out quick when he was caught behind off a nick for a golden duck. Glenn Phillips fended off the hat-trick ball but followed his teammates off the field in the last 20 minutes of play when he was dismissed lbw for 19 by Brydon Carse.

Daryl Mitchell, unbeaten on 31, and debutant all-rounder Nathan Smith, who had scored one not out, were at the crease at stumps with New Zealand just four runs ahead. "I had a lot of luck, didn't I? Thankfully I cashed

in," said Brook.

"We're in an amazing position to go on and win the game." The Black Caps will have a long, hard look at their fielding as they reflect on their poor position after five dropped catches helped Brook to his match-turning tally.

England skipper Ben Stokes also benefited from a few as he provided the glue for a series of partnerships that pushed the visitors to a score of 499 in response to New Zealand's 348.

Brook had resumed on 132 with England 319-5 and the 25-year-old played with great freedom and some style as he and Stokes put on 159 for the sixth wicket.

Defying the new ball, Brook punched his 13th four through covers to move past the 150 mark before blasting a huge six on to a grandstand roof.

By the time he got an edge on a Matt Henry delivery and was caught behind, Brook had hit 15 fours and three sixes in his 197-ball knock to take his batting average in three tests in New Zealand to 100.

**BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand** 348 (Williamson 93, Phillips 58\*, Carse 4-64, Bashir 4-69) and 155 for 6 (Williamson 61; Carse 3-22, Woakes 3-39) lead **England** 499 (Brook 171, Stokes 80, Pope 77, Henry 4-84) by four runs.

## Jansen helps Proteas keep WTC Final hopes alive



SA pacer Marco Jansen finished with match figures of 11-86. **AP**

delivery from Gerald Coetzee that popped straight back to the bowler.

Vishwa Fernando lasted only five balls before a healthy edge off Maharaj saw him depart and then the dangerous Kusal Mendes was caught behind off Jansen for 48. Jansen, appropriately, secured the win in a test in which he was the star performer by bowling Asitha Fernando.

"I never thought I would get 10 wickets. It is a dream and that is what we work for. The second innings we felt the wicket was low and slow and a bit flatter," said Jansen.

Victory for South Africa followed test success over West Indies in Guyana in August and Bangladesh in a two-test series in October.

South Africa will have a strong chance of competing in the WTC final at Lord's in June if they win the second test against Sri Lanka and then two tests versus Pakistan at home at the end of the year and in early January.

The second test against Sri Lanka starts in Gqeberha on Thursday.

## In the running for WTC Final

South Africa are feeding off the confidence built over the last few months of success but still need to improve aspects of their play in their next matches, said coach Shukri Conrad after Saturday's first test success over Sri Lanka.

The 233-run victory at Kingsmead came

on the back of not only an 11-wicket haul for lanky speedster Marco Jansen but centuries for captain Temba Bavuma and the hard-hitting Tristan Stubbs that have added to the belief in the ranks.

"There's a lot to be said for confidence and feeding off each other. Obviously, there's a lot of talk amongst the players around the know-how and how to go about processes," Conrad said.

"There's a lot of sharing of knowledge, not from us as coaches necessarily but amongst the peers. I think a lot's got to be said for knowing that when conditions are really good, that we have the ability to get hundreds."

"It was good to see how we just stuck at it. But we do know that Sri Lanka is a top side, and they're going to come back strongly in the second test," the coach added.

South Africa have now won four tests in a row and remain on course for a place in the World Test Championship final.

They must win at least two of their three remaining tests in the 2024-25 cycle against Sri Lanka next week in Gqeberha and Pakistan shortly afterwards in Pretoria and Cape Town.

**Brief scores: South Africa** 191 (Bavuma 70, Asitha 3-44, Kumara 3-70) and 366 for 5 dec (Stubbs 122, Bavuma 113) defeated **Sri Lanka** 42 (Jansen 7-13) and 282 (Chandimal 83, Dhananjaya 59, Jansen 4-73) by 233 runs.



# The Great Escape

Gukesh makes blunder but gets out of a precarious situation as title showdown remains level after 5 games

AMIT KAMATH  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 30

RIGHT AFTER Gukesh had played the 23rd move of game 5 and his opponent Ding Liren had responded in a flash, the Indian teenager realised that he had blundered. It was the sort of error that could decide the fate of a game. And the World Championship as a consequence. That Gukesh managed to wriggle out of the tight corner and salvage a draw to keep the contest level could turn out to be significant in the end.

With Ding Liren's dark-squared bishop killing off Gukesh's knight on e5, the latter had a choice to recapture the square: he could capture it with his rook, sitting idly on the back rank, or he could capture it with his pawn that was sitting on d4. If he opted for the rook capture, it would lead to a rook exchange that would see neither player having any rooks left on the board.

Gukesh chose the second option: picking it off with the pawn. He spent less than a minute on the decision. His opponent spent even lesser time responding, jumping his knight to d3, where it was attacking three of Gukesh's pieces at the same time.

Like tearaway quicks in cricket, bishops and rooks are meant to introduce fear on the chess board, picking off pieces even in distant corners of the board. But it's the knights — the spin bowlers of the 64 squares, to complete the analogy — that exist to make a mockery of one's calculation skills with one moment of magic. In this particular case, Ding's horse had maneuvered itself to the worst possible square for Gukesh.

"Once I saw knight to d3 (Nd3), I just realised I had blundered by capturing with the pawn (dxe5). I didn't know how bad it really was but of course, I should have captured with the rook. It would have been a draw. But I kind of just hallucinated. I saw knight to d3, but somehow I underestimated what he can do," Gukesh said later.

Ding said he was surprised to see his opponent play the move. Meanwhile, Gukesh, who has largely shown no emotion on the board in four games, admitted that the blunder had left him annoyed.

"It meant I would have trouble holding my position. My position was almost collapsing," said Gukesh, adding: "But I was still pretty confident I could hold it despite it being unpleasant." "Almost collapsing" was an



Both players have won one game each with the overall score of the best-of-14 contest poised at 2.5-2.5.

FIDE/Eng Chin An

accurate estimation of the dark clouds of trouble hovering over him after those two moves.

### Houdini act

Gukesh, by that stage, had no option but to eliminate the knight on d3 with his bishop, which would also be cut down by Ding's pawn. Now Gukesh was in a bind. If he opted to advance his pawn on the b file to prevent the Ding's second knight from jumping forward, the Chinese would pressure Gukesh's pawn on the c file. That sequence would have ended with Ding's second knight having Gukesh's king and his remaining rook in a pin that would end with the Chinese grandmaster having the only rook on the board.

Gukesh, by this point, knew he was about to be arm-twisted by his opponent into a position that he would have struggled to de-

fend. But like a matador sidesteps an advancing bull with just a tiny shuffle of his feet, Gukesh pushed his pawn to f3. Ding continued with his line of attack, throwing his knight forwards to c4 where the remaining two knights on the board were exchanged. Gukesh pushed his rook to e4, where it was eyeballing Ding's isolated pawn on c4. Ding responded with a fresh salvo, trying to pin Gukesh's rook in the spot with his bishop, daring him to move the rook and lose a pawn. Now Gukesh was starting to pull the rabbit out of the hat, the final flourish of his rescue act. Like hitting the snooze button on a ticking bomb, Gukesh slid his rook to d4 instead of capturing Ding's pawn on c4.

Why? Because from d4, the rook could simultaneously guard both of Ding's pawns on c4 and d3 and also prevent Ding's rook from providing cover for his pawn to promote to a

queen. Gukesh had found possibly the only move that could postpone impending doom.

A few more moves later, the game ended in a draw. Gukesh had managed to pull off a heist. This is the first game at the 2024 world chess championship that Gukesh played with white pieces and ended in a draw. The first two games where Gukesh had played white had swung in favour of either player. Both players will be back on the board on Sunday to play the sixth installment of the 2024 world chess championship with Ding playing with white pieces.

After the game, at the press conference, Ding was asked if he had come to the game with the mindset that a draw with black pieces was good.

"No, I tried to play my best. But somehow I settled for a draw," said the world champion wistfully.

# Of a grandmaster in shorts, Gukesh meditating, Ding's admiration for Odom

AMIT KAMATH  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 30

AS THE fog of war envelops the board in Game 5 and pieces start losing their lives, D Gukesh leans back and closes his eyes. His opponent, the 17th world champion of the world, sneaks a couple of glances at the teenager before quickly casting them downwards at the board.

On the FIDE YouTube commentary, the experts once again explain to fans that Gukesh is not catching a quick shut-eye in the middle of the game. He's just meditating, like a lot of Indian players do during chess games. The trend started with Vidit Gujrathi, whose pre-match ritual begins with him bowing his head in front of the board almost like he's praying to the little wooden idols.

But Gukesh has taken it a step further at the world championship, crossing his arms across the chest, sitting ram-rod straight and going into a zen-like meditation.

At the press conference after Game 5, he is asked what he's thinking during these phases. "I close my eyes quite often during games. Sometimes, it is just that it's easier to calculate with your eyes closed. So mostly just thinking about the position," says Gukesh before smiling and adding: "But maybe at some point (during the game), I am also like... I'm in a room where there's nothing else to see. So I close my eyes."

### Odd idols

At some point during the press conference, both players are asked which athletes away from chess they admire the most.

Gukesh says that when he was younger, he used to admire MS Dhoni a lot. "Now it's Novak Djokovic," he says.

It's now Ding Liren's turn to answer. He starts off philosophically. "It's hard to say the word 'admire'," he says earnestly.

"Earlier, I used to watch the NBA a lot. So I used to admire Lamar Odom. And now I like Federico Chiesa. They're not that famous," he adds. This brought a hearty chuckle from American grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura, who makes YouTube recaps of all games, which now extend to critiquing post-game press conferences as well.

"Did he really just say Lamar Odom! I follow basketball, but out of all the people you could be a fan of, Lamar Odom is not the..."



Ding used to admire Lamar Odom, who spent 13 seasons in the NBA.

says Nakamura before being seized by a bout of laughter that prevents him from completing his sentence. "You could have said Yao Ming, Kobe Bryant... any number of people. But Lamar Odom?" he says before another chuckle takes over.

For the record, Odom spent 13 seasons in the NBA, the last of which came in 2013. But true worldwide fame for Odom came after he married Khloe Kardashian and the duo had a reality show called Khloe & Lamar.

### Rapport chilling

Ding's trustworthy second Richard Rapport has been using his time behind the scenes — rather than being front and centre on the stage as an active player — to dress down in style. Shunning the traditional uniform of grandmasters — sharp suits and formal shoes — Rapport has been turning up at the playing arena in shorts.

It's caught the attention of the internet and other grandmasters too.

"Richie (Richard Rapport) has 14 different shorts? What a boss," tweeted Anish Giri.

There's now also an X account called RapportShorts to honour the Hungarian grandmaster's sartorial choices.

### Blanking out the world

Gukesh is also asked at the press conference if he has congratulated compatriot Nihal Sarin or spoken to him after his win at the Presidents Cup in Uzbekistan.

Like any player at the biggest match of his career, Gukesh confesses that he wasn't aware that Nihal had won. "During the tournament, I generally don't talk to many people outside my team," shrugs Gukesh.

# Sindhu puts on a masterclass in efficiency to defeat Unnati

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 30

PV SINDHU and Lakshya Sen kept their dates with destiny in Lucknow, while India will have a representative in each of the five finals on Sunday at the Syed Modi India International. Sindhu and Lakshya entered the tournament as top seeds, were pre-event favourites, and played like that on Saturday. In the doubles categories, it was harder work for Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand, Sai Pratheek-Pruthvi Roy and Dhruv Kapila-Tanisha Crasto.

There was a buzz around the prospect of 17-year-old Unnati going up against a superstar. But despite offering brief glimpses of her talent, Unnati just couldn't land any sustained punches on Sindhu who won 21-12, 21-9 in just 36 minutes.

Unnati did well to stay in touch with Sindhu in the opening stages at 7-8, but Sindhu went on a dominant run after that, zooming ahead to 16-9. Despite a couple of longer rallies late in the game, Sindhu breezed through. Unnati started the second game with a confidence-boosting body smash. And then came the best point of the match at 1-1. Sindhu was moved to the four corners of the court with some really good net shots from Unnati, drawing her taller opponent forward. But eventually, Sindhu's power came through.

Doing commentary on the game for the BWF broadcast was Ashwini Ponnappa, who said she'd like to see Unnati take charge of the net a bit more. But instead of the deft touches, Unnati tried too hard to paint the lines and kept missing them. After she won a good point to make it for 4-8 with a nice down-the-line smash, she immediately made a soft error.

"That's the difference in experience between the two, knowing when to push. Unnati must focus on getting a few shuttles down the middle instead of missing the lines by trying too hard," Ashwini observed.

In the end, that proved to be the difference. "I maintained the lead from the start. I was just trying out a few strokes and overall, I was confident with the way I was playing," Sindhu said after the match. "I think Unnati played her best, but I didn't give her a chance to overtake me."

Sindhu will face China's Wu Luo Yu in the final as she chases her third Syed Modi International title. Wu staged an incredible comeback in her semifinal against Thailand's Lalinnrat Chaiwan, winning 11 straight points from 10-19 down in the opener before sealing the win in straight games.

For Unnati, who said that she is also focusing on her 12th Board exams, this was a lesson on when to go for the kill. Understandably, she was trying to play aggressive badminton but decision-making let her down. After her quarterfinal win, when



PV Sindhu beat Unnati Hooda 21-12, 21-9 in just 36 minutes.

asked what was her biggest learning so far on the senior international circuit, she said there were many areas to work on. Saturday's experience would have reiterated that for her. It also remains to be seen if she and her father-coach Upkaar Hooda decide to finally make the move out of Rohtak, and enroll at one of the more prominent academies.

### Title hopes on track for Sen

Shogo Ogawa had been a thorn in the flesh for Indian shuttlers in this tournament. He took out third seed Kiran George 19-21, 22-20, 21-11 in the round of 16, and in the quarterfinals, proved too good for Worlds Junior bronze medalist Ayush Shetty, dominating for a 21-17, 21-14 win. But Lakshya started the match superbly, a reverse-slice winner at 4-1 a standout shot on his way to a 21-8, 21-14 victory. While that was a bit too subtle for the crowd to fathom, they raised the roof as the Indian threw himself around on the court showing off his fabulous defensive skills to go up 7-1. The opening game was a cruise for the top seed. Ogawa brought a little more Japanese sturdiness in defence one has come to expect, but it still wasn't enough to get past a red-hot Lakshya.

"It's been a good week for me, I think starting games well has been key for me this week. From the first point, I have been trying to hit the court warm, and that has helped me gain a good lead in the beginning," Lakshya said. The Indian will be up

against Jason Teh Jia Heng on Sunday, the Singaporean fourth seed who trails 0-2 in the head-to-head against Lakshya.

In women's doubles, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand produced a fine comeback against third seeds Benyapa Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard of Thailand. The Indians prevailed in the semifinals 18-21, 21-18, 21-10 in 63 minutes.


After a tough opening game, the two pairs were locked in a neck-and-neck battle in the second. The Indians got the crowd going as they bagged four straight points from 16-16, and forced a decider. The second-seeded Indians were on fire in the decider from the start, racing to a 8-2 lead. One of the keys to their win was the subtle direction changes they were able to employ in defence, especially Treesa showing impressive racquet-head control. Gayatri was brilliant with her game awareness at the net, often taking the pace off rallies at the right time.

Treesa and Gayatri came into the match with a head-to-head of 1-1 against the Aimsaard sisters, with both matches going the distance. But here the Indians were able to dominate Game 3 and save some fuel for Sunday's title clash.

In mixed doubles, Dhruv will play his first Super 300 level final on the BWF World Tour as he and Tanisha reached the summit clash, beating the fourth-seeded Chinese Zhou Zhi Hong and Yang Jia Yi 21-16, 21-15. In an exciting all-Indian men's doubles clash, Pruthvi-Sai prevailed over Ishaan Bhatnagar-Sankar Prasad Udayakumar




**DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE**  
<http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**KIND ATTENTION:**  
OWNERS/OPERATORS/DRIVERS OF ALL TRUCK/LIGHT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES (LCV) HEADING TO DELHI  
**AVOID CONGESTION AT BORDER ENTRY POINTS TO DELHI**





Truck traffic into Delhi is not allowed (except for trucks carrying essential commodities/ providing essential services).

All LNG/ CNG / Electric/ BS-VI Diesel trucks shall however be permitted to enter Delhi.

LCVs registered outside Delhi, other than EVs / CNG / BS-VI diesel are not permitted, to enter Delhi, except those carrying essential commodities/ providing essential services.

*GRAP Stage-IV has been invoked in Delhi vide Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) order dated 17.11.2024 for strict implementation and all concerned are required to check the CAQM website (<https://caqm.nic.in/>) regularly for imposition/ revocation of different stages of GRAP.*



# THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

# eye



**POINT OF VIEW, PAGE 2**  
**The Modernist's Map**  
MF Husain's paintings have spoken to audiences for nearly six decades. Now, an exhibition in the Capital testifies to why he is one of India's most-admired artists

**Suanshu Khurana**

ALMOST FOUR years ago, when Punjabi powerhouse Diljit Dosanjh wanted a song looking back at his two-decade career, he roped in Indo-Canadian Punjabi popstar and friend Karan Aujla to write for him. Precisely 10 minutes after the phone call, *G.O.A.T* (*Greatest of All Time*) came to life in Aujla's Vancouver home in 2020 and became a banger at breakneck speed. A staple and one of the most-loved pieces at every Dosanjh concert that followed thereafter, including the famed Coachella and his Dil-luminati tour this year, it was also the finale piece at Jimmy Fallon's *The Tonight Show* in June.

Aujla had dropped a *coup d'etat* of sorts. The vibe landed and the song came with a power punch — *Dekh Bollywood vich jinne Khan ne/Ohna vich behnda sardaar, goriye* (Look at all these Khans in Bollywood/This Sardar sits among them, my beautiful girl), was laden with imagery unheard of in the mainstream industry — of a Sikh entertainer being equated with Bollywood royalty, the Khans.

Dosanjh was already breaking social and cultural stereotypes by being a global superstar who wore his *dastaar* (turban) and often a traditional folk outfit during his concerts; Aujla's lines created a lyrical space where being a sardar, with all its symbols, was actually cool. "Many of us have always had an issue with the portrayal of Sikh characters in films, often caricaturised to suit directorial needs. Diljit has changed that. This line, this song by Karan Aujla succinctly portrays that," says popular Punjabi singer Jassie Gill.

Aujla, in a conversation with *The Indian Express*, says that while working with Dosanjh pushed him to elevate his own craft, songwriting feels instinctive to him and that he "avoids overthinking". "When I sit down to write, I let emotions and ideas flow freely. My surroundings, personal experiences and the cultural background I come from all fuel my inspiration... Ultimately, I strive for authenticity in my lyrics. I want listeners to connect with the stories I tell through genuine emotions and relatable experiences. That connection is what makes my music resonate and I believe it's the cornerstone of my songwriting process," says Aujla.

This year, he followed up *G.O.A.T* and an album titled *Making Memories* (2023) with his Bollywood debut — *Tauba Tauba* — an emphatic combination of breezy rhymes, a cheerful flute and a full piano melody paired with Punjabi lines raving about a stunner in the throaty Malwai dialect. *Tauba Tauba*, a song he wrote, composed and sang, from an otherwise lost cause of a film (*Bad Newz*, 2024), turned out to be one of this year's biggest hits from Bollywood, which has been banking on remixes to survive. Aujla says he intentionally kept the lyrics simple. "Hindi really isn't me. I wanted to familiarise a lot more people with Punjabi," says Aujla. Authentic Punjabi lines with a contemporary, rakish energy was just the edge Aujla needed to get the song to ring up the charts.

If *Tauba Tauba* offered Aujla phenomenal success, two Junos (considered the Canadian Grammys) earlier this year from the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for his song *Softly*, 2023 (which goes by the line *Chunni meri rang de lalaariya*), announced the arrival of a rare talent. While one was for being the 'Breakthrough Artist of the Year', the other was the Audience Choice Award, which has previously gone to the likes of Avril Lavigne, Justin Bieber and Shawn Mendes, among others.

It also marked another first — it made Aujla the only Punjabi artiste to land a Juno. The award, he says, was "a reminder of staying true to my roots" and "pushing boundaries". "This award celebrates the hard work and talent of countless artistes in our scene. It highlights the global appeal of Punjabi music and shows that Indian artistes are making their mark on the international stage... I hope this inspires more Punjabi artistes to pursue their dreams and showcase the richness of our culture to a wider audience," says Aujla.

Several Punjabi hits in a year, a quick turnaround time (from writing a song to its recording), writing for almost 23 Punjabi artistes besides creating his own singing career, and collaborations with rappers Badshah and DIVINE, have put Aujla on a global map.

"At this point, I am going to call him the biggest artiste in the Indian subcontinent. Karan is a brilliant performer, who is futuristic in his approach. Punjabi music is now changing every four months. He figures out what will work and executes it very quickly," says Satvinder Singh Kohli, managing director, Speed Records Private Ltd, the biggest Punjabi music label in India.

Gill believes that Aujla has become so free with his art now "that he is experimenting wonderfully and the results are brilliant".

Kohli, who is a Dosanjh acolyte himself, says that while the former is a global superstar and a brilliant performer, he is not writ-

## KILLING IT SOFTLY

Indo-Canadian Punjabi music sensation Karan Aujla, 27, on ruling the charts, staying true to his roots, his Bollywood debut with the hit *Tauba Tauba*, and why his upcoming India tour feels like homecoming



### A STAR IS BORN

Indo-Canadian popstar Karan Aujla at a concert

ing and composing his songs. "Karan is first a lyricist and composer and then a singer," says Kohli, who adds that most of Aujla's audience comes from the Gen Z space. "His is a relatively younger audience. Those born after 1998 are listening to him and how," says Kohli.

This month, Aujla begins his debut India tour, 'It's All A Dream', tickets for which are selling out fast, and priced as high as Rs 15 lakh. "This tour means a lot more than just performing; it's about connecting with my fans on a deeper level and sharing my music in the country that shaped me as an artiste. While my recent tours in the UK, Australia, and Canada were amazing, India hits different because it's a homecoming of sorts," says Aujla, who will be touring Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Jaipur, among other cities.

Some stories aren't meant to be. Even Aujla hasn't been able to fathom how a 14-year-old from an agricultural family in Ghurala, a speck of a village in Punjab — who had lost both his parents as a young boy and had turned to writing as a refuge and worked as a longshoreman — became a pop star only a few years later. "Sometimes I can't believe I am that same kid who lost his parents in India, made his way out to Canada... If you are dreaming, make sure you dream big," said Aujla, in his acceptance speech at the Junos, remembering the toughest phase of his life.

The youngest of three siblings, Karan grew up as Jaskaran Aujla. He lost his father to a

motorcycle accident when he was just nine and his mother to gallbladder cancer five years later. Brought up by the family of his father's younger brother, writing songs, he says, was the only real expression for him. While some of this poetry was melancholic, some others carried a sense of hope. "Writing was a way for me to process my emotions during

alised I could turn songwriting into a hobby and then a profession," says Aujla.

Aujla was in class IX when his first song, *Cell Phone*, with singer Mac Benipal, whom he met at a wedding, was released on YouTube. The song, which spoke about feeling lost and alone amidst grinding poverty, tanked. "That song happened when I was 15. Looking back, every struggle taught me something valuable. It was those hard times that shaped my identity," says Aujla.

It was on a visit to Chandigarh with Benipal that Aujla discovered luxury SUVs, especially the Range Rover, and became fascinated with it. He eulogised the car and wrote *Range*, a song based on the rhyme and meter of *Cell Phone*, but this time describing the feeling of owning the luxury car. Gill, whom Aujla met when he was 14, was then an upcoming singer from the neighbouring village of Jandali. With a few hit songs in tow, he was already doing shows in Punjab. Aujla found out that Gill frequented his friend's salon in Khanna, met him and offered him the lyrics of *Range*. "It was surprising that it had come from such a young boy. There were some very intricate things and rhythmically the song landed perfectly," says Gill. The song became Aujla's calling card to approach other producers.

During those early writing years, he also started looking up online tutorials and interacting with established producers whilst experimenting with different styles. "I draw inspiration from both traditional Punjabi poetry

and then a profession," says Aujla.

Aujla was in class IX when his first song, *Cell Phone*, with singer Mac Benipal, whom he met at a wedding, was released on YouTube. The song, which spoke about feeling lost and alone amidst grinding poverty, tanked. "That song happened when I was 15. Looking back, every struggle taught me something valuable. It was those hard times that shaped my identity," says Aujla.

It was on a visit to Chandigarh with Benipal that Aujla discovered luxury SUVs, especially the Range Rover, and became fascinated with it. He eulogised the car and wrote *Range*, a song based on the rhyme and meter of *Cell Phone*, but this time describing the feeling of owning the luxury car. Gill, whom Aujla met when he was 14, was then an upcoming singer from the neighbouring village of Jandali. With a few hit songs in tow, he was already doing shows in Punjab. Aujla found out that Gill frequented his friend's salon in Khanna, met him and offered him the lyrics of *Range*. "It was surprising that it had come from such a young boy. There were some very intricate things and rhythmically the song landed perfectly," says Gill. The song became Aujla's calling card to approach other producers.

During those early writing years, he also started looking up online tutorials and interacting with established producers whilst experimenting with different styles. "I draw inspiration from both traditional Punjabi poetry



**SCREEN, PAGE 3**  
**A Page From Life**  
Shoojit Sircar unpacks the making of *I Want To Talk* and how Abhishek Bachchan became his AD on the set and Johny Lever was cast as his namesake

and contemporary music," says Aujla, who was always drawn to the work of Kuldeep Manak and Gurdas Mann.

*Range* (*Replay*, Speed Records) came out in 2014 and was an instant hit. But by that time, Aujla had already immigrated to Canada to live with his sisters. "He was really young then and wanted to be featured in the music videos, but the new boys weren't keen to give him a chance then," says Kohli.

The move to Canada from Ghurala in his early teens was a significant transition. "It was a mix of anxiety and nervousness... with a different culture, lifestyle and way of life," says Aujla, who also figured that this was the space where he could express himself more freely. He found himself amid a multi-cultural setting that broadened his horizons.

"It was inspiring to see how diverse communities came together and celebrated their heritage. This experience fuelled my creativity and encouraged me to explore new sounds and influences in my music. Over time, I began to find my place, build friendships, and embrace the opportunities. It became a pivotal chapter in my life, shaping both my identity and my musical journey," says Aujla, who after high school took up a part-time job as a longshoreman in Surrey, British Columbia. As he loaded and unloaded cargo on the docks and learned the value of hard work, deep down he knew it was a temporary phase.

"During those long hours, I would day-dream about my music and the impact I wanted to make. It was a tough environment, but it motivated me to push harder for my dreams. That experience reinforced my belief in pursuing my passion. It reminded me that every struggle can lead to growth, and ultimately, I knew I was meant to share my stories through music. It was all part of the journey to get where I am today," says Aujla.

He soon met Punjabi composers and producers Deep Jandu and Elly Mangat and began writing lyrics for them. This also led him to write for Jazzy B and Bohemia, two big names in the circuit. His song *Blessings of Bapu* (2015) sung by Gagan Kokri found some attention back home.

But Aujla wasn't still a familiar name because he wasn't the face of the songs. Also, the concept of credit for the lyricist was a bit muddled. What changed the game for him was a song called *Don't Worry* (2018) featuring Punjabi singer Gurlez Akhtar, which captured his personality, helping him connect with the fans.

"I was still navigating my way through the music industry. The song captured the essence of facing life's challenges with a positive outlook, which resonated deeply with many people," says Aujla. He didn't look back from here, releasing one song after another, most of them blending hip-hop with a typical Punjabi sound identity. The audience was lapping it up and asking for more.

In the last few decades, Punjab's cultural identity has seen a big transformation. Shrinking agriculture prospects, lack of jobs and industry have led motifs in older songs that spoke of births, weddings and military life and rich Punjabi literature, to be replaced by lyrics dominated by guns, drugs and misogyny, among others. The loss of innocence and its replacement by a certain aggressive culture in Punjabi songs has been a prominent cultural shift, buoyed by the Internet.

Aujla's rivalry with slain singer Siddhu Moosewala was also a consequence of being in the same gun-toting, sabre-rattling space. The two started off as friends, but conversation leaks led to both sides dissing each other through their songs. Aujla blames "the pressures of fame, expectations from fans, and the aggressive nature of the industry" for the conflicts and misunderstandings.

"It is a reminder of how fragile relationships can be in this industry and how important it is to communicate openly and respectfully. I hope that artistes can learn from such situations and focus on creating music that brings people together rather than allowing conflicts to divide us. It's crucial to prioritise our artistry and the message we want to convey, while also remembering the importance of unity within the music community," says Aujla.

A couple of years before Moosewala's death, Aujla was also asked by Chandigarh police to refrain from songs glorifying violence and drugs. He agreed to make the change. "As an artiste with a large following, I recognise my responsibility. I've become more mindful about my lyrical choices and believe in striking a balance between hard and soft tracks. It's about creating a body of work that is both relatable and responsible. My music will maintain that balance while evolving with the changing industry landscape," says Aujla, who is all set for a new, big release with Dosanjh besides the upcoming tour.

"This tour is not just about performing; it's about celebrating our culture, Punjabi music and sharing it in the country that shaped me as an artiste," he says.





DOWN IN JUNGLELAND

RANJIT LAL

Author, environmentalist and bird watcher

## Eye of the Dragon

About 80 per cent of a dragonfly’s brain is devoted to vision

THEY HAVE the best eyes in the business, two great big precious stones wrapped around their heads like astronaut helmets, in addition to three small ones called ocelli (highly movement-sensitive) on their foreheads, enabling them to see 360 degrees, so they will see you even if you sneakily approach from the rear. Each whopping compound eye has between 28,000 and 30,000 facets called ommatidia, each has thousands of photoreceptors that collect light and send it to the nervous system for further processing. While we have three main light-sensitive proteins (called opsins), one each for blue, green and red which help us see colour, dragonflies have no less than 11, and one extremist species as many as 30. This enables them to see UV and polarised light. Cells sensitive to ultra-violet light may be used to stabilise dragonflies in flight. Some photoreceptors are tuned to low light conditions, especially for species that hunt at dusk. These, like very wide aperture lenses, gather maximum light in poor light conditions but may not have terribly good colour resolution — I suppose like the white noise you get when taking digital images in low light. Also, different opsins may operate or not at various stages of a dragonfly’s life; some dragonfly larvae may hatch in sand and may lack blue opsins because blue light does not penetrate underground.

Compared to us, it’s thought they see in slow motion, some 200 frames per second (the general consensus for human beings is that we see between 30 and 60 frames per second) so they have plenty of time to home in on their target or escape becoming one. Their eyes are

Dragonflies see in slow motion, 200 frames a second, so they have time to home in on their target

divided into two halves: the top (dorsal) section and the lower ventral section, each with its own special arrangement of opsins. Those facing upwards are more tuned to blue and green wavelengths (the longer ones) assisting them in hunting by making the sky appear lighter and making their prey stand out clearly for easier targeting. Each facet points in a slightly different direction as compared to its neighbour, resulting in a composite of slightly overlapping images, though exactly what the dragonfly makes of all these overlapping images, or how it combines them is still not known. All this visionary power comes at a cost and 80 per cent of a dragonfly’s brain is devoted to vision.

This was why I was astounded when I came across two dragonflies that had made an unsuccessful water landing in the pool in Goa. They looked exactly like crashed biplanes, with their fuselages broken, gossamer wings outspread. Had they been flying drunk and simply collided in mid-air? They are mating like crazy at this time, and I have seen them dip low over the water, occasionally kiss-



SIGHT-SPECIFIC

Dragonflies are said to have a success rate of 95 per cent in their hunts

ing the surface: perhaps, they were misled by the bright blue reflection of the sky in the water, and the light blue tiles at the bottom, and simply came down too low to attack their own reflections.

I know they lay their eggs on plant stems in water, but there were no plants in the pool. Some species may, perhaps, simply deposit their eggs on the water surface and hence, dip down to do so and go too deep like a jet experiencing a serious, irrecoverable tail strike. Or, which seems more likely had there been a dog-fight over the water — they are extremely territorial — and the crashed ones had simply been ‘shot down’ by having a wing disabled? Actually, both combatants would have tumbled down had they tangled in mid-air (like the way raptors like eagles sometimes do), attempting to bite each other’s wings or heads off, and this seems to have been most likely. Once in the water, they are helpless as their delicate wings get waterlogged.

What was a little alarming, however, was when I picked them up, their long bodies seemed to have been softening and dissolving — a tenderising reaction, perhaps to the toxic chlorine being sprinkled in the pool every evening? Dragonfly abdomens are tough, segmented and designed to absorb the impact of a flying insect, at speeds of up to 90 kph!

There is certainly much aerial combat in progress over the pool as they guard their personal air corridors — flying up and down on patrol, swiftly chasing away interlopers. I really wonder if they will ever realise that a chlorinated swimming pool is not the ideal habitat to deposit eggs: there are no aquatic plants here and the water is toxic. But it does provide a profitable hunting ground as there are other small insects — and other dragonflies flying over it — upon which to prey. And dragonflies are said to have a success rate of 95 per cent in their hunts.

This story has a slightly sad ending though. Just as I had finished writing my notes, there at my feet on the tiles lay a dead dragonfly with its wings outspread. There were no signs of injury. A gentle breeze whisked it away depositing it on the parapet beneath. Here, it was taken apart segment by segment by large black ants, and overnight, Nature’s clean-up crew had done their job.

keeps me conformed to them and to the beat of my heart and soul. When I am in sync with my *dharma*, I smile, I rise, I fly, and I dream. When I am fighting my conscience, I find myself battling heartburn which medicines cannot heal, I see doom and feel it too. I am in a dark place where nothing seems possible. The world that I know as big and beautiful becomes a small place where I am choking for oxygen and for hope, the most essential need of all.

Many years ago, I had a business partner we lost to cancer. This man gave me my life’s biggest opportunity: a business that defined not only what I became but also the chance to be a part of a trailblazing restaurant. He was the most wonderfully successful Indian restaurateur in New York City, and his Midas touch turned what was tired and broken into sparkling new enterprises.

During our partnership, my *dharma* had me reaching for the stars and my artistic bent had me creating opportunities that were new and thrilling. My partner believed in me and felt I would bring him success, but many times, when he created a new opportunity and looked to me to chart the course for its coming to life, shape and form, at the last minute he would get apprehensive, have a change of heart, and go against everything



MF Husain’s paintings have spoken to audiences for nearly six decades. Now, an exhibition in the Capital testifies to why he is one of India’s most-admired artists

Vandana Kalra

GROWING UP in Indore, where his father was a timekeeper in a textile mill, a young MF Husain was an enthralled spectator at the Muharram processions in his hometown. While the festivities he witnessed influenced his art in myriad ways, the effigies of Duldul — the white mule that belonged to Prophet Muhammad — was to remain entrenched in his memory forever. The motif of the horse, his equestrian trademark, continued to resurface in his works.

In an exhibition at Delhi’s DAG, which celebrates the maverick and his art, the horse appears in numerous frames, representing varied meanings over the decades. If a series of untitled acrylics positions two horses face-to-face, in a 2000 diptych, a herd in bright hues races across the canvas.

In a subdued 1972 ink and wax on paper, a falcon sits on its back, and the title *Nude on a Horse* is descriptive of the canvas. “Husain’s influences were broad and appeared to use the horse to speak across communities and to regional, national and global audiences,” notes art historian Rakhee Balam, in a publication accompanying the exhibition.

Titled “Husain: The Timeless Modernist”, the showcase features over 115 works, from 1950s to 2000s. In 2006, the artist went on a self-imposed exile following multiple court cases that accused him of hurting religious sentiments with his nude portrayal of Hindu gods and goddesses and a nude Bharat Mata. Though in subsequent years, the courts exonerated him, the artist did not return to India, and passed away in London in 2011.

“He continues to exercise a fascination for most Indians as a representative of 20th-

century modernism as no other Indian artist before him. Even so many years after his passing, he remains one of the most admired of our artists. It was to investigate this enduring appeal and to pay homage to this well-regarded artist that we decided to curate an exhibition that offered an overarching view of the diversity and range of his work,” says Ashish Anand, CEO and managing director, DAG.

Incidentally, one of the central pieces in the exhibition is the Bharat Mata in *Bharat Bhagya Vidhata*. The contours of her body mimic the map of the nation, with her limbs folded to form the triangular peninsula. The details include the mighty Himalayas standing above, and a figure of Mahatma Gandhi with his walking stick below.

In the publication, Balam notes, “Bharat Mata as the goddess of the nation acts simultaneously as an inspiration and an aspiration, with the angle, triangle and other geometrical forms pointing towards borders and their calculations: identity, addition and elimination.”

The 78 x 69 inch, 1990 acrylic on canvas —



FROM THE HORSE’S MOUTH

(Clockwise from top left) MF Husain’s works at the exhibition — *Bharat Bhagya Vidhata*; *Portrait of a Painter*; *Untitled*

Husain depicted women from all walks of life, from his late mother to actor Madhuri Dixit



PHOTO COURTESY: DAG

that shares its name with an iconic mural created by Husain for the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Bombay in 1963-64 — features in the exhibition in the segment “Idea of the Nation”, that reflects on Husain’s idea of nationhood and secularism. This includes works that emerged from his travels across the country as well as those influenced by religious traditions and texts such the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. It also features a series of photographs from the streets of India and works dedicated to Albanian-Indian Catholic nun Mother Teresa, whom he reportedly first sketched at Palam airport, Delhi, in 1979.

The section “Freedom of Form” includes his line drawings and works from the series, “That Obscure Object of Desire”, that stemmed from his fascination with Spanish-Mexican filmmaker Luis Buñuel’s 1977 film of the same name. Then there’s “Kumhar”, a series of toys designed by Husain in the 1970s — a reminder of his early career, when he designed toys and furniture at a children’s studio in Mumbai.

The section “Deciphering Desire” analyses the women he depicted from all walks of life, including his late mother draped in a Maharashtrian sari, figures from mythology, women from ordinary life to Gupta and Khajuraho sculptures, public figures like Mother Teresa and movie stars like Madhuri Dixit.

The book also discusses the variant symbolism of the veteran’s work, where the portrayals carried deeper meanings. The cow, for instance, represented productivity, and the umbrella denoted shelter. The shoe portrayed travel through space and time.

While each work is a testament to Husain’s artistic ingenuity, in “Monochrome Musings” the viewers have a closer encounter with the artist’s spontaneous brushwork. “He was known for creating quick sketches on any available surface that was at hand, from restaurant tabletops, napkins, to margins of newspapers, capturing moments, people and places with immediacy and fluidity,” reads the text from the book.

In the section “Conversations and Connections”, we are introduced to his versatile portraits — of himself, those who influenced him and his patrons. “Regardless of the style, what they have in common is a deep emotional intensity,” says the text.

The subsequent pages feature his self-portraits, commissioned portraits of the Keehn family, with whom he developed close relations and author Ved Mehta on a canvas signed in Hindi, among others.

“Husain’s life and art are intrinsically intertwined, and you cannot separate one from the other. Almost all his collectors have their favourite Husain stories. He had charisma as no other person I’ve known; his presence was electrifying... As people become more familiar with his work, his legend will only grow,” notes Anand.

## Conscience Keepers

My *dharma* reveals my duties and keeps the beat of my heart and soul

### SLICE OF LIFE



Suvir Saran

Suvir Saran is a chef, author, educator and world traveller

MY DHARMA has me feeling fulfilled and connected to the cosmos through divine thread-like links that are beyond plain observance. It reveals my duties to me and



SUVIR SARAN

### THE CAGED BIRD SINGS

We met friends around tables, sharing in our harvests and adventures

we had planned and worked for.

After years of this, I felt like a caged bird that couldn’t sing, and so I left, and soon our shared business had to shutter. It wasn’t long after that, he saw tough times totally unrelated to me and realised in hindsight that his caution had cost him more than what he would have lost had I failed him. At his bedside in hospital, as he was breathing his last breath, he found strength to speak with me and said he regretted doubting me. Days later, he left us, and too soon, but not before he had done his *dharma* bit of making peace

with self and me. With that honest exchange, he freed himself of guilt and gave me freedom from angst and regrets.

I left for our farm with a heavy heart after his passing. Nestled in a verdant valley in a small hamlet in New York State, it was an idyllic haven for man and beast. I made the trek whenever I could to be closer to our two- and four-legged babies we shared our home with. I learned early on in our time at the farm that animals understand *dharma* better than us humans. Austerity, cleanliness, truthfulness and kindness, these principles

called the four pillars of *dharma*, I find in animals more than in humans.

Our farm was a life rich with blessings bestowed upon humanity by the Puppeteer involved in the evolution and creation of this world. We had a handful of ponds across the acreage we shepherded with utmost care. There was also a trout stream that ran the entire length of our farm. It created a richly magnificent swamp area for us to enjoy in colorful splendour in the spring and summer, when our neighbours came fishing. Before the winter set in, our alpacas and wild geese, and domestic ducks and geese went swimming and strolling to catch the last bit of warmth during autumn. It was to this stream that all who made home at the farm came for the appreciation of a moving body of water during a six-month-long winter when everything else was frigid and frozen.

Around us were wonderful neighbours who were as kind and open-hearted as could be. We met often around one another’s tables, sharing in our harvests and adventures, local and overseas. Betty Osborne, our octogenarian friend, would think nothing of hosting a dozen people at the drop of a hat. Sally and Joe Brillon, our immediate neighbours, considered their dinner table to be ours and were at ours almost always when we were hosting a party or a quieter catch-up with local friends. Sue and Bill Clary were my family and my catharsis from all that challenged and frustrated; they opened home, heart and family to us. There was palpable abundance at all our tables, and endless love and camaraderie that tied us together, despite our varied ages, backgrounds, professions and sexual or religious identities.

But there were also those neighbours who had been sheltered and thereby rendered self-defeating by über-conservative religion, its pedantic dogma, and the divisive derision of vote-bank politicking. Far too many in our farming community had been robbed of a life that connected them to humanity beyond their own neighbourhood. Deprived of access to good education, cultural assets rich with thought-provoking works of art, music, dance and drama, and libraries of books with plurality of thinking and living, they were mired in an intractable mindset that had them close to God but fighting children of God that their small way of thinking and praying othered. My gay “lifestyle” was offensive to them, my being “Hindu” was abhorrent, and everything about me was questionable. They condemned my partner and me without knowing us. The actions of this very vocal religious minority had me find a voice I hadn’t known until then, that spoke up for the other, not just my own self.

My *dharma* had me becoming the voice of those who were working for these bigots and not able to fend for themselves. It fell upon me to declare the truth that would lead my neighbours to becoming better humans and residents of a charming, idyllic rural community. I have since come back to India, where I have made home in Mumbai and Delhi. The farm is a rich memory that I am eternally grateful for. I sometimes wonder if we were taken to that community to rattle lives and give its residents a glimpse of the other. I hope they, who hated me for no reason, will have moments of honest reflection and spiritual growth.





# ‘I wanted to document my friend’s life and my understanding of life and death’

Shoojit Sircar unpacks the making of *I Want To Talk* and how Abhishek became his AD on the set

Alaka Sahani

**T**HE PROTAGONIST of Shoojit Sircar’s latest feature *I Want To Talk*, Arjun Sen, has just 100 days to live after being diagnosed with laryngeal cancer. Refusing to accept it as *fait accompli*, a resilient Arjun, played by Abhishek Bachchan, continues to live and lead a full life as a father and a marketing professional. Sircar, who was drawn to this real-life story for its quirkiness despite being poignant, narrates how he navigates his terminal illness and builds a bond with his daughter, Reya. Sircar talks about how he cast Abhishek as the lead, worked on his physicality and what he learnt from his theatre days. Excerpts:

## How did you come across Arjun’s story and decide to base *I Want to Talk* on him?

The film is based on the story of my friend Arjun Sen, who has been working in the US for the last 35 years, and his daughter. We started talking about his life in 2020, over Zoom. I found something fascinating about him but I did not know that I was going to make a film about him. These conversations went on till 2021. Then something clicked in my mind and I bounced it off with writer Ritesh Shah. I told Ritesh there was something bizarre and hilarious about him; he was suffering for long and yet could laugh at himself as he went through life-and-death situations. In 2022, we decided to work on a script.

## The film doesn’t underline anything and allows the audience to discover Arjun.

That was my motive. I wanted to document his life as well as my understanding of life and death. This was also an exploration of a father-daughter relationship. Somewhere we all — Abhishek, Ritesh and I — connected to the story as fathers. I wanted the audience to relate to what they are going through in



their own lives. Arjun’s story made me think about my relationship with my daughter.

## In the film, Arjun manipulates those near him to do what he wants. Did you also manipulate Abhishek to play the lead?

You can say that Abhishek manipulated me. We were in Melbourne and he took me out for dinner. We were with my producer Ronnie Lahiri and Abhishek poured his heart out. I had not seen Abhishek like this ever. In my mind, Abhishek was always there while scripting it. Similarly, Irrfan was also there in the mind. Even though he was not there (by then), you end up visualising actors in a role. After Melbourne, when I met Abhishek, he immediately said yes. When I mentioned that I wanted him to have a paunch, he took off his shirt and said, “Dada, this is the paunch I have. You want me to eat more and look bigger?”

## Was Abhishek eager to act in this film because he connected to the father-daughter story or did he want to challenge himself?

He definitely wanted to work with me.

## LIFE’S LESSONS

(Top) Shoojit Sircar with Abhishek Bachchan; the actor with Ahilya Bamroo in a still from *I Want To Talk*

Abhishek never tells me but in conversations, one can feel that he connects to the father-daughter aspect of the film. Agreeing to work on a subject like this and transform himself into the character — as if he disappears into Arjun — was driven by that connection.

## How did you find your two actors Pearle Dey and Ahilya Bamroo, who play the younger and older roles of Arjun’s daughter, Reya? They look so similar.

The casting credit goes to Ronnie who introduced me to Ahilya. She is quite active on Instagram and lives in Puducherry. When we called her, she was completely taken aback. When we met her in our Mumbai office, I found such rawness and purity in her. She is so effortless in the movie. My friend in Los Angeles helped me find Pearle since we wanted a girl who has an American accent. Abhishek met both of them before the shoot.

## As Arjun, Abhishek goes through different stages of life and physicality.

Since it was shot in the US, we could not break the schedule. We stayed there for three months. In some sequences, we used make-up and prosthetics while in others, we used bodysuits. We combined several elements and processes to get the right look. Let me tell you, Abhishek worked as a good assistant director of mine. Whatever I needed, he ensured it was done. He would say: ‘I will act and assist Shoojit da’. He contributed a lot to get the look right.

## You often lean towards characters who are non-mainstream. Do your theatre days influence your choice?

Sometimes what drives you is what’s in-

side you. Arjun gave me a lot of hope and resilience. He is on a journey not to give up. Theatre teaches you every aspect of life. My guru NK Sharma, in Delhi, taught me all that. He respected every job in theatre. If someone is doing costumes, he would give that person more respect than, maybe, the actors. A lot of scenes, break-downs and preparations that I do are all from theatre.

## What’s the story behind casting Johnny Lever to play the character Johnny?

When we were writing the script, Ritesh wrote the character’s name Johnny. Later, I thought let’s cast Johnny Lever in that role, who is straight-faced and a bit bizarre. I was not sure he would do it. When we met, he said that he is a ‘healer’ and is involved in a lot of social activities. He wanted to be a part of it. He is effortless as an actor.

**The film is an exploration of a father-daughter relationship. Abhishek, Ritesh and I connected to the story as fathers**

## Do you think movies like *I Want To Talk*, which are more indie in spirit, have less space today?

It may appear less if you compare it with other movies. But *Vicky Donor* (2012) and *Piku* (2015) found the right audience. I am confident my producers, Ronnie and Sheel Kumar, will ensure *I Want To Talk* finds that too.

## The humour in the film is understated compared to *Piku*. Was that deliberate?

It is not the kind of film where I can have *Piku*’s humour. This was more of a satire on life, philosophical humour. It has its restraints. You have to decode it. For some, it will be hilarious. Some others may find it hilarious when they revisit it after a gap. It depends on their life’s experience.

# AN ACTOR’S ACTOR

Preeti Panigrahi, the lead of Suchi Talati’s debut *Girls will be Girls*, on her award-winning performance

Udbhav Seth

**T**HE CHEMISTRY test done by this movie’s cast had to give off a lot of sparks: the romance between two high-school lovers, the tense relationship of a mother and daughter, the cocktail of authority and academia that waters ambition but drowns desire. *Girls Will be Girls*, the debut directorial by Suchi Talati that screened at the recently concluded Dharamshala International Film Festival, is helmed by Preeti Panigrahi (23) in her first feature film performance, which won the Special Jury Award for Acting at Sundance Film Festival (2024). She has done college theatre and ad films but nothing prepared her for the scale of this project, which she scored with a screen test of acting like someone close to herself: Mira, a straight-A, high-school prefect who hasn’t experienced sex.

“(I think the easiest part of the role was) the vulnerability it required,” says Panigrahi. “A huge credit goes to how Suchi wrote the entire thing. It’s supposed to be an awkward and vulnerable space for a teenager, and it was an absolute joy to embody that. I changed several script lines related to Mira’s body for my own. I told Suchi I feel everything about me should be okay before I get on-screen. She said that I don’t have to put myself through (the pressure) of looking perfect. She said, ‘I like you just the way you are. I didn’t pick you for Mira just because of how you look — you embody other things about her that are more important to me. After that, a lot of my inhibitions were dodged off.’”

Panagrahi is joined by Kani Kusruti, of *Biriyaa* (2020) and *All We Imagine as Light* fame, who plays Mira’s mother, overly concerned that her daughter is going to be swept off her feet by the new boy in school, aware of what can happen when a youthful romance takes over your life. She’s stuck in a loveless marriage and her only priority is her daughter’s well-being. Is she a helicopter parent? Check. Does she want to be Mira’s best friend? Also, check. Does she have a tiny bit of a crush on the boy Mira is dating? Unfortunately, check. “(That dynamic) may have come across comical to some audiences but it was extremely tense,”



## SPARKS AND EMBERS

Preeti Panigrahi and Kani Kusruti in a still from *Girls Will be Girls*

says Panigrahi. “For Mira, it’s a do-or-die situation. It’s always like that for teenagers. She’s trying hard to build this relationship with a boy but her mother comes in the way. Mira thinks of the worst possible situations (between the boy and her mother). But her mother is just trying to protect her. She enjoys the attention but she would never want to do anything to the kids or put herself in Mira’s position.”

The boy, played by Kesav Binoy Kiron, is a smooth charmer, always armed with the right words. He’s a lone cub sent to this boarding school without a local guardian, used to a life without parental affection, an absence compensated for by a healthy bank balance. He doesn’t shy from sweet-talking both mother and daughter in the same room. He never makes Mira feel unimportant — cajoling her during arguments or sex — but his intentions... that’s a different story. “Suchi always said that an intimate scene is not just a physical act; it’s a dialogue between two characters,” says Panigrahi.

In one of the movie’s earliest scenes, Mira is standing in front of a mirror and tugging her top to expose a bit of cleavage, then starts dancing to a sensual song on the radio. But suddenly her mother walks in and she stops. Her mother frowns and turns up the volume, stepping closer to her daughter and twerking her waist, beckoning her with a smile. This scene was the chemistry test between Kusruti and Panigrahi, sealing the deal for a role that won the debutant a Special Jury award at this year’s Sundance Film Festival. “Watching Kani perform was a workshop for me. We grew closer over the shoot,” says Panigrahi. “She’s a woman’s woman. She really uplifts the women around her. She said recently that women don’t compete with each other and that really shows on her. I would want to learn that from her.”

# A Fable From A Conflict Zone

Writer-director Lakshmi Priya Devi on why she wanted her debut film to be rooted in Manipur

Alaka Sahani

**DEBUTANT WRITER**-director Lakshmi Priya Devi wanted to tell the story of her protagonist — a young boy searching for his missing father — just as her grandmother would narrate a folktale. “Once upon a time, there was a boy named Boong (small boy in Manipuri) — I wanted the story to flow like that, uncomplicated and pure,” says Lakshmi Priya.

When Lakshmi Priya reconnected with her Manipuri roots while caring for her father and aunt at her Mumbai home, she really wanted to write this story. The writing process felt almost like talking to herself. “I left home in Imphal when I was 10 years old (she studied in a boarding school in Delhi), so things about my childhood came rushing in as I spent time with them and I wanted to vent it out in the form of a story,” she says. The fact that she went on to direct *Boong* based on this script was like a “bonus”. The movie premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) earlier this year and was screened at the recent 55th International Film Festival of India

(IFFI) in Goa.

The film revolves around the titular protagonist Boong (Gugun Kipgen), a mischievous young boy who lives with his mother Mandakini (Bala Hijam). His father, supposed to be running a furniture store in the border town of Moreh, has not been in touch with the family for a long time. But Boong, with the help of his Marwari classmate Raju, is hopeful of finding his father and reuniting him with Mandakini. Though *Boong*’s story is inspired by her childhood, it organically became the story of a boy. “I wanted the lead protagonist to be someone vulnerable. The women in Manipur are extremely strong. So, in my mind, a boy was more vulnerable, like my cousins and brothers,” says Lakshmi Priya, who was always curious about the family legend regarding her great-grandfather, who was in exile in Myanmar.

The film also acquired a special significance for the writer-director as it became about representation. “It is common knowledge that India is a mini-continent with different regions and their own languages, cultures and mindsets. Yet, when it comes to



## A CURIOUS BUNCH

(Top) A still from *Boong*; director Lakshmi Priya Devi at the film’s set

representing or showcasing our beautiful diversity in any mass medium, there is an entire mass of land and its people that barely feature — the Northeast,” Lakshmi Priya says and adds, “Since I belong to a region that is far removed from the mainland Indian sub-consciousness and largely ignored, I felt very strongly that my debut film — God knows if I don’t get a chance to make another! — had to be a story rooted in my land — Manipur.”

Lakshmi Priya, who started working in films as an assistant director, has been part of the production team of several movies including, *Lakshya* (2004), *Luck By Chance* (2009), *PK*

(2014), *Talaash* (2012), *A Suitable Boy* (2020) and *Dahaad* (2023).

The film’s casting was a long-drawn process since finding Gugun to play Boong took time. “We were doing casting through word-of-mouth. I used to ask people, ‘Do you know a boy who is shameless?’ By that, I meant someone who does not have any filter and can emote. Most kids in Manipur are polite and disciplined. However, it was worth waiting for him (Gugun). I could lock Bela as the mother only after he was cast since I wanted them to look at mother and son. For the role of Raju, we chose Angom Sanamatum, who is a Meitei, as he could speak the language. We gave him glasses and oiled hair,” she shares.

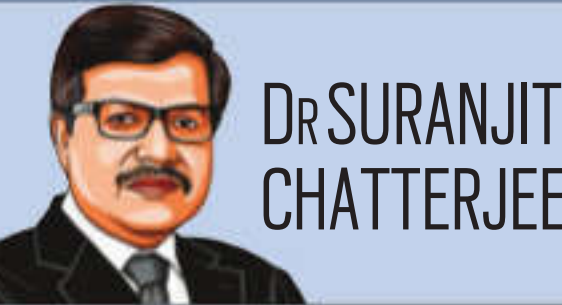
The film has a fable-like warm and fuzzy vibe even as it talks about poignant issues. “Whatever I had to say, I did in my first draft. I wrote it how I would like to experience a story as an audience. While working on the second draft, I thought I was messing with it. The more I tried to fix it, the more I was corrupting it. So, what you see is mainly the first draft.”

Through the movie, Lakshmi Priya wanted to show how Manipur of her childhood used to be. She went to great lengths to find locations that matched those images in her memories. However, the landscape and life in Manipur altered nearly two weeks after *Boong*’s shooting was wrapped up as the conflict broke out between ethnic communities, the Meitei and the Kuki.

“When our Manipur team watched the film, they were so emotional. Their last good memories of the state are attached to *Boong*,” says Lakshmi Priya.



INTERPRETATIONS  
OF MALADY



Is pollution  
reducing your  
Vitamin D?

Vitamin D3 pills are effective in optimising what the body needs

VITAMIN D, often called the “sunshine vitamin,” plays a vital role in maintaining our bone health, immune function and mood regulation. It is primarily produced in the skin through exposure to sunlight. However, during seasons with less sunlight, such as the winter months or in areas where sunlight is limited because of smog, getting enough vitamin D can become challenging. Planning your vitamin D intake during these times can protect you from deficiency.

**Understanding Vitamin D**  
Vitamin D is unique because it functions both as a nutrient and a hormone. It helps the body absorb calcium and phosphorus, essential for strong bones and teeth. It also plays a role in immune function, muscle health and regulating inflammation. The body naturally produces vitamin D when the skin is exposed to ultraviolet B (UVB) rays from the sun, but this synthesis decreases in low-sunlight conditions.  
Besides lack of adequate sunlight, people with darker skin, who have higher levels of melanin, cannot produce enough vitamin D from sunlight. Older adults, those with obesity, digestive disorders and kidney disease cannot process enough vitamin D.



**FACT OF THE MATTER**  
Exposing your face, arms or legs to sunlight during midday, when the sun is at its peak, is especially beneficial

**How to increase your intake of Vitamin D?**  
Even during low sunlight, try to go outside. Although UVB rays are less intense in winter, short bursts of sunlight exposure, typically around 15-30 minutes, can still stimulate vitamin D production. Exposing your face, arms or legs to sunlight during midday, when the sun is at its peak, is especially beneficial. However, the time needed depends on various factors, including skin tone and location.  
Focus on dietary sources like fatty fish such as salmon, mackerel, tuna and sardines. Eggs from hens that have been exposed to sunlight are good sources of vitamin D. Try fortified milk, orange juice and cereals. Dairy products like cheese and yogurt contain small amounts of the vitamin. Some types of mushrooms exposed to ultraviolet light, such as maitake and shiitake, contain vitamin D.

**When should you take supplements?**  
Only when you are unable to get enough vitamin D from sunlight or food sources. Vitamin D supplements are available in two forms: vitamin D2 (ergocalciferol) and vitamin D3 (cholecalciferol). Vitamin D3 is more effective in raising blood levels of vitamin D. Speak to your healthcare provider to determine the right dosage for your specific needs.  
The general recommended daily intake for vitamin D varies but it typically falls within the following ranges:  
**ADULTS:** 600 to 800 IU (International Units) per day  
**OLDER ADULTS:** 800 to 1000 IU per day  
**CHILDREN:** 400 to 600 IU per day  
Get your vitamin D levels checked, especially if you live in areas with limited sun exposure or have risk factors for deficiency. A simple blood test can measure your vitamin D status, and your doctor can recommend an appropriate supplementation plan based on the results.

(Dr Chatterjee is senior consultant, Internal Medicine, Apollo Hospital, New Delhi)

# How diet supports cancer therapy

Researchers are looking into diets that either lack or have additional substances that synergise with newer therapies to improve outcomes

Anonna Dutt

FORMER CRICKETER Navjot Singh Sidhu stirred up a controversy when he said that after doctors gave up, his wife recovered from breast cancer by following a strict diet — fasting for long hours, cutting out dairy and sugar and consuming neem leaves and turmeric. More than 260 oncologists at Mumbai’s Tata Memorial Hospital immediately stepped in to dispel the cricketer’s “diet as cancer cure” argument, saying there was no high-quality evidence to support his theory. “While research is ongoing for some of these products, there is no clinical data currently to recommend their use as anti-cancer agents. We urge the public not to delay their treatment by following unproven remedies,” they wrote in a letter.

While diet alone may not cure cancers, experts say it has an extremely important role to play when it comes to their treatment as well as prevention. It is crucial as it helps patients get the nutrients they need to maintain their body weight and strength, keep body tissue healthy and fight infection. Eating clean is not enough for cancer patients. Their diet has to be supportive, which means it has to align with the type of cancer they have, considering some cancers can change the way the body uses certain nutrients. A patient may seem to be eating enough but the body may not be able to absorb all the nutrients from the food. That’s why diet and cancer are like balancing each individual equation. For healthy people, eating the right food prevents build-up of body conditions that trigger tumour growth.

**CAN DIET PREVENT CANCER?**  
While long-term studies on daily diets of people are always challenging — participants may not recall what they ate, have a poor adherence to prescribed diets, consume foods in the wrong form — researchers have been able to link certain food patterns with a lower risk of developing cancers. One of the most important factors is consumption of excess calories, which in turn can lead to obesity, thereby increasing the risk of several cancers such as those of the breast, bowel and liver. A low-fat diet has been linked to a lower risk of breast cancer while a diet high in processed and red meats has been linked to a higher risk of colon cancer. A Harvard study last year also linked a low-carbohydrate diet to 24 per cent reduction in all-cause mortality in diabetics, including deaths due to cancers.

“Diet has a very important role when it comes to cancer prevention because nearly 90 per cent of cancers have environmental causes and only 10 per cent are truly genetic. The environmental factors may include diabetes, hypertension, consumption of tobacco and alcohol, air pollution and chemicals, among others. Eating healthy will reduce the risk of a person developing cancers related to faulty diets,” says Dr Shailesh Shrikhande, head of digestive cancer surgery, Tata Memorial Hospital.  
Specialising in the treatment of colorectal cancer, where diet is of utmost importance, he says, “A diet with more meat is linked to a higher risk of colorectal cancers, which is three times more likely in the West



ILLUSTRATION: KOMAL

than in India. High-protein diets, with less fibre, are known to cause constipation, which in turn is linked to an increased risk of colon cancer. The longer these foods stay in the intestines, the more carcinogens are likely to be released, thereby increasing the risk of cancers.” Dr Shrikhande doesn’t ask people to refrain from eating meat but balance it with other food groups.

The American Cancer Society guidelines — followed by many experts in India — recommend including four to five portions of fruits and vegetables in the diet as they are high in fibre, low in calorie and contain many vitamins and minerals. While there is no conclusive evidence, research is ongoing to study cancer-preventive properties of certain groups of vegetables — the dark green and orange vegetables, cruciferous vegetables such as cabbage, broccoli or cauliflower, and allium vegetables like onions and garlic.

The guidelines also suggest consuming more proteins from legumes, poultry or fish rather than red meat sources. The norms suggest limiting or eliminating sugar-sweetened beverages, highly processed foods, and refined grain products.

**FOOD AS SUPPORTIVE CANCER THERAPY**  
When it comes to cancer treatment, nutrition not only changes the patient’s quality of life but also influences therapy outcomes and prognosis. “It is extremely important to maintain adequate nutrition, especially in those with oesophageal or gastrointestinal tract cancers who are unable to eat properly. Patients with late stage cancers may develop metabolic syndromes like cachexia (a condition where patients lose weight and muscles because of a faster metabolism) that can derail their treatment,” says Dr Abhishek Shankar, oncologist at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. “If a patient loses, for example, 5 kg while undergoing treatment, their chemotherapy dose would have to be changed or they might develop toxicity. For radiotherapy, weight loss could lead to gaps in the thermoplastic meshes that we make to immobilise patients and target the radiation. This could lead to ineffective radiation and more reactions. It is also not possible to do cancer surgeries if the patient weighs less than a recommended level. All of this can delay treatment and change the outcome,” he explains.

## LIFE POSITIVE



**TAKEAWAY**  
A patient may be eating enough but the body may not absorb nutrients, hence a special diet



Scan the code to read more health special stories

Therefore, intermittent fasting and restricting dairy and carbohydrates that Sidhu spoke of may not work when a patient is undergoing active cancer treatment. While there are laboratory and animal studies that show some beneficial pathways that may prevent cancer growth through time-restricted eating, maintaining such a diet is practically not possible for a patient. “Cancer and its treatment lead to a breakdown of muscles and other cells in the body. So we have to ensure that patients consume enough calories and proteins to repair them. When a person is unable to consume a normal diet, fasting for several hours a day would mean they are not meeting their daily requirements and could become weaker and anorexic. Patients have to take a lot of medicines through the day, which they cannot have without eating first,” says Ritika Samaddar, regional head of clinical nutrition and dietetics at Max Healthcare.

She designs the diet based on what the patients need and what they can eat, including dairy products, eggs, or lentils and millets to fulfil their protein requirement. For example, those on chemotherapy need to eat small portions slowly and every few hours. They need to avoid fatty, greasy or spicy foods. One advice she has for cancer patients is that they must go to a nutritionist at a tertiary care centre, preferably the same one where they are getting treated. “Treatment has to be a team approach because there are certain foods and supplements that interact with the medicines and have negative effects,” she says.

## WHAT STUDIES SAY

**TRIAL:** Women’s Health Initiative Dietary Modification trial

**FINDING:** Low-fat diet was associated with a 21% decline in breast cancer mortality

**TRIAL:** European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC)

**FINDING:** Fruit and vegetable consumption had a protective effect against colorectal, breast, and lung cancer. A higher consumption of fish and lower consumption of red and processed meat were related with a lower risk of colorectal cancer and higher consumption of fatty fish with lower risk of breast cancer

**TRIAL:** Nurses Health and Health Professional follow-up study

**FINDING:** 24% reduction in all-cause mortality, including cancer mortality in patients with diabetes

Dr Eileen Canday, head of nutrition and dietetics at Mumbai’s Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre, says there is some evidence suggesting that certain foods can improve treatment outcomes for cancer patients, although the research is still ongoing and the findings are not definitive to revise current protocols. “Curcumin (the active ingredient in turmeric) may inhibit growth of cancer cells and reduce inflammation. Cruciferous vegetables like broccoli and cauliflower may lower the risk of cancer as they contain antioxidants, vitamins and phytochemicals like flavonoids and carotenoids. Omega-3 fatty acids in some fishes and flaxseed have anti-inflammatory properties and may improve immune function. Fermented foods like yogurt and kefir may help mitigate some side effects of cancer treatment,” she says.

## LIFE AFTER CANCER

The role of diet and nutrition remains important even after remission of cancer to keep relapse at bay. “Obesity is a known risk factor for some cancers such as breast cancer. So after treatment, we would put the patient on a negative calorie diet with less saturated fats. In other patients with, say, colon or oesophageal cancers, where they lose a lot of weight during the treatment, the focus would be on a calorie-dense diet to help them regain the weight and muscles,” says Samaddar. All of this will have to be factored in with comorbidities that most patients have.

Current research is also focussing on using diet — and thereby the body’s own metabolism — as medicine for cancer treatment. What this essentially means is that researchers are looking into diets that either lack or have certain additional substances that work in synergy with newer therapies to improve treatment outcomes. This would make nutrition a key pillar of therapy, but not the magic bullet.

# Love without Fear

Online counsellors are encouraging safe sex practices to lower HIV risk among young people who are now meeting on virtual platforms instead of traditional places

Anonna Dutt

TWENTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD Sharad\* swipes right on a dating app the moment he reaches office. He engages with a random profile, chats them up, gets them comfortable and encourages them to move to a WhatsApp chat box for freer conversations. “I ask them about their sexual preferences and fantasies — this can help me understand whether they are participating in high-risk sexual behaviour. If they are, I give them tips on how to bring down their risk of HIV infection,” says the counsellor with SafeZindagi, who connects with online daters across 587 cities.

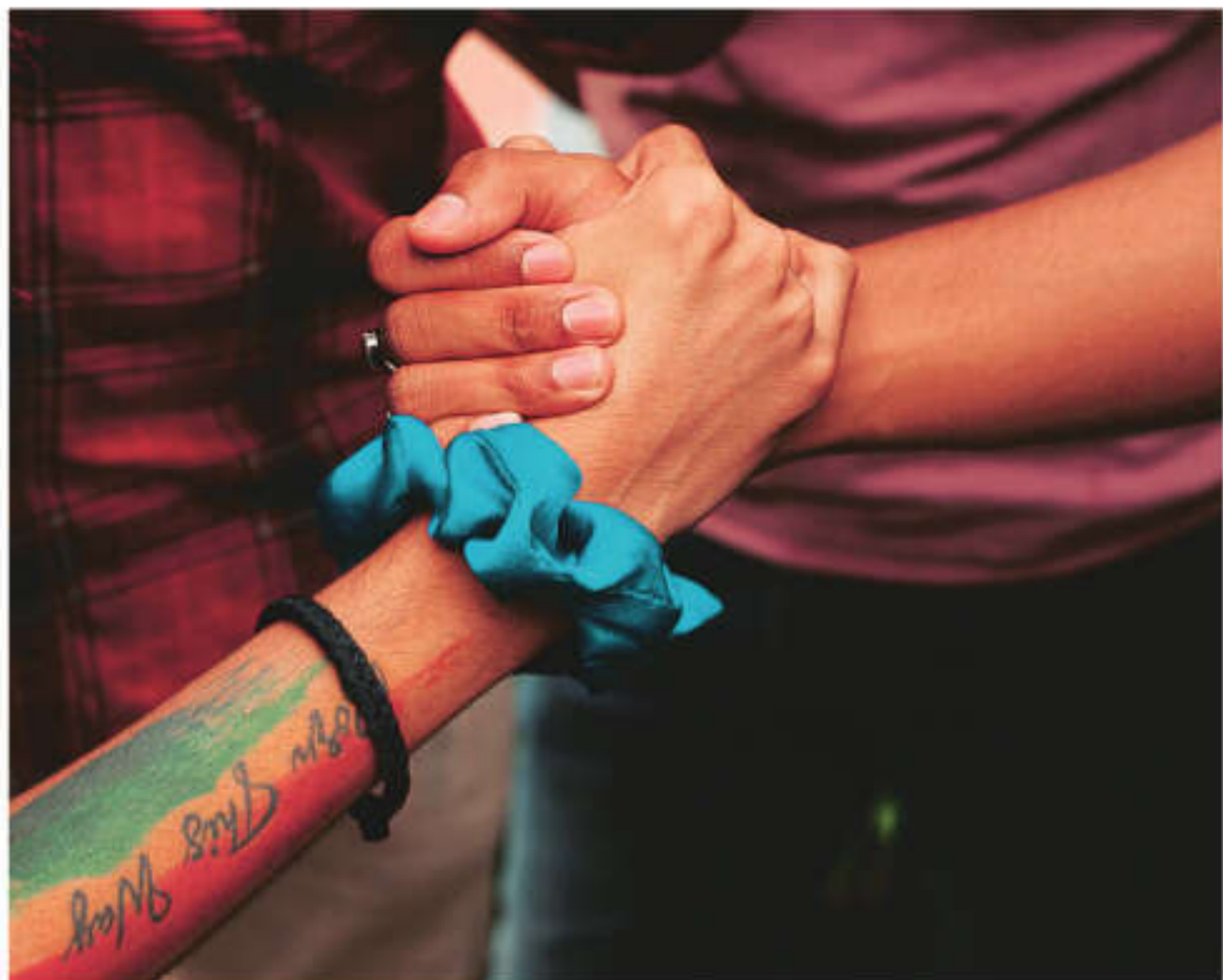
Sharad has signed up as a safe-sex counsellor across apps like Planet Romeo and Grindr. But his job, of winning confidence and trust, remains difficult. At a clinic in Central Delhi, he is one among eight counsellors on the SafeZindagi platform, which encourages people to get home testing kits for HIV. “If their results are positive, I connect them to their nearest testing centre,” he adds. With Phase V of the government’s National AIDS Control Programme advocating virtual interventions, peer educators like Sharad can blend in easily to keep the spread of HIV infection in check — and keep the numbers under control. Online dating has undoubtedly upped the risk of HIV among the group that has shifted from traditional spaces to virtual platforms, which are difficult to track. Estimating the size of these groups and plan-

ning interventions to curtail the risk of HIV can be challenging. In India, five in a lakh people contract HIV every year, with nearly 25.4 lakh people living with it in 2023, according to a government report.

## A BOX FULL OF BENEFITS

In northwest Delhi’s Sultanpuri, Anil\* collects boxes of condoms for gay men and sex workers he has connected with online. While he uses websites to date men himself, he also takes the opportunity to talk to them about HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. He is one of the 52 peer-educators with Deepshikha, an organisation that carries out such virtual intervention in partnership with the government. He has even created WhatsApp groups of people he connects with on apps to answer any questions they might have, direct them towards government testing centres and provide them with tools for safe sex. He encourages them to sign up for *safelovers.com* — a website developed in collaboration with the Delhi government that can assess a person’s risk of contracting HIV, offer online counselling, allow them to book an appointment at any government centre for testing and provide condoms.

Meanwhile, SafeZindagi helps users access pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) — medicines that can be taken by high-risk individuals to prevent HIV infection. While these are not available as part of the government programme, there is an increasing demand. “More and more people are now



INDIAN EXPRESS ARCHIVE

aware of PrEP and want it. In fact, with all the advocacy around HIV, it is heartening to see many on their dating profiles declare whether or not they are on PrEP and when they last got tested,” says Jalpa Thakker, programme director for ACCELERATE that runs SafeZindagi.

## WHY ONLINE MANAGEMENT HAS AN EDGE

With an increasing penetration of smartphones and low-cost internet — bolstered by the pandemic that drove most activities online — organisations tasked with HIV prevention find it increasingly difficult to find defined physical spaces where they could earlier monitor people at a higher risk of contracting HIV infection, such as sex workers and gay men.

## AIDS DAY SPECIAL



## NEED TO KNOW

Apart from online counselling, educators facilitate access to home test kits for HIV and help youngsters book an appointment at any of the government centres for testing

“While dating apps were always available, their use shot up in the last five to seven years. In 2019, we started noticing that the traditional hotspots — such as red light districts, toilets, parks and railway stations — were emptying out. Then the pandemic hit and everything changed. Those who engaged in sex work returned home or moved online — there wasn’t much work in the physical space. Now, there are network operators who share the profiles of sex workers on WhatsApp, and after maybe a video chat, agree to meet in a rented accommodation or hotels that you wouldn’t think were being used for sex work. So, we had to move with the target population,” says Thakker. The known physical haunts see only about 20 per cent of the traffic now, she adds.

With sex workers and sexual partners readily available online, Deepshikha’s counsellors have been answering queries and curiosities of young adults aged between 17 and 22. “Those who are gay or trans are extremely confused at this age; they get on the website to connect with others who feel like them and get a grip on who they want to become. When they do start having sex, they have no idea about sexually transmitted infections. One of the most common queries we get is regarding their gender identity. That clarity helps them trust us with advisories,” says Tajuddin Khan, president, Deepshikha.

The organisation connects the virtual world to the physical one — it has a drop-in centre where youngsters can have conversations and share thoughts. They are even free to dress up as they please here, something they might not be able to do at their homes. “When we conducted a survey across these dating platforms in 2019, we found 15,000 people at high risk, who were not connected to any safe sex programmes. Now, people are talking more and the numbers are much higher,” says Khan.

(\*Names changed to protect privacy)