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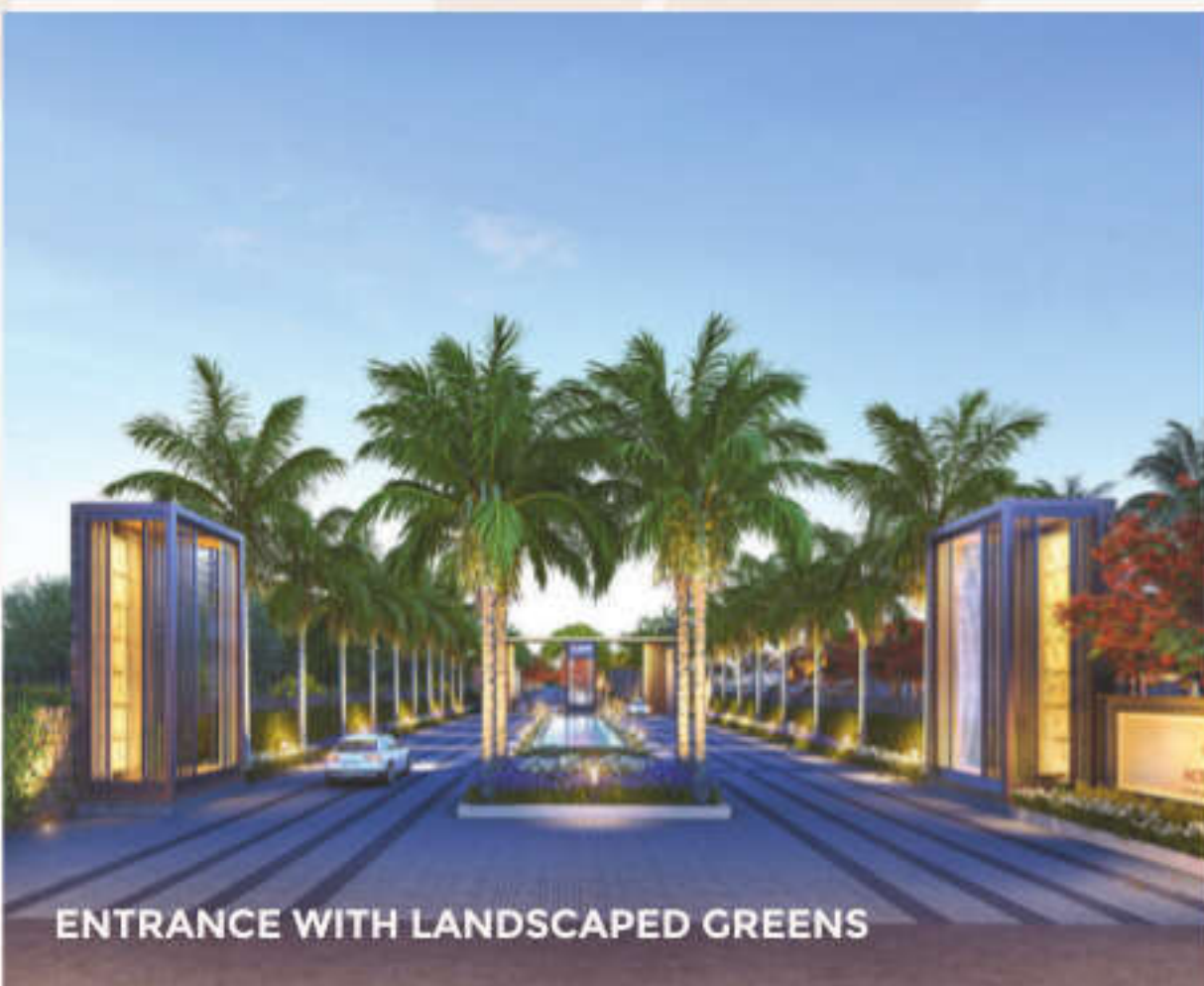
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## Sukhbir Badal escapes attack on Day 2 of guard duty at Golden Temple, shooter held

Accused a former militant, was at shrine Tuesday too, say police

**KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR**  
AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 4

PUNJAB'S FORMER Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal (62) had a narrow escape on Wednesday as a man, identified as a former militant, attempted to open fire at him while the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader was on "punishment" guard duty at the Golden Temple here. The attack was foiled by a police officer who was part of Badal's security detail — he is a Z-plus protectee. Even as the attacker, Narain Singh Chaura (68), was overpowered, he managed to fire a bullet. The bullet hit the



Narain Singh Chaura (bottom left) tries to shoot at Sukhbir Singh Badal (in wheelchair). **ANI** MORE REPORTS, **PAGES 8, 13**

shrine's entrance wall behind Badal, who escaped unhurt. Police later said a 9mm pistol was recovered from Chaura. Police sources said CCTV

footage showed that Chaura was at the Golden Temple on Tuesday too, when Badal and other Akali leaders began the religious **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

‘Apology can’t absolve Akali sins’: Attacker’s FB post earlier

**KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR & VARINDER BHATIA**  
AMRITSAR, CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 4

THE MAN who opened fire at former Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal on Wednesday, as he sat on guard duty at Golden Temple, is a former employee of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and an ex-militant.

In recent years though, Narain Singh Chaura, 68, was known more as a political and **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## MAHARASHTRA GOVT FORMATION

# Fadnavis to take oath as CM today, Shinde drags out suspense on his role

Ajit Pawar to be sworn in as Deputy CM, no other ministers to be named as yet

**SHUBHANGI KHAPRE, VALLABH OZARKAR & ALOK DESHPANDE**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

MORE than 10 days after the Mahayuti swept the Maharashtra elections, the suspense is finally over. At 5.30 pm on Thursday, Devendra Fadnavis will be sworn in as Chief Minister at Mumbai's historic Azad Maidan. While it is confirmed that Ajit Pawar will be taking oath as Deputy CM along with him, Eknath Shinde is also likely to, though a confirmation is still awaited.

In another indication that the negotiations between Mahayuti partners BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP



Mahayuti leaders Devendra Fadnavis, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar in Mumbai on Wednesday. **Sankhadeep Banerjee**

are still continuing, no other leader will be taking oath for now. Maharashtra can have a ministry of 43 members.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who helped pull off the BJP's historic 132-seat win in Maharashtra, will be present for the swearing-in. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNXY



### INSIDE



IN ONLINE ADDRESS TO SUPPORTERS IN NY, HASINA TARGETS YUNUS **PAGE 12**

SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT FACES IMPEACHMENT **PAGE 14**

## Delhi Police arrests Balyan under MCOCA as he gets bail in extortion case



The AAP MLA was first arrested on Nov 30

**NIRBHAY THAKUR**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

AAM AADMI Party MLA Naresh Balyan, who was arrested by Delhi Police on Saturday in connection with an extortion case filed last year, was granted bail Wednesday but was arrested in a separate case lodged under provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). During the hearing of his bail plea in the extortion case, Delhi Police informed the court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Paras Dalal that they would arrest the MLA in the MCOCA case. "We will be arresting Naresh Balyan in a different MCOCA FIR. We will be arresting him right now," Special Public Prosecutor Akhand Pratap Singh submitted before the Rouse Avenue Court.

Earlier in the day, police moved an application before Additional Sessions Judge Vandana Jain in Dwarka Court, seeking permission to question Balyan in connection with the MCOCA case while he was in custody. The Special Public **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**ANONNA DUTT, SOHINI GHOSH, PRATIPACHARYA, SREENIVAS JANYALA & ANKITA UPADHYAY**  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, PUNE, AHMEDABAD, RANCHI, HYDERABAD, BHOPAL, DECEMBER 4

WHEN A fire at a government hospital killed 18 newborns in Jhansi last month, the headlines were all too familiar — a possible short circuit, a healthcare system operating beyond capacity, and high-level probes to fix responsibility.

The *Indian Express* looked at the cause and aftermath of 11 prominent hospital fires in the last five years, which claimed 107 lives, and found that in all but one case from earlier this year, the accused — hospital owners or heads — are out on bail. Significantly, in seven instances, court cases are still dragging on.

The *Indian Express* looked at hospital fires that claimed five or more lives. To be sure, this is a fraction of the total hospital or clinic fires in the past half-decade — between January 2020 and October 2024, there were at least 105 such reported incidents.

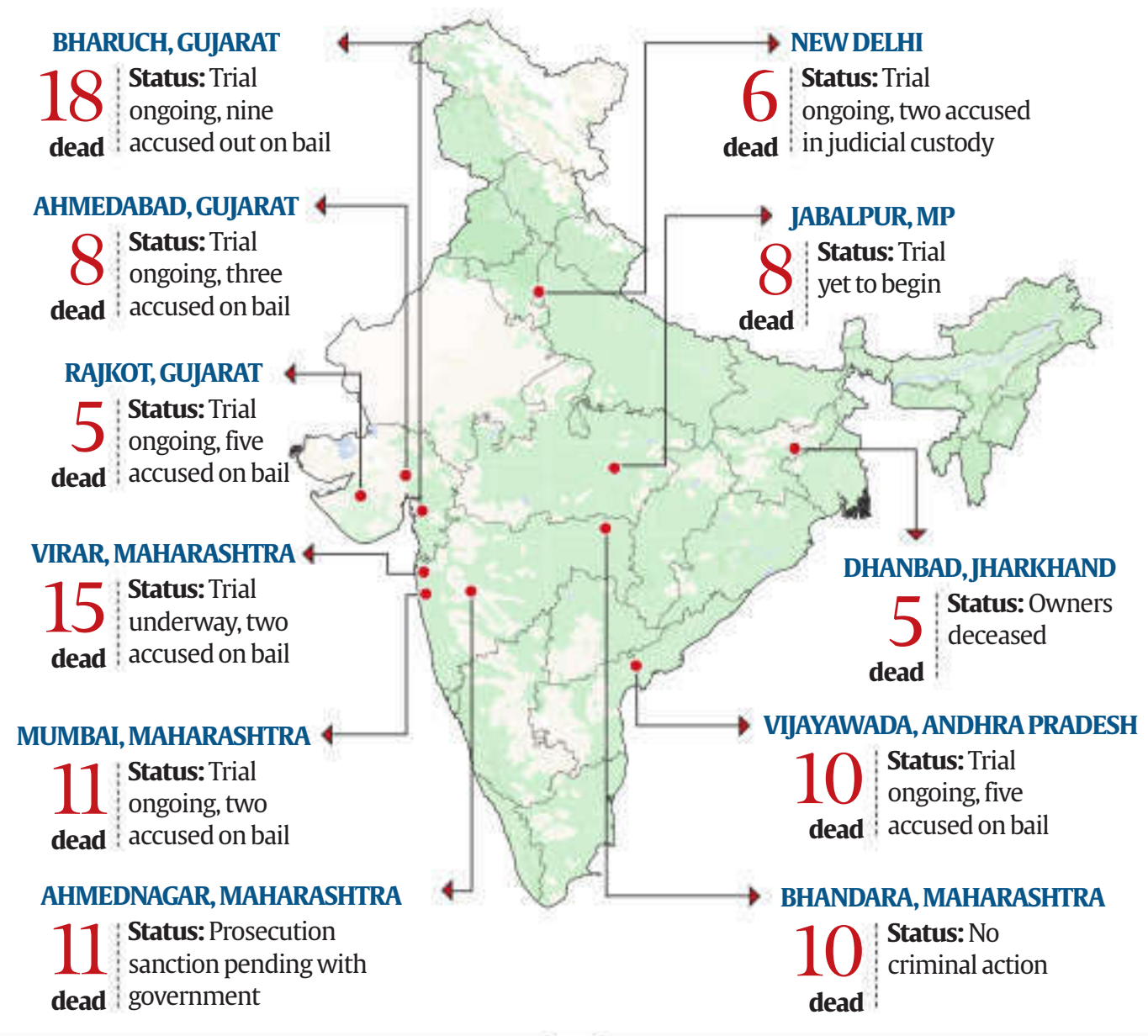
Significantly, there was an increase in fatal fire incidents during Covid-19 — nine of the 11 incidents The *Indian Express* looked at took place in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Five took place in 2021 when the pandemic was at its peak and the healthcare system was overstretched.

There were many other startling revelations — at least eight of the 11 fires were likely caused by short circuits, with improper maintenance of electrical lines and equipment to blame; several hospitals ignored basic safety measures and lacked firefighting equipment like extinguishers, hoses, sprinklers and well-trained staff; and the government agencies failed to keep a check on hospitals running on expired fire certificates, violating construction norms, and missing key safety measures in place. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**

## Delhi to Mumbai, Rajkot to Dhanbad



A rescued newborn after being shifted from the NICU ward of Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College in Jhansi, where 18 newborns died last month. **Vishal Srivastav**



## Forcible acquisition of ports firm at Jagan's behest: Andhra CID FIR

**SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 4

THE ANDHRA Pradesh CID has registered an FIR against three persons based on a complaint by K Venkateswara Rao, CMD and shareholder in Kakinada Seaports Ltd (KSPL), who has alleged the forcible acquisition of the firm through Aurobindo Realty and Infrastructure Pvt Ltd at the instance of YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy when he was the chief minister.

Hyderabad-based Rao filed his complaint at the CID police station at Mangalagiri on



Andhra's former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy

December 2. Three people and two firms have been named in the FIR: Y V Vikranth Reddy, son of YSRCP Rajya Sabha MP Y V Subba Reddy; YSRCP Rajya Sabha MP V Vijayasai Reddy; director of Aurobindo Pharma Sarath Chandra Reddy; PKF Sridhar and Santhanam LLP; and Aurobindo Realty and **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Assam Govt bans beef at restaurants, gatherings



CM Sarma announced decision after Cabinet meeting

**SUKRITA BARUAH**  
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 4

ASSAM CHIEF Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Wednesday announced a complete ban on the public consumption of beef in the state — including in restaurants and community gatherings.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held earlier in the day. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Sarma claimed that the move was prompted by a discussion on some recent statements by Congress leaders, who accused the BJP of wooing voters "with beef" in Samaguri — the Muslim-majority seat the BJP won in the bypoll last month.

According to the latest decision, beef cannot be served in any hotels, restaurant or community functions — whether religious or otherwise. According to the CM, provisions to this effect will be added to the existing Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Rahul stopped on way to Sambhal: 'As Leader of Opp, right to visit'



Congress MPs Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra after being stopped by UP Police on Wednesday. **Tashi Tobgyal**

**NEETIKA JHA**  
GHAZIABAD, DECEMBER 4

A CONGRESS delegation led by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and party MPs Priyanka Gandhi and K C Venugopal was stopped by Uttar

Pradesh Police from going to violence-hit Sambhal, at the Ghazipur border with Delhi on Wednesday morning.

After being stuck for around two hours on the six-lane Delhi-Meerut Expressway, which saw deployment of over 200 police **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

### INSIDE

CLASS 6 STUDENT APPREHENDED FOR DEATH OF HIS CLASSMATE **PAGE 4**

LIMITED SUCCESS IN CAPTURING 'CHINA PLUS ONE' CHANCE: NITI AAYOG **PAGE 15**

# Indian-origin artist wins Turner Prize: 'Weaves personal, political, spiritual'

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**VANDANA KALRA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

INDIAN-ORIGIN SCOTTISH artist Jasleen Kaur has won the prestigious Turner Prize 2024 for her exhibition, "Alter Altar", that reflects on plurality, personal and political themes.

The jury — chaired by Alex Farquharson, Director, Tate Britain — praised "the considered way in which Kaur weaves together the personal, political

and spiritual... choreographing a visual and aural experience that suggests both solidarity and joy". It also highlighted Kaur's "ability to gather different voices through unexpected and playful combinations of material".

At 38, Kaur was the youngest nominee for this year's award that includes a cash prize of £25,000. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the prize. The other shortlisted artists included Pio Abad, Claudette Johnson and Delaine Le Bas.

Born in Glasgow, Kaur's great-grandfather reportedly moved from Punjab in 1950, three years after Partition; her fa-

ther owns a hardware store in Scotland. Her prize-winning exhibition "Alter Altar", first shown in Glasgow last year, also reflects on her own family history as migrants to Scotland and her upbringing.

It featured, among others, a vintage red Ford Escort covered with a huge crocheted doily, a reference to her father's migrant aspirations, worship bells, Irn-Bru orange resin, an Axminster carpet, and family photographs. Also playing were soundtracks that were part of Kaur's growing up years, from Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan to Bob Marley.

In several interviews, Kaur



Jasleen Kaur at the award ceremony in London. **David Parry/PA Media Assignments**

**EXPLAINED** The Turner Prize

SINCE IT was established in 1984, the Turner Prize has emerged as one of the most prestigious art awards. Recognising the work of a British artist, it endeavours to highlight recent developments in contemporary British art. Indian-origin British artist Anish Kapoor won the prize in 1991.

has often discussed her multi-cultural upbringing and influences. If her 2021 series, "Gut Feelings Meri Jaan", explored ideas around inheritance and belonging, history and archive, in the 2018 "I Keep Telling Them These Stories", she used archival footage and recordings gathered from India and Scotland to explore culture as praxis, family, identity and origins. Her 2019 publication, "Be Like Teflon", commissioned by Panel for Glasgow Women's Library, comprises conversations between Kaur and women of Indian heritage living in the UK. Her website describes her as:

"An artist making with the slurry of life. Raised amidst betrayal, secrecy and banished outsiders, her work is to make sense of what is out of view or withheld. She is called towards plurality, declassifications, polyphony, the blur. She is practising singing in the sediment till she is intoxicated."

In an interview on the *Tate* website, Kaur states: "There's this particular theory that I grew up with from the Sikh tradition which talks about Miri Piri, which is this balance of the political and the spiritual. I'm really interested in that duality and I've become quite obsessed with this **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**







Illegal drugs coming from Shah's home state: Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

FORMER DELHI chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday took on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the Delhi Assembly, alleging that "drugs are coming into the country through Gujarat" under his nose.

Alleging that BJP has made Delhi into a hub for drug business," Kejriwal said, "Drugs are being sold at kirana shops, schools and colleges. Wherever I go... people request me to raise the drug abuse issue... people are scared..." Reading out from a document, he said: "...A total of 1,289 kg of drugs and 40 kg of marijuana worth Rs 1300 crore were recovered (in October)... All these drugs came from Gujarat... drug manufacturing factories are being operated openly in Gujarat's Vadodara, Ankleshwar... From where do these factories get raw materials to make drugs? Through ports, especially through Mundra Port..."

Kejriwal alleged that raw materials coming to Mundra port — controlled by industrialist Gautam Adani — goes to drug-manufacturing factories in Gujarat, following which drugs are supplied to Delhi, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and other states. "So, drugs are coming from Gujarat. Who controls the Mundra port? Their friend Adani..."

Kejriwal said, "There is one person who has the responsibility to control drug abuse. He is our Home Minister, Amit Shah. But under his nose, illegal drugs are being supplied... These drugs are coming from his home state and... we all know the owner of this port is Amit Shah's friend." He added, "Can this racket operate without the knowledge and protection of the government... I request Amit Shahji to control drug rackets... Otherwise people will say, 'you are also involved in this racket'."

Hitting back, Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta alleged that AAP government is shielding Rohingyas and drug traders, leading to an increase in drug-related activities and crime.

REVISED BUDGET ESTIMATES PRESENTED IN DELHI ASSEMBLY

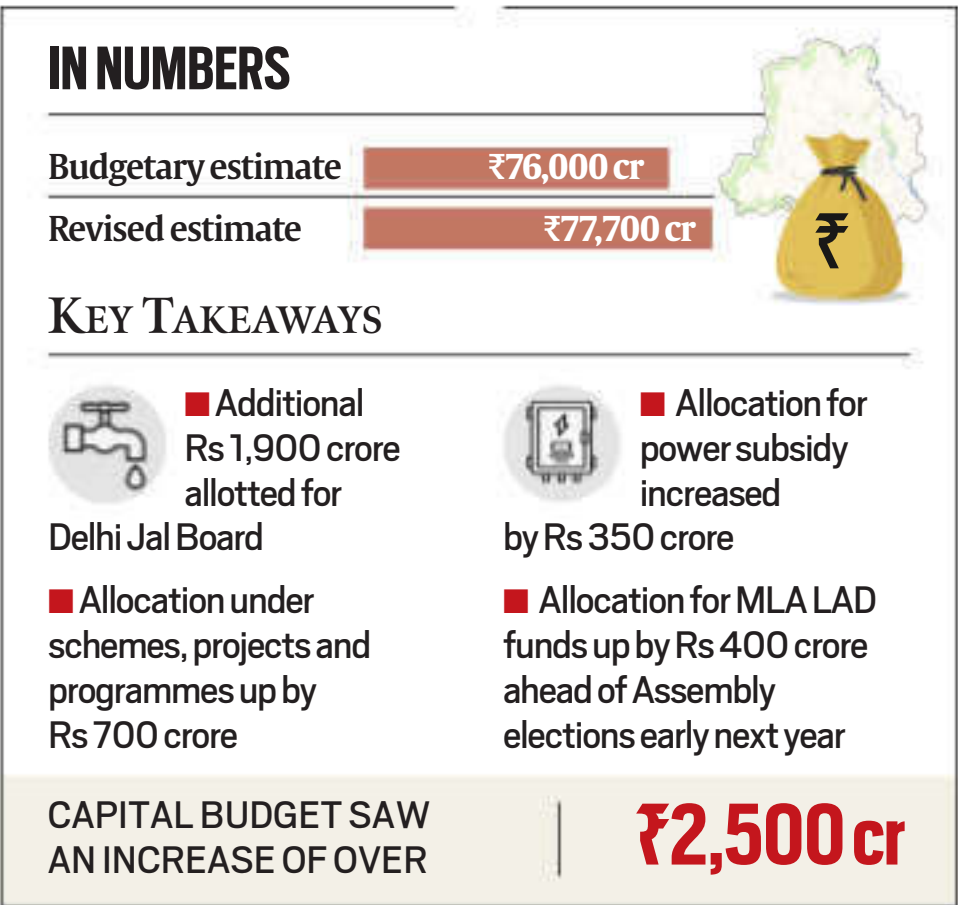
Eye on polls, more funds for MLAs, DJB

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

WITH DELHI elections around the corner, the AAP government on Wednesday allocated more than Rs 2,500 crore for capital projects in the city, over what was allocated in the Budget announcement in March.

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB), which has been reeling under a fund crunch, has also been given an extra Rs 1,900 crore to cover its routine revenue expenditure in the revised budget estimates for the ongoing financial year.

Key capital projects that have received additional funding include the ongoing Delhi Metro Phase IV expansion, strengthening of busy roads, construction of bus depots, school buildings, additional classrooms, installation of CCTV cameras, construction of



a flyover, and remodelling of existing hospitals. The government has also set

aside an additional Rs 400 crore for the MLA LAD fund to accommodate the increase in the limit

per Assembly constituency per annum — from Rs 10 crore to Rs 15 crore — with immediate effect. The funds can be used to repair roads, install street lights and perform maintenance works in each constituency.

The government has increased the total outlay from Rs 76,000 crore in Budget estimates to Rs 77,700 crore in revised estimates for the financial year 2024-25. The Budget under schemes, programmes and projects has seen a slight increase — from Rs 39,000 crore (Budget estimates) to Rs 39,700 crore (revised estimates).

The revenue budget has come down from Rs 60,910 crore in Budget estimates to Rs 60,087 crore in the revised estimates. The capital budget has been increased from Rs 15,089 crore to Rs 17,612 crore in the revised estimates. Chief Minister Atishi, who also

holds the Finance portfolio, presented the Delhi Appropriation Bill in the Assembly on Wednesday, requesting a supplementary grant to meet expenses as per the revised estimates. The Bill was passed by the House through voice vote.

Further, following the request of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for Rs 7,200 crore for the Phase IV expansion, the government has allocated an additional Rs 1,648 crore in the revised estimates for the same. It has also kept an additional Rs 100 crore for Delhi-Shahjahanpur-Neemrana-Behrod and Delhi-Panipat-RRTS corridor in the revised estimates. An additional Rs 140 crore has also been allotted for free travel in buses for women.

The allocation for power subsidy has gone up by Rs 350 crore, over and above the Rs 3,250 crore allocated in March.

BALYAN EXTORTION CASE

Sangwan's first brush with police: Arrested in extortion case in 2014

SAKSHI CHAND  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

IT WAS 2014 when Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu came under the police lens for the very first time.

In July 2014, along with his associates, Sangwan opened fire at a man named Naresh Kumar at his house at Khaira village in Delhi's Chhawla area. He went on to demand Rs 30 lakh as extortion amount from Kumar's nephew Lalit and ended up being arrested. The FIR in the case was registered at Chhawla police station.

Born in 1991 at Nanda Enclave in Najafgarh, Sangwan has 17 criminal cases against him, mostly of extortion and firing, as per his dossier with the police.

AAP MLA Naresh Balyan was arrested on November 30 after the BJP played an audio clip of what it claimed was an alleged conversation between him and Sangwan.

According to the Crime Branch, which had last arrested Sangwan in 2016 in another extortion case lodged at Chhawla police station, the gangster is currently operating from London.

After Sangwan came out on parole in 2016, his brother Jyoti Prakash — who was then out on



Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu

interim bail in a murder case — threw a "welcome back" party for his brother at a farmhouse in South Delhi, said police. However, before they could reach the venue, the Crime Branch raided the spot and arrested some of their associates. The next day, Prakash surrendered in court after his interim bail period ended, the police added.

However, Sangwan was never to be seen again.

Hailing from Mahendragarh in Haryana, Sangwan had studied at KV Vikaspuri and at KV Jharoda Kalan, said police. He did his graduation in hotel management from Amity University at Manesar.

According to Crime branch officers, Sangwan's usual style was to make extortion calls to businessmen and then open fire at their residences or offices.

They added that he is an accused in the murder of Haryana politician Nafe Singh Rathee. His name has also cropped up in the murder of BJP leader Surendra Matiala, who was shot dead last year at Bindapur in Delhi.

Chaos on Delhi-Meerut Expressway: Two lanes barricaded to stop Congress convoy, traffic hit

NEETIKA JHA  
GHAZIABAD, DECEMBER 4

COMMUTERS WERE stranded in traffic on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway at the Ghazipur border Wednesday morning after scores of Congress workers gathered at the spot, defying heavy barricading and security meant to stop party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from visiting Sambhal.

Tension had been brewing in Sambhal since November 19, when a Mughal-era mosque was surveyed on court orders following claims that a temple previously stood at the site. Violence erupted during a second survey on November 24 as protesters gathered near the 16th century Shahi Jama Masjid and clashed with security personnel. Four people were killed in the violence.

The Ghaziabad Police deployed at least 200 police personnel on the six-lane expressway to



At the Ghazipur border on Wednesday. Tashi Tobgyal

stop the Congress convoy and closed two lanes going towards Hapur and Moradabad.

"We closed both lanes because we didn't know which side the Congress convoy would be

coming from," said DCP, Trans-Hindon, Ghaziabad, Nimish Patil. Patil also said traffic at Delhi-Meerut Expressway was diverted towards Akshardham, Ghazipur, and Noida. "People

were stranded for over two hours," added the DCP.

"We are normal people going for work," said Naveen Rastogi, who was among those stuck in traffic. Rastogi, who works at a

private firm in Noida, said he had been stranded for over an hour.

Even before 10 am, traffic was slower than normal on the expressway as one of the lanes was barricaded. The moment Gandhis' convoy with eight escorts arrived at the spot, the two lanes were completely blocked.

Rahul Gandhi could be seen occasionally stepping out of his car to ask party workers if they could succeed in getting permission from officials.

At 12.30 pm, he emerged from the sunroof of his grey Innova car, holding a pocket-sized copy of the Constitution, and said the Ghaziabad Police isn't letting him go despite multiple requests. "It is my constitutional right as the Leader of the Opposition. I am ready to go alone or even be accompanied by the police," he said.

Around 1.30 pm, after Gandhi returned to Delhi, the barricades were opened and commuters were signalled to move.

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<b>General Instruction:</b> 1. Interview will be held at Ashoka Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Main Building, AH (R&R). 2. Applicants must bring their original educational certificates. 3. For any query, please contact 7248972014. <b>Commandant</b> Army Hospital (R&R), Delhi Cantt				



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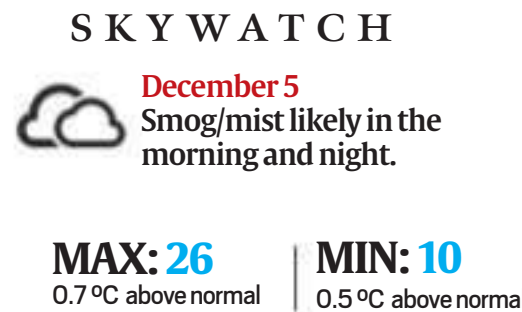
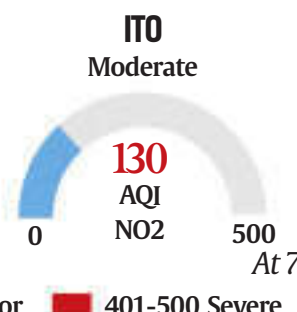
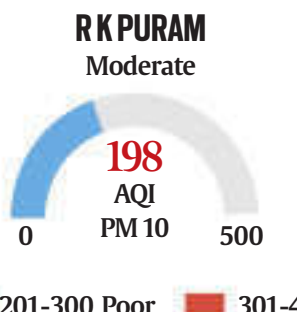
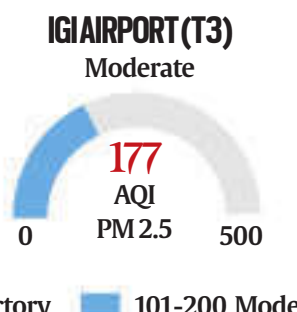
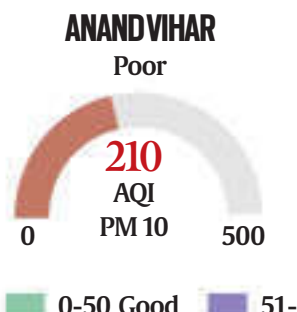
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BOY DIES AT SCHOOL: CLASSES MOVE ONLINE

Classmate apprehended, ‘hit student after shoulders touched’, say police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

A DAY after a 12-year-old boy died at a school in Vasant Vihar, police Wednesday apprehended his classmate, another 12-year-old student, for allegedly hitting him during a “scuffle” after their shoulders touched. The police, however, are awaiting the post-mortem report to confirm the exact cause of death.

The school, in a statement, said it will remain closed until further notice and classes have been moved online.

Police said they have accessed CCTV camera footage where the boy can be seen fighting with the deceased. An officer claimed that according to the boy, their fight broke out over “touching of shoulders”, following which he allegedly pushed the deceased towards a wall and held him by his neck.

DCP (Southwest) Surendra Choudhary, who confirmed that the boy has been apprehended, said they are yet to receive the post-mortem report from the hospital to confirm the exact cause of death. Meanwhile, a case on the charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder has been registered in the case.

Police had earlier said the Class 6 student was rushed to Fortis Hospital where he was declared dead around 10.15 am. He had no visible injuries on his body. “Some foam-like substance was oozing out of his mouth... Inquest proceedings have been initiated. The school’s boys and teachers are being examined and necessary legal ac-

An officer claimed that according to the boy, their fight broke out over ‘touching of shoulders’, following which he allegedly pushed the deceased towards a wall

tion will be taken,” the DCP had earlier said in a statement.

A statement from the school principal had said on Tuesday they were “deeply saddened” over the “tragic incident that occurred on (the school) premises during a class transition” while extending “its heartfelt condolences and support to the bereaved family”.

It added, “A scuffle between two Class 6 students of similar age has resulted in the unfortunate collapse of one student. The school administration has taken prompt action, informed the authorities and is extending full co-operation to all concerned.”

On Wednesday, the school in a fresh statement said: “Police authorities are investigating the case. The school is providing all support and cooperation during the ongoing investigation. The school will remain closed till further notice. However, to ensure that there is no academic loss, the school will be conducting classes through the online mode and the schedule will be shared through class groups.”

“Please join in prayers for our beloved student. We appreciate your understanding, support and cooperation,” it added.

Our son wanted to give us the best facilities: 12-yr-old’s family

SOPHIYA MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

‘PAPA, WHEN I am older I will buy a car that nobody has in the entire gali’. I will build a separate room for both of you on the ground floor” — sitting in their one-room makeshift house in Vasant Vihar, a 39-year-old man and his 34-year-old wife sobbed as they remembered their son’s dreams for them.

With his arm wrapped tight around his wife, the man said, “Our son wanted to give us the best facilities... he had such noble thoughts at such a young age...”

On Tuesday, their 12-year-old son was rushed to Fortis Hospital where doctors declared him dead. His classmate, another 12-year-old, has since been apprehended for allegedly hitting him after their shoulders touched.

Holding the phone which had her son’s photos in one hand, the boy’s mother, clad in a red sweater, clutched her son’s white-checked shirt close to her chest with her other hand. *Apni maa ke bina ek photo na hamare balak ka* (Without his mother in it, there is no photo of our son...) He was my son. Look how beautiful he was... this was our family photo,” she cried.

The father, a plumber, looked exhausted after performing the final rites. He said he had to apply for his son’s admission to the school thrice before the boy got



At Vasant Vihar police station. Abhinav Saha

a seat under the EWS quota. “My elder child could not get in, so I admitted him to another school in the general category seat; we had to pay Rs 5,000...”

No teacher from the school visited them, the couple claimed.

“Even for a minor issue, the school usually informs parents immediately. For something this big, nobody spoke a word to us, they (authorities) took my son to the hospital... and we (parents) were not told,” said the father.

Earlier in the day, several residents of Kusumpur Pahadi, where the family used to live earlier, protested outside the school and alleged they were beaten up by police. “Rather than ensuring justice, police have brutally lathi-charged Dalits residents of Kusumpur...,” claimed a statement by the All India Central Council of Trade Unions, which was part of the protest.

Police officers, however, de-

nied the allegations and said they were doing everything to complete the probe.

Aparajita Gautam, President of the Delhi Parents’ Association, stressed that the rest of the students in the class should get counselling. “Many parents claimed that classes would be left unattended in the school... there should not be any manipulation in the narrative. School safety committees have to be in place, as per the Delhi Education Department’s 2017 order. However, no information is available to us on the existence of such committees.”

Back at the family’s home, the parents continued to gaze at their son’s photo. “Every morning, I used to drop both my sons at school before heading to work... My youngest would not turn to walk to school without bidding me goodbye and seeing me leave,” he cried.

Social media to blame, need to sensitise students and parents on mental health: School heads

SOPHIYA MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

A DAY after the death of a 12-year-old boy at a Vasant Vihar school following an alleged scuffle between him and another student, teachers across schools in Delhi are on their toes to ensure campuses remain “safe”.

Several school principals *The Indian Express* spoke to all had a common concern — aggression induced by social media and a lack of focus on mental well-being has led to such untoward violence among young children. They also called for an “urgent re-assurance” to parents who may lack faith in safety of schools.

Asked about what is still lacking in schools in terms of safety, Tania Joshi, principal of The Indian School in South Delhi, responded, “I feel we are still behind in providing children with an outlet to speak up. When we counsel them, we ask them to listen, but they must be encouraged to ask questions and talk freely... Yesterday’s incident is a wake-up call for us. As teachers, we cannot miss the red flags and need to question why aggression is there among students.”

“...Steps like the buddy system and peer educator are being followed widely by schools but talking to adults might lead to better, mature results,” Joshi added.

Other principals agreed that while several measures including CCTV surveillance, safety-related workshops and counselling are already in place, a lot needs to be done in terms of sensitising students and parents.

L V Sehgal, principal of Bal Bharati Public School, Ganga Ram Hospital Marg, said, “Many pro-



Have to ensure campuses remain safe, say schools. Archive

gressive schools already have programmes on conflict management, tolerance building and discussions on the power of dialogue. There is a need to communicate with parents. After yesterday’s shocking incident which unfolded because of a small scuffle, we did have talks among principals. Everyone agreed that concerted efforts are needed where we sensitise children and teach them about building an environment of tolerance and respect.”

Other school principals are following suit. Pallavi Sharma, principal of Mamta Modern School in Vikaspuri, has decided to push for a discussion with students and teachers in her school.

Talking about the triggers for violence, all principals pointed out the heightened role of social media among students.

ITL Public School principal Sudha Acharya said, “This is a result of the direct impact of social media and gaming technology. In my school, smartphones are strictly banned and it is followed very successfully. But in houses, children are young as those in Class IV are using smartphones. Even hybrid mode of learning... such

measures are to be blamed for increased gadget exposure among kids, which goes unsupervised. How else can 10- to 12-year-olds show such aggression?”

Talking about parents, Sehgal said they have expressed concern. “I am fully with them during this time. The incident has spread great negativity and anxiety among the parents. Reassuring them is urgently needed.”

Now, schools are looking towards taking proactive steps.

About measures that need to be taken and which are already in place, Sehgal said his school has all-round CCTV surveillance, and senior students and parents undertake ‘safety walks’ to make sure all areas around the school are safe. He added, “We need to go beyond teaching them about a safe environment and the physical health and safety of the child. We need to focus on their mental well-being as well.”

Alka Kapur, principal of Modern Public School, Shalimar Bagh, said, “Schools should be a safe place for children. If we are not able to assure our children’s safety in homes and schools, then it’s a collective failure of the community.”

DU student slits throat of parents, sister at South Delhi home

PRAGYNESH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

A 20-YEAR-OLD Delhi University student, a state-level boxer, allegedly slit the throats of his parents and sister in the early hours of Wednesday at their home in South Delhi’s Devli village. The victims, police said, were Rajesh Kumar (51), an ex-Armyman, his wife Komal (46) and their 23-year-old daughter Kavita.

The accused, Arjun Tanwar, police said, was the one who made the PCR call. He has been arrested, said police.

“At 6.53 am, he (Arjun) called police saying someone had snuck inside their flat and murdered his parents and sister. He claimed he had gone to the gym and found the bodies when he returned,” DCP (South) Ankit Chauhan told *The Indian Express*.

“During questioning, Arjun began giving contradictory statements about the chain of events. For instance, he changed the time when he left home for the gym, the time he returned to find his family dead,” the police officer said. “He also kept changing his statement on how he discovered the bodies.”

Finally, the case was cracked when “the forensics team found bloodstains on the house and motorcycle keys, which were in Arjun’s possession,” the DCP said.

“Once confronted, he admitted to it,” a senior police of-



Police at the family’s home in Devli village. Praveen Khanna

ficer said.

The story that emerged didn’t have any twists. “He had been nursing a grudge against his family,” he said.

“He told police that his parents didn’t like him boxing because they thought he had abandoned his studies. Arjun is a student at Moti Lal Nehru College, where he was admitted under the sports quota (in the BA Political Science course). He wanted to become a professional boxer. He also told police that his parents had become closer to his sister who they thought was a good student and obedient child,” a police officer, privy to the questioning, said.

Arjun represented Delhi in a boxing competition and won a silver medal. However, the achievement wasn’t enough to convince his parents to support his dreams.

“Kavita was always good at studies. Rajesh and Komal wanted their son to be like her. Despite him being good at boxing, he was always compared to his sister,” a police officer said.

Things came to a head on Wednesday morning, the day of his parents’ wedding anniversary. Arjun found out, police said, that his parents had decided to transfer the ownership of their property to their daughter.

“The family owns a two-storey building where they lived. They also owned a plot in Gurgaon’s Harsaru,” a police officer said. “The father had apparently beaten him up in front of relatives recently. Arjun also fought with his parents on December 1. It was his sister’s birthday and the family had gathered to celebrate.”

“He had chosen this day for

the murder as it was his parent’s anniversary. This was the level of his anger,” a police officer said.

A case of murder has been registered at Neb Sarai police station.

What happened on Wednesday?

Based on the alleged statements of Arjun and other evidence, the police claimed they had established the chain of events.

“On Wednesday at 5 am, Arjun took his father’s service knife and slit his sister’s throat while she was asleep on the ground floor of the (two-storey) house,” said Joint CP (Southern Range) Sanjay Kumar Jain.

Arjun then went to the top floor of the house, where his father was sleeping. “He put his hand on his father’s mouth and slit his throat to stop him from making any noise. He then waited outside the washroom for his mother. As soon as she came out, he covered her mouth with a cloth and cut her throat as well,” a police officer part of the investigation said.

Arjun now needed an alibi. He decided to do what he does every day — go for an early morning workout session. “After killing his parents, around 5.30 am, he locked his house and went to Sanjay Van. He then came back, unlocked his house and called the police,” said Joint CP Jain.

Father ex-Armyman, was bizzman’s security officer

PRAGYNESH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

AT 4 AM Wednesday, Deepak updated his WhatsApp status to congratulate his uncle and aunt on their 25th wedding anniversary. Two hours later, his cousin Arjun Tanwar, replied, “Thanks”.

By the time he sent the message, Arjun had allegedly killed his parents, Rajesh Kumar and Komal, police suspect.

In the lane opposite the one where Rajesh’s two-storey home is located, his relatives were gathered, waiting for their turn to see the bodies of their loved ones. Inside the house, local police, Crime Branch and Special Cell officers, along with a forensic team, inspected the crime scene and questioned Arjun who would later be charged with killing his parents and elder sister.

Rajesh, an ex-Armyman, was as a personal security officer to a businessman at Sainik Farms. He retired as Naik Subedar in 2007 and had been living in Devli village, Neb Sarai, for the last 10 years. Komal was a homemaker. His daughter Kavita was a taekwondo black belt. “Rajesh had taken a plot at Harsaru village in Gurgaon, and wanted to build a home there and shift after Arjun



Rajesh Kumar, his wife Komal, daughter Kavita.

and Kavita were settled,” said Dharmender, Deepak’s brother.

Police said there were no signs of forced entry into the house and all locks were intact, which pointed towards the house being locked after the murders were committed.

Sube Singh, Rajesh’s paternal cousin, said that only him and his family members had the keys to the house. “He had never mentioned any enmity or tension,” he added.

Saurav, who lives in the same neighbourhood, said Kavita was thinking of preparing for UPSC: “I used to teach both Arjun and Kavita when they were in school. I’m preparing for UPSC and Kavita had come to ask me about it...”

LONGEST-SERVING HC JUDGE, CJ MANMOHAN BIDS FAREWELL, ELEVATED TO TOP COURT

‘Less than two weeks for retirement, made it in the nick of time’

SOHINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

AS HE bid farewell to the Delhi High Court upon his elevation to the Supreme Court, Chief Justice (CJ) Manmohan said Wednesday that he “made it in the nick of time” as his appointment to the apex court comes less than two weeks before he was supposed to retire as a HC judge.

While the retirement age of top court judges is 65 years, HC judges demit office at 62. CJ Manmohan is scheduled to take oath as SC judge on Thursday.

“With less than two weeks for retirement, I have been elevated to the Supreme Court... I think I have just made it in the nick of time,” CJ Manmohan,

who was on the Delhi HC bench for over 16 years, said at a farewell function organised by the Delhi High Court Bar Association.

An emotional CJ Manmohan reflected on his experiences from the bench, which he held for over 6,000 days, making him one of the longest-serving HC judges. “... Justice Prakash Narayan of this court was the longest-serving judge with 6,041 days. I’ve just surpassed his record and had a tenure of 6,110 days... I think it will be a difficult record to beat...”

He urged “young members of bar” that “if the position of judgeship is offered to you, please accept it, because it is necessary for this institution to grow and develop”.

Maintaining that a local person from Delhi being elevated to



CJ Manmohan at a farewell function organised by the Delhi High Court Bar Association. Express

the SC is a rarity, CJ Manmohan said, “I am a local Delhiite who was conferred the status of Chief Justice of this court after 36 years. For a local to become the CJ and a local judge to be elevated to the

SC directly is a rarity...”

On the lives led by judges and challenges that come with it, he added, “...when you become a judge, take it from me, your life restarts again. Your friends with

whom you used to have lunch, they become distant companions. Luckily for me, when I joined the bench, I was invited to a tea club, which comprised three other judges — Justice (Vipin) Sanghi, Justice (G S) Sistani and Justice (Rajiv Sahai) Endlaw and we’d meet every day for 15-20 minutes for a cup of coffee... Among all judges, we earned the reputation of running a politiburo...”

“... being a judge is quite tough. You have to be mentally resilient, you have very little time for yourself and your family, and very small elbow room to play around. So, if we as judges stay united as a family, we will be able to overcome our problems.”

CJ Manmohan also highlighted that he refrained from exercising his veto power when his

view was in the minority in judgments. “As the CJ, I have to take my court along. It’s good that there are different opinions. At times, I have been in the minority, I have allowed the majority to prevail and not exercised any veto power... I think magnanimity and civility that each judge shows the other, the respect they show to the other, is very important — that tradition must continue...”

At the full court farewell, CJ Manmohan emphasised he has tried to ensure that public faith in the judicial system has increased over time. “The real efficacy and credibility of a judicial system is measured by the public faith it enjoys... I have witnessed the transformative power of law, seen it heal wounds, right wrongs and restore faith,” he added.

After 50 days, Delhi sees ‘moderate’ air quality

New Delhi: With a clear sky and sustained strong winds, Delhi Wednesday recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 178, in the ‘moderate’ category — 50 days after it had last experienced such air.

October 15 was the last time Delhi recorded ‘moderate’ AQI of 198. The 24-hour average AQI recorded at 4 pm was an improvement from the 268 registered on Tuesday. As per Central Pollution Control Board data, last December had not witnessed any ‘moderate’ AQI days. In 2022, three ‘moderate’ AQI days were observed in December.

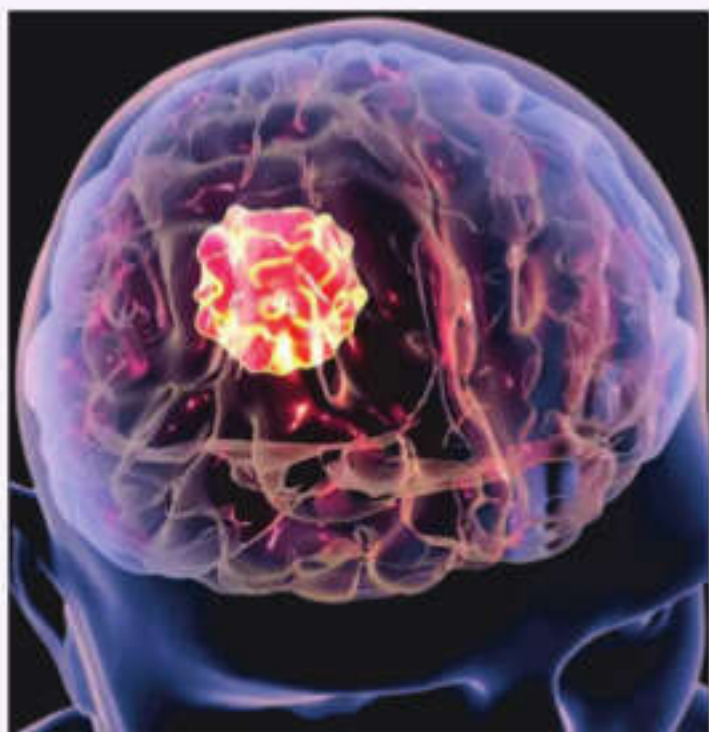
According to Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), the air quality is likely to be in the ‘moderate’ category Thursday, following which is set to slip to the ‘poor’ category till Saturday. The AQI in the subsequent six days is set to fluctuate between ‘poor’ and ‘very poor’ categories. On Wednesday forenoon, the wind speed reached up to 12 kmph, said the IMD. Even at night, the wind speed reached above 5 kmph. Sustained strong winds from the Northwest since the month’s beginning has helped disperse pollutants. **ENS**



# Seize the Epilepsy DRAGON

An Initiative for INFANTILE SPASMS AWARENESS

## Increased awareness & early treatment key to success



**Dr. Anita Sharma**  
Senior Pediatric Neurologist,  
New Delhi

■ Infantile Spasm are a common epilepsy syndrome in first year of life. It is a triad of epileptic spasm (salaam attacks) usually in clusters, characteristic chaotic electroencephalogram (EEG) known as hypsarrhythmia & developmental arrest. Spasms mostly occur on awakening & comprise of sudden forward bending or backward straightening of body for a second. They are mistaken for colic or startle resulting in delayed diagnosis.

■ Identification of etiology is important for effective treatment & genetic counseling. Important causes include birth asphyxia, neonatal hypoglycemia due to delayed feeding, central nervous system

infections, brain malformations, metabolic & chromosomal causes & tuberous sclerosis. In 1/3rd patients cause is unidentified. MRI brain & EEG are two important investigations. Only 1/3rd cases need genetic & metabolic tests.

■ Treatment includes multi-disciplinary approach. Drug treatment depends on cause & primarily comprises of steroids and vigabatrin for tuberous sclerosis. In refractory cases options are anti-seizure drugs, ketogenic diet & surgery. With early treatment 50-70% patients have good seizures control while rest continue with seizures.

### Diet and Nutrition for Children with Infantile Spasms: Stop Infantile Spasms



**Dr. Praveen Kumar**  
Senior Pediatric Neurologist,  
New Delhi

Diet and nutrition are vital in managing infantile spasms, especially when traditional treatments fall short. Here are effective strategies:

- **Ketogenic Diet:** A high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet that induces ketosis, potentially reducing seizure frequency by shifting energy sources from glucose to fats.
- **Modified Atkins Diet:** A flexible version allowing higher carbohydrate intake while emphasizing healthy fats, making it easier for children to follow.
- **MCT Diet:** Incorporates medium-chain triglyceride oil for quick energy metabolism, helping maintain ketosis without strict carb restrictions.
- **Nutritional Balance:** Ensure children receive essential vitamins and minerals to support overall health.
- **Consult Specialists:** Work with a pediatric dietitian experienced in epilepsy to tailor dietary plans and monitor nutrition.
- **Regular Monitoring:** Follow-ups are essential to assess the diet's effectiveness and adjust based on seizure activity.

In addition to spasms, your baby might exhibit twitching or jerking movements, known as myoclonus, which can be classified as either positive (sudden muscle tensing) or negative (sudden muscle relaxing) these movements are involuntary. During seizures, you may notice visible signs such as your baby turning pale or red, sweating, having large pupils, or experiencing changes in breathing and heartbeat.

As your baby develops, watch for delays in reaching milestones like rolling over or recognizing voices. They might also regress, forgetting skills they previously learned, such as sitting up. This delayed development is a key symptom to monitor.

## The Importance of Early Diagnosis and Treatment for Infantile Spasm



**Dr. Puja Grover Kapoor**  
Pediatric Neurologist,  
Gurgaon, Haryana

- Early diagnosis and treatment of infantile spasms are crucial for improving the long-term outcomes in affected children.
- Infantile spasms, a severe form of epilepsy that typically manifests in infants, can lead to significant developmental delays and cognitive

impairment if left untreated.

- Prompt recognition of the condition enables immediate intervention, which is essential because the longer the spasms persist, the greater the risk of lasting neurological damage.
- Research indicates that early initiation of effective therapies, such as hormonal treatments or antiseizure medications, can significantly reduce the frequency of spasms and help restore normal development.
- Delayed treatment is associated with worse outcomes, including increased rates of cognitive impairment and behavioural issues.
- Additionally, early diagnosis aids in identifying any underlying causes, such as structural brain abnormalities



or genetic syndromes, which can influence treatment decisions and management strategies.

- Overall, timely diagnosis and intervention are paramount in optimizing developmental trajectories and improving the prognosis for children with infantile spasms.

An Initiative for  
Infantile Spasms  
Awareness



## Recognizing and Responding to Infantile Spasms: A Parent's Guide to Stop Them

Understanding infantile spasms is crucial for parents. Here's how to recognize and respond:

**Recognizing Infantile Spasms**

- **Types:** Familiarize yourself with characteristics, like sudden jerking movements, head drops, or eye movements.

- **Signs:** Watch for unusual behaviours like clusters of spasms, changes in alertness, or irritability.

**Responding to Infantile Spasms**

- **Stay Calm:** Your calmness reassures your child and creates a supportive environment.
- **Ensure Safety:** Clear the area of



hazards and gently support your child to prevent injury.

- **Timing:** Note how long the spasms last. If they persist or occur frequently, seek medical help.

**After the Spasms**

- **Recovery Position:** Place your child on their side to keep their airway clear.
- **Comfort and Reassure:** Afterward, your child may be confused or tired; offer comfort during recovery.
- **Document:** Keep a record of the episode, including duration and behaviours, to share with your healthcare provider.

Being informed and prepared can help ensure your child's safety and work towards stopping infantile spasms effectively.

### Recognizing the Symptoms of Infantile Spasms: A Guide for Parents



**Dr. Rafat Trivedi**  
Pediatric Neurologist,  
Gurgaon, Haryana

Infantile spasms, or West syndrome, primarily manifest as short seizures and spasms that occur in clusters, meaning one episode follows another quickly. Mild seizures might look like head nodding, while more forceful seizures can cause stiffness, arm flinging, or knee pulling. Some seizures may affect only one side of the body, and your baby may cry before or after the episode.

In addition to spasms, your baby might exhibit twitching or jerking movements, known as myoclonus, which can be classified as either positive (sudden muscle tensing) or negative (sudden muscle relaxing) these movements are involuntary. During seizures, you may notice visible signs such as your baby turning pale or red, sweating, having large pupils, or experiencing changes in breathing and heartbeat.

As your baby develops, watch for delays in reaching milestones like rolling over or recognizing voices. They might also regress, forgetting skills they previously learned, such as sitting up. This delayed development is a key symptom to monitor.

## How Infantile Spasms Are Diagnosed: The Role of EEG and Other Tests to Stop Infantile Spasms

Diagnosis of infantile spasms, syndrome is mainly by history and video evaluation of the seizure type. If a infant has typical epileptic spasm ( sudden jerk with flexion or extension of body with stiffness for few seconds duration is spasm) which occurs in clusters and mostly seen after waking up from sleep is a case of infantile spasm syndrome.

To be sure on diagnosis, an EEG is done. The hallmark finding for infantile spasms in EEG is hypsarrhythmia, marked by high voltage, random slow waves, and spikes across cortical areas.

Following EEG, neuroimaging, preferably MRI, is crucial as it can identify the underlying cause in about 70% of cases. If no cause is found after EEG and MRI, further metabolic and genetic testing should be conducted.



**Dr. Rajni Farmania**  
Pediatric Neurologist,  
New Delhi

Patients without an identifiable cause are classified as having infantile spasms of unknown etiology, accounting for 10% to 40% of cases.

Using these diagnostic tools helps healthcare providers work toward effectively treating infantile spasms.



## What Are Infantile Spasms? Understanding the Condition



**Dr. Ankush Singh**  
Pediatric Neurologist,  
Gurgaon, Haryana

Infantile spasms, also known as West syndrome, are a type of seizure disorder that typically occurs in infants and young children. These spasms are characterized by sudden, jerking movements of the body, often involving the neck, trunk, and limbs. They usually happen in clusters, lasting a few seconds each time.

The condition often arises between the ages of 3 to 12 months and can be linked to various underlying issues, including brain development problems or metabolic disorders. Parents may notice unusual behaviours, such as stiffening of the body, arching of the back, or a sudden pause in activity.

Infantile spasms can lead to developmental delays and other cognitive challenges if not treated promptly. Early diagnosis and intervention are crucial for managing the condition effectively, and treatment options may include medications, dietary changes, or, in some cases, surgery.

Understanding the signs and seeking timely medical advice can make a significant difference in outcomes for affected children.



## Physical and Occupational Therapy: Helping Your Child Thrive with Infantile Spasms



**Dr. Rishi Sharma**  
Pediatric Neurologist,  
New Delhi

Infantile spasms (IS) can impact a child's physical and developmental abilities. Physical and occupational therapy are essential in supporting their growth.

**Physical Therapy (PT)- Goals:** Improve motor skills, strength, and coordination. Address mobility issues and enhance physical fitness.

**Approach:** Tailored exercises focus on gross motor skills like crawling, walking, and balance. Use of play-based activities to engage children and make therapy enjoyable.

**Occupational Therapy (OT)- Goals:** Boost daily living skills and independence.

**Approach:** Activities that improve hand-eye coordination, grip strength, and self-care skills (like dressing and feeding). Strategies to manage sensory sensitivities and promote comfort in various environments.

**Benefits:** Enhanced Development: Both PT and OT can significantly boost a child's physical and cognitive development. Improved Quality of Life: Therapy helps children gain skills that enhance their independence and confidence.

Early intervention through physical and occupational therapy can significantly benefit children with infantile spasms, leading to better developmental outcomes and quality of life.





PTI

## GUEST IN GARDEN

CONGRESS MP from Thiruvananthapuram Shashi Tharoor had an unusual visitor on Wednesday morning when he was reading a newspaper in his garden — a monkey that leapt into his lap. Tharoor offered the guest bananas and got a hug in return. The monkey then took a nap in his lap. Tharoor claimed that when he tried to gently get up, the monkey loped away. Posting pictures of the encounter on X, Tharoor wrote: “Reverence for wildlife is ingrained in us, so though I was a bit concerned about the risk of a monkey-bite (which would have necessitated rabies shots), I stayed calm and welcomed his presence as non-threatening. I am gratified that my faith was borne out and our encounter was entirely peaceful and gentle.”

## KERALA CONNECTION

CONGRESS LOK Sabha member from Wayanad Priyanka Gandhi Vadra wants to take up in the House the issue of Central assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the disaster-struck areas of her constituency. Although she is yet to get an opportunity to speak on the floor of the House, she was part of a delegation of Kerala MPs from both the Houses that met Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday. The delegation submitted to Shah a memorandum prepared by the Kerala government. Shah, who according to MPs present there was very ‘business like’, assured the delegation to provide by Thursday evening the status report on what the Centre has done and what all it can do for Wayanad.

## SERVICE PROVIDER

UNION COMMUNICATIONS Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia surprised many when he replied in Marathi to a question from Congress MP from Maharashtra Pratibha Suresh Dhanorkar about BSNL and its employees. But the question triggered some heated arguments thereafter and Scindia asserted that the government was committed to the welfare of the employees of the BSNL, which he said, has been revived by the present government. However, Opposition MPs appeared not convinced with his reply. When Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Arvind Sawant asked how many MPs from the ruling BJP use BSNL service, Speaker Om Birla intervened, saying BSNL is the only service that is provided by Parliament.

## RS clears Bill for regulating boilers, safety of life, property

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE RAJYA Sabha on Wednesday cleared a bill with provisions for regulation of boilers, safety of life and property from explosions, and uniformity in registrations.

The Boilers Bill, 2024, which seeks to repeal the century-old Boilers Act, 1923, was cleared in the Upper House by a voice vote. The bill has provisions to ensure

the safety of people working inside a boiler apart from repair of boilers to be undertaken by qualified and competent persons.

According to the Commerce Ministry, the bill will benefit boiler users, including those in the MSME sector—as provisions related to decriminalisation have been incorporated in it. Out of seven offences, to ensure the safety of boilers and personnel, criminal penalties were retained in four major ones that involve loss of life and property.

## From Sambhal to Ajmer: Sangh Parivar silence betrays unease after Bhagwat’s note of caution

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE SILENCE of the Sangh Parivar on the latest petitions filed in local courts claiming Hindu rights over Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal as well as Ajmer Sharif Dargah in Ajmer, betrays a sense of both unease and uncertainty. Ideologically, this move resonates with the RSS’s claim that multiple Hindu temples were destroyed and converted into mosques by Islamic invaders. Indeed, the Ram Janmabhoomi moment that led to the demolition of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya—and the launch of the Ram Temple this year in the wake of the 2019 Supreme Court judgment is seen as the Sangh’s ideological triumph.

However, the latest petitions also strike some discordant chords within. Several RSS leaders told *The Indian Express* that making “too many such claims”, some of which may turn out to be frivolous, could weaken the cases where Hindus have “genuine claims such as Kashi and

Mathura”. Sources said the Sangh has even advised restraint to certain petitioners who have reached out to it for guidance.

“We had three key issues — Ram Mandir, Kashi and Mathura. One (Ram Temple) is done and the other two are on track. By making such claims everywhere randomly, it hurts our genuine cases. People begin to believe they too are being claimed as part of some political agenda and are based on frivolous grounds,” a Sangh leader said. None of the RSS leaders was willing to make any comments over the issue on record, though.

This silence is not without reason.

In June 2022, amid a legal battle in Varanasi following a petition claiming Hindu rights over Gyanvapi mosque, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat had said: “Hindus are not opposed to Muslims. The ancestors of Muslims were Hindus. Many feel that what was done (the demolition of temples) was done to break the morale of Hindus. A section of Hindus now feels that these temples need to be reconstructed. (But) one should also not raise a

### RUCKUS IN RAJYA SABHA AS OPP DENIED CLARIFICATIONS

## India-China ties: Jaishankar says de-escalation talks next

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

REFERRING TO friction points in Galwan Valley and Pangong Tso where disengagement of troops was achieved two years ago by creating buffer zones, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that temporary and limited steps were worked out in a few other places where friction had occurred in 2020.

“Based on local conditions, to obviate the possibility of further friction. This, I must stress, applies to both sides and can be revisited as the situation demands. In that sense, our stance has been resolute and firm and serves our national security fully,” Jaishankar said on Wednesday while making a statement on India-China relations, in the Rajya Sabha.

His statement was followed by a brief uproar in the House and Opposition MPs walked out after Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar disallowed them from seeking clarifications. “Time and again, I have invited your attention, indulgence, that we are being watched by the



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. PTI

entire nation and our demeanour is causing a serious dilution of the institution, an institution meant for debate is not having it, therefore getting into irrelevance,” Dhankhar said as Opposition members demanded answers from the minister.

“The rule on a statement is explicit. The minister... has taken the House in confidence. He could be as exhaustive as possible,” he said.

Jaishankar, while talking on the recent developments in India’s ties with China, also said, “The disengagement has now

been achieved in full in Eastern Ladakh through a step-by-step process, culminating in Depsang and Demchok...”

“The conclusion of the disengagement phase now allows us to consider other aspects of our bilateral engagement in a calibrated manner, keeping our national security interests first and foremost. In my recent meeting with Foreign Minister Wang Yi, we reached an understanding that the special representatives and the foreign secretary-level mechanisms will be convening soon.”

“In the negotiations with China, the defence and diplomatic arms worked in lockstep to ensure that our national interests were comprehensively met. In that context, the House would also recognize that there has been a significant improvement in the border infrastructure which has made such effective counter-deployment possible. This is reflected, amongst others, in the increase of border infrastructure allocations in the last decade. The Border Roads Organization (BRO) alone has incurred three times the expendi-

ture level of what it was a decade ago. Whether it is the length of the road networks, of bridges or of the number of tunnels, there has been a substantial increase over the earlier period,” he said.

The minister also said that India was and remains very clear that the three key principles must be observed in all circumstances. “Both sides should strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control (LAC), neither side should attempt to unilaterally alter the status quo, and agreements and understandings reached in the past must be fully abided by in their entirety,” he explained.

Noting that peace and tranquility in border areas is a pre-requisite for development of ties with China, Jaishankar said, “Our relationship had progressed in many domains, but was obviously negatively affected by recent events. We are clear that the maintenance of peace and tranquility in border areas is a prerequisite for the development of our ties. In the coming days, we will be discussing both de-escalation as well as effective management of our activities in the border areas...”

### BJP asks govt to ensure safety of Hindus, ISKCON in Bangladesh

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE ISSUE of atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh resonated in Lok Sabha on Wednesday, with members of the BJP urging the government to ensure safety of the Hindus and ISKCON followers in the neighbouring country.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, BJP’s Hema Malini said, “I am extremely sad... to see what is happening in Bangladesh to our Hindus and Hindu temples, especially, ISKCON and its devotees. Continuous attacks on Hindu temples are going on...”

Malini mentioned that the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) is established all over the world and it has nearly thousand centres today. “They are known for spreading Vedic culture all over the world, and spreading Krishna consciousness and peace,” said Malini, who represent Mathura Lok Sabha constituency. “I appeal to the Government of India that it should be ensured that the attacks on Hindus and temples in Bangladesh are stopped immediately and all the ISKCON devotees, including Chinmoy Krishna Das be released from the prison and the sedition case be dropped.”

BJP MPs Dilip Saikia, who represents Darrang-Udalguri constituency in Assam, and Ujjain MP Anil Firojiya also raised the issue in the Lok Sabha.

### All passengers get 46% subsidy, says Vaishnaw in LS

New Delhi: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said in the Lok Sabha that the Indian Railways provide 46 per cent subsidy for every passenger.

Replying to a supplementary question, Vaishnaw said: “The total subsidy provided by the Government of India for all passengers travelling in Indian Railways is Rs 56,993 crore. When the cost of providing the service is Rs 100, the ticket is charged at Rs 54, which amounts to 46 per cent subsidy for every passenger travelling, which includes all the categories...” He was responding to a question from MDMK member Durai Vaikio.



ANI

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in Lok Sabha, Wednesday

dents and suggested that the government reduce the Indian Railways’ operating cost and improve passenger amenities.

Participating in the day-long debate on the Bill in the Lok Sabha, several opposition members, including NK Premachandran of the RSP, demanded that the government resume offering rail fare concessions to senior citizens.

Independent MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav demanded the resumption of concession in rail fares for journalists and SC/ST/OBC students appearing for examinations. Congress’s Gurjeet Singh Aujla alleged that the Bill, if passed, would end the Railway Board and promote privatisation. He said people were apprehensive that the Centre would privatise the railways.

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

## SC reserves order in Partha bail plea: ‘Don’t claim parity... on the face of it, you’re corrupt’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

UNDERLING THE gravity of the allegations against former West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee in connection with the alleged cash-for-jobs scam, the Supreme Court Wednesday rejected his claims for parity with co-accused who have got bail in the case and said “there is no such thing as parity for ministers”.

“Don’t claim parity... There is no such thing as parity for ministers... there is no Association of Ministers in the country,” Justice Surya Kant presiding over a two-judge bench said while hearing Chatterjee’s plea for bail in the money laundering case registered by the Enforcement Directorate on connection with the scam.

The remarks came as Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Chatterjee, cited the bail given to Tamil Nadu minister Senthil Balaji in the money laundering case against him.

Stressing that the charges were serious, Justice Kant also told Rohatgi that “on the face of

it, you are a corrupt person. What message do you want us to send to society? That corrupt person can get bail like this?”

The senior counsel argued that Chatterjee had already spent two and half years in custody, but Justice Kant asked, “So what? Crores of rupees were recovered from your premises.”

The court added that time may be required to complete the investigation.

The Bench comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, however, told Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, who appeared for the ED, that Chatterjee cannot be kept in custody for an indefinite period.

When Raju said that Chatterjee would not be able to walk out of jail even if he is granted bail as he is also in custody in the CBI case registered in connection with the scam, Justice Bhuyan told him: “If he (Chatterjee) is entitled to bail, he is entitled. Don’t say he won’t come out of jail. You don’t know what the trial court will do. Our court has held that deprivation of liberty for one day is a day too many.”

## Govt responses to Canada, US charges under scrutiny of House committee

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

MEMBERS OF THE Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs Wednesday were said to have questioned the government on the diplomatic spat between New Delhi and Ottawa over the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, especially on the difference in India’s responses to allegations levelled by Canadian and US agencies.

It is learnt that some members were of the view that while New Delhi reacted sharply to Canada’s allegation of Indian involvement in the killing of Nijjar, it had played down the US charge of an Indian plot to kill separatist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun on its soil.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, according to members, faced a volley of questions on why pronouncements of US officials in the Pannun case had not been rebutted as strongly as was done in the wake of the Canadian allegations.

In November last year, within months of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleging involvement of Indian officials in the Nijjar case, there were allegations from the US about a failed Indian plot to kill Pannun on American soil.

An unsealed indictment by the US Department of Justice (DoJ) later named Indian national Nikhil Gupta in connection with his involvement in the Pannun case. Gupta was extradited to the US in June.

## Crocodile tears won’t serve interest of farmers, Dhankhar tells Opp MPs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

WEDNESDAY’S RAJYA Sabha proceedings began with slogans raised by the Opposition after chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar refused to accept notices for discussion on farmers issues, cyclone Fengal, corruption allegation against Adani group, and violence in Sambhal. Dhankhar said: “As already indicated yesterday, that practice has been discontinued.”

Parliament’s proceedings were stalled for several days due to an impasse between the Opposition and the government on notices under rule 267.

As the Opposition raised slogans on farmers’ issues, Dhankhar said that they were only politicising those and creating drama. He said that “crocodile tears” would not serve the interest of farmers, and pointed out that none of the

At the meeting Wednesday, in which the MEA briefed the parliamentary panel on issues involving China and Canada, the Foreign Secretary, it is learnt, also informed MPs that based on evidences provided by the US in the Pannun matter, a high-level committee is probing the matter and the investigation is yet to be concluded.

Referring to Canada’s allegation of Indian involvement in the murder of Khalistani activist Nijjar, the Foreign Secretary was said to have conveyed to the panel that the Canadian government had been unable to produce any evidence to back its charge.

India has rejected Canada’s charge as “absurd” and “motivated”, and criticised it for providing space to extremist and anti-India elements.

It is learnt when MPs expressed concern about the safety and protection of the Indian diaspora and the estimated five-lakh strong student community in Canada, officials of the MEA conveyed that all efforts were being made to ensure their safety.

On China, Misri, while informing the panel that the disengagement process in Ladakh had made progress, echoed the points made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Parliament.

Some MPs also demanded an early briefing on the situation in Bangladesh, given the turmoil there following the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina government and incidents of attacks on the Hindu minority.



Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar

rule 267 notices, previously given by the members, pertained to farmers’ issues.

Dhankhar also allowed Congress MP Pramod Tiwari to speak. “Sticks were used on the farmers, the government’s promise of MSP was not provided...,” Tiwari said. Cutting Tiwari short, Dhankhar said: “In future, I will keep this in mind that your assurance was a strategy and it is not appreciated. I allowed you on the assurance that you will conform to decorum and discipline.”

## SC transfers cases against BJP leader to CBI, says police probe may be unfair

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G.  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

STATING THAT the “atmosphere” in West Bengal is “politically charged”, the SC Wednesday transferred two cases against a BJP leader to the CBI and said apprehensions expressed by the petitioner that he may not get a fair investigation at the hands of the police “may not be baseless”.

BJP leader Kabir Shankar Bose had filed a petition in the SC seeking transfer of probe into two FIRs lodged by police in Serampore in December 2020 over a scuffle between the BJP leader’s security guards and ruling TMC workers.

Bose, who was earlier married to TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee’s daughter, had alleged in his petition that he was being victimised at the behest of his political rivals

after the couple got divorced.

The Bench of Justice B V Nagarathna and Justice Pankaj Mithal said in the order that “it is undisputed that Bose and Banerjee’s daughter had a divorce and as such, there is bitter enmity between the two” leaders.

“The political scenario in the State... is... opposed to the party in power at the Centre and here there is no denial to the alleged incident involving CISF officials attached to the petitioner,” the top court said.

Given such a situation, it said, “the possibility that the petitioner may not get a fair investigation at the hands of the local police or that the local police may not behave cordially with him in the course of the investigation may not be baseless and cannot be brushed aside outrightly or lightly.”





INTERNATIONAL CHEETAH DAY

Two male cheetahs released back into the wild at Kuno

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BHOPAL, DECEMBER 4

AFTER SPENDING over a year inside protective enclosures, two cheetahs — Agni and Vayu — were released into the open forest area of Kuno National Park on the occasion of International Cheetah Day Wednesday.

The release took place in the Palpur East area, located across the Kuno River. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav noted that this “step not only strengthens the state’s wildlife population but also gives a boost to tourism in the region.”

The cheetahs were brought to the enclosures on August 13, 2023 after three adult cheetahs “died due to septicaemia after wounds beneath their dense winter coat on the back and neck regions became infested with maggots” in July. It was a major setback to the translocation project that began in September 2022.

In August, the Cheetah Project Steering Committee — a panel of experts that monitors and advises the government on the reintroduction of cheetahs — had decided to release the cheetahs into the wild.

The committee had stated that the cheetahs should be released in a phased manner, starting with coalitions (a group that lives together), then individual cheetahs and at last, mothers

with their cubs.

“The team ensured that all logistical and security measures were in place to facilitate the smooth transition of the Cheetah coalition. They will be monitored by a team constantly,” a wildlife officer said.

There are currently a total of 24 Cheetahs, including 12 cubs, at Kuno.

After the male coalitions are released, wildlife officials will “study their behaviour before the others are set into the wild”, said an official.

The wildlife officials would anxiously wait for the results in the coming days as there are also challenges in the form of co-predators, such as leopards who stalk the landscape and the prey base of the chitals. Experts have previously flagged concerns about the cheetahs losing out on much needed experience to tackle wild conditions after spending a year in captivity.

However, wildlife officials are confident that they would survive in the wild after the cheetahs managed to “successfully hunt chitals” during their time inside the enclosure.

To fight the septicemia infection, which broke out last year, the veterinarians have already carried out prophylactic vaccination of the cheetahs.

They have now begun preparing for preventive vaccinations for other diseases that may afflict the animals.

Soldier shot at in J&K’s Tral

*Srinagar:* A soldier was injured when suspected militants shot at him in south Kashmir’s Tral.

The soldier, identified as Delair Mushtaq Sofi, a resident of Khanagund village in Tral, had come home on leave when some suspected militants fired at him

Wednesday evening. The soldier was shot in the leg and was immediately rushed to hospital for treatment. According to police sources, Sofi is an army man with Territorial Army and is currently posted at Pattan in north Kashmir.

ENS



**पटना मेट्रो रेल कॉर्पोरेशन लि.**  
(केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार का संयुक्त उपक्रम)  
साँतवा तल, इंदिरा भवन, बोरिंग केनाल रोड, पटना


**TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE**  
निविदा सं0-AL/14/2024-Sec-1/PMRC, दिनांक-15.07.2024 जिससे “**Selection of Agency for Providing Manpower Services to Patna Metro Rail Corporation Limited (PMRCL)**” का विज्ञापन प्रकाशित किया गया था, जिसे अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द किया जाता है।

हू0/- महाप्रबंधक (प्रोक्स्यमेंट)  
पटना मेट्रो रेल कॉर्पोरेशन लि.

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR TRANSPORT-CUM-CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHANDIGARH CITY BUS SERVICES SOCIETY, UNION TERRITORY, CHANDIGARH**  
**CORRIGENDUM/ADDENDUM**  
Chandigarh City Bus Services Society invited bid through Manufacturer / Authorized Dealers/ Distributors from SML ISUZU for the supply of spare parts of the SML Vehicles/ Buses Depot No-II, CCBSS, Chandigarh on discount basis vide letter bearing No. 3453/SA/DC (F&A)/CCBSS/2024, dated 19/11/2024 by floating e-Tender in the website of CTU / Chandigarh Administration. The last date for receipt of responses was 05.12.2024, response has been received till last date. Now, Chandigarh City Bus Services Society extend the last date from 05.12.2024 upto 14.00 PM to 16.12.2024 upto 14.00 PM for receipt of EMD and other terms and conditions mentioned in the website. The detailed terms and conditions of the tender can be downloaded from the website of the Chandigarh Administration i.e. chdctu.gov.in and <http://chandigarh.gov.in>, <http://etenders.chd.nic.in/nicgp/app> respectively. The other terms and conditions will remain same. Sd/- Deputy Controller (F&A) for Director Transport-cum-CEO, CCBSS, Chandigarh.

संविदा सं. सी.एल.-33004/99

REGD. NO. D. L.-33004/99



**भारत का राजपत्र**  
**The Gazette of India**  
सी.जी.-सी.एल.-33-22102024-258135  
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सं. 4804]

नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, 3 दिसम्बर, 2024 / 12 अग्रहायण, 1946


No. 4804]

**NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024/AGRAHAYANA 12, 1946**

**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**  
**Notification**  
**New Delhi, the 3rd December, 2024**  
S.O. 5196(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, 5192 Dated:07/12/2023, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intension to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH709B in the stretch of land from Km. 14.75 to Km. 26.15 (Delhi saharanpur highway from Delhi/UP Border to EPE junction) in the district of GHAZIABAD in the state of UTTAR PRADESH; And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in “Indian Express (English)” and “Amar Ujala (Hindi)” both dated 16.12.2023 under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act; And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately; And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government; Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose; And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

**SCHEDULE**  
Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH709B in the stretch of land from Km. 14.75 to Km. 26.15 (Delhi saharanpur highway from Delhi/UP Border to EPE junction) in the district of GHAZIABAD in the state of UTTAR PRADESH


7813 GI/2024



File Number: NHA/PIU-Gzb/709B/12011/LA/3D  
ABHAY JAIN, Director

District: GHAZIABAD  
<https://egazette.gov.in>  
Publication Date: 5 December 2024  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YhLyY3dJMj5PV7tnsOTLmN4oxEISK6S9/view?usp=sharing>

Note : The physical copy of this notification is also available at the office of CALA/PIU/PMU/RO/ED and Landowners may also see the notification there.



**हिन्दी अकादमी, दिल्ली**  
(राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली सरकार)  
समुदाय भवन, पदम नगर, किशन गंज, दिल्ली-110007  
ईमेल- [hindiacademyprogrammel@gmail.com](mailto:hindiacademyprogrammel@gmail.com) दूरभाष: 20923002, 20923005

**नवोदित लेखक पुरस्कार प्रतियोगिता 2024-25**

हिन्दी अकादमी, राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली के '18 से 35 वर्ष के रचनाकारों से हिन्दी में लेख, कहानी, कविता तथा एकांकी की नवीन, मौलिक, अपुरस्कृत एवं अप्रकाशित, नैतिक, सामाजिक और राष्ट्रीय संदर्भी में उपयोगी (केवल एक ही विधा में) रचनाएं पुरस्कार के लिए 'निर्धारित प्रपत्र' में दस्ती रूप में विज्ञापन प्रकाशित होने के 30 दिन के भीतर तक आमंत्रित करती है। प्रपत्र 1 दिसंबर, 2024 से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में अकादमी के कार्यालय से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है या अकादमी की वेबसाइट से भी लिया जा सकता है। प्रपत्र के साथ रचना की चार प्रतियाँ, पास पोर्ट आकार की दो फोटो, पिछले तीन वर्षों से दिल्ली में रहने का प्रमाण तथा जन्म तिथि प्रमाण-पत्र संलग्न करें।

प्रतियोगी दो आयु वर्गों में पुरस्कृत होंगे। प्रथम वर्ग में 18 से 24 वर्ष तथा द्वितीय वर्ग में 25 से 35 वर्ष की आयु के रचनाकार शामिल किये जाएंगे (आयु की गणना 1 जनवरी 2025 के आधार पर की जाएगी। दोनों वर्गों और प्रत्येक विधा के लिए पुरस्कार निम्न प्रकार से अलग-अलग होंगे।


वर्ग 'क' (1 से 24 वर्ष)			
प्रथम	द्वितीय	तृतीय	प्रोत्साहन (दो)
₹. 11,000	₹. 7,000	₹. 5,000	₹. 3,500

वर्ग 'ख' (18 से 24 वर्ष)			
प्रथम	द्वितीय	तृतीय	प्रोत्साहन (दो)
₹. 15,000	₹. 10,000	₹. 9,000	₹. 5,000

पुरस्कार प्रदान करने से पूर्व रचनाकारों का साक्षात्कार भी लिया जा सकता है। प्रतियोगिता की नियमावली और प्रपत्र अकादमी की वेबसाइट <https://hindiacademy.delhi.gov.in/hi> पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

हस्ता./-  
संजय कुमार गर्ग  
सचिव

DIP/SHABBARTH/CLASSIFIED/0294/24-25



**ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR**  
(CBSE AFFILIATION NO : 2780006)  
Email : [apssv@awesindia.edu.in](mailto:apssv@awesindia.edu.in), Ph : 011-26153559  
Website : [www.apsshankarvihar.ac.in](http://www.apsshankarvihar.ac.in)


**WALK IN INTERVIEW : 12 Dec 2024**  
Army Public School Shankar Vihar is inviting applications from qualified and experienced individuals for the following positions:  
**(a) Sports Fencing Coach (including ex-servicemen)**

- Qualifications as per CBSE guidelines.
- Strong communication skills are required.
- Must have at least a national/state level podium/participation certificate, with a thorough knowledge of the specific sport.

**(b) Nursing Assistant (Lady)**

- Qualifications: 10+2 and diploma in nursing.
- Previous experience in the nursing field is preferred.

Interested candidates are invited to attend a walk-in interview on **12 Dec 2024 at 0930 hrs.** Registration will take place from **0830 hrs to 0930 hrs.** The positions are on an ad-hoc basis.



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**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
E-uction Sale Notice for Sale of movable assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002). Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable property mortgaged /charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical / symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank / (Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is, and "Whatever There is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below for recovery of its due to the Bank / Secured Creditor from the respective borrower(s) & guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.


SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS					
Name of Branch Name of Account Name & Addresses of the Borrower / Guarantors Account	Description of the Immovable Properties (mortgaged / Owner's Name (mortgagors of property(ies)	A) Date of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) if Sarfesi Act 2002 b) Outstanding Amount as on c) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 d) Nature of Possession Symbolic / Physical / Constructive	A. Reserve Price B. EMD (Last date of deposit of EMD C. Bid increase Amount	Date / Time of E-Auction	Detail of the encumbrance Known to the Secured Creditors.
1. PNB Branch Office : Kundli (114710) (1) M/S Pytex Jewelers Pvt Ltd (Through Directors Sh. Pardeep Tayal S/o Sh. B. B. Tayal and Mr. Ankur Tayal S/O Sh. Pardeep Tayal) at Office Unit No. 200, GD ITL Northex Tower, Northex Tower, Plot	Equitable Mortgage of Office unit measuring Super Area of 3224.50 Sq. Ft. and built up area of 1897.15 Sq. Ft. at Unit No. 200, GD ITL Northex Tower, Plot no. A-9, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034 vide sale deed registered agreement 21272 dated 08.07.2004 and Conveyance Deed no. 5409 dated 30.03.2015 in the name of Sh. Pardeep Tayal and Smt. Satya Tayal	a) 11.02.2022 b) Rs. 15,45,55,857.26. (Rs Fifteen Crore Forty-Five Lakh Fifty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Seven and paise Twenty-Six only) as on 10.02.2022 in CC & TL account interest calculated up to 10.02.2022, with further interest in w e f 11.02.2022 at contracted rate plus charges if any, minus recoveries if any C) 03.05.2024 D) Physical	a) Rs. 6,93,00,000.00 b) Rs. 69,30,000.00 c) Rs. 1,00,000/-	26.12.2024 from 11:00 to 4:00 P.M. with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes	Not know to Bank
2. PNB Branch: Model Town, Sonipat (195200) (1) Smt. Meenakshi W/o Sh. Karambir R/o House No-749/26, Gali No-4, Arya Nagar, Sonapat, Haryana - 131001 (2) Sh. Karambir S/o Sh.	Residential House No 2/432 Khasra no. 1172/330, 1173/330, 1174/330, 1176/1109/324 min measuring 177 square yards, Kalupur, Arya Nagar, Sonipat vide sale deed no 3321 dt 31-05-2013 in name of Smt Meenakshi W/o Sh Karambir, Boundd as under: East - Gali Aam Raasta, West - of Salvir Dahiya, North - House of Shakuntala, South - Gali Rastra Aam	a) 07.03.2022 b) Rs. 31,62,050.16 (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Fifty and Sixteen Paise Only) as on 25-02-2022 with further interest and other expenses minus recovery if any until payment in full C) 20.05.2022 D) Symbolic	a) Rs 33,39,000/- b) Rs. 3,33,900/- c) Rs. 10,000/-	26.12.2024 from 11:00 to 4:00 P.M. with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes	Not know to Bank

Manohar Lal R/o House No-749/26, Gali No-4, Arya Nagar, Sonapat, Haryana -131001

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS :**  
The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:  
1. The properties are being sold on “AS IS WHERE IS BASIS” and “AS IS WHAT IS BASIS” and “WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS”  
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.  
3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://baanknet.com> on 26.12.2024 @ 11.00 AM  
4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://baanknet.com> & [www.pnbindia.in](http://www.pnbindia.in).

Place : Panipat Date 04.12.2024 Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank (Secured Creditor)

**STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002**



**सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया**  
**Central Bank of India**  
REGIONAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE COMPOUND, GAYA-823001

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
[UNDER RULE 8 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002]  
Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of (Security) Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the power conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002. The Authorized Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against account as mentioned herein after, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrower/guarantor 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 Sec. 13(4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against account. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Central Bank of India for the amount and interest thereon mentioned against account herein below. 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 the Branch	Name of the Accounts/ Borrowers/ Guaranter	Name of the owner & Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of Demand Notice
GOURA	Mr. Naresh Singh, S/o Late Ram Adhekar Singh and Guarantor Mr. Vikash Kumar S/o Mr. Naresh Singh	All that part and parcel of House Property (Land & Building) in the name of Mr. Naresh Singh S/o Late Ram Adhekar Singh Deed No.-Gift Deed No-8292/1982, Area-15 Katha, Location-Mauza-Makhdumpur Pergna Malki, Property details-Khata No-1097, Khesra No-1296, 1297, Thana NO-329, Tauzi No.953, Boundary-North:- Kaltar Singh South:- Kamaldhari Rai, East:- Kamaldhari Rai Hissedar wo Ram Pratap Rai wo Ram kishun Rai, West:- Boun Singh wo Dulo Singh Deed No.-Gift Deed No-8292/1982, Area-9 Katha, Location-Mauza-Mohiuddipur Pergna Malki, Property details-Khata No- 2004, Khesra No-1316, 1881, Thana NO-329, Tauzi No.2956, Boundary-North:- Dhoulai Mahto And Sant Sah, South-Rasta, East:- Dashrath Mishra, West:- Kamaldhari Rai Deed No.-Sale Deed No-6810, 6811, 6812/2003, Area-12 Katha 6 Dhoor Location-Mauza- Goura Mahal, Mirzapur Nasirarn, Property details-Khata No-1993, Khesra No.-1874, Thana NO- 329, Tauzi No.2956, Boundary: North-Ram Ujagar Yadav & Others, South-Khesra Haja Hissedar Permanand singh, East:- Ram Sunder Yadav & Others, West:- Mokir Alah	10.09.2024	30.11.2024	Rs.93,41,680/- (Rupees Ninety Three Lakh Forty One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty only) and interest thereon.
GOURA	Mr. Naresh Singh, S/o Late Ram Adhekar Singh and Guarantor Mr. Rahul Kumar S/o Mr. Naresh Singh	All that part and parcel of House Property (Land & Building) in the name of Mr. Naresh Singh S/o Late Ram Adhekar Singh Deed No.-2321 Dated 16.04.2013, Area-1 Katha 9 Dhoor, Location-Mauza-Goura Mahal, Mohabbatpur, Pargana Malki, Property Details-Khata No.-1759, Khesra No.-1308, 1309, Thana No-329, Tauzi No.1428, Boundary-North:- Fank Aawal South-Kamo Choudhary East:- Kedar Singh, West:- Late Baun Singh And Late Haro Singh Deed No.-1934/1997, Area-3 Katha 11 Dhoor, Location-Mauza-Goura Mahal, Mirzapur Nasirarn, Pergana malki, Property Details-Khata No.-2584, Khesra No.-1304, 1305, 1306, Thana NO-329, Tauzi No.3903, Boundary- North:- rasta, South-Niz Naresh Kumar Singh, East:- Niz Naresh Kumar Singh, West:- Siwana Kaji Rasalpur	10.09.2024	30.11.2024	Rs.62,66,127/- (Rupees Sixty Two Lakh Sixty Six Thousand One Hundred Twenty Seven only) and interest thereon.
TEGHRA	1. M/S Maharani Aata Udyog Prop. Mr. Devendra Singh 2. Mr. Devendra Singh S/o Late Vindeshwari Singh and Guarantor 1. Mrs. Mamta Devi W/o Devendra Singh 2.Mr. Santosh Anand S/o Mr. Nityanand Singh	All that part and parcel of House Property (Land & Building) in the name of Mrs. Mamta Devi W/o Mr. Devendra Singh Sale Deed No-Deed No-449/2002, Area-15 Dhoor, Location-Mauza-Nayanagar, Pergana-Imadpur, Dist-Begusarai, Property Details-Tauzi No-3329, Thana No-123, Jamabandi No.-11 Khata No.-190 Khesra No-339&335, Boundary As Per Sale Deed-North:- Niz Man Mokir wo Ram Narain Singh haal Khariddar, South-Niz Man Mokir Khesra Number Haja, East:- Niz Man Mokir Khesra Number Haja, West:- Rastriya Uchh Path (National Highway) Sale Deed No-Deed No-450/2002, Area-15 Dhoor, Location-Mauza-Nayanagar, Pergana-Imadpur, Dist-Begusarai, Property Details-Tauzi No-3329, Thana No-123, Jamabandi No.-11 Khata No.-190 Khesra No-339&335, Boundary As Per Sale Deed-North:- Niz Man Mokir wo Ram Narain Singh haal Khariddar, South-Niz Man Mokir Khesra Number Haja, East:- Niz Man Mokir Khesra Number Haja, West:- Rastriya Uchh Path (National Highway) Sale Deed No-Deed No-452/2002 And Rectification Deed No-1226/2002 Dated 22.01.2002, Area-15 Dhoor, Location-Mauza-Nayanagar, Pergana-Imadpur, Dist-Begusarai, Property Details-Tauzi No-3329, Thana No-123, Jamabandi No.-11 Khata No.-190 Khesra No-339, 335&341 Boundary As Per Sale Deed-North:- Niz Man Mokir wo Ram Narain Singh haal Khariddar, South-Niz Man Mokir Khesra Number Haja, East:- Niz Man Mokir Khesra Number Haja, West:- Rastriya Uchh Path (National Highway)	07.09.2024	30.11.2024	Rs.73,12,896/- (Rupees Seventy Three Lakh Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Six only) and interest thereon.

Place- Gaya Date- 30.11.2024 Authorised Officer Central Bank of India

epaper.indianexpress.com



# EXPRESS NETWORK

## BRIEFLY

### CHHATTISGARH Jawan killed in encounter with Maoists

**Raipur:** A 36-year-old District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawan was killed in an encounter with Maoists in Abujhmad Wednesday afternoon. According to the Inspector General of Police for Bastar Range Sundarraj P, security forces comprising of the DRG and the Border Security Force were part of a joint search when an encounter broke out. The firing went on in intervals. According to the officer, head constable Birendra Kumar Sori suffered an injury and died on the spot. **ENS**

### RAJASTHAN BSF finds two pistols, seven cartridges

**Jaipur:** The Border Security Force found two pistols and seven cartridges near the Indo-Pakistan border at Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan, sparking suspicion of cross-border arms smuggling, security officials have said. According to BSF sources, the arms were found in an unclaimed packet near 11 FA village on November 30. The BSF has registered a case in connection with the latest recovery, Sri Ganganagar SP Gaurav Yadav said. **ENS**

### JAMMU & KASHMIR Militants attack Army camp with grenades

**Jammu:** Militants on Wednesday attacked an Army camp in Jammu and Kashmir's Surankote town. Sources said that militants hurled two grenades at the camp, but there were no casualties as one of the grenades exploded short of the target, while the other did not explode. The unexploded grenade was later defused by the bomb disposal squad, sources said, adding that both the grenades appear to have been hurled by militants from the perimeter wall of the Army camp. **ENS**

## Cop who foiled bid on Sukhbir's life has been guarding Badal family for 22 years

**KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR**  
AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 4

FOR 22 years, Jasbir Singh remained in the shadows — mostly in the background — as part of security detail of one or the other member of the influential Badal family. On Wednesday, however, the Punjab Police Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) sprung into the limelight as he thwarted a murderous bid on Sukhbir Singh Badal, a former deputy chief minister who was on guard duty outside the shrine as part of religious punishment.

Television footage shows Jasbir — dressed in white kurta payjama and an orange turban, his white beard flowing free — standing close to Badal at the entrance of the Golden Temple and scanning th surrounding.

He noticed an elderly man, later identified as Narain Singh Chaura — a former Khalistani militant — approach Badal, sitting on a wheelchair due to a fractured leg, from the right. As Chaura suddenly fished out a pistol, Jasbir reacted instantly,



**Jasbir Singh is an ASI with the Punjab Police.** *Express*

and pouncing on the assailant, pushed his hands upwards. Chaura managed to pull the trigger, and the bullet hit the wall of the shrine.

All of this unfolded in just about four seconds. As Jasbir grappled with Chaura, two other policemen along with members of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) task force joined him, overpowered the assailant and snatched the weapon. Meanwhile, another personal security officer (PSO), Heera Singh, stepped forward to shield Badal.

Speaking to reporters, Jasbir said he was only performing his duty.

The ASI said his seniors had

made it clear that even though he was posted at the Sikh shrine where everyone must be treated equally, he should remain alert. "We can't stop or frisk anyone at Darbar Sahib. Our security officer instructed us to remain alert, as it is a busy place," he said.

"I was alert when he (Chaura) approached. When he took out his pistol, we subdued him and snatched his weapon," Jasbir said.

Despite the tense moment, Jasbir did not take a break for the next two hours and continued to shadow Badal while the Akali leader listened to hymns and later washed utensils at the community kitchen as part of the Akal Takht's religious punishment. Former minister Bikram Singh Majithia said that Jasbir, a resident of Amritsar, has been part of the Badal family's security detail for 22 years and "was like family member".

"He not only saved Sukhbir ji's life, but also that of the devotees," said Majithia, adding Jasbir had previously served in the security detail of former chief minister Parkash Singh Badal.

## Jharkhand: 10 ministers likely to take oath today

**JATIN ANAND**  
RANCHI, DECEMBER 4

TEN MINISTERS, including two women legislators, are likely to be sworn into Jharkhand's 12-member Cabinet on Thursday, sources said.

The oath-taking ceremony has been scheduled at the Raj Bhavan in the state capital at 12.30 pm, government officials said. "It is too early to say who precisely will be taking oath (on Thursday), but a total of 10 ministers — of whom two will be women legislators — are likely to be inducted," a JMM leader said. JMM sources said that the twelfth berth on the council of ministers was likely to remain vacant.

Supriyo Bhattacharya, JMM general secretary, said the new Cabinet would have a mix of "urja aur anubhav" (energy and experience)" in addition to being inclusive. "Each of our five administrative divisions and sections of government will be represented. Hemant babu will progress with a

skilled team dedicated towards the delivery of the promises we have made," Bhattacharya added. According to a senior Congress leader, the Cabinet was certain to be constituted as per the previously agreed-upon "one cabinet berth per four MLAs" formula giving it claim over four and the RJD over one of the seats on the council of ministers. The CPI (ML) announced it will support the JMM-majority government but not stake claim to a ministerial berth.

"There is no clarity on the precise names from the Congress who may be inducted as ministers so far but one of the four Congress ministers may likely be a woman legislator," a Congress source said.

While JMM sources said "significant portfolios" such as revenue and mines were likely to remain within the fold of seven JMM ministers — including CM Hemant Soren — sources added the front-runners from the JMM included Jama MLA Lois Marandi, ex-tourism minister and Madhupur MLA Hafizul Hasan and former water minister Ramdas Soren.



**Navy officers perform the beating retreat ceremony on Navy Day at Gateway of India in Mumbai on Wednesday.** *Sankhadeep Banerjee*

## Navy's focus to be Atmanirbhar force an inspiration, says President Murmu

**SUJIT BISOI**  
PURI, DECEMBER 4

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu on Wednesday said the Indian Navy's single-minded focus is to be an Atmanirbhar force by 2047, which provides inspiration to pursue innovation in "Mission Mode".

Stating that 63 ships were being built in India at present, the President said India is one of only six nations in the world that has the capability to design, build and operate both a ballistic missile nuclear submarine and an aircraft carrier.

The President was speaking at the Indian Navy's operational demonstration (Op-Demo) organised at Puri sea beach on the



**President Murmu in Puri on Wednesday.** *PTI*

occasion of Navy Day, which is celebrated to commemorate Operation Trident, the attack on Karachi harbour during the Indo-Pak War in 1971.

"The seamless integration of advanced technology, tactical acumen and sheer courage on display today aptly showcase the evolution of our Navy into a combat-ready, future-ready and credible force," said Murmu.

"As India's economy grows and our interests and influence

unteer) who was standing outside the Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple) performing duties assigned by Sri Akal Takht Sahib. We condemn this attack and call on the government to investigate who is behind this incident."

Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa of the Congress, said, "The attack on Sukhbir Singh Badal outside Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar, is deeply unfortunate and unequivocally condemnable. Such acts of violence have no place in our society." While condemning the attack on Badal, BJP state spokesperson Pritpal Singh Baliawal said, "We strongly condemn the cowardly attack on Sukhbir Singh Badal within the sacred Sri Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple) complex. Gunfire and violence have become disturbingly common under this lawless regime. Is Punjab being turned into a banana republic? Where is the government? Where is the accountability?"

Reacting to the shooting, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann posted on X, "Today, Punjab police prevented a big incident in the state. It was alertness of Punjab police that a conspiracy to defame Punjab and Punjab has fallen flat. Police arrested the attacker from on the spot... I have directed the Punjab police officials to inquire the entire incident and submit the report to me soon."

Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh said, "This is not just an attack on Sukhbir Badal; it is an attack on the sevadar (vol-

## A burst of laughter after Lok Sabha polls defeat: What makes Ajit Pawar so happy?

**ALOK DESHPANDE**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4



**Ajit Pawar, NCP president**

EVEN AS caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde continued to maintain suspense over his participation in the state cabinet at a joint press conference of Mahayuti on Wednesday afternoon, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Ajit Pawar's hilarious comment announcing his decision to join the swearing-in ceremony cracked everyone up, lifting the mood of the attendees.

When Shinde was asked if he would take oath as deputy CM, he kept on saying that it would soon be revealed. Cutting him in between, Pawar said, "His (Shinde) decision will be known by evening, I am going to take the oath (*unka sham tak samaj me aayega, main toh lena wala hoon*)."

It prompted laughter from both the leaders and journalists in attendance.

Shinde shot back saying, "He has the experience of taking oath in the morning and in the evening as well." A recall of his failed early-morning swearing-in attempt with BJP's Devendra Fadnis in 2019, put a big smile on Pawar's face as well.

By winning 41 seats in the 2024 assembly elections, Pawar not only triumphed over his uncle and veteran politician Sharad Pawar but successfully claimed his party as the real NCP. This may lead to further incoming to his party. Ajit Pawar also faced oppo-

sition within the family for going against his uncle as many, including his brothers, opposed him politically. His victory also gives him an emotional upper hand against all those.

Less than four months ago, Ajit Pawar suffered one of the worst defeats in his political career as only one out of his five candidates emerged victorious in the Lok Sabha polls.

In what turned out to be one of the most high-profile battles in the country then, Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra faced defeat at the hands of his cousin sister and incumbent MP Supriya Sule, daughter of veteran politician Sharad Pawar in the family's home turf Baramati. This was for the first time that two members of the Pawar family faced each other in an electoral battle. Ajit Pawar had made it a prestige battle by choosing to be stationed in Baramati and overseeing the campaign for his wife.

Found himself at the bottom of state's political hierarchy and was left with very little option to negotiate a higher number of seats for the party in assembly polls, Pawar focused on 59 parties only and finally emerged victorious on 41.

## New govt will make Maharashtra No. 1 state; MVA stalled works: Sitharaman

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4



**Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister**

UNION FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Wednesday said that the new BJP-led Mahayuti government "will make Maharashtra the number one state in India", while blaming the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government for its failure in implementing crucial projects like the bullet train and the Aarey car shed.

Addressing a meeting of the state BJP legislature party at the Vidhan Bhavan, she congratulated Devendra Fadnis on being unanimously elected as its leader.

"The mandate in the Assembly polls in the state is not a regular result. It was an unprecedented victory with a message for Viksit Bharat," said Sitharaman, who was a central observer for the meeting.

Referring to the Congress-led government's failure in pushing development, she said, "A deep draft Vadhvan port project with Rs 76,000-crore investment has been approved under the (Narendra) Modi government. It

should have been done long ago. The bullet train, which was stalled during the MVA rule, would have been completed by now. Even the Aarey car shed project was stalled during the MVA tenure," she pointed out.

"The Modi government is committed to bringing several mega projects and schemes in Maharashtra. As the Finance Minister, I also closely monitor these schemes," she mentioned. The huge mandate for the Mahayuti shows that people are tired of uncertainty and non-development, she said, observing that they disapproved of the MVA, which had thwarted development in Maharashtra.

"The double-engine government led by the BJP, at the Centre and in the state, will take Maharashtra to greater growth and development ahead. It will ensure speedy growth across sectors and regions," Sitharaman added.

## IPS officer, who probed case against Chandrababu Naidu, suspended

**REENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 4

THE ANDHRA Pradesh government has suspended former Andhra Pradesh CID Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) and senior IPS officer N Sanjay after an inquiry by the Vigilance and Enforcement (V&E) wing allegedly found him that he had misappropriated Rs 1 crore when he was Director General of AP State Disaster Response and Fire Services. As CID chief, Sanjay, a 1996 batch officer, investigated

some high-profile cases that included the alleged scam in the AP Skill Development Corporation in which TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu was made an accused.

On September 23 last year, Sanjay oversaw the operation in which CID officers arrested Naidu at dawn at Nandyal.

The Vigilance and Enforcement report states that during his tenure in the AP State Disaster Response and Fire Services, Sanjay floated tenders for creation of a web portal and supply of hardware and colluded with Vijayawada-based Sauthrika

Technologies and Infra Private Limited to make payments, although the firm had completed only 14 per cent of the work.

The report also accuses Sanjay of making payments of RS 59,52,500 and Rs 59,51,500 to a SC and ST awareness workshop conducted by Kritvyap Technologies Pvt Ltd of Hyderabad. However, the inquiry allegedly found that while there was no such company in Hyderabad, the listed address had an office of Sauthrika Technologies and Infra Private Limited.

## Under layers of soil, 80 sandstone pillars and a slice of Patna's Mauryan-era past

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, DECEMBER 4

OVER THE last few days, a rectangular patch of open ground at the Mauryan archaeological site of Kumhrar, a little over five km from the Patna railway station, has come alive with engineers and workers drawing circles on the ground with white powder. Under the green grass top, the earth hides an ancient architectural marvel — stumps and pits where 80 sandstone pillars once stood, holding up what was possibly a Buddhist assembly hall from the Mauryan era.

In 2004-2005, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had covered up the area with soil after the rising water table submerged the pillar stumps. Now, 20 years later, the ASI has decided to uncover the pillars that are a key part of the evidence linking Pataliputra, the seat of the Mauryan empire, to present-day Patna.

Historians believe that it was here, in this open-air hall, with its 80 pillars standing on a wooden floor and holding up a wooden ceiling, that Emperor Ashoka, who ruled between 268 and 280 BCE, called a decisive meeting of the third Buddhist Council to unify the faction-ridden Buddhist sangha.

On the reopening of the historical site that's considered to be among the oldest structures in India, ASI's Patna Circle Superintending Archaeologist Sujit Nayan, who has been leading the operation, said, "We plan to first open six-seven pillars over the next three months, during which time we will study the impact of humidity on the pillars and keep a tab on the water table with help from the Central Ground Water Board for a year. Once we get a favourable report on this, an expert committee will sit down to take a final call on reopening all 80 pillars."

Bijoy Kumar Chaudhary, historian and former director of the



**One of the pillars, excavated in 1912-15, is on display at the site in Kumhrar, Patna.** *Ranjan Rahi*

Patna-based K P Jayaswal Research Institute that played a key role in excavating the pillars in the 1960s, said, "Though historians have not been conclusive about the exact time of construction of the 80-pillar hall, it surely belongs to the Mauryan period (321-185 BCE). King

Ashoka is said to have called the third Buddhist Council here. Its reopening will surely evoke interest around the world and further establish and affirm the importance of Pataliputra as the seat of power of the great Mauryan empire."

The pillared hall, 39 metres

**EXPLAINED**  
**Push to rediscover history**

THE PILLARED hall, with its 80-odd pillars, each separated by 15 feet, is considered to be among the oldest structures in India and a key part of the evidence linking the Mauryan capital of Pataliputra to present-day Patna. The unveiling of the pillars after 20 years is part of the larger push to develop Bihar's historical sites such as Telhara and Ghoda Katora in Nalanda, besides plans to revive the ancient Vikramshila university at Bhagalpur.

by 32 metres, said ASI's Nayan, was accessed by boat through a canal. "Several historians con-

clude that the sandstone for the pillars and wooden logs were carried via the Sone-Ganga route for construction of the hall. Brick was still not used and the hall had a wooden roof and floor."

The ASI had excavated the 80-pillar assembly hall in two phases. The first excavation, in 1912-15, was done by American archaeologist David Brainard Spooner, who found one pillar, a number of stone fragments and 80 pits, which, he concluded, were spots where the other pillars stood.

The second excavation, in 1955-61, was by the K P Jayaswal Research Institute in Patna, found four more pillars.

The biggest of these pillars, 4.6 metres long, was excavated during the first excavation by Spooner. The pillar has been kept for display near the site, along with broken fragments of other pillars. ASI sources say a few of the fragments disappeared over the years, possibly

taken away by locals. ASI's Nayan says the pillars, separated from each other by about 15 feet, seemed to have been of varying size, possibly because they were damaged by fire during the Indo-Greek invasion by the army of King Demetrius in 2nd Century BCE.

Many historians, however, believe that it was a later-day fire, during the Huna invasion in the late 5th or early 6th century, that burnt the hall.

"The excavation in 1912-1915 found evidence of thick layers of ash at the site," said an archaeological expert.

In 2004-2005, given the rising water levels that partly submerged the pillars, an ASI expert committee decided to cover the pillar stumps with soil as part of what Nayan calls is "a standard archaeological principle of 'if you cannot conserve it, preserve it'."

An unfortunate incident in early 2000 — when a boy drowned at the submerged site



# International GITA Mahotsav

28 November - 15 December  
Kurukshetra, Haryana

2024

सर्वधर्मान्परित्यज्य मामेकं शरणं व्रज ।  
अहं त्वा सर्वपापेभ्यो मोक्षयिष्यामि मा शुचः ॥  
भगवद्गीता 18.66

सम्पूर्ण कर्तव्य कर्मों का आश्रय छोड़कर तू केवल मेरी शरण में आ जा ।  
मैं तुझे सभी पापों से मुक्त कर दूंगा, शोक मत कर ।

Abandoning all duties, come to Me alone for shelter.  
Be not grieved, for I shall release you from all evils.

## International Gita Mahotsav

### Inauguration

December 5, 2024

By

**Sh. Bandaru Dattatraya**

Governor, Haryana

**Lt.Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.)**

Governor, Uttarakhand

**Sh. Arif Mohammed Khan**

Governor, Kerala

**Ms. Tabia**

Minister for Information, Youth & Culture,  
Zanzibar

and

**Sh. Nayab Singh Saini**

Chief Minister, Haryana

#### Main Programmes

- 09:00 am Gita Yajna and Gita Pujan  
(Brahma Sarovar, Kurukshetra)
- 11:15 am Inauguration of the Pavilions of  
Haryana, Partner State Odisha and  
Partner Country Tanzania
- 12:30 pm Inauguration of International Gita  
Seminar
- 05:00 pm Bhajan Sandhya and Maha Aarti
- 06:00 pm The Cultural Evening



“सभी देशवासियों को गीता जयंती की अनंत शुभकामनाएं।  
श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता सदियों से मानवता का मार्गदर्शन करती आई है।  
अध्यात्म और जीवन-दर्शन से जुड़ा यह महान ग्रंथ हर युग  
में पथ प्रदर्शक बना रहेगा।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी



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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## FADNAVIS, CM

Maharashtra and Mumbai are a destination for aspirations -- local, regional and national. He has his task cut out

AFTER WHAT SEEMED to be a prolonged period of suspense, following a sweeping BJP victory in Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis is set to take oath as chief minister in Mumbai's Azad Maidan. It is a moment of personal vindication for Fadnavis, whose ascent in the party has been meteoric, but has also sparked inner-party friction. From becoming Nagpur's youngest mayor at 27 in 1997 to a first-time legislator in the Maharashtra assembly in 1999, to chief minister of the state in 2014, it has been a story of rise and rise — with twists in the tale. As in 2022, when he became a reluctant deputy to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in the government formed after the Uddhav Thackeray government collapsed and the Shiv Sena broke into two. In fact, Fadnavis is also given much of the credit, or discredit, for engineering the splits in the Sena and then in the NCP, the “tod phod (destruction)” of parties that has rearranged beyond recognition the Maharashtra political landscape. As he is sworn in as Chief Minister for the third time, the BJP is clearly in charge and its Mahayuti allies come in a distant second. There are challenges ahead for the new government, but for now, ally trouble doesn't seem to be one of them.

Maharashtra's new government will, however, have to face up to other challenging realities. Once the frontrunner in the country in terms of per capita income, GDP growth and contribution to the India story, Maharashtra has slid and slowed down. The slackening has sharpened the palpable agricultural distress in backward areas like Vidarbha in a state of striking regional inequalities. It shows up in the high unemployment figures in both urban and rural areas, a widening fiscal deficit, lower capex and rising revenue spending. Maharashtra's downturn is framed, also, in the anxieties stoked by the migration of some high-profile industrial projects to neighbouring Gujarat. In this backdrop, the new government will have to tread a tightrope carefully, be it on the issue of Maratha reservation, or the state's welfare schemes. For instance, the Ladki Bahin Yojana, a cash transfer of Rs 1500 per month to women between 21 to 65 years of age, whose annual family income is less than Rs 2.5 lakh, is said to have powered the Mahayuti government's thumping win, and among its many poll promises, an increase of the scheme amount to Rs 2100 figured prominently. The onus will be on the Fadnavis government to balance and align its social welfare goals with fiscal prudence and responsibility in a strained economy.

The winning BJP campaign in Maharashtra featured polarising slogans — “ek hain toh safe hain”, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Fadnavis was seen to stir the communal pot enthusiastically. As the head of a government with a large mandate and as a leader who knows better, he must now send a message that he will reach out and include, not just those who voted for the Mahayuti, but also those who did not. The onus of sobriety and large-heartedness is also on him. Maharashtra and Mumbai are a destination for aspirations — local, regional and national. From affirming identity to nurturing enterprise, agriculture to industry, physical infrastructure to social well-being, he has his task cut out.

## UNPARDONABLE PARDON

Joe Biden's exoneration of his son undermines rule of law, lends credence to charges of liberal hypocrisy

PRESIDENTIAL PARDON in the US — and across democracies — is an opportunity to occupy the moral high ground. Joe Biden's “complete and unconditional” pardon to his son, Hunter, doesn't merely represent a retreat and abdication. It also reeks of a hypocrisy that undermines the Democratic Party, and lends weight to the criticisms that, for all their righteous rhetoric, its leaders are in it only for themselves. As recently as June, Biden had said that “I abide by the jury decision... I will not pardon him [Hunter]”. The White House repeated Biden's claim several times this year. The arguments in defence of outgoing president Biden's actions — that the conviction was part of a “witch hunt” and that sans the pardon, Hunter would be persecuted by a Donald Trump-led White House and Justice Department — merely echo the grouse of the Republicans over the last four years. That other US presidents have also questionably used the pardon is whataboutery. Given how Washington champions a “rules-based order” worldwide, and chides other countries on this count, the pardon seems all the more unpardonable.

Hunter Biden has been convicted of lying about his drug use while purchasing a firearm, and tax evasion. His actions and conviction were indeed used by the Republicans during the election campaign — just as the cases against Trump were a major part of Kamala Harris's platform. Biden's reasoning for the pardon echoes Trump's response to the cases against him: “I also believe raw politics has... led to a miscarriage of justice.” This is not merely a father ensuring his son does not go to prison. That few Democrats have criticised his action is telling. It speaks of a degradation of liberal politics which sees an action as deplorable only when it is committed by an opponent. Finally, the argument that the pardon is constitutional and legal distracts from the larger issue: A pardon that is not given for ethical reasons — for a free speech activist whistleblower or protestor — violates the justice principle.

In the aftermath of the US election — and the collapse of centrist and centre-left governments in many countries — liberal politics faces a challenge and a question: Why are voters who once supported such parties abandoning them? A part of the answer may well lie in the widening chasm between the talk of equality of opportunity and the reality of selective justice. In the US, Biden's decision and the lack of criticism from his own camp has given voters no reason to change that view.

## TATER TALES

Bengal's love for the tuber is making itself felt in the potato shortage in the east

IN WEST BENGAL, the potato is in the eye of a storm — production shortage has prompted the state to stop its export to neighbours Jharkhand and Odisha, causing prices to shoot up in those states. Bengal, which produces about 90-100 lakh tonnes of potatoes every year, also happens to be among its biggest consumers — Bengalis consume about 60 lakh tonnes of potatoes annually.

Sharing might be caring, but Bengal's love for the tuber may be at the root of its potato protectionist stance. Like mustard oil and *machher jhol*, the two go back a long way. It pops up in West Bengal's street food like *phuchka*, in the *alu posto* that precedes the Sunday mutton curry, incomplete in itself without the melt-in-the-mouth goodness of the golden fried potato, or in winter, as an accompaniment to fluffy *karaishutir kochuri*. As for the Kolkata biryani, with its boiled egg and potato, most Bengalis will pay a debt of gratitude to Wajid Ali Shah: Exiled to Bengal, with his wealth fast depleting, the last nawab of Awadh is credited with having fluffed up the biryani with an egg and potato to replace the copious amounts of meat required for the delicacy. While this might not be entirely historically accurate, it is not difficult to see why falling production might set off a crisis in the state.

There is a darker subtext too, to Bengal's connection with the potato. British enterprise had introduced the root vegetable in the state's Hooghly belt in the late 18th century. The plant's hardiness meant that it would soon become widely cultivated and affordable. During the Bengal Famine of 1943, caused as much by Winston Churchill's policy failure as by drought, inflation and hoarding, it would be potato peels and rice gruel — food wastes essentially — that would provide subsistence to many and spawn a culture of root-to-stem economising that continues to this day.

# Don't panic on population



AMITABH KUNDU

Mohan Bhagwat's concern about consequences of falling fertility rates is misplaced

DEMOGRAPHIC PARAMETERS HAVE traditionally been considered as stable — unlike socioeconomic indicators, they change only in the long run. The narrative of the demographic dragon eating up all the benefits of development due to uncontrolled fertility has, however, changed within a decade into concerns that labour shortage could decelerate economic growth. Regional imbalances in political representation is another worry. But have we adequately examined the socioeconomic implications of the “success” in achieving below replacement fertility rate before making political exhortations for increasing fertility?

RSS sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat's concern about India's falling fertility rate is misplaced. His advocacy of three or more children per couple, to avoid the problems being faced by developed economies — Japan, Korea, China and several European countries — is problematic, especially in a country like India whose population threatens to cross the 1.6 billion mark by 2060. Such exhortations can only lead to a large increase in the population of poor states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand as it is difficult to raise fertility in states like Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Punjab where the total fertility rate (TFR) has come down to less than 1.9. People do not adjust reproductivity in response to political slogans or to meet grand national missions.

Historically, countries have thrived with stable and even declining populations by meeting labour shortages in certain regions and in critical sectors through migration and targeted skill development. What one needs to do, therefore, is to facilitate labour mobility by simplifying the procedures for interstate migration, creating better working and living conditions for workers and improving their skills. It would be important to review the legal and administrative barriers created by the states in recent years, particularly during the Covid period, which reserved lower and middle-level jobs for local population.

Two years ago, Bhagwat had called for a comprehensive population policy and argued that there should not be disparities in population growth across communities. This concern has largely been addressed by the trend emerging from the National Family

A significant fertility decline will not be witnessed in the coming decades. Kerala's TFR has increased marginally whereas that of other states is getting stabilised around the replacement level. Also, the current TFRs are much above the replacement level in several states. Even in the low fertility states, several districts will have TFR above replacement level, even as late as in 2036. The regional and subregional shortages of labour can be addressed by facilitating short and long-term mobility.



SUKHMANI MALIK

IN 2016, KLAUS Schwab, executive chairperson of the World Economic Forum, announced the arrival of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Describing this explosion of ease of access to information and the collapse of the boundaries between the physical and digital, he said, “[it] will change not only what we do but also who we are.” That the possibilities of this moment are infinite is clear. People and states alike are trying to find the best pathways to navigate this disruption. At the same time, the global order as we know it has begun unravelling. Outside the suited-booted world of international forums, for the layperson, this unravelling looks cruel, unrelenting, overwhelming. The war in Ukraine and the assault on Gaza, have both been livestreamed, as was the fatal grip of the pandemic and its devastating impact on the economy and the people that sustain it. How does one reckon with this inheritance? What is the appropriate response? Is there one?

There is a famous song by a famous singer that often comes to mind these days. Finneas in ‘The 90s’ sings, “I think about the ‘90s/When the future was a testament/ To something beautiful and shiny, now/ We're only counting down the time that's left/ With everything behind me”.

The Oxford University Press seems to agree with Finneas. Its selection for Word of the Year is also a nod to a generation that has inherited absurdity and chaos. Picked after wide public discussion, the 2024 word is “brain rot” — as in

## BRAIN ROT IS THE ANSWER

For a generation grappling with the chaotic world it has inherited

The anxiety of not wanting to be caught off-guard, like when Facebook and its ilk took off in the bad old Noughties, is palpable. Everybody, from governments to journalists to citizens, seems to want to take this culture apart and understand exactly what's going on as it is going on — and what it all means. Hence, the many words of the year, all announcing the arrival of a moment we've been in the middle of for a quarter of a century.

what happens to the brain in the absence of any inconvenience, in the age of absolute access. (Think: Blinkit, Swiggy, 5G internet, touch-screen phones that double up as movie screens) Brain rot, as in what your brain does when its job increasingly seems to be to just sit back and watch the computers take over. (Think: AI overviews, chatbots that can simplify complex texts, “smart” watches, TVs, fridges, homes). Brain rot, as in something that can help the brain revel in its rotting (Think: Reality TV, doom-scrolling, meta humour).

“Brain rot” is another in a long, disjointed list of words/phrases/memes that spell out a pattern, if one pieces them together. The Chill Guy/Girl, the “this is fine” meme (while sitting inside a house on fire) and bed rot, all communicate surreal disengagement. The general sentiment seems to be: “Yeah, we know it's all gone for a toss. What about it?” Gen Z's solution to the current moment of churn is not to look away. It is instead, to look, engage and yet remind each other: Don't take yourself so seriously. Tied together with humour and heavy, sometimes concerning, levels of irony, brain rot is how this generation reckons with its absurd inheritance.

Casper Grathwohl, president of Oxford Languages, says about this year's selection: “It demonstrates a somewhat cheeky self-awareness in the younger generations about the harmful impact of social media that they've inherited.” It is, in essence, like most Gen Z humour, an “in joke”. The punchline is: “We're

all gonna die”.

“Brain rot” makes up part of another digital puzzle — this year, like previous ones, saw many dictionaries and platforms pick words that are attempting to capture the swell of technological changes we are living through. The runners-up for Oxford were “lore”, “demure”, “romantasy” which are all either born out of the internet age or have regained prominence and new meaning thanks to it. The anxiety of not wanting to be caught off-guard, like when Facebook and its ilk took off in the bad old Noughties, is palpable. Everybody, from governments to journalists to citizens, seems to want to take this culture apart and understand exactly what's going on as it is going on — and what it all means. Hence, the many words of the year, all announcing the arrival of a moment we've been in the middle of for a quarter of a century.

The absurdists have it, folks. We are all hurtling towards an unknowable, probably unpleasant, oblivion. Choking on the air we are trying to breathe, alarm bell after alarm bell about the dangers of the (mis/dis)information age, and the cruelties we witness while it all goes on — there is a sour taste in the mouth, and not much hope to work with. But while the world blindly panics, one generation's strategy seems to be, “this is fine”. As long as we are laughing — and engaging — “this is going to be fine”. There may be a lesson in that.

sukhmani.malik@expressindia.com

## DECEMBER 5, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

### BHOPAL TOLL

AN OVERPOWERING SMELL of death enveloped parts of Bhopal, as the death toll in the December 3 gas leakage tragedy was feared to have crossed the 1,100 mark. Half of those choked to death by gas from a local pesticide manufacturing plant of Union Carbide were children. The Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, interrupted his electioneering schedule and flew to Bhopal to take stock.

### EXPERTS IN BHOPAL

THE CENTRE HAS sent two teams of experts, including environmentalists, to Bhopal to as-

sist the state authorities in the investigation of the causes of gas leakage from the Union Carbide's pesticide plant. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers have deputed its chemical industry advisor, plant protection advisor, and an official of the directorate general of technical development to help the local officials in dealing with the leakage.

### VIOLATIONS IN BHOPAL

THE UNION CARBIDE pesticide factory in Bhopal violated the environmental guidelines for the sitting of such a hazardous industry. In the guidelines issued in July, the department of environment says that at the

time of the sitting of a hazardous industry, if any major settlement's notified limit is within 50 kms, the spatial direction of the settlement must be assessed for at least a decade. The industry should also be sited at least 25 km from the projected growth boundary of the settlement.

### EXTREMISTS' TRIAL

OVER 400 EXTREMISTS were arrested by security forces during the army action in Punjab, on charges of waging a war against the government and sedition. They will be tried by a Special Court outside Punjab. The trial is expected to begin mid-December.



# THE IDEAS PAGE

## Bangladesh is unlike Pakistan

Stray incidents notwithstanding, its history, constitution and people are a shield against radicalism and extremism



SYED MUNIR KHASRU

THE RECENT CONTROVERSY involving the Bangladesh chapter of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) has underlined the country's challenges in maintaining its legacy of tolerance in the aftermath of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ouster who has been provided shelter in India. Misrepresentation by some media outlets of the arrest of ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari and the tragic death of Advocate Saiful Islam Alif on November 26 has fueled debates about communal harmony in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is the world's eighth-most populous country and 35th-largest economy. It is the second-largest exporter of ready-made garments (RMG) and home to BRAC, the world's largest NGO, and Grameen Bank, founded by Nobel Laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus, a pioneer of microcredit finance and head of the interim caretaker government. Following Hasina's departure, concerns have emerged in certain quarters over the resurgence of Islamist political parties and whether Bangladesh could shift toward theocracy in a nation where over 90 per cent of the population is Muslim. There have also been some comparisons with Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The story of Bangladesh's independence is rooted in a struggle against communal identity imposed by the then-Pakistani rulers. Unlike Pakistan, where religious ideologies are central in shaping governance structures, Bangladesh's identity is anchored in Bengali nationalism. During the liberation war of 1971, Bangladeshis emphasised linguistic and cultural distinctiveness rather than religious uniformity.

The call for autonomy, often symbolised by the term "Bangladeshi" since the early 1960s, reflects this desire for a unique national identity. This historic resistance reinforces Bangladesh's foundation built on cultural plurality and assertion of a distinct Bengali identity, which continues to shape its political and social landscape even today.

The recent unrest centres on a public demonstration held by ISKCON members, during which a saffron flag — often associated with Hindu nationalism — was hoisted above the national flag of Bangladesh at a rally in Chittagong on October 25. This act was widely condemned as a violation of national sovereignty and an affront to the country's secular identity, leading to the Brahmachari's arrest.

The situation escalated when ISKCON's supporters, reportedly enraged by the court's decision to deny bail to Brahmachari, surrounded a prison van and began protesting. These protests quickly turned violent, with demonstrators allegedly vandalising vehicles, throwing bricks, and causing damage to public property, including windows at the court mosque complex.

During the clashes, Advocate Saiful Islam Alif, a member of the Chittagong Bar Association, died and his body was desecrated, which further inflamed public sentiment.

While communal tensions can arise in Bangladesh, like in other parts of South Asia, international media often misrepresent these incidents, overlooking Bangladesh's commendable, if not perfect, track record in up-



C R Sasikumar

holding and promoting tolerance. Reports exaggerating the situation, such as claims of systematic suppression of Hindu organisations, ignore the local context and Bangladesh's unique socio-cultural identity.

Bangladesh's constitution uniquely balances secular principles with Islam as the state religion. The Supreme Court's 2016 judgment reinforced that Islam's recognition does not contradict the state's secular obligations and that all religious communities must enjoy equal protection and rights under the law. The social fabric reflects this balance, visible in the shared courtyards between mosques and temples in regions like Lalmonirhat.

Bangladeshis are known for their moderate, devout faith and progressive outlook. Influenced by Sufi traditions, the country's religious landscape promotes spiritualism and peaceful coexistence, contrasting with hardline interpretations in some neighbouring regions. The state's emphasis on religious neutrality ensures respect for religion without it dictating public life, in sharp contrast with the theocratic shift in countries like Afghanistan. Even during the political turmoil following Sheikh Hasina's ouster, community leaders and students have united to protect the religious sites of the minorities.

Despite the emergence of radicalism in many parts of the world, these sentiments remain on the fringe and have not received widespread support in secular Bangladesh. Counterterrorism efforts have dismantled networks like Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Harkat-ul-Jihad-al Islami Bangladesh (HuJI-B), preventing the rise of a unified Islamist front.

This resilience stems partly from Bangladesh's experience with extremist violence, such as the 2016 Holey Artisan Bakery attack. The state's firm response, combined with the community's rejection of extremist ideologies has ensured that such an incident has not occurred since.

The interim government's emphasis has also been on maintaining order and safeguarding minority communities. Both Professor Yunus and Army Chief General

While communal tensions can arise in Bangladesh, like in other parts of South Asia, international media often misrepresent these incidents, overlooking Bangladesh's commendable, if not perfect, track record in upholding and promoting tolerance. Reports exaggerating the situation, such as claims of systematic suppression of Hindu organisations, ignore the local context and Bangladesh's unique socio-cultural identity.

Waker-Uz-Zaman visited several temples and shrines ahead of Durga Puja. Except for a few isolated incidents in a country of nearly 180 million, attacks on minorities, including Hindus, have been limited and largely neutralised. Hence, structural conditions and public sentiment in Bangladesh do not favour a Taliban-style takeover or Pakistani-style quasi-military rule under the cloak of so-called democracy.

In addition, the country's vigorous engagement in international peacekeeping missions highlights its commitment to stability beyond its borders. While Afghanistan's governance has often been marked by shifts between authoritarianism and radicalism, Bangladesh's trajectory has been one of balancing democratic aspirations with a firm stance against militancy.

If religion alone could shape a state's trajectory, Bangladesh would not have parted ways with Pakistan. Instead, people's free-spirited nature and a rich tradition of cultural celebration have created a space where being devout doesn't conflict with being open-minded and progressive. Bangladeshis have trod this path with blood and sweat since February 21, 1952, when martyrs gave their lives to resist Urdu being imposed as the national language by Muhammad Ali Jinnah until Bangladeshis liberated the country in 1971. Today, February 21 is universally observed as International Mother Language Day.

As the interim government steers the country towards elections, the challenges it faces are real, but the strengths it possesses are equally significant. While vigilance is necessary, the core values that have shaped Bangladesh's independence remain its greatest asset in navigating these uncertain times with cautious optimism. There is no need for anybody, regionally or globally, to be overly concerned as history shows, despite setbacks and challenges, Bangladeshis know how to shape their destiny.

The writer is Senior Director of the international think tank IPAG India, which also has a presence in Dhaka, Melbourne, Dubai and Vienna

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The rising need for social care in an ageing population is widely recognised to be among the UK's biggest public policy challenges. But that hasn't stopped repeated delays to policies to address it."

— THE GUARDIAN

## The shadow of division

Cutting off certain parts of our past can only dilute and diminish the national ethos



SALMAN KHURSHID

TWO INTERESTING, PERHAPS challenging, versions of our constitutional understanding have been expressed by J Sai Deepak ('Constitution is not at ease with civilisation', IE, November 29) and Faizan Mustafa ('It looks forward, rooted in civilisation', IE, November 29). Without doing injustice to the writers, both accomplished legal analysts, it would be useful to summarise their thoughts.

J Sai Deepak believes "replacing constitutional consciousness with... constitutionalism is bound to denude society of... collective memory and a sense of history". He writes, "Simply put, in independent India, colonial condescension went on to don the cloak of constitutional morality whose purpose has been to reform the native identity out of its existence with the aid of allegedly immutable preambular values such as secularism."

Faizan Mustafa believes the Constitution looks forward and is rooted in civilisation, and that the Constituent Assembly debates reflected the framers' deep knowledge of India's civilisation. He writes, "We are indeed proud of our glorious civilisation that gave birth to the idea of India that underlines protection to, and preservation of diversity, tolerance and acceptance."

Curiously, both authors can claim to be expressing points of view commonly held by people who see them as nuanced shifts of emphasis, sometimes for analytical reasons and at others to score an ideological emphasis. What is often lost sight of is the fact that our past, as in every comparable civilisation, cannot be described as uniformly applaudable, and our recent past, relatively short compared to the thousands of years of ancient Indian civilisation, cannot be treated as requiring to be ignored in this discussion as irrelevant except when it poses a challenge to a preferred world view. To be frank, every time we speak of our civilisational heritage, we refer to "Indian" in terms of Hindu or Vedic precepts. Periodically, some commentators strive to make a point about the features of the Constitution being unnecessarily borrowed from the West when our ancient systems provided both democracy and the rights associated with it. In the streets of the country, one hears aspirations for a Hindu Rashtra but the attributes and character of such a state are not ever articulated.

Must we accept freedom of conscience and equality under Articles 15 and 16 to be subservient to a way of life with starkly different parameters? Simply complaining about colonial experience seems senseless 75 years after Independence and decades of robust democratic functioning. The problem can only be for people who see the Muslim period of history as an aberration, rejecting Partition for its lack of a comprehensive solution of the Two Nation thesis. But for those on the other side of the intellectual and philosophical aisle, it is time to call the modern political spade by its name, instead of resorting to the euphemism of good intentions.

It is time, then, for patriots to raise their voice in unison to proclaim that India's glory is as much in its ancient past as in medieval civilisational integration. For that matter, rejection of colonial impositions on our cultural heritage need not be limited to proponents of ancient Indian civilisation, but must include Muslim civilisation that fought the bloodiest battle against it in 1857. India's civilisation is equally enriched by Emperor Ashoka and Emperor Akbar. Each generation can decide how much of the past needs celebration and reaffirmation; it would be a matter of collective choice. But red lines to cut off certain parts of our past, arbitrarily drawn and encouraged and supported by political powers of the day, can only dilute and diminish the glory of the idea of India we cherish.

Further, these red lines cannot be allowed to be drawn in a manner to excavate the past and redesign the present to obliterate centuries of composite culture. There is no such entitlement to the popularly elected government, and certainly not for people who take the law into their own hands. The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act sought to provide a guardrail at the stroke of the midnight hour on August 15, 1947 — the moment when India stepped into freedom. It was a deeply inspirational act of nation-building on behalf of the new generation of free Indians. If ever there was a departure from the shackles of colonialism, it was that.

Sadly, we lost the moment and momentum in submitting ourselves to the exercise of establishing afresh the status of contested sites at the time of Independence, undermining the far-sightedness and fairness that informed that pragmatic act. Once again, it is no longer a matter of exhuming the past but allowing it to cast a shadow on our march towards becoming a modern, liberal, collaborative nation. Rejecting the Constitution, even in questioning its intent and capacity to deliver justice, social, economic and political to all, we are undermining a valuable asset of nationhood. With great effort and fortitude, we overcame the Partition of our land in 1947 because we did not let our soul be divided. Power, not principle, caused the great divide. Pursuit of power is once again threatening to impose a divide within. It is our Constitution and not self-serving or self-conscious arguments that will prevent that. The final word in the Constitution's Preamble is the promotion of fraternity, assuring the dignity of the individual and unity of the nation. That is an obligation of the citizen, unlike the delivery of justice which is upon the state. Let us look within and ask ourselves, "Have we done that?"

The writer is a senior Congress leader and former Union Minister for External Affairs



SARJAN SHAH

IT HAS NOW been a decade of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dispensation in New Delhi, and during this time almost no observers of international politics can have failed to notice a gradual, though accelerating shift in not only India's international stature, but also in its posture. In foreign policy analysis, one must consider both what a nation does and what its diplomats say. It is always the great powers of the time that define the frameworks and narratives within which all actions and decisions end up being seen. Sometimes great powers explicitly publish their doctrines: The United States had a Monroe Doctrine in the 19th century, and a Wilson Doctrine during and after World War I. In many ways, Henry Kissinger and Ronald Reagan each brought their own doctrines to US foreign policy. On the other hand, we can recall Soviet Union's Brezhnev Doctrine at the height of the Cold War, and our own "non-alignment" doctrine of the Nehruvian era.

India's non-alignment was the product, post-independence, of both our capacities as a nation, and our ideological idealism. We were an impoverished nation with little ability to actively pursue outcomes in geopolitical terms, and didn't have the sort of ideological clarity during the Cold War to commit to an alliance system. The result, labelled non-alignment, was designed more than any-

## The Modi-Jaishankar doctrine

Its challenge: It must reflect India's values as much as its interests

thing else to minimise adverse effects of geopolitical events on our ability to go through the painstaking process of domestic socio-economic and political development. We wanted to keep out of trouble rather than achieve anything in particular.

Non-alignment has in many ways remained an implicit feature of Indian foreign policy even in the decades since the end of the Cold War. However, with our legacy of security cooperation with the Soviet Union being transferred to the new Russian Federation, while our diaspora and economic linkages with the West continued to strengthen, the logic of India's relationships on two ends of the geopolitical spectrum has continued to be questioned. Never more so than since the invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

While many have seen more continuity than change in this stance under PM Modi, some of India's recent geopolitical engagements have displayed perhaps the creation of a new "Jaishankar-Modi Doctrine". To quote our external affairs minister, "A multipolar world requires a multi-vector strategy and multi-alignment by India ...", "non-alignment" is being replaced by "multi-alignment". Especially during his most recent visit to the US, Jaishankar seemed to explicitly lay out a new vision for our engagement with the world. When pressed during a long format interaction on how

India could hope to be all things to all people, Jaishankar quipped that we intended to be ourselves to all people. What he meant was, we don't merely have interests, we also have values, and both will matter in how we deal with countries and situations.

Perhaps the key distinction between non-alignment then and multi-alignment now is not about whether India is absolutely closer to or less close to any particular nation or group of nations, but instead about how India now interacts with all nations. As opposed to wanting to keep our heads down, hoping that no geopolitical event batters us, India now actively formulates a forward-looking view on global engagement, and pursues outcomes in the national interest. It is signalling a new intensity of effort and the availability of capacity to be leveraged to generate such outcomes. It is saying, we are here to play.

Take, for example, the case of the India-Russia-Iran-Israel-United States-Canada equation. India has in the last few years simultaneously taken an anti-war stance in general, while condemning outright neither Russia nor Israel; it has bought Russian crude at beneficial prices while also acquiring advanced US defence equipment; it has been accused of an assassination programme in both Canada and the US and deals with each entirely differently; it has

continued discussions on an Indian port in Iran, while supporting Israel's right to respond in Gaza. Somehow, India is in a sufficiently favourable geopolitical position in terms of today's calculus, that all sides seem to tacitly be accepting the practical expression of India's approach.

The key test here is whether India is using its newfound elbow room to pursue naked interest, or whether there is what the doctrine says there should be — a moral stance as well as a rational one. When pressed, can Indian diplomats and other spokespersons present a narrative that reflects India's values as much as it reflects India's interests?

This test might end up being applied when push comes to shove, and the emergent multi-polarity collapses into a new form of bi-polarity, or a Cold War 2.0. Given that the Jaishankar-Modi Doctrine seems to allow for deep partnerships with nations along either common interests, or common values, or both, yet seems to eschew explicit alliances, there may come a time when India's hand is forced. The current approach may serve India well if Jaishankar's key assumption of a multi-polar future proves correct. If not, then we have to remember that one cannot have one's cake and eat it too.

Shah lives and works in Mumbai

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A WAKE-UP CALL

THIS REFERS to the editorial 'Punishing the party' (IE, December 4). The Akal Takht's recent rebuke of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leaders, including Sukhbir Singh Badal, raises critical questions about the intersection of religion and politics in Punjab. Once a dominant political force, SAD now faces allegations of corruption and failure to uphold Sikh principles. The Akal Takht's reprimand could push SAD towards introspection, but it also raises concerns about the blurring of lines between religion and politics. The Akal Takht should remain focused on guiding the community spiritually, and political parties should commit to ethical and effective governance. This episode should serve as a wake-up call for SAD and other entities to realign their actions with the values they claim to represent.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

esteem and peer dynamics. It will be prudent to implement the proposal as a pilot project in select schools to evaluate its impact and challenges before going forward with a comprehensive roll out.

Vijai Pant, Hempur.

### TIMELY RATE CUT

THIS REFERS to the article, 'A long overdue cut' (IE, December 4). India's economy grew at a measly 5.4 per cent in the July-September quarter. Economists expect a stronger growth in the second half given government spending and rising rural consumption. High borrowing costs are hurting the economy. This weak growth will make it difficult for India to cash in on its demographic dividend. The unexpected slump raises the possibility of a rate cut at the Central Bank's December meeting.

Sankar Paul, Nadia

### DEMYSTIFYING AI

THIS REFERS to the article, 'AI challenge in classroom' (IE, December 4). The aim of integrating AI should be to enhance and improve human interaction and decision-making. It is also important to emphasise its responsible and equitable application in education. Educational institutions should educate students about the potential benefits of AI and mitigating its risks. They should provide guidance by establishing clear guidelines for the safe and responsible usage of AI and focus on student privacy and AI's ethical usage.

Vaibhav Goyal, Chandigarh



# In virtual address, Hasina attacks Yunus for current situation in Bangladesh



**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

IN HER first public address after fleeing Bangladesh four months back, ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina has mounted a stinging attack on the country's interim leader Muhammad Yunus, accusing him of perpetrating "genocide" and failing to protect minorities including Hindus.

In the remarks delivered virtually to her supporters at an event in New York, Hasina, presently living in India, also claimed that there were plans to kill her and her sister Sheikh Rehana just like their father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in 1975.

Describing Yunus as "power-hungry", Hasina alleged that the places of worship in Bangladesh are under attack and the current dispensation has totally failed to deal with the situation.

Hasina was speaking to supporters of her Awami League party at the event organised on Sunday to mark "Bijoy Dibos" or Victory Day that falls on December 16.

Though Hasina made several statements in the last few

**This was Hasina's first public address since she fled Bangladesh 4 months ago.** *File*

months, it was her first public address after taking shelter, said an expert closely tracking developments in Bangladesh.

"The armed protestors were directed towards Ganabhaban (official residence of the prime minister). If the security guards opened fire, many lives would have been lost. It was a matter of 25-30 minutes, and I was forced to leave. I told them not to fire no matter what happened," she said, speaking in Bengali.

"Today, I am being accused of genocide. In reality, Yunus has been involved in genocide in a meticulously designed manner.

The masterminds, the student coordinators and Yunus, are behind this genocide," she said.

In her nearly hour-long address, Hasina said the current dispensation in Dhaka failed to protect the minorities.

"Hindus, Buddhists, Christians – no one has been spared. Eleven churches have been razed, temples and Buddhist shrines have been broken. When the Hindus protested, the Iskon leader was arrested," she said in an oblique reference to arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das.

"What is this persecution of minorities for? Why are they being ruthlessly persecuted and attacked," she asked.

"People no longer have the right to justice...I never even got the time to resign," she said.

Hasina said she left Bangladesh in August with an aim to stop the violence. However, the situation has deteriorated further, she said.

"When people were dying indiscriminately, I decided I should leave," she said.

The Awami League leader has been staying in India since she left Bangladesh following massive anti-government protests in July and August.

## 'ED putting cart before horse': HC bail to 3 PFI leaders in money laundering case

**SOHINI GHOSH**  
DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE DELHI High Court on Wednesday granted bail to three Popular Front of India (PFI) leaders who participated in anti-CAA protests in Delhi and are facing charges of money laundering in an offence lodged by the ED in September 2022 following an NIA complaint in April 2022.

The three accused – Parvez Ahmed, president of the Delhi state unit of PFI from 2018-2020,

Abdul Muqet, who was the office secretary of the unit since 2017, and Mohd Ilyas, who was its general secretary since November, 2018 – were allegedly part of a criminal conspiracy wherein the PFI's office bearers brought in suspicious funds from within the country and abroad. The ED alleged that more than Rs 60 crore was deposited in the PFI's bank accounts since 2009 and Rs 32.03 crore was deposited in cash.

Justice Jasmeet Singh recorded in the order, "On perusing the Complaint, there is no ev-

idence to show that any scheduled offence has been committed, it is stated that the petitioners participated in the anti-CAA protests in Delhi which culminated in Delhi Riots... The proceeds of crime has to be generated as a result of criminal activity (scheduled offence). The collection of funds in an illegal way to commit a scheduled offence in future is not an offence of money laundering under PMLA. The funds collected are not proceeds of crime... The case set up by the ED is putting the cart before the horse,"

## FROM PAGE ONE

### 5 years, 11 hospital fires, 107 deaths, zero lessons and little action

**The findings:**  
**BAIL IS THE NORM**

Barring the fire in Delhi, which took place this year, the accused in all other cases have been granted bail. The FIRs were registered under sections such as 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 304A (causing death by negligence), 336 (acts that endanger the personal safety or life of others), 337 (causing hurt to another person by acting rashly or negligently), and 34 (common intention), among others.

At least seven of the 11 court cases are still underway – indicating how long the judicial process can stretch. Moreover, in seven of the 11 cases, the owner or doctors against whom the cases were filed have either started practising elsewhere or working as part of hospital management.

In one of the cases, Ahmednagar Civil Hospital, the accused is a government employee, and prosecution sanction sought from the government health department in 2022 is still pending. In another case, RC Hazra Memorial Hospital in Dhanbad, the doctors who owned the hospital also died in the fire. No criminal action was initiated in the case of the Bhandara district hospital fire.

Two of the 11 hospitals – both government-run medical institutions in Maharashtra – remain functional. When it comes to Gujarat's Patel Welfare Hospital, the fire took place in a new temporary structure set up during Covid-19. The hospital continues to run from its old building. Similarly, in Gujarat's Uday Shivanand Hospital, an eye hospital continues to be run from the ground floor of the structure, where the fire took place in a Covid-19 centre being run on the first and second floor. When it comes to Ramesh Hospital, which was running a Covid-19 centre at Swarna Palace hotel, permission to lease places to treat Covid-19 patients was cancelled by the government. The hospital remains functional within its own complex.

**ILL-MAINTAINED AND ILL-EQUIPPED HOSPITALS**

In nine incidents, requisite fire safety measures were not in place.

Not only were hospitals ill-equipped to tackle a blaze, but lack of maintenance of electrical lines and equipment was a direct cause of the fire in at least six cases.

In Gujarat's Patel Welfare Hospital, where 18 persons, including two nurses, died on May 1, 2021, false records were allegedly submitted by the management to show that fire extinguishing and protection systems were installed "when in fact no such action was taken", noted the report of an inquiry commission headed by retired justice DA Mehta set up to investigate the incident. The fire was allegedly caused by a loose wire from a ventilator.

In Maharashtra's Vijay Vallabh Hospital, where 15 persons died on April 23, 2021, an expert committee found alleged shortcomings in firefighting systems. According to sources familiar with the probe of an expert committee, the hospital allegedly did not have functional sprinklers. Maharashtra's fire safety norms state that all hospitals, irrespective of height, should have fire extinguishers, hose reels, sprinklers, automatic fire detection and alarm systems, and terrace tanks and pumps. The investigation also found that the hospital allegedly did not have a no-objection certificate from the department concerned. The blaze allegedly took place because of a spark in an AC that was run round the clock despite not being of sufficient capacity, the investigation found.

An audit by the civic fire brigade carried out before the fire at Maharashtra's Ahmednagar Civil Hospital, where 11 persons died on November 6, 2021, had suggested setting up a firefighting system. The hospital allegedly did not have water sprinklers or smoke alarms, and staff were not trained in using fire extinguishers. The same audit also found that crucial fire safety systems were allegedly not put in place due to fund shortages.

At Maharashtra's Bhandara district hospital, where 10 persons died in a fire on January 9, 2021, voltage fluctuation and wear and tear in the control panel allegedly led to a short circuit and caused the fire, found Nagpur

Commissioner Sanjeev Kumar and the six other officials investigating the incident.

After years of not getting permission, Mumbai's Sunrise Hospital, where 11 persons perished in a fire on March 26, 2021, was allowed to start functioning within a mall during the pandemic based on a temporary certificate. During the firefighting operations, it was noticed that mechanisms such as sprinklers were inactive, according to Deputy Municipal Commissioner of Disaster Management and former Chief Fire Officer Prabhat Rahangdale.

Andhra Pradesh's Hotel Swarna Palace, which was converted into a Covid care centre, allegedly had no fire alarms, sprinklers, or other firefighting equipment, a probe by a government committee found following the death of 10 persons on August 9, 2020. The electrical system was found to be outdated and incapable of handling the number of ACs that were running.

Madhya Pradesh's New Life Hospital, where eight persons died on August 1, 2022, allegedly had an absence of alternative exits, poor ventilation, and insufficient fire extinguishers and hose roll, the probe by a high-level government committee headed by the divisional commissioner (revenue) found. The fire was caused by excessive heating of the electric generator set, despite reminders by the company to the hospital urging them to service the machine, the probe found.

Gujarat's Shrey Hospital, where eight persons died in a fire on August 6, 2020, allegedly did not have the recommended two emergency exit stairs. The fire started due to a short circuit in a patient monitor, which was 15 years old, three times its prescribed life span, the probe by an inquiry commission headed by retired Justice DA Mehta found.

In Delhi's Baby Care New Born Hospital, where six infants died in a fire earlier this year on May 25, fire safety equipment was allegedly lacking, the hospital had 12 beds instead of the sanctioned five, and it had stored too many oxygen cylinders in a hazardous manner, the police probe found.

At Gujarat's Uday Shivanand Covid-19 hospital, where five persons died on November 27, 2020, a government commission headed by then additional secretary (panchayat and rural housing) A K Rakesh tasked with investigating the incident found that the emergency exit was "closed and blocked" by medical equipment and the management had not followed fire safety guidelines. The commission concluded that the plausible source of the fire could have been a ventilator with defective wiring inside.

**VIOLATION OF BUILDING CODES, LACK OF OVERSIGHT**

The probes into the fires also found alleged violations of building codes, illegal construction, and instances of government departments falling short in their duty.

Government commissions under retired Justice DA Mehta, set up to look into two of the three hospital fires in Gujarat – at Shrey Hospital and Patel Welfare Hospital – highlighted the government's practice of regularising unauthorised constructions for a fee. This meant that building owners could just pay authorities to regularise construction that was not part of the plan initially approved by them. The commission investigating the Shrey Hospital fire noted that "there cannot be (such) a blanket policy" and that clinical and educational premises should not be permitted to operate in illegally constructed structures. The commission also noted that the fatalities could have been prevented had the unauthorised structures not been approved. The commission investigating the Patel Welfare Hospital fire recommended that the state undertake a "serious relook" at the policy of regularising unauthorised construction, "more specifically in case of nursing homes and/or hospitals." "If unauthorised construction in and on the premises of Patel Welfare Hospital, Bharuch would not have been regularised, the fatalities could have been avoided," it noted.

Madhya Pradesh's New Life hospital allegedly operated on two

floors despite permission for only one, a probe by the government committee found. The building allegedly lacked a completion certificate. The probe also found that the fire engineer had allegedly made an erroneous fire plan; there was no action against the hospital even though it violated building permissions; and there was no action by the municipal corporation of Jabalpur one year after the provisional fire NOC lapsed. In the aftermath of the case, action was initiated against officials who inspected the hospital and gave it a fitness certificate, as well as against the Chief Medical and Health Officer who granted a license to the health facility.

Maharashtra's Sunrise Hospital allegedly violated several building norms. Located inside a mall, it stood 2.7-3 metres high, less than the mandatory 3.6 metres. A planned escalator was allegedly removed to construct a dedicated lift for the hospital. Documents of the Brihamumbai Municipal Corporation also show that a deputy engineer from its Building Proposals Department had warned the civic body not to allow the hospital to function in 2020. Further, the hospital had received a fire NOC from a third-party agency stating that all firefighting measures were in place. Following the fire, the NOC issued a few months before the incident was cancelled, and the fire safety auditor from the third-party agency was arrested.

In the case of the national capital, only buildings over the height of 9 metres or more than two storeys needed a fire NOC. This meant that Baby Care New Born Hospital, which operated on the ground plus one floor, did not require an NOC at all. After the incident, Delhi health minister Saurabh Bhardwaj announced that all hospitals, regardless of size, would require a fire NOC. This is yet to be implemented.

**-With additional reporting by**  
**NAYONIKA BOSE, ANAND MOHAN J, ABHISHEK ANGAD, GOPAL B KATESHIYA, KAMAAL SAIYED, ANURADHA MASCARENHAS, SUSHANT KULKARNI, SIDDHANT KONDUSKAR & ADITI RAJA**

**Women and child development Department, Narnaul, Haryana**

Under the Women and Child Development Department, Haryana, E- tenders are invited for transportation of supplementary nutritional Food& other items in the Anganwadi centers of Narnaul Located in Mahendragarh district, whose e-tender is **2024.HRY.414657.1**. Invited tenders are to be opened on 19.12.2024 at 11:00 am and tenders are to be uploaded online till 5:00pm on 18.12.2024. The document containing the Terms and Conditions can be viewed/ downloaded on the website e- **tenders.hry.nic.in**

Sd/-  
District Programme officer,  
Women and child development,  
Narnaul

No. 30807/HRY

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For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Special Train as per the schedule given below:-

05577/05578 Saharsa Jn.-Anand Vihar(T.)- Saharsa Jn. Special Train (5 Days in a week)				40 Trips	
Train No. 05577		STATIONS		Train No. 05578	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
--	20:00	Saharsa Jn.	▲	10:30	----
20:20	20:22	Garh Baruari		09:45	09:47
20:45	20:47	Supaul	▼	09:30	09:32
21:15	21:45	Saraygarh		08:30	09:00
22:00	22:02	Nirmali		08:03	08:05
22:13	22:15	Ghogardiha		06:45	06:47
22:35	22:37	Jhanjharpur		06:25	06:27
23:00	23:02	Sakri Jn.		06:00	06:02
23:35	00:05	Darbhanga Jn.		04:50	05:20
00:45	00:47	Janakpur Road		03:15	03:17
01:30	01:35	Sitamarhi		02:40	02:45
02:10	02:12	Bairagnia		02:00	02:02
03:15	03:20	Raxaul Jn.		01:10	01:15
04:20	04:30	Narkatiaganj Jn.		00:10	00:20
05:00	05:02	Bagaha		23:18	23:20
08:20	08:22	Kaptanganj Jn.		20:45	20:47
09:40	09:50	Gorakhpur Jn.		19:30	19:40
10:45	10:50	Basti		17:45	17:50
12:10	12:15	Gonda Jn.		16:25	16:30
15:35	15:45	Sitapur Jn.		14:05	14:15
17:58	18:00	Shahjehanpur		11:20	11:22
19:03	19:05	Bareilly		10:10	10:12
21:15	21:25	Moradabad		08:25	08:35
23:43	23:45	Ghaziabad		05:48	05:50
00:30	---	Anand Vihar(T.)	---	---	05:15

**Days of Run : 05577 Ex. Saharsa Jn. Upto 31.12.2024 (Except Thursday & Saturday) and 05578 Ex. Anand Vihar (T.) from to 06.12.2024 to 02.01.2025 (Except Saturday & Monday)**  
**Accommodation : 3 Tier AC**

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**BPS GMC for Women, Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat**

Advertisement cutting of 102 trees for construction of Phase-III THROUGH OPEN AUCTION. at BPS GMC for Women, Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat will be auctioned through auction on 16.12.2024 (Monday) at 11:00 AM in Council Room. For the details terms and conditions may visit Institute website: <http://www.bpsgmckhanpur.ac.in>

Sd/- Chairman,  
Departmental Record Disposal Committee

No. 30801/HRY

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIMES)	AMOUNT / ESTD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE ROHTAK CO OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED	SUPPLY OF RICE HUSK FOR MILK PLANT ROHTAK	04.12.2024 21.12.2024	AS PER DNIT	<a href="https://tenders.hry.nic.in">https://tenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9996577829 vitarotak@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.tenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.tenders.hry.nic.in) No- 30792/HRY

**उ०प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि०**

इ-निविदाये अधीकृत एवं अनुभवी कार्यदायी संस्थाओं/ फर्मों से जो जी०एफ०टी० में पंजीकृत हो ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। विस्तृत विवरण प्रतिष्ठित समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन के उपरान्त ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट: [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) एवं विभाग की वेबसाइट [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org) पर उपलब्ध रहेगा। 01. ई-निविदा संख्या- 57/ वि०पा०म० (ग)/2024-25 विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, हाथरस के उपयोग हेतु एक उद्द डीजल चालित वाहन (टैक्सी कोटे में) उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य। 02. ई-निविदा संख्या 58/वि०पा०म० (म)/2024-25 विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, मथुरा के अन्तर्गत 132 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र वृन्दावन पर 33 के०वी0 मेन बस एक जेबरा कण्डक्टर को द्वि-जेबरा कण्डक्टर से बदलने संबंधी कार्य। 3. ई-निविदा संख्या 59/वि०पा०म० (म)/2024-25 विद्युत 400 के०वी जी०आई०एस० उपकेन्द्र आगरा साउथ, आगरा पर विभिन्न उपकरणों की टैस्टिंग संबंधी कार्य। 4. ई-निविदा संख्या 60/ वि०पा०म० (म)/2024-25 विद्युत 400 के०वी० जी०आई०एस० उपकेन्द्र आगरा साउथ, आगरा पर स्थापित मल्टीसायबर सिस्टम की मरम्मत संबंधी कार्य। 5. ई-निविदा संख्या-61/ वि०पा०म० (म)/2024-25 विद्युत 400 के०वी० जी०आई०एस० उपकेन्द्र आगरा साउथ, आगरा पर स्थापित NHVS मेक जी०आई०एस० उपकरणों का निरीक्षण एवं ओवरहॉलिंग संबंधी कार्य। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, मथुरा 'राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाए' हस्ता/- (राम बरन) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता वि०पा०म०, मथुरा पत्रांक संख्या-1258 दिनांक: 04/12/2024

**उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रॉन्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि०**

**ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (2024-25)**

**विद्युत जानपद पारेषण मण्डल आगरा**

1. **ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या- 39/ वि०जा०पा०म० / आगरा / 2024-25-** 132/ 33 के०वी0 2x40 एम०वी०ए० उपकेन्द्र सोफीपुर (फिरोजाबाद) पर सिक्योरिटी वॉल, सिक्योरिटी हट तथा बाहरी सम्पर्क मार्ग के निर्माण सम्बन्धी जानपदीय कार्य, समय अवधि 06 माह, धरोहर धनराशि ₹ 7,06,500.00 निविदा मूल्य ₹ 7500+1050=8850.00 निविदा प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि 08.01.2025। 2. **ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या- 40/ वि०जा०पा०म० / आगरा / 2024-25-** 132/ 33 के०वी0 2x40 एम०वी०ए० उपकेन्द्र सोफीपुर (फिरोजाबाद) पर आवास निर्माण एवं अन्य जानपदीय कार्य, समय अवधि 12 माह, धरोहर धनराशि ₹ 91,200.00 निविदा मूल्य ₹ 3000+540= 3540.00 निविदा प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि 08.01.2025। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण, विस्तारीकरण शुद्धिकरण इत्यादि की सूचना ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है, जिसको वेबसाइट के माध्यम से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। बैंक खाता अधिशासी अभियन्ता (जानपद) आगरा A/C No.-30065294923, IFSC Code-SBIN0005717 Payable at S.B.I. Foundry Nagar (Agra). अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत जानपद पारेषण मण्डल, उ०प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि०, 220 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र सिकन्दरा आगरा। "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये" पत्रांक: 997-वि०जा० पा०म०आ० / दिनांक:04.12.2024

**राज्य बाल संरक्षण समिति, छत्तीसगढ़**

**संचालनालय महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग छत्तीसगढ़**

**इन्द्रावती भवन, ब्लॉक 01, द्वितीय राल, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ०ग०)**

**दूरभाष क्रमांक 0771-2234192, 2234188 email: [dirwed@nic.in](mailto:dirwed@nic.in)**

क्रमांक 124/10622 गयावि./गि.वा. / 2024-25 अटल नगर, नवा रायपुर, दिनांक 02.12.24

**रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति सपोर्ट पर्सन के इम्पैनलमेन्ट हेतु तिथि वृद्धि की सूचना**

माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा WPC( क्रमांक 427 of 2022 **Bachpan Andolan Vs Union of India** में पारित आदेश दिनांक 09.10.2023 एवं "**We the Women of India Vs Union of India & Ors. Writ Petition(s) (Civil) Nots) 1156/2021** तथा **Writ Petition No. 427 of 2022 Bachpan Bachao Andolan Vs Union of India**" में पारित आदेश दिनांक 30.07.2024 के अनुक्रम में लैंगिक अपराधों से बालकों का संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2012 एवं नियम 2020 के प्रावधानों एवं लैंगिक अपराधों से बालकों का संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2012 की धारा-39 के अधीन सहायक व्यक्तियों के संदर्भ में राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग द्वारा जारी मॉडल गाईडलाईन के क्रियान्वयन हेतु राज्य के सभी जिलों में सपोर्ट पर्सन का इम्पैनलमेंट हेतु रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति का विज्ञापन प्रकाशित किये जाने के संबंध में राज्य बाल संरक्षण समिति के पत्र क्रमांक 124 (B)/9364 दिनांक 24.10.2024 के माध्यम से आवेदकों से दिनांक 25.11.2024 तक आवेदन आमंत्रित किए गये थे। आवेदन प्राप्त होने की तिथि में वृद्धि करते हुए आवेदन प्राप्त होने की अंतिम तिथि 15.12.2024 की गयी है। शेष नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। विज्ञापन की विस्तृत जानकारी महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग के सूचना पटल पर एवं वेबसाइट [www.cgstate.gov.in](http://www.cgstate.gov.in) एवं [www.cgwed.gov.in](http://www.cgwed.gov.in) पर देखी जा सकती है।

हस्ता/-  
(जनमेजय महोबे)  
संचालक  
महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग एवं संचिव,  
राज्य बाल संरक्षण समिति  
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)  
R.O.No. 242504362/3

**Government of Karnataka KARNATAKA SCHOOL EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT BOARD**

6<sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003  
Ph: **080-23349434**, e-Mail: **dpikseab@gmail.com**  
No.:KSEAB/DPIE/B6(LPST)/2024-BSEC/E25231 Date:04.12.2024

**e-TENDER NOTIFICATION**

The Director, Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board, here by invites Short term-tender **No.KSEAB/2024-25/IND0016, Dated: 04.12.2024** bidding from eligible bidders for the supply of laptop computers to toppers of 2024 SSLC 1, 2 & 3 exam through e-procurement portal only. e-tender documents may be downloaded from <https://sslc.karnataka.gov.in> and <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> e-tender commencement date is **04.12.2024** and the last date for submission is **18.12.2024 at 5.00 p.m.** Pre bid meeting is on **07.12.2024 at 12.00 p.m.** Technical bid will be opened on **20.12.2024 at 5.00 p.m.** Approximate value of tender **Rs.3,96,00,000/-** and the earnest money deposit is **Rs.7,92,000/-** for more details contact board during office hours.

**Sd/- Director (Exams)**

**कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, रोहतक।**

**विज्ञप्ति**

शिक्षक अधिनियम, 1961 के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित शिक्षकों के चयन को होना निश्चित हुआ है। जिसके लिये शिक्षकों का विवरण निम्न प्रकार से है -

क्र०सं०	पद का नाम	शिक्षकों के रिक्त पद
1	MMV	15
2	D.Mech.	08
3	Turner	02
4	Elect.	13
5	Painter	02
6	Carpenter	02
7	Welder	02
8	TRF/Fitter	08
9	Plumber	01
10	Black Smith/ Sheet Metal worker	02
	<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>

इच्छुक शिक्षु अपने मूल दस्तावेज सहित महाप्रबन्धक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन रोहतक (नया बस अड्डा रोहतक) के कार्यालय में आएं। जहां उनके मूल दस्तावेज चेक किये जाएंगे। इच्छुक प्राप्ती अपना रजिस्ट्रेशन दिनांक 05.12.2024 से 12.12.2024 तक ऑनलाइन करवा सकते हैं। दिनांक 05.12.2024 से पहले ये दिनांक 12.12.2024 को रात्री 12 बजे के बाद किया गया रजिस्ट्रेशन मान्य नहीं होगा। सकल शिक्षुओं का चयन आई०टी०आई० के मार्केटींग की मीट के आधार पर किया जायेगा। आनलाईन आवेदन प्राप्त होने उपरान्त प्रश्नशुओं को दस्तावेजों चेक करने हेतु दिनांक 19.12.2024 को रोहतक आगर की कर्मशाला में उपस्थित होना अनिवार्य होगा। मूल दस्तावेज चेक करने उपरान्त रुचि अनुसार चर्चनित रिक्त पड़े पदों के विरुद्ध सकल प्राथियों को यथाशीघ्र शिक्षुता हेतु लगा लिया जाएगा। ([www.apperticesshipindia.org](http://www.apperticesshipindia.org))

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# Windfall gains tax on oil put to rest: the move and its significance

SUKALP SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE GOVERNMENT on Monday withdrew the windfall gains tax on domestic production of crude oil and export of diesel, petrol, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), scrapping the levy that was introduced 30 months ago amid a surge in the prices of crude oil and key fuels in the international market in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Apprehensions about the availability of the fuels in the domestic market amid the global energy turmoil at the time had contributed to the decision to impose the levy.

But a lot has changed since then. After the initial shock and supply concerns, global oil and fuel flows have stabilised. International crude and fuel prices are significantly lower,

and there is a robust supply in the Indian domestic market.

Primarily due to these reasons, the windfall gains tax was not generating significant revenue. In fact, the levy on petrol exports had been zero since July 20, 2022, and on diesel exports, it had been nil since March 1, 2024.

On ATF exports, the windfall gains tax was reduced to nil from January 2, 2024, while on domestic oil production, the levy was brought down to zero from September 18, 2024.

For all practical purposes then, the tax was already dead — it has now been buried.

When it was first introduced on July 1, 2022, the windfall gains tax on domestic crude was Rs 23,250 per tonne, which translated to roughly \$40 per barrel. Crude oil prices were well above \$100 per barrel at the time. They are now under \$75 per barrel, and are unlikely to shoot up unless there is an

other major supply shock.

The levy on diesel exports was initially Rs 13 per litre, and exports of ATF and petrol attracted a levy of Rs 6 per litre.

**The tax and its rationale**

The term windfall gains tax was used to describe cesses under the ambit of central excise imposed on fuel exports and domestic crude oil production to tax supernormal profits of fuel exporters and oil producers.

For domestic crude oil and ATF exports, the windfall gains tax was in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED); for diesel and petrol, it was a combination of SAED and Additional Excise Duty (AED), which was also known as Road and Infrastructure Cess (RIC).

EXPLAINED  
ECONOMICS

The duties were reviewed fortnightly, based on the movement in margins on fuels in the international market and global crude oil prices. The levy on petrol was reduced to nil in the first revision itself, and was not hiked afterward.

These levies were imposed as global oil and fuel prices surged in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As the price of crude oil produced in India is benchmarked to international prices, domestic oil prices also went through the roof. At the same time, margins on fuels were a lot more lucrative in other markets, incentivising refiners, particularly the private sector players, to export fuels. This had resulted in fuel supply disruptions in some parts of the country.

Apart from taking a share of windfall prof-

its of oil producers and fuel exporters to partly soften the blow of duty cuts on domestic petrol and diesel sales, the government also wanted to ensure enough fuel supply to meet domestic demand. Several other countries too had imposed taxes on supernormal profits of energy companies at the time.

**The impact and signal**

The country's oil industry was understood to have always been against the windfall tax regime. It was argued that it limited the profitability of publicly listed companies, and discouraged efforts to increase oil production in a country that depends on imports to meet more than 85% of its oil needs. The frequent review of the levies, it was argued, made the taxation unpredictable.

The windfall gains tax mop-up was around Rs 25,000 crore in 2022-23 (FY23).

But it declined to around Rs 13,000 crore in FY24, and to Rs 6,000 crore in FY25 so far.

The provision to change the tax level, however, continued to be in place even as the levy itself was nil. With Monday's move, the government has effectively withdrawn those provisions as well. This may be seen as an assurance to the country's oil industry that the taxation regime will be predictable and stable.

The scrapping of the windfall gains tax may not have any notable impact on the financials of domestic oil producers like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India (OIL), and major fuel exporters like Reliance Industries (RIL) and Nayara Energy (NEL).

It does, however, signal reliable and predictable taxation — and that the government now feels confident that a hard-to-manage surge in oil and fuel prices and supply shocks are unlikely going forward.

EXPLAINED CLIMATE

## 'LAKE-EFFECT SNOW', PHENOMENON FREEZING THE GREAT LAKES REGION



A resident removes snow in Angola, New York, on November 30. *The NYT*

PARTS OF upstate New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan, situated along the Great Lakes, have seen nearly 1.2 metres of "lake-effect" snow since last Friday.

The movement of a cold air mass across stretches of warm lake water triggers the lake effect, a phenomenon that has captivated weather experts.

Lake-effect snow often occurs in relatively narrow bands that dump copious amounts of snow. The phenomenon can drastically increase snowfall totals, and it may slam one area and leave another just miles away untouched.

Residents along the Great Lakes, the world's largest group of freshwater lakes along the US-Canada border, are bracing themselves for even more snowfall in the coming days.

**How is the lake effect triggered?**

In the US, the lake effect typically begins when cold air — often from Canada — blows in over the Great Lakes' warmer waters.

Warming air from the lakes then pushes the moisture in the sky higher into a zone most conducive to snowfall because of its temperature. That creates clouds capable of dumping lots of precipitation downwind, said Phillip Pandolfo, a meteorologist in the National Weather Service's office in Buffalo, New York.

Most of the moisture needed for lake-effect snow does not actually come from the lakes, but rather from cold air that blows over them. "It's a common misconception that the lakes are a tremendous

source of moisture," Pandolfo said. "In practice, we actually need the air to actually have enough moisture in it before it really starts going over the lakes."

**How does the moisture-laden air lead to snowfall?**

With the right conditions, the rising, moisture-laden air causes clouds to form that could bring "some really intense snowfall rates," Pandolfo said.

The results typically are thin bands of clouds that can produce heavy snowfall — 5-8 centimetres per hour and sometimes more. And because the bands are narrow, towns near each other could see significant differences in snowfall totals.

Forecasting lake-effect snow can be difficult; slight changes in wind direction can have a major impact on where the heaviest snow falls, according to the weather service.

**Is the lake effect common to the Great Lakes?**

Lake-effect snow goes hand-in-hand with living near a Great Lake. In many cases, about 30-61 cm of snow will fall, but occasionally it can get out of hand.

In November 2022, lake-effect storms dumped more than 1.8 metres of snow in western New York. Those wintry storms were the worst in New York since at least November 2014, when some communities south of Buffalo were hit with 2.1 metres of snow over three days, collapsing roofs and trapping drivers on a stretch of the New York State Thruway.

AP

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA  
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 4

LEADER OF the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) Sukhbir Singh Badal was shot at on Wednesday at the entrance to the Golden Temple where he was on guard duty.

Badal, who was on a wheelchair with his fractured right foot in a cast when the attacker approached him, was not hurt.

The former Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab has been awarded religious punishment by the Akal Takht, the supreme temporal seat of the Sikhs, for the alleged misuse of the SAD government from 2007 to 2017.

Other members of the then Cabinet are also performing atonement on the order of the Akal Takht by cleaning bathrooms and utensils, etc.

What is the Akal Takht, what position does it occupy in the Sikh community, and what is the source of the authority it wields over the Akali Dal?

**When and why was the Akal Takht established?**

The Akal Takht, which faces the Harmandir Sahib in the Golden Temple complex, was established by the sixth Sikh master Guru Hargobind in 1606 following the execution of his father, Guru Arjan Dev, by the Mughals.

According to Sikh Studies scholar Amarjit Singh of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Guru Hargobind used this platform for governance, and is believed to have issued the first directive (*Hukamnama*) from here, urging Sikh congregations to contribute horses and weapons to the *Panth*.

The Guru is said to have requested two swords, symbolising *miri* (temporal power) and *piri* (spirituality). The sword representing *miri* was slightly shorter, indicating the primacy of spiritual authority over temporal power.

The Akal Takht was also a symbol and representation of the Sikh defiance of Mughal authority. Historian Joginder Singh, a former professor at Guru Nanak Dev University, who has written extensively on Sikh history, noted that the 12-foot-high platform of the Akal Takht symbolised a challenge to the Mughal government in Agra (and later Delhi), where Emperor Jahangir (1605-27), on whose order Guru Arjan Dev was executed, sat on an 11-foot-high throne, and forbade anyone else from doing so.

**How did the Akal Takht function after the passing of the tenth and last Guru, Guru Gobind Singh?**

The Akal Takht became the focal point for Sikhs during the difficult period following the execution of Banda Singh Bahadur, the general of the Khalsa army, in 1716, Prof Amarjit Singh said.

As the Sikhs faced massive persecution



Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal (on a wheelchair on extreme right) at the entrance to the Golden Temple to serve religious punishment on Tuesday. *PTI*

from the Mughal state, members of the community would gather at the Akal Takht on Baisakhi and Diwali for Sarbat Khalsa assemblies where crucial decisions would be made.

The tradition of the Sarbat Khalsa continued, and one of the last assemblies was convened by Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1801-39), the founder of the Sikh empire, in 1805 to deliberate on supporting the Maratha prince of Indore, Jaswant Rao Holkar, against the British.

**How is the Jathedar (head) of the Akal Takht appointed?**

Initially, the Sarbat Khalsa appointed the Akal Takht Jathedar during the annual congregations. After the British established control over the country, however, the appointment of the Jathedar came under the influence of the Darbar Sahib committee, which was dominated by leaders who were loyal to the regime.

Following the enactment of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act in 1925, the Jathedar began to be appointed by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), a body formed in 1920 to manage Sikh shrines and free them from British-supported *mahants*.

The SGPC is currently the apex governing body of all Sikh gurdwaras in the states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

**How does the Akal Takht hand out religious punishment?**

As the head of the highest seat of temporal power of the Sikhs, the Jathedar of the Akal Takht is the supreme temporal and religious authority of the Sikhs, and the final word on the affairs of the community.

The Jathedar must be baptised, possess deep knowledge of Sikh history and scriptures, and should be free from moral shortcomings.

Any person who identifies as a Sikh can be summoned to the Akal Takht, tried, and

sentenced. Dr Sarabjinder Singh, Dean, Guru Nanak Dev University and Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, said that the Akal Takht's justice applies only to those who voluntarily submit to its authority.

"The Takht calls only those who affirm their Sikh identity, and *tankhah* (religious punishment) is intended to remove ego and instill humility. No one has ever repudiated the Takht's directives," he said.

Among the prominent Jathedars of the Akal Takht was Akali Phoola Singh, who summoned Maharaja Ranjit Singh for a moral transgression, resulting in the Maharaja receiving a public flogging at the Akal Takht.

**What is the relationship between the Shiromani Akali Dal (which Sukhbir Singh Badal leads), and the SGPC (which appoints the Akal Takht Jathedar)?**

The SGPC and SAD share a historically intertwined relationship rooted in the Gurdwara Reform Movement of 1920.

The SGPC was established on November 15, 1920 to manage historical Sikh shrines, while the SAD, formed on December 14 that same year, initially acted as a task force of the SGPC to mobilise Sikhs against corrupt *mahants* and British interference in gurdwaras.

Both organisations institutionalised the Khalsa identity as central to Sikhism, and became pillars of the Sikh religious and political leadership.

Ashutosh Kumar, a professor of political science at Panjab University, Chandigarh, described the Akal Takht, SGPC, and the Shiromani Akali Dal as the "three poles" of Sikh politics.

The SAD has often sought to control the SGPC through electoral dominance. The SGPC's general house, with 191 members, includes 170 elected members. Controlling the SGPC, which appoints the Akal Takht Jathedar, gives SAD significant influence.

The Akalis dominated the SGPC in the 1960s and 1970s — and even in 1979, when the turmoil in Punjab had begun, they won the majority of seats in the SGPC. Akali control over the SGPC began to slip gradually after Gurcharan Singh Tohra was installed as the SGPC president in 1973, a post that he held for 27 years.

After Tohra's demise and the decline of militancy, the Akalis regained control of the SGPC. Elections to the body are supposed to be held every five years, but no elections have been held since 2011. Some critics say the SAD continues to be influential in the SGPC house primarily for this reason.

Some observers have suggested that the relationship between the SGPC and SAD is akin to the one that exists between the RSS and BJP. However, Dr Pramod Kumar, chairperson of the nonprofit research organisation Institute for Development and Communication (IDC), Chandigarh, said this is not an apt comparison.

"The RSS identifies itself as a social and cultural organisation that is more about [nationalist] ideology, while the SGPC is a religious and social organisation concerned with the management of Sikh shrines and charitable schools and hospitals," he said.

**How has SAD control over the SGPC impacted its relationship with the Akal Takht Jathedar?**

On several occasions, the Akal Takht Jathedar's decisions have appeared to be influenced by the SAD.

■ During the 1990s, when Parkash Singh Badal led the SAD and Gurcharan Singh Tohra presided over the SGPC, concerns were expressed over the fairness and credibility of Jathedars.

■ In 1994, the acting Akal Takht Jathedar, Prof Manjit Singh, tried to unite fractured Akali factions, but Badal's faction resisted. Badal was summoned to the Akal Takht, leading to public confrontations at the Darbar Sahib complex.

■ During the Tohra-Badal feud in 1999, the Badal camp pushed for the removal of Akal Takht Jathedar Bhair Singh, which happened on February 10, 1999.

■ After 2005, when the SAD leadership began deciding the SGPC president, the concerns about political interference intensified. Avtar Singh Makkar, a relatively unknown figure in Akali politics, became SGPC president, and held the post for 11 years.

■ Akal Takht Jathedar Gurbachan Singh, along with other high priests, faced a backlash for announcing a controversial unilateral pardon to Gurmurt Ram Rahim Singh, the Sirda *dera* chief, in September 2015, which was later revoked. Many Sikhs had alleged that the decision was influenced by the SAD — which was confirmed by Sukhbir Singh Badal during his questioning by the Akal Takht Jathedar on December 2.

# Production cap, chemicals ban: Why global plastic treaty talks collapsed

NIKHIL GHANEKAR  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

COUNTRIES NEGOTIATING a landmark treaty on tackling plastic pollution failed to reach an agreement on December 1 — more than 100 nations wanted to curb production but a handful of oil producers were prepared only to target plastic waste.

The weeklong talks, which involved nearly 200 countries, took place in Busan, South Korea. This was the fifth round of negotiations since March 2022, when the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) agreed to develop a legally binding treaty on plastics pollution by the end of 2024.

Discussions on the draft text of the treaty will continue next year.

EXPLAINED  
ENVIRONMENT

**Why did the negotiations fail?**

The main dispute was regarding the demand for production cap goals in the final treaty along with clear language on the elimination of certain plastic chemicals and products. This demand was pushed by a coalition of more than 100 countries including African and Latin American nations, and most of the European Union.

It was vehemently opposed by a coalition including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Russia, and Iran. They argued that the inclusion of provisions on plastic production cuts would be beyond the mandate of the 2022 resolution to end plastic pollution.

Kuwait said that in a bid to include such provisions in the final treaty, the mandate was being stretched for advancing trade restrictions, economic agendas, and commercial competition under the guise of environmental action. India and China also supported the stand of this coalition.

## PLASTIC POLLUTION IN NUMBERS

**430 million** tonnes of plastic are produced annually, two-thirds of which are short-lived products, which soon become waste

**10%** of the plastic ever produced has been recycled so far

**11 million** tonnes of plastic are

currently entering the ocean annually

**46%** of plastic waste is landfilled and 17% is incinerated

**20 million** tonnes of plastic litter end up in the environment every year

Source: UN & IUCN

The draft text reflected both points of consensus and contention.

Points of consensus included proposing a ban on open dumping and open burning for sustainable waste management. The

draft text also provided clear definitions of plastic and plastic products, but it did not reflect definitions of contentious issues such as microplastics, nanoplastics, primary plastic polymers, and recycling.

Despite pushback from countries such as Saudi and Kuwait, the draft text included options to include a goal to reduce plastic production after the treaty is finalised. References to single-use plastics and short-lived plastics were also included.

**What was India's stance?**

India's stance and interventions centred on issues such as the varying responsibilities of countries in addressing plastic pollution. The country focused on the right to development of countries, and the need for the provision of technical and financial assistance to manage plastic waste. It also highlighted that the scope of the treaty should be well defined

so as not to overlap with existing multilateral environmental agreements.

India outlined its stance in the opening plenary. It said it did not support any articles on "supply", referring to the discussions on curbing production. The Indian delegation also said the sustainable level of production at a global or national level was not well defined, and may become a method for imposing a cap on the production of products, chemicals, or primary polymers.

According to India, production of primary polymers was not directly linked to plastic pollution and there should be no targets on polymer or plastic production. Instead, the focus should be on reducing plastic pollution.

At the end of the talks, India said that a balance has to be struck between preventing plastic pollution and protecting the sustainable development of developing countries.



TOPOF THE WORLD



A man uses a boat to cross a flooded area in Tumpat. Reuters

MALAYSIA  
Govt issues alert for waterborne diseases after massive flood

**Kuala Lumpur:** Health volunteers in Malaysia have been preparing for any surge in waterborne diseases following devastating floods that saw tens of thousands of people evacuated, with concerns in the country that days of constant rains could be on the way. Floodwaters have begun receding in the worst-hit state of Kelantan, on Malaysia's northeastern coast, but government data showed more than 40,000 people remained at temporary shelters on Wednesday amid fears of a potential second wave of flooding this week. Videos of children playing in muddy floodwaters have gone viral online, sparking concerns over the potential spread of waterborne illnesses. **REUTERS**

EUROPEAN UNION  
EU pushes back deforestation law by year

**Brussels:** The European Union agreed to delay by a year the introduction of new rules to ban the sale of products that lead to massive deforestation, caving in to demands from several producer nations from across the globe and domestic opposition within the 27-nation bloc. Officials said Wednesday that the EU member states, the EU parliament and the executive Commission reached an agreement in principle following weeks of haggling whether the initial rules would have to be watered down even further than the simple delay by one year. Originally, it was supposed to kick in this month. **AP**

UNITED NATIONS  
UN seeks \$47 bn in aid as donor appetite shrinks

**Geneva:** The United Nations on Wednesday sought \$47 billion in aid for 2025 to help around 190 million people fleeing conflict and battling starvation, at a time when this year's appeal is not even half-funded and officials fear cuts from Western states including the top donor, the U.S. Facing what the new U.N. aid chief Tom Fletcher describes as "an unprecedented level of suffering", the U.N. hopes to reach people in 32 countries next year. **REUTERS**

CIVIC, LABOUR GROUPS PROTEST IN SEOUL

# S Korea Opp submits Bill to impeach President after martial law debacle

Defence Minister offers to resign, says ruling party

JACK KIM AND JOYCE LEE  
SEOUL, DECEMBER 4

**SOUTH KOREAN** lawmakers submitted a bill on Wednesday to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol after he declared martial law in the country, a major U.S. ally, before rescinding the decision hours later after a chaotic standoff between parliament and the army.

Parliament rejected Yoon's surprise declaration of martial law, which attempted to ban political activity and censor the media in Asia's fourth largest economy, as armed troops forced their way into the National Assembly building in Seoul.

Six South Korean opposition parties later submitted a Bill in parliament to impeach Yoon, who had already faced accusations of heavy-handed leadership from his opponents and from within his own party, with voting set for Friday or Saturday. But Yoon's party vowed to oppose the move, throwing the process into doubt.

A plenary session to formally introduce the bill was scheduled



People demonstrate against South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol; (right) lawmakers submit an impeachment motion of the President at the National Assembly in Seoul, Wednesday. AP

to begin shortly after midnight Wednesday.

"We couldn't ignore the illegal martial law," DP lawmaker Kim Yong-min told reporters. "We can no longer let democracy collapse." Civic and labour groups held a candlelight vigil in downtown Seoul on Wednesday evening, calling for Yoon's resignation-aremin-der of the massive protests that led to the impeachment of former President Park Geun-hye in 2017. They then began march-

ing towards the presidential office.

The leader of Yoon's ruling People Power Party called for Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun to be fired and the entire cabinet to resign. Kim has offered to resign, the defence ministry said.

Yoon told the nation in a television speech late Tuesday that martial law was needed to defend the country from pro-North Korean forces, and protect the free constitutional order, though he cited no specific threats.

Troops tried to seize control of the parliament building, but stood back when parliamentary aides sprayed them with fire extinguishers, while protesters scuffled with police outside. Within hours, South Korea's parliament, with 190 of its 300 members present, unanimously passed a motion for martial law be lifted, with 18 members of Yoon's party present. The president then rescinded the declaration of martial law, around six hours later.



EXPLAINED  
What happens next?

THE PARLIAMENT has to vote by Saturday on the impeachment Bill. To succeed, it needs at least 200 votes in the 300-member House. If it is approved, a trial is held before the Constitutional Court—a 9-member council that oversees government. If six members vote to sustain the impeachment, the President is removed.

# Decision time in France as lawmakers look set to oust govt, for first time since 1962

REUTERS  
PARIS, DECEMBER 4

**FRENCH LAWMAKERS** are all but certain to oust the government with a no-confidence motion on Wednesday, plunging the euro zone's second-biggest economic power deeper into political turmoil.

Barring a last-minute surprise, Prime Minister Michel Barnier's government will be France's first to be forced out by a no-confidence vote in more than 60 years, at a time when the country is struggling to tame a massive budget deficit.

That would leave a hole at the heart of the European Union at a time when Germany is also weakened and in election mode, weeks before U.S. President-elect Donald Trump re-enters the White House.



Members of the French government in the National Assembly in Paris before a confidence vote, on Wednesday. Reuters

Meanwhile, French far-right leader Marine Le Pen said on Wednesday her National Rally (RN) party would support an emergency law that rolls over the

2024 budget's tax-and-spend provisions into next year to ensure there is stopgap financing. In a TV interview on Tuesday, Barnier said he still believed his

SHOOTER WAITED OUTSIDE NEW YORK HOTEL; TARGETED KILLING, SAY POLICE

# CEO of largest US insurance firm shot dead

REUTERS  
NEW YORK, DECEMBER 4

**BRIAN THOMPSON**, the CEO of UnitedHealth's insurance unit, was fatally shot on Wednesday morning outside a midtown Manhattan hotel, several media outlets reported, just before a scheduled company investor conference.

The New York Police Department confirmed a 50-year-old man was shot in front of the Hilton on Sixth Avenue around 6:40 a.m. ET and was pronounced dead after being transported to a nearby hospital. Police have not released the victim's identity, but several publications reported it was Thompson, who has worked



Brian Thompson was named UnitedHealthcare CEO in April 2021. AP

at the company for 20 years. Police were still searching for the masked suspect, who fled on foot wearing a cream-colored jacket and a gray backpack, the Times reported. The attack appeared to be tar-

geted, the New York Times reported, citing police. Investigators believe the gunman had been waiting in the area for some time before Thompson's arrival ahead of an investors meeting, CNN reported. The shooting happened not long before a scheduled UnitedHealth investor conference in Manhattan, which was cut short at about 9 a.m.

UnitedHealthcare is the largest US health insurer, providing benefits to tens of millions of Americans, who pay more for healthcare than in any other country. UnitedHealth did not respond to a request for comment. Police tape blocked off the area on 54th Street Wednesday morning, where blue plastic gloves were strewn about and plastic cups ap-

peared to mark the location of several bullet casings.

Thompson was named UnitedHealthcare CEO in April 2021 after working at the company since 2004 in several departments, according to the company's web site.

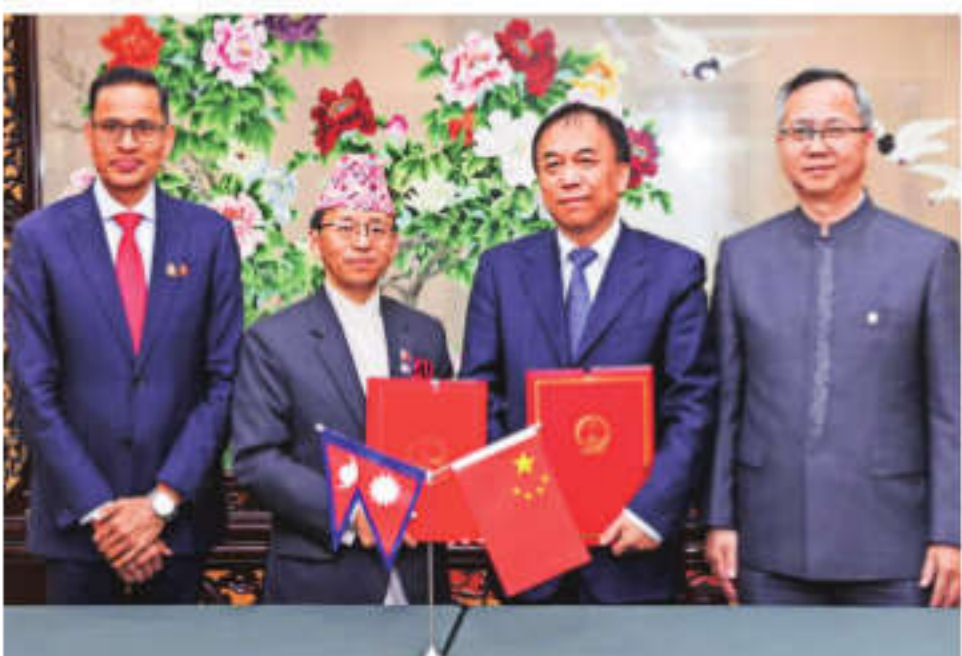
Consumer frustration with the US healthcare system runs high and was the driving force behind the US Affordable Care Act, which created a new type of health insurance and mandated coverage for preventative care as well as maximum profit levels.

Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota, where the company is based, said in a statement that the state was sending prayers to Thompson's family and the United Healthcare team.



The aim, Airbnb said, 'was to support the Colosseum's ongoing conservation work'. AP file

get anything in exchange." Federico Mollicone, a lawmaker with the Brothers of Italy party of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, dismissed the criticism as the views of a "radical chic" element in Rome that treated the arena "as something sacred." He added that gladiator games were already tourist draws in other historical arenas, like one in Nîmes, France. "There's nothing wrong with it," said Mollicone, whose center-right government this year passed a law that supports the promotion of historical reenactments.



Officials from Nepal and China after signing the Belt and Road Initiative Cooperation Framework in Beijing, Wednesday. PTI

# Nepal, China sign BRI framework, paves way for work on projects

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE  
KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 4

**NEPAL AND** China on Wednesday signed the execution framework for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Beijing, indicating that Nepal will soon decide on projects for implementation. The development has come when Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli is on an official visit to China.

Nepal Foreign Ministry officials said the framework agreement was signed by the acting foreign secretary and the vice chairman of China's National Development Reforms Commission, ending speculation triggered by the government's stance that it will accept only grants for projects under the BRI.

Last week upon returning from Chengdu, Nepal Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba had said that Nepal will accept only grants from China for BRI projects as the country is not in a position to go for loans.

Details of the agreement have not yet been made public but if the Nepali Congress, the biggest coalition partner in the government, and Deuba stick by their pre-visit position, the K P Sharma Oli-led government

might face a crisis once the Prime Minister returns Thursday.

According to *The Kathmandu Post*, China had removed the word "grant" proposed by the Nepali side and suggested replacing it with "investment" for projects under the BRI. After reviewing the new terms and conditions, officials found a compromise and decided to include the phrasing "aid and technical assistance" to project execution in Nepal, it said.

The word "aid" adds ambiguity and marks a step back from the Nepali Congress's position of clearly specifying grants. Some countries also term line of credit as aid but which are essentially loans, the paper said.

The two sides had signed nine MoUs and agreements on Tuesday.

Speaking at a programme held at Peking University, Oli later said that Nepal would reap benefits from the BRI.

He expressed the belief that China has strongly supported Nepal's development and that the BRI project initiated under the leadership of President Xi Jinping would further deepen bilateral relations between the two countries, the *Himalayan Times* reported. **WITH PTI INPUTS**

# Netanyahu ordered to take stand in graft trial after repeated delays

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
JERUSALEM, DECEMBER 4

**AN ISRAELI** court on Tuesday ordered Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to take the stand next week in his long-running corruption trial, ending a series of delays.

Netanyahu's lawyers had filed multiple requests to put off the testimony, arguing first that the war in Gaza prevented him from properly preparing for his testimony, and later that his security could not be guaranteed in the court chamber.

In Tuesday's decision, judges in the Jerusalem district court said that following a security assessment, his testimony will be moved to the Tel Aviv district court.

His testimony in the trial, which began in 2020, is expected to begin on December 10 and to last at least several weeks.

Netanyahu is charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate scan-



Benjamin Netanyahu is charged with fraud, breach of trust and bribery. File

dals in which he is accused of trading favors with powerful media moguls and wealthy associates. He denies wrongdoing.

Meanwhile, Jewish settlers mounted a string of attacks on Palestinian towns in the occupied West Bank overnight, burning homes and clashing with Israeli troops. There were no immediate reports of any Palestinian casualties. Israeli airstrikes had also killed at least 20 people across Gaza, Palestinian medics said.

# ROMANS COMPLAIN ABOUT MONUMENT BEING ‘TRANSFORMED TO A THEME PARK’ AFTER PLANS TO GIVE ‘GLADIATOR TRAINING’ TO SELECT FEW ‘Unleash your inner Gladiator’ — Colosseum partnership with Airbnb sparks uproar

ELISABETTA POVOLEDO  
ROME, DECEMBER 4

IT HAS probably been centuries since Romans have been so feverish about happenings at the Colosseum, and it is not because of the recent release of the Ridley Scott "Gladiator" sequel.

A plan by the Colosseum and Airbnb to give a select few people the chance to unleash their "inner gladiator" at the most visited site in Italy has caused an uproar among many Romans who say its demeans a treasured cultural icon.

Over two nights in May, a total of up to 32 people will learn the art of gladiator fighting at the ancient arena, taught by Roman history buffs who specialize in historical reenactments.

The project is a partnership between the Colosseum Archaeological Park and Airbnb, the accommodations booking platform, which donated \$1.5 million to spruce up a permanent exhibit inside the arena. The aim, Airbnb said, "was to support the Colosseum's ongoing conservation work to find new ways to inspire and educate

visitors on the historical significance of this bygone era."

But some Romans and cultural leaders have given the initiative an emphatic thumbs down. "We're against transforming the Colosseum into a theme park," said Massimiliano Smeriglio, a member of Rome's City Council responsible for culture. He said he would soon meet with Airbnb officials to try to get the company to change its mind.

"We're all in favor if a company decides to sponsor a monument or a restoration," he said, "but it shouldn't be necessary to











## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

**I, Smritilekha Mondal D/o Jawahar Mondal W/o Nishant Singhaal R/o M1-205, Tower-24, Gulmohur Garden, Raju Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad-201017, have changed my name to Smritilekha Singhaal**

0050255752-1

**I Rohit s/o sh. Tilak Raj R/o i - 3/52 Third floor , sector 16 Rohini Delhi 110089 have changed my name Rohit Dogra to Rohit for all purpose .**

0050255887-1

**It is for general information that I, POONAM,W/o DINESH KUMAR,R/o D-440,MANGOL PURI, DELHI-110083, declared that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as BHAVYA RAWAT in her school record, but her actual name is BHAVYA aged-14-years.**

0040762220-6

**It is for general information that I, NASEEM BANO,W/o Mohd Irshad,R/o H.No.-309,Double Street, Welcome Seelampur-III, North East-Delhi-110053, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as NASIM BANO in my Passport and Voter Id. The actual name of mine is NASEEM BANO, which may be amended accordingly.**

0040762228-5

**It is for general information that I, Rajesh Kumar Sinha S/o Naresh Kumar Lal R/o C 4 Flat No-1, PO-Indranagar, Jamshedpur, Purbi Singhbhum, Jharkhand-831004, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Rajesh Kumar Singh and Naresh Kumar Sinha respectively in my Matriculation Certificate Cum Marksheet. The actual name of mine and my father is Rajesh Kumar Sinha and Naresh Kumar Lal respectively, which may be amended accordingly.**

0070938199-1

**I, hitherto known as ISHTYAK ALI,S/O-AJAB SHAH, residing at, A-84,BHARAT-VIHAR, KAKROLA, DWARKA, BADI-MASJID HINDUSTAN-MEDICAL STORE, SECTOR-15, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAIF ALI.**

0040762212-10

**I, Wakeel S/o Chand Mohamad R/o-F-447, Gali No-19, Khajoori Khas, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Mohammad Wakeel, S/o-Chand Mohammad.**

0040762219-6

**I, Priyanka D/o Charan Singh R/o H.No.E-16, Gali-26D, Molarband Extn. Badapur, South Delhi-110044, have changed my name to Priyanka Singh for all purposes.**

0040762164-1

**I, Vardan Ahuja S/o Sushil Kumar Ahuja R/o-H No-51, Westend, Colony, Bhagpat Road Malvana, Opposite Dps. Meerut Uttar, Pradesh-250002, have changed my name to Vardaan Kumar**

0040762221-2

**I, Talat Perveen, D/o-mohd. ISHAQ, H.No-3/17, J-Extension, Street.No-7, Murti-wali, Gali Kishan-Kunj Laxmi-Nagar, Delhi-110092, inform that my father's name Wrongly-Written as Mohd ishaq in my all documents. The actual name of my father is Mohammed ishaq, for All future Perposes.**

0040762228-4

**I, Sushant Rajput, S/o Mr. Ranbir Singh Rajput, R/o-802, Tower-22, Vipul Greens, Sohna Road, Sec-48, South City-II, Gurugram, Haryana-122018, inform that Sushant and Sushant Rajput, both names are same person. My correct name is Sushant Rajput.**

0040762142-3

**I, Shivani Rathore, D/o Deepak Rathore, R/o-948 Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052 I have changed my name Shivani, to Shivani Rathore, for all future purpose.**

0040762221-6

**I, Seema D/o Avinash Bajaj, W/o Pardeep Kumar, R/o-1874, Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034, inform that Seema and Seema Rani, D/o Abinash both are the names of same and one person.**

0040762212-5

**I, Reena, w/o Anil, R/o, H.No-741/G-8, Block-D, Nathupura, Burari, North-Delhi, Delhi-110084, have changed the name of my minor daughter CHAHAT alias RAKHI shall hereafter be known as RAKHI.**

0040762212-7

**I, RAM BABU RAIKWAR, S/o Shri.SADHU RAIKWAR, R/o-RAIKWAR, R/o-House.No.11, Main Gagan Vihar Road, Gagan Vihar, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name from PHOOLA DEBI, (previously recorded and known) to RAM BABU RAIKWAR, for all purpose. Vide affidavit No.IN-DL8471508432489W, Date 11th-November-2024.**

0040762142-5

**I, Pooja Talreja W/o Yogesh Babbar R/o-WZ-668/5 F.F Gali.No.2 Sri Nagar Shakur, Basti Delhi-110034, changed my minor, daughter name Samaira Babbar aged-11, Month(04-01-2024) to Samaira Talreja Babbar**

0040762221-1

**I Mansi D/o Dilip Singh R/o 672/80, Mehla Mohalla, Madanpur Khadar, VTC: Sarita Vihar, PO: Sarita Vihar, Sub District: Kalkaji, District: South Delhi, Delhi-110076 have changed my name to Mansi Bhati for all purposes.**

0040762115-1

**I, No-15688387X, Hav Tofiq Ahmad Parjal. In my service records name and D o B of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Anham Ahmad , DoB-16-03-2014 instead of Inam Tofiq ,16-01-2014 as mentioned in Aadhaar card. It needs correction. Objections be filled to HQ 15 Sect.RR,C/o -56 APO .**

0020485358-1

**I, NITIN THAKUR, S/o-MADAN PAL SINGH, R/o L-124, Mangol-Puri, Delhi-110083, declared that in my 10th-Class Marksheet Roll.No. 8727581 years-2010-12 name has been written as NITIN whereas my correct name is NITIN THAKUR and my Father name written as MADAN PAL, but actual name is MADAN PAL SINGH.**

0040762220-7

**I, NIRALA SINGH, S/o-Late Sh.KANAHRI SINGH, R/o-H.NO.82, J1 COLONY, SECTOR-16, NOIDA, DISTT.GAUTAM-BUDH-NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301, inform that my wife name ASHA SINGH and BINA SINGH, both names are same person, for all future purposes.**

0040762142-4

**I, NEELAM SHARMA, W/O NISHANT SHARMA, R/O, FLAT.NO. 523, CHINAR APARTMENT, COSMOS GREENS, BHIWADI, ALWAR, RAJASTHAN-301019, have changed my name to NEELAM, for all, future purpose.**

0040762212-8

**I, Mohd. Mehtab, S/o Mohd Ilyas R/o-1694, Gali.No.17, Rajiv-Gandhi Nagar, New**

**Mustafabad, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Mohammad Mahtab, S/o Mohammad Ilyas**

0040762219-5

**I, Mahesh Taparia, S/o Hanuman Chand Taparia, R/o-D-1206, 12Th Floor, Tower-C, Nipun-Saffron Vally, G.T.Road, Sahibabad, Chikamberpur, Ghaziabad, UP-201006, have changed my name to Mahesh Kumar Taparia, for all purposes.**

0040762212-4

**I, Shrawani, D/O Shailein Das, R/O Flat.No-4,F, House.No-20-A/1, Shera-Mohalla, East of Kailash Delhi-110065, Have Changed my Name to Shrawani Das.**

0040762212-1

**I, Madan Lal Verma, F/o, Manoj Kumar, resident of, Vill: Sabalpara, Dist: Sikar, State: Rajasthan-332001, have changed my name, from Madan Lal Verma to Madan Lal, vide affidavit, dated-04-Dec 2024, at New Delhi.**

0040762220-9

**I, KAMAL PREET, W/O RAJINDER SINGH, R/O D-138, Sector-55, Noida, Gautam BudhNagar(UP), have changed my name to KAMAL PREET KAUR.**

0040762219-1

**I, Jitender Singh S/o Ram Phal Malik, R/o B-52 Chhattarpur Enclave, South Delhi-110074, have changed my name from Jitender Singh to Jitender Singh Malik for future and all purposes.**

0040762186-1

**I, Jaswinder Singh, S/o Balkar Singh, R/o WZ-201, 3rd Floor Street No-4, Virender-Nagar, Delhi-58, have changed my name to Jasvinder Singh.**

0040762212-2

**I, Jaspreet Oberoi, D/o, Shri V.S. Oberoi, W/o-Mr. Manvinder Singh Chawla, R/o G-13/4, Ground-Floor, Malviya Nagar, Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Jaspreet Oberoi Chawla, for all, future purposes.**

0040762219-2

**I, JAIKISHAN AGGARWAL alias JAI KISHAN AGGARWAL S/o BABU LAL AGGARWAL R/o E-324, Ground-Floor, Greater, Kailash-2, Delhi-110048, have changed my name to JAI KISHAN AGGARWAL.**

0040762221-9

**I, Hina Begum, W/o Arif Ali, R/o 2711, F/F Chooriwalan, Bazar Sita Ram, Delhi-110006, Have changed my name to HEENA BEGUM permanently.**

0040762212-6

**I, Himanshu Taneja, S/o-Kamaljeet Singh Saini, R/o, E-66, South Anarkali, Chander-Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Himanshu Saini, for all, future purposes.**

0040762219-1

**I, HARINDER KUMAR, S/o-OM PAL SINGH, R/O-H No-C-10/174, GALLI.NO-10, NEAR PRIMARY SCHOOL, BABOLI EXTS, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110093, have changed my name from HARINDER K to HARINDER KUMAR, for all, future purposes.**

0040762142-6

**I, FHOOLA RAIKWAR, W/o Shri. RAM BABU RAIKWAR, R/o-House.No.11, Main Gagan Vihar Road, Gagan Vihar, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name from PHOOLA DEBI, (previously recorded and known) to FHOOLA RAIKWAR, for all, purpose. Vide affidavit No.IN-DL8471508432489W, Date 11th-November-2024.**

0040762142-1

**I, Dinesh Kumar S/O Mehar Chand Saluja R/O House-No.3265, Block-A, Gali-No-4, Near Shri Ram Modal School, Faridabad, Haryana-121001, I have changed my name to Dinesh Kumar Saluja.**

0040762219-10

**I, Suchi Garg, W/o. Sh. Ankur Garg, D/o. Sh. Anil Kumar Goel R/o H-1816, Prateek edifice, Sector-107, Noida, have changed my name from Suchi Goel to Suchi Garg, after marriage, for all, future purposes.**

0040762142-2

**I, DIVYA GUPTA W/O SHUBHAM GUPTA R/O 1-C/37, NEW ROHTAK ROAD, SARAI ROHILA, KAROL BAGH, DELHI-110005, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DIVYA AGGARWAL.**

0040762228-1

**I, DEVESHWAR PRASAD UNIYAL S/O NARBDESHWAR PRASAD UNIYAL R/O-Flat No-348 Third-Floor, Sector-9, DDA Pocket-2, Dwarka, Delhi-110075, have changed my minor, son name DAKSH UNIYAL to AADITYA UNIYAL.**

0040762221-4

**I, Bimla Devi, M/o, Manoj Kumar resident of Vill: Sabalpara, Dist: Sikar, State: Rajasthan-332001, have changed my name from Bimla Devi to Vimla Devi vide affidavit dated-04 Dec-2024, at New Delhi.**

0040762220-8

**I, Bhart Vir Bahadur, S/o-Jai Singh R/o G-396, Gali. No.-1, G-Block, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Bharat Veer.**

0040762219-8

**I, Basant S/o Hemraj, R/o, A1-101 Vatika City Homes Sector-83, Kharki Daula Gurgaon (Haryana)-122004, have changed my name to Basant Malhotra.**

0040762219-9

**I, Ashok Kumar, s/o- Lekh Ram Sharma r/o, C-49, Nawal apartments, 14, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096, Have Changed my name to Ashok Kumar Sharma, for all, purposes.**

0040762219-4

**I, Anil Kumar Malhotra, S/o Tulsi Das Malhotra, R/o C1/475, First Floor, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122017, have changed my name to Anil Malhotra.**

0040762219-7

**I, Ahtishamuddin, S/o Shri Alauddin, R/o- Plot.No.14, 3rd Floor, Chamelian Road, Model Basti, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Ahtesham Uddin, for all future purposes.**

0040762221-7

**I, AMRITA KAUR SAINI, W/O JASMEET SINGH CHAWLA, R/O 20-123/G, FLOOR VIKRAM-VIHAR LAJPAT-NAGAR-4, DELHI, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME IS AMRITA KAUR SAINI TO AMRITA KAUR CHAWLA, FOR ALL, PURPOSE**

0040762212-9

**I, hitherto known as RINKU SINGH alias RINKU VERMA daughter of HIRALAL SINGH residing at F-6, PLOT NO-16, NEAR YASHODA HOSPITAL, SECTOR-14, KAUSHAMBI, I E SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201010 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RINKU VERMA**

0040762129-1

**I, Vijay alias Vijay Suryavanshi W/o Raji Kumar R/o WZ-1080/1, Nangal Raya, Delhi-110046, have changed my name to Viay Kumari.**

0040762228-2

**I, Varun Sharma S/O Bharat Bhushan, R/o B 2/2142, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Nyra Sharma aged about 1 Year and She shall hereafter be known as Devanya Sharma**

0070938193-1

**I, Tanamy Wasan, S/o Amit Wasan, R/o 3658, Lohé Wali Gali, Charkhewalan, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Tanmay Wasan, for all purposes.**

0040762122-1

**I, Tagari Sardar W/o Bablu Sardar R/o D-63, DDA Flat, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019 have changed my name to Kamla Sardar**

0070938224-1

**I, Sunakshi Verma W/O Devender Kumar R/O Flat No-205, Tower-6, Park View Society, Palam Vihar, Sector-3, Gurgaon, Haryana 122017, I Have Changed To My Name Sunakshi.**

0040762219-11

**I, Sukhveer Singh S/o Divari Lal R/o Flat No-F-1,F-2, Ground Floor, sector-6 Vaishali, Plot No-169, i.e. Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh -201010 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Diksha to Kirti for all purposes.**

0070938195-1

**I, Sonia Paliwal, wife of Mayank Paliwal, R/o, A 104, ELIGIBLE CGHS, PLOT No 38 DWARKA SECTOR 10, NEW DELHI 110075, have changed my name to Soniya Paliwal**

0070938172-1

**I, Sanjay Dhar S/O Shri Pushkar Nath Dhar, R/O D-168, 3rd Floor, New Rajinder Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi-110061, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Saumya aged about 16 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Saumya Dhar**

0070938190-1

**I, Ranjeet kumar Mandal S/o Late Sh. Brij Mohan Mandal R/O J-63, 4th-Floor, J.J Colony, Srinivas puri, New Delhi 110065, Have changed my name to Ranjeet Mandal, for all purposes**

0040762189-2

**I, Bhardpai Devi Goel W/o Ram Bhaj Goel R/o 284/22, Sonapat Stand Rohtak Haryana-124001, have chabged my name to Bhardpai**

0040762221-5

**I, Rajesh Kumar Agrawal S/O, Ganesh Prasad Agrawal R/O Flat No 552 Pocket 2 Sector 14 Om Apartment, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078 have changed my name to Rajesh Agrawal.**

0040762209-1

**I, Kamal Jaikaran R/o-Jaikaran Goel R/o A-12, 1st Floor, Prashant Vihar, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name after-marriage to Kamal Bansal W/o-Rajesh Bansal for all purposes.**

0040762135-1

**I, VINOD SHANI S/O CHARANJIT LAL SAHANI R/O A-301, President Apartment Fakhruddin Memorial CGHS, Plot No-18, Sector-10, Dwarka, Delhi-110075, have changed my name to VINOD SAHANI.**

0040762221-3

**I, Ranjeet Mandal S/o Late Sh.Brij Mohan Mandal, R/o,J-63, 4th-Floor, J.J Colony, Srinivas puri, New Delhi-110065, Have Changed my Minor Daughter's Name from kumari Mahima Mandal to Mahima Mandal**

0040762189-1

**I, Ram Vilas s/o Shiv Singh r/o 18/123, gali no 6, east moti bagh, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi-7 have changed my name to Her Vilas permanently.**

0040762179-1

**I, REKHA WADHWA, R/O SANJAY WADHWA, R/O T12/ 1401, SUPREME TOWER, SECTOR 99 - NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH 201301, have changed my name to REKHA HANS for all future purposes.**

0070938203-1

**I, Preeti Mittal W/o Avinish Mittal R/o WZ-215A, G-Block, Gali-No-13, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Surinder Kaur**

0070938225-1

**I, PRERNA BANSAL BHOJ W/O Sh. MANOJ BHOJ R/O E-403, Third-Floor, Ramesh-Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to PRERNA BANSAL.**

0040762228-3

**I, PARIMUGDHA NANCHAHAL D/o Ashutosh, R/o B-115, Preet Vihar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PARIMUGDHA CHATTERJEE.**

0040762206-2

**I, NIKUNJ BANSAL S/o Krishan Kishore Bansal, R/o A-5, F.F., Kohali Vihar, Barola, Sector-49, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed the name of my minor son KANHA IYA BANSAL, aged 05 years and he shall hereafter be known as HITESH BANSAL.**

0040762206-1

**I, Lipu Bisoiy, No.-7787853Y, Rank-NK(MP), S/o Sudarshan Bisoiy, R/o Bhaliagochha, PO: Suramini, PS: Surada, Distt: Ganjam, Odisha-761107, inform that my father name wrongly mentioned in my Army records as Sudarsana Bisoiy. His correct name is Sudarshan Bisoiy, vide Affidavit dated 03/12/2024, before Notary Public, Delhi.**

0040762116-1

**I, Harjeet S/o Ramesh Chand R/o B-4, GF, Royal Heritage, Sector-70, Faridabad-121004 have changed my name to Harjeet Payla**

0070938222-1

**I, Danish S/O Ashu Mohammad, R/O H NO-22 Masuri Railway Road Near Hashmi Majid PO Dasna Ghaziabad UP-201015 have changed my name DANISH to DANISH SAIJI for all future purposes.**

0070938207-1

**I, DEEPA W/o RAJ KUMAR R/O B-1502 Krishna Apha Sapphire Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014 uttar pradesh HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DEEPA SUKHALIA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES**

0040762221-8

**I, Avni Amit Khurma d/o Amit Khurma R/o 002, Tower-7, Orchid Petals, Sector-49, Gurgaon-122001 have changed my name to AVNI KHURMA.**

0040762137-1

**I, ASHOK KUMAR SHARMA S/o Sh. Dina Nath R/o H.No.171, Pkt-11B, Sector-23, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have declare that the both names ASHOK SHARMA Alias ASHOK KUMAR SHARMA are one and the same person i.e. mine. In future I will be known as both names.**

0070938204-1

**I, AARUSHI SINHA D/o Mr Binod Kumar Sinha resident of Flat No.321 Platinum Heights, Sector 18 B, Delhi-110078 declare that AARUSHI SINHA and SALONI (as mentioned in Money Multiplier Bond- 0898- MMB of ICICI Limited vide Bond holder No. 4325-381 & certificate no-15967) both are my names and those names denote one and the same person i.e. me. and I will be known as AARUSHI SINHA for all future purposes.**

0040762125-1

**I, hitherto known as VINOD KUMAR S/O RAJPAL SINGH R/O Near Hariom Aata Chakki, Sadarpur Sector-45, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VINOD KUMAR CHOUDHARY**

0040762131-1

**I Vishal Rohatgi S/o Sarvesh Kumar Rohatgi R/o 3A-10 Rachna, Vaishali, Indirapuram, Shipra Sun City, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014, have changed my name to Vishal Rohtgi**

0070938202-1

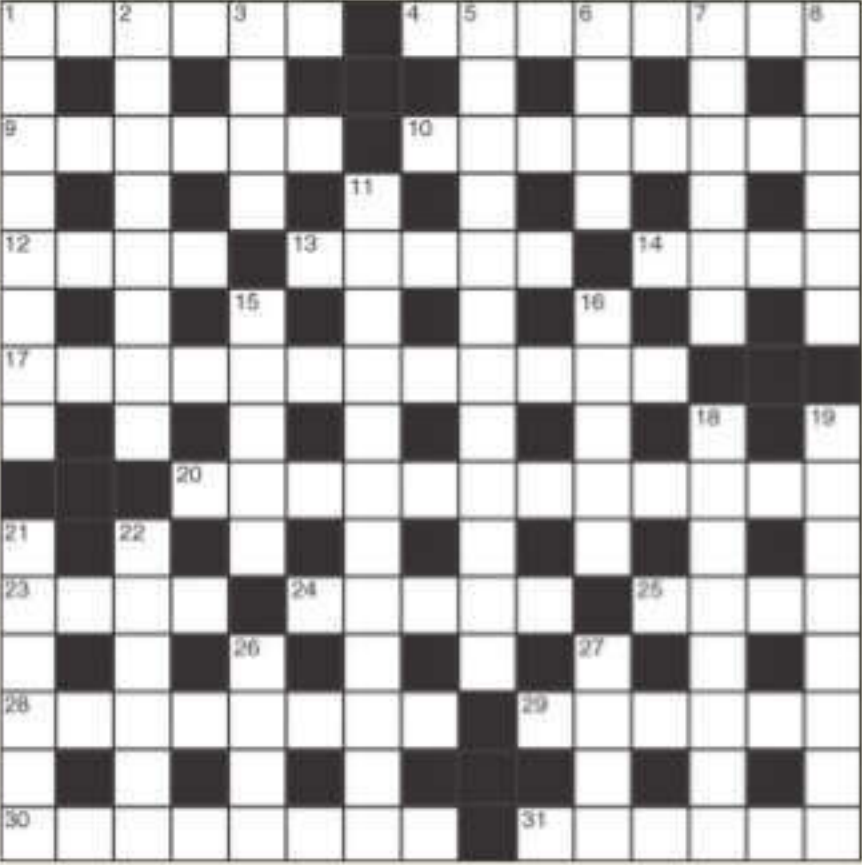
**I Sunil Jain S/o Sh. Pawan Kumar Jain R/o L-29, L-Block, Near Mother Dairy, Naveen Shahdara, East Delhi, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Sunil Kumar Jain for all purposes.**

0040762115-2

**I Shakuntala Rani W**



CROSSWORD 5539



- ACROSS**  
1 The pattern of old China (6)  
4 Vouch for the account many tried falsely (8)  
9 Unable to see scattered group of stars (6)  
10 Play without stress (8)  
12 Swing till dizzy (4)  
13 Country has right to mountain range (5)  
14 Mount hotly tipped when it runs (4)  
17 Get a move on and stamp out garrulity? (4,2,3,3)  
20 A butchery firm owned by a combine? (5,7)  
23 Game bird? (4)  
24 Enormous soldier ant (5)  
25 This man gets a seat (4)  
28 Fail to notice what supervisors do (8)  
29 She plays a Shakespearean part for the network (6)  
30 Push the boat out and depart (5,3)  
31 Avoided potential duel with editor (6)
- DOWN**  
1 Elevating device that may go over well (8)  
2 Stuck for some means of identification? (8)  
3 Rings about the Italian art exhibits perhaps (4)  
5 Unlikely to be patient much longer? (12)  
6 It's used to catch small river fish (4)  
7 Note the world shortage (6)  
8 It is twice raised by an outstanding painter (6)  
11 Postponing a mistake on the green? (7,2,3)  
15 Moving arm up and down (5)  
16 Grand aunt looks haggard (5)  
18 Given and ideally shouldn't be paid back (8)  
19 Crooked men about to plot in an underground vault (8)  
21 Tolerates Burns? (6)  
22 See under one kind of fruit for another (6)  
26 A shade sorrowful (4)  
27 Loss from a strike (4)

Solutions Crossword 5538 Across: 1 Cella, 4 Pointer, 8 Mad, 9 Escalator, 10 Recital, 11 Cedar, 13 Stolid, 15 Stocks, 18 Oasis, 19 Regiment, 21 Murderess, 23 Tab, 24 Honesty, 25 Order Down: 1 Cameras, 2 Ludicrous, 3 Agent, 4 Pickle, 5 Illicit, 6 Tot, 7 Rarer, 12 Decimated, 14 Insteps, 16 Sandbar, 17 Greedy, 18 Omph, 20 Gusto, 22 Run

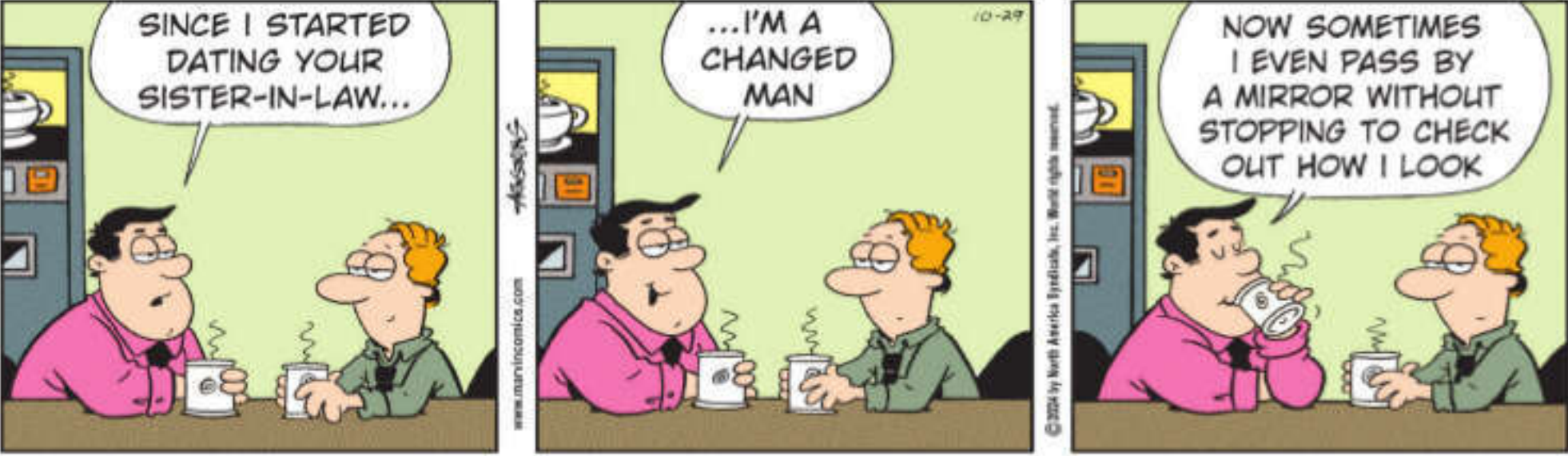
OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.  
The best way to \_\_\_\_ what may \_\_\_\_, is to remember what is past. - George Savile (7...4)

**MTEEO**  


**ILUCMU**  


**LPOSS**  


**AAMSPP**  


**SUDOKU 5795**  
Difficulty Level 3s  
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

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 5794**

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

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED**  
TGSPDCL (erstwhile TSSPDCL)  
**e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)**  
TGSPDCL intends to float tender for procurement of 3-ph 25 KVA DTRs with BIS EE Level-2 (STAR-2) one-procurement platform.  
For further details of each item above, please visit [www.tgsouthernpower.org](http://www.tgsouthernpower.org) [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in).  
Phone: 040-23431360, 1033, 1035, 1026  
Sd/-  
DIPR R.O. No.: 750-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 CHIEF ENGINEER (P&MM)

**भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल**  
**Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal**  
भोपाल बायपास, भोरी रोड - 462066 (मध्य-प्रदेश)  
Bhopal By-pass Road, Bhauri Bhopal-462066 (Madhya Pradesh)  
**e-TENDER NOTICE**  
For complete details and any corrigendum etc. Please visit [www.iiserb.ac.in/Tender](http://www.iiserb.ac.in/Tender) and [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in). e-Tenders can be submitted only on [www.tenderwizard.com/IISERB](http://www.tenderwizard.com/IISERB).

Sr.No.	Name of the Item (s)/Work	Tender No.	Due Date
1	Supply & installation of cell viability analyzer.	IISERB/SP/2024-25/96 dated 02/12/2024	23/12/2024

**Stores and Purchase Officer**

**Notice Inviting Bids (NIB)**  
Bid Ref.No.Agri/PMFBY/67/WIP-TENDER/2024-25/03  
The Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of Assam (Bid Inviting Authority)invites online bid from empanelled WINDS Implementation Partners (WIP) by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India for submission of their financial bid through e-tendering process for “Selection of WIP for setting up of AWS/ARG and providing weather datasets as per guidelines of Weather Information Network Data System (WINDS) in Assam”.  
Contract Period (in Months/Years): 60 Months/5 Years Bid Security (in Rupees): 36, 37,200.00 (Thirty Six Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Two Hundred) only.  
Last date and time of submission through e-procurement: 19-12-2024 on or before 16:00 Hrs  
All empanelled vendors are mandated to get enrolled on <https://assamtenders.gov.in> in order to download the tender documents and participate in the bidding process.  
For further details please log on to <https://assamtenders.gov.in>  
Sd/-  
Janasanyog/CF/2497/24/25-DEC-24 Director of Agriculture, Assam  
Khanapara, Ghy-22

**e-Procurement Cell**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, SPECIAL WORKS DIVISION, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT Ranchi**  
**e-Procurement Notice (Short Notice)**  
**Tender Reference No:- BCD/EE, Special Works Div, BCD, Ranchi-36/2024-25 Date:-03.12.24**

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्रारम्भित राशि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	Construction of Jharkhand Bhawan at Sector-30A, Vashi, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Rs. 136,95,27,200.00	24 (Twenty Four) Months.
i	वेबसाइट पर विविध प्रस्ताव को लिखित		11-12-2024
ii	वी बी बी में लिखित को लिखित		16-12-2024
iii	वी बी बी में लिखित का स्थान	e-Procurement Cell, Room No 326 A, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Building Construction Department, Jharkhand Mantralaya, Dhurwa, Ranchi	
iv	विभिन्न प्रकार के लिखित प्रस्ताव को लिखित	23-12-2024 को अंतिम 1.00 बजे	
v	विभिन्न प्रकार के लिखित प्रस्ताव को लिखित	24-12-2024 को अंतिम 1.00 बजे	
vi	विभिन्न प्रकार के लिखित प्रस्ताव का नाम एवं पता	e-Procurement Cell, Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Works Division Building Construction Department Ranchi	
vii	प्रस्तावित प्रस्तावों का समर्थन लेख	8060415503	
viii	ई-प्रस्तावित लेख का इलेक्ट्रॉनिक लेख	8060415503	

**Note:- Cost of bidding document (Non Refundable) & Bid Security Shall be payable on online through <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> Any Change can be on Website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> In Any Other information can be on Website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>  
Nodal Officer,  
e-Procurement Cell,  
Office of the Executive Engineer,  
Special Works Division  
Building Construction Department,,Ranchi .  
PR 341129 /Building)24-25'D**

**INSTITUTE FOR AUTOPARTS & HAND TOOLS TECHNOLOGY**  
A-9, PHASE V, FOCAL POINT, LUDHIANA Ph. +91-161-2874597, 5022597, email: [info@iaht.org](mailto:info@iaht.org)  
On behalf of IAHT, Ludhiana; hereby e-tenders are invited, under two part bids system for the following equipment's / machines.  
S.No. Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) Tender document availability on <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
1. Sale of an Old and Unserviceable Machines / Equipment's (As 'is' where 'is' basis) Start Date: 06/12/2024 Closing Date: 20/01/2025 Cost of Tender Document : Rs. 500/-  
Further detail about security deposit / EMD, terms & conditions, guidelines to download tender document, online bid submission procedure and clarification on e-tendering process available at e-Procurement website : <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Submission of bid only on the e-Procurement website as mentioned above. Note : (1) Corrigendum/Addendum/Correction/Amendments if any, for time extension & clarification etc. will be uploaded at e-Procurement website under corrigendum only and will not be published in news paper / journal. (2) Hence, bidder should regularly visit the Website to keep themselves updated. Sd/- General Manager

**भारतीय जलमार्ग प्राधिकरण**  
**INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**  
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)  
A-13, Sector-1, Noida-201 301  
Phone 0120-2527667, Fax 0120-2522969, [ic.wal@nic.in](mailto:ic.wal@nic.in)  
**Notice Inviting Tender**  
**Procurement of Survey Equipment**  
e-Bids are invited from interested bidders for Procurement of Survey Equipment.  
The Tender Documents and other relevant details are available at Iwai website [www.iwai.nic.in](http://www.iwai.nic.in) and e-procurement site <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
HYDROGRAPHIC CHIEF  
IWAI, NOIDA  
Date: 02.12.2024

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
**See Section 82 (2) (ii) CrPC**  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Namely: **Sintu @ Chintu, S/o: Mumutaz, R/o: D-3, Gali No.11, H.No.119, 5th Pusta Gamri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No. 540/2013 U/S 323/324/34 IPC** registered at **P.S Bhajanpura, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Sintu @ Chintu** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Sintu @ Chintu** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sintu @ Chintu** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 10.01.2025.  
By Order  
**PANKAJ RAI**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-01,  
North East District,  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi.  
DP/15902/NE/2024

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Mohd. Iqbal Ali, S/o Sh. Abdul Wahab, R/o H.no 509, Gali No. 25, Tughlakabad Extn. New Delhi 110019** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **CT Case No. 1682/2016, U/s 138 NI Act, P. S. Greater Kailash, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Mohd. Iqbal Ali** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Mohd. Iqbal Ali** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Mohd. Iqbal Ali** accused of **CT Case No. 1682/2016, U/s 138 NI Act, P. S. Greater Kailash, New Delhi, P. S. Greater Kailash, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 09.01.2025.  
By Order  
Ms. Kanika Handa  
Metropolitan Magistrate-04  
South-East District, Room No. 210  
Saket Courts, New Delhi  
DP/15896/SD/2024

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DIVISION, CUTTACK MAHANADIBIHAR; CUTTACK-753004**  
Govt. of Odisha e-procurement Notice  
**BID IDENTIFICATION No. RWSSTC-06/2023-24**  
The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites lump sum bid through e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement.  
1. Nature of work: PWS Schemes under RWSS, Division, Cuttack.  
2. No. of tenders: 1 Nos.  
3. Tender Paper Cost: 10000/-  
4. Value of Work: Rs. 207.17  
5. Class of Contractor: "B" & "A" Class  
6. Date and time of availability of bid document in portal: 11 hour of 09.12.24 to 21.12.24 up to 17 hours.  
7. Date & time of seeking tender clarification: 20.12.24 up to 17 hours  
8. Date & time of opening of tender: 23.12.24 at 11:30 Hours in the office of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack  
9. Time of completion: 9 months  
10. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>.  
Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer  
RWS&S Division, Cuttack  
OIPR-25022/11/0007/2425

**कार्यालयक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा शुद्धि-पत्र**  
एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के अत्यकालीन ई० पुर्निनिविदा निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना स०- RDD/SD/JMT/RE/03/2024-25, PR-340314 Rural Department (24-25) D द्वारा निविदा आमंत्रित किया गया था। क्रमांक-03 के ई०-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय दिनांक-03.12.2024 (अपराहन 5:00 बजे) के स्थान ई०-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय दिनांक-09.12.2024 (अपराहन 5:00 बजे) तथा क्रमांक-07 के ई०-निविदा खोलने का तिथि एवं समय दिनांक-05.12.2024 (अपराहन 2:00 बजे) के स्थान पर ई०- निविदा खोलने का तिथि एवं समय दिनांक-11.12.2024 (अपराहन 2:00 बजे) समझा जाए। निविदा की अन्य शेष शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगे।  
ह० /—  
कार्यालयक अभियंता  
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा  
PR.NO.341111 Rural Development (24-25):D

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
**See Section 84 BNSS**  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Man Singh, S/o Vijay Singh, R/o H.No. 39, Jhenda Colony, Asola, Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 623/2014, U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Man Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Man Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Man Singh** accused of **FIR No. 623/2014, U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 03.01.2025.  
By Order  
Sh. Ashish Kumar Meena  
Metropolitan Magistrate-01  
Room No. 214  
Saket Courts, New Delhi  
DP/15954/SD/2024

**DAY TODAY** BY PETER VIDAL  
**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
The overall picture suggests that this is a busy day, if an expensive one. However, there doesn't seem to be any real obligation on you towards anything which can't be left to others. This should suit those of you who either need a rest or are arranging personal matters.  
**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Other people now appear to have the right approach, but your general situation is aided by the fact that you are also instinctively more tolerant and ready to accept different points of view. In part this is because you are now more secure emotionally.  
**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
It's a nervous moment, and people around you may be jumping to conclusions for no good reason. Everyone concerned seems to be too ready to take offence, but have you considered that it might be too easy for you to make a mistake? If you fire on all cylinders you may say the wrong thing.  
**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
You've not always been a good judge of character, partly because you always wanted to believe the best, and also because you tend to jump to instant conclusions. You deserve admiration for your trusting qualities, but perhaps you are finally seeing others as they really are.  
**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
You've not always been a good judge of character, partly because you always wanted to believe the best, and also because you tend to jump to instant conclusions. You deserve admiration for your trusting qualities, but you are seeing others as they really are.  
**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
All eyes will be on you. The planets aligned with professional sectors of your horoscope are still very strong, but in view of the generally emotional overtones of today's lunar impact, close relations to be urging you on.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
All eyes will be on you. The planets aligned with public and professional sectors of your horoscope are still very strong, but in view of the generally emotional overtones of today's lunar impact, I would expect close relations and intimate friends to be urging you on.  
**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
You tend to blow hot and cold in emotional relationships, enthusing one minute, retreating behind your shell the next. If you start behaving like this now, take care, otherwise someone may give you a dose of your own medicine next week.  
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
You're walking a tight rope, willing to take risks, but not prepared to lose. Worldly ambitions, including professional aspirations, loom large. If you wish to make the most of your undoubted assets, proceed intuitively and, if you're responsible for other people, show them you care.  
**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
You're walking a tight rope, willing to take risks, but not prepared to lose. Worldly ambitions, including professional aspirations, loom large. If you wish to make the most of your undoubted assets, proceed intuitively and, if you're responsible for other people, show them you care.  
**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
You're walking a tight rope, willing to take risks, but not prepared to lose. Worldly ambitions, including professional aspirations, loom large. If you wish to make the most of your undoubted assets, proceed intuitively and show people you care.  
**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
One particularly encouraging aspect indicates that you'll be able to revive a special partnership. A little effort will be required. It may be a simple question of getting in touch. Perhaps an explanation is called for, as people are now impatient.

**SEARCH FOR VICTIM PERSON**  
General Public is hereby informed that one male person **Namely: Vikram Rai, S/o: Kamlesh Rai, R/o: Okhla, New Delhi, Sex: Male, Age: 32 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Body: Medium Wearing: Pant & Shirt, has been missing since 12.02.2024 from L.B.S. Hospital Mayur Vihar Delhi, During Treatment from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Sunlight Colony Delhi. In this regard FIR No./DD No. 40/2024 U/s 279/337/338 IPC Date: 12.02.2024 has been registered at P.S.: Sunlight Colony Delhi.**  
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the Victim Person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this Victim Person. Please inform to the following.  
**Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> E-Mail ID: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Fax: 011-24368639 DP/15818/SE/2024**  
**SHO P.S.: Sunlight Colony Delhi 8750870928, 9717038831**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
**(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)**  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person **Amanjeet Singh Chadda S/o Late Sh. Jaswinder Singh Chadda R/o 12/18, Ground Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 315/2022 U/S 419/420/467/468/471/120B IPC P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Amanjeet Singh Chadda** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Amanjeet Singh Chadda** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that **Amanjeet Singh Chadda** in **FIR No. 315/2022 U/S 419/420/467/468/471/120B IPC P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 07.01.2025.  
By order  
Ms. Preeti  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03  
Central District, Room No. 150  
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi  
DP/15711/CD/2024

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Persons namely **1.Rakesh Rajpoot R/o: House Near Pole No.4, near Pole No. JEPJ-524, Village Daurala, Najafgarh, New Delhi. 2.Kran Pal S/o: Jaswant, R/o: House Near Pole No.4, near Pole No. JEPJ-524, Village Daurala, Najafgarh, New Delhi. 3.Mahesh Rajpoot, R/o: House Near Pole No.4, near Pole No. JEPJ-524, Village Daurala, Najafgarh, New Delhi, committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Ct. Case No. 821/2017, U/s 135 Electricity Act, registered at P.S.: J.P. Kalan, District Dwarika, Delhi and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused **Rakesh Rajpoot, Kran Pal and Mahesh Rajpoot** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rakesh Rajpoot, Kran Pal and Mahesh Rajpoot** have absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rakesh Rajpoot, Kran Pal and Mahesh Rajpoot** accused Ct. Case No. 821/2017, U/s 135 Electricity Act, registered at P.S.: J.P. Kalan, District Dwarika, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 09.01.2025.  
By Order  
Sh. Vinod Kumar Meena  
Add. District & Session Judge (South West)  
Special Court Electricity, Room No.609  
Dwarika Distt. Courts, New Delhi  
DP/15811/DW/2024 (Court Matter)**



# SPORT

## For Rahul, chance to put Test career back on track



EXPRESS IN AUSTRALIA

SRIRAM VEERA

ADELAIDE, DECEMBER 4

IT'S STILL not clear whether KL Rahul will open in the Adelaide Test. "I know but I have been told to not tell," he would tell the media. But it's certain that he is going to get a tattoo at the end of the tour. "I have already fixed it after Sydney". He knows what design he wants, doesn't want to share yet, and it is becoming a bit of tradition. "I had done a tattoo on my first tour, and again (my) second tour."

That first Australian tattoo was 10 years ago. "Feels like 25, honestly," Rahul says with a smile. Sometimes years can flash by in a blur, especially in good times, but Rahul's career has seen so many ups-and-downs. It has been a journey where he has felt every stumble deeply. "With the amount of injuries I've had, time away from the sport, yeah, feels long."

And lots of trolling and criticism. For someone who has played over 50 Tests, hit 6 of his 8 hundreds outside Asia and is a captain in IPL, he hasn't received unequivocal love from the public or consistent trust from the different team managements over the years. He doesn't even have a regular spot in the team.

A floater in the line-up, who has drifted here and there through his career. It couldn't have been easy. His most famous celebration has been him closing his ears with his fingers to suggest he is cutting out "external noise". And the din has been pretty loud about nearly every facet of his game: his strike rate in white-ball cricket, his batting foibles in Test cricket, his wicketkeeping. Even when he is a near mute-witness with Hardik Pandya on Koffee with Karan, his name has been dragged through the mud.

### 'Grateful for everything'

"I learned a lot in these 10 years and really grateful for everything that I've had to go through, the ups and downs, the good, the bad, everything. Australia is where it started for me 10 years ago and hopefully, this is a start for something great in the next half of my career."

It does seem so, but it's difficult to confidently tell that with KL for such has been the stormy past. One can't think of many batsmen who have hundreds in South Africa, England, Australia and still not get a befitting stature. Or adequate respect, if not love from the fans. But this series has certainly started promisingly with his knocks in Perth in both innings, and in particular how he mentored Yashasvi Jaiswal through a nervy phase in the second innings.

Jaiswal had publicly spoken about the help he received from Rahul - how he was told to breathe deeply to calm himself down, and little suggestions through that phase. On Wednesday, Rahul would say all he did then was to pass on the same suggestions his opening partner M Vijay had given him all those years back.

"I could see a bit of myself in Jaiswal from when I was here 10 years ago, opening the batting for the first time. A lot of doubts, a lot of nerves. You keep doubting your own game and there's a lot that happens in your head. So the only thing that you can do is to slow things down, try and take a few deep breaths



KL Rahul made his Test debut in Australia a decade ago. BCCI/X

**I learned a lot in these 10 years and really grateful for everything that I've had to go through, the ups and downs, the good, the bad, everything. Australia is where it started for me 10 years ago and hopefully, this is a start for something great in the next half of my career."**

KL RAHUL

and focus on one thing. And that's what was passed on to me by my fellow opening partner back then, Murali Vijay. So I just passed that on to him. Once he got past those first 30-40 balls, he started to feel a little bit more confident and he was seeing the ball really well and he batted beautifully."

Rahul admitted that he still faces those self-doubts and nerves. "I do still have all of these thoughts. But having been there, you know what you need to do to get past that or get over those doubts and get over those thoughts you have in your head. So whatever I told Jaiswal is what I practice."

### Balance in stance

In the knocks thus far, his bat has been held closer to the body, one of the faults in the past that had led to him being dropped from the team. He had had a problem against the incoming ball, as the bat would be held a touch away, and would leave a bat-and-pad gap. He worked a lot on it with his friend David Mathias, a former Ranji teammate and a close friend.

"It comes from good hard work on balance in the stance. The alignment at the crease," Mathias said. "That balance is the key for Rahul. He doesn't commit to any one shot. He is in a very neutral but strong position. The flaws against incoming balls disappeared, his judgement of the off stump became good and since he loves batting so much and faced failure, his patience has improved. He now preys on the bowlers' patience. The whole game reversed, basically. He is tremendously strong mentally. Once the technique thing kicked in - as in felt comfortable with the head position and the bat flow, that was it. The rest he sorted out mentally."

The way he guided Jaiswal said a lot about his confidence in his own game. That he could see beyond himself, despite being pressed as an opener only because Rohit Sharma couldn't make the tour in time, spoke volumes of the space he is in. If it continues for the rest of the Tests, Australia, the place where it started for him, might yet provide him not just his newest tattoo but the impetus to stop his old celebration. He can then take the fingers off his ears, and hear some love pouring in.

Bradman over player wages and such. "My father immediately covered my eyes!"

Simon became friends with the Test cricketer Rodney Hogg, a "mad fast bowler", and through him entered the world of cricketers. "I remember walking to a hotel and every Australian player from Allan Border to others sitting in rapt attention around a handsome man. It was the flamboyant all-rounder Keith Miller, telling stories about his friendship with the royal family in England, and other stories from his cricketing tours. Unfortunately, I can't share those colourful tales," Simon says with a laugh.

"You understand, don't you? Will tell you this one time though, decades after he retired and when he was in his 70s, Keith came to a Test match. Probably, against Pakistan. Keith loved his drinks, mingled socially with the club members, and thought it best to stay here overnight. So, right through that Test, there was actually a caravan inside the ground, not far from the scoreboard, where he would wear off long nights at the bar and sleep off. The next morning, a change of clothes, and he was at the cricket! For no other cricketer, I can imagine the authorities doing that at Adelaide Oval."

Through Hogg, Simon became the designated driver of the West Indian pacer Joel Garner when he came to play for South Australia in the Sheffield Shield cricket.

## INTERVIEW: RYAN HARRIS

# 'India don't fear pitches, pace or bounce... have found a way to win'

PRATYUSH RAJ

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4



FORMER AUSTRALIA fast bowler and South Australia coach **Ryan Harris** believes the current generation of batsmen are not as technically sound in Test cricket because of T20s but says the shorter version of the game has contributed to teams trying to make runs faster. The 45-year-old also talks about the paucity of openers in Australia, why India has done well in Australia and dismisses speculation that the Australian team is faction-ridden. *Excerpts.*

### That ball to Alastair Cook in Perth (2013). Do you still watch it?

Yes it still pops up on my TV now and then... mostly every year around October for my birthday. To this day I am not sure how I bowled that ball. I've been trying to bowl one of those balls for probably 15 years before that. It was just unique in how it sort of pitched and then moved a bit after it pitched and was able to just hit that bail. It's very nice that people still remember it.

### Pink ball, how is it different from red?

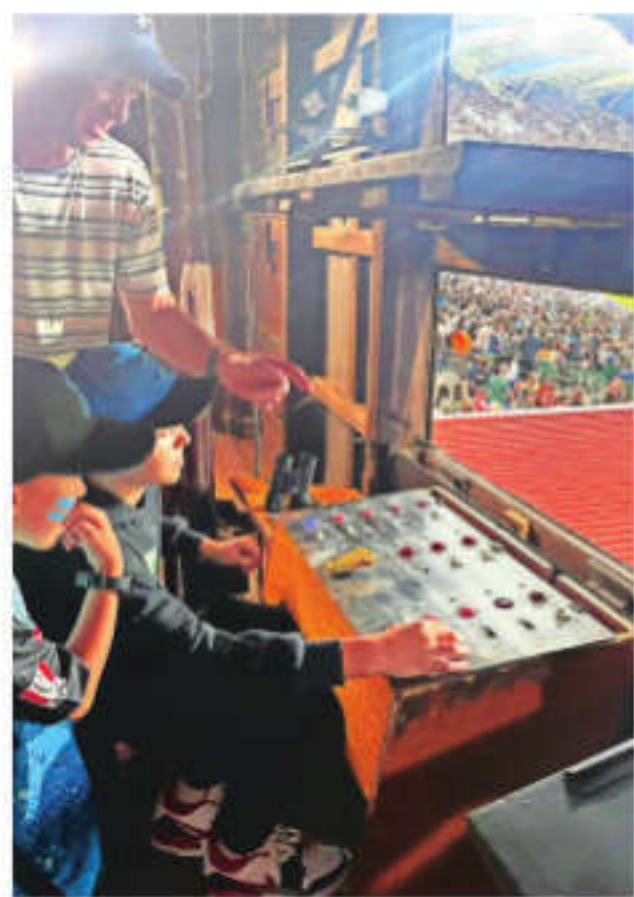
The way I understand it, it's more of an artificial colouring. So it's not known to last as long as, say, the red ball. We just completed a South Australia versus Western Australia game at Adelaide Oval last week. And it was a day-night game. And the ball didn't seem to go as soft as it probably has in the past. So there's been a lot more work done on the pink ball. It used to flake off with the colouring. That didn't happen last week. For us it swung around and nipped around for around 15-20 overs. But after that it did flatten out a little bit. The middle overs is where the batters can definitely cash in. What the wicket looks like and how much grass is kept on it will be determining factors.

### Are the current batsmen less competent than they were in your days?

Yes. I believe the techniques of batters probably aren't as good. There seems to be the mentality of hit out or get out and not stick around. I think T20 has probably caused that. In a good and a negative way. The Virats, the Smiths, they'll dig in because they're that good. Whereas the younger guys will probably go, 'I might as well try and hit one before it gets me'. T20 has helped the game of Test cricket because we've seen the scoring rates go up and we've seen 350 to 400 scored in a day.

### Is there a lack of openers in Australia?

Yes, to an extent. We've got two openers that have been making runs for a number of years - Marcus Harris and Cameron Bancroft. And the selectors seem to have given them a go and aren't happy. So they're obviously not really keen to go back to them. So the idea now is to try to find the next opening pair. Hopefully, Uzzie (Usman Khawaja) will go through this series and gets onto the Ashes. We've got another young kid Sam Konstas in New South Wales who has scored a century for PM XI. I don't believe he's ready yet. Everyone's saying, throw him in. But once they throw him in and he fails twice, then they'll say, 'oh no, now we put him in too soon'. Let Sam make four or five hundreds in two seasons. I think he's not going to do that when he's worrying about his place and worrying about who's bowling at him in Test cricket.



Simon Crompton, who looks after the scoreboard at the Adelaide Oval, with his grandchildren. Express

"Hoggy told me that he can't go out with Joel; his marriage would end!" Simon laughs. "And I found out why, as Joel loved to party all night. Many nights. Forget the women, even the cops were in love with him. The only time Joel ever drove the car,



Jasprit Bumrah celebrates the dismissal of dangerman Travis Head. BCCI/X

**JASPRIT BUMRAH:** With that kind of an awkward action, he is a menace. But there's a couple of other things as well. I think another unique part... just watching some analysis from that first Test and a lot of batters were talking about the release point. His release point is a lot further forward. I don't know, it might be 40 centimetres, it's a lot later

than a traditional bowler's. While releasing the ball, he's almost in front of the front crease. When you've got a guy bowling in the high 140s and he's so skillful with seam and swing and that extra split second of time, it creates doubt in the batter's mind. It's not only the unique action, but the release point makes a big difference.

### Will Australia be able to bounce back?

You don't like being upstaged in your own country. Pat Cummins is a fighter. He's a perfectionist. And you know, he'll be asking his players to step up in this Test match. So, there's no doubt that Cummins will be looking to bounce back and make sure that the plans are a bit better and tighter.

### Do you think India has cracked the code of how to win in Australia?

They have, no doubt. I mean West Indies drew the series last year but we haven't lost any other series except to India. So there's no doubt that India have found a way to win.

They don't fear the pitches. They don't fear the pace. They don't fear the bounce. And they've obviously done a lot of homework.

### Are there factions in the Australian team?

Look, there are no factions. That's just all garbage. I've even heard Mr (Sunil) Gavaskar coming out and saying there's some faction. That doesn't happen in Australia. I know it happens in India. I've lived there. The Australian media have jumped on it, because we went so bad in Perth. But you're allowed to be outplayed. What the Australian media and people have got to realise is that India

**PAT CUMMINS:** His strength is being relentless and being consistent in execution. He leads his bowling group. He had a bit of time off. I think he'd only played one game heading into the Perth Test. He looked a bit rusty, he wasn't as consistent as he can be. I think now having those overs under his belt, we'll see the world-class Cummins that we know.

**MITCHELL STARC:** He started off really well in the first Test. Australia just let it slip with the bat. I think Starc was really good. He bowled fast. When he is bowling in the mid 140s and he's swinging the ball. That tells me Starc is in a really good position and if he's in that position he's very dangerous. He's made a career out of it.

**JOSH HAZLEWOOD:** A few people have said that he is very close to what I was. But he's a little taller than me. His strength is being able to hit the off stump line. He's very good at just hitting the same spot over and over again. And with that height, he generates steep bounce as well.

### SCOTT BOLAND:

Scotty is really good with the pink ball. He'll come in and test the Indian batters. He hits the right length, the ideal length in Australian conditions. He has got that nip-backer as well. He will be a massive threat for the Indian batters.

**MOHAMMED SIRAJ:** I was impressed with Siraj, he's developed significantly. I've watched him over time. Over the last year, he's developed into a quality Test match bowler. He's obviously hanging out and spending some time with Jasprit Bumrah.

**HARSHIT RANA:** He was quite sharp. He was a bit quicker than I thought he was. Haven't really seen a lot of him coming into that Test. And you know, he didn't probably get a lot of wickets in the second innings, but he did his job and kept the pressure on.

PRATYUSH RAJ

have won here the last couple of times and they're a very good team. I have all the respect for Mr Gavaskar but he's just throwing a little grenade over here and the media are having a feast.

### Who has the most beautiful seam position in modern day?

Mohammad Shami has this beautiful upright seam position, wrist position. I've spent a year with Shami at Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings), and to me, he's unreal. He runs in fast and delivers the ball as fast as he can, but he's able to do it with a beautiful seam, beautiful wrist. It's a beautiful length.

For the Australian home public, Kohli first hit arc lights in the 2011-12 tour here, the series where he flipped the middle finger at the crowd rallying against him in Sydney. Simon cues up a tale about Kohli from the last Test at Adelaide. "All through that game, there was enough drama and heat between him and the Australian players. Relentless sledging from both sides; in particular a couple of Aussie players and him. I watched it all closely through my binoculars. It was the last Test of the series and Australia retained the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

"At the end of it, the Australian players came over to scoreboard space to celebrate with a few drinks and sing their team song of 'Under the Southern Cross'. I left them alone. A few hours later, when I returned, I saw the nameplate of Kohli away from the rest of the pile, at a distance, and let's say, a bit roughed up!"

The old lady never misses a beat, indeed.

## At Adelaide Oval, century-old scoreboard tells glorious cricket tales

SRIRAM VEERA

ADELAIDE, DECEMBER 4

"THE OLD lady doesn't miss a beat!" Simon Crompton is referring to the 100-year-old Adelaide Oval scoreboard that still functions at the refurbished stadium. "That's what we call her: old lady."

The only scoreboard in the world that has bulbs that light up to point out the fielder who has taken a blinder, dropped a catch or stopped a ball. Crompton and his five-man team's hard work is mind-boggling: from being able to identify the fielders based on their gait to shuffling up and down four flights of stairs to change the names in the board, cramped in a space that is barely three-foot wide and seven-foot tall.

But before we detail his painstaking work, the glorious stories about the cricketers from Don Bradman, Keith Miller, Joel Garner or what happened to Virat Kohli's nameplate after the 2011-12 series in Australia is perhaps the best place to start.

It begins with a 12-year-old Simon who had just walked from church into the Oval along with his parents to watch a game. As he sat and looked up, he saw Ian Chappell drop his pants and "moon" Bradman who was at the ground. It was the time when Chappell was the Australian captain and was warring with the establishment figure

we were stopped by the cops who saw him as he rolled down the window, and mumbled out, 'Oh Mr Garner! Carry on please!' No breath analyser, nothing! Joel came to Australia recently and came to visit me. It felt good. No parties this time, though!"

Simon is still in awe of that great West Indies team. "I know Australia won 16 Tests in a row under Steve Waugh and were a tough-as-nails team under Chappell earlier, but no team came close to the aura, swagger, style, and personas of that West Indies team. They were quite something."

He gets a vantage point via a small opening at the scoreboard to peer through his binoculars. But it's not an easy job; whether the cricket, not just international but domestic too, is interesting or not, he has to watch every ball, keep flicking the bulb switch to light up the fielder's name.

Crompton doesn't trust anyone with the job of recognising the fielder. "I don't look at their faces so much, I watch their gait."

He does furious homework and shows his notes about the current Indians. Nitish Reddy has an identifiable gait? "Yes of course. With some Indians, I look at the soles of the shoes, there is a flash of a logo or something. Or the tattoos if any. You can't rely on numbers on the back as a jumper or a wrong jersey can also be worn. So, I focus on the gait. I watch their training closely, watch YouTube videos of visiting teams these days, spot little things,

keep it in memory."

Even the change of scores of batsmen is counter-intuitive. "If Kohli hits a four on 47, I am not changing them to 51. But actually, I am doing 15. You see, from where we sit, it's all in the reverse. 47 is what the spectators see, so every number we are calculating in reverse!"

### Youngsters find the job tough

It's a tiring job that the youngsters find difficult to do. "I have had many young people try out, but give up quickly. We are all old men right now manning her."

He isn't sure how long he will carry on and what will happen once he leaves. "I will do the next year's Ashes for sure. After that, I am not sure. I will be 63 then, and frankly, it's going to be difficult to find someone to handle it. Perhaps, we might have to stop lighting up the fielders, that kind of focus and concentration on every ball, all day for five days is not going to be easy."

Perhaps, Simon's love affair with cricket was almost destined, considering the cricket-tragic father, who had retired as a domestic umpire. "There was this one time when he was driving my mother and my newborn sister from the hospital back home. He was crossing the Oval when he spotted a South Australia game was on. He stopped the car, saying he would check the score and come back. The match must have been interesting as he wanted to see the full





WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

# Game 8, another staremate

Ding stumbles, recovers and offers half a point, only for Gukesh to initially decline before the inevitable draw

AMIT KAMATH  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

DING LIREN had walked off the board into his private lounge. A few minutes later, he returned to the chessboard only to check whether his opponent had played the most obvious move. He hadn't. D Gukesh was still thinking, after earning additional time on his clock for crossing move 40.

Ding walked back into his lounge. He must have felt relaxed at that stage, thinking he had sufficiently arm-twisted Gukesh into accepting a draw. At that stage, there was logically only one move that Gukesh could have made — **41...Qg2** — which would have secured a draw by threefold repetition in Game 8 of the world chess championship, an outcome that eventually took place after 51 moves. Ding had a chokehold on the game at this stage, but had curiously opted to throw his rival a lifeline.

Behind the grand stage nicknamed the fish-tank, grandmaster Maurice Ashley, who moderates the press conference, had already made his way to the press conference room, thinking Gukesh was going to accept the draw.

At this point, Leela Zero, an AI-based chess model whose predictions the official FIDE broadcast has been relying on, crinkled its nose at Gukesh's chances. The Indian had a 10.5 percent chance of winning, it predicted. When both players had started their queens on a little diagonal ballet on the board — the white queen shuffling between g2 and d5 while Gukesh's queen matched her step for step by hopping between f2 and d4 (**37...Qg2, 38.Qf2 Qd5, 39.Qd4 Qg2, 40.Qf2 Qd5, 41.Qd4**) — Ding had a 37.1 percent chance of winning the game. He did, after all, have an additional rook on the board compared to Gukesh's extra pawn and knight.

As Gukesh was thinking about his 40th move, Ian Nepomniachtchi, who was beaten by Ding to world champion last year, wryly posted on X: "Qg2 Qf2 Qd5 Qd4 Qg2 Qf2 and everyone is happy!"

But clearly, there was someone not happy with a draw.

Gukesh played **41...Qa2+** to reject the draw offer. It's an odd dynamic. For the second time in eight games at the world chess championship, the holder has wriggled himself into a better position before offering a draw. And for the second time in such a situation, his 18-year-



Ding Liren was taken aback by the opening preparation of D Gukesh, but recovered in Game 8 of the World Championship. *PTI*

old opponent, who was reeling at that point, had opted to throw caution to the wind, asking the Chinese grandmaster to bring it on.

"I didn't think I was in much danger. I thought with his weak king and my strong pawn on b3, I actually thought I had some chances. It was a misjudgement of the position," Gukesh later admitted at the post-game press conference. Asked if he was an optimistic person or just fearless, Gukesh candidly admitted: "If I knew the position was bad, I would have taken the draw."

Gukesh's response contrasted with what Ding admitted after the game: that he didn't realise he was in a winning position. It's perhaps a reflection of the mindset both players have walked into the world championship with, that a teenager playing in his first world championship thinking that every position is salvageable and the world champion extending an olive branch when the opponent could have surrendered in a few more moves.

"Some players always think they are winning even though they are not, and some are just the complete opposite. This is why chess is very hard at the top level," pointed out chess legend Susan Polgar.

She also praised Gukesh's fearless approach on the board. "With Gukesh, you know what to

expect. He is like a tank moving forward to bulldoze and destroy his opponent. He does not care who the opponent is. Very contrasting mindset than Ding Liren. This is why there is excitement even though he is giving some of his fans heart attack. He is only 18. Be prepared for more for years to come," The Hungarian-American tweeted.

Her sister Judit also picked out Gukesh's decision to reject the initial draw offer to applaud his mentality. "I think the decision Qa2 reflects well on his self-confidence. We are watching a young and optimistic challenger with a very positive mindset," she said.

### 10 wild moves

Gukesh had again emerged out of the opening stages as the better-drilled player, causing Ding to burn up time on the clock in the opening phase. The defending champion later said that his opponent's novelties in the opening phase had made him "uncomfortable". The phase between moves 20 and 30 saw the computer's evaluation of the game swing like a pendulum. In this phase, Ding was cornered after inaccuracies like 22.Rb1 and 25.Bb2. The second of those moves allowed Gukesh to gobble up a free pawn with the Indian suddenly having two unhindered

## EXPLAINED Why Ding is content to play out draws

FOR THE second time in eight games at the World Chess Championship, Ding Liren has tried to play out a draw despite having the upper hand. And Gukesh has been pushing for a win, even in comparatively worse positions. One of the reasons behind this is that if the best-of-14 games match stays level on points after 14 games, players will have to fight it out in shorter time control tiebreaks.

It was via the tiebreaks that Ding had become world champion last year. Meanwhile, Gukesh's calculation prowess makes him exceptional in classical chess. The Indian has a rating of 2783 in classical. But the shorter the format, the lower his rating dips: 2654 in rapid and 2615 in blitz. Ding, on the other hand, is one of the rare players to have defeated Magnus Carlsen in tiebreaks at the Sinquefeld Cup in 2019.

pawns on the a and b files.

But with his back to the wall, Ding started posing questions. He pushed his own bishop to threaten Gukesh's queen (**26.Bd4**). The Indian erred in his response, choosing to send the wrong knight to defend the position. It was a decision that set off a chain of moves like **26...Nac57, 27...Bb3 and 28...Be6** that saw Gukesh's pieces getting pinned all over the queenside of the board.

Ding gradually built on that advantage, reaching the time control of 40 moves with the upper hand. Then he chose to walk the path of least resistance. Susan Polgar posted: "Ding is like Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. He plays crazy side lines (at the risk of self-destruction) to try to gain an upper hand to win. This takes courage. But after achieving better positions (sometimes due to the opponent's inaccuracies), he's happy to repeat moves to draw."

# U-20 Athletics Worlds bid made with 2036 Oly in mind

MIHIR VASAVDA  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

INDIA HAS thrown its hat in the ring to host the 2028 U-20 World Athletics Championship in a bid to gain experience for the ultimate goal of staging the 2036 Olympic Games in the country.

The letter of intent was handed over to World Athletics chief and International Olympic Committee (IOC) presidential candidate Sebastian Coe, who visited the country last week.

Attempting to host the U-20 World Athletics Championship is part of the bigger picture vis-a-vis the Olympic bid. *The Indian Express* has learnt that during a recent meeting between high-ranking officials and ministers from Gujarat and the Centre, it was decided to target a slew of international multi-disciplinary events and major continental, Commonwealth and world-level tournaments across Olympic sports to help the state gain hosting experience for big events.

Also on the agenda were the challenge posed by the weather in Gujarat in July and August — the preferred months to host an Olympics — recommendations to relax norms for liquor permits, reaching out to some of the world's biggest hotel chains to set up their units in the state, and hiring global consultants to prepare a robust bid as well as drive the narrative in the international media.

These discussions between the state and Centre took place around the time when the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) officially submitted a Letter of Intent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to host the 2036 Olympic Games.

While the IOA did not name a preferred host city in its communicate to the world body, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had earlier said that Ahmedabad is the government's choice to host the Games.

Towards that end, over the next five years, efforts will be made to turn Ahmedabad, which has little experience of hosting Olympic sports tournaments, into a major sporting destination. The 2028 U-20 World Athletics Championship is part of the plan that also includes the 2026 Fencing World Cup, 2027 Women's Volleyball World Championship, 2028 Asian Swimming Championship, the World Judo Championships, and the World Athletics Relay Championship in 2026.

Multi-discipline events like the Youth Olympics, South Asian Games, World Beach Games and World Military Games also feature on the wishlist.



India's interest for the 2036 Games has gained momentum but continues to face stiff competition from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Indonesia. *Reuters*

These are some of the tournaments included in an exhaustive list comprising more than two dozen single-sport tournaments and almost a dozen multi-discipline events prepared by officials. It must be noted that the list is at an exploratory stage and India may not necessarily pitch to host all of them.

"We were told to make a list of marquee events in our sport and indicate the next available slot that India can bid for. This is to test the hosting capabilities as well as get experience in organising major tournaments," an official who heads a state sports association in Gujarat and is part of a national sports federation said.

One of the events India is targeting is the 2029 World Police and Fire Games. When a team from the Games' world body visited Ahmedabad to do a recce, it is learnt they expressed satisfaction over the venue plans but suggested that alcohol permits in the dry state be relaxed along with issues related to visas.

The challenge posed by the weather was also discussed during the meeting between the government officials. The high humidity, heavy rainfall and 30-plus degree temperatures may not be conducive for some outdoor sports, forcing them to consider alternate plans.

Sources said that other months — September and October — were looked at. However, it was pointed out that the IOC, in the past, has rejected a similar proposal by Qatar, arguing that it could affect broadcast numbers. Eventually, it was decided to discuss this issue with the IOC at an appropriate time.

India's interest for the 2036 Games has gained momentum in the last few weeks but continues to face stiff competition from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Indonesia. Recently, South Africa too has thrown its hat in the ring. A final decision is not expected before 2026 or 2027, the IOC has said.

MARUTI SUZUKI

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